

**CHARMAINE (NISSEN) ASHCRAFT**



HOME OF GOOD SHEPHERD PROJECT

CHARMAINE (NISSEN) ASHCRAFT

TAPE NO. 15R 1/3

Interviewer: Toby Harris

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TRANSCRIPT

15R 1/3

SIDE A

*Today is June 3, 1999. I'll be interviewing Charmaine (Char) Ashcraft, Charmaine Nissen as she was known. She was a former resident of the Good Shepherd Home and she'll be talking about that and she was also living there for several years after that. We are at the Good Shepherd Center in Seattle, Washington. This is Toby Harris.*

*You began living here in about 1949 -*

November 7, 1949.

*You remember the date. How old were you? About?*

About 14. I was born in '34. I had just turned ... 1934, 1949... I had just turned 15. My birthday is in September so I was just 15.

*And how did you end up living here?*

I was running away, getting kicked out of school, a little bit of stealing, kind of running the streets, and sexually active. And that was causing everybody distress, me included, and I had been in several different foster homes and schools before that. They would be called group homes today. And getting kicked out of there. Then I met someone when I was in detention, in early '49. I met some girl who had been here, I don't remember her name. And for some reason, this place sounded like it was the place I wanted to be. I remember telling the social worker who was in process of sending me home again after many of these runaways and returns home - I said "I'm going to continue to run away until you send me to the Good Shepherd Home." Her name was Virginia and finally Virginia heard that and so here I came.

*So you had heard good things about the Good Shepherd Home.*

I must have. It sounded like some place that I wanted to be. I don't remember the girl's name but I do remember that I heard about it through some other girl that I probably met in detention. There was something that sounded very comforting about the Catholic church and the sisters - I was not Catholic, I was not raised Catholic. But about a couple of years before I came here, when I was living out near Renton, one of my girlfriends that I went to school with was Catholic and raised in a Catholic family. And she went to confession down in lower Queen Anne area where she used to live. She went there every Saturday and for some reason, there was something comforting about that process. She gave me her little confessional book and I read it and for quite a few Saturdays I went to confession. And the old priest

never knew - he just thought I was another little Catholic girl. It was very comforting to be talking there and having someone listen to me. I didn't get that in my home so...I went there. That was part of, I think, the process of when I heard about this Good Shepherd Home, that it was some place I wanted to be. And I never ran away from here.

*Not once.*

And I stayed a long time. Way past the time that I was committed by the court.

*How did that happen that you were able to stay here for so long?*

I don't know. I guess I fit right in and I became very close to Mother Serena, who was mistress of the girls at that time. And -

*And you didn't want to go home?*

No, I didn't. No, I remember that the first day I was here, the following morning, my little work station was down on the basement floor across from the dining room. They had the clothing room for girls and right there as you entered the door, they had these pull-down ironing boards. There were 4 of them and I was an ironer. And I can remember Mother Serena coming in, and I don't know, maybe told me I was doing a good job or something, anyway, I just thought she was wonderful. I felt nurtured, like I belonged. And so I asked her if I could stay. I said, "now, can I stay here for a long time? Do I have to leave right away or after a few months?" And she said I didn't need to worry, that I could stay here. And so my mind just went to rest. I came here in the 9th grade but I had repeated the 7th grade three different times so I was behind. I took an accelerated school program here and graduated in 2 years so I graduated in '51 from high school. Then I was too young, I was only 16, so I didn't want to go home. There was really no home to go to and my mother had lots of mental health problems and there was just no way to return there. And I had become very attached, this was my home and the sisters were my parents. Mother Serena was a real mother figure, very much a parent. And so they offered me the chance to go to college. In those days, they had a program where some of the girls got scholarships and we took those classes right here in the building for a year.

*You took the college classes here?*

Only for a year. You got a scholarship and there were maybe, like 10 of these, and so we had mini-college right here at the Good Shepherd Home. Sister- Mother Dominic was her name then. It's Sister Vera Gallagher now who lives here in Seattle. She was the college teacher. She was also the 2nd, like the assistant mistress at that time as well as the college teacher and there were maybe 5 or 6 of us.

*I have a 1952 yearbook here. It has a picture of the post-graduates and you're in there. It looks like there were 6 other girls.*

Yes.

*So you were the girls who were taking the college classes?*

Yes and all of these girls except for this one, I think, graduated a year before I did. This girl, Eloise, is the woman I was telling you about who is still my friend from the

Midwest. She had already graduated from a high school in Tacoma. She came to the Good Shepherd after she finished high school and stayed for a year or so and then...no, she stayed for 2 years. After we took a year of college here on the scholarship. The Sisters paid for the two of us to go out to Seattle University. Ellie did one year and then I stayed on another 2 and graduated from there.

*You were quite young still.*

I was 16 when I started college and I graduated when I was 20.

*Where did you live? Did you change dormitories through all these years? You started out -*

I was in two of them. I lived upstairs - where I showed you. I was upstairs on the 3rd floor, in the largest dormitory, Sacred Heart. I slept in the second bed right outside of the room where the mistress of girls slept. Mother Serena was the person responsible for getting the girls up, getting them ready and taking them to church and also the whole process of the day and the nighttime. I helped her. She passed me her keys in the morning through a small hole in her door so I could go to each of the other dorms and wake the other girls.

*And that's where you were when you were a post-graduate.*

Yes, that was the second place. The first place that I slept was on the 2nd floor down on back, just inside of those double glass doors, where I showed you -

*Just south of the elevator -*

Yes, right inside those double doors, there were 3 beds and then there was several small dormitories, one of them right off what was actually a little hallway where I slept. This little room with 3 bunk beds was called, I think, the Angel Guardian dormitory plus the hallway where I slept. That was the same floor where the girls' infirmary was, the dentist, the doctor's office, things like that.

*You had said earlier when we were walking around that the head of your bed was right up against a door that wasn't used, to Mother William's [the school principal's] cell.*

That's right.

*And so you would hear conversations between Mother William and Mother Serena?*

Yes, one of the funniest ones was, this was after Ellie came. She was a very good friend of mine 'cause we went to school together. And she and I, on Saturdays sometimes, we would go to help out over in the school. Mother William was the principal of the school at that particular time. And we would go over and do things like running the multi-lith machine and things of that sort, various office machines. It'd be kind of like our job.

*Because you weren't going to school during the day?*

Not on the weekend.

*You were going to the college classes during the day.*

And Ellie was in charge of the clothing room during the other times. And what I did during the evenings was a lot of recreational stuff. I taught the girls square dancing out on the blacktop. Sing their songs for them, things of that sort. We'd teach them marching, stuff like that. And then, anyway, it was one Saturday when we were over in the school in this office machine room and we were there by ourselves and they had the old typewriters, the uprights, that had those black covers. We each took one of those covers and made them like veils, and we were over there imitating the nuns, just having a ball.

*Where were you doing that?*

We were doing that just inside the school door, the old school door.

*In the evening?*

No, this was during the daytime. But we were left there - I don't remember exactly what our job was but it had something to do with office machines and we were supposed to be printing something or some such thing but we had this idea to play nuns. And so we took these plastic-like covers and made veils out of them. And then we were swishing around imitating the various nuns. Anyway, in came Mother William. Mother William was the one we were imitating - she was a wonderful sister - but she was very large and so we were - these little twerps - were making fun of her. And she walked in the door and saw us and heard us. And we just caught hell. How disrespectful we were and she couldn't trust us to leave us alone and that whole thing. Just as serious as she could be and we were just mortified that we'd been caught. But anyway -

*Were you disciplined?*

We just got a verbal dressing down. That was discipline. But that night, I was still sleeping downstairs at that time. And my head was up there by the unused doors. Mother Serena, most often on the weekends, would come up and, I don't know, they'd probably talk over the day or talk over how things were going with the girls. Mother William went ahead and told Mother Serena about this and they just laughed and laughed and laughed about how funny we looked and how we had dressed up like the sisters. I never told...I told Ellie, of course, and we laugh about it to this day.

*But you never told Mother William that ...*

That I could hear her? No, no, if I told her at that time, I probably would have had my bed moved. And shortly after that I guess I moved upstairs. But anyway, that was a funny one.

[Referring to 1952 yearbook] I don't have this book. It's nice.

*When we were walking around, let me see, you said so many wonderful things, you were talking about the pergola. And that you went out there after meals and at different times....*

I think we went out there in the mornings mostly. I don't recall if that was before breakfast or maybe right after. There was a long bench in there on one side and then one side facing the back yard, that was open but it was screened off, and it had

a gate that locked so that once you had come out the dining room area, you had that long stretch and then the laundry was at the south side. And this was the gate - we'd be sitting there. It was mostly to get fresh air because there were 200 of us so there wasn't a lot of room to walk around but you could get some fresh air so we'd get outside a little bit.

*And then later during the school day the yard was open?*

Mostly, I don't remember that we had a lot of time after lunch. I don't recall that right now. But mostly that would be on the weekends and in the evenings, we were out there, I think, every evening and would use the yard. I can't remember what that was called. That was the covered -

*The pavilion? Summerhouse?*

The summerhouse but there was another name for it. I don't recall it right now.

*St. Thomas, St. Joseph Gym?*

No, it wasn't called a gym, no.

*But it's the pavilion that you're...*

It's the one that you can see right out the back. And the sides were open like that. There was a big fireplace at the south end that went all winter long. It was beautiful. And then there was, at the north end, a big ice cream machine and we made ice cream out there every weekend, holidays and some evenings in the summer. Soft ice cream.

*I have a photograph of that.*

You do?

*Let's see, this is the assembly room, the auditorium.*

That's right.

*And you had also pointed out the cubbies that were outside of the dormitory.*

There they are. Oh, that's just what I remember - the towel and the washrag, the soap, the toothpaste and the toothbrush, everything lined up in order.

*And then there were also metal lockers, you said, outside of that, where you kept...*

There were metal lockers in there, in this part, rows of them.

*What did you keep in those?*

Our clothes. We usually had one outfit that we were wearing during the week and then another outfit for Sunday and then there would be -

*A uniform for Sunday?*

Uniform, mm, hum.

*Could you take your uniforms off after dinner? Or....*

We wore a uniform all the time except some of them didn't really look like uniforms. One of the uniforms that was very much uniform was a blue jumper and a white blouse. We would get a clean white blouse every Saturday. Saturday was a night we had dinner - we didn't go outside that night - and what was called "early bed". You'd have time to read in the dining room while, in turn by dormitory, the girls would process out to get a clean blouse and clean linens from the clothing room on the basement floor across from the dining area. Our clothing was marked with individual numbers. My number was 107.

There was a little store that Mother Serena ran from her office where you could buy toothpaste and soap and things. Then you'd go up and make your bed, get ready for the night and next morning's Mass when we dressed up in our Sunday finest uniforms and all.

*How did you have money?*

Oh, we didn't have, we didn't carry cash. Mother Serena kept a record of our money on a little 3 x 5 card in her office.

*So it's whatever money you might have come in with?*

Or maybe your parents or somebody sent you a little bit but also you could earn a little bit around here. There was nobody that, even if somebody didn't have parents at all or they weren't sent anything, Mother Serena always saw that they had a little cash account on the card, kept in a little box in her office.

*Can you describe how the bathrooms were set up. You were telling me earlier and ....*

They were set up at the opposite end from the cubbies which would be the north end of the room. Down at the south end of the two big dormitories, the toilet areas were little rooms and they were elevated up one step and I believe there were four - each one with a door that you could close and the door went clear up so that it was an enclosed room. And then from the end of those four toilets down to the outer wall on the hallway side, there were maybe like 15 or so, little sink areas. Now they didn't have, they weren't enclosed by walls. They were like little cubicles and they had a curtain that slid on a rod so that you had privacy in there but it wasn't like the toilet facilities that were very private.

And then for taking a bath, I don't believe we had showers anywhere. I remember only bathtubs. And most of the tubs were down in a room that was kind of attached to the clothing room that was across the hall from the dining room on the basement level. And there were like maybe, let's see, 8 to 10 tubs in there, enclosed but not to the top. The partitions weren't floor to ceiling but definitely were high; you couldn't see over them. And they had, I believe, a curtain but they were very private. You weren't bothered in there at all. And you would be assigned one day a week to take your bath and wash your hair. Because those had to be, I mean, there were a lot of girls and so some of the girls took them in the morning, some of them on Saturdays but not on Sunday, as I recall.

Then there were a few bathtubs that were...the big dorms didn't have any shower or bathtub facilities but some of the smaller ones, like where I told you I slept outside Mother William's cell, just across the hall, there was, by the little infirmary, I believe, there was one bathtub in there. Those would also be used so that ....

*But only on your assigned day?*

Yes. Otherwise...

*And time?*

And time too. And you didn't have a long time in there. You were to get in and get out because there were other people waiting.

*I have two photographs of the classrooms that were taken at different times.*

This was the newer school. This was the new one, the new addition that was way down at the end, the north end of the property. We were then able to have a biology class. When I went to high school, there were no classes in science of any kind because there was nowhere to teach it. But then they were able to have some science classes. I was teaching school here but that was after they built the new building.

