

# Haynie makes an early mark

Randy Haynie leads a fast life. He walks fast, talks fast, eats fast (when he's not talking) and has to sleep fast.

He has been labeled a "lobbyist extraordinaire" by state legislators who have seen him gain so much knowledge about the oilfield and politics in the five years he's been on the job that they call on him for information.

At 29, Haynie has lived in the fast lane since graduating from USL in 1978.

Immediately after graduation, he joined the gubernatorial campaign of former Sen. Edgar "Sonny" Mouton for a year and a half. He's never found time to slow down from the hectic campaign pace.

Haynie credits Mouton, whom he describes as "a very knowledgeable senator, very intelligent man — a man who loves to have a good time," for getting his start in politics.

But even in college, Haynie never had time to get involved in many social activities. He worked as a dorm counselor his first two years and then became assistant director of housing in charge of discipline his last two years. He also worked as a Senate page during legislative sessions.

During summer months, he worked as a roustabout and roughneck in the oilfield to make money for school. The knowledge gained there, coupled with the politics that came later, have led to a prosperous career.

He now represents two of the companies he worked for as a student.

Haynie is primarily a lobbyist — a word that leaves a bad taste in many politicians' mouths because of the sleazy methods many of his predecessors used.

"A lot do a good job but they've got the stigma of being the deal maker. If I could wave a magic wand, it would be to bring Louisiana up with the rest of the country in growth of the political system.

"The old days of a lobbyist being a guy with a big old cigar and backslapping and getting what he wants are gone. A lobbyist can't get by with taking people to lunch and slapping them on the back," he said.

Today's lobbyist has to know what he's talking about and be able to read public reaction as well as legislators' reactions, he said.

Besides being the director and lobbyist of numerous associations and committees, he's also the owner of four companies, one of which recently published a book on politics and politicians in Louisiana. His "bread and butter," though, is Haynie and Associates, his lobbying firm.

To say that he is busy is an understatement. He spends much of his time traveling from one place to another gathering facts from the people he represents and passing it on to state and federal lawmakers.

He says he goes where he needs to in his business. In one week, he was in New York, Washington, Baton rouge, Lafayette and Golden Meadow.

He begins work on the state's 85-day legislative session 45 days in advance. By the time legislators get to Baton Rouge, at least 90 percent of them have heard from or met with Haynie.

He carries a calendar crammed with appointments.

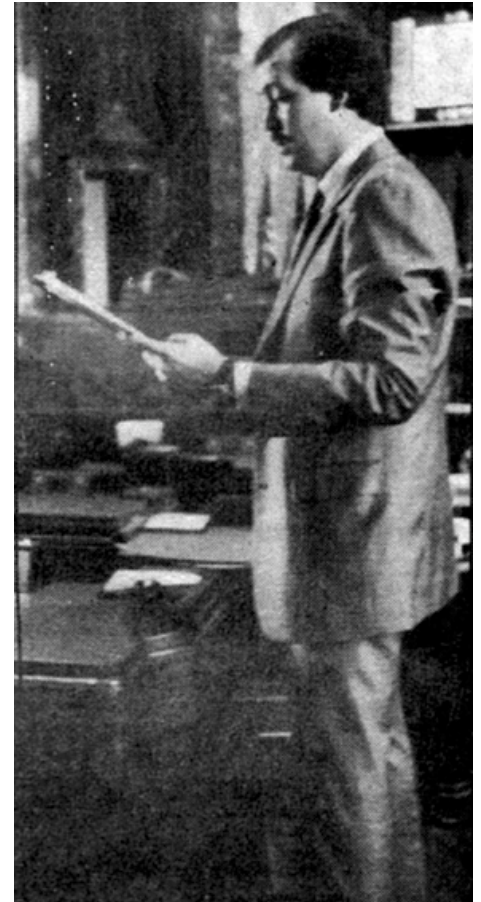
Among them are childbirth classes with his wife Daynese, whom he took time out to marry in 1981. Their first child's birth is "conveniently" scheduled a few days before the start of the legislative session.

"It's nice that there's nine months between sessions," he jokes.

Haynie is a collector. He has what he calls "an expensive hobby" — currency collecting, which started when he was in the Cub Scouts and put together a penny collection.

Now he deals with the big boys, collecting bills worth thousands of dollars. Among his rarest bills, which are safely tucked away in a bank vault, are a \$100 gold certificate issued in 1980 and a 1896 \$1 education note that is autographed by Secretary of the Treasury D.W. Morgan.

The old notes are ornately designed and resemble works of art more than legal tender. All are uncirculated or in perfect condition.



**Randy Haynie**

He also collects artwork by Louisiana artists

It's not surprising that Haynie has taken on yet another ambition. After campaigning with Mouton and observing state politics, he has set his sights on a possible run for office.

And as with other things, he has set his goal high.

"If I do decide to do anything, it will be governor in 1995 or 1999," he said. "That's when the time is right."