



**Interview No.:** OH 3.9

**Title:** Victor E. Del Bene, MD, Interview by Brooke Fox, 22 July 2009

**Interviewers:** Fox, Brooke

Worthington, W. Curtis, Jr.

**Interviewee:** Del Bene, Victor E.

**Date:** 2009-07-22

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**Subject (Topical):**

Hurricane Hugo, 1989.

Medical University of South Carolina.

Medical University of South Carolina. Medical University Hospital.

Medical University of South Carolina. Children's Hospital.

St. Luke's Chapel (Charleston, SC).

Hurricane Hugo, 1989--Personal narratives.

Disaster response and recovery.

**Subject (Names):** Del Bene, Victor

Worthington