

TIMET FIELD ♦ JUNE 27, 1997

Celebrate

St. Rose Dominican's
50th ANNIVERSARY



DATE: June 27, 1997
TO: Friends of St. Rose Dominican Hospital
FROM: Members of the Women's Committee/St. Rose
RE: 50th Anniversary Celebration/Time Capsule



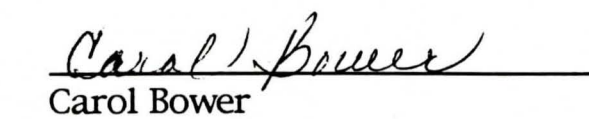

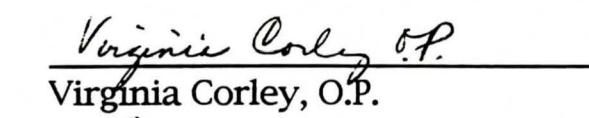
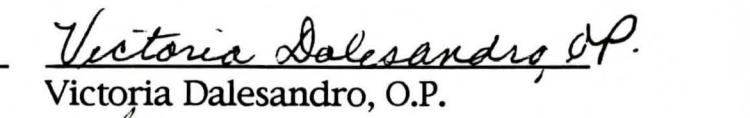
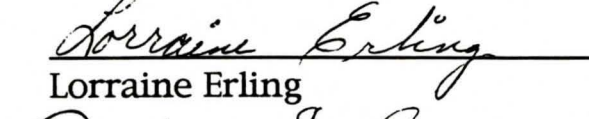

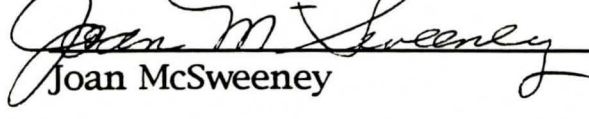
Enclosed is a packet of information concerning our committee. We are a year old and have ambitious goals for the future. In the year 2022, you will be in a position to determine our successes.

The theme we chose, **WOMEN OF ST. ROSE: Past, Present, Future**, represents an on-going project supported by the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan, and the hospital administration. According to Sister Margaret M. Mehigan, member of the Board of Trustees, the work of the Women's Committee is "*... a collaborative process that is providing a wonderful collection of oral history to highlight the significant contributions made by women through St. Rose to the Henderson community.*"

The adage, *getting there is half the fun*, bodes well for our small committee. We are a diverse group of individuals who appreciate the talents and commitment each member brings to the project. What is most notable is the pride we hold in the rich heritage of the hospital including those who came before us and those presently involved with its operations.

In 2022 you now are the stewards of St. Rose Dominican Hospital. We leave you with a glimpse of those who came before you for "*... each new life grows and flowers in the soil of past experiences.*"

Wishing you continued success,

 Florianne Bartholomew	 James L. Beebe
 Carol Bower	 Jean Byrd
 Virginia Corley, O.P.	 Victoria Dalesandro, O.P.
 Lorraine Erling	 Jane Holliman
 Joan McSweeney	

Women's Committee/St. Rose Hospital

written and compiled by Joan McSweeney

Objective, Goal, Scope of Project	1
1997 - First Celebration	2
Carol Bower Lorraine Erling	
Significance of the Project	5
50th Anniversary Across the Las Vegas Valley	7
Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel and the Hospital Nellis Air Force Base and the Hospital	
Chronicle of the Project	9
Past Present Future	
Closure	16
Appendix	
A. Letter: Sister Margaret Mehigan	
B. Program: First Celebration	
C. Letter: Florianne Batholomew	
D. Interview: Sister Veronica Gonthier	
E. Interview: Clara 'Bucki' McCoig	
F. Excerpts: Anne Rosenweig	
G. Excerpts: Peggy Vaughan	
H. Press Release	
I. Interview: Sister Robert Joseph/Angel Bread	
J. Master List: Listing of Historical Booklets to Date	
K. Panoramic View/roof top of hospital: James L. Beebe	

OBJECTIVE, GOAL, SCOPE OF PROJECT

OBJECTIVE:

To bring community awareness to the vitality and strengths of the women of St. Rose Dominican Hospital, in celebration of March, the International Month of Women

GOAL:

To design an annual event which is **created by and presented for** members of the community that pays tribute to the *woman spirit* of St. Rose Dominican Hospital

SCOPE OF PROJECT:

To identify, gather information, compile and store data, in order to create a public forum/performance in which the women of St. Rose Dominican Hospital, past, present, future, shall be celebrated and honored

Among women to be identified and commemorated shall include but not be limited to members from the religious community, auxiliary, medical profession, staff, volunteers, former patients, entertainers, supporters and contributors, political/business/community leaders.

The Women's Committee of St. Rose shall host an annual celebration during the month of March, International History Month of Women.

Archival materials shall be properly inventoried and stored for future events and research.

1997 - FIRST CELEBRATION

Members of the Women's Committee of St. Rose hosted their first celebration, **WOMEN OF ST. ROSE: Past, Present, Future**, on March 22, 1997. The community was invited to attend a reception where history, memories and recollections from the past 50 years were condensed into a short two-hour activity. Refreshments, music and flowers enhanced the enjoyment of the afternoon.

A pictorial exhibit was created and served as a backdrop for the event. Four columns, each free standing, were designed from an assortment and sizes of stacked boxes. Guests walked around each column and were treated to a variety of individual photographs of personalities and images. These were reflective of fifty (50) years of service and accomplishments. The visual exhibit remained on display until the end of the month.

Individual booklets were placed on tables spaced around the lobby of the hospital. Each booklet contained quotations, narratives or entire interviews from oral histories which had been recorded, transcribed and assembled by the committee. Guests had an opportunity to browse through and spend as much time as they wish with each booklet.

Several additional personal interviews were gathered during the function and added to the committee's collection for future events.

Photographs and a video tape captured moments from the two-hour event. These captured guests enjoying themselves, renewing old friendships, reading and sharing stories, viewing and commenting on the pictorial display. Photographs taken during the reception later were designed into an additional display and temporarily placed in the hallway of the hospital.

When the celebration was over, materials were gathered, inventoried and stored for future use.

CAROL BOWER
ARTIST

My time spent on Women of St. Rose: Past, Present, Future involved the gathering of photographs of women at work and at play depicting the miles of smiles - - continuing the mission of St. Rose. I found new friends at the box manufacturer, and in Chris at Desert Data who, with the help of her copy machines, reproduced all of the photos. K-Mart spray paint, rubber cement, and fishing line culminated hours of thought (some sublime) as I pried, pasted, and pulled on golden-painted boxes reminiscent of the golden years here at St. Rose.

LORRAINE ERLING

Admitting Clerk, Admitting Supervisor, Insurance Supervisor, Office Supervisor

Excerpts from interview:

When we moved here in 1966, Henderson was less than 18,000 people and the hospital was small and we grew together.

At the time I was hired in August, 1967, Sister Georgeanne was Administrator, Sister Ellen Stephanie was in Surgery, Sister Dolores Dolan headed the Lab and Sister Marie Daniel was head of Labor and Delivery.

When I retired in 1985, I was the Office Supervisor . . . my retirement party was in January of 1985 . . . the entire hospital staff was invited, also the physicians. It was a potluck and there were gifts and flowers and lots of good food, plus fun and tears. It was really hard to leave. I'll always remember the years at St. Rose as the best of my life.

*My Thank-you message, which appeared in the Hospital's **IN TOUCH** Newsletter follows:*

Dear Friends,

May I take this means to reach all of you who made my retirement party such a memorable occasion. The food (all of you are such good cooks!), the thoughtful and beautiful gifts, the flowers and fun, you made this day so special. You also made me realize how special you each are in your own way. I hope you will always stay that way, because you are what makes St. Rose SPECIAL . . .

*With Love and thanks,
Lorraine Erling*

Footnote: June 1997

Since my retirement 12 years ago, my opinion has not changed. Working there allowed me to educate my children, take vacations and live a better life style than is available on one salary with six children, 2 nurses, one doctor, one Business Major and one teacher.

At present, I am on the Hospital Advisory Board for Artie J. Cannon's Helping Hands of Henderson and an active member of the St. Rose Women's Committee. So you see, I am still involved at the Hospital and I think 'St. Rose is special'!

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT

The existence of the hospital is tied uniquely to the history and development of the Las Vegas Valley and the City of Henderson, Nevada. Much is written about Henderson, one of the fastest growing cities in the nation. It has come a long way from more humble beginnings in the early 1940's as being a town created to assist with the war effort to an urbane community of the 1997's. Its first homes were considered temporary structures used to house families whose members worked in local plants. At one time *Hooterville* was the town's unofficial title.

"The city of Henderson was becoming a ghost town after World War II . . ." so says Bettylou Anderson. Anderson was employed by Basic Magnesium Hospital prior to the time when the Sisters of Adrian Dominican purchased the hospital in 1947. She was one of the first persons hired by the sisters and, during her tenure at the hospital, Anderson worked under each one of the religious Administrators.

Sister Marie Angelita was among the original group of seven sent by Mother Gerald in 1947 to take charge of the hospital. *"Shortly after Vatican II in the 1970's,"* Sister explains, *"sisters had the choice to go back to their baptismal name."* Sister Angelita opted to do that and is now Sister Anne.

During a recent telephone interview, Sister Anne recalls her first impressions of her mission to Nevada in 1947. Their train was late in arriving into Las Vegas. Father Moran, from St. Peter Apostle Church in Henderson, along with Sister Carolyn, first Administrator of the hospital, and Sister Marie Daniel met and drove the group back out to Henderson. Sister recalls,

" . . . They had rented a little house about two blocks from the hospital. It was so dark and late, so I went directly to bed. In the morning I opened the blinds to see what was next to us. Nothing . . . nothing but sage brush. I remember thinking that if somebody would have said, 'Go home', I would have gladly walked back. . . . But I grew to love it."

Throughout the years a different appearance emerged as sage brush made way for new and bigger homes, churches, schools, play grounds, libraries. New residents hail from all fifty (50) states and many foreign countries. Recently the city sponsored a motto contest to capture and express its new-fashioned essence. Judges selected ***Henderson, a place to call home*** as the winning entry.

The word 'home', as used in the motto, embodies many qualities among which includes comfort, security, safety and tradition. The continual presence of the hospital manifests these characteristics. It is perceived as being a valuable resource to the community. Its legacy proudly lives through its healing ministry as a state-of-the art facility and one which is committed to the quality of care their patients receive. For the past fifty years since the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan, took over the hospital building from the War Assets Administration, it serves as a symbol of stability.

Throughout its existence, the hospital has undergone several modifications including a few minor name changes from *Rose de Lima*, to *St. Rose de Lima* and currently *St. Rose Dominican*. Its physical structure experienced several add ons and spurts of growth. Of particular interest to citizens of Las Vegas Valley is the fact that its original structure still stands as a serviceable facility. This fact alone brings a sense of satisfaction to many preservationists and those with a sense of history.

Visitors to the famous Las Vegas Strip regard history in the Las Vegas Valley as a recent phenomenon where archival materials are in short supply or springs from a big art drawing board. Their perception is that a link with permanent community life is lacking and non existent.

Residents, on the other hand, find that pride in one's heritage requires a certain degree of imagination and, at time, wonderment. The staying power of its institutions and building often is short lived and overshadowed by the excitement and drama created by an *implosion*. Often times an implosion gets rid of more than concrete and mortar. It does away with visible clues connecting citizens with their past. The presence of St. Rose Dominican Hospital is significant to the community as it nurtures a sense of connection with its past.

As time passes, unfortunately, important voices are lost forever. Many men and women no longer are with us. During her interview on June 8, 1997, Sister Anne reflects that out of the seven original sisters sent to the hospital, ". . . Now Sister Felicia and I are the only ones left."

It has been said that when a person dies without their story being told, a whole library also is lost and buried. The hospital of St. Rose Dominican, City of Henderson, County of Clark, State of Nevada, Motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters located in Adrian, Michigan, and even the archives of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy, benefit when history is reflected as a composite picture. The many faces and voices from the women of St. Rose add breadth and balance to a community and congregation. Their stories become significant and merit a place on the shelves of many libraries.

It is important to continue with the process of identifying individuals and obtaining as much authenticated information as possible and in a timely fashion.