*Both of those photographs, you believe, are after the addition?*

This one definitely is. This one, I'm not sure. This may be the old, one of the old schoolrooms. That looks like it. But this one is definitely the new one.

*And this is the typing room.*

Oh, this is the room where the office machines were, in here. And this is where Ellie and I were doing our nun imitation, right in here. And then, these old typewriters - we had come in here to get the covers. Oh, my goodness. [laughter] To get the covers for this. 1957. [date read from back of photograph]

*And here's the room right next to the typing room, maybe?*

Oh, that's it. That's definitely it. "Students employed in printing" [reading from back of photograph]...the multi-lith machine on the right and ditto machine on the left.

*But now when you were there with Ellie, that would have been in about 1952 or '53, after you graduated from high school?*

I finished high school in '51.

*In '51, okay.*

And in '55, this was 1957 here, this picture. So it was 19....

*Were you here when they built the addition? That was in 1954. Do you remember that?*

Yes. Because I remember the biology, the science class. And I had not been able to take science. When I went to college initially...I'm a social worker at this point, but



at that time I was going to be a doctor. And why I thought, I mean, I had trouble in my chemistry classes at Seattle University and it wasn't until my junior year, at the end of my junior year that I figured this is way too difficult and this should not be. Having a challenge was fine but I was really suffering with my science and higher math classes. And so as I was talking with the advisor, he agreed that was just not my cup of tea at that point. So then I decided that as a second goal if I wasn't going to be a doctor, then I wanted to be a social worker. So I am and I've been quite satisfied and happy with the choice I made.

*You got your degree....*

Oh, I got it , Seattle University, I got a sociology degree and the Sisters were going to, said I could go ahead and go to graduate school which is what I wanted to do but I would have to go back to, where's Loyola? Notre Dame? Back there, where they were sending the Sisters. At that point when I was in school, none of the sisters were able to go, or even myself - they wouldn't send me to the University of Washington which had a School of Social Work. They said I could go back to Loyola and they would pay for it but I didn't want to go that far away. I was very attached to this place and so I said no, that I would wait. They didn't want me to go the University of Washington because it was secular and it might be a bad influence. So I waited until after I left here. I was 10 years out of undergraduate school before I went back for my Masters.

*When you graduated from Seattle University, you were still living here during those years?*

Definitely.

*And after you graduated.....*

In here, I believe, was the priest's dining room and this is where, after I graduated, where we had my reception.

*Oh, in the conference room.*

Big long table in here, where the priests would come. After mass, they would have breakfast, and sometimes come at other times. The food would be brought up from the kitchen but they would eat up here. And so there was .... it was a very beautiful room. And this is where I had my little reception afterwards.

*And then you stayed here and began teaching right away?*

Right away. That summer. I finished undergraduate school, June 1955, and I started right away because the students here had school all year long. And full days. That's how I graduated from high school so young.

*What did you teach?*

What did I teach? I taught typing and shorthand and literature, general math and algebra.

*You were 20 years old?*

Yes, I ...

*How old were the girls you were teaching?*

The girls were teenagers, uh huh.

*Did you ever trouble with disruptions?*

No, I never did. We did fun things. I remember in the literature class, we wrote and made our own costumes and did the play, "The Christmas Carol" but we rewrote it for the students in my room. They did, they rewrote it. And everybody picked their part. And then they made their costumes and we did that for the other kids. And the Sisters. No, I didn't have any disruption. And then in the math class, I remember, I'm still friends with Marlene, she lives not too far from me. She was in my math class, in my beginning algebra class. And I did not realize that she did not know basic math, didn't know her times tables. And there were a couple of other girls in there as well and so, I did check with the principal at that time we set up a little group - we had a small table and made a separate group and I worked with them. And they were able to do some algebra but they also had to learn basic math. And Marlene, she went on to college, she's quite bright. And she remembers that class was a good experience and she didn't feel put down by having to take what would've been a special education but we didn't call it that. It was just something right there in the room and it was some extra work. She learned her times tables and things of that sort and there were 3 of them.

*How long did you teach?*

After college, I taught 2 years here and then I spent about 6 months in a convent back in Ohio, a Franciscan order. After I left Ohio, I stayed a couple of months first with friends and then the Good Shepherd Home in St. Paul, in Minnesota; then I came back over here to Seattle and I stayed a few months here at the Good Shepherd Home. While I was living here for a few months, I got a job teaching at Blessed Sacrament, just down the hill, over towards the University District and I taught there a year. And then after that, I got married and had my family. And did my social service work.

*You had told me earlier that Sister William moved you out of the dormitory, that it was time for you to grow up. Tell me....*

That's right. Well, I was teaching school here and I was wearing, well, here's the jumpers [looking at photograph]. Here's the ....

*You were teaching school and you were still wearing a girls' uniform?*

Yes, and here it is right here. It's this one here. This is a navy blue, dark navy blue jumper, one piece. And these were cotton blouses, they all had little collars. They had to be ironed, sprinkled and ironed. And these were our sweaters.

*Did you have to iron them?*

Only when I first came here. No, at that point, I just ironed maybe for a few months when I first came here, just moved in. But they were wearing these all the way through. This was the primary uniform during the week and during the winter, especially. So I was still wearing this when I had graduated from college, from undergraduate, from Seattle University.

*You would come back from classes and you would put on your uniform?*

Yes, I loved my uniform. That might sound funny but I was used to and most comfortable in my uniform at that time.

*This is the uniform that's in the photograph of the classroom.*

And I was teaching school in that. I was the teacher wearing my uniform - I did not wear the uniform, by the way, out to Seattle U. I had to wear my own clothes and I had lovely clothes that Mother Serena had bought for me and Phoebe also, the lady who worked in the kitchen, that I told you about, that had grown up here from a baby on. She and I were good friends.

END OF SIDE A.

**15R 1/3**  
**SIDE B**

Mother Serena would arrange for Phoebe to take me for a few days for my birthday each year somewhere up to Canada. And Phoebe always bought me an outfit of clothes up there.

*Why in Canada?*

So I would have some exposure to other areas. I was born and raised in Seattle. I'd never been anywhere else. So we would go to Victoria; we went to Vancouver. I had my first plane ride. We took the train; we took the boat in the daytime; we took the boat at night.

*Just with Phoebe?*

Just with Phoebe.

*How old was Phoebe?*

Well, Phoebe was maybe, I don't know, she was maybe in her 40's. She seemed very old at that time but she really wasn't.

*And she had been here in the orphanage? And had just stayed here and was the seamstress?*

No, not the seamstress - that was Katie. Phoebe was in charge of the Sisters' kitchen. And she lived up there, I believe it was on the third floor, she and Katie. And that's when Mother William, this was after Mother Serena had left, had been sent somewhere else for a little while, St. Paul, and then, I believe, she came back here but not as the mistress.

But anyway, there I was teaching school and Mother William said that it was, she didn't put it in these words, but mostly it was time for me to kind of grow up and be independent and get a life out and beyond here because I just didn't want to go anywhere. I liked it here. And so the first thing she did was, she said "you've got lots of nice clothes, I want you to start wearing them." And so I did. Off came my uniform and I wore my clothes and I was getting sort of used to that and a couple of

months later, I don't recall how long, but a few months later, she called me in again to her little office and she said "well, you look nice, your clothes are nice and you're doing fine." I got good reports teaching. She said "I think now it's time that we move you from the dormitory up where the other ladies are, like Phoebe and Katie." We each had our private room. She said there was a room that was vacated up there and I think it's time for you to go up there now. And so I did. I didn't stay very long after that. I was still spending almost all of my time with the girls. I didn't go up usually until 11 or 11:30 at night. And after the movie, I just remember that I was tiptoeing up on those squeaky stairs and I'd taken my shoes off and got up there and everything was fine. I went to sleep and got up early the next morning. Phoebe came out of her room which was right next to mine; the walls must have been paper thin probably. But anyway, I had apparently awakened her and she was just like a bear. She said she hadn't gotten any sleep and couldn't I come up the stairs quiet, that I came stomping up the stairs like an old elephant. [laughter].

*How often did you see movies?*

Every week.

*On what...*

Sunday night.

*What kind of movies were they?*

Western movies, comedies, they were on the....I think some of them might have even been in color. They were on the old 35 millimeter....I remember threading the machine, on the big reels. We would rent them.

*16 mm?*

16? okay. There'd be shoot 'em up kind of movies but they'd be the western ones. Or there would be religious ones like, I think, Ten Commandments. Is that an old, old movie? Things like that. I remember we saw the one with Bing Crosby, Bells of St. Mary, all of those. And then there would also be wonderful animal movies, that Mother Serena, I remember a catalog of movies and she'd have to order these ahead of time. And then I can't remember, I think they got mailed back on Monday morning. But we had movies every Sunday night and on holidays.

*What other kinds of special events do you remember? Or activities like that?*

I remember on Tuesday nights the television, I can't remember the year exactly that that came about but maybe a year or two after I was here so it would have been the early '50's, maybe.

*That you got a TV?*

Yes, I'd never seen a TV. I mean, they didn't have them; they just were coming out and they got a black and white one and they put it into the opposite end of this room.

*The assembly room.*

Yeah, oh, we had our movies in here. Right back here is where we had set up the movie machine and then the chairs would be put across like this and then up here would be the screen and also up here where there was a couple of, I can't remember, I don't think davenports, but more like an easy chair. There were some nicer chairs up here at any rate.

*At the north end of the room.*

Yes, at the north end of the room and the television was also up there. I believe it was on Tuesday night, we could watch two things. We went up there for "Bishop Sheen." It was a talk show - do you remember it?

*No.*

I don't even think he's alive right now but anyway he talked for an hour about Catholic things. And so we sat there and listened to that and then there was, oh dear me.... I'm not sure. I want to say it was something like "Inner Sanctum." There was some old kind of a mystery show for a half an hour and we listened to, watched that. Otherwise, there was no television. The television was not something that you just went up and could sit down and watch it if you wanted to. It was a very structured affair.

And then once a week the chairs were set up along the sides like this [looking at photograph]. Once a week in the daytime we had a catechism class and one of the priests from the church just down the road at St. ....

*St. Benedicts?*

St. Benedicts came up and if the priest wasn't available, Mother Serena worked with us. We were there, I think it was right after lunch. And then we had lots of activities in here. We gave several plays a year, definitely a great big play at Christmastime, beautiful things going on. And Mother Serena was the, she wasn't the music teacher, we had music teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong. She taught piano and he taught other instruments and the orchestra. And they came once or twice a week. Anyway, Mother Serena taught the girls' choir. She was also the organist for the Home. And then she would work with the girls to put on these plays. All the costumes were made right here and we would have something special at Easter. We'd have a couple of good plays during the year too. Also, around Christmas again, for several years, she had somebody come in to perform a magic show and I remember winning the rabbit. One girl a year would win the rabbit that came out of the hat.

*A real rabbit?*

Yes, a real rabbit.

*Where was the rabbit kept?*

Most of the girls sent theirs home but I kept mine here and Mother Serena said I could keep it if I didn't let it get the place dirty. But like I told you upstairs, I was one of the girls who worked very close with Mother Serena. That was my job here. I worked as kind of her secretary, until I started teaching school, until she left actually. And one of the little side jobs that I had every Saturday night, I went up and changed her linen in her room and laid out her clean clothes and did her bath water for

when she would come up. I would go up there in the afternoon. I remember that I took the rabbit up one time and there was another little accident because the rabbit piddled on her clean sheets. And I had to go down to Katie and get another set of sheets, which was kind of embarrassing.

*Now tell me the other story you told me before about how when you were changing her linens -*

Oh, the mouse? That was another time. When I was out shopping or something, I found this little fuzzy mouse that was about 2 or 3 inches long, just a little gray fuzzy thing and so I was going to pull another prank on Mother Serena. I ran her bath water and put her bubble bath in there and then back on the back ledge of the tub, I put this little mouse. And so she went in there and of course, she let out a little screech and then she came out because she was mad and she knew I wasn't asleep but it was dark and we had gone to bed. This was late, like 11:00, 11:30. And so she came out and was, you know, I don't remember what she said, but anyway, why did I do that? Didn't I know I scared her? Anyway, she must have dropped her false teeth and they went under my bed so I made her all the madder. And I had to get out of bed and get them. Then she went back in her room. We laughed about that many many times later but not that day. Because she was embarrassed.

*You mentioned that there would be discipline going on sometimes on the stairway or upstairs. What kind of discipline?*

Yes. There was sometimes hitting going on at that time. That was the one part that was not good. I didn't really deal with all of that then. I don't know what I thought it was....I tried to block all of that out when I was here because I participated in some of it. I don't remember ever hitting a girl directly myself but I did stand around....Mother Serena had some girls that would stand by her and it was more of a moral support thing. I don't remember that she ever talked to me about it. We didn't ever talk about it. I never even talked about it with her before she died. Back so many years ago there was hitting taking place as a form of discipline in most if not all the schools I had been in so I guess it was considered more or less normal discipline for the times. I went into some therapy about ten years ago and started dealing with it then - what I considered was really abusive.

