



TRANSCRIPTION COVER SHEET

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Interviewee(s): KATHY LARGE

Interviewer(s): DONALD JOHNSON III

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This is an oral history interview with **KATHY LARGE**. It is being conducted on **JUNE 11th 2022** at **DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY** and concerns **Large's time of being a student RA at Rosary College (now Dominican University) she is class of 1971**. The interviewer is **DONALD JOHNSON III**. This interview is a part of the **INSTITUTIONAL LEGACY PROJECT**. This interview has been **RELEASED**. Documentation of permissions is included in the **MCGREAL ZOTERO 'INSTITUTIONAL SAGA PROJECT' LIBRARY > ORAL HISTORIES** archival record.

Kathy Large Interview

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

1960s, 1970s, class reunions, resident assistants (RAs), dorm life, fires, librarians, Dominican Sisters, English department, grades

SPEAKERS

Donald Johnson III, Kathy Large

Donald Johnson III 00:00

And before we officially begin, can I just get your full name, class year, today's date, and a little sentence about what you're going to talk about.

Kathy Large 00:09

My name is Kathy Large. I graduated from Rosary in 1971. This is being recorded at our 51st reunion, June 11, 2022. And I think I will talk about my time here as a resident assistant.

Donald Johnson III 00:25

Alright, perfect, the floor is yours.

Kathy Large 00:26

I was chosen. I had spent my junior year down at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, prior two years were here at Rosary. When I came back to Rosary, the job was open for an RA.

I applied, I interviewed and they said well, Kathy, since you've been away for a year and had kind of a big university experience, you've got the job. My charges were on the first floor Coughlin, they were all freshmen. One of the things that I remember most was our senior year, Ellen Havlik and I were on duty that Sunday. It was a nice spring afternoon. And there was a fire on third floor Coughlin. So, Ellen and I had to run upstairs and use our pass keys and check every room. In so doing we could see smoke, you know, beginning to build out in the hallway. And I remember going into the bathroom and getting just reams of paper towel—toweling and soaking them in the sink for just two seconds. And then, I said to Ellen, Ellen, we need to put these at our mouths and our faces and our eyes. And so, we went down the hall—she took one side I took the other—meanwhile, the Oak Park River Forest firemen had been called and were making their way. The good news was no one was in their room, the fire had started because of an ashtray and caught the papers on top of the desk on fire, went up the curtains across the curtain pole and down on the other side, and caught that side of the room on fire. The best news was it was a beautiful sunny spring day, people were outside studying in the grass. Some of them had gone home. So, we were very, very fortunate. The job as an RA was demanding especially of freshman— if you had freshmen, they were homesick, they weren't used to the rigorous studies. I spent a lot of time encouraging them. I had a autistic girl on my floor who needed a lot of reinforcement and I gave Margie a lot of my time to accomplish that for her. I remember Mary McGee was our school nurse did a wonderful job getting my mental health in better shape and just making sure that all of us RAs were doing okay because it was a bit of a challenge. The 60s—late 60s, early 70s—were not an easy time to be in school, but we made the most of it. And so, I'm grateful for the experience as an RA. It's time I cherish. And it also got me my first job out of graduate school. My boss at that time said Kathy, if you can wrangle 30-35 freshmen, I think you can handle being a reference librarian at IU South Bend. So, that job paid dividends down the road.

Donald Johnson III 03:20

Alright. Yeah. So, let me see. I know you have to be at mass in six minutes.

Kathy Large 03:25

Okay.

Donald Johnson III 03:26

If you want to just give one last closing statement, sort of tie everything together about how it feels to be here at reunion and any thoughts about that.

Kathy Large 03:35

Okay, I was blessed as an English major to have Sister Anna, [Sister] Jeanne Crapo, and also Sister Clemente Davlin. They did a wonderful job teaching us literature, Chaucer, et cetera. And so today was especially nice to come back and see so many of my fellow English majors and

share our stories. The curriculum was rigorous. We worked very hard for our Bs. And if you got an A—they were tough graders—and things, you know, they had to be sharp and correct and punctuated and ready to roll. So, we learned a lot of discipline. But the Sisters were so incredibly dedicated to us that that dedication has carried over to this day. Every one of my classmates today has made that comment. How big a difference the nuns made in their lives. They were wonderful role models for us. They were scholars and they had good senses of humor, and they were playful at times and for the most part really fun to be around. I feel truly blessed to have had the Sinsinawa Dominicans.

Donald Johnson III 04:40

Okay, perfect.

Kathy Large 04:41

Okay.