50th ANNIVERSARY AND THE LAS VEGAS VALLEY

BENJAMIN "BUGSY" SIEGEL AND THE DOMINICAN SISTERS

In 1947 two structures opened their doors for the duration and each had a contrasting impact on their respective communities. The Dominican Sisters from Adrian, Michigan, opened the doors of their newly purchased hospital in Henderson, Nevada. After 50 years, St. Rose continues to have a remarkable impact on its health care service to the community. Across the valley a divergent type of opening had a dramatic impact on the economic health of the valley. In 1947 Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel's Hotel Flamingo opened its doors. Some historians claim it was Bugsy who put The Strip on the map referring to him as one of the founding fathers of Las Vegas

The administrators of St. Rose welcome their 50th anniversary as a time for great celebration in which to honor those responsible for its legacy. The memory of Bugsy Siegel does not receive similar gladness. According to a December 29, 1996 article appearing in the Las Vegas REVIEW-JOURNAL, *"Though Hilton executives today say they aren't ignoring Siegel's influence on the gaming scene, they will not play up his image as the property celebrates its 50th anniversary."*

Historians date the opening of the Flamingo as December, 1946. That proved to be a false start since final construction of the hotel was incomplete. After a hiatus of about three months, the Hotel Flamingo reopened in 1947 and, this time, kept its doors opened. Intrigue has always surrounded the personality of Bugsy Siegel. He provides historians and writers with the necessary fodder to turn his reputed activities into dramatic and commercial successes. In a Las Vegas REVIEW-JOURNAL article of June 20, 1997, hotel spokesman Terry Lindberg was asked about Siegel and the Flamingo Hilton's anniversary. Lindberg replied. *"Although he was founder of this property, he was certainly not a role model. We're talking about a murdered, thief and rapist - all the things that society shouldn't aspire to be. . . ."*

Unfortunately, much of the archival information depicting the *woman-spirit* of the hospital since its opening in 1947 has been lost, destroyed or tossed out. Scarce information from the voices of women, themselves, has been compiled and preserved. It is the mission of the Women's Committee to collect and share this material in celebration of the creative strength of women.

Interesting themes continue to emerge as oral histories are collected. Among these include reflections upon the hospital's pioneering and ecumenical spirit, mystique and mythology surrounding the 'religious', a number of 'firsts' occurring in the valley, evolution of the health care services and providers, significance of pastoral care, celebrations from the past, joyful, dedicated, holy and solemn experiences.

Drama and the true grit of life exists within the walls of St. Rose Dominican Hospital. Here gender and strength unite for purposeful accomplishments. Many of the women of St. Rose are perceived as being role models - but serving as role models is not always an easy task. As quoted from an interview with Sr. Mary Assenmacher, Chaplain, *"All I can say is that St. Rose has been like a roller coaster ride . . . I do like roller coaster rides, but I never thought I'd live one."*

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE AND THE HOSPITAL

Across the Las Vegas Valley and in opposite directions from both the Flamingo Hotel and Casino and St. Rose Dominican Hospital, Nellis Air Force Base focused on their own 50th celebration in 1997. The United States Air Force became 50 years old. On March 19, 1997, Nellis, "Home of the Fighter Pilot," played host to the Air Force with a Golden Air Tattoo International Air Show.

Numerous letters of congratulations and welcoming were received. Among them included the words from President Bill Clinton. ". . . I salute the men and women of the Air Force for fifty years of brave and devoted service..." Bob Miller, Governor of the State of Nevada, wrote the following:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to "Air Force FIFTY." the celebration of fifty years of service by the United States Air Force. . . . Our men and women in blue are hard at work all around the globe every day, and we owe them our deepest thanks for their service and sacrifices.

Jan Laverty Jones, Mayor of Las Vegas praises the Air Force Association and writes, ". . . I invite you to discover another side of Las Vegas, beyond its famed glamour and lights is a dynamic, family-oriented community. . . ."

Fifty years ago on September 15, 1947, General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower was principal speaker at the First AFA National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. General Eisenhower said, "The creation of the United States Air Force as an independent entity recognizes the special capabilities of airpower."

In 1947 a group of seven members from the Dominican Sister of Adrian, Michigan, was sent by Mother Gerald to take over the building from the War Assets Administration and start up Rose de Lima Hospital in the desert town of Henderson, Nevada. Among the seven included, Srs. Marie Angelita, Marie Joyce, Mary Carolyn, Marie Daniel, Mary Felicia, Daniel Therese and Marie Augustine.

Fifty years ago, Mother Gerald writes a few word of caution to the pioneering group,

I don't want you to be floorwalkers - as though you were in Marshall Fields of Chicago. . . I expect the sisters to do the nursing and the work that is to be done there . . . taking hold of the various duties in the manner that will give glory to our Father Who is in Heaven.

As is fondly remembered about the earlier days, the sisters put in a day. They didn't have shifts. They just worked until the work got done.

Today, fifty years later, members of the Women's Committee of St. Rose are recording stories about the *woman spirit* of the hospital . . . about their service and sacrifices made in the family-oriented community, Henderson.

CHRONICLE OF THE PROJECT

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

PAST: March 1996 - March 1997

During a regularly scheduled Mission Service Meeting in March '96, the Women's Committee of St. Rose emerged to fill a need - to design a celebration to coincide with March, International History Month of Women. A committee was formed consisting of religious members and lay people.

At the same time the committee began its work in earnest, the hospital was setting up a year long calendar of events in celebration of their 50th anniversary beginning in 1997. The Women's Committee brainstormed with several ideas and then settled upon the theme, **WOMEN OF ST. ROSE: Past, Present, Future**. This allowed them a platform to become part of the 50th celebrations while paying tribute to the *woman spirit* so richly demonstrated throughout the existence of the hospital. Their theme also corresponded to the goals and objectives of the Motherhouse in Adrian, Michigan.

In a letter to the Women's Committee, Margaret M. Mehigan, O.P., Office of Sponsorship and Mission Effectiveness, confirmed its purposes and intentions. (See Appendix A). The following is an excerpt in which Sr. Margaret articulates the position of the Adrian Dominicans, "*We stand in communion with women of our world We claim our freedom to liberate the creative woman-spirit*"

Prior to the annual event scheduled for March 22, 1997, the committee, as a whole, met at least once a month and more often as required. An executive committee, four (4) members, was put in place and reported directly to the head of the Mission Service Committee. Regular reports were presented during monthly Mission Service Committee meetings. Rod Davis, Chief Executive Officer, was briefed on their activities.

Meditations were incorporated into each meeting. One of the readings, *Seasons of a Woman's Life*, authored by Sister Nancyann Turner, OP, was included in the first annual program. (See Appendix B). Although Sister Nancyann is a member of the Adrian Dominican Congregation, she had no prior association with St. Rose Hospital but her poem captured the essence of the committee's theme - past, present, future.

Seasons of a Woman's Life

Our lives grow richer
and more beautiful
from season to season and year to year.

We women live in the present
while building on the past
even as we prepare for the future.

New life begins before old life has fallen.
Each new life grows and flowers
in the soil of past experiences.

Gary Kreps, Ph.D., Chair of the Greenspun School of Communication, University of Las Vegas, served as the committee's mentor and offered his support and guidance. Each committee member brought a unique talent into the project and was responsible for one or several specific tasks. Areas of work included the following:

- I: Finances
- II: A) Communications
B) Collecting material
- III: Selecting, mounting, displaying material
- IV: Multi-media Production/Live Performance
- V: Facility/social/display
- VI: Archival/inventory/storage of materials

I: Finances:

During its first year's existence, the committee survived without a formal budget and depended largely upon in-kind services and donated donations. The Mission Service Department reimbursed a number of expenses. Many in-kind services and pocket donations came from committee members, hospital staff and personnel.

STATUS MAGAZINE . . . the forum for successful women, presented a small donation to the committee from proceeds of its 1st Annual STATUS Magazine Patio Party. This function was held at Barley's a local casino and brewing company. Several members from the committee were in attendance for the festivities.

II: A) Communications:

The most effective means of communication was generated by word of mouth and personal contact made by committee members. However, several articles did appear in the local newspaper, *Henderson Home News*, as well as, local church bulletins and the hospital's publication, *IN TOUCH*.

A press release went out soliciting personal stories and reminiscences pertaining to women from St. Rose. The release also asked for donations of hospital memorabilia - photographs, telegrams, letters, greeting cards, flyers, newspaper clippings, slides, home movies, video tapes, and the like. A designated telephone line was set up at the hospital and its number was included.

B) Collection of Material:

Originally a designated telephone line was set up for individuals to call in with their stories and memories. For whatever reasons, individuals were reluctant to use this medium. A few poignant narratives were received through the mail (Appendix C) but, generally, the telephone line was greatly underused.

Members of the community were willing and eager to share their stories but preferred a personal contact. As a result, a master list of names started to take shape and an out-reach effort into the community commenced.

What started as a small list soon swelled into a dynamic inventory of names which continues to expand as memories are jogged and word spreads about the project. From this list, individuals were contacted and their oral histories collected on audio tape. A questionnaire was drawn up to assist with the interviewing process and an industrial-grade audio recorder was borrowed from the Tele Media Department, UNLV.

The small committee was assisted when students from the Community College of Southern Nevada, CCSN, and the University of Las Vegas conducted several interviews. However, as the committee continued to prepare for their first annual event, March 22, 1997, they realized their limitations. It became an impossible task for every individual on the master list to be contacted, interviewed, transcription produced and booklet created by the cut off date.

The committee then decided their original plan was overly ambitious and designated their project as an on-going one. A greater amount of time was required to fully develop its theme, **WOMEN OF ST. ROSE: Past, Present, Future.**

A letter was sent to those on the master list explaining the situation and thanking them for their willingness to participate in the project. They were reminded of the importance of their story but that the committee was unable to interview everyone in time for the March '97 celebration. Each was reassured their interview eventually would be conducted and materials incorporated into future celebrations.

III: Selecting, Mounting, Displaying Material:

When interviews were conducted, each interviewee signed a Deed of Gift allowing hospital's representatives to use materials accordingly. Donors of photographs and memorabilia also were asked to sign a deed.

Transcribing all the taped interviews became an arduous challenge. Some interviews were typed in their entirety. (See Appendix D and E) With other interviews, quotations were extracted. (See Appendix F and G). Uniformed, historical booklets were designed for each interview. A photograph of the individual appeared on the cover page along with identifying information, date and name of interviewer.

At the same time interviews were gathered, the creation of the pictorial exhibit took on a life of its own. The decision was made to collect, reproduce and assemble an assortment of photographs. These were then affixed onto a variety of different sizes of boxes and stacked into free standing columns. A clever device allowed each column to be dismantled, stored as a flat surface, transported and then reassembled with minimum effort.

IV: Multi-media Production/Live Performance

Originally, the committee wanted to design a script for a Readers Theater production from the quotations and stories collected. This ambitious project was placed on hold for a future celebration.

V: Facility/Social/Display

A press release inviting the public to attend the function was sent to various news organizations. (See Appendix H). In addition members of the committee contacted individuals they knew would enjoy the affair. Over 150 people were in attendance and participated in the event.

The layout of the hospital's lobby proved to be conducive for the activity. It allowed adequate space to accommodate the crowd, various areas for displaying materials, room to set up refreshments and a special location for the pianist. Fresh flower arrangements, following the hospital's color scheme, teal green, peach, tan, were set up around each sector.

As the day for the Women's Committee celebration approached, a final count of historical booklets was taken. Fortuitously, a total of 50 booklets for the 50th anniversary had been readied for display. These were placed on individual tables scattered throughout the lobby.

A three-dimensional pictorial exhibit consisting of four columns of photographs attracted a great crowd and much conversation. These images captured 50 years of history. Many in attendance at the reception were the very individuals whose pictures were on display. Their presence added dignity to the event.

VI: Archival Materials/Storage

Materials on loan was returned to their owners. Donated material was inventoried and placed in safe keeping for future events.

PRESENT: March 1997 - 1998

As the committee continues to concentrate on plans for their 1998 International History Month of the Women celebration, they are asked to set up their existing exhibit and archival materials for various hospital functions and occasions. Often times new interviews are conducted when out-of-town visitors attend these functions.

On Saturday, May 10, 1997 Shirley Lane-Smith was in town with her husband to attend a special VIP celebration. Between activities planned by the hospital, she made time for an interview. She said that prior to entering the convent in the 1950's, she had earned a Bachelor of Science in Medical Records. Then she decided to become a religious sister and chose the Dominican Order because, ". . . *I was told they were top-notch educators.*" Sister Paul Augusta was her religious name.

One of her first missions was to teach second grade at St. Peter the Apostle in Henderson, Nevada, across from the hospital. During her spare time, she assisted with the organization of medical records at the hospital. Shirley had many happy memories of her time as a sister. Some of these recollections were amusing since this was the time when the sisters wore their habits and always traveled in pairs.

Shirley remembers when shopping on one of the main streets in Las Vegas, the nuns were in full habit, cloak and all. Shirley laughingly recalls, "*You know how they dress in Las Vegas . . . there was a lady walking toward us in high heels and wearing a bathing suit. As she passed, one of the sisters whispered to me, 'Isn't that ridiculous'.*" Realizing what must have been going on in the lady's mind, I replied, "*Not any more than what we have on.*"

Another special 50th occasion occurred on Tuesday, May 20, 1997. An Open House in the Annex of the hospital was held in honor of former administrators and nurses of St. Rose. Members of the Women's Committee were in attendance along with their pictorial exhibit and historical booklets. Among honorees included four Dominican Sisters currently from Santa Cruz, California, - Sister Georganne Duggan, Administrator from 1965 - 1978, Sister Marie Brigid McDonald who opened the first Psychiatric Ward, Sister Joseph Eugene Fogarty, a Psychiatric Nurse, and Sister Marie Michalla Siplak, also a nurse.

