

I'm Betty Rough Dean? and live at 50 Limburg Terr, and I'm 52 years old and I'm formally from St. Patrick's but now I'm at Holy Trinity. I'm Lucille Bruff, and I'll be 80 years old in June and I live 1545 Mt. Rose Terr, and I'm been at St. Patrick's parish ever since I was a little girl of 5 years old. My name is Peg Hermes, I was Peg Witham, I'm 60 years old and I've been a member of St. Patrick's for 55 years. I live at 1365 Belfour. I'm Jack Bradley I live at 1575 Boron??? in Dubuque, I'm 61 and I've been a member at St. Pat's for about 50 years. I'm Ethel Gassman, I live at 897 W Locust Street, I'm 82 years old and I've lived in St. Patrick's parish since I was 7 years old. Made my first communion here and was confirmed at St. Pats and have been organist for over 50 years here. I'm Helen Krebs, 267 W 17th, and I've been with St. Patrick's parish since 1940 and I'm 82 years old.....

I'm Jamie Roberts, and I live at 1496 White Street, I'm 10 years old, I'm in 5th grade and with Girl Scout Troop 51. Ok, the first question, is [what] I think is the most interesting one. Could you tell us how the customs have changed in St. Patrick's church? What was Sunday mass like when you were 10 years old? When I was 10 years old the mass was in Latin and the priest had his back to the congregation and there was no English parts at all, no English singing or music, we used Gregorian chant at the time for the most part. We still had a communion railing, and father wore a hat sometimes in church, called a biretta. I remember when I was about that age, everybody who went to St. Pat's school, it was mandatory that you were at 8:30 mass on Sunday and they kept attendance, and if you didn't show up, well it was just like missing school, I don't know if it counted against your grade, but it counted against your department somehow, because everybody had to be there, there were just no two ways about it. And funerals if you were in the upper grades, like 6th, 7th, and 8th and you sang in funeral choirs, funerals were conducted at 7:30 in the morning sometimes 7:00 and you had to be here at that time to sing, and Gregorian funeral mass. Were you playing the organ at that time? No, well Ruth Herrington was.... now before Mabel Hoffman, or Mabel Rooney Hoffman was the organist and I don't know..... that was during the day wasn't it? You did Sundays. Sundays, I suppose, well she was the regular organist in those days, Sundays or the week, I think. Well, that's way way back when I was knee high.... Anyway, the mass of course was always in Latin, and when I took, when I started on the organ Fr. Hanley was the pastor and I didn't know a thing about playing the organ in the church at all, so between Sr. Marie St. Claire and Fr. Hanley I learned funeral mass procedure and then I also played for the children's masses on Sunday and that was usually at 8:30 and they were all in the body and the sisters were there with each class and anybody who didn't properly conduct themselves during the mass was called to sit in back with sister and if you were really out of line you had to write a little essay on what the sermon was about, so you really had to keep your ears open and your eyes open and your tongue the way it should be, but we had a beautiful choir when Mrs. Hoffman was the organist and I think the mass at that time was either 10 or 10:30 on Sunday. That lasted for a long time, the length of time that they had the choir at that time. Well then, I was, my work interrupted my organ playing at that time and I was away from church organ playing and then I came back when the novena started, 1938. And I played three services in the evening, 6:30, 7:30, and 8:30 during the war and um, Fr. Supple, Fr. Keane, and Msgr. Coffee was pastor at that time. Fr. Brady was here and Kelly. Kelly had got sick and had to go west for his health, so then they brought Fr. Spahn in pro tem and he stayed 7 years. Because we had him and.... [inaudible]. Well I went to school here, not St. Patrick's but St. Jos from 1st grade on and my kindergarten days were at the Cathedral and I remember a few of the sisters who well, the first teacher in 1st grade was Isabelle McGovern, she was a Clarke student getting experience teaching, and that was in 1st grade and that's when I was 7 years old that I started my music, in 1st grade. Then another sister was Sister Mary Cashmere, who taught