*The nuns hitting girls?*

I only saw Mother Serena do it. And sometimes I understand there were some times when girls would be encouraged to do that. I never hit anybody but I very much over the years when I really started to deal with it felt that I was part of it because the tacit agreement that I had with Mother Serena was that I would stand by her in anything and I just worshiped her. She was a parent figure to me and that was just something, I don't know how, I kind of fixed it in my head that it was just part of growing up or being disciplined or something. It was not good. It didn't happen frequently but it happened enough that it disturbed me. And there would be some hitting that would go on.

*Did you say the girls were encouraged to hit each other?*

Apparently, this was either when I first came here - remember that I was a freshman, I was a new girl. I was just coming in. And I'm still, last summer, I had kind of a reunion after 49 years and 50 years. There were four of us that met. I can show you in my annual. But anyway, there were four of us that met and one of them is living in

Hawaii now. Sidetracking for a minute, when new girls came in, you had a bigger girl in charge of you, not bigger physically but older, older maybe in age and older definitely in terms of being a resident here, being a student. They knew the ropes and they were to see that you learned about the place, that you were given a tour, that you learned all the things that you needed to learn to live here, not just about where things were but that you knew, that you were integrated into the full program. And you pretty much stayed with that person.

Well, I hadn't seen Jackie from Hawaii for 49 years - she remembered being in charge of me. I don't remember that and I don't believe that she was because I sort of remember another girl who was but I don't tell Jackie that because she just gets a kick out of "helping to mold my character" and it's okay. I remember Jackie very well. This is my high school annual.

*This is a different kind of binding than the one I have.*

Yes, we did all of this by hand on the multi-lith machine, on those machines that you have a picture of. So my book is not as good as this book [referring to the 1952 book] because the pictures, the group pictures are almost all faded. Here they are. Jackie is not even in here. I can't remember the question you even asked me. Do you want me to sidetrack and just do what I'm doing?

*Sure.*

When I came here, this person was Mother Serena's right-hand girl. Her name was Catherine. She was her secretary. She got the kids to bed at night. She called the square dances. She ran the movies, all the things that when she left to go to a convent, then I took her place.

*She was a sophomore?*

She's in college. She's a post-graduate.

*She went on to become a nun?*

Yes. She's passed away now. She died a couple of years ago. Wonderful girl. She was here a couple of years while I was just a little kid. And this was another girl, she just passed away a few months ago, Bea. She'd been here a long time. She came here two or three times and these were girls who were officers, mostly these two. They played a real dominant role in our lives as Good Shepherd girls. Bea was a beautiful, beautiful seamstress and she ran the sewing room. There was a teacher, Mrs. Snell but Bea did all the real work...Oh, yes, look at that. That's where we learned to sew.

*That was across from the assembly room?*

Yes, I showed you where that was. That's it. This is where we worked on the formals and everything. Oh, my...wish I had copies of these pictures.

*I'm not sure if this .....it's not dated. Do you remember those uniforms?*

Oh, yes. These were some that we wore later. These were newer than the jumpers. They were green and gray with little matching hats that we wore on Sundays. And Bea was in charge of the sewing room. One of the older girls would

be in charge of, or designated as the primary helper to one of the Sisters, of the various departments (like the sewing room, kitchen, laundry, etc.) where they would teach the younger girls how to do things. And they would help supervise in there because the Sisters couldn't do it alone with such large numbers of girls. There was only one nun and her assistant. And Bea came back and worked here, she didn't work in the building but she volunteered, did things for the Sisters many, many years after she left. She just passed away last summer. She was going to be the fifth one - we tried to get her - the woman who organized our little reunion tried to get Bea to come but she didn't want to and then she passed away actually within a couple of days before we got together last August.

[looking at an annual] This was our graduating class. But anyway, each girl had someone in charge, who looked out for her. There were girls who were older and they were also girls who weren't getting into trouble. A girl could have been here for awhile and running away and just causing problems and they wouldn't be given these younger kids and newer kids. I remember my charge, Gretta.

*What kind of rules, what did Gretta tell you? What were the rules, both spoken and unspoken?*

That you did as you were told. You weren't supposed to be sassy. When you were still under the supervision of one of these girls, you stayed with them. You sat at their table and you definitely stayed with them when you were outside.

*You stayed with them for how long?*

In these groups. It depended. There was no set time. And I don't remember exactly. I probably was with Gretta for, I suppose, a few months or maybe a year. I don't remember that exactly. But another time that you sat with them was in the Sunday movie. You sat in the same row with your charge. And sometimes, I had, sometimes 12, 15 girls that I looked after when I started having girls assigned to me.

*At the same time?*

Yes, at the same time. You usually had kind of a mixture. Mother Serena was good about mixing the girls into these little, they would be like mini-groups so that you didn't have all the kids that were really, that got in a lot of trouble for a lot of different things. You'd have some kids that were more compliant and then those who were more rebellious. Some of them because they would run, they would try to get out... I remember one girl that I had, her name was Beverly. She wanted out so bad, she jumped out a second floor front window and broke her leg. Things like that. Then you'd have to give them some extra supervision.

But the rules included what time you got up, the whole process of going to bed, like how you placed certain things, there were rules...you have the picture with the little cubbyholes. There were rules around that - how things had to be lined up. You can see it there. This one. There would be rules around this that, all the cups had to be in the same corner. You didn't just put your cup back in there or slide your toothbrush and lay it on the shelf, it had to be in the cup. And then the towels went on one side and the washcloth on the other. And you didn't just, like now, you might just set a towel in somewhere. You don't have to be that tidy. But then we had to fold them and put the little washrag, we folded that - can't remember if it was in half, or in thirds, one of the two, and put it on the...there were two little metal rods that came out. So there were the rules around that.



And there were the rules around what you put in your locker and where did you put it. What did you hang up versus what you put on the one shelf versus what you put on the floor. There were certain places for everything.

*And then you had to wash your underclothes each night, you said?*

Oh, yes. Every night of the week. We washed the underpanties, the bra, and socks. And sometimes they didn't get dry, especially in the winter, especially the socks because they were cotton. We wore a lot of saddle shoes and we wore what would be like a crew sock today. They were a heavier cotton and they didn't always get dry.

*And you had to hang them on your bed?*

Yes, the beds were iron with a headboard and foot thing. It was just a piece of iron that came like this with little slats and you hung your wet clothes over the bottom rail. And then there was a monitor for each dormitory and I remember upstairs that Bea, who I showed you, I think she had Sacred Heart. She had one of the big dormitories. Dorm monitors were girls that had been here for awhile because they were monitoring like 50 girls each in the two big dorms - one up on the top floor Sacred Heart and the one on the 2nd floor down. And they would come around and check to see that you had washed your clothing.

*What if you hadn't? Or something was out of order?*

You would be told to wash it but do you know, I don't recall it. In all the years I was here, you just simply did it. My motto which sometimes gets in my way today was, we all picked one, was "do well all that you do". I've had to learn to not be a perfectionist. Everything has a proper place. This tells a whole story - we also had a larger, what was called a storage space, a cubby space, in the clothing room. Every girl had a space - it was about this wide and about this tall. Certain things were stored in there. That was your other storage space and then you had in the long hall right outside of the dining room, you had another cubby that was like this. Slightly bigger but they were built just like the dorm cubbies. And that's where you hung your apron and a couple of other things could go in there.

*And that was in the clothing room?*

No, the big one was in the clothing room. The smaller one built just like this was lined up on the wall outside of the dining area on the bottom floor. Each one of us had an apron that you wore before every meal and that's where you'd hang your apron. There were rules around all of that. When did you wear the apron? What did you put in these various storage places? And then also things, I remember that everything had to be tidy, things folded in certain ways, the towels. To this day, I fold my towels the same way. Ellie and I often laugh because she folds her towels the same way. We both do. And we learned it from here. We just laugh. I've lightened up in most areas of my life but I still fold my towels the Good Shepherd way, and my underclothes, I still fold and line up like little soldiers in a row in my dresser drawer.

*Did you see any changes during those years that you were here? You were here for about 8 years. Did any of that change over the years that you noticed?*

None of this changed during my initial 8 years at the Good Shepherd except in the school department and a little bit in the counseling area. I saw some definite changes when I returned from my convent stay.. Things were getting a little more relaxed. Treatment in the community and around the States was changing its way of working with children. Instead of the large group milieu kind of treatment, they were going to these smaller groups so the Good Shepherd Sisters were getting ready for that.

And I definitely saw changes in school at the time the new school building was erected around 1954. A big one there because there was no science when I went to high school here and I was very deficient in it. I would have loved to take biology but there wasn't any. There was no lab room to teach it in. So what we were getting was more in the area of, of course, all the office machines, all the home economic kind of things, histories, literature, math, we got all that. That much, however, was good, very good education.

*And art? Looks like there was a lot of art here....*

Yes, that's Mother Ursula and she also had a pottery room. And she had a little bird, Tweety Bird was the bird's name, a canary bird. I had forgotten that.

*She had a bird?*

She had a bird in a beautiful birdcage and it was a little canary named Tweety Bird.

*She kept it in her cell or in the classroom?*

She kept it up in the artroom.

*Were there other pets here?*

We had cats. But Mother Ursula had a bird and when I left here, when I moved out physically, she gave me Tweety Bird and the cage for my little apartment. She said I could have the little bird so I took it, cage and all. Mother Ursula was a sweetheart, very, very kindly. She had a sharp tongue once in a while but she was never unkind, never. I worked with her on some weekends. I got to go upstairs and paint.

*When you first came, were you afraid of any of the girls?*

No, I wasn't, really. I know that one of the....I know what we were talking about, we were talking about discipline. That's what got me sidetracked. When I met with this group last summer, last August, they were all, the other three women that were there all graduated before I did. Two of them graduated together and the other one year later. The two earlier graduates, told me they had seen some of the girls, on the top floor landing and there was some disciplining going on. And some hitting and there would be a circle of some girls but I don't know that myself. I never saw a girl hit another girl.

*When they were talking about the circle of girls, it was girls hitting girls?*

There would be one girl that was being disciplined. There was always only one.

*So it was nuns hitting a girl?*

Yes.

*But there would be a circle of girls watching?*

Watching and when I started doing that, which was after Catherine went to the convent, and I became Mother Serena's special helper, part of that role was to be with her when-

*She disciplined a girl?*

When she disciplined a girl. And to not let that girl be wiggling around and moving. And that's how, I told you I didn't hit but I felt like I hit, and I felt, not during those years, I must have felt it inside-

END OF TAPE 1.

### **15R 2/3** **SIDE A**

I toyed with even not telling you about this part. This is not something that I usually talk about. I will talk about it with people sometimes but I have to explain. I don't do it routinely because it's not a part....it wasn't everyday. I don't mean to say that it happened alot but even if it happened only one time, it was still, as I believe now, not okay.

*Did you feel that it was, did other nuns do that as well? Or Mother Serena was the only one?*

No, I only saw Mother Serena but she was class mistress in charge. Later when the Home broke into small groups - I don't think they called them mistresses - they called them something else. But they were in charge of a group of maybe 20 girls or 25 girls. They didn't have 200 girls. This disciplining, that's what I'd call severe disciplining, didn't take place every day. But I can still see it, enough times... it shouldn't have been but those were still in the years when, I know I went to a Catholic school on the outside, in the 7th grade, I went to Holy Angels. Those were the years when one time I didn't wear a uniform to school. I was just rebellious. Or some other kid might - they were using rulers. You were really wacked. Mother Serena wasn't using a ruler. She was using most of the time a broom which was...or something like that...or her hand. But there was physical discipline in the schools all over. Now there is not or should not be. It wouldn't be allowed. But in those days...

*Was she spanking them with a broom or was she hitting them on other parts of their body?*

Yes, kind of hitting. And there was verbal, trying to make you be a better person. I got slapped one time, not with a broom, and there was nobody else around. I got slapped in the face but she was, and then along with that, the verbal stuff was that "it was just the devil that was tempting you" to do whatever it was. She was trying to make you straighten up and fly right. But those were hard times. I never saw the other nuns do that. They could give you a tongue lashing but about something very specific.

*Did you have visitors or go on outings during those years?*

We could go home, I believe, twice a year. I think we had visitors once a month, your immediate family and I don't know, maybe some of the girls had.... mostly it was family. We did the visiting in the auditorium and the chairs would be set around in little groups all over this floor. It would be on a Sunday. And they'd just take 2 or 3 chairs and you'd find yourself a little spot.

What I don't remember is if, vaguely, it seemed to me that some had a visiting day on one Sunday and maybe another 50 people had it on another day. I don't think that 200 could have gotten in here because this is where your family sat as well. And I didn't have visitors all the time but like I say, my mother had mental health problems and she was in a hospital quite a bit of that time. But when I did have a visitor, we'd just pull up chairs and sit, make yourself a little spot. Just vaguely, I think we might have had different Sundays. But it was once a month and then two times a year you could go home if you were behaving yourself and generally speaking, the girls were pretty compliant. We'd do pranks like the little mouse and one time there were several of us, we went up and I showed you where they stored the priest's wine for mass.

*That was up on the top floor-*

Um hum, in one of the little storerooms where we had Christmas decorations and they stored a lot of things for the chapel up there. And I was up there; I had been sent up to clean or something. I found this wine and I snatched it. So during the movie one time, I passed it out. We had just little sips - there wasn't very much. But I had found a bottle to put it into - slipped it in. There'd be things like that.