On Saturday, May 24th, members from the Women's Committee set up their materials once again. This time it was in the reception area at the Alexis Hotel in Las Vegas. A week-end meeting of Adrian Dominican Sisters allowed members of the committee another opportunity to share their historical materials and conduct additional interviews. When there was a break in their schedule, several sisters formerly associated with the hospital, were interviewed. Among the interviewees included Sister Jane Celeste Fries, Provincial of the western states in the early 70's, Sr. Frances Lombaer, Board of Directors of S. Rose from 1964 - 1970, Sr. Joanne Wimmer, Financial Department of St. Rose, 1982 - 1990.

The committee is participating in the St. Rose Dominican's 50th Anniversary Time Capsule Dedication on June 27, 1997 at the Timet Field in Henderson. This booklet is being prepared and will be buried along side other materials from the hospital. The Time Capsule opens in twenty-five years - 2022.

Gage Chapel, Ph.D., Greenspun School of Communication, is working on a scholarly article with Mara Vernon, graduate student. Currently they are reviewing and analyzing data collected by the committee. Chapel is tracing the history of St. Rose Dominican Hospital beginning with the arrival of the first sisters from Adrian, Michigan in 1947. His focus is on how these women persevered, overcame obstacles and managed to do good work in a hostile environment. His work will conclude with current conditions in which the hospital administration, staff and personnel continue to bring quality health care to Clark County with a community of over a million people.

On the drawing board for the March '98 celebration is an event called ANGEL BREAD.* Sister Robert Joseph, one of the longest residing Dominican Sisters, gave an interview in which she recollects facts about Sr. Angelita and Angel Bread. (See Appendix I).

New booklets and materials gathered throughout the year also will be added to the committee's original collection and displayed for enjoyment of guests.

In the meantime and throughout 1997, time will be spent transcribing the backlog of collected audio interviews while a push is being made to continue the process of collecting data for the '99 event. (See Appendix J). During the summer months, a student from Green Valley High School, is assisting the committee with various activities including conducting and transcribing oral histories.

Creative means will be used on a regular basis to publicize the mission of the committee.

*In 1957, Angel Bread was introduced on September 15th. It was named after Sr. Angelita and described as **so good it had to be called 'Angel Bread'**. . . Good . . . *'because it's baked in strict conformity with the same delicious, health, giving, old fashioned home-baked bread recipe used at Rose de Lima Hospital.'*

FUTURE: March 1998 - 1999

A Multi-Media Production with the theme of **Gender and Strength** is being proposed.

CLOSURE

The Women's Committee of St. Rose has several ideas on their agenda for future activities for March, the International History Month of Women. Currently we are focusing on the Angel Bread Celebration for March of 1998 and are beginning to talk about the multi-media production for 1999.

Much can occur between June, 1997 and March 1999. Members of the committee hope to realize our immediate goals and we are off to a good start. In the meantime, if our goals become sidetracked, we offer you a challenge in 2022. Please pick up where we left off and run with our theme: **WOMEN OF ST. ROSE: Past, Present, Future.** As Sister Margaret Mehigan writes,

"... (their) stories attest to the full participation of women in leadership and decision-making roles with personal testimonies of their faith, creative potential and compassionate care for humankind."

APPENDIX A

LETTER: SISTER MARGARET MEHIGAN



ADRIAN DOMINICAN SISTERS
1257 East Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, Michigan 49221
Phone 517-265-5135
FAX 517-265-4733

Office of Sponsorship and
Mission Effectiveness

Joan McSweeney, Chairperson
St. Rose Dominican Hospital Women's Committee
102 Lake Mead Drive
Henderson, NV 89015

Dear Joan:

We, Adrian Dominican Sisters acknowledge with deep, deep appreciation the creative work, energy and stories that were shared with the St. Rose Hospital Community on March 22, 1997. Those of us connected with the hospital ministry hold heartfelt gratitude for the commitment and gifts of each member of the Committee.

The focus of the St. Rose Dominican Hospital Women's Committee supports the vision of the Adrian Dominicans with respect to the women's issues today:

*We stand in communion with women of our world.
Compelled to confront violence and oppressive systems,
we break our silence of complicity.
We claim our freedom to liberate the creative woman-spirit.
We call for the full release of women's energies
to bring about balance and harmony with all creation.*

We support your collaborative process that is providing a wonderful collection of oral history to highlight the significant contributions made by women through St. Rose to the Henderson community. Stories attest to the full participation of women in leadership and decision-making roles with personal testimonies of their faith, creative potential and compassionate care for humankind

Please know of my personal thanks for the very important contribution you are making to the 50th Anniversary of the healing mission of St. Rose Dominican Hospital and for the empowerment of women in healthcare.

In the spirit of Dominic and Rose,

Marge

Margaret M. Mehigan, OP
Office of Sponsorship and Mission Effectiveness

APPENDIX B

PROGRAM: FIRST CELEBRATION, MARCH 1997

*The Women of St. Rose:
Past, Present, and Future...*



Rose de Lima

*March 22, 1997
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

*The 1997 St. Rose Dominican
Hospital Women's Committee*

Florianne Bartholomew

Sr. Victoria Dalesandro

Jim Beebe

Lorraine Erling

Carol Bower

Jane Holliman

Jean Byrd

Arleen Kaiser

Sr. Virginia Corley

Joan McSweeney

*We gratefully acknowledge all contributors who
have assisted in this on going project.*

*SEASONS OF A WOMAN'S LIFE
By Nancyann Turner, O.P.*

*Our lives grow richer
and more beautiful
from season to season
and year to year.*

*We women live in the present
while building on the past
even as we prepare for the future.*

*New life begins
before old life has fallen.*

*Each new life grows and flowers
in the soil of past experiences.*



APPENDIX C

LETTER: FLORIANNE BARTHOLOMEW

“My memories and love for the sisters, the staff, the nurses and doctors associated with St. Rose, and all the hospital employees are very deep and long lasting.”

“ My daughter, Kristi Carr, was a secretary in the Emergency Room at St. Rose. During her long and painful illness, in 1987, she was in and out of the hospital many times. Every time she was readmitted, she was assigned the same room that soon became known as **Kristi's Room**. She always received love, kindness, courtesy, and respect from everyone at the hospital.”

“In her final days, another bed was brought into her room so that her family could be with her constantly. Food was prepared for us and either Sister Mary or Sister Veronica was with us day and night. Her final hours were spent with her family, Renee Paper from the E.R. and Sister Mary. The comfort and guidance Sister Mary gave to all of us was beyond the realm of any hospital.”

FLORIANNE BARTHOLOMEW

“Without her vigil, love, and guidance, I’m not sure how the family could have accepted her passing with such hope, grace and dignity.”

“We knew that the chapel at the hospital would not be large enough for the memorial service, and the sisters arranged the service to be held in the Annex. It was full to overflowing, with standing room only. Doctors, nurses, hospital employees, family, and friends all came to say good-bye to Kristi. It was an outpouring of love from everyone there.”

“Kristi’s two daughters were ages 12 and 7 at the time. They have since grown into lovely young ladies who both want to pursue careers in the medical field. The lasting impressions of the care, treatment, and love for their mother remained with them all these years and they want to give back what they received.”

FLORIANNE BARTHOLOMEW

PAGE 2

“The family has planted two trees at St. Rose in memory of Kristi and her sister, Karen, who also died of cancer 4 months later. These living symbols not only represent the spirits of two beautiful young women, but they represent the spirit of a loving and dedicated group of people who were always there and are still there for the people of this community.”

“I was President of the Auxillary of St. Rose Hospital and working on the Mardi Gras Ball. A young man came into the office and asked for me by name. I assumed he wanted to buy either ball tickets or raffle tickets. But, the story he told me was so heartwarming. I wanted to share it with you.”

“Several years earlier, he and his wife were expecting their first child and they were stone broke. He spoke to some of the sisters and they told him not to worry about a thing. The baby would be born at the hospital.”

FLORIANNE BARTHOLOMEW

“And so the baby was. The man never received a bill from the hospital. He, however, worked very hard and, little by little, paid off the hospital.”

“By the time he came in to see me, he was the prosperous owner of his own business, but he never forgot the kindness and compassion he and his wife were shown several years previous.

“Yes, he bought two Mardi Gras tickets to the ball, but he also purchased \$500.00 worth of raffle tickets that he, in turn, donated for resale. To top it all off, he presented us with a \$1000.00 donation check. All of this to repay the kindness and love given to him by the Sisters of St. Rose.”

“I know that this is only one story of many that have occurred over the years. It is stories similar to this one that have built the reputation and integrity of a loving and caring institution, St. Rose Dominican Hospital.”

FLORIANNE BARTHOLOMEW

APPENDIX D

INTERVIEW: SISTER VERONICA GONTHIER

Sr. Veronica Gonthier

Q It's January 2nd and this is Joan McSweeney. Sister, thank you for having me at your residence, 43 Church Street, just behind the hospital. Sister, would you please spell your name?

A: *My name is V-e-r-o-n-i-c-a G-o-n-t-h-i-e-r.*

Q Your Christian name?

A: *Rolande. I'm French. We spoke French at home and Rolande is common in French, a typical French name. But I grew up hating the name because in English or when I would get in a mixed group, they called me **Roland**. That's a boy's name and the spelling's different, just by adding an 'e'.*

Q And, Sister, where were you born?

A: *I was born in Amesbury, Massachusetts, just about 35 miles north of Boston and about 5 miles from the ocean and state line of New Hampshire.*

Q How did you get associated with the Adrian Dominican Sisters?

A: *I attended Barry College in Miami, Florida. I met them there. It was a college run by the Adrian Dominicans and I was there for four years.*

Q What were you studying?

A: *I was a pre-med student, a Chemistry major and minors in Biology, Math and German.*

Q That's impressive, Sister. And so you received your calling while you were at Barry?

A: *Well.. not really. I knew I wanted to be a sister from the time I was rather young, a young child. But I became sick after my freshman year. So, there was a question whether I'd ever be able to or not. I came down with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis . . . was bed ridden for about five years at that time.*

When I was able to put myself together a little bit, a tutor would come to the house . . . the public schools would send a tutor. So, I got part of the year done by working with them. Then after that, I finished. I skipped one grade because I did some work on my own. I graduated but I still knew I couldn't go into the convent so I decided I'd go to college.

At Barry I did make the final choice . . . the congregation I wanted to enter. They didn't know my history . . . they hadn't seen me sick. It's one thing to say that I have arthritis. It's another to see somebody in bed. I proved myself physically well enough. So I was very happy with that.

Q So you went to Adrian, Michigan.

A: I went to Adrian, Michigan.

Q About what year was this?

A: I went to Adrian after graduation in 1951. I was professed in '52. I just had an anniversary not long ago . . . December 28th.

Q Happy Anniversary, a few days late.

A: So by '52 . . . that was 5 years after the first group of Sisters arrived in Henderson.

Q What brought them to Henderson?

A: A response to a need. They came out here in '47, the first group. That was after the war was over. But the government plants were here. The story of the plants is that they were working with chemicals. They had the regulations where they were to have a hospital. So they had one.

In '46, with the war being over, the government says, **'We're leaving.'** And during the six years we were at war, the plant was run by civilians and they had brought their families here. They said, **'You know, our families are here and we need a hospital.'**

So they quickly organized a committee and they wrote to chemical companies all over the northeast to get them to buy sections.

There was one priest, Father Moran, pastor of St. Peters. He learned that the hospital was to be sold.

Q Over at St. Peters, across the way on Boulder Highway?

A: Over at St. Peters. He, with the help of Senator McCarran investigated whether a group of Sisters might be allowed to buy the hospital. In the meantime, Father Moran wrote and consulted with Bishop Gorman to see if he knew of any congregation who might want to buy the hospital.

Q Bishop Gorman?

A: Bishop Gorman, bishop of Reno. He wrote to California . . . I don't know exactly how it went, but there was a bishop there. You see,

we . . . our congregation had just opened the hospital two years prior to this in Santa Cruz, Dominican Santa Cruz. The bishop there says, '**Oh, I know a congregation that did a gorgeous job here.**'

So they contacted Adrian. They called Mother Gerald, our Superior General then. They said, '**Beautiful brand new hospital, totally equipped.**' Well, that was all very attractive. But it was also in heavy, heavy debt.

Q It was?

A: It was. But the final negotiations were made with Bishop Gorman, Fr. Moran, Senator McCarran and Mother Gerald. The conditions for the purchase were to promise to provide emergency and health services for 25 years. It would remain open for 25 years. . . and, to pay \$1.00 plus assuming the debts of the hospital. That was considerable.

And, at that time it was very, very risky but Mother Gerald agreed to the risk. You see, there were no doctors here besides the two government doctors and we didn't know if anybody was going to come and live here. We didn't know if the civilians working in the plants would be able to stay. So it was very risky.

