

Interview with Dr. Roy Heath  
March 3, 1996 6:30 P.M.  
HS 200

INT: I am just going to follow by the questions I have typed up for you here.

First of all I have to do a research paper of the history of Northern's Nursing Department, which I went and I researched quite a bit over at the nursing dept. and Betty Hill let me photo copy a lot of stuff she had. Ahm, so actually it seemed like there was during the 1963 to maybe 1968 there was a lot of research done on the feasibility of having a nursing dept. at Northern. I noticed you were involved in a lot of that type of stuff. Could you kind of like tell me more of what you did?

RH: well I was director of research and development at the time. And they asked me how they should finance it. And there was some money set aside in Washington for it, but that money was it's usual situation, it was already pre-committed before this thing was passed. So that didn't look very good, I recall there was a meeting on it and I, you, what I estimated was some values and dollars in there. I don't remember an awful lot more about it. because I didn't have an awful lot to do with it.

INT: oh you didn't

RH: no

INT: Well I see ahm, you were on, let see there was a couple of meetings like with ahm U.P. Hospital Councils with representatives from Northern and there were, you were at several those meetings I got, let see a couple of memorandums from Dr. Harden to you and from you to him also on the subject of starting a associate program or a Baccalaureate in nursing. That is like 1963/64 somewhere in that area. And ah lets see ahm and by 1964 it is with you and a lot with Dr. West,

RH: Yes he was the Dean at the time, no he wasn't the dean.

INT: It's oh one of them, yes it say's here he is the Dean Luther West,

RH: Oh yah, well

INT: Your meeting has like the faculty members ahm just for this start of the Nursing program. Then there is another one I see here okay another one is from you too, to looks like a whole list of people of the faculty of Northern and the subject is proposed BS Degree in Nursing. I was just wondering what role you played in it.

RH: Well I didn't play much of a role in it. It was out of my

field. Is Russ Adams on that list?

INT: ah yes Mr. Russell W. Adams, he is on one of these

RH: Yeah, he is the ?? city,

INT: oh really. Then there is Dr. Jane S. Bemis, Dr. Berg, Dr. Gill, Yourself, ahm lets see, Dr. West,

RH: I can't be very helpful to you because I really don't remember, it seemed at the time what we were doing was very important.

INT: okay, mostly it seemed like you were having meetings about the feasibility of having a Nursing dept.

RH: yes, and complications the hospital wanted to give up there program.

INT: Well ahm officially in the fall of 1969 was Northern's first class with a bachelor's of science in Nursing. So apparently I guess 1968 would of been the last class from St. Lukes. Ahm then you have got a letter from yourself to the president and the subject is the training act of 1964 and you talk about different grants and there is something about the kellogg grant, but you seem to be, I have got quite a few of them here mostly what you were involved with the seems to be the financial part of it like to ahm see whether it is feasible for Northern to have a Nursing Department. Do you remember why that they kept contacting you to be an active part in it.

RH: Well I was the one that played a part in Washington. I was very active in the summer program. And I was in Washington for the National Science Foundation. Of course I was the one that started the student aid program up there. and ah

INT: you were in the research and development right. but were you the head of one of the Departments also?

RH: I was in the Chemistry Dept.

INT: right that was the other thing. I also saw your name on a list of committee of Academic Affairs couple of times you had meetings with that committee about the nursing department too later on like 1966 or 1967. do you remember anything about that?

RH: I think I was just there

INT: you were just there?

Okay lets see, do you, were you involved at all when in 1968 Margaret Redig took over? that officially sounds like it is the head of the Nursing dept. as we know of it, you remember being involved with any of that? As far as, later on she became the dean.

RH: yes, I remember she was there, and I remember the appointment, but I wasn't active in that appointment. I had nothing to do with it.

INT: lets see, what I could see the main reason for wanting a Nursing Department at Northern, ahm seem to be that everyone felt that we need more nurses in the United States and in the Upper Peninsula, what do you think was the main, was it more like did they try to send more to the local hospital's in the U.P. to service them you know

RH: yes I think the idea was, we wanted to get more nurses available because people didn't seem to be happy with the previous degree in nursing offered by the hospital and so forth, so the other option under Ed Harden was obviously for more students.

