

Kenneth Partin and Nancy Seymour

Side 1:

Kenneth Partin (at Givens Estate)

We met in his room in Givens Estate. His companion [Margaret Haller] was with him helping him answer questions. He funded the Speech and Hearing Clinic.

[10] He came to Asheville as a salesman and worked for Thoms in the printing business. The two men played tennis together. Thoms became involved in orthopedics and, when Partin's daughter was born deaf, the clinic was built. Ken Partin, an architect living in Hendersonville, designed the building. [Howard Thoms, Betty Partin Sloan, Ken Partin]

[42] His companion shows the Plaque presented to Partin in appreciation dated 11/12/70.

[81] Betty went to the Clark School for the Deaf in Cincinnati where she learned to read lips. She now lives in Texas. There is no lip reading taught at Thoms Rehab. The speech therapy is designed for patients who are having problems but who have previously spoken. [Betty Partin Sloan]

Mr. Partin was unable to talk any longer.

Nancy Seymour (at Thoms Rehabilitation Hospital)

[107] Nancy came to Asheville in 1968. Her son was having motor functioning problems and, while the doctors said he would outgrow the difficulty, she took him to the Developmental Evaluation Center in Asheville. He was sent to Thoms and received physical and occupational therapy on the premises. [David Seymour]

[123] She was on campus every day for 3 to 4 hours and offered to volunteer.

[139] The Hospital started when the Rotary Club and the Junior League responded to the need of children whose problems were misunderstood. Parents often felt the child's handicap was punishment by God. They were, in many cases, abandoned, locked up as a disgrace, or left on door steps. Staff had to go out and find them. Some became wards of the county and grew up at Thoms.

[163] In 1970's a handicap act was passed and it became mandatory to teach these children. Funds were raised for schooling and teachers were hired. Two hundred thousand dollars came from the county and \$325,000 from the state legislature.

[176] Polio became a big factor and Thoms was the State Polio Center. Tents were put up on the lawn to accommodate all the patients. Several years ago ex-patients from all over the country had a reunion here.

[187] The Hospital has always been community oriented. In the 70's adult rehabilitation was started. Today they are into head injuries, stroke rehab, a center for children and a center for geriatrics.

[201] Before the Hospital was started the group met in All Soul's Church basement. Space was needed and Reed offered his home and 44 acres for \$10,000. The move was made and the Orthopedic Home started. [Clyde Reed]

[217] Along with the Junior League and Rotary, the community plays a major roll - The Crippled Children's Society, March of Dimes, the county and state legislature. The Hospital is often on the verge of being in the red.

[230] Often there was not enough money for payroll. Powell lived on campus as part of her salary. Hal retired from Enka to work here and often took no salary. [Polly Powell, Hal Bird]

[240] In 1970 there was not enough money to finish the adult wing. She went with the Board to the community and raised the money. The Speech and Hearing Clinic was financed, the gym and swimming pool were built. A building for handicapped workers, now called "Special Services" was built. The HandiSkills Inc. started in the basement of a local school to give employment to the disabled. These people now meet in the Square D building and the space is now a gym and offices. [Kenneth Partin]

[256] All buildings were paid for as they were built. She went to the public, developing capital building campaigns. She works on publicity, with volunteers and developing programs of special interest to the community.

[264] A ladies auxiliary started in the late 1960's. The women banded together to feed and bathe the children and buy special equipment. Golf tournaments and the gift shop raise funds. [Luceba Britt]

[279] There is rehab for head injuries, spinal cord injuries and stroke patients. Support groups meet following rehab - some people returning after the 1970's.

[291] The present focus is for short-term care. The average stay is 21 days - with head injuries it is 6 months to a year. Then patients live independently, go home or go to a nursing home.

[311] Partin's daughter, having been born deaf, needed early child care teaching. This is not available in Buncombe County. [Kenneth Partin]

[360] Retarded children are sent to the Irene Wortham school. [Irene Wortham]

[371] At the Hospital there are specific teams for specific problems. The patient is evaluated and a goal set. Rehab is a slow process.

[388] When a stroke patient reaches the maximum that the hospital feels they can reach, they become an outpatient.

[405] One former patient volunteers daily delivering mail and giving directions to visitors. [Ray Kimbel]

[428] We discuss the brochure. She and her assistant compiled (enclosed). [Kathy Peterson]

[430] Dr. Huff who supervises the Center for Children, also works at the Billy Graham Center for Children at the Memorial Mission Hospital. Dr. Noel spends 3-4 hours evaluating patients in the center for older adults. The information is sent back to the primary physicians. [Dr. Olson Huff, Billy Graham, Dr. Margaret (Peggy) Noel]

[482] In the physically handicapped divisions there are post-polio patients (with recurring problems) stroke patients and head injury patients.

[510] HandiSkills (see #240 p. 4) meet in Old Square D Building. Jobs come from companies (this is similar to Work Inc. - housed on A-B Tech Campus.)

[530] The pool is used for therapy and also for recreation.

[554] Doctors from Thoms also work at other hospitals.

Side 2:

[2/5] There is a support group for Alzheimer patients and a Mountain Care Day Care Center for older adults.

[2/9] A genetic study is being conducted at Memorial Mission. However, with more people coming into the state, fewer cousins are intermarrying as they have been in the past. [Dr. Olsen Huff]

[2/32] Thoms has always changed its programs to meet community needs.

[2/42] Her new thrust is to prepare people for living longer. Seminars are given: "Yours, mine and ours" (combining 2 sets of families) "sleep disorders," "sexual dysfunction," "Living Wills," "Burial information."

[2/75] There is a new series being offered to the public on myths of aging - loss of memory, social roles, illness and death. Films are shown, ideas shared, questions answered and refreshments served.

[2/89] Her major role as Executive Director is to raise money. She directs volunteers, writes grant proposals, manages public relations and prepares new people to take her place when she retires (she has recently remarried but keeps her name). Speakers address the community groups. [Mary Alice Kimbel]

[2/110] Right now there is concern about the proposed health care refunds.

[2/113] She talks about the city as she knew it when she first arrived. The need for more ways to reach Asheville - the cut and airport.

[2/147] She used to go into the center of the city 2 to 3 times a week - to doctor's offices or shopping. Now, aside from attending ACT, Pack Place and the Civic Center for symphonies, she rarely goes in town.

[2/162] She has no idea about what the future will hold. She has seen other cities do things that are creative. It will be ideal having the area develop retirement communities but considers the crime rate a big factor.

[2/172] She considers Givens Estate and Deerfield very good but we need more in the area. She would like to see them self-contained with movies, mailing facilities, etc. so that people can walk to do errands they formerly needed their car for. Her son lives independently - one day he will be an older adult needing such services.

[2/200] Other people are thinking along these lines and speakers go out to address groups about the needs of the older population.

[2/231] She doesn't believe Asheville is dedicated to retirees yet. The Chamber of Commerce is still looking for industries to come to the area. People should be trained to care for older adults and offer simple services that will enable them to stay in their homes. [Kay Clark, Dr. Margaret (Peggy) Noel]