Q That was a risk!

A: Yes it was. But the way the congregation looked at it was an opportunity to have a Catholic hospital. At that time, the only hospital in Las Vegas was UMC. It was called Memorial Hospital. It was very small. From here, that was considered another country. It was so far away.

So there was a place. There was a need for health care. And we figured that it was worth the risk. So the sisters came.

Q Did the hospital's name change at that time?

A: Yes, from Basic Magnesium Hospital to Rose de Lima. She was a Dominican sister who lived in Peru in the 17th century. She cared for the sick and the poor and the homeless.

Q Do you recall hearing from the sisters what some of their first reactions were?

A: Oh, I tell you. It was like they had come to a foreign land. Most of them were either from Michigan or Ohio or from around in those places. Sr. Marie Daniel and Sr. Marie Joyce were in the original group. They related how they felt they had landed in a foreign land. It was like, '**What kind of a country is this?**' It was hot, oven hot. And they arrived in their. . .they wore those black capes. But, you know, they were real pioneers. We sent the best we had.

Q So, they came in full habit?

A: Oh, yes, full habits. They had to be pioneers to stay.

Q How were they received once they arrived?

A: When they came, Bettylou Anderson, was a young woman with her first job and she loved it. She was among the employees that greeted the new sisters. At that time there were two people in finance. Today we have many more.

Bettylou told me she liked her job and did not side with the employees who were quitting because they feared working with the sisters. She stayed while some of them left.

But many of those that left, they heard from those who stayed, "**Hey, it's nothing like you said.**" So many found themselves coming back. And one of the things that warmed them especially was to see the sisters work as professionals during the day . . . doing the professional nursing or whatever during the day, but at night they were all housekeepers and dishwashers.

They didn't have the money to hire people. So that really kind of won the people over. It was this willingness of the sisters to do what had to be done, that helped turn the attitude of the employees. So, then the employees lent a hand until there was money enough to hire help. But it was rough going at first, very rough going.

Q And where did the sisters live?

A: The sisters lived at the end of what is now the Administration Hall. The back wing and chapel were built later.

Q The sisters lived right in the hospital then?

A: Yes, they did. There were no shifts . . . first shift, second or third shift. They were just **on duty**. They worked all day, long hours, and they often stayed the night with a seriously ill patient.

There's many stories but I remember Dr. Miller once told me that Sr. Marie Daniel had once spent the whole night caring for a patient who was very sick. I think she had just given birth, but she had a very high fever and they were very concerned. Sister Marie Daniel came all night to put . . . the only thing they could do then was to put alcohol towels on their head to try to reduce the fever. And when the doctor came in the next morning, the patient told him that Sr. Marie Daniel had cared for her the whole night. He was truly impressed and grateful.

You know, they claim that Sister Marie Daniel did intensive care. They say she was the first to have an infant intensive care unit. There was no place to send the infants. They did it right there and then. They had to make due with what they had.

Q What else was hard at the beginning?

A: *Getting any doctors who would come and live in Henderson was very hard at that time. The sisters have told me that everyday they prayed for doctors to come. It was a risk for a doctor to start up a practice here. Would the people who had come to work at the plant stay? Would the plants succeed under private management? And what opportunities were here for them? Some came and went. It was hard.*

*Also, the thing that moved the sisters to always go ahead and to do was, **'Is it a need in the community?'** . . . meaning the civic community . . . **'If so, we have to see what we can do to provide it.'***

*See, right from the very beginning there was a need here . . . somebody needed a hospital and the sisters felt they could provide. All through . . . every time there was a new program to be initiated or when they were to build an addition, it was always, **'Is there a need here and one we can fulfill.'***

So decisions were always motivated by the civic community, all the big decisions. At first there was no Board of Directors. There was no such language. A Board came much later. So, the first nuns all made their own decision. . . put their heads together. There must have been a lot of tension within themselves . . . when I think now of the kinds of decision that have to be made . . . but they did very well. Eventually, the idea of a Board of Directors came into being. I think they had their first one in '60, but I'm not positive of the date.

I'm sure they did a lot of consulting all the way around even if they didn't have a Board, especially, if it was a question of business. They would find somebody. Often times these advisors would receive good service at the hospital. And, then, they came back and wanted to help the sisters.

Judge Mowbray, especially, I remember him. He said he would never forget what the sisters had done for his children. All of them were born here except the last one. He was so pleased with the services his family received that he gladly came to the help of the sisters more than once.

Q Judge Mowbray was from Henderson?

A: *No, no, Las Vegas. But they had come here for maternity. The hospital was well known for maternity in the earlier days. See, the only other choice was Southern Memorial. So depending on where you lived in Vegas, you could have been very far from Southern Memorial.*

Q And what year did you arrive here?

A: *I came in August of '80. But I came to visit in '79 before taking a position and I was impressed by the devotion of the sisters for the patients and the employees. The atmosphere of the hospital was so friendly and this appealed to me. I learned that when the Administration found a need, they ventured. That was also appealing to me. By the time I came, the hospital had many good advisors that could be relied on. Again, these advisors had been recipients of the hospital services.*

Q Before coming here in '80, had you heard stories of the hospital?

A: *Yes, I was in Florida and Nevada seemed so far away. But in the 60's, I met some of the sisters in Adrian who came from the hospital. By the time I came to visit in '79, I knew Sr. Maureen Comer, the Administrator. Also, the Controller was Sister Kathryn Noonan and there was Sr. Ruth Steiner who was the Director of Housekeeping services. So, it was inviting for me to come.*

Q What was your reaction when you first came to the hospital? Have things changed?

A: *Well, first of all I was limited in my walking as I still am. I was put in the first bedroom on the first floor. . . patient bedroom. You know, I was just a guest. I came to see the hospital before I took a position. I just came for the over night and that's where I slept. Compared to today, you could no more do that today, to have a room to use for a guest! You could lose your license. You could lose a lot of things. But that was feasible because there were so few patients.*

*Chiyoko Freeman, Chiyoko with the laundry who 's been here 36 years, we were talking the other day and she said, "**Remember, Sister, we would almost close on the holidays.**" I said, "**Oh, Yes.**" And the doctors would go away. They would go on vacation. We would close one whole floor. Maybe we would close third floor and second many times.*

And we'd have a handful of patients because it's a holiday. There's no such thing any more. When the patients come today, they're sick and there's no waiting until after the holidays. It's totally different. And the informality at Christmas time . . . he sisters, we had Mass and we had kind of a brunch. After that we would all go and do caroling around the hospital. And we would go to every . . . Sister Mary and I . . . would go into every room and give the sick patients a favor of some kind. Today the volunteers have favors on the tray. But we would do that and we would be finished in an hour. We had done all the rooms and all the departments.

Q My goodness, things have changed! What are some of the other differences you notice between now and then?

A: *Of course the biggest difference is in the size and all other changes coming from that. When I first came the census might go as low as 20. Now it's up to 100.*

The patients could go home when the holidays approached. Now, they are too sick to leave. And today, outside groups come and sing carols and the volunteers prepare favors for the patient trays.

*And like the visiting hours . . . children under 12 were not permitted to visit. When those changes came, some at the old timers said, **'Oh, the hospital's going to go down. The regulations are all gone. They let children in.'** The fear was because they were so concerned about contagion, about diseases being passed around.*

Now it's the parent's responsibility. If they want their children to visit, let them take them in. And so that's a big difference right there.

*Then the number of doctors. There were just a few and we knew them all by name. Now my last week at work, I said, **'I don't know these doctors anymore.'** Even with the number of employees. At first I could name them all and not now.*

And the formality of dress . . . when I first came doctors would come by formally dressed, coat and tie. A doctor may now be distinguished by a stethoscope and beeper and even that is not a sure sign. And the nurses wore all white . . . shoes, stockings, everything. And their caps . . . the caps were important. That's how you knew what hospital they had graduated from. And the nurses were so proud of those caps. Then they started having colorful clothes.

Q *I was told that a more relaxed attitude now exists. At one time when physicians would walk into the nurse's station, the nurses always would stand up.*

A: *I don't know that. But the doctors were looked up to very much. I mean they still are but let's face it. Now the doctors ask the nurse about this or that about Mr. Smith. Now the doctors look up to the nurses, too. That's a change. So it perhaps went pretty much at the same time the clothing went. It kind of all went together.*

Q *When did that evolve? About 1970?*

A: *No, later. When I came in '80 the dress was still formal. Speaking of dress, I left the habit in '70. I never wore it here. By '78, '79, the habit was almost gone. Just a few had it.*

Q *Now, Sister, let's concentrate on you. Did you come here to fill a particular position?*

A: *I came to help Sister Catherine Ann who was a Patient Visitor and was planning to retire soon. I came with the hope of establishing a Pastoral Care Department. Sister would walk around and visit with the patients. It brought a good feeling but it was not Pastoral Care.*

I can remember when I came Sister Catherine Ann and I were sharing an office, one desk. . . the room was about 6 x 8, and we shared this area with a Social Worker. The Social Worker came once a week from Las Vegas to assist with the legal aspects of adoptions.

We then moved into a spacious room with 2 large desks. What an upgrade! We moved into what is now the Quality Management Office . . . and that wall was an entire big window. It was a beautiful office . . . felt quite classy in there. We each had our own desk. This was encouraging and supportive.

Then in June of '81, Sr. Catherine Ann left and I invited Sr. Mary Assenmacker to come here. Sister had just finished a year of intense training in Pastoral Care and had her certificate. That's like a license. So, Sister Mary was ready to start.

Q Was it easy to establish your work?

A: *No, like all new ventures, it was hard to convince the nurses and doctors of our services. They were satisfied with the status quo.*

*It was like when I had been a counselor in a high school. At the very beginning the teachers would think, **'You're stepping on my territory. Those are my students.'** I would need to talk to them and convince them we could work together . . . they had their job to do and I had mine.*

*At the beginning, nurses felt the same way. They felt we were invading their territory and, then, what doctor readily admits he could use help! There was a struggle. Here I would come and the nurse would be thinking, **'What are you doing in my room? What are you doing with these patients?'** So we planned and we seized every opportunity we could with meetings and with one-on-one encounters, anytime we could explain our services.*

Q Sister, sounds as if you were pioneering, too.

A: *Well, we did a lot to try to convince the medical team that there was a need for our services. We were ready and willing to offer our services to them. Nurses have always tried to support the dying and their families but their nursing roles took priority. When the nurses were not busy, they could take time to sit with a patient. But when they were pressed with nursing duties, they couldn't.*

And most doctors at times have wished they could stay by a patient's bed after giving them a hard diagnosis but just couldn't.

We told them we are here to do just that plus much more. And at every orientation we give a presentation of what Pastoral Care is . . . who we are and what we do. Once we started, we really got into it. The doctors and nurses began to realize our role.

I can remember one day when a surgeon sort of waved at me as he was going into a room to give the patient bad news . . . then he motioned for me to stay. The patient received bad news. I was there just to support them. See, if you are there when the doctor talks with the patient, then you really know what they were told and you are there when the doctor goes his or her way. . . because it is amazing that the patient remembers just one thing. If the doctor says, **'You've got cancer'** and goes on to further explain the situation, the patient hears nothing after the word **cancer** because it's so traumatic. Cancer's not the only thing, but it's the traumatic sickness at this time.

It got so that it's not unusual for doctors to call ahead of time and tell one of the nurses in surgery, **'Oh, call Pastoral Care because this is bad news and I have to go tell the family. I want Pastoral Care there.'**

So slowly but surely we were called upon and soon we felt appreciated and in demand.

Q So you got it started in about 1981?

A: Yes. That's when we started working with the people. But just to get the nurses to call us was a big feat. Pretty soon they caught on and said, **'Hey, I don't have to be in that room doing this and that. One of the sisters can do it.'**

Q What other services does Pastoral Care offer?

A: The goal of our work is to offer spiritual, emotional and psychological support to patients and their families and the staff. It's a broad goal.

Then there's also education for our co-workers. This last thing became very pronounced when we began the Ethics Committee at the hospital and with the Federal Law mandating that every Medicare patient was to be explained their right to self-determination. At the hospital we took that mandate for all patients.

So Sister Mary organized the Ethics Committee in the mid '80's. I always was active on the committee. Then our state, Nevada, passed the law giving the right to patients to execute Living Wills and in 1990 the Federal government mandated that all patients be informed of that right.

Q How did you go about this?

A: We organized workshops with our staff and later with outside groups. We made copies of Living Wills available to everyone and helped those who wanted to execute a Living Will. We began slowly but by 1990 when the Federal Government passed the law, we were way ahead of the game. You know, it's one thing to educate the staff and another to inform patients and their loved ones.

Q Are you still working on developing that concept?

A: Oh, yes. But now it's not as hard to get the doctors to come along. They were afraid to be sued if they stopped treatment. **'What's the family going to think?'** So we had to work hard with the family to prepare them first.

