

**Hanny L. Wright
Jeanne Siegel
Narrators**

**Sandy Scheel[sp?]
Interviewer**

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SS: Today is December 11, 1984, and this interview is taking place at the Audiovisual Center at Moorhead State University. My name is Sandy Scheel[sp?]. I am interviewing Hanny Wright and Jeanne Siegel about the St. Ansgar Hospital Auxiliary. Hanny was the second president of the Auxiliary in 1956, and Jeanne was president in 1975 and 1976. Jeanne is actually going to be helping me with this interview today, as well as being interviewed by me.

Okay, Hanny, why don't we start off with the information you have there about how the Auxiliary was founded?

HW: In 1955, March 30th, a group of interested women met in the club room of the Clay County Courthouse to learn from Sister Mary Joseph, the administrator of St. Ansgar, the purpose of an auxiliary and what women of the community could do for the hospital. An auxiliary was then formed. April the 26th, the first meeting of the Auxiliary held a membership fee. There were 165 charter members, and Mrs (Marvin) Harriet Geib was elected our first president. Then our meeting again on May 15th, the National Hospital Week observed theme "Your Hospital, a Tradition of Service." Now May 15th was about the time of the birthday of Florence Nightingale. And this was long ago organized, Hospital Week in memory of that first nurse, the Florence Nightingale. And it was: "Your Hospital, a Tradition of Service." And this is why the Auxiliary was joined at that time.

SS: Okay. Hmmm, now, by whom was it organized and how was it organized? You were telling me some of your recollections earlier.

HW: Sister Josephine, this great, wonderful woman of the...that headed the...as administrator of St. Ansgar as that time, and really Sister Mary Joseph, a very remarkable woman that encouraged us then to join together as an auxiliary to the hospital. And you know, at that time the hospital wasn't yet completely built. It was being built gradually over that time. But we were there, anticipated what we could do. And hmmm, from then on, we were organized quickly from then.

And the first meeting of a full board of directors voted to join the state and national organizations, plans for publishing a monthly bulletin from St. Ansgar's Hospital Auxiliary. The publication was at that time...was named *The Chart*. And, hmmm, of course, the name suggested itself to me, because having been an old time nurse who always had the chart, and you had to put everything down, so that the doctor and anybody else who'd want to see what we were doing for the patient, this is what *The Chart* was. And this was our publication now that comes out to keep us all informed of what the Auxiliary is doing.

The general chairman of the Clay County Hospital Fund Drive at that time suggested that the Auxiliary assist with the drive to collect the money. And we...we hesitated about this, and the Auxiliary voted to not to take part in the fund drive. The purpose of the Auxiliary is to support the work of the hospital within the walls, supplementing activities of the regular hospital staff, augmenting service to the staff and patients that would otherwise be impossible, and to further public relations of the hospital. The help is to increase the need and the work hands of the people that work to take care of the people within the walls of the hospital. And this we have tried...hmmm...very...to do with the work power of the women.

The women indicated to wish to become the members of this, and have been augmenting now the numbers ever since. And the women do anything that can be a volunteer work that would proceed to help the hospital and the patients. The general meeting in September by that time was held in the George Washington School. And the hospital had still not gotten far enough for a meeting place in the hospital. And the general meetings then were held at that school. Later, we were held at the St. Francis de Sales Gymnasium. We were not really gymnastics...

SS: [Chuckles]

HW: But we, hmmm, we were very active in...well, our plans, and the many things that were done. We make...hmmm...there were sewing groups made and toys made, all sorts of things, tray favors, stuffed toys...you'll hear more about that later.

JS: Hanny, don't you think it's also important to mention at the beginning that St. Ansgar was founded and has always been a nonprofit or not-for-profit hospital, founded by the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls. For most of the time, the Sisters have provided much of the staff, and almost always the administrator for the hospital. And because of the not-for-profit status, volunteers have been needed to augment both staff members and funding for things that could not be provided for in the budget.

HW: This is how we managed, and why we especially wanted...needed ways of raising money to provide many of the things that were needed for the nursing care of the patients. And hmmm, we have this...done for the last thirty years, we have raised a great many things to provide. And the monies have run into thousands of dollars. Now one thing, for instance, just early, we...hmmm...we liked to have a piano in the place. And there was no piano at St. Ansgar's new hospital. So, in order to get one, some of us, you know, don't mind going [to] ask for something, so we went to [unclear] through DeVoe's Piano Company, and would he give us a piano? And he did!

