

# Sister Georganne Duggan, 82, nurse

Biography - D 55mn 11-20-00  
 NUN RECALLED AS DEDICATED ADMINISTRATOR WHO HELPED ESTABLISH 2 BAY AREA HOSPITALS

By Michael Cronk

Mercury News

With her many administrative and nursing skills, Sister Georganne Duggan helped to establish two area hospitals, including Dominican in Santa Cruz.

Her friends and colleagues, however, recalled that she was happily helping to deliver babies.

"Many times she was seen smiling, coming down the hospital halls on her way to bring new mothers their babies for feeding," said Sister Celeste Bourke. "She seemed to carry very comfortably two babies at a time, one on each hip."

Sister Duggan, who died Nov. 4 at the age of 82, was a woman of great spirit, talent and boundless hospitality. Her keen sense of humor was often expressed through what her friends fondly called her "one-liners."

A native of Chicago, she entered the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Mich., in 1940. The following year she arrived in Santa Cruz with other sisters from the Dominican Sisters of the Order of Preachers

to take over and renovate the former Hanley Hospital on West Cliff Drive.

When they unlocked the front door and walked in, Sister Duggan said: "It was as if someone had rung a bell and everyone had left, leaving everything just as it had been, behind them."

Bourke said the experience also led Sister Duggan to utter her first recorded one-liner: "I should have said yes to Joe when he asked me to marry him."

Sister Duggan was the first and, for a while, the only "sister nurse" at Sisters Hospital in Santa Cruz, where she also served as an assistant administrator. She worked long hours in almost every department and was often in the kitchen making sandwiches for the doctors who had put in long days in surgery followed by hospital rounds.

In 1949, she and the other sisters also took over operation of Santa Cruz Hospital on Soquel Avenue. When the Sisters Hospital was closed in December 1967, a new

Dominican Hospital was opened on Soquel Drive, where it is today.

Sister Duggan was involved for years in fundraising and planning for the new hospital before she left the area in 1965 to become the administrator of St. Rose Hospital in Henderson, Nev. She was responsible for the first accreditation of Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz, and establishing the Founders' Club, now known as the Dominican Hospital Foundation, which is the hospital's fundraising organization.

She returned to Santa Cruz and Dominican Hospital in 1978 to take over as manager of the sterile processing unit, from which she retired in 1991.

Sister Duggan was known as someone who quickly got to the heart of an issue and quickly resolved it.

"She had a tremendously sharp wit and was direct in a way that wasn't offensive. She made you feel you were part of the solution, not excluded," said Rich Crescini, manager of the radiology, cardio-

## GEORGANNE DUGGAN

**Born:** Sept. 24, 1918, in Chicago.

**Died:** Nov. 4, 2000, in Santa Cruz

**Services:** Services have been held.

**Memorial:** Donations can be made to Dominican Hospital Outreach Services, in care of the Dominican Foundation, 1555 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz, Calif. 95065, or Dominican Life Center, 1277 Siena Heights Drive, Adrian, Mich. 49221.

pulmonary and security departments at Dominican Hospital.

Crescini, who has worked more than 30 years at Dominican, had a special bond with Sister Duggan. She assisted in his birth at the former Sisters Hospital.

"I think she put my very first diaper on. She always called me 'my baby' during all the years we worked together," Crescini said. "She spent part of her nursing career with the babies. It's what she enjoyed most. She never had any of her own, but she had everyone else's."