*Did you get caught doing that?*

No, no I didn't.

*This is people around the piano with Sister Michael [showing photograph]. Was that the piano that was in the assembly room or the music room? Do you know?*

This wasn't in the music room. This was in the auditorium. You can see it, it's right here. I think it was right here in the back of the auditorium. What year was this one?

*I'm not sure if that has a year on it.*

No, it doesn't.

*Now-*

Sister Michael is still alive, I understand.

*She is. I met her.*

Does she go by that name?

*She does. She still goes by Sister Michael.*

And she's in-

*She's in St. Paul.*

And her blood sister was here.

*Right.*

During all the years that I was. She ran the chapel.

*Do you know where that was? [referring to a photograph]*

This was out in the - I wish I could remember the name of that place, what we called it. Let's call it the summerhouse but we used it all year long, winter, summer, the whole time. This was out there.

*This is the fireplace that was at one end?*

Let me see if I can picture this. This probably was before my time. What year? Tables were still there, chairs were still there. No, this was at the north end of the building because...

*It looks like it wasn't completely open.*

I can show you another picture. Do you want to see it now or afterwards?

*Oh, sure, I'd love to see it.*

Let's see, if you can picture...this is north....this would have been out here, the front of the building, see where this is all open? There was a wide open space. This was all open. And in here, down here was the south end, which would have been down here in this picture, where there was a big stone fireplace. I believe it was floor to ceiling - big - it was beautiful - big, stone. And then the one and only door was down there, the regular door. But this all had, I can't remember if they were folding doors or sliding doors or something but the whole middle part, longways, opened up, so that this was all open during the summer or during any kind of weather when we were outside. And then out, that would be in this picture, it's this little...

*The other end...*

so it's the west side of the summerhouse that you see out there, the length of it. Going that way, on the west, this opened up and then all in the front...

*And this was the blacktop.*

Yes, this was the blacktop so that's, the grotto, this was all blacktop. There's a step out here. You can see it. A cement step. And we all tended to congregate out there, sitting out there. You'd be with your charge or if you had other girls, you'd tend to keep them with you. And then this is the microphone where we called, I told you about calling the square dances; there was a little record player right in here or there would be other music. There was some other kind of music, women's vocals only, no men. Absolutely, that was one of the strictest rules. On the radio, if you're playing the radio, if a man's vocals came on, the radio must be turned off and you sat in silence until it was over.

Anyway, and out here, this was the place where we danced and over the whole section, we rollerskated. We marched too. We had Mother Serena's Feast Day every August. It was like they're celebrating their birthdays but their religious name day instead. We had a huge, like a carnival, a fair. It was beautiful. We worked on it for months and months and months. And it was different every year. It was around a theme, a Mexican, Hispanic theme or I don't know, Asian theme, or whatever, Indian. And then inside of the summerhouse, we had booths. They lined up, the booths were all decorated. It was gorgeous. Out here, we started off with the carnival. We had animal costumes that we made. We had lions that jumped through the hoops and we had an elephant. It was wonderful. You were asking about activities. That was a big deal, a very big deal, in August, every August 15.

This was my 21st birthday [showing photograph - holding cake]. I don't recall ever having a cake before. That was the first birthday cake in my life that I recall.

*So this was the east side of .... the other side was open.*

This was the north. This long wall would have been the east. This long wall would have had the sliders or folding doors or something. Down here where you can't see it is the south end that had the entry door, just a regular door, and the fireplace.

*So it wasn't completely open like it is now. If you look out at the pavilion now, it's completely open, there's not any side walls.*

Right.

*But back then, it did have side walls.*

They had some windows; these walls were here. Parts of this were open. This was not here when I was here [looking at interviewer's photograph]. So this must have been before, probably, because in this whole corner right here, kind of on a slant, was the ice cream machine. You said you had a picture of that.

*I do.*

We made ice cream out here and during the dinner meal which we ate inside...that's it. So that would be right here, on a slant. This was slanted. Yes and a counter was here. There were the three different spigots so you could make three different flavors at the same time. The milk came in these great big cans...like you'd see out on a farm. So this must have been shortly before that. Because the ice cream machine was still there when I left. And the girl, whoever was kind of in charge of doing that, would come out and get it ready, I think, mostly on Sunday. You could go out and have ice cream all afternoon or whenever we had any kind of a special day. We had lots of picnics. We ate outside alot in the summer, right at the end of the summerhouse. We would line up these big tables and cook, barbeque, and lots and lots of good food.

And then these were still in the summerhouse when I left. The ping pong tables. And this little bowling alley thing.

*And this was the girls' yard....*

You can see it right here, this is the east side that opened up so that would be right here. You have to picture this opening. I think they would be maybe the width of

four doors, that folded or something like that. And then this is where they danced. They played baseball, tennis, badmitten, rollerskated alot.

*Where did you keep the rollerskates?*

Well, I'm not sure.

*They were already out for you.*

We rollerskated alot. I don't remember where they were but I think they were kept in a small room at the end of the pergola.

*There's a dormitory.*

These are wonderful pictures. Our beds upstairs, these were probably at the newer time, because when I was here, we could not have stuffed animals. This must have been when they went to a smaller, I bet when they were trying to go to the smaller groups, which they did, as I understand it, in stages. They didn't just all of the sudden go to four groups. But we couldn't have anything on the beds at all.

And we did not have these little tables either. This must have been later because we had the iron beds, all the beds were the same; they had the headboard and the footboard, the foot thing with the rounded iron where you hung the wet clothes at night. You tucked the bedspread behind that. This is more of a Hollywood style bed and we didn't have those. And then what was between these beds was one chair. Everybody had a chair. The middle beds... I vaguely remember a chair there but I'm not positive but I know that everybody who slept on the side, there was a chair between.

[looking through photographs] They brought the ping pong tables outside. These were obviously later pictures because the girls are in their own clothes. And up until when I left here, they didn't wear their own clothes here at all. The closest we came - this was a uniform - a blue skirt, kind of a cotton twill and these blouses were all made here - this was pink and it had, it was a little more modern blouse. You can see it right here, it had a little scoop neck. We all had the same kind and I showed you Bea, the one who passed away - she made all those blouses, she and the girls that worked in the sewing room. They got a pattern and we all had one. They were kind of blousy, they were pretty and they were cotton. And they didn't require the kind of care that the starched white ones, in days when they had to be sprinkled and you'd roll them up and put them in a towel and then, people like me, we ironed them. And it was very difficult not to scorch the blouse. That was a cause for getting into difficulty. But you were trained.

By the way, this is Barbara, one of the women last year at our little reunion. She was in charge of the clothing room and she taught me to iron. And you asked if girls were ever afraid here, Barbara talked about being afraid sometimes. She had seen and heard of some of the hittings. Barbara has since passed away. We did some tapes last summer too.

*Oh, you did.*

Jackie was pulling it together and she's writing some stuff. And we did a video and some other tapes which she says she will share with you. Barbara talked alot about that. I don't remember her very well because she was older than I was. My 22

memory of her was that she was a very quiet person and that she ran the clothing room and taught me how to iron these starched blouses. The irons were old and they were very easy to scorch things. So I remember that about her. Otherwise, she just didn't play a big role in my life because she was very quiet. And she said that she kept quiet because she was afraid and she never wanted to get into any kind of difficulty and she never did. She recalls being very, very good and very attentive but it wasn't a real kind of.....she said she was not happy. She saw some of this other stuff and she didn't want that to happen to her so it kept her pretty quiet.

*Was it just hitting that she was afraid of?*

Um hum, she didn't like the verbal either which usually went along with that. But no, she didn't want to be hit. She had had some of that before in her life and she didn't want to repeat it so she kept away from it.

This was up in the art room. I was able to go up there; sometimes they let me go up on a weekend. And this is Tweety Bird, the little, not a parakeet, but a canary. And when I left Mother Ursula gave me the little bird and its cage and she had made a little cloth cover for it.

*Was this your camera? Did you have a camera?*

This might have been for the newspaper or annual or something and they just gave me a picture. This was one that definitely was for the newspaper. Oh, another activity that we had, many of us did that - was beauty school.

*Was that during the school day or weekends that you took beauty school?*

No, that was in the evenings, I believe, weekends, evenings. It was a big deal. Lots of people took that and you got credits for that, or hours. And that was another thing at graduation time, along with the scholarships for Seattle University, there were scholarships for Mary Stone's Beauty School in downtown Seattle. And girls were able to earn their hours from here but never enough to graduate to become a licensed beautician. But some of them got scholarships to the beauty school and they went on to become beauticians. And so this picture was just kind of a mock-up probably for the paper.

This was a newer uniform towards the end that we had. This was the second jumper that we had, I don't remember the exact color - a greenish color, I think. But again, you see the white blouse and the jumper type.

*Did they build the swimming pool while you were here?*

That came in afterwards. They were building it but when I came back from Ohio, it was in. I never swam in it. It was during my later years.

This is a picture of Mother Serena. I don't know if you have any of her.

*No, I haven't seen any pictures of Mother Serena.*

That's her. This was a big one. She was very kindly despite what I'm telling you about when she would hit. Her heart was in the right place, I swear to God. She just wanted you to be a good girl and when she saw something that she really considered was, you know, it wasn't just a minor thing in her opinion. It was



something very serious, it was going to lead you to sin and going to hell and that kind of thing. And she wanted you to be good and she was doing everything she could. I'm not making excuses for her but she was all, she really was all heart. She was a wonderful, wonderful, wonderful person. She was kind of short, kind of chunky. I loved her.

[looking at photo of summerhouse] That was, well, this was kind of closed in. So this was when I was here, so there were some little windows in there. I had forgotten - you can see them right there. Which is like that picture that you showed me. And these were just all girls that were there.

*I'd like to look through those.*

This was the, well you can see, Catherine, and she was a few years older than I was. She had graduated, maybe two years before I came here as a freshman. She was Mother Serena's, just like I said, her right-hand girl. Mother Serena had many girls that were very loyal to her and whom she used in a capacity to help her supervise.

*Who was the second mistress at that time?*

At that time, it was Mother Dominic, or this Vera Gallagher, and then there was, boy I can't remember, Agnes, Mark, I can't remember some of the later ones. Mother Dominic, during most of the time that I was here. When Catherine went to the convent, I took over her little jobs to help Mother Serena and the other Sisters.

And this was out in the front, you said the pedestal is there, but not the statue. This was in the sisters' side but we used that for the May crowning and again, it was a long, long procession of girls going by twos and we'd start off in the building and be singing songs and go winding around the yard and end up at the statue and have the crowning. That was another, it was a very big thing. These are just many girls who were there. This was Catherine after she became a nun. She sent me a picture. We corresponded until she passed away a few years ago.

*Is that in Hawaii?*

It's down in the South. I think that was in Tennessee or Louisiana, somewhere like that.

*She became a Good Shepherd Sister?*

She did but she entered and remained in another province.

*But she was working? She wasn't a contemplative?*

No, she was a working Sister. She taught school. And she did a lot of things with girls' groups. We wrote twice a year, once at Christmas, a long letter and a long letter at Easter, until she passed away. Even though, like I say, I didn't know her that well, but I always felt like I became very close to her because when I started working with Mother Serena, I sat at Catherine's desk and used many different things that she had used. I picked up the work for Mother Serena, I wrote a lot of letters for her. She received, sometimes, it would be 20 letters in a day, or more. Girls from years and years before and Mother answered every one of them but Catherine and then myself, we would help her answer those letters. Mother would sometimes add a handwritten note at the end of the typed letter.

*And she would sign them?*

She would sign them or she might say "well, I want you to add this". But she had to have some help or she couldn't have answered everything. So in that office where I showed you just down the hall here [2nd floor], she had her big desk. There was also a little desk where Catherine sat and then where I sat for all those years, and someone sat after me, another Barbara, whom I haven't seen her for 40 years. She and I are going to get together over the 4th of July. She's coming up from Arizona.

*So you've really stayed in touch with alot of girls.*

Just a few, not too many. This Barbara, I haven't seen for probably 40 or 45 years, however we have written to each other at least yearly over all these years.

*This is...*

That's me when I graduated from high school. These are all girls that were here. Most of these, I had alot of godchildren from here, through baptism and confirmation. So alot of these are pictures of those girls. This is Ann who lives in Portland, she was here, she was maybe 13, 14 years old. She's still married to the same person. They still live in the same house. We correspond yearly and see each other often every few years. She's one of my godchildren. And this is a girl who after Barbara, Clara, she had the clothing room for about 2 or 3 or 4 years maybe. And then there would be, most of the girls who were in charge of these places, we had a group, not a club but a girls' sodality. It's a Catholic organization made up of officers, prefect, vice prefect, secretary and different levels of officers. You wore ribbons and we had capes and different things like that. We were all officers. I was the Sodality Prefect for several years. With the help of these officers is how one mistress could supervise and provide support for 200 girls.

*Is this whole book photos of girls or? Or some of it is your family?*

No, well, some of them. These were all girls.

*We were on this page before.*

And this was Karen. That's my god-baby. And her sister was here too.