So when the doctors suggest that there's no more they can do, we'd prepare patients and their families with suggestions like, **'Be sure when the doctor says the patient is getting better, what does the doctor mean by 'better'.** And the doctor's answer might be, **'Oh, his heart is beating stronger'.** Well, what about the cancer? Is that going to get better, too?'

We try to help them to understand. You know you could say my foot is better, but am I better as a patient? So it's to get the doctors to help them to see that.

And also, not everybody has to be on the respirator. Not everybody has to stay on the respirator when it's terminal. But the thing is you have to be sure that it is terminal. But there's a way of getting to know that and the doctors know it. But to tell the family that it's terminal, it's hard. So we can help them there.

It's not unusual now that there's conferences with the doctor and family. That was unheard of ten year ago. We help patients to die with dignity without being attached to numerous machines, to honor their wishes.

The doctors have grown so that they can accept that it's not a failure on their part. Some of them, at first, thought that losing a patient was a failing. We do have a few doctors that just can't lose a patient. They found it so hard. So we had to be there for them, too . . . to help them. **'It's okay, doctor. It happens.'**

We give the argument of the ethics of what is right. We were never obliged to do the extraordinary things for our health. We do have to take care of ourselves but we were never obliged to do the extraordinary things for our health. We're never asked to go beyond.

For patients who have Living Wills, we see to it that it is placed in the front of their charts. We alert the nurses and the doctors of their wishes and watch to see these are respected. And when the

patient and family both make a decision about their treatment, we stand by them, support them and assure them their wishes will be respected. The families need support, too.

We do not make decisions for the patients but we help them reach their own. We present options and they must choose. We then support them.

Q How do you go about that?

A: As we work closely with the dying, we prepare their families for what seems coming. We help them think and prepare for what must be done once death comes. It's amazing to see how many couples have never talked to each other about that.

You ask the people in the family, **'Are you ready for this? Have you ever thought about the fact that he's dying? What are you going to do?'** In a hospital setting no sooner has a patient been pronounced DEAD, the caretaker will want the living member to give the name of the mortuary they want. They will also have to sign the paper giving the hospital the right to release the body to the mortician.

Many times the loved one says, **'Oh, well, we never talked about that.'** . . . **'Well, you have to because in about an hour or two we're going to ask you what mortuary do you want?'** That's devastating. But they never thought about it. So you have to work with them.

I remember working with a woman once. For a long time her husband had done everything for her. She never drove. She never did anything. So when she had to come to the hospital to visit her husband, she would always have to find somebody to drive her. And I asked, **'Why don't you go right now and get yourself a driving lesson and get to drive that car?'** . . . **'Oh, but he's--'** I said, **'He was. He'll never drive again. Get going because when he dies, it's going to be . . . everything is going to be on you.'** She had never written a check. So we work with the family when we see death approaching, Otherwise, they are in shock.

We still don't reach everybody and we get families that are surprised for they don't think ahead. They don't know what to do. And, I will say, **'You know, he's in a coma and doesn't know you're here. Why don't you take yourself to the mortician. Make arrangements. Get things done.'** . . . **'But, he's not dead.'** . . . **'I know but it's not going to make him die any faster and there are things that could be done . . . because once you hear your loved one is dead, you're going to go to pieces. You've got to make a decision. Go now!'**

But with preparation and support we can obtain that information even before the loved one dies so that at the shocking moment of separation, their grieving is not interrupted for paper business.

The thing is you have to be awfully careful that you always remain sensitive. This is happening to their loved ones for the first time.

We've given a lot of workshops about that. Like I've gone to the Senior Centers and prepare them, especially, after the law for the Living Will came into being. That was in 1990. Some of the seniors were all for it. Others were scared stiff. **They're going to let me die' . . . 'No, that isn't what it means. It means you're going to be in charge. And you can say 'no' to what they're doing to you. When you are unconscious or unable, this paper can say it for you.'**

So we also work with the doctors to see it their way and to understand it.

Q Sister, where do you get your strength, your inner strength to do this on a regular basis?

A: Oh, prayer is the biggest thing. Prayer without doubt. It's the greatest source of strength. Daily prayers and prayer at the moment of crisis. And, our belief in our work is another source. Then in the Team, we support one another.

And, of course, knowledge provides us with confidence and that gives us strength. We continually study and read in the area of Pastoral Care and Ethics. And we joined CHW.

Q Sister, what is CHW?

A: Catholic Healthcare West is a system of hospitals we belong to. CHW regularly has Pastoral Care meetings. Directors from all hospitals in the system attend and we learn much from each other and we gain confidence in what we're doing.

But it's prayer, belief in prayer and the belief in the work. You know, if you truly believe that the way you help these people is to face what they have to face and to get people to talk about their fears, that is a source of strength.

I remember one case. This woman came in with a terminal case of emphysema. She was extremely sick and I forgot what the doctors then discovered that she had but she needed surgery at once. She talked with me about it privately and then she said to the doctor, **'I do not want surgery.'** And the doctor said, **'Well, I have to tell you that if you can't have surgery, within the hour it will be too late to do it and you'll die of it.'**

And for her to be able to say, **'Yes, doctor, but I'm going to die anyway and I'm not going to have surgery. They'll end up putting me on the respirator and I won't be able to talk and I'm going to die anyway.'**

The doctor respected her decision completely and sat by her bedside and held her hand. I was on the other side. The doctor waited and he would sigh and say, **"Now are you sure you don't want to change your mind? What does your husband say about and when he comes, I'm going to tell him. He'll back me up."**

So the doctor canceled the surgery. But he came back to be with her and to see the husband. When the husband came he was heart broken and asked, **'Are you sure?'**. And again she replied, **'I'm going to die anyway and this way we can talk until I do.'** And then the doctor promised her, **'I will keep you out of pain. Now that you tell me you're not going to go into surgery, I can give you heavy medication because it doesn't matter anymore.'** And so he did. He followed her closely. She made all her preparations. She prepared her burial services even chose the hymns she wanted.

I was with her and she said, **'This is what I want you to do and his is what we're going to do.'** She remained peaceful and calm to the end. And her husband, said, **'I'll be by you.'** and he stayed with her. She died the next morning, very early in the morning. he had lived not quite 12 hours from the time she decided not to. . .

Q Sister, in addition to Pastoral Care were you not involved in Mission Services?

A: Yes. Again when we joined CHW we had to fulfill their requirement of naming one person who would be in charge of seeing that the hospital staff worked in accord with the hospital's philosophy and mission statement . . . that meant to see that it is being carried out. Now, I was named to be the Mission Person. I took the work as a part-time position and continued in Pastoral Care.

No one really knew how this role would be worked out. I started by reading up on the subject and attended national workshops given to help Mission Services personnel to develop their roles in their institution.

Q You were pioneering again?

A: Yes, indeed. Once I began to understand the role, it was again a matter of educating the staff. I first established a committee of staff volunteers to undertake the task of writing a philosophy and mission statement. It's not that we never had these but those were often times not even upgraded in writing and they were never promulgated.

What a task! CHW again came to our help by establishing a committee formed of Mission Service person from each hospital in the System and called meetings regularly. This committee was again an educational opportunity and a great support.

After a couple of years, I asked to be relieved of carrying two roles. I wanted to go back to being just in Pastoral Care. My wishes were honored and a search began for a full-time person to assume the role. A sister of St. Joseph of Peace, Sr. Pauline was hired. After 3 years she moved on and Sister Vicki came in to fill the role as Mission Service Director.

Q Were you connected in any way with the Positive Impact Program?

A: *Yes. Once as the Mission Person, the President asked me to go with him to Burkholder Jr. High and meet with the Principal. They had met before and wanted to now explore ways in which the hospital could reach out to help either the teachers or the students. What surfaced as a great need was medical services for children who were uninsured or whose parents were too poor to pay the deductibles.*

Again the hospital saw this as reaching out to a need in the community. So pursued it.

From there the discussion went as to how can this be done. How would we go about this? And, you know, when one does not know how-to', a committee is always a good decision.

The committee would be made up of the school nurse, one or two teachers, a nurse or two and the Community Education Director at the hospital. At that time that was Sr. Robert Joseph.

I called the first meeting at the hospital and we agreed on the design of the program. Kathy Pantuso, an ER nurse was very excited about this program. She asked to devote herself part time to initiate the program and than to continue part time in the ER. She got the job. So she immediately started recruiting doctors and agents of medical suppliers to help. It started very slowly but pretty soon she got a good response. She also recruited businesses who would provide funds for the program.

The hospital agreed to pick up all hospital expenses incurred in the care of the children. After the recruiting was done, Kathy returned to full time in ER and Sr. Robert Joseph assumed the responsibility to manage the program.

The program started slowly but is now running very smoothly. From just taking care of children from one school, the program now covers all students in Elementary Schools in Henderson.

Q In what other out-reach programs have you participated?

A: *In Pastoral Care we have a fund made up of monies received mainly for services rendered which we call The Urgent Care Fund. We, then, decided that the money would be used to fill needs for which cash was needed at once. Examples of such needs are: people stopping in asking for food, transportation needed for a poor person being discharged or a passerby needing gas, a patient from the ER who has no money to buy the medicine prescribed, and, sometimes, it even involved paying for a motel room for someone in need. All these needs need ready cash. So we provided it until the Urgent Fund would run dry.*

Q Did the fund really run dry?

A: *Not really. The more we gave out, the more we received. Staff people became aware of the fund and they started contributing. Patients and families continue to express their gratitude for Pastoral Care by giving small donations. Now and then when it seemed we would be out of money, we asked the hospital for a check to replenish the fund. The money that's given is taken from a Sister's Fund for emergencies. This program is still going strong after 15 years.*

Q Sister, you just retired, how do you feel about it?

A: *You know, I didn't decide to take that step in a day. I gave it much thought and prayer. When I was at peace with my reasons, I asked to retire. One reason I did was the awareness of my declining energy. I didn't seem to be able to recover from one day to the next. The demands of the Pastoral Care department were increasing and I reasoned that as long as I hung on, the Administration would not consider hiring another person. So, I announced my plan to leave to give them the incentive and freedom to look for a replacement.*

Q Was someone hired?

A: *Not yet, but the search is on. In the meantime the members of the Pastoral Department have revamped their duties and let go of what was not considered a priority. That's working well as an interim.*

Q What do you do now?

A: *After resting for a month, I started volunteering at the hospital and in the parish. In the hospital I do not have a specific time to be there. When I come I serve as a Good Will Ambassador running around in my 'Amigo', stopping to greet all the employees in their work place and directing visitors who seem lost in the halls. In the parish I visit two homebounds and bring them communion.*

My service at the hospital is truly one of presence. Because so many know me, they seem glad to still see me around. Outsiders I meet in the halls often greet me with a hug and thank me for past services rendered to them or their loved ones. They also seem glad to see that I'm still around.

Q Are you proud of all the satellites St. Rose has opened around the area?

A: *Yes, because to me it's part of our mission to reach out. Because of all the changes in health care it becomes urgent to go out to the sick so that when they are in need of hospitalization, they will know of the hospital.*

Q What do you see for the hospital in the next 5 years?

A: *I think that the changes that are now occurring will continue and be more pronounced. Change is inevitable and I see the hospital constantly posturing itself for the next step.*

Q Do other hospitals have Pastoral Care Departments?

A: *All of the CHW hospitals have well established Pastoral Care Departments. Most religious hospitals do. Today any good hospital has Pastoral Care. It may be limited yet there is a presence. Take Sunrise Hospital. It has a Pastoral Care of one Chaplain and he depends on volunteer ministers to help him. U.M.C. has a system of volunteers, not professionals, who help in some ways. In the area I'm not aware of any other hospital having Pastoral Care. Hospitals that began as religious hospitals have a vestige of a department. That explains why Sunrise has one.*

Q Can only priests and nuns be chaplains?

A: *Oh, no! I took my training in a large hospital in Boston in a class made up of married men and women, seminarians of various denominations, single men and women and in all the class I was the only nun. In interviewing for our Pastoral Care Department, a varied assortment has applied. It's their qualifications, philosophy and beliefs that make an applicant eligible.*

I'm sure it would be a shock to some if the hospital hired a man or a lay person because they've only seen nuns in the role. But it need not always be so. It is likely not to be so for long.

Q Sister, can you tell me how the sisters came to live on Church Street, in back of the hospital?

A: *Prior to '66 or '67 all the sisters lived in the back wing of the hospital. When Medicare came into effect, they assessed every bed on the property the same. In no way could the sisters pay that sum to remain in the hospital.*

Since we had no separate building for them, they scattered and lived where they could find apartments. In '81 the Board of Directors decided that if any expansion were ever to be made, the only property available was the land on the one side of Church Street that adjoined the parking lot. So they planned at once to buy any house that would come up for sale on that side of Church Street and they would rent them to the sisters.

The first house, #83, was bought in '81 and Sisters Marie Daniel and Dolores moved in.