INT: yes that would be a good reason. ahm first they wanted, well you had a couple of letters you were trying more for the associate's degree. For the RN rather than the Baccalaureate degree. Then it turned out that the Baccalaureate degree ahm actually was formed, that program was formed before the associates degree, I don't think that started late 1980's and I think Betty White just told me they discontinued that, they don't have the associates degree anymore. ahm so in my understanding you were trying to implement the nursing program and the department and the Baccalaureate degree all kind of like came together at one time. Up until that time it was just basically St. Lukes Hospital that was handling everything.

RH: that's right,

INT: and some of the classes that the students took were at Northern and then they would go like maybe to the hospital for there clinical work and stuff.

RH: yes that is the way they work

INT: is there anything you could think of that could add to my interview. anything you could think back to. any of your personal observations.

RH: you see, the program Russ Adams for instance was very active up there.

INT: okay, yes i see his name on quite a few of these things.

RH: and he was from the service group that serviced the programs ? state and they were very interested in the funding that came from lower Michigan, for instance the skill center, that was under that area. The dean of that he died, I can't recall his name.

INT: Was Russ Adams, ?? the man who was ?? down there.

RH: yes.

INT: The University has his number that is how I got yours. AHm did you notice that the questions I had at the bottom. Dr. Magnaghi wanted to know about the flax and the Olympic training center, did you read about it,

RH: yes I read about it

INT: he just wanted to know if you had any input on your involvement in the olympic training center.

RH: first I conceived it. Ed Harden called me and said he picked up the property back of the Tiroler Hoff, and what do we do with it. Well let me see what the deed say's. The deed said it can only be used for the educational and recreational purposes. He said well what can we do with it. Well we could conceivably because there was a lot of discussion on what there going to do about the olympics, why don't we try to put a center in. We will use that location, and you know we finally put in the Luge Run. That situation on it was ? ?

INT: what year was that, that you first started talking about it, what was it about 10 years ago when you put that in.

RH: yah but he already has a big file on it, because I wrote up the whole deal for our previous appointment there. He should have that file with all the details that happened.

INT: ahm,

RH: I met with the olympic committee in Washington, and ah presented the concept of a deal in Northern Michigan and then shortly after that I handled all the arrangements for the womens Job Corp. and shortly after that was done I left for the University of Wisconsin.

INT: Did you say the Womens Job Corp.

RH: Yes

INT: I noticed in a lot of Northern's old bulletins mainly in the 60's they had a lot of the Nursing classes before they actually developed a program on campus they were through the Job Corp, the womens job corp. Can you tell me a little bit more about that.

RH: Well that was a big contract there, we brought a whole bunch of girls in there, when I made the final arrangements with Mrs. Washington in Washington D.C, she was the director of Job corps and I made that arrangement, the arrangement was that there were limited to no more than 50% black students, and apparently after I left, I went down for Research and Development at Wisconsin State University system, apparently it operated for a few years and ahm then

INT: So then that was a grant from the government right

RH: That was one BIG grant,

INT: one big grant from the government to get women involved in the work force and stuff, training for women, so then Nursing would of been one the major profession that would of been effected by that, because they list it right underneath in a lot of the bulletins they have the nursing program, what little of it was, they had it listed under neath the Job Corp and I didn't know what the job corp was. How about your experiment with the flax.

RH: I had a friend that had a ?, it would separate flax mechanically and I followed through with him for a while, we did an awful lot of work on it but when we reached the point, he went to Dow Chemical and he worked at Dow Chemical for a while. And then he kept coming back and saying we should do something about it, and I agreed with him, instead of burning the straw we could use the whole deal, it still makes sense. I tried to interest the Chemistry department into some of the chemical work, because this fellah was only, real support when the chips were down he was afraid he was going to lose his patent, right. He was so desperate about it, that when I tried to deal with him, it didn't work out. He came back in now and then with the idea he could make it work but the reason it failed it the fellah that was on it wasn't doing the work, he was a retired person and he was doing the work, but he was so worried about his patent, when he started dealing with Dow Chemical and other company's involved it didn't work out.

INT: okay, so you really didn't get too far with it.

RH: No.

INT: with the procedure, it just kind of went to a dead end then.

RH: a dead end. I had pretty well worked out, but he wouldn't talk, so that they could, everyone has got to have a patent, like that, so he wouldn't want to, he tried to be too secret on it and so forth so it didn't work out.

INT: I think we covered all the (she talked to soft here I couldn't make out what she said.

RH: I ah, of course, ?? on the athletic program, he was the one who helped me so much.

INT: for the olympic training center and stuff.