*How did you have all these god-babies?*

Well, just girls that I knew from here and had stayed in touch with for awhile afterwards. I don't really - if you asked me what faith I am, of an organized religion, I'd say Catholic but I don't go to mass anymore. I just don't. These are all, several of these are my godchildren.

This is Eloise, whom I do stay in touch with. She's my closest friend even though she lives away. Having no real siblings of my own, Ellie has been like a sister to me since we were 16 years old. We are both in our 60's now. And this is Marlene, the one that I taught; this was her wedding picture, the one that was in my Algebra class special math class. She's gone to college, she's very bright. She and I roomed together after I left here. She came out about a year after I did and she came to live with me and we rented a little house together until I went to the convent. Then again, after my return until we both married right within the same period of time.

*Did you consider becoming a nun?*

I was. I did but not in the Good Shepherd Sisters.

*The convent that you went to-*

It was a Franciscan order.

*So you considered it-*

Back in Ohio. I only stayed six months.

These are actually children of girls that I went to school with here. These are some more. These are Marlene's little girls. These are the children of, I don't have the woman's picture here, the social worker that worked here, one of the social workers, after I left and was teaching school. She didn't live here. These are not from there. No.

And I don't keep in touch with these people. This fellow and his wife, they're godparents to my two sons, so I do have contact with them, Bobbi and Reed have six children. And like I say, Bobbi, Barbara was a social worker here for a couple of years.

*What else do you have? You have a big canvas bag filled with stuff.*

Let's see. I have, these are pictures - I showed you Mother Serena. These are various awards and certificates with dates on them so that helped me remember when I took certain classes and did other things. Most of the girls here took shorthand and typing, office machines, all of that, because that was one of the main educational opportunities. So this was a little book that was given out to save the certificates in.

*When you graduated?*

No. Just at the time that I was here. These were little achievements in typing and things of that sort. Just the little things that I earned.

END OF SIDE A.

**15R 2/3**  
**SIDE B.**

Just the little that I earned at different times. These awards were usually given out when we would get report cards. And they were for typing, shorthand, these were bookkeeping.

*Your family would still get regular reports?*

Regular report cards. St. Euphrasia, as our school was called, was connected to the public schools, Seattle Public Schools. These were bookkeeping, just little achievement awards. This one was -

1950.

1950. Doesn't it say a grade in there?

*First honors, freshman class. Sister Mary William signed it.*

I had forgotten what grade I was in when I entered here too. In looking through this stuff over the last years, I've been able to remember that better. And these were given out, you didn't have to be perfect, but if you made a good effort....

*This one that you have says that you were in high school but you were post-graduate. But you were given first honors in class standing. Was that when you were taking the college course?*

Yes, this would have been the first year of college that we took here when we got the scholarship. Scholarships were one year and they were taught right here in the building by Mother Dominic, Sister Vera Gallagher. There would be maybe 6 or 7 girls, something like that at a time.

And then most of the girls that took that one year of college at the Good Shepherd Home, most of them left afterwards. They went home or they went to an apartment or they got a job or they did something of that sort, not very many stayed on. But my intent was to stay here for a long, long time. And later when I was going to go to the convent, I had intended to stay here until I went. But that little episode about the elephant walk, I left, maybe 4 or 5 months that I was living out in an apartment.

But these would be primarily for academic achievement. Your attitude was included in that but primarily academic. They would give these out - by a long shot, it wasn't just to me. These were given out to many girls who deserved this. There wasn't just a first honors; there was second and probably others. The Sisters were very generous in telling you that you were doing a good job because so many kids, we didn't think we were worth much of anything coming here. I think the whole atmosphere, the Sisters, and just the whole environment here was geared towards - while it was strict - it was geared towards building up your confidence and your self-image, that kind of thing.

This was another typing one. This was a picture of my graduation class. I saved this tassel. The gowns were blue and the little tassels were gold.

*You saved your tassel?*

I saved both my tassels; I saved the ones from St. Euphrasia and the one from Seattle University. This ribbon and medal attached was worn - I was telling you about the officers -

*The sodality?*

The sodality. This was the sodality, with light blue capes and we had little blue beanie hats and then we had this ribbon. We also had a cord with a medal on the end that we wore as officers but I don't know what happened to that one. I didn't save it.

*When did you wear these?*

Sundays, special holy days, when we had our group meetings, our sodality meetings - it was worn like this. We wore them to chapel on Sunday. We had pretty blue capes made of satin, I'm sure I couldn't have taken that one with me. But Betty, one of the women from last summer's reunion, she had saved her officer's pin, the cord with the medal on it.

*Was that after your graduated? Or were you in Sodality before that?*

Before that. And if you were a young kid, I think you could be in the Blessed Mother Sodality as a freshman but there were children in grade school here, so from the 8th grade down, they were in the Angel Guardian Sodality. They also had little capes and there were fewer of them because there were mostly older girls here but the Angel Guardians had their little ribbons as well but they were pink. They also had a prefect, vice-prefect, a secretary, all the way down. Then they would have officers in there who would help, so it was kind of a pyramid type thing so that you could really - there weren't any set numbers - like there wouldn't be - that there could only be 5 officers - there could be 10 or there could be 15, whatever - if there were 15 girls that were considered eligible for that, then that's what it was. You didn't have a limited number and the same with the young kids, the Angel Guardians.

*What were the youngest kids that were here?*

I don't remember exactly, I would say maybe 5th and 6th grade. There were no little kids like 8 and 9 - they weren't here. I would say maybe 10 was the youngest.

*How were the dorms divided? Was it mixed ages or -*

They were mixed but some of the dorms that were the smaller ones, like the one that was right where I slept downstairs, and that little room next to it, had three bunk beds in there. Those would have been girls that didn't need to have as much supervision. So it wouldn't have been a brand new girl. The newer girls would have been in a larger, more open area, until they got used to being here, but also until you could see how they were going to do.

We would be able to join certain things. If there was something to join, you could join it. There would be certificates, sometimes we had to pay a little bit of money to join. These would be outside things we'd hear about- I don't know where.

*These were always religious organizations?*

Yes, as I remember. It would be places like, even to this day, I get things from this society or that society - they usually want a donation. I don't think you had to pay very much - I remember this one - it was 25 cents to join and I've kept this certificate of membership.

*The Central Association of the Miraculous Medal.*

Perpetual membership. They sent you a little medal about this size and I think it was made out of tin - just a little medal of the Blessed Mother. And then you got a little holy card and you got this certificate. So I proceeded to enroll my entire family, none of them being Catholic, including a couple of my aunts. One aunt - she'll be 93 in a week - was and still is an absolutely strict Christian Scientist. So I wrote them all a little note along with their individual cards and medals. My mother kept hers. And I enrolled my father and the whole of them but Aunt Agnes wrote back to me, wrote

me a little note that said basically thanks but no thanks and don't ever do this again. To this day, she has a little problem with Catholics. What it is, I don't know. But that one I remember real clearly. And there would be a lot of these groups and then Mother Serena would usually find out about it and tell us about it and if you had your 25 cents, you could fill out this little application and you just made a list of who all...and then they sent these things to your relatives or friends or whoever but I thought that was a big deal. I saved these few.

This was the only annual that I came away with. A lot of the pictures faded. There were two years, as I can understand it, that the paper was not good. And this happened to be one of them. The artwork, I did all the printing in here and the writing, and a girl by the name of Dorothy did the little sketches. But we wrote all of this - we had an annual...

*This is when you were a senior? How did you get to do the annual? Did you just need to speak up and say you wanted to help with the annual?*

You spoke up but also I had tended to help out on a lot of the art projects. I was pretty good with art, like for the carnival, I did a lot of the posters that went up and whenever there were things like these that came through and they needed girls, if they needed writing done on them, I was usually given that to do. I wrote all of these.

*When you were a post-graduate, I noticed you were a reporter so you were still allowed to be involved in the yearbook.*

Yes. These were our typists. I remember these really well. I've gone through this book so many times. This was the Superior during part of the time I was here. Mother William was part of the time. This is Sister William right here. This is Mother Serena and this is Catherine.

Another neat thing that happened - every Christmas, I think this came about in January or whenever it was, but around Christmastime. Boeing donated thousands of dollars every year and every girl in the building got a new outfit - everybody - all 200. The older girls pretty much got outfitted from head to toe; those were in the years when we wore hats, gloves, high heels, the whole works. And everybody got to go out. There probably was a limit moneywise - I'm sure there was - but I was able in those years to take girls out to go shopping, we went to Lerner's downtown; there were several stores. And I'd take maybe 3, 4 or 5 girls at a time and we'd outfit them. I got an outfit too but....

*At Christmastime?*

I think this might have been January, maybe right after Christmas but it was given over the holidays. And it was all donated money. There's pictures in here.

Oh, she was wonderful - she's dead now - you asked about animals - Mother Martina, Sister Martina. She was like a little saint. She was on the bottom floor, at the north end of the building, by the dining room - there was a great big kitchen. She ran the kitchen and when I was here, this was her helper, Karen.

This is Sister Vera Gallagher. You've met her? That's her.

*She was Mother Dominic?*

Yes - taught high school and the college subjects. And this is Mother Ursula. That was why that picture was taken. These were some of the teachers. She was my godmother when I was baptized here.

*Is everyone baptized when they came here?*

No, there was no pressure to be either. When I came in, like I told you before, I had this little girlfriend in the 7th grade where I lived out near Renton, and I liked her family. I liked the atmosphere in the home so I'd go there and one of the things she did on Saturday, which was when we could play, was to go down to lower Queen Anne Hill where they had lived and go to church and go to confession. And I just thought that whole confessional thing during those years, not now, but during those years, was so comforting. And it was a place where I just felt very clean when otherwise I felt like a bad girl. When I came here, I asked Mother Serena, I remember that next day, could I be a Catholic? She said "you have to wait just a little bit." So I waited a few months, I don't remember, I think they only did baptisms a couple of times a year.

*Who is Rita? Was Rita working there?*

She wouldn't be in these annuals. She was not a resident here. She came here as a live-in employee house-parent. You've seen a picture of her?

*I don't know if I've seen a picture of her.*

She's my daughter's godparent. She came from Hawaii, from Honolulu and Molokai and her father, who's long dead, was some kind of a big chief and he lived many, many years on Molokai and worked with the lepers down there. And Rita worked in a hospital. I can't remember exactly whether they were closing that hospital or what but there was some reason that she needed a place to really hang her hat. And so one of the Sisters that was there, contacted - I believe it was Mother William. Somehow there had been some contact between those nuns and she wrote up here and found out if Rita could come. And she had jobs here, she was a houseparent, that's what she was titled. But she did things like work with the recreational things that the girls did. She took girls to doctors and then she became a chauffeur, even on her days off for the nuns. She was just as good as gold to them - took them out, took them anywhere, took them on rides, took them shopping, took them all over the place.

*That was later?*

That was while she lived here. She lived here upstairs by Katie and Phoebe.

*And when was that?*

That was - I was married in '58 - so probably she came around 1957. And then she became ill. She lived here for a while - the she became pretty sick. There used to be a little house right down there by the orchard - I don't know if it's still there, where the person who was the baker, I can't remember her name, lived for awhile. Then Rita lived there. And this was all during the change from the large group to the smaller groups which was a process over a few years. It was in those years that finally, Katie left and I believe another woman who was blind and had lived here since early childhood, had passed away. I don't know if Phoebe had passed

away by that time. At any rate, Rita was finally told that "you're going to have to leave." She was supported here for a few years after she could no longer work because she was very sick.

*She was older than the girls?*

She was my age. She was older than the girls at that time. She was my age, maybe a few years older, 5 years maybe. And she passed away about 5 years ago. I understood she had stomach cancer but she had lots of things wrong with her. But she devoted her life to the nuns. She barely would come out to the house. I could get her out there on holidays and once in a while, for a weekend but she would say "oh, no, I have to take Sister so and so somewhere." Or "I have to go to shopping" or she would go pick up this or pick up that. And she just ran them around in the car but she liked to do it. She bought them many extra things with her own money.

When I was first here, the nuns didn't go out to eat. They didn't go to places like drive-ins or things like that. They did later.

*They went to drive-ins? Like Dick's Drive-In?*

Oh, yes. Later, later. First one that I ever went to was with Mother Serena and we went to, it was by the old Elephant Car Wash, right at the end of the Aurora Avenue in downtown Seattle. A hamburger and a milk shake, once in a while, when I took her out somewhere.

*Did they ever interact with people in the neighborhood?*

You mean like a community support group or something? Not that I know of. Several of the people who worked here lived near here. The driveway that goes out on the south side, right at the end, at the end of the driveway, facing south, the first house was where Mrs. Snell lived, the sewing teacher, Mr. and Mrs. Snell. And there were several people that were neighbors like that. And then Katie, the Sisters' seamstress, when she left here, she lived on 50th, whatever that next street is, past Sunnyside?

*Wallingford?*

Whatever that is, I've forgotten.

*The one that's right along the west edge there?*

Yes. The west edge.

*Meridian.*

Just catty corner across the street on the other side of the street, 2nd or 3rd house down, there's where Katie lived for a long time.

