

**SUMMARY OF TAPE D100 INTERVIEW WITH ANNE DOUGLAS
REGARDING THE EVERGREEN CONFERENCE**

March 28, 1977

Interviewer: Sandy Crain

The first church conference was in 1898-99. Father Douglas, the Bishop, and other clergy stayed in the Stewart Hotel. The Stewart Hotel was the first building that Mary Neosho Williams purchased for the Evergreen Conference. It was St. John Cathedral's Choir Camp in the early days. The Stewart Hotel belonged to the Church of the Transfiguration, but was rented for the Conference.

Anne tells a story about Grandpa Stewart's long white whiskers. Grandpa Stewart sold the Hotel to Mrs. Williams. The hotel dining room became the chapel where Ann was baptized by Father Hickman. Anne first went to Evergreen as secretary for the Conference in the summer of 1926. She would go back and forth from the cottage to 2588 Dexter in Denver summer and winter.

The Conference started as an independent corporation to provide an educational and religious church conference for all people. It was part of a national conference movement. In the late 1800's there were informal conferences for the clergy. In the early 1900's, there were conferences for church people and musicians. In the 1920's they began training Sunday school teachers and having a church workers' conference. In 1925 the Evergreen conference was deeded to the diocese from Dr. Jo.

There is a discussion of the property owned by the Conference on Hart House Hill: Meeting House, Williams House, Hart House and the little cottages. Staff lived in the cottages. Leo Sowerby was an internationally known church musician who lived in one of the cottages. The Bancroft property was owned by Father Douglas and was given to Anne in his will. She discusses other houses owned by the Conference and by the Church of the Transfiguration. Anne recalls how the buildings were used, by whom, and what shape they are in at the time of the interview. Other memories include another house that served as an ice house for ice cut from Bear Creek. She notes the changes that have been made in the highway and the creek. Sandy asks about St. Rafael's and ownership of the bell tower, erected about 1911. The cross on the top is from the Church of the Redeemer in New York City where Father Douglas started out. Anne supposed that Jock Spence built the tower. Douglas Hall was originally the top half of the old fire station.

Sandy continues to ask Anne about early settler names and relationships to the Conference, including the Baileys, Mrs. Dobbs and others. Anne talks about famous people with national significance who came to the Conference. She mentions Leo Sowerby and David McKay Williams. She talks in more depth about David Williams and his brother, Carl. She also discusses the Damrosh family, and Frank Damrosh, Jr.'s role as secretary to the Douglas's.

SUMMARY OF TAPE D100 (Continued)

The origination of St. Raphael's house as a tavern, and its sale to Mary Neosho Williams and conversion for use by the Sisters of St. Mary's is recalled. Jock Spence's house became the chapel for St. Raphael's about 1907. Anne talks about the talents and roles of the individual nuns and their connection to Father Douglas. One of them, Sister Mary Veronica painted the portrait of Father Douglas.

Sandy and Anne discuss the importance of National Historic Register designation for the Evergreen Conference. The Meeting House served as a gathering place for all people and functions such as lectures, church services, and even Shakespearean productions. The Meeting House was constructed by Jock Spence, and they go on to list some of the many well-known buildings constructed by Jock Spence.

Anne relates that Hart House was built and named by Father Douglas as a memorial to Dean Hart who was on the Original Board of Trustees for the Conference. Father Douglas's first job was at St. John's Cathedral under Dean Hart.

Eric Douglas is the next subject. Anne knew Eric and talks in some detail about his speaking abilities, piano and organ playing, and attendance at Sunday morning services. He also befriended the Zuni Indian boy, Red Robin. Stories of Red Robin and his painting follow.

The tape concludes with comments about those people who were helped by Dr. Jo and Father Douglas, including the sculptor, Henry Herzman.