By '82 I moved in at #79. What a relief it was to be near my work! Now it became possible to extend Pastoral Care services in emergencies at night. The buying of houses continued and all were rented to the sister or to lay people.

I want to go back to Pastoral Care. Late in the '70's the hospital administration decided to initiate follow up calls of patients discharged. This was in process before I came and I inherited the work. In time this was too much so we recruited volunteers to help. For the last 6 or 7 years, Sister Joyce served as our volunteer. This is the same Sister Joyce who had come with the original seven in 1947.

Q Sister, will you give me the first word or phrase that comes to your mind when you think of St. Rose?

A: *It's the caring. Not the care of making beds, passing out pills but the true concern. It goes beyond good care that is given to the patients, their families and the employees. It's a special feeling. . . a special caring. . . a special spirit.*

Q You really feel that spirit when you walk in the hospital, don't you?

A: *Yes, the volunteers have it, the employees have it. It's everywhere. Our whole orientation of new employees is based on our values, philosophy and mission. The dignity of each person, the respect due to each person, the need for compassion for all are emphasized. We look at each new employee as a new co-worker joining us to carry on the philosophy and mission of the hospital. Hopefully they are not hired for a job but for a mission. In time we see the employees carrying out our Mission and Philosophy without us.*

Q Is this possible?

A: *Absolutely. One of the goals of our ministries is to establish it, work with the workers and when they can go with it alone, we move on to another thing. We have done this in schools and parishes. Hospitals are more complex institutions but I do see the day when we will no longer be here. Our dream then is that this work will continue.*

Q Sister, I know you are pressed for time right now and have to leave.

A: *Yes, I'm going to Palm Mortuary for the viewing of one of our former volunteers.*

Q Sister, we'll always have a need for you. Your work is never done, is it? And thank you for the time you've given me for this interview.

A: *Thank you.*

APPENDIX E

INTERVIEW: CLARA 'BUCKI' MCCOIG

January 13, 1997 interview by Joan McSweeney at St. Rose Dominican Hospital.

Q They call you Buckie, but what is your real name?

A My real name is Clara McCoig. My maiden name was Buck so, I got the nickname of Buckie from my maiden name.

Q Do you mind if I call you Buckie throughout this interview?

A No, no, that's what I'm used to being called.

Q Buckie, I know you are a volunteer here at the hospital. How many years/hours have you clocked in?

A Oh, I have over 2,000, at this time.

Q Buckie, you moved to Henderson about fifty years ago.

A I never lived in Henderson, I moved to Las Vegas fifty years ago.

Q Okay, what brought you to Las Vegas?

A My husband (laughter). I had just gotten married and he had a franchise to start a bottling plant in Las Vegas with a drink called lime cola. A new drink coming into the market. So, we came here and we were getting established in that. I had a nursing background and had just finished my anesthesia classes. So, I decided to look for work, and I went to the county hospital which is now U.M.C. At that time, it was called the County Hospital. It was just a small building.

Q And we're talking about 1940--

A 1947, January, 1947. I went out there and asked if they needed a nurse anesthetist. They said no, they didn't need anybody. And I came out to Henderson and inquired. And at that time the sisters were in the process of purchasing the Basic Hospital which was then--at that time was called Basic Hospital. This hospital in Henderson.

Q Can you recall how things looked at that time?

A It was that small building out in the front. You know with the circular drive, the circular drive was there. But it was just a small building. And at that time the quarters where the sisters lived at wasn't there. When I talked with them they said they were interested, but they were purchasing the hospital and they would be staffing the hospital with nuns for the main nursing positions.

Q Do you recall with whom you spoke to, any of the nuns that you spoke to?

A I probably talked to Sister Carolyn. She was the administrator at that time. Then I went into Las Vegas, to the Las Vegas Hospital, and asked about going to work. And Dr. Woodbury was in

charge of that hospital. He was out of town. So they said they didn't really need anybody, but they would tell Dr. Woodbury about me and if they needed me, they'd get in touch with me. Well, I waited a couple of weeks and when I didn't hear from anybody I went out to the County Hospital and just hired in on floor duty.

After I was there for two weeks, why, I observed that most of their anesthetics were given under spinal. Dr. Kenneth Smith, at this time, was the surgeon that did most of the work in Las Vegas. So he came in to make rounds this one day, and I happened to be the one to make rounds with him. I asked him about it. I said, "I notice that you always give spinal anesthetics. Don't you ever use a general?" He said, "Oh, I'd like to, but we don't have anybody here qualified to give anesthetics." So, I gave him my background: I had three years in the service and army and had had an army course. And after I got out of the army, I went on to a civilian course in anesthesia. I had just finished up that course, and my husband and I had moved here and I was looking for work.

He says, "Oh, that's very interesting. So, the next time I want an anesthetic, I'll get in touch with you." This was on a Friday. On Monday morning I went into work. The girls on the floor said, "You're supposed to go back to the operating room." So, from then on I gave anesthetics at the County Hospital.

Q Where was this located?

A The same place where U.M.C. is located now. Those three buildings on Charleston, as you approach the main entrance of the--and at the back of the hospital at that time; they had little cottages for the patients with tuberculosis--and the nurse had to go back and take care of these patients back in those little cottages. They were really behind times here in Las Vegas a few years ago.

Q You must have been the first general anesthetist nurse?

A Yes. I was the first nurse anesthetist in the Southern Nevada area. After Rose de Lima got started, I got acquainted with Sister Madonna, who was giving the anesthetics here; and at certain times, she'd need a day off or some time away from the hospital. I would come in and fill in for her. I wasn't really hired by the hospital, but I had a contract and they would pay me per case for what I did.

Q We're talking about the early '50s?

A This was the late '40s!

Q What do you recollect about the internal workings of the hospital of St. Rose at that time?

A It was a small hospital but a very friendly hospital. All the departments worked together. It was a nice place to work. They had a sister in charge of each department. Sister Marie Daniel was in charge of the maternity floor. The girl in charge of surgery, Sister Magdalen, I think her name was. Sister Madonna was the nurse anesthetist. The other nurses, sisters in the different departments, I really didn't get to know because I wasn't working on the floors. It was a very nice hospital, really run quite well. The staff always seemed to be happy and work together real well.

Q And you were in your nurses' whites, at that time?

A Yes.

Q And the sisters were in their habits?

A Yes.

Q What was the decorum that the nurses had with the doctors? Was there any sort of professional courtesy extended to each other?

A Yes, back in those days there was a lot more courtesy I think toward the doctors or respect, I think.

Q How was it manifested?

A When a doctor walked in, the nurses stood up and got out of their way. The doctors took over. You just stood aside while the doctor was at the desk which I think, in a way that you miss today. I don't think you need to be that formal, in a lot of ways, but in some ways I think it is kind of a lost thing. Nurses don't seem to look like nurses that much anymore because they don't wear their white uniforms and their caps. That dates me.

Q When you were here at the hospital in those early days, the nuns of course were Catholic. Did that seem to make a difference with people who were not?

A Oh, no. They never showed any discrimination between people who weren't Catholic. They treated everybody the same.

Q Were you here when they had any special celebrations honoring the holidays or Feast of St. Rose? Can you recall any early festive times?

A I remember when they added the addition to the hospital. They built quarters for the nuns to live and we had a celebration out on the lawn, out in the parkway, in the front of the hospital. And the mayor of Henderson came and spoke.

Q What period of time are we talking about?

A That was in the early '50s, about '51 or '52, along in there.

Q Who was in charge of the hospital? Can you recall which nun?

A I think Sister Carolyn was at that time.

Q Was it a good turnout? Did the city support the hospital at that time?

A Yes, the community supported the hospital. It was a good turnout.

Q About how many people populated Henderson at that time?

A I don't know. Seems to me maybe about 13 thousand. I'm not really sure.

Q Who was the mayor at this time?

A It was probably Dr. French, he was the mayor. I don't have my years straight.

Q Did Dr. French practice here?

A Yes, he also did surgery. Then over the years more nurse anesthetists moved into the community. In fact, Rose de Lima hired another nurse anesthetist, and Dr. Kemp came to town and he was in charge of the Anesthesia Department. At that time I went to Boulder City, and I started doing the anesthetics out in Boulder City. I would still help out here in Henderson occasionally, but I wouldn't come in as much as I did earlier.

Q What changes have you noticed? Let's take the entire 50 years. What are some of the profound changes, then we'll talk about the subtle ones.

A Well everything of course enlarged, because it was so small when we first started out.

Q How many patients are you talking about for the whole hospital?

A I think they probably had about forty patients originally. Then they built the high rise which added more patients and that old section where they had the new in-patients. The whole plant kind of changed because they would change it from one thing to another. I think x-ray stayed in the same place. Some people around here may remember it better than I do.

Q Who were some of the other religious members that you recall?

A You mean the Mormons?

Q I was thinking about the sisters.

A Oh, you mean the sisters who came in to help, like the school sisters. Sister Robert, she taught over in the school.

Q And what about the Mormons?

A They came here and used this hospital. Being a Catholic hospital didn't mean anything to them and they were treated fine. It didn't make any difference to them. There weren't any problems there. The woman who was mayor of Henderson, not long ago, all of here children were born here. I can't think of her name.

Q Lorna Kesterson?

A She was not Catholic. And Judge Roger Foley, his wife had her babies out here. The community supported the hospital. It always had a good reputation.

Q Do you recall any of the entertainers from the strip either as visitors or as patients themselves?

A I don't remember offhand. I know they had them, but I don't remember.

Q Throughout the years, have you ever been a patient at St. Rose other than right now?

A No. I've never been an in-patient here. I came in and had x-ray work or something like that. This is the first time I've been an in-patient at St. Rose.

Q Do you recall any historical events in which the sisters of St. Rose have affected your family or the community?

A I don't know about historical but the sisters of St. Rose affected my family in that they would call me out here to give an anesthetic and I wouldn't have anybody to take care of my children. So I would arrive with my two children and Sister Marie Daniel would take them back to the sisters' quarters and entertain them while I was working. You know, you'd never find anybody doing anything like that nowadays.

Q And what was Sister's role at that time in the hospital?

A That was when she was head of the maternity department. In fact, my daughter was just talking about that today. She said, "You know that sister that used to take care of us whenever you had to work sometime?" I said, "Yes, she's gone now but it has only been a few years ago that she died." So, it was kind of just a big family.

Q So that wasn't unusual for the nuns to do something like this?

A No, that wasn't unusual for them to help you out for something like that.

Q Do you have any recollections of how St. Rose prepared for and celebrated special ceremonies or holidays such as Christmas or Easter and St. Patrick's Day?

A Well, every Christmas, they would have a nice staff party in the dining room, the hospital dining room. They would decorate it very nicely and have good food. They would give the nurses bonuses.

Q What were bonuses in those days; can you recall?

A It depended on the number of years that the nurses had been working here. Maybe they would get five dollars for each year they had worked here, like if they had been working for five years, they would get twenty-five dollars.

Q What year are we talking about now?

A This is the early '50s.

Q And who would prepare the food? Was it Sister Robert Joseph - she was teaching at this time so she wasn't the dietician.

A She wasn't too much into the--I don't know when she came over and started doing food in the hospital. But I know she used to train the people that were working. You know, they used to have dinner for the doctors. They would have meetings and they would hold dinner. Sister, if I recollect correctly, she used to be in charge of training the people how to serve the people and that sort of thing. They'd give her the dinners for the doctors.

Q And were the nurses invited in on these meetings?

A No, not on those, it would be the doctors, their staff meeting.

Q How many doctors were involved with the hospital in the early '50s? Can you name them?

A Two Doctor Hemingtons. Dr. Compton and David and Ralph Hemington. Dr. Smith used to come out here after the sisters took over. Dr. Miller came very shortly after the time the sisters took over the hospital and Dr. Hazeltine.

Q Now where did Dr. French practice?

A His offices were in Boulder City. The majority of his surgery he did in Boulder City, but he also did quite a few surgeries here in Henderson. It would depend on the patients. If the patients wanted to come into the Henderson hospital, he would put them in here. If they wanted to go to Boulder City, he would put them in out there.

Q How did Boulder Highway look at that time?

A It was just a two-lane road. And there was only one stop sign. It was right out there at Lake Mead and Boulder Highway. It was a signal, that was the only signal that was on Boulder Highway between Las Vegas and Boulder City.

Q Really! When you say signal, was it a stop sign or a flashing light?

A It was a signal--a red, green and caution light.

Q Were there any medical emergencies in which the women of St. Rose assisted the community?

A I know there were. I can remember when things happened at the plant, any time, anything,-- the hospital, the nurses always pitched in and helped.

Q Were you here?

A I was never involved in any of those, no.

Q Do you have any other thoughts you might want to add about the women of St. Rose, either the nurses, the staff, the volunteers?

A Well, it was always a friendly group of nurses, everybody seemed to get along well. It was like a family, the staff at St. Rose, willing to help each other.

Q Is this why you came back to volunteer here at St. Rose?

A I always enjoyed working here, and I wanted to stay in contact with nursing after I retired. And this was my hospital of choice to do that.