But these would be like outfits that they were showing off. [looking at annual]. These were graduation pictures. And then this was another standard thing in all the classes. The seniors would will something to somebody else. Generally it was just something they were interested in doing or something like that. Or what they were doing.



*What did you will?*

Let's see. Maybe this was what we were going to become.

*This is the prophesy page. Right.*

Let's see what this one is. I'm a doctor. And when I was here during my senior year or during my junior year in college, mind you, I'm only 17 or 18 years old - I'm a child. So I'm applying to medical schools and I got quite a few - not acceptances because I didn't go that far - but quite a bit of literature because I never used my first name.

*What did you use?*

I was C.L. Nissen. Some people actually wrote back to Charles. They didn't know I was female. That's what I was going to be.

*Were you encouraged to pursue that?*

Sure. Very much. Mother Serena mailed my letters out. I had to get the stamps from her, typed them on her typewriter.

*Did they read your outgoing mail?*

They did. Later, they didn't read mine. But they did; she read all the incoming mail as well. And wherever you would find Mother Serena, you would find her package of mail. She would be in the dining room - there would sometimes be two Sisters in there. There was a little elevated platform thing at the far end of the dining room with two chairs and a little tiny table between them with a radio on it. Mother Serena always had her mail and Mother Dominic was over here. They'd be doing things but they'd be looking up here to see how things were going. I never knew things to get rowdy in that dining room, not in all those years. Hundreds of meals that I ate there. There was never anything like a riot that I ever knew about.

*Did you have assigned seats in the dining hall?*

Yes and we took turns taking a tray to and from the dining room; you went into the kitchen and you picked up a tray that you brought back. You ate family style. So you brought the bowls of food in.

*Did you know when girls were going to leave ahead of time? Or nuns?*

The nuns? No. They changed. Mother Serena, I found out couple of or 3 weeks before she left, a month at the most. She said she didn't know much before that. It was during the period when the Sisters were starting to make some changes from the large number of kids together, milieu type of treatment. They were getting more into where they were doing some individual counseling; they were hiring actual social work staff. They had had social workers before but they really didn't work with the girls. The counseling was done by the Sisters, by the nuns. But this was a change. And Mother Serena was, as she explained it, she wasn't that old, but she was from the old school and she'd been there many, many years and it was just time to bring on some new people. And she left and went to, I can't remember if it was St. Paul or Omaha. I think St. Paul for not too long, a few months. Then she came back and until she passed away, she was the bookkeeper. She was really slick with math.

[looking at annual] And see how these have faded. I can't even tell you - I don't recognize them. There was the junior class and they went on down to the freshman, I can't tell you there either. This was the grade school. Let's see if it says how many and what years. No, they don't. I know there were a couple of 10 year olds here because I can remember them. But I don't think, I know there was nobody like 6 or 7. They weren't that young.

*All the people that you knew in here were placed here by the court?*

No, not in those years. I was, and I would say probably over half but some of them were private. I was placed here by the court but my mother paid for me here. She paid the money to the court which was about \$50 a month until I was 18. She paid it to the court who paid it to the Home. And these were a combination private pay and court. Later, DSHS took over the placements (some through the court, some voluntary) and payments. I was later working with the court and DSHS. This was considered one of the girls' schools in this region. There are 6 DSHS regions in this state and this was a group home. Before that, when I was here, it was considered to be an institution. It was called that. For wayward girls.

These were, you can see, this was a paper and the annual. These were newspapers and things that we put out. These pictures are a little bit better. And here was, I told you about the sodality for the older girls - these were the younger girls. This was Donna. She's one of the older girls. She was in the other sodality but the office that she had was the Angel Guardian Prefect. Not president, Prefect. And these were her little officers that worked under her and they were - what were they called? What does that say?

*Angel's...*

Oh, Angels Helpers.

*Oh, that's a big A. Angels Helpers.*

The big A, yes. These would be the kids in grade school.

*There were quite alot of younger kids.*

Boy, I can remember those kids. I remember them. This is Catherine. This is very faded. She was the Blessed Mother Prefect. And then after she left, there was somebody else for a short time and then I was, until I left here. These were quite an honor. These pictures are faded....this was the Mother's Day, the May Day. This was a picture of the May Queen and her attendants, and former Good Shepherd girls who had come back to celebrate the May Day festivities. I didn't save all my sodality pins and bands, but these were, we all had these as you attained a certain, I don't remember if it was exactly time put in - there was something, but there was also behavior and attitude- time and trust....

*Different levels of-*

Different levels. These were the ones who were not, these might have been the non-Catholic girls.

*Honoraries?*

That might have been what it was. The Sodality is still going today in the Catholic church. Adults belong to it. I don't know about the Angel Guardian one but the Blessed Mother Sodality, as I understand it when I read the Catholic papers is still active. I remember the non-Catholic girls could belong to the sodality but they wore this little satin ribbon like this one with a little medal of the blessed mother on it, pinned on their shirt. And this was the blue band that we wore to Mass and at other special times. It was just like you'd wear a ring - an identification thing. Officers wore an extra pin on their blouses.

*That was on the page before.*

Does it show what we were wearing? Oh, you can barely see it. Betty, one of the women I met last summer, she still had hers. Can you see the little dark there?

*A little bit, yes.*

That was a pin, quite a nice pin and there was a rod here and it hung down on cords and it had a very nice medal on the end of it. As Betty recalled, I don't have mine - I don't know what happened to it. But as Betty recalled, she sneaked hers away. You had to turn them in when you left. And I believe that that's probably what happened. Because they would be given to the officers. So, maybe I turned mine in but Betty said she sneaked it away. So she had her pin and I had my ribbon band. And then we had capes and we wore these for Sundays - we didn't wear them every day. We wore them Sundays to mass, we wore them for certain gatherings, like May Day, the holy days. These were little blue beanies with white feathers.

*You had to turn in your hat when you left also? Your cape and your hat?*

I believe so. I know I turned all that in. And then these were banners, again blue. Kind of a bright, more of a royal blue. These just don't show up very good. [still looking at her pictures] Here at the far end of the auditorium, at the north end, there's the television and a big radio. I had forgotten about that. And this big picture. And then there were some nicer chairs. They weren't the straight backed ones. I guess there were just like this - maybe they had a, looks like a vinyl cushion with arms on it. They were just a little nicer than other ones that were all lined up for the girls.

*A little more comfortable.*

And there was the little TV. I remembered it being bigger. And it was black and white. We just thought that was wonderful. We watched "Bishop Sheen?" and I don't know what other program it was.

And they made hosts here.

END OF TAPE.

**15R 3/3**  
**SIDE A**

The host room was down the hall from the dining room and the kitchen. On down the hall was the host room. Eventually, they didn't make hosts in there anymore.

*While you were still here?*

Might have been when I came back. It would have been toward the later years because what they did, that's when they hired a baker. I don't remember her name. But she lived in the little house by the orchard; she never lived in this building. She was hired as an employee like the schoolteachers were hired. She'd not been a girl here or anything. And I believe she had a couple of children and they lived in the little house. She came in and baked and she did the baking for the Sisters and for the girls. I remember the cinnamon rolls, like this, huge ones. And I don't think there was a host machine in there. I think they sent that out to somebody else. But initially any baking that was done for the Sisters was done by Phoebe and was done by Mother Martina for the girls and there was never, there just wasn't time to do big sheets of cinnamon rolls and butterhorns and all that business. And this woman that they hired was strictly hired as a baker and that's what she did every day.

*And that was while you were...*

That was, maybe when I came back here after I'd been in the convent for awhile.

*That was in -*

I was in the convent in 1957 from March through August of '57. And then I stayed a couple months in St. Paul, then I came out here and lived here for a few months. At that point, the mistress of girls was Sister Valerie Brannan, that you're going to meet in Portland. She was Sister John Eudes. She was over the girls - they were beginning to have a smaller number maybe 100 girls then. But they were going to smaller numbers - they did not have 200. I worked a little bit around here for a few days and then I got a job at Blessed Sacrament teaching kindergarten and substituting 5th and 6th graders.

And these were just the different rooms - the music room, this was the assembly hall, the auditorium. I showed you the sewing room, the kitchen, the clothes room where we had our little cabinet thing. I don't think it was enclosed. I think it was open but they went from floor to ceiling. I remember my number was 107 and you had your number on your -

*Your cabinet? Your cubby?*

Cubby. The little ones were called cubbies. This was - let's call it a bigger cubby because it was bigger. Sometimes you could put a small suitcase in there. But you definitely could have extra clothing or different things like that and I had to climb up. I had to climb and step on the shelves of the ones lower because mine was higher and I couldn't reach it. And they went from floor to ceiling.

*There wasn't a ladder or anything? You had to actually step on the other girls' clothes?*

No, not on their clothes. I just stepped on the...

*The edge.*

The edge. There might have been a ladder. Could have been but I don't remember one.

Oh and another thing - when anybody, you were asking about, did the girls know they were going to leave. I knew I was going to leave. And other people did, like Ellie and Bea knew they were going to leave. But when I was visiting with Jackie from Hawaii, she told the story that she did not know she was going to leave until a few hours before. And she and Betty recalled that that was a common thing - that girls were only told that morning. She didn't know - she knew she would be going home - that was the goal. But she didn't know when she was going to leave. Someone came to get her. They had packed up her things and then she was gone. And so one of the things that she had always regretted was that she didn't get to say goodbye to anybody. And I think that that probably was more common.

*Why do you think they did it that way?*

One of the reasons was you weren't to have any contact with other Good Shepherd girls after you left. Talking about rules again, there were many rules. There was really no follow-up in terms of treatment when you left here, either individual with the girls or with your family. There was not much family work done here at all. But you were not to be associating with other Good Shepherd girls. Those were in the treatment days of environmental milieu kind of therapy so that you were "removed from the bad environment" and "brought into a good, safe environment". And you learned new things. What they didn't have was a transition. They had transition and follow-up services later on but not when I was here. They removed you from the bad, brought you into the good so that then when you went back out, you were to leave all this behind you and start your new life. Of course, most of the kids went back to their same, old problems they came out of. And that, in and of itself, was a problem.

What I remember when Catherine left and I took over working with Mother Serena was another job that I had, getting girls ready to leave. Now I do remember that. Mother Serena would send for the girl but my job was to go up and get all of their clothing, most of their clothing was in the metal locker and there was a certain way of doing it. Everybody had a long bathrobe, chenille mostly, that tied and they were always long, none of the shortie stuff. You were to lay the bathrobe on the bed and then take out the clothes and their other belongings and lay it all inside the bathrobe. Then you folded the bathrobe over, brought the bottom part up and tied it. And then I brought the packet of clothing down to Mother Serena's office and she would use my desk to sort on. It was a typewriter desk so she'd pull the top down and that's where we would put this packet of clothes. And somebody else would bring up the stuff from the big cubby from the clothing room and then she sorted everything. She went through every single thing, mail, everything, to make sure that you were - well, there were a couple of things.

One of the things she was wonderful about was making sure that nobody left here, whether you left in a year or you left in 10 years, that nobody left without a good supply of clothing and toothpaste and things of that sort and if you were going out to, like an older girl, to an apartment or to a boarding room type thing, you had much more than someone who was going to their family. But even kids going home to parents, she made sure they had underclothes and their shoes weren't all scuffy and so along with sorting to make sure you were only taking your own things, you weren't taking something else, she also, in her office, she had these floor to ceiling cupboards again, stacked with underclothes, shoes, socks, you name it, it was in there. It was her little store. And if the shoes were really bad and there wasn't enough socks, she'd just reach up and put them in there. So everybody went out pretty well outfitted.

*When you left, it was your decision to leave.*

Yes.

*Who did you tell?*

I went down and told Mother William right away. And I didn't know where I was going to go so I went to the social worker, Mark Ward and she helped me find and move into an apartment nearby. The last couple of years I was here, they were beginning to have social workers help the Sisters with the counseling and were actually setting up some counseling appointments for the girls to have with the social work staff - which was nice. That was a big change, it was a welcome addition. I never heard the Sisters complain that somebody was coming in and usurping their role or something. I thought they handled it very graciously and that it was just seen as, even though there were maybe 12 or 15 Sisters here, they didn't have enough time to do this so these folks, seemed to me, to be welcome on board. There was also some licensing, state licensing regulations, so that you had to adhere to. During later years, you had to have a licensed social worker on staff.

Everybody got a suitcase when they went out. They didn't go out of here in grocery bags. They came in with paper bags and boxes but they left with a suitcase. Did I answer you what you had asked me? I'm not sure if I got sidetracked there.

*I think so.*

Okay. I never worked in the laundry but that was - they did it for the Northern, Great Northern Railroad. I don't remember if there was another railroad but it was a big, big ordeal. Great big mangles, big washers and the Sister in charge then is still alive today.

*Mother Michael?*

Mother Michael was down there. [looking at annual] These are the dorms.

*What does that say? Clinic?*

Let's see. St. Euphrasia Dormitory, in the picture. That must have been, 35 girls, that was the third largest. Maybe you have this in your annual.