us in 7th and 8th grade and towards the end of the 8th grade when we were to graduation, Sister spent one day teaching us the difference between grade school and high school studies so that anyone in that class was very well prepared for going into first-year high school and it was really good. I bet it was. And Sr. Marie Ramona was another teacher in grades, she was an older teacher and she was very strict, but you didn't forget your spelling, she was an expert in spelling. And then there was Sr. Marie St. Robert, Sr. Naomi in high school, and Sr. Mary Claude. No more sisters anymore. They're all.... [inaudible]. We wore uniforms every day, but like on Sunday, like Mr. Bradley said, we had children's mass at 8:30 in the morning, and we just wore our dress up clothes, like girls didn't wear slacks then, so if it was cold in the winter time, you might wear a skirt over your snow pants. What did the boys wear? They just wore slacks, or trousers. I think we wore white shirts. People didn't have enough money to buy much anyway, nothing fancy, for neatness, and I guess to show that you belonged there you wore the clothes so you'd recognize which kids were in the school and which weren't. Another thing is that during the war there was rationing, so you couldn't like buy nylon stockings, because not only did you not have the money but you did not have the ration coupon. There was silk in those days.... that's right. And shoes, I remember my mom going over to St. Jos convent. That's where the sisters stayed who taught at St. Patrick's school and she would trade ration coupons, they would give her shoe coupons and she would give them shoe coupons because they did more cooking, and we needed the shoes because we would outgrow our shoes and we didn't have coupons to buy shoes with so we'd often go barefoot all summer long and then in the fall she'd trade the ration coupons with the sisters so we'd get shoes for school then. Well where did the ration coupons, where did you get them? The federal government put them out. Oh really? There was a shortage while.... A lot of things, like chocolate candy, and meat, oleo, butter. We never had oleo then, nobody ever did. I remember mixing, you know when oleo first came in, you took your butter and the oleo was in like a squeeze bag thing and you dropped it in with the butter you had to make it go farther. They rationed meat and sugar, and coffee and tires and gas. Anything else? Shoes. What about clothes? No, but everybody was so poor, you didn't have much money to buy anything, you wore what you had. And when Betty was talking about uniforms, when I first went to St. Pats in '32, we wore little navy blue pleated skirts with a white blouse and little round collar until we'd get to 5th grade and then we wore a sailor type blouse with big navy blue ties on it, but still the pleated skirts until we went to high school. What did you wear in high school? In high school we wore surge uniforms navy blue surge with stiff white collars and we'd have red marks around our neck, the collars were so stiff. And then we'd have on the bottom of our sleeves, and they'd probably be 5 inches wide 4 inches, and we used to buy protectors, oh I forget some like a tool supply or something and they were plastic with a little zipper, the last couple of years in high school, and then we wouldn't get our cuffs dirty while we were riding to school. But then and every year from freshman to senior you wore a different color tie, and someone would see you (I don't remember anymore what the colors were) but if you wore a white one you were probably a senior and a red one another, like a sophomore or something. Like someone on the street would say that particular gal goes to St. Joseph Academy and she's a sophomore because of the color of the tie, but that's over 40 years ago and memory isn't as good as it once was. Well, at St. Pats when we were at school, we wore the green uniforms, the jumper and the blouse, white blouse. And then when I went to St. Jos the high school, we wore a blue surge jumper with an open collar, just a regular open collar. We only had like one or maybe two for the four years and I remember that on graduation day I had so many holes and the seams were all shabby. We took our uniforms, some of us, and we tore our uniforms off and threw them away. We were just so sick of

those blue surge uniforms. We used to wear them like when school started in August and it was hot, we had those uniforms on. They were wool and they itched like you wouldn't believe. You know the boys got their own uniforms at Loras Academy which was the boys academy then before Wahlert opened up. It's the St. Joseph building of the college where we had the Loras Academy. We had ROTC, reserve officer training corps, and we had our regular army uniform which is a heavy wool thing, about three days every week. And that Sam Brown bell thing, the kind of hat with a stiff beak on a hat and everything. And that was, for boys especially to have to wear that three days a week that was miserable too, we were glad to get rid of that. You guys must have been lucky to wear the skirts though, I mean the boys they had to wear pants. Yeah, but you see we never had, nobody ever wore