RH: yes, there was a lot of information on that, how about Jamrich, I sent him a whole file, he had a whole file and he said something about giving it to Magnaghi, but that was one hell of a lot of work. If you want to know something about that call ??

she was my secretary.

INT: Does she live in Marquette.

RH: just south of there, along the lake. Call the graduate office and ask them how to get a hold of her.

INT: ? Roy,

RH; yes, she typed all the proposals

INT: So maybe she will remember

RH: so then when I left I turned it all over to Karen Kunkell(?)

INT: Okay, how long have you been retired.

RH: Oh about 15 years.

INT: oh that long

RH: But Karen Kunkell she is the one that finally got the Job Corp in.

INT: oh did she

RH: yeah, I wrote it up, I got that right here.

INT: okay

RH: let me turn my light on, Karen Kunkel, 9022 Lynngrove Rd. Brooksville, FL 34613. and Burt ? is down, he is retired from Cleveland Cliffs, he's in Tuson now but he will be back this summer again.

INT: now going back to the nursing stuff, mostly what you were involved in was seeing if Northern could get some money to start a program right.

RH: yes

INT: because I see here from you to Mrs. Hazel Kinville, she was one of the first people that started working on this, and seeing the feasibility, the University hired her as a secretary to study the funding of the Nursing department like back in the early 60's.

RH: yes

INT: And then you got some figures from the Kellogg Foundation, that is what you were mainly involved in was the funding part of it.

RH: yes, I was ? of course trying to see if there was any money available in Washington.

INT: right

RH: but the way that was working at that time, was the money that were in Washington that they said were available were really available, because the people that had written all the proposals had there names in ? ? ?

INT: okay, did Northern decide the Job Corp did we get a lot of money in from Washington.

RH: oh yes,

INT: well, can you think of anything else you would like to add to this interview.

RH: how many people in the administrative area have you talked to?

INT: well not too many so far, I have photo copies of different things I have been looking up in the library. I did interview Dr. Betty Hill and yourself. You are the two people I interviewed so far. Someone suggested to me that the secretary of the Nursing Department would be a good person. But Mrs. Hazel ?, the one with the first dean there in the nursing dept., no Margaret Redig is past away, and ahm Lew Irvast is not alive and those two would be the best.

RH: I think you should get together with Mrs. Hill would be your best, and say tell me what you know about it.

INT; I already talked to her. she was very helpful, I spoke to her for over an hour. I really got quite a bit here. I just need to organize it, which is my next step. So if you think that is all we need to talk about I will let you go.

RH: have you talked to Ed Harden

INT: no, where does he live

RH: in Lansing

INT: I would have to call up I think I called the Alumni office, I think where I got your number, yah the Alumni office gave me your number. There is also Ellwood Mattson, he lives in Norway doesn't he.

RH: he was the bank president

INT: yes it say's the board of directors, and he was on some hospital board, I could try him. So I think that is all then.

RH: find out from the hospital to find out who was the director of Nursing then.

INT: I thought of calling up over there to see if, to get some records, I want to know I think it is 1968, but want to know what the very first year that Northern was affiliated with St. Lukes in a program because I can go back to I believe 1943, they had some type of program going back and forth between the two of them, but I wanted to find out when they started doing that. so I have to dig around and call up the hospital but I don't know if they will have anything, but I will have to look.

RH: Of course you are asking about money, there was one year I brought in 6 million bucks.

INT: oh really, just for

RH: for the ? foundation and then womens Job Corp if I recall was 2.7 million

INT: that was an awful lot of money

RH: we took over one full dormitory, and I got them to pay for the remodeling, new interior, then seems the new doors, and then you know they had to pick up the building to run the Job Corp, what do you call that the name of the building, The Birds eye building,

INT: yes, I had a class in there art class I don't know if they use that building anymore.

RH: WE ? that, we used it for Job Corp

INT: so when you got that Job Corp, the grants you sort of split it up and used it for different ways right.

RH: no it was one full contract

INT: you did use some of it for Nursing

RH: that was the unimportant part

INT: I think I am going to let you go right now I got enough stuff for the interview, but if I need to get a hold of you again is it okay if I call you back

RH: I don't know if I know anymore

INT: Thank you Dr. Heath

RH: I suggest you get a hold of Russ ? and see what they were doing

INT: okay I will do that

RH: why don't yo call Ed Harden



INT: I will have to call the Alumni office to get these peoples  
phone numbers

RH: or the presidents office, you can get ?

INT: well thank you bye.  
tape ended.