*No, I don't.*

The names of them were [reading from annual] "I am the picture of St. Mary Euphrasia in St. Euphrasia dormitory. This is the third largest dormitory; 35 girls sleep here. There are 8 other dormitories that I am in. They are Sacred Heart", that's the one that was clear up on the third floor, the biggest one, "Blessed Mother," that was probably the second biggest, "the Infant of Prague," that was downstairs, "Good Shepherd, Angel Guardian, St. Teresa, and then the infirmary." Once in awhile, kids had to sleep in there. "The dormitories all together hold about 200 girls. The girls keep silence in the dormitories." Once in awhile, kids would break that, they'd be sneaking in a word here and a word there, but it was because the officers....you were very loyal, and I wasn't the only one. There was lots of loyalty to this place and we took alot of pride in it. And even though you weren't perfect, but you really tried to support the nuns and so the monitors that would be around there, that's one of the things that they would be monitoring - the silence. So once we 7

went up there, there was no talking. And besides getting your clothes washed and things like that.

*No talking at all?*

No talking, no. [reading from annual] "The girls keep silence in the dormitories because it gives them a better chance to think about mass and communion in the morning."

*What time did you....*

Went to bed? Sunday night, it would be late because of the movie. Saturday night it was a little earlier - changing the linens. Monday night was called "early bed". You went right straight up from....that was Mother Serena's night off and Mother Dominic or Mother William came over and you went from the dining room, from dinner, you went up and that was the night that you could use for reading. I think we went up probably 6:30, 7:00. You could use it for reading or studying or....

*But you couldn't talk.*

No. The other nights I would say maybe 9:00, 9:30.

*Did the younger girls go up at a different time? Or everybody went up at the same-*

No. They all went at the same time. And there was a mixture. As I remember the dormitories, they were kind of like - where was there a bed space - but even more than that, who needed what kind of supervision. So that it wasn't uncommon to switch a bed if someone needed to be in a certain place that was felt to be better for them, then somebody might be moved out to a less supervised spot.

*You told me upstairs that Mother Serena would wake everyone up by coming out and shaking her keys-*

Oh, yes. Out of this carved hole with a slider door on it. [carved into her cell door.] She'd open the little door - the keyring must have had 25 keys on it. She would shake them and that's how we would wake up and then we would go around, I'd shake the keys because I had to go unlock the other doors, Catherine before me and somebody else after me. But that was the job I had. Then I went downstairs and did the same thing, shook the keys, unlocked the doors, then the dorm monitors would take over, see that everybody got up.

You popped right out of bed and knelt down, said your morning prayers and then you got dressed and this was funny. Modesty? Much modesty, many rules about the modesty business. You did not dress by standing up, if you could manage it standing up. Most people sat on their beds. You were inside of your nightgown like a tent. There were no shortie nightgowns, nothing like that, none with little straps or anything.

*And you all had the same long nightgowns?*

They weren't all the same. They were nightgowns or pajamas. Mostly flannel or cotton.

But you would learn to stay either, under your covers, or somewhere you were covered up, until you had your clothes on, then you could stand up because by then you had your skirt on or your slip or something. You could put your nylons on. We wore nylons all the time to church.

*And to school?*

No. Just the bobby socks. But you were covered up while you got dressed. Nobody just undressed. And it was quite a talent to do that. That's what I laugh about with the few friends that I've maintained, with Marlene - she remembers it but mostly Ellie. We can both dress now if we had to, underneath a blanket. Another thing, there wasn't very much time. And another thing I remembered from reading this, another thing we did up there, the girls washed out their clothes, they put up their hair. Everybody wore, I don't recall anybody ever having straight hair. Long hair, short hair. Curls were in, frizzy stuff. In the beauty parlor, it was still those machines that came down and were heated up, things came out and clamped on your head. There were lots of frizzy curls and you might have 3 or 4 permanents a year. Everybody was always having permanents. Sometimes my head got burned under the heat machine.

*If you had straight hair, you had permanents.*

Straight hair just wasn't in. Nobody wanted straight hair. If you didn't have a permanent when you came in, you very quickly did because that was the "in" thing to do. To get up there and that little machine always had somebody under it. But then you put up your hair in pincurls or rollers or whatever. That was another nightly thing. It took you, I would say we were there maybe an hour before the lights were out. And in the morning, we didn't have an hour. Maybe a half an hour at the most. That was quite a rush, to get yourself dressed, get the pins out of your hair. The other thing is, you all got up at the same time. You weren't up doing any of these things ahead of time so you had to kind of hussle in the morning.

*Did everyone wait, have to wait until everyone was ready? Did you line up to leave?*

Yes. Then that's when we went to church. We went to chapel every day except maybe Saturday.

*Before breakfast?*

Yes. Right from getting up. You got up, you got dressed, you combed your hair and then the girls upstairs on the 3rd floor, they would go out and they would start lining up in twos, right before that one door that we went into, right there by the confessionals. We entered that way [south end]. Then the girls from the bottom floors would come up and they would come in afterwards.

*How long was chapel?*

About an hour. On Sunday it was longer. We went there a couple of times on Sunday. The other was about an hour also.

*And then you had breakfast after chapel?*



Yes. [reading from annual] "They have little cubbies to keep their soap in and their towels in. They have a locker in which to put all their clothes."

These are kind of faded but, that's the same picture you have.

*Yes. Some of those I recognize from being in a brochure I have also.*

Right. That was the one on brown paper.

*The brochure? This one?*

Oh, yes. They mailed that out. That went out in the mail to many, many people. That was used as a way of letting people know what the Home was like.

*You remember this one.*

Yes. I had one. I don't where it is.

There we are. That's square dancing. You've got that picture. That's the chapel, isn't it?

Yes.

Here's the little kneelers. Each Sister had, they must have had their assigned place because they always sat in the same spot. St. Joseph's Gym - if that's what it was called, I don't remember the name. But maybe that's right. That obviously is - that's the summerhouse. Maybe that's what we called it. We didn't ever do exercises in there. There wouldn't have been room but we did - you opened up the doors - this is the east side - you opened them up on the west side. And then after school, they had a gym class out there. Everybody would be doing their exercises, jumping jacks and the bendover. That's where we did them.

*Who led that?*

I don't think there was a gym teacher. Catherine? Or myself? Something like that.

This is the woman that I met with last year, Betty. She's the one that remembers alot of things that I have forgotten. Let me see if Barbara is in here...Bea...see if I can find Barbara. This is Jackie. She looks very much like that today. I just spent two weeks with her down in Hawaii in April on the Big Island. Barbara isn't here. But it was Barbara, oh yes, here she is. And this was her little sister, Elizabeth, who was an Angel Guardian. This is the one, she and Betty graduated at the same time. And they had been finished, out of school; they were post-graduates about two years. Jackie came in after they did and graduated a year later than they did, a year before I did but later.

This is the woman who just last summer talked about being so frightened here, that she was frightened of the Sisters, she said of Mother Serena, although she respected her but she also saw the side where there was the discipline because she had experienced that in her life. And she just didn't want any more of it. And so she said that she maintained a very passive, just do everything right - she was like a perfect person here in terms of behavior. But she was kind of withdrawn at the same time. And she and this woman, Betty, who now lives right by me, they were the ones who remembered some of the disciplining that went on upstairs where

there would be maybe Catherine and maybe a couple of other girls. They called it a circle of girls. Not that those girls hit although they said that a couple of times, they did see that, that Mother Serena would have them hit as well. But myself, I did not see that. But I did see, I was actually in what I called a little circle but there might have only been 2 or 3 of us.

*Do you remember the incidents, why they were being disciplined? Or who those girls were, if they were-*

I remember some of them. What are you going to do with all of this?  
I get-

One girl slept - this was on the 3rd floor in Sacred Heart and she was a bed wetter. And bed wetting, instead of being looked at, in my opinion, as I remember it, it wasn't looked at as something psychological. It was looked at as the girl could have stopped it if she wanted to, that it was a behavioral kind of thing. She'd been a bed wetter for a long time and she wet the bed every night here. And she was disciplined for that. They had given her a special bed. It was the first bed by the side windows in front of the toilets in Sacred Heart. That's where she slept the whole time. The intent being that she would know if she had to go potty and that she should get up and go to the bathroom. Well, she didn't. I'm convinced, from what I know about bed wetting, that there were lots of problems other than her "willpower".

*Did you remember how old she was? If she was a younger girl...*

She was probably 16 or so. She was one of the older girls. She never made an officer. Bed wetting was seen as very bad, she was shamed. That even more than being hit which I know she was sometimes, it was an attempt to get her to stop. That you're doing this, you can stop, you're old enough now, you're here, you're in this safe environment. You have no need now to be wetting your bed, like you could just zip and you'd just stop. And as far as I know, she wet the bed until she left. And she would get disciplined, not so much physically but she would get shamed for wetting the bed. She would get disciplined when she attempted to hide her sheets. And there was so much shame because the laundry part, she was to strip her bed, put clean sheets on, take her stuff down and as I recall, she was to rinse it out in the bathtub in back of the clothing room and then send things to the laundry. Well, sometimes I guess it was just too much. I slept in the dorm at that time so I saw some of this. She would just go ahead and make the bed. And that would get her punished. So that was one.

The other thing that went on here - now this changed a lot later. Because when I was here, there was a removal from your bad environment and a lot of the girls, myself included, but most of them that I talked to, were sexually active at that time. We were called promiscuous and this was part of, in the court order, it would be written into there that you were a promiscuous girl and that's why you were coming here. There was an attempt to remove you from the outside influences of men and boys - your dad could come visit. My uncle came here one time. There were no boyfriends allowed to come - if you had one, you had to either get rid of him or you lost contact over time. When they went to small groups, for their proms, they had the guys come over from the two Catholic boys' schools, Bellarmine and wherever else, I can't remember.

*Blanchett?*

Wherever the boys' schools were. We didn't - our proms were all just girls. When we listened to the radio up in the auditorium or downstairs. It wasn't always a Sister monitoring. It was someone like myself and we had to turn off the man's vocal. You could not listen to it. Records of male singing, they were forbidden so that sex, sexuality became an issue for most of us. And there was nowhere to talk about it. There was no sex education whatsoever. It was more that these things were bad and therefore you're in this safe place now. The thought in those days was to just get you away and in this good place and forget about that. You didn't talk about it, you really didn't deal with it. So you had all that kind of stuff inside - we were adolescents and were developing and all this and there was nowhere and no way to really handle it.

In the Catholic teaching, I don't know if it's such a big deal today, I know that generally it's still not okay, but masturbation, touching yourself in sinful places was considered to be one of the biggest sins of all time. You were going straight to hell and that was taught in our catechism class and in our daily lives. So if there was any kind of word that a girl was masturbating, then they would be watched. And there was one girl - this was after Catherine left and I know that Mother Serena talked to me about it. I never told anybody, never while I was here, I didn't tell anybody for years and years and years that I'd done this.

We had to ask - in the dining room, you couldn't just get up and go out to the bathroom. You had to raise your hand. And I can't remember if you raised it a certain way, I don't think you said, "I have to go to the bathroom." One or two, usually only one, was permitted....there was a restroom at the end of the hall with about four closed stalls.

This one person was suspected of masturbating in the bathroom when she was leaving the meal table. And so when she left, I was sent down to go check and the word was, I don't know where Mother Serena got the word but she'd had the word that she was using a plunger. Each stall had a plunger, a long-handled plunger, and she was using the plunger to masturbate with. So I was - that was my thing - to go check. And I did. And one time, sure enough, it appeared that she had just used the plunger and so I came and reported that. I wasn't laughing or anything. I just felt - I was so loyal to these nuns, there wasn't a question that I would have said this is not right, I'm not going to do this. Also, I was so heavy into the whole Catholic belief, what it said to do and not do, that was what I did and didn't do. That was me at that time. I went back and reported it. That caused a beating, in an attempt to get her to stop - that it was sinful, she was going to go to hell. She was a Catholic girl. It wasn't considered natural, none of that. That was a terrible time. I wish now I had had the courage to say "no".

#### *What about other sexual activity?*

If there was, you better not be caught. There tended to be a thing of observing, like outside - we weren't to be walking around by ourself or in twos. You were to be having a third person with you. You weren't just walking around with an individual friend. You didn't go two by two. You had friends, to keep you on the up and up and to keep you pure. There were all these prayers that we were saying for purity and part of it was really wonderful because when I came here and for what I did, I considered myself bad. I thought I had a bad seed or something and then I got here and I was able to be baptized and your soul is washed clean and you're just as pure as the driven snow. I never felt so good in my whole life. So then there was an effort - I would slip sometimes and various and sundry things, but in those days, 2

would see these actions as sinful. I would hurry to confession and get beyond it. I would usually tell Mother Serena because she was sort of like my confessor. But it was a way I had of sharing this, trying to talk with someone close, outside the confessional with a priest I barely knew.

END OF SIDE A.

**15R 3/3**  
**SIDE B.**

There was a big thing about the devil. The devil was always there, very bright. I thought there was a devil, maybe there still is. But I could almost visual it. And he was there to tempt you at all times. And so if in your weak moment....and Mother Serena pretty much, on the whole, took that attitude, that this was the devil and she was trying to get you to keep on the straight and narrow, have a healthy, pure life. The thing was, your goals in those years were not to be a single person, not to be a career woman. You were to be married, to be a little housewife, to have children and to propagate or go on to be a Sister, a nun. That was it. So I was geared towards that. I don't think any of the things that happened, even the bad things that I've told you about, I never did, and to this day, I don't see a malicious bone in Mother Serena's body. I've worked with kids and abused kids for years and there are some people that are mean and they do it for various reasons but Mother wasn't one of these people. This was really done in a skewed way, but always for love of God.

