

{ Who are the people you see every day? }

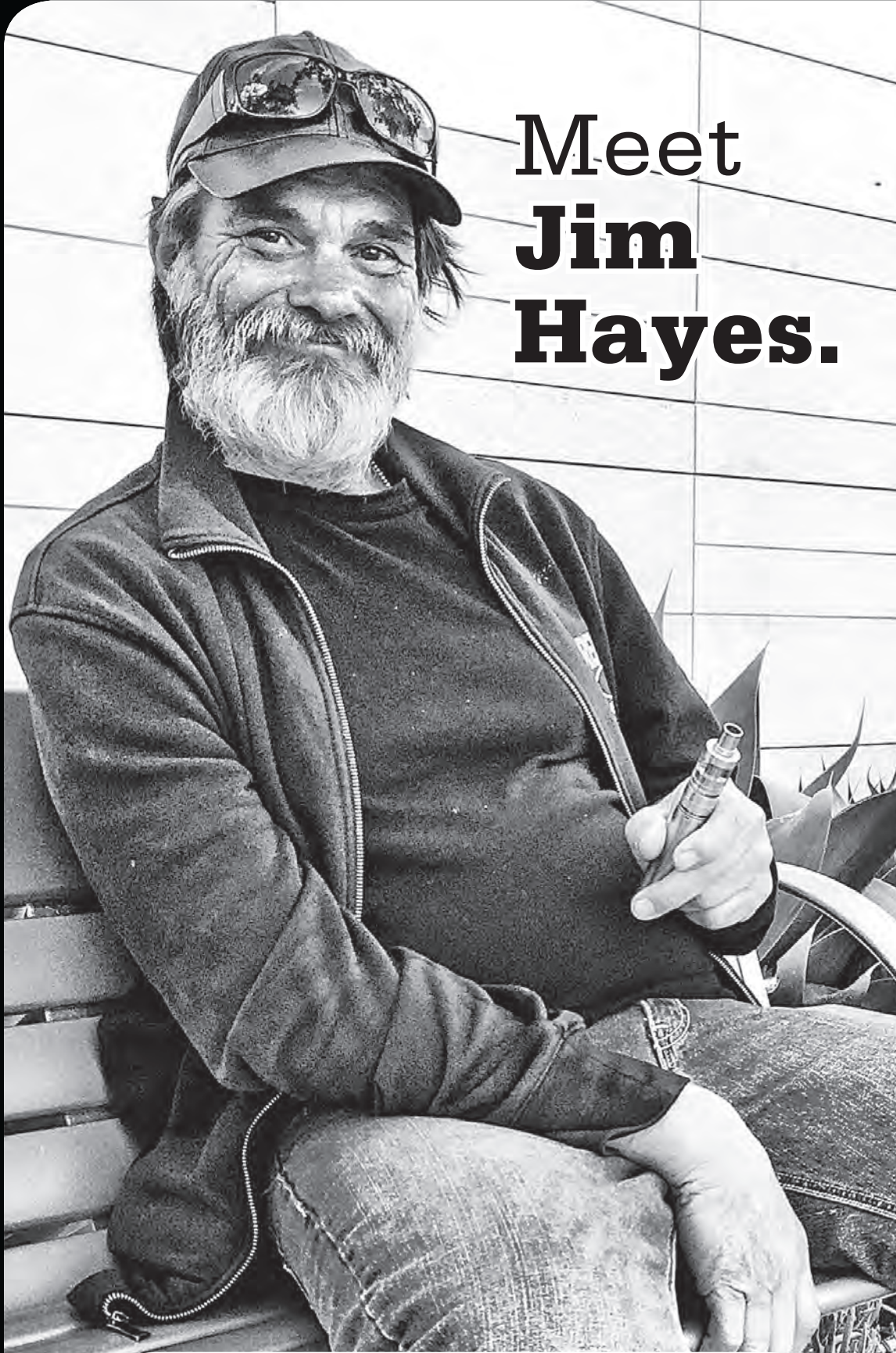
**No. 82**  
in a series.