SS: [Chuckles] So you had your piano. [Chuckles]

HW: So we had our piano, we could sing, we could anything we please. Now we still have the piano. Chances are, it's still over there.

SS: I bet it is.

HW: I'm sure it must be by now.

SS: Ah, you were telling me about Sister Mary Joseph, the first time you saw her. Would you...would you tell us that again?

HW: She was a most delightful person. Hmm...very able, very persuasive. She had a lilt even in her walk as she walked down the hall. An energetic woman, you could see that it...her, just with a purpose in her mind, purpose in her life, that she knew that...what she wanted to do, what she should be doing, and how she did it, and which she did do it. And was greatly loved and honored. Ah...since then, we have...hmm...given awards in name of Sister Mary Joseph, and that was just now installed on our early...thirtieth year.

SS: Okay. And now the name of the newsletter is *The Chart*. And Hanny, you were the one that came up with the name for the newsletter, correct?

HW: Well, you know, as a nurse, you see, you always had to put everything down on the chart.

SS: [Chuckles]

HW: And this is what we do, and then we send it around now, and tell the members of the Auxiliary, "This is what's happening, and this is what we expect you to do with it, too."

SS: [Laughing] That's right. Okay. So it was founded by the Franciscan Sisters, and St. Ansgar is still operated by the Franciscan Sisters. Okay. Now what about the charter members? Hmm...do you want to tell us who some of the charter members were of your organization? See, I think we have a list of them.

HW: Got to...we'll find that. It wasn't hard to find Auxiliary charter members, because everybody wanted to join us pretty much. And hmm, we...I suppose the list is probably a little more than you want to...like to take the time...? Or should...? Would you like to read the charter members?

SS: Oh, why don't you read a few of them?

HW: A few of them.

SS: Yeah.

HW: Okay, fine. There was, hmmm, Elsie Atchison[sp?], these are Moorhead. And Mrs. Leo Adams[sp?], Mrs. Frances Allen[sp?], Mrs. Ed Algire[sp?], there's Josephine, and Clarence...Mrs. Clarence Altenbren[sp?], we call her Sis. And hmmm...Phyllis Arnold[sp?], Eva Arsdorf[sp?], Phyllis Baldwin. Many of these people are still very active. Mrs. Ed Bennedict, and hmmm...Mrs. Emma Boyt[sp?], Esther Brown[sp?], Miss Dagmar Briggs[sp?], who is gone, and of course you know the total does come every once in a while, over this many years, many of us have sort of fallen by. There is no doubt.

SS: [Sighs]

HW: And hmmm, we...one of our early presidents was Mrs. Pearl Stiening. We have, hmmm...others that have moved away out of town now. Many are still here. Mrs. Parker Erickson[sp?], Alice Erickson[sp?], active. Helen Euren, especially active in the compiling, and keeping the history, and also the pictorial history of the Auxiliary. There are volumes, beautiful, delightful reading, in her books, and so marvelously made altogether. She does a very...has done just a remarkable job on this. And we have...ah...too [many] lists, perhaps, to...to read them all in here.

Mrs. Dorothy Fujeree[sp?], Mrs. Alford...Mildred, Wilfred, Miss Elsie. Hmmm. [Chuckles] Their first names, we mostly know her better by their first names. And hmmm...Mrs. Esther Garrity[sp?], the young Mrs. Garrity. Marvin Geib, of course, was our first president. And we have Minnie Grove Habiger[sp?], Mrs. Andrew Habiger was our...also one of our early presidents.

SS: Now a lot of these people are still active in the Auxiliary then.

HW: Many of them are, this is true. The...some of them have gone on by...and either moving away, many of them died. And Theresa Hedland[sp?], who's an active person, now she's now in a retirement home. And they have, hmmm, Mrs. Glenn Johnson[sp?], now just recently died. And Mrs. Jacob Kiefer, Ella, and of course, Ella died just last year. Mrs. Genevieve King[sp?], Dr. King, active. And when she is in town...she's retired from school here at MS [Moorhead State] and we, hmmm, find that...hmmm...time goes here, you know, and we go there, too. And of course, Louise Corn, Mrs. Carroll Corn[sp?], was hmmm, very...has been very outstanding in her activity in the Auxiliary.