*Was Mother Serena head of all the dormitories or just the one?*

No, all the dormitories. She always had a younger nun, chronologically younger, but also quite new out of the Good Shepherd Motherhouse. I can't remember how many years they were in training back in Minnesota - but they were fairly young in the convent. Maybe a year or two. They would come out, this was, as I understand it, it was the way of getting her some help, and in other Good Shepherd Homes, I think they had the same kind of system, but of getting the main person some relief, but also as a training ground for the younger nuns because they didn't stay for years and years. They transitioned. I don't know how long Sister Vera Gallagher was here - I remember her being here several years but....she maybe told you how long. I don't remember exactly. I know there were others that were the assistant mistress of girls besides her.

*Did you have some favorite places in the building? Or on the grounds?*

I liked my little space in Mother Serena's office. I could see this porch [referring to veranda] The Sisters used to have their lawn chairs out there and they would do alot of their sewing and their reading and their gabbing and their socializing on that porch. This might have been one of their places. But anyway, I could see the porch because my office was the next room, through that metal door and then that first office that I showed you, next to the music room.

And that was one of my favorite places because that little desk, after Catherine left, that was my desk. And I had lots of my personal things in there. And Mother Serena gave me one shelf in her cupboard where she had her things. It was besides the one in the clothing room that I had. She gave me a shelf that was about so wide and about so tall. And she was very good about....I got kind of picky sometimes, maybe she encouraged it, or both. Kind of picky and kind of bored with

some of the food. And so she let me buy things and bring food into the office and she had a little hot plate for me and she'd say, "why don't you go on up and have a little bite."

*You could leave the grounds and go shopping?*

I could later. Not initially, I couldn't.

*Was that when you were a post-graduate or a senior?*

After school. Probably after I graduated from high school in 1951. I took an accelerated academic course and I finished in two years.

*You'd have to ask permission-*

Oh, yes.

*And go with someone else?*

No. Sometimes I went by myself and lots of times I took other girls. We would go shopping. We had a dentist that came here once a week. But he had an office downtown and he did all kinds of work. He was Mother Serena's cousin and he was in the Medical-Dental Building. I took alot of the girls down there but sometimes I just went downtown or here in the local stores by myself.

*You would walk up to 45th?*

Yes, I went to a restaurant - when Rita and I both worked here. I was then teaching school and we went down there a couple of times a week for dinner at the Chinese restaurant. Or we'd shop at the little dimestore and there was also a jewelry that Mother Serena used down here and I'd walk down, take the watches that needed to be repaired or something of that sort. And then we'd walk down to the, don't remember the grocery store, but there was a grocery store down there too. I don't know what kind it was but we did alot of shopping down there. And then later towards the last 3 or 4 years, like I say, Dick's Drive-In, right down on 45th, I don't know if it's still there--- it's to the east. And when that came about, the Sisters didn't go there, to eat at the Drive-In. I don't remember if it was once a week or once every couple of weeks, some of us or Phoebe or somebody would go down there and we'd get hamburgers and french fries and bring them back for the nuns. They would have them for their supper. The Sisters were sort of half-way cloistered. Later, they could eat in public. You can eat with them today. But in those days you couldn't eat with them in their dining room. They'd eat by themselves. But they just thought that was a kick, to have their little hamburgers and their french fries.

I know that they couldn't go to drive-in's because when I'd drive Mother Serena down and she would do her ordering, big orders from one of the grocery wholesale places in Seattle, and then they would deliver in a big delivery truck-- every once in awhile, 7,8,10 times, she'd say "could we just go over to the drive-in". That was the one at the end of the Aurora Bridge where they still served you in the car. We didn't go in but she said "don't tell anybody". It was our little secret, I never told until now.

Later, I know when Rita was here, they could go out a little bit. Now, they can definitely go out and they'll invite you for dinner and you can eat right in the same dining room. But in those days, it wasn't but she'd be there sitting in the car and they

came with the-- it was Triple X or Triple something or another-- and she'd get a root beer, root-beer float or a shake and then this hamburger.

*And she'd be wearing her habit at that time.*

Absolutely. That was before all that.

[looking at annual] Interesting-- there's a whole section on morals. That was a big thing. If I had stayed any longer at the Good Shepherd Home -- it kind of skewed some of my thinking-- and I've had things to work on over the years as a result, but if I had stayed on the street, I probably would not be alive. That's what I tell people. I was very indiscriminate and just literally sometimes some of the runaways would be well over a month. And to survive on the street as a 13 to 15 year old, you go wherever you....I had no money, no means of any money. I wasn't prostituting exactly, but in a sense I would get someone that I saw, as a kid, that had some sort of...gave me some attention or affection or something, then I would live with them for awhile. But too much of that on the street, I could have gotten into big serious, dangerous kind of situations.

*Which part of town did you--*

Seattle. Some of the time during those last couple of years, we lived in a hotel down in downtown Seattle. But I also grew up in the Roosevelt District just up the street until I was 10. From 10 to 13, I moved out on the hill above Renton and that's where I started the running away. And then we lived very briefly in some hotels, in a little house out in the north end, and that's when eventually I just kept running and came here.

*When you would run away, where would you--*

I just hit the streets. Downtown Seattle. The all night restaurants. The motorcycle hangouts. It was a good thing that I came here. I was and still am very grateful.

And the other places that I went to, for some reason, I can't say that I didn't like it there, but I kept pushing until they would kick me out. I continued to run away; I continued to sneak out at night, pick up boys. I think I'd stopped the stealing but....I did alright in school but I got kicked out of 3 different places. One of them was the old Martha Washington, like the State Reform School, which was an institution but a state-run institution and they couldn't keep me. But this place did. And they had the religion thing there so it wasn't just the religion because I went through the whole thing of being a born again Christian and take off the lipstick and those were years of heavy makeup, dark lipstick and all this stuff, and rouge. So off all that came so I could be born again, at Martha Washington. But none of that seemed to be satisfactory. I continued to run away and continued to do what I did from home. I only stopped it when I came here. This was like saving my life.

[looking at annual] I had forgotten about these. We went on a retreat every year where you kept absolute silence day and night for, I think it was, 3 days.

*Everyone?*

Yes.

*Where would you go?*

We'd be right here-- in the chapel, eating outside. Perfect silence; you couldn't hear a whisper. And you'd have conferences with the priest, you'd go to confession more often. You'd be up there praying or reading or just walking around kind of meditating. It was very very peaceful. And the priests came in. We had alot of the talks with the priest; we'd have them up in the chapel.

Here was the Mother Serena's Feast Day that I was telling you about. We called it a circus. See how we made the animals. We made all these. Here was our elephant...

*When was that?*

This was every August, for Mother Serena's Feast Day. And they each one had a theme. Her favorite song was, I don't know why, but it was "South of the Border...down Mexico way" and that was played every...I don't know what the background of that was. But you could just sometimes see the tears in her eyes. It was her very favorite. It had some meaning to her. I just don't know what. So we would usually start off the day-- it was a full day-- picnics outside and marching bands, music, all kinds of stuff. And then all afternoon it would be the booths that were set up-- they were maybe like 40 of them in there and there would be different games, food booths, the whole thing. And all decorated by the girls. And later, I don't remember exactly where this was, I did go up there a couple of times. They had some property-- I don't know if somebody donated it or something-- but we went up there and helped clear some of the land and things like that-- somewhere, Mt. Rainier. Just don't remember where.

These were the movies. You can see what kind.

*Oh, it lists all the movies. Okay.*

I don't even remember these. I remember *The Sullivans*, *The Fugitive* - that was that one-armed man, *Keys of the Kingdom*. Some of these we'd see repeated too. And then there were like *4 Feathers*-- I think that was a western, Kit Carson. There was nothing really violent or very sexual-- those were the two limits. Those were just some more of them. *Come to the Stable*, I remember that one. And if there was a documentary on one of the saints, we'd have those. St. Anthony and I remember we had a picture on St. Francis.

And then we had sports. I was not very good in sports. I could never hit a baseball so I became one of the cheerleaders.

*Is that you?*

That's me. This was not my favorite thing to do. I'd like to tell you, I could rollerskate really good; I played a little basketball but not very much. They had teams here but when we went out, we played other Catholic schools so that meant the 4 of us got in our little uniforms and away we went. We had to go to all these games and do the cheerleading with our poms poms.

*And the other girls' schools had cheerleaders also?*

Yes.

*Did you-*

Not cheerleading like today.

*Right. Did you ever feel stigmatized or was there ever any tension when you were interacting with the others girls?*

You mean from other schools?

Yes.

I never felt it, no. I felt it only here because there were certain things I was not very good at at all. And one of them was baseball. And you were kind of expected to go out and play baseball and interact. I would usually be skating because it was not really kosher to be just sitting around. And I loved to read. I used to read alot but I would be sneaky about my reading. I would read with a flashlight under the covers at night so I would stay up kind of late. I'd read every day-- still do. But it was not cool to spend lots of isolated time and particularly when I was one of the older girls because you're setting an example for people. And you want them to come out and become involved but I just couldn't hit the darn baseball, couldn't see it, couldn't see it to catch it. So I felt kind of embarassed more often than not about that just because....and I was not very good at home either in junior high. I just would be the last one to be picked. So when I entered here, it was a thing that was embarrassing to me. And also when I came here I didn't know how to dance. That was a big thing. That was the main activity, that and rollerskating.

*Square dancing?*

Just regular dancing, jitterbugging, slow dancing and like I say, this Jackie I showed you from Hawaii, she and Betty, these....here's Jackie and Betty, and to this day they are very musical. They can dance up a storm. And they did, while we were down visiting Jackie's mother last year. Her mother is in a nursing home and we took her mother over to another place and the mother, who is 93 years old, still plays the piano, many of them duets with her daughter. Jackie is very, very musical. And she and Betty danced alot, the old jitterbug type of dancing, they danced all the time and that's where I teased Jackie. She said, "you always seemed so good." It wasn't that I didn't get mad sometimes, I said "because I always had my feelings hurt because you wouldn't teach me how to dance". Well, I was a little kid. She was a big kid and she said "I didn't know you wanted to." I said, "no, you didn't even know I existed. And it's taken me 50 years to tell you." And they're very, very talented.

This one is very pretty. She was always seen as the favorite - Betty, one of Mother Serena's favorites. She also, right up until, I don't even know, well, until the Sisters moved. I think she helped them move. She gave much of her time, much of her time and much of her money, but time especially doing things with the nuns, helping them.

*She still lives in Seattle?*

She lives in Puyallup. And she and Jackie were the ones who organized this get-together last year and Barbara was the other one and then myself. And Bea if she would have agreed to go but she died a couple of days before our get-together. And then I've seen....I had not seen Jackie since Jackie left here. It had been 49 years. Betty, I had seen once over the last 50 years. About maybe 7 or 8 years



ago, she invited the Sisters, Sister Valerie Brannan, she would invite her out to their home in Puyallup and usually bring 2 or 3 of the other nuns when the nuns were still living here. And I don't know how I got invited to one of those dinners, but I did about 7,8 years ago. But it was the only time until last summer that I had seen her. And I hadn't seen Barbara for 50 years. This is nice. I had one of those at one point but I don't know where it went.

And this was Mother Serena's little prayer book. This was her brother. This was given to me when she passed away.

*How nice.*

I did not go to her funeral. I could've gone. I was working in Tacoma and I could've gone. I just couldn't. It was too much for me emotionally.

*That was in St. Paul?*

No, it was here.

*It was here? She was living at Christ the King or-*

No, she was right here. The Sisters were still here. I just couldn't go. I've regretted it but I just have to take it for what it was. I told them that I was at work and just couldn't get away and I was an hour away because I was in Tacoma but I really could have and I knew it at that time. Emotionally, I just couldn't go. So I didn't go to the funeral but they gave me this and they gave me her black shawl. These are the things that if...the work you're doing...I'm going to keep this.

*I was just going to look at it.*

Oh, sure. If a Good Shepherd Historical display is developed and there'd be a place for it, when I pass away, I intend to will my Good Shepherd material here. To whatever the place is, if they're going to set something up.

*Okay.*

There are little markings in her prayerbook, you can see the little places where she marked with her pencil, different parts and these were her little favorite sayings. She was a sweetheart. And what I had to do, as an adult, many years after the fact, I had to incorporate that all people, Mother Serena included, have a good side and they have a side where everybody has their faults. And I was, for many years, until 10 years ago, actually, when I got into therapy, I could see no faults with Mother Serena. And everybody has faults. I could see them in myself or other people. I couldn't see them in her; they weren't there, she was perfect. Through the process I've gone through in growing up and of incorporating both sides, that Mother Serena has become a much more real person to me. I still love her dearly.

I think that's about it.

*Thank you.*

END OF SIDE B. [About 20-25 minutes]

**END OF TRANSCRIPT.**