slacks, or jeans or that. They didn't have those things at all. You weren't a girl if you wore slacks. Right. I never had a pair of snow pants until I was in 5th grade when they first came out. Otherwise, you wore these heavy lisle stockings and long underwear. And the long underwear was fine when it was first new, but the older it got, the bottom of the legs got wide and you'd have to take it and go around like this and bring your stocking up over it and you'd have little garters that attached to your underwear, Sorry Jack, but anyway, the older they got, you'd be standing in class and all the sudden a pin would pop, and you'd go "ohhhh." And you couldn't say anything about what had happened. Did you lose your pants? Oh no, but the stocking would fall down you see it'd be an old garter that was pinned onto your union suit (what they called it at the time). They're more like little kids mittens where they clamp onto the sleeve, yeah but we just had a little slot in where the safety pin went through that and then you had the two little pins that hooked, oh but after the underwear got old, that was a [inaudible] to wrap all that in these horrible lisle stockings and then your mom's always darning stockings, and sometimes if she wasn't too good of a darning you'd have all these big bumps in the front of your shoe. [inaudible]. When you went to school then World War 2 was going on right? That's why the rationing? Yes, and not only that but when I was in school I was 7 when my father went to service, and all, well not all, but many of the kids in my class, boys and girls, did not have fathers at home, so there was no like men around, there just wasn't any men. But then World War 2 kind of helped the women, they got on track to have more things going on their life. That's true, a lot of mothers were working, and you talk about latch key kids nowadays, we had a lot of latch key kids, that's right. But we didn't know we were poor, and we didn't know we had problems, because everybody else was all doing the same thing it was all even back then. No one was deprived, we were all the same. Yeah, we were all deprived [laughter]. Really, but we didn't realize. We didn't have the things. It didn't make any difference. We didn't know any better. I can remember like we'd play cards in the afternoon over [inaudible], just to have something to do during the summer when it was so hot, because you never had television, you never had money to go to the pools or anything. Never air conditioning. My dad worked in a grocery store and he brought us a whole long sleeve of milk caps. Now kids today wouldn't even know what the milk caps were, because they were oh probably the size of a half dollar and they fit on top of milk bottle, they were paper, but the milk bottles were glass and we used these particular milk caps were unused, some dairy man had given them to dad, we used them as chips playing cards in the afternoon, or we'd play monopoly or this or that you know and we'd eat soda crackers. Mrs. Schwartz would give them to us. We never had pop or that, well no one had refrigeration, we had ice boxes where the ice man would come and you would fix your card certain way, you get a 25 pound, another way a 50 pound and he'd come every few days, and you'd always, under your icebox you'd have a pan where the water from the melted ice dripped, and if you forgot to empty it you really had a problem. That's right. The iceman would come in a big flatbed truck and he'd have big

chunks of ice in there and then he'd chop them off and then we'd chase the ice truck up the street, and the guy had red hair, and it was a Mulroon's Ice Truck. And he would give my mom a chunk of ice, however much she needed for her icebox, and then we'd grab the hunks that were leftover and was hot in summer and we'd have that to suck on. Some of you ladies you remember when it was horse-drawn the ice wagon, oh yeah, I remember that, do you remember that too? I remember the Sheehy, oh the Sheeny. The Sheeny was the man who had a horse, and he had a hat on and a sort of fringe on the horse and Sheeny was like a beggar almost, but he did like bargain trading, he had all these, he used to pick people's trash and stuff, and then if he went to your house if you saw something on his wagon that you wanted then you would say well I'll trade you a piece of old clothing if you give me that dish, and you'd like bargain with him, and he had this horse and the horse wore the hat. And the Sheehy looked like just what you think a Sheehy would be like, like sort of a hobo. And I'll bet there be [inaudible] like a scrap dealer, [inaudible]. They were maybe Jews, the Sheeny's. I heard the name Sheeny and I wondered where that came from. It came from the fact that they'd buy rags and so forth, they'd have a big deep coin