Q Your profession as an anesthesiologist, has that profession changed?

A Yes, very much.

Q In what way?

A When I first started out, the anesthesia was mostly drop ether. We did tonsillectomy, we gave the children drop ether.

Q What does drop ether mean?

A You put a mask over their nose and mouth and you drop the ether out of a can and watch the respirators and their pupils whether they dilate, how far they dilated to keep control., their respirations, how deep they were breathing. And now they have--

Q How long was recovery after this?

A It would take--longer to recuperate from the anesthesia than the agents they use nowadays. And, of course, the airways are a lot more safer nowadays because they have a control airway. In those days, we didn't have endotracheal tubes. We put an airway in the mouth, especially with tonsillectomies. Anesthesia has come a long way.

Q Do you have any picture of you as a volunteer, nurses cap--

A I don't know. I guess some around someplace. I have a nursing pin, my anesthesia pin which is little lambs jumping over a fence. I'll show it to you.

Q And can we take a picture, or do you want to donate it?

A I'll donate it.

Q They have little lambs?

A Yes, little lambs--that's the way people used to go to sleep. That was significant for anesthesia.

Q And what kind of pin do they have nowadays?

A I don't really know. I took my anesthesia at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, and we got the pin when we graduated.

Q Buckie, you were telling me about a story.

A One evening they called me to come out for an emergency that a patient was bleeding badly and they needed me here as quickly as possible. I was coming out the highway and I wasn't paying any attention to speed limits. I was driving along and a policeman came behind and stopped me. I stopped the car and I looked at him and said, "I don't have time to talk to you, they're waiting for me at the hospital." And I just took off and kept on coming to the hospital, and he followed me.

Q To St. Rose?

A Yes, St. Rose

Q And you were coming from Las Vegas?

A Yes.

Q Down Boulder?

A Well, it was right through Pittman that this happened. I pulled in and got out of the car and ran into the--you just came into that circular area of the hospital, and the operating room was off to the side. He followed me right in there to make sure. He stood there a while and saw what was going on and he turned around and left. I thought about that afterwards--would I even have nerve to do that again? I said, "I don't have time to talk to you!" I don't know what would happen nowadays if you did something like that.

Q No telling what would happen nowadays. But on that interesting narrative, I thank you for your interview and for the donation of your nurse's pin to the committee. Thank you.

APPENDIX F

EXCERPTS: ANNE ROSENZWEIG

Ann Rosenzweig - Former Patient, 1955
Excerpts from interviewed by Farolyn McSweeney, 2/22/1997

I remember when Dr. O'Donnell put me in the hospital and this was a time when it was mostly all sisters. All I can feel is the love and tenderness that they give to me and my husband.

I came into Las Vegas in 1954 with my husband and two children from New York. I had been bleeding for some time and I went to Dr. O'Donnell in 1955. He said that I would have to have a hysterectomy. At that time there was only the County Hospital, Rose de Lima and a little hospital on 8th street, downtown.

Anyway, I told them I didn't have hospitalization and I didn't have any money. He said I had to have it done. 'It's a MUST and I will talk to the hospital'. At that time it was \$10.00 a day and they said they would wait for my money.

I had been working at Sahara Hotel at that time and I took leave of absence, not knowing how bad I would be afterwards. I had lost quite a bit of blood and weight and anyway we didn't have a car.

My husband worked at the Sands and he was working the swing shift. He had no way of getting out to Rose de Lima Hospital . . . no buses at that time Where we lived, we lived near the bus stop and he was able to go to Sands because the busses ran along Las Vegas Blvd. But he would thumb a ride every night to Henderson The sisters allowed him to come in at 2 o'clock in the morning just to see me . . . just to look at me for a little while. And when he did come, I was quite ill and a sister would be sitting at my bed watching me all night long. That's what I can remember and think about and always talk about. It is how beautiful they were to me.

Dr. O'Donnell, I can't remember how much I paid him, but he, too, waited and he said, 'First pay Rose de Lima and then we'll talk about me'. They waited for their money until I was strong enough to go back to work.

Those years salaries were very, very small. It wasn't that easy with just one salary But I'll always remember them with such a beautiful feeling . . . how good they were to me . . . it was beautiful, the way they took care of me.

I've always wanted to go and see what it's like since it is redone. in 1955 it was very clean, very white and it was homey . . . very homey.

If I had transportation, years ago I'd go to volunteer at St. Rose, to pay back for what they did for me. They never pushed me for the money and I paid them every time I got paid . . . that was twice a month.

If I were able to, I would always have gone to Rose de Lima . . . but being in Henderson and me being in Las Vegas and doctors in Las Vegas . . . because of the care and the love that was given to all patients. I would have preferred Rose de Lima, but, you have to go where you're told to go.

I remember, in fact, I use to go to some of the celebrations when they had them at the Sahara Hotel, to make money. Years ago it was \$5.00 and you got a beautiful meal. It was a buffet style. I am concerned that they charge so much now and we seniors can not afford to go to all those functions that are going on. It's not easy to put out that kind of money. Perhaps, they should make two separate kinds of things - one like they used to years ago. . . charge no more than \$20.00. But we can't go for the one-hundred dollars.

The celebrations were beautiful. They were beautiful. People wore costumes and, as I said, the food was out of this world . . . and there was dancing and there was entertainment. Everybody loved to go to these occasions. But now it's impossible. I hope you ladies are listening.

APPENDIX G
EXCERPTS: PEGGY VAUGHAN

“In 1946, I was student at Siena Heights College, the same campus as the Motherhouse of the Adrian Dominicans. My connection with the hospital at that time was that the Dean of Women, Sister Benedicta Marie, posted a little notice on the chapel door... ‘ Will you please pray for Mother Gerald’ ...who was the Mother General of the community... ‘She is going to Nevada to investigate the Adrian Dominicans setting up a mission in a hospital’ ...Would we please pray for the success of her venture. Don’t forget...it was a community decision they made. But, Mother Gerald, she was the Mother General and she had a lot of authority.”

“Mother Gerald was an outstanding woman. She was a tough cookie, in a nice sort of a way. She was president of the college. That was another one of her functions. She opened missions all over the place.”

PEGGY VAUGHN

“My husband and I retired here in 1987. We moved out here and it was about February. I was listening to a little spot on the radio... about St. Rose Hospital. I said, ‘Oh my gosh!’ So I called and identified myself and talked with Sister Noreen, head of volunteer services at the time, and became a volunteer. Now I have over 2600 hours or something like that.”

“I’ve been a patient here twice. My last surgery, I was in here for two nights. I closed the old section and opened the new. The first night, I was in the old hospital and the second day I was here, they put me in a wheelchair and away I went to the new.”

“Nuns are regarded as being pious, sweet women. That’s only half the story. They are very competent... Before lay people took over the hospital, they made multimillion dollar decisions and that takes a lot of experience. That takes a lot of expertise.”

PEGGY VAUGHN

PAGE 2

APPENDIX H
PRESS RELEASE

ST. ROSE DOMINICAN HOSPITAL

102 E. Lake Mead Blvd.
Henderson, NV 89015

The Women of St. Rose: Past, Present, & Future

For Immediate Release

Thursday, February 27, 1997

**Contact: Debra Percell, Communications Coordinator
564-4507**

A visual exhibit honoring the women of St. Rose Dominican Hospital will open with a reception in the hospital lobby on March 22nd from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. The exhibit will remain on display until March 31st.

The theme, "The Women of St. Rose: Past, Present, & Future," incorporates interviews, pictures and personal mementos from those who have been an integral part of the hospital and the care it has provided for the residents of southern Nevada for the past 50 years.

A quote from one of the interviews states, "What distinguishes St. Rose Dominican Hospital from other hospitals is that all of the staff is completely dedicated to patient care."

The public is invited to attend the reception.

APPENDIX I

INTERVIEW: SISTER ROBERT JOSEPH'S RECOLLECTION ABOUT ANGEL BREAD

ANGEL BREAD

**Interview: Sister Robert Joseph
by Joan McSweeney**

May 25, 1997

McSweeney: I'm with Sister Robert Joseph, one of the longest residing Dominican Sisters at St. Rose Hospital, and who wears many titles - former Teacher at St. Peters School, Manager and Dietitian at St. Rose Hospital, Community Educator, Advocate for Seniors, Leader in Health Education for Young Students, Good Will Ambassador. But, today I am here to talk with Sister since she is a walking historian about the hospital.

Sister, you are going to tell me the story of Angel Bread. Where do you want to begin?

Sister: Well, from the beginning. As far as I can remember, it was in the early 50's. . . '52, 53. . . some time around there. Sister Marie Angelita was in charge of the hospital's food service at the time and it was sort of a challenge to her because she had been trying to bake some bread and everything seemed to go wrong. . . and there was a gentlemen in the hospital. . . he was connected with one of the big hotel and casinos.

McSweeney: Was he recovering from an operation?

Sister: He was a patient. I don't know what he was in for. He was sick with something but I don't know what . . . but I know it was limited what he could eat . . . and he was kind of crotchety there for a while . . . nothing seemed to suit him. He didn't want anything to eat. He didn't want this. He didn't want that. You know how you get. Everything's wrong and nothing's good. That's what happened to him.

Well, Sister brought him this bread, some butter, some jelly, and that's . . . he tasted it and he said, "Oh, Angel, Angel!" That's where it started.

McSweeney: So his first exclamation after tasting the bread was "Angel, Angel"?

Sister: "It's the Angels."

McSweeney: So he ate the bread.

Sister: He ate the bread three times a day as toast, with different things, sandwiches. It was the first thing he really liked. He ate it up like it was going out of style.

McSweeney: Describe the bread to me.

Sister: It was a regular loaf of bread, nice top, gorgeous brown on the top, cut well. Of course, you know when you cut bread you have to go back and forth. You don't just punch at it with the knife, especially, homemade bread.

McSweeney: What was the texture of the bread like?

Sister: Gorgeous brown on the top.

McSweeney: You mentioned before there were no air bubbles.

Sister: No, No. Sister never had air bubble in it. There were . . . homemade bread is a little coarse, generally speaking, more than your bakery bread.

McSweeney: Was it sweet tasting?

Sister: Bread tasting. Bready, bread.

McSweeney: So, he really enjoyed this bread which he named *Angel*.

Sister: Yes. So we sort of kept that going. Sr. Felicia was the administrator at that time and she kept encouraging Sister Anglita to go along with it.

And they got a place here in town. . . one of the bakeries. I don't remember the price, but we were suppose to get about 2 or 3 cents a loaf. That would be our part of it.

But when they started to investigate to make sure that it wasn't a copy or another name like *Angel* for bread. Then somewhere in Minnesota there was an Angel Bread. So we kind of stopped it then and there. It didn't develop too long.

McSweeney: A couple of years, would you say?

Sister: About a year.

McSweeney: Because of the copyright problem?

Sister: All of that and we just felt for 3 cents a loaf. But it was something that made a very wealthy gentleman very happy. He wanted some sort of way to say *thank you*.

McSweeney: This bakery, do you remember the location?

Sister: I think it was on Charleston. There was more than one, if I'm not mistaken. It might still be there. They covered most of the whole town

See, at that time we didn't have a whole lot of people who delivered. Generally, they came from Utah and California.

McSweeney: And then breads back then were usually fresh.

Sister: Yes.

McSweeney: What was the shelf life of Angel Bread?

Sister: It wasn't really very long because we didn't put a preservative in it until they did it commercially. When you . . . in the bakery business, when you take a loaf of bread and squeeze it and it pops up, you know it's a good bread. That's it. That's how they test bread in a bakery.

McSweeney: It is the batter they squeeze?

Sister: No, No. After it's baked. . . to really see if it's going to be a real light, good bread . . . you punch it . . . you push it down and if it comes up, you know it's a good bread and that's one of the way that years back . . . you would pusk down one of two loaves from the batch and then you would know the yeast took hold

McSweeney: Now, Sister, the million dollar question. What was the recipe?

Sister: I can't find it. And Sr. Anne . . . Sister Angelita was her name then . . . looked fot it and she asked if we had it. It got lost.

McSweeney: I think somebody on the Women's Committee might have it. When we were going through the archival materials we've collected, I remember seeing a recipe. I'll ask her for a copy of it so I can share it with you. Could you just look it over or do we need to bake it to check it out?

Sister: No. I think I'd just have to look at it. (laughing) I'm still pretty good in the culinary department.

McSweeney: I'm sure you are. That's why I'm coming to you with your background and history in that area.

Sister: I remember that we didn't kneed it any more than the other breads. It was in the amounts of ingredients that we put in that changed the taste.

McSweeney: That's what made it come up to the standards of Angel Bread?

Sister: Yes! And he said, "Oh, Angel!" Her religious name was Sister Marie Angelita so I think that's what brought about the *angel*.

McSweeney: She must have felt very good that somebody recognized her talents as a cook.