JS: And you could mention about [Mrs.] Carroll Corn, that she was also a recipient of the Sister Mary Joseph award given last year, as you were yourself. Hmmm...

HW: Yes, she was one of the first recipients of the Mary Joseph...Sister Mary Joseph...

JS: And also a past president of the Auxiliary.

HW: Definitely.

JS: I would say that probably fifteen or twenty of the original...what, forty or fifty charter members are still actively involved at St. Ansgar.

HW: I believe that's true. I think that that is...truth. And many, as I go down, I can see that they're still there, and some of them, of course, have moved away to other things. For instance, Mrs. Gordon Manternack[sp?], Beverly, now remarried after the death of her husband, and she has been in Grand Forks. I saw that she probably more is busy with, hmmm, politics now since...than she was in the work when she was in Moorhead.

SS: [Chuckles]

HW: And hmmm, just having...through with this struggle getting our presidents sorted out again.

SS: [Sighs] And...

JS: And this shows such a commitment to the organization, I think. Hmmm. So many of the young people that I know now feel that if they have been in an organization five, or six, or seven years, that they have outlived their time and are ready to move on to other things. And the women that have been in Auxiliary for twenty, twenty-five years and still find something new to do...so many of these women are still on boards, are...still serve on committees. Hmmm, and really have an awful lot to teach those of us who have come in in the later years.

HW: I'm entirely agreed with that. I think that if you join an organization, you put your hand to it, don't give it up after just a few years and go on to something else, just because you're...knowing that it'd be interesting to look at things. Add the other things, surely, but stay with this one fine organization that you still have given much to and are helping it develop. And then there's something delightful to see, an organization that you've been in for many years, and as it develops and grows. As I look at the beginning of St. Ansgar's Auxiliary...because that...I've been there since the very beginning, and it's been a delightful thing. It's just like seeing a child that grows up and matures. And your businesses, and your meetings, you...and we just...we just grow differently. And it's been delightful to continue a member and active in an organization like this.

SS: Well, we'll have a copy of those lists made and include them with this tape so that if anyone would...is interested in looking up to see who the charter members were, that information will be available to them. Hmmm, Jeanne, a reference was made to the fact that this is a national organization. Can you tell me a little bit about the Auxiliary organization, the structure itself?

JS: There are local auxiliaries, hospital auxiliaries. Actually, the organization is the National Organization of Hospitals and Nursing Homes. There are local organizations, there are...Minnesota is divided then into seven districts. Those districts form our state organization, Minnesota Hospital and Homes Auxiliary Association. And all of the state organizations form the national. I think that we find that there is a lot of hands-on feeling for the state organizations from the national. You don't seem to get lost in the shuffle. And I think it's the same way as far as the local auxiliaries are concerned, feeling that state knows who they are, is interested in them.

Every district has a chairman, and that chairman tries very diligently to visit all of the local organizations. Hmm, there doesn't seem to be a lot of information lost in having it filter down from national, to state, to district, to local. You feel very much a part of the whole...ah, whole national organization.

SS: Mmmm-hmmm. Hmm. The people that belong to your organization, are there any membership requirements? Or how did they join, how many belong?

JS: There is no age...there is no age requirement. The Auxiliary has male and female members. The only requirement as far as fulfilling a commitment is that you do as much as you can do. Some people feel that they would rather...ah...serve the Auxiliary in hospital service. They volunteer once a week for a morning or afternoon, or once every other week. Hmm, as often as they feel that they can. Other people feel they'd rather work on the fundraising parts of league. They work on projects; they aren't able to be at the hospital for whatever reason weekly, but they can do a lot of that at home. Hmm, and that's also a very crucial part of the organization. Some people serve by working with the board, working on committees at the hospital, and even working on committees that are under the auspices of the hospital, as opposed to the Auxiliary, but then filtering down that information to the Auxiliary.