purse they'd dig in and because of the shiny coins that they paid you [with, a] few pennies for the rags or bottles, or what have you. They started to call them... from shiny it turned to sheeny and that's where Sheeny comes from. Sheeny kind of meant a stingy person, a person who made the coins really count. Yeah, that's probably true. I can remember I was bad one time and my mother was going to sell me to the Sheeny. Oh yes, I remember that. I think we all did that. And this particular day, like the next day after that happened, here he pulls into our yard for something and I was going..... oh God [inaudible]. We used to have a bad Sheeny and a good Sheeny I remember that, but there was one you wouldn't go near. I don't know why, but all the kids were scared to death of him. But the other one if he came around the door to sell or if you had anything he'd buy from you, he wouldn't harm you anyway, there was a good and a bad one, your mother was probably going to sell you to the bad one. Was the church the same as it was today, you know like location? As long as I remember.... [inaudible] Did they add onto it? No.... for one thing, the steps were outside, they weren't enclosed at all. We've got a picture here of the outside steps. There's my mom in her, when she was a scout leader, she's standing on the steps on the outside of the church. That's where they put the, um, or enclosed the entrance. That was enclosed 23 years ago because I'll be married 23 Saturday. When? 1966, see we were married in '64. We have pictures of people standing outside. [inaudible] And they didn't have the ramp on the side until like when I was in later grade school or early high school. No, that was put on when.... [inaudible]. I think Fr. Hanley did that, if I remember right. The church wasn't connected to the rectory, that part was built on when Fr. or Msgr. Hanley was here, when that was done. Well that was before my days. Oh, I remember because we were living here 66 years and I know it was done after we were here and Msgr. Hanley was here at that time. Well, he died in '37. We were checking pictures out in the front hall, and then Coffee came, Msgr. Coffee. Oh, when Msgr. Hanley was here we lived right across the alley and he was the first one to put in the parking space here, but it wasn't where it is now, it was right here where, as you come into the yard here, that's where it was. And the housekeeper lived right in this little spot, that's right. Like next to the kitchen and then upstairs. Do you remember Rose? Rose, and then Margaret was with Leen, she was real nice. Rose was with Fr. Mulligan. No, no, Mulligan. And Leen, or Margaret was [inaudible] we were going to crown Blessed Mother, we had sodality, and Fr. Blessington, this was his 2nd trip. I think he was here earlier. Anyway, he was here two times. He was here with Msgr. Coffee. Well this was his 2nd time around and Mary Rita Keyhole was going to crown Blessed Mother and I was, she was President Sodality and I was Vice or something, and we were sitting out in the

kitchen with Margaret looking at our flowers that we were going to wear in our hair later that day and Mary Rita is having this cigarette and Fr. Blessington walked in and it was a remark that I never forgot, 40 some years ago, "the hand that holds the cigarette this morning will crown the Blessed Mother." [inaudible] She stop smoking? I don't think so. I've often reminded Fr. Blessington of that in later years. The priests that are now, you know, are the same as they were back then. Fr. Kress was here when I was in high school. Yeah, he was here once before. Um, Jack, was it mandatory for boys to be altar boys? Was it mandatory that all boys be...? Like now, I think altar boys are scarce, not everyone wants to be involved. Like when you were young was it a certain grade that you had to be in? It seems to me that everyone was an altar boy, whether they had to be or not. They all were willing to contribute. There were convinced somehow that they should and the parents quite frankly took more of an interest in those days and made sure that they showed up and kept track of when they were supposed to be there and so forth. Were there special things in the church then that there aren't now, like pew rentals? Holy Trinity, I was at Holy Trinity before St. Pats and we had pew rental there, I don't remember that it was in effect when I came here. It was in place of tithing, you know it was a name for the money you gave. You gave pew rental and you were assigned a pew or pews depending on how big your family was. You used that pew and nobody else used it, that's the way it was. I remember Jim [inaudible] when he come into church that one pew was his and if anybody sat there, he'd just stand there until they got up and moved and he'd.... [inaudible]. That was the present judge's father though wasn't it. Right. The older man with the big thick..... hair and brows. But I guess that was his pew, he must have bought the pew. Getting back to the boys and so forth, you raised or mentioned St. Jos, why don't you clarify that as St. Joseph's Academy and how it worked out with the St. Patrick's.... I wouldn't understand that. We're talking St. Jos before some people might think we're talking about St. Joseph's school over on Algona, this was St. Joseph's Academy. 