# People We See

*Shelterless in Los Angeles.*

Sponsored by:  
Terry Yeager and Associates



## Meet Jim Hayes.

**AGE:** "I'm 59."

**BIRTHPLACE:** "Tyler, Tex."

**MARRIED?** "I was married, but she passed away from cancer."

**FAMILY:** "I have a daughter, 40, and a son, 38."

**RELIGION:** "Christian."

**MEDICATIONS:** "No."

**SPORTS:** "I played baseball and tried football, but I didn't last long in football."

**WHEN MOVED TO L.A.:** "About six years ago."

**WHERE DO YOU LIVE:**

"At the L.A. Mission, or any other mission available. I don't sleep on the sidewalks anymore because that is where the bulk of the drugs is. I need to stay away from that, it's a very negative element."

**THE STORY:**

"When I was 16 months old, my two brothers and I were separated and given to family members. My parents were severe alcoholics and could not take care of us anymore. It was not a good way to start your life out, you know what I mean bro? I ended up going to live with my great aunt in Sacramento and was raised by her the rest of my life. Unfortunately I grew up around junkyards, and junkyards are a big place for drugs. At 12 years old I was doing weed, and then from weed to PCP."

"After high school I went to the Sequoia Institute of Auto Mechanics in Milpitas. From there I had pretty good jobs but drugs were always a part of my life – weed, coke, PCP and then meth. I was married for 19 years; unfortunately my wife died of cancer. That didn't help with my drug usage. About 15 years ago I started working for the famous Butch Butler traveling carnival. I did well there, bringing in tons of money running and repairing the machine gun, Water Racers and quarter toss games. The only problem is that most of us carnival workers put in 18-plus-hour days, which is very hard to do without a stimulant. So, needless to say, carnivals in general are full of drugs, and I continued with my meth addiction. Eventually this lifestyle caught up with me and I was arrested for stealing and fencing flat-screens and electronics. I spent two years in jail. Jail actually turned my life around. I found that since I didn't have free access to meth, I went without it and found I could live without it. Don't get me wrong, meth was available in jail, but there was a lot less than on the street, so that in of itself reduced the availability and helped kick it."

"When I got out of jail I went through the LA Mission's program – two-and-a-half-years I spent. It truly made me a better person. That and God – I truly believe in my heart that He exists and He is what gets me through each day resisting temptations and trying to be a better person. By the way, I haven't done meth in six years."

**FAVORITE MOVIE:** "Lord of the Rings – all three!"

**FAVORITE TV SHOW:** "I don't watch TV."

**FAVORITE ACTOR:** "I'm not into actors or actresses."

**FAVORITE MUSIC:** "I love metal – heavy metal, death metal, black metal."

**FAVORITE FOOD:** "Chicken cordon bleu."

**FAVORITE CANDY:** "Reese's Peanut Butter Cups."

**LAST BOOK YOU READ:** "A Louis L'Amour book. I love Louis L'Amour."

**FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY:**

"Right here in the park at Police HQ, I come here every morning with my friend, Mike. Or, at the Library."

**FRIENDS:** "I have a pal, Mike. I've known him for two years."

**HELPFUL ORGANIZATION:** "The L.A. Mission."

**BELONGINGS:** "I always have my super vaper."

**FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY:** "I remember kindergarten the most, playing with blocks, show and tell."

**MOST PRIZED POSSESSION:** "My super vaper – it keeps me occupied."

**IN FIVE YEARS:**

"I'll be back on my feet in Sacramento on Social Security ... I hope. I have two kids there; my daughter is 40 and my son is 38. The last time I saw them was before I was sober and they wanted nothing to do with me, which of course I don't blame them. This time it's different ... sober six years!"

**ADVICE FOR EVERYDAY PEOPLE:**

"Don't do dope. Simple. Look yourself in the mirror and say no. Once you get started, you can't stop."

*The Club gave Jim a Bucket and a Blanket, a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, two pairs of socks, shampoo, hand wipes, some food, \$20 and bottled water.*

*The interview, conducted by John Hawkins, took place April 19 in the park at LAPD Headquarters downtown.*



Mike (left) with Jim (right) and Club CEO John Hawkins.

{ In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins, and Director of Sales Angel Gomez, introduce you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell. }