So there are many, many different ways that people can serve the Hospital Auxiliary. And I think that's been part of the reason that we've retained so many of the charter members, and that we continue to maintain the interest of the members that have joined since then. There is such a variety of opportunities for doing what someone really would like to do. And year after year being able to evaluate your commitments, and feeling that maybe this year you can't do as much, and then being able to handle it that way, and then another year, being able to do a lot more, and then being able to give whatever time you feel that you would like to give.

SS: Okay.

JS: We have...St. Ansgar has at the moment approximately two hundred members. We have consistently maintained a membership of over a hundred and fifty. On occasion, it's gotten to about two hundred and twenty-five, but I would say that approximately two hundred would be very accurate.

SS: Okay. Hmm. Yeah. What is the status of women in the organization? How have women participated? You said it is primarily women in the Auxiliary?

HW: Well, we did...we started with the women. And hmmm, the men at that particular time, they were...most of the men were on the drive of trying to raise the funds to develop St. Ansgar from the old hospital. Now St. Ansgar was an old hospital called the Moorhead Hospital at one time. And hmmm, gradually...they felt that they couldn't run it anymore, it was of a city hospital. But, hmmm, the Sisters bought the hospital, re-changed...named it, and named St. Ansgar. St. Ansgar was the saint or the...hmmm...under whose name Norway was Christianized, from their Viking Thor's and what have you, they were a wild outfit. They...

SS: [Chuckles]

HW: Norwegians sort of stayed a little bit wild even to this day, being a...hmmm, I'm a product of that...Norwegians...

SS: [Chuckles]

HW: But hmmm, then they named it St. Ansgar in honor of this St. Ansgar that did bring religion, the Christian religion to Norway. And immediately, they knew that they must upgrade the hospital, and eventually they had to rebuild the building entirely. And this is what was done. And most of the men who were working on that...undoubtedly some women were. But hmmm, the women's jobs seemed to be this particular thing of caring for the people in the hospital. And now we have men, we have young boys and girls, and, hmmm, anybody with a willing hand, and a pair of fast feet, and a few things like that, we'll take them into the Hospital Auxiliary.

SS: But your board positions and your national board positions are filled by whoever is in the ranks or...?

HW: Mostly women, I think. There may be some more, but I...as far as I know, as far as from...we are here, speaking about our own organization, that the...they are the women that have been running it.

SS: Okay. Are there any specific goals or purposes for the Auxiliary?

JS: The Auxiliary has actually two main purposes. One would be service to the hospital, service in the different departments, administering and running the gift shop, helping hands on, whether with or without the patients directly there. The other purpose, goal, is to raise funds for the hospital. Especially these days, it's so hard to find the money for everything that is needed. Yes, definitely, the essential things are budgeted in and paid for by the hospital. But there are secondary essential needs that just for some reason aren't able to be funded this year, they say maybe next year.

And what the Auxiliary does is ask the departments to submit a list of these secondary essential items, and then a committee of the Auxiliary members decides which items will be funded by the hospital in any given year. And I think that many, many items that the hospital has needed very badly have come in this way. Some of them can't be, ah, funded all in one year, but we certainly make the attempt. And then the next year, hmmm, finish paying for these things. But it's very important for the department people to understand that...that they can come directly to us, that someone will listen to their needs, and take them very seriously, and hopefully be able to fund them in any given year.

SS: Okay. Hmmm. Well, you referred earlier to your historian, Hanny. Maybe you could give us her name again? And I know there is a statement about your historical records in your book.

HW: Helen Euren, a very remarkable, devoted person. She's a delightful woman. And hmmm, gathered up the history together, and she has made just tremendous books. If you ever want to see them, get in touch with an Auxiliary...Auxilian. And, hmmm, she has volumes of pictures, and also the story about this. Now Helen Euren has worked over years to get this together to this remarkable state that it is now. And, hmmm, we can't praise her too much...to really be worthy of all the work she has done. We can...there is just great thanks to her for gathering up our history.

SS: I don't know her. Has she been in the Auxiliary a long time?

HW: Well, I think so. Ah...what do you think?

JS: She was a charter member.

HW: Or was a charter...?

SS: She is a charter member.

HW: Yes, she was a charter member.

JS: Of the Auxiliary.

HW: Mmmm-hmmm.

JS: And she was a librarian with the City of Moorhead for many, many years.

SS: Okay.