Sister: Yes, but you've got to realize this was very unusual for that period of time. You see as religious. . . we never wanted anything to go to our heads.

McSweeney: You mean puffery and self promotion was out of the question?

Sister: Back then we didn't give ourselves a lot of praise . . . we just didn't talk much about ourselves . . . it wasn't in our vocabulary . . . not that we didn't know it or do it. Personal praise wasn't that common. Too much attention might not be too good for the spirit.

And remember, women had little to say about anything. They were not often in places of authority and then you always tried to fit in with the times.

McSweeney: Then, what did you as sisters think about Angel Bread? Were you shocked?

Sister: No. We really thought it was cute.

McSweeney: She received your support?

Sister: Remember the times. You had the right to feel one way or the other but we didn't give ourselves a lot of praise. I can remember being in high school where the sisters taught and they were on radio for something. After that, they never talked about it. But see, we thought it was great and when they returned to school we wanted them to tell us all about it. Everytime we asked them about it, they would put their finger to their lips and say, "Shhh!" That's just how it was.

McSweeney: The virtue of humility was very much in evidence.

Sister: Yes. I remember after I joined the order, one of our sisters had just received her Ph.D. . . . I forget what in. . . but she was assigned to the kitchen and to do the cooking for a week. That was the thinking of the day.

McSweeney: Was Sister Angelita embarassed with all the attention.

Sister: Not really. She came down the halls almost dancing because, at last, she found the right recipe. She was floating on air. It was something that really made her come out of herself . . . in those days when you worked in the kitchen you were just nobody.

McSweeney: Really?

Sister: Yes. And then, she was a good cook, a family cook. . . but between family cooking and service cooking, there's a little bit of difference . . . a lot of difference. And when it comes to the flavor and adding or taking away an ingredient, you have to be very careful with that. You just can't double or triple a recipe or something like that. You really have to learn . . . like if it says three cups flour for the original recipe . . . now if you want to make a batch, you'd be a little bit careful. You wouldn't double it. Your instincts . . . you can feel the difference when you are kneeding it.

McSweeney: It's really a hands on process to bake bread.

Sister: You don't just dump in the ingredients . You play around with it. It has a lot to do with the amount of flour . . . and how you measure Is it a level tablespoon or a heaping tablespoon It's something you have to try and try and try. And, she tried, I would say, over a year at different times. But she finally hit it! But with each time, she'd write it out which was good. Her mother . . . my mother did it with family recipes. . . in those days you'd put a pinch of this and a handful of that. It wasn't written out and we learned as you watched them. But that's the way it goes.

McSweeney: So, after a year of trying to develop this bread. . . finally having a patient rave about it and call it Angel . . .!

Sister: She was just thrilled spitless, really.

McSweeney: '*Thrilled spitless!*' That's really a great way of saying it. Now, Sister, I remember you saying, when you were still teaching at St. Peter's across the street, you'd come over and help Sister Angelita.

Sister: I taught at St. Peters but we lived here and I'd help her bake a lot. For any big doings, I always came over and gave her a hand.

McSweeney: Would you always have Angel Bread at these big doings?

Sister: Yes. Sometimes we'd put them into buns like for dinners.

McSweeney: Most people appreciated the flavor, texture, and goodness of the bread?

Sister: They must have because very little ever came back. That's how we judged it. When I was manager I'd judge it by what came back. Periodically, we had to record amounts that came back so that would give us an idea of what we were doing. . . and also when the people came through to survey us, they wanted a record what we had produced and came back.

McSweeney: So Angel Bread never made the . . .

Sister: Yes. It made a good record. It was recorded like evrything else . . . store bread. We would send one of each and the store bread came back. We had a variance of things. That's one of the ways to record. We were just beginning to do that. Later it got to be very, very professional.

McSweeney: So the reputation of Angel Bread according to the returns was . . .

Sister: Excellent. It was excellent. Maybe some cases the crust would be returned . . . but that's something that often happens. The bread itself was eaten. The patient might not have their teeth or something like that. There were lots of reasons back then not to eat the crust. There was a time when people often cut the crust off everything. That was very common to do.

McSweeney: I imagine when you made the decision not to market Angel Bread, it was a say day in Sr. Angelita's life or was she relieved.

Sister: She was relieved. Number one, when you take it from home cooking or our small hospital and then you go into production. . .

McSweeney: Bigger pressures with overseeing the quality?

Sister: But there will be a difference. What you make at home is very good but when you go out and it, you notice there's a difference . . . changes with certain things, not all things. There's a little something that's not there. But that happens.

McSweeney: Now, Sister, I remember seeing, when we were going through our archival materials, an advertisement, a flier. How much promotion was done by the hospital?

Sister: They passed it out but I can't tell you how much. But they would drop off the fliers at different places and sold the bread at different places. I think it was 20 something a loaf. But I'm not sure. We got a couple of cents from it.

McSweeney: So, you all really worked for that money.

Sister: They baked it at the bakery on Charleston.

McSweeney: So, that's the story of Angel Bread. Once again, Sister, thank you for helping the committee with your information.

Sister: Well, I've been here a little bit.

McSweeney: I'll get the recipe for you to look over and thank you for giving me the number and address of Sister Marie Angelita, now, Sister Anne. I do look forward to talking with her. Thank you.

APPENDIX J

MASTER LIST: HISTORICAL BOOKLETS TO DATE

**Women's Committee/St. Rose
List of Archival Materials
as of June, 1997**

<u>Name/interviewee</u>	<u>Identification</u>
Anderson, Bettylou	Former Administrative Assistant (First hired by Sisters in 1947)
•Andonov, Elsbeth	Surgery and Recovery 1996 Service Award - 20years
Assenmacher, Sr. Mary	Pastoral Care 1996 Service Award - 15 years
Bailey, Sr. Robert Joseph	Community Education/Former Head of Dietary/ Educator 1996 Service Award - 35 years
Bartlett, Selma	Banker/Community Leader/Supporter of Hospital Former Board Member
Blake, Dolly	Long Time Volunteer
•Bowers, Sr. Georgianne	Teacher/Volunteer
Brown, Alice	Long Time Volunteer
Buettner, Louise	Emergency Room Nurse Long Time Employee (31 years)
Catton, Sr. Phillippa	Episcopalian Sister from England Formerly with St. Judes Ranch/Boulder City Currently: Wellspring Retreat
Corley, Sr. Virginia	B.S.N./Volunteer
Cunningham, Eleanor	Retired Nurse "Nurse of the Year"
Dalesandro, Sr. Victoria	Director: Mission Services
•Suzanne Davenport	Volunteer
Dobberstein, Ruth	Long Time Volunteer (6000+ hours)
•Dolan, Sr. Dolores	Former Laboratory Supervisor
Erling, Loraine	Former Admitting Supervisor/Insurance Supervisor Office Manager

Freeman, Chiyoko	Laundry Supervisor Employee/ 32 years
Frehner, Waneta	Billing Department Long Time employee
•Fries, Sr. Jane Celeste	Provincial: Western Region - 70's
Greenspun, Barbara	Community Leader/Hospital Benefactor
Gonthier, Sr. Veronica	Former: Founder of Pastoral Care Current: Good Will Ambassador
Graham, Bill	Laboratory Technician Long Time Employee
•Haidysz, Sr. Mary Felicia	Former Administrator/One of first Adrian Sisters to arrive in Henderson/ 1947
Hansen, Susie	Resident of Henderson
•Karl Hazeltine, M.D.	Family Physician 1955-1990 First King of Mardi Gras/Sportsman
Higgason, Cynthia	Admitting Supervisor Long Time Employee
Jeziolkowski, Sr. Genevieve	Religious Education/Hospital Board Member
Karr, Jackie	Former Administrative Aid
Keevers, Sr. Mardi	Pastoral Care
Kesterson, Lorna	Former Mayor: Henderson
Keplinger, Janice	Long-time Employee
La Porta F. Louis	Community Leader/Former Hospital Board Member Financial Committee of Board
•Lombaer, Sr. Frances	Board member/Provincial: '70's
McCoig, Clara "Bucky"	Nurse Anesthesiologist/One of First in Valley Present: Volunteer
Maestas, Rita	Nurse: Maternal/Child Unit Long Time Employee
•Mann, Lori	Nurse/Emergency Room
Martin, Sr. Faith Mary	Episopalian Sister from England Formerly: St. Judes Ranch/Boulder City Currently: Wellspring Retreat

Mehigan, Sr. Margaret, OP	Member of Board Office of Sponsorship and Mission Effectiveness
Monahan, Angie	Long Time Henderson resident
Nerger, Anne Johnson	Former Officer Manager
•Neumann, Greta	Long Time Volunteer
Pantuso, Katherine	Nurse
Percell, Debra	Communications Coordinator
•Pillon, Sr. Margaret Richard	Former Teacher/ Current: Volunteer
•Rhea, Barbara	Quality Management/Administrative Assistant
•Richon, Sr. Lois	Counselor/Chaplain
Rinker, Pauline	Long Time Employee
Rosenzweig, Anne	Former Patient
•Roybal, Janice	Long Time Volunteer
•Scholl, Sr. Janice	Educator/Medical Records
Sewell, Elizabeth	Former: Floor Supervisor
Smith, Hal/Tina	Former: State Senator and Advisory Board
Smith, Sr. Marie Joyce	1947: One of Original Dominican Sisters
•Smith, Shirley Lane -	Educator/ Former member of Dominican Order
•Stebbins, Anne	Long Time Employee 25 years
•Swackhammer, Dolly	Long Time Henderson Resident
Taylor, Lois	Retired Teacher
Vaughan, Peggy	Former student: Siena Heights in 1947 Currently: Volunteer
•Vonderbrink, Dorothy	Community Leader
•Wasco, Anne	Formerly, Sister Angelita/ One of the first Adrian Dominican Sisters to arrive in Henderson
•Wiley, Sr. Patricia	Teacher/Volunteer
•Wimmer, Sr. Joanne, O.P.	Financial Director '82-90
•York, Colleen	10 years/Quality Management/Social services

Round Table Discussions:

Round table: Edie Baker and Othena Williams
Round table: Srs. Dolores, Robert Joseph, Veronica and Bettylou Anderson

Personal Narratives:

Alger, Betty J.	Retired nurse
Bartholomew, Florianne	Former Auxiliary President
Burke, Frances	Former patient
Smith, Sr. Daniel Therese and Sr. Marie Joyce	
Torgenson, Mollie L.	Former patient

Additional Booklets:

- Personal Policies: St. Rose de Lima Hospital
- Rediscover St. Rose Dominican Hospital
- 1980's St. Rose Dominican Hospital
- 1988 Mardi Gras Ball, Caesars Palace

Story of Angel Bread:

- Sister Robert Joseph (interview)
- Sister Angelita Wasco (interview)

Video Taped Conversation

- Florianne Bartholomew and Tina Smith

APPENDIX K

PHOTOGRAPHS: JAMES L. BEEBE

PANORAMIC VIEW: North, South, East, West
Roof top of St. Rose Dominican Hospital, June 1997
by James L. Beebe

- A: Facing North:
Looking down on Basic Management Inc. Complex, formerly, known as Basic Magnesium, Inc., the Las Vegas Strip is seen in background. Among Hotel and Casinos that can be identified include the Luxor, Excalibur, Caesars Palace, Tropicana.
- B: Facing South:
Across Lake Mead Drive is a view of original homes provided by the United States Government in the early 1940's for employees and their families. In 1997 these home mostly are hidden by foliage.
- River Mountain Range is in background. From left to right various buildings facing Water Street can be identified. These include Henderson City Hall, Convention Center, Eldorado Casino and Garage, and St. Timothy Episcopal Church, a relatively new structure. Throughout the years, the church had been burned on three different occasions.
- C: Facing East:
In the foreground and across Lake Mead Drive, the Mexican Food Shoppe and Frontier Floral, one of the oldest florists shops in the city, are located where some of the original homes from 50 years ago still stand. To the left of these businesses is a newly constructed convenience/gasoline station near the intersection of Lake Mead Drive and Boulder Highway.
- St. Peter Apostle Catholic Church is facing Boulder Highway. In earlier times a group of Adrian Dominican Sisters taught school in buildings adjacent to the church.
- On the left hand side of St. Peter's, the WALMART Store can be seen. This area was formerly known as the '*old townsite of Victory Village*'. In the early 1940's the Federal Government built homes in this area to house families of those working for Basic Magnesium. Beyond St. Peter and WALMART, new homes built since the late 70's can be seen.
- The River Mountain Range is seen in the background. To the left, the "B" etched into the mountain is for Basic High School.
- D: Facing West:
In the foreground, a small fraction of St. Rose's parking lot and the Professional Building are seen in the foreground. Black Mountain is in background. A weathered "B", one of three which serves as a reminder of Basic High School, barely can be seen on the hillside.
- One of the oldest gasoline stations in Henderson is located at the intersection of Lake Mead Drive and Water Street. Across from the station is the Best Western, recently rebuilt after a fire. New construction is seen at the base of Black Mountain.