13th and Main where the bank is now, Key City Bank. I have a picture. Where all the kids from St. Pat's, the girls. Years ago, girls started at St. Jos first grade and St. Patrick's was strictly a boy's school. But they were St. Pats parishioners... that's right, the girls and the boys.... that's right, going to St. Jos, but it was strictly boys here and girls over at St. Jos. And then later on St. Jos got too big to have the whole school grade and high school, so they had the first four years of girls at St. Pats with the boys and when we got to be in 5th grade or 10 years old we went to St. Jos for 5th and 6th grade and now the year that would have been 1938, the Fall of '38 St. Jos Academy was getting more crowded, they couldn't use us so they sent the 7th and 8th-grade girls from St. Patrick's, back to St. Patrick's and we went to school in the auditorium at the old St. Patrick's school which is now a garage, way up on the third floor, or attic. [inaudible] That's my class, that's where 7th and 8th and 5th and 6th, because you know we share.... No no. I don't think you went to that school. No, this school is all gone. It was where the garage is? Where's that? You know where Father parks his car? Between the church and school. That was our school. Oh, was it? It was a three story building. Your grade school was not built until I was a senior in high school, so that would have been in '51. That was the last thing.... Msgr. [inaudible]. We lost both our schools. St. Jos Academy is bank and this one is a garage. Even burned my college down. I went to Clarke and now that's burned down. The difference in the church itself is the stations, well Msgr. Mulligan was in the hospital they redecorated the church and they, the stations were framed in a heavy oak, real dark, and they took that entire frame off every stations and left the center of the station itself as it is today, but every one of those stations were framed in a real thick.... And the altar was different too, more like the old cathedral, very ornate, gothic they called it. Now that it's light colored now and Msgr. Mulligan had that.... I have a picture of that at home the St. Patrick's

Boys Vested Choir that I was in back in the '30's we filled up the whole sanctuary..... that's right. Well, Ethel you know how big we were back then. And they even had the little McDuffy kids as soloists. That was St. Mary Vergene. There was a lot more parent involvement as the economics were bad and you didn't have the money so and there was no TV, I think that was another big thing. You went to your church, was the place where you went you didn't go to a movie or out bowling or all this. You went, there was so many things to do at school, both social wise as well as religious. But mostly I think even the social had a religious um character. [end of side 1]

Side 2

When they were talking about the church being different today at that time, now they still had one Legion of Mary here that you visit homes and hospitals, I don't know that they visit people trying to get them back in church in this day and age, I don't know whether we'd want them to be knocking on doors like we did years ago. But we had 4 Legion of Mary's. We had two women's, a men's legion, and a junior legion that took high school girls, and I was lucky to have been a junior member, and we'd go, Betty Gilbert and I would go two nights a week and we had like 13 places we would visit. We got several converts back, God was good to us, and a few lapsed Catholics back to the church. And we had one dear man, he was so sweet, but he and his wife were very very old and he didn't want Betty and I to think that he had gone back to church, because he enjoyed the visits once a week. Every once in a while, we'd seem him at church and the we'd go and visit with him and we'd say "Pete, we saw you at church" "oh I was just out for my walk and walking by". But they enjoyed this so much, because most of their families were out of town and this was the only contact with two bratty high school kids. I was in Peggy's Sodality when I was a freshman and sophomore in high school, she was the sodality leader. That was a long time ago. And we also had a Rosary Society, and the Sodality was for young ladies, not married. Once you got married, once you became