JS: And she became the historical chairman for Auxiliary, and on January 15, 1982 she wrote in the scrapbooks the purpose for maintaining a very complete history of the Auxiliary. And I will read that letter:

“It is necessary for every organization to keep accurate and complete records. The two types of records are archival and historical. St. Ansgar Auxiliary archival records, meaning the minutes of board meetings, as well as general meetings, financial records, membership rosters, etcetera, are well kept. It has been the duty of this committee to collect all records of historical value. This includes charts, newspaper clippings, items from the highlights, which is the newsletter of hospital, photos, programs, and any items which will help understand the Auxiliary. This material is kept in the historical notebooks, using Mylar to preserve *The Charts*. It is our sincere hope that within the next year, our historical notebooks will be complete as far as material is available, that they will coincide with the archival history. - Helen Euren”

So we feel as an organization that we have as complete records as is possible to have.

SS: Okay. So she's probably been maintaining these most of these years?

HW: Oh, constantly, from...

JS: For a number of years.

HW: From...yes.

SS: Okay.

HW: It took her quite...quite a while to gather this together, and she has done such an exemplary job with it. Now, oh, I would...oh, we don't want to forget all the things that we have provided and helped provide, the things that were needed there. For instance, one, I think, [of the] really exciting things, is this child...child help seat.

JS: Project Child Safe, child restraint seat.

HW: Safe...child safe. Yes. That you must now, even by law has helped it to...that you *must* put your child into the restraint seat. And I think that's...with...along with all the other things that we have done.

SS: Mmmm-hmmm.

HW: We have done...managed to help by, if not altogether, the thing...and there are some things we have financed all the way. But there are a great many things that the hospital can use now that they could not have gotten as quickly as without our help.

SS: Yeah. Okay. What are some of the other...? Now, did you have more information about the Project Child Safe that you wanted to...?

JS: Project Child Safe, hmmm, is something that was very new for Clay County. And St. Ansgar recognized the need, especially...well, way before the State of Minnesota made it a requirement by law. We recognized the need of residents of Clay County to have access to the loan of child restraint seats. Hmmm, for many years, the Auxiliary has promoted these seats for babies who are born at the hospital. As of July 1984, these seats are now available to any resident, hmmm, and the program offered the seats for anyone transporting a child weighing less than twenty pounds. This program was also cosponsored by the Clay County Sheriff's Office and the Moorhead Police Department. And they now carry brochures in their cars, so that if they do stop someone and issue them a ticket or a warning, they also give them the brochure, and the people understand where they can receive the child restraint seats.

SS: That's great. Ah, what other kind of services does the Auxiliary provide?

HW: Well, we...of course, those...that delightful group of women, and I'm sure that this was restricted only to the women...hmmm, gentlemen don't seem to do very well with their needle and thimble.

SS: [Chuckles]

HW: And this is making the hundreds and hundreds of gift toys there. They are toys for the children, for the patients that are in the hospital. And I have seen the record of...hmmm...several hundred each year are sewed. And these are just delightful, cozy, little toys. They...something...are...most of them are soft, and stuffed with stuff that is washable. Each child that's been in the hospital goes home with at least one gift of a toy. And...

JS: Another really important thing that they do is they give one of these toys to each child who is brought into the emergency room. That is such a traumatic time for a child, and we have seen, time and time again, how they just start to cuddle these toys. And it...it gives them a sense of security. They're taken into the emergency room, into the...onto one of the examining beds, and they're just *clutching* these little toys. What are...some are clowns, some are animals. Hmmm. It gives them something to hold onto at a very stressful time for a child. These women have been working...worked many, many hours a year and have worked for many years developing up their reservoir of toys.

HW: Mmmm-hmmm. They sew every week just constantly. And you know...this...this certainly must be a delightful effect for a child to suddenly find a cozy little doll, or animal, or little stuffed toy. Must be a marvelous thing for them to get in an emergency...place. Goodness.

SS: Mmmm-hmmm.

JS: The Auxiliary, yes, also sponsors the gift shop, open to visitors or employees. Hmmm. Open most of the time that the hospital is, including into the evenings. Hmmm. That is totally sponsored by the Auxiliary, staffed and funded. We also staff the gallery, started about four years ago, on the first floor administration level of the hospital.

