

NAME: Walt Lawrence
PROJECT: BCITS Iron Lung History Project
DATE OF INTERVIEW: March 22, 2017
LOCATION: GF Strong
TIME: 29 minutes

INTERVIEWED BY: David Gill and Claire Forsyth

TIME DESCRIPTION/SUMMARY

0-100 D

avid Gill provides an introduction to the interview

1:00

Walt introduces himself, and describes his work
He talks about his own spinal cord injury and how that contributes to his work.
What's life looks like after a spinal cord injury

2:30

Walt discusses users guiding technology, and being a part of rehabilitation work "We're in the business of helping people be contributors as best they can" "We don't see people as a disability"

4:30

Walt's personal experience in the iron lung for two hours which he found very difficult

6:30

Walt describes other technologies that he tried to use after his injury including the cuirass and the rocking bed
He asked his family to use the lung as well to see what it was like
Walt describes the iron lung

9:00

Describes his impressions of Pearson Hospital and understanding the permanence of his injury

10:00

Talks about an iron lung user who made his own plywood lung so that he could travel to Las Vegas (as mentioned in Carol Chao's interview)

12:00

In this segment, Walt talks about what the daily routine of iron lung users looked like

13:00

Describes the process of using a rocking bed

14:00

Walt talks about his own experience I the rocking bed and the psycho-social aspects of using assistive tech

15:30

Finding community with other assistive living technology users and returning to life outside of the institution

“You were kind of attached to the institution” ...“with PROPS you’re back in your community”

18:00

The process of adjustment and integration for people who have disabilities or injuries using technologies “at first overwhelming, after a while, a lifestyle”

21:00

Walt touches on how advancement in technologies has changed breathing independence

25:00

Walt talks about how everyone faces difficult times, and adapts to challenges

He talks about how thankful he is to the people that have helped him get through hardships and talks about breathing technologies which have made his life better

27:00

Walt talks about the importance of maintaining the history of technology like the iron lung