married you went to the Rosary Society. And the Holy Name Society that the men had, that they still have today, but they filled the church every time they had anything going on. It wasn't.... And they would march for 40 hours all around the church and it'd be just men after men wouldn't it Ethel? You never saw such a beautiful thing and at that time they would carry candles and they'd turn the lights out and it was the most gorgeous.... They'd probably get 400 men wouldn't they, oh easy. Sure. You know and now you call for something and this is it, you know. And it got to the point they had to invite the wives, not that it's bad or anything, but to get a crowd.... or families. And we used to have novena. We had 2:30 and 4:00 novena and the girls in the grade school would usher for that and wore like a little cap, a blue cap with red piping, and a cape that went over our school uniform and then you passed the basket at offertory, or collection time, I should say. We were called the Army of Mary. We used to [inaudible]. I remember in 7th or 8th grade a polio epidemic and we had a novena and the Father that was pastor at that time asked the girls not to come and usher because of the contagion. There were so many girls and boys in our age group that was getting polio and had to go to hospitals that died, and went into respirators, and were crippled afterward. And I remember I trained my sister, she was a year young than me, to usher and we went down to church, we'd run down and quick pass the basket, and then run home quick. We thought the church should get the money, so we went quick and pass the basket and then we'd run home so that nobody would see us and get sick, but then Father said he didn't think it was a good idea for us to come. He was concerned. Like you guys couldn't give money to the church? We gave envelopes through

Sunday mass, blue children's envelopes. What we did at novena was, you know like they do at Sunday mass at offertory when they present the gifts and the usher goes down the aisle with the basket or some kind of a collection plate, that we did at novena, the girls did that. Why was that bad? It wasn't bad to pass the basket, the money part, but it was bad because there was this disease called polio and it was real contagious and it attacked people who were say in between 5th grade and maybe a sophomore in high school and those years in particular, it was really contagious. How did you get it? They didn't have any medicine. I don't know how it got passed. It was in the winds or the air, and you never got to go out like in the summer when it got real hot it was the worst. And there was no medicine then. Now you've been vaccinated I'm sure. They gave you a shot. Dr. Saulk came out with his vaccine and that took care of that, and it practically eliminated it altogether. One day we took a cube of sugar and they'd put a drop of something on it, a vaccine or something. But the air was so dry and there was so much dust and dirt, and there was no rain. I remember that one summer because Dr. Rohn's youngest daughter I think was out sweeping the sidewalk, they lived at 10th and Bluff street at that time, and she collapsed on the sidewalk and the dust was real heavy at that time and she had infantile paralysis and [inaudible]. It was infantile paralysis, but when Dr. Saulk invented or discovered this serum or whatever it was, they cut it down to polio... and still is infantile paralysis, as far as the name goes. And then there was Franklin D. Roosevelt who had infantile paralysis, this is the same thing, the polio and infantile paralysis. Did he die? No, he got this and he was in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. So, when you're studying history, you'll find out that you developed infantile paralysis. Wasn't he in his 20's or something? Because they had a couple of children, but this is the same disease that Betty was talking about. When you were talking about altar boys, did you girls like, did you ever want to [do what altar boys do]? No women's lib at that time. We did in my years, we did and so what we got to do in place of being an altar boy we got to be what was called sacristans. That means that the girls got to clean church and the boys got to serve with the blessed sacrament and girls got to dust and vacuum. That has been in my craw for years. Well obviously. We've been trying to be altar girls and they won't let us and you know we got to the pope I think. Why do you want to be an altar girl, just because the boys are? No, because it's fun and.... Fun? Yeah, you get to....[inaudible] at the end of the year you get to go on a trip. Not only that but always felt that you got to be real close to the blessed sacrament and that sure beats cleaning. But I told my pastor about that while I was at Holy Trinity