HW: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

JS: It's done surprisingly well. It's amazing how many employees buy paintings. A number of visitors do, but we never expected the support of the employees the way we do, and they look forward to the changing of the shows. We also...we are in approximately thirty departments of the hospital, always expanding. Now our volunteer department gets requests from the hospital services saying, "Can you staff our service?" "Can you send people?" "We need people to hand out menus." "We need people to help with discharge." "We need people to handle admissions, take people upstairs."

As funding for the hospitals, for the institutions has become more and more critical, we find that the Auxiliaries are needed more, and more, and more. We have never felt unappreciated. But I think now, in the last four or five years, even more than before, we find that we are so much more appreciated. The hospital can't seem to...express their appreciation enough. Hmmm. And I think it's important that you don't always have to work directly with the patients. Some people would rather not.

HW: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

JS: They'll work at the admitting desk, or in the gift shop, or in x-ray. We have women who have worked in the labs, filing and handling slides, for many years. One of our Auxiliary women suggested, and the hospital initiated, the services of Telecare. Ah, every morning, a certain list of people are called to make sure that they are alright that day. If the call is not answered at that specific time, then we have emergency numbers of a neighbor or a relative. The person has said they will be there then, and we then call to make sure that everything is alright with them. That's handled from our front admitting desk. We have women who prefer to work in the cafeteria. We have women who do shampooing; we have women who take a gift card around to the floors. We have women in almost every...and I'm trying to think if there are some departments that don't have volunteers, but I can't...come up with any.

HW: I can't think of anything, but surely be filled. Another thing, tonight will be a very special meeting at seven thirty. The Sisters have invited and the administration of St. Ansgar's Hospital has invited Auxilians to come to a Christmas party. And it'll be...it's always a very high part to see this lovely party, beautifully served up and decorated and just...everybody saying thanks...thanks to us. And we feel that also...we feel that...we feel like saying to them, thank you for giving us these lovely opportunities for doing things. But I'm looking forward to tonight's party at St. Ansgar's.

SS: Mmmm-hmmm.

JS: Our Auxiliary meets four times a year. We meet in January, March, and November for luncheon meetings. In September for a membership tea, and of course we have our Christmas party sponsored by the hospital. Now we've always met at the hospital. So far, we haven't outgrown the space. We meet in the cafeteria. Hmmm. The food service plans the menus. They do a very...just a beautiful job. Hmmm. And the meetings are well attended. We have programs...

HW: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

JS: Very often, if a new service is offered by one of the doctors at the hospital, we very quickly ask that person to come and explain it to us, because I think most of the Auxiliary members feel that we are a public relations extension of the hospital. What we can tell other people in the community about St. Ansgar is so much more important than what they can read in a newspaper, or hear on television, as far as advertising is concerned. We are the best public relations arm that they have. They tell us that, and we feel that we are. And we can go out and explain how St. Ansgar is a caring organization, a caring institution; that you are not a number, you are a person.

Hmmm. Almost all of the administrators of the hospital have...can be found very often on the floors, talking to people. They aren't desk-bound; they aren't office-bound on the first floor. They are talking to visitors. The patients know who they are. And they know that if they say, "Well, my bathroom wasn't cleaned today," that it'll be cleaned, because you told the

administrator. They're interested in finding out about the problems, and about how the patients feel. That's terrifically important for a community hospital like St. Ansgar.

HW: You know...you know it's an Auxilian when you see her in her pink smock. You know then that you're...you are just one of these people that drifting through the hospital all over doing anything that is useful to be done, and try to answer your questions if you're a stranger among the place. But if she's wearing her pink smock, you know that you have a friend.

SS: Yes. Hmmm. Now when we were talking earlier, I got the feeling that you have really had the ability to change. You know, you have been functioning now for, oh, a little over thirty years. And your purposes have certainly changed over those years, and you really have been able to change as the times have changed, and you're in more and more areas, and it sounds to me that your volunteers are being very well used. That...that, you know, the credibility they have, the professionalism that I'm...that's an attitude that they have that...and I mean, I get the feeling that this is felt by your volunteers, and it's reflected in the paid staff that you work with. So I...

JS: I don't think our purpose has changed so much as our means of achieving it has probably changed.

HW: I know another...yes...yes. And another thing, we are...stress...well, I know that Father John has stressed it with special meetings sometimes, to know that some things are supposed to be not bandied around. You are supposed to be...have a confident, yes, but don't...don't talk about things a way that you shouldn't. Be sure of the care that you do, and what you do, and...and your confiden-...say the word for me.

JS: Confidentiality.

HW: There you are. That's too difficult a word for me to say!

SS: [Chuckles]

HW: And that is an...a very important thing that you knew, where there we teach the nurses from the very beginning. And when I was instrumental in teaching young nurses, and the same thing with Auxilians. Don't take it out of the place. Leave it there.

SS: Do you have any formal training for the volunteers?

JS: We have an orientation that the volunteers go through, and I think it's terrifically important. It's a whole...it's a whole day. Father John talks about confidentiality, different department heads come and speak, the administrator comes and speaks, the volunteer department has a number of small workshops, and there are tours. They...people get to know a lot about the hospital in that, in that day. Hmmm. They also learn about the committees.

I...we are using, at the moment, the words auxiliary and volunteer interchangeably. And they...they aren't...really are not. The Auxiliary is the volunteer organization, comprising both

hospital service and fundraising. You, at the moment, do not have to be an Auxiliary member to volunteer at the hospital, but most of the Auxiliary members do. And most of the volunteers belong to the Auxiliary. I think it's important for them to belong to the Auxiliary, because then they receive *The Chart*, they learn about things that are happening at the hospital. And it makes them much more well-rounded volunteers. But at the moment, we are one of the few hospitals in Minnesota that does not require our volunteers to belong to the Auxiliary.

SS: Well, since you're both past presidents, now I want to find out, was there a favorite thing that happened during your years or a favorite story? [Chuckles]

HW: [Chuckles]

SS: Something that was real special to you?

HW: My land, mine was so long back there...

SS: [Laughs]

HW: [Chuckles] Thirty years, girls. But hmmm, we were the organizers, of course. We...we decided that we must put out a little...some kind of a piece of publication, and we're going to have to send this sheet out to...not as many pages of it, really. So what'll we call it? Well, of course, we called it *The Chart*. So that should everything get into for the people that were concerned about it, and that became *The Chart*.

We also were wondering, how will we raise money? How will we...we have a tea, and will...we invite the women of the community to come and join us. And also, hmmm, help where we can...hmmm...work for things for the hospital, for the patients, and so there was a great many things. But after that, of course, we have just been spreading out to all sorts of things. I think Jeanne's going to have to augment some of that now.

SS: Well, I have...I do have one other question. One of the other interviews I had. She said, "When we first started, everyone wore a hat and gloves. It was quite a formal affair."

HW: [Laughs]

SS: Was it with the Auxiliary?

HW: Well, I don't know that it was formal, as I...at least, personally, I am not a very formal person, I guess.

SS: [Chuckles]

HW: So...hmmm...we could...if we found a really funny story to tell them, we could, hmmm...and so maybe for the luncheons, we...little...a little bit more in that.

SS: Mmmm-hmmm.

HW: Because they always served so beautifully to us. But, hmmm, aside from that, I...hmmm...you know, there are a lot of people that I don't know, but I know all people, I just haven't met them yet.

SS: [Chuckles]

HW: I've often felt about people that I just haven't met these people, that's all. But they are not strangers to me.

SS: Mmmm-hmmm.

HW: So, hmmm, I don't feel very formal with any of them.

SS: That's wonderful. [Chuckles]

JS: In my year of 1975, two very interesting things happened. One, it was the twentieth anniversary of the Auxiliary. And for the first time, we contacted as many past presidents as possible. And the hospital had a wonderful anniversary party for us here at Comstock Memorial Union at Moorhead State, one of the few times we've had an occasion outside of the hospital. And that was because there were so many people that we could not hold it in the cafeteria. We had a picture taken of all of the presidents.

HW: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm. Saw that.

JS: We had an anniversary cake. And it was...it was an exciting occasion for me. It was my first year as president, and it was wonderful! One of the nice things about Auxiliary has been that no one has seemed to question how old you were in connection with what you could do. I joined in my early twenties, and within a year became a board member. And it seems like I have always...almost always been one of the youngest people in Auxiliary, and no one ever said, "Well, are you sure you can handle that?"

SS: Mmmm-hmmm.

JS: Or, "You're so young, wouldn't you like to wait a year or two?"

HW: [Laughs]

JS: Or any...

SS: [Chuckles]

JS: Everybody kept saying, "Why don't you do this now?" [Laughs]

SS: Mmmm-hmmm.

JS: And it...

HW: [Chuckles]

JS: It was a wonderful experience for me. Because everyone felt that I could do it. The only thing I had to do to make them take it away was prove that I couldn't. And I think Auxiliary has treated its newer or younger members in that fashion. It's not been proved that you can, but try it, and if you can't, then we'll talk about it, which I think is a wonderful way to approach people. The other thing that I remember happening, and I don't remember if it was in 1975 or 1976...maybe you will, Hanny. Was that was the year that the old hospital was demolished. And I got to be in on opening the cornerstone that had been there. And I have never been at a cornerstone opening.

SS: [Laughs]

HW: [Laughs]

JS: I have been at cornerstone closings.

HW: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

JS: You know, everybody puts all this stuff in, and it goes in, and I never have expected to be able to see any of it again. Hmmm. There wasn't anything truly wonderful in this cornerstone. [Chuckles]

SS: [Chuckles]

JS: But the old hospital had been just west of the hospital as it exists today, and after being a hospital, it was turned into a residence for the nuns. And I don't know if nurses lived there, too, but I know the nuns lived there for a long time. And one day it did...was demolished. And it seems to me that there were hospital mission statements, and lists of people, and things like that in it. It was...it was an exciting time, because everyone else was so excited about finding out what was in the cornerstone.

HW: [Chuckles]

SS: [Chuckles] No old instruments or...? [Chuckles]

HW: You remember, Jeanne?

JS: I think so.

HW: We...we went through the long, deep tunnel underneath to get to meeting place.

JS: Oh...!

HW: And which was in the basement of the old hospital. Now I don't know there was much above it. I suppose there was still an empty building above us, but I never got up there. But we did go through this long, dark tunnel. And then...hmmm...well, it wasn't...it was lighted, of course. But the day of moving...

JS: Yes.

HW: That was the day of days.

JS: Mmmm-hmmm.

HW: And some people, we'd move the people right on their beds. Others would go on cots.

SS: [Chuckles]

HW: Others would go on chairs.

JS: Just roll them along. [Chuckles]

HW: But we'd give them a ride through this long tunnel out into this big, beautiful, new, lighted, beautiful, beautiful new hospital. And *so* exciting. And everybody was helping one way or another to get all the people that were in the old hospital now into the new place. And it was a day of jubilee.

SS: Okay.

JS: It was. The tunnel is still there. Unfortunately, it ends. It never comes up anymore.

SS: [Laughs]

JS: There isn't anything except paved parking lot at the other end of this.

HW: [Chuckles]

SS: You can...you can get into the tunnel but you can't get out! [Laughs]

JS: You can get in, but it is...you have to turn around to get out!

HW: I always kind of thought that might have gone down to the power place. [Chuckles]

JS: No, it's used for storage and things like that now.

HW: [Laughing] No, it's just...

SS: Oh.

JS: I don't think it ends anywhere. It just...stops. [Chuckles]

SS: [Chuckles]

HW: Oh, it was wonderful and then...hmmm...

JS: We could take a tour there for old times' sake or something.

HW: [Chuckles] Let's have a Halloween party down there for the Auxiliary.

SS: [Chuckles]

JS: [Unclear].

SS: Mmmm-hmmm.

HW: [Chuckles]

JS: One of the exciting things, too, was...the year that I became president, was the fact that my mother had been president of the Auxiliary about eight years...seven or eight years before I.

HW: Mmmm-hmmm.

JS: And I think that we are the only mother and daughter Auxiliary president group. And so it...when I joined Auxiliary at that young age of early twenties, it was...I knew so many of the women already. It was...it was just like finally, officially, joining the group. Because I'd been with Mother so many times on projects, and working on our Band Aid Follies, Band Aid Review Follies and things like that.

HW: And your mother's name was Mrs. Aske, wasn't it?

JS: Yes, Eleanor Aske.

HW: Speaking about the nuns putting on a play, a delightful musical thing made by the Sisters from the Little Falls, and I suppose some of them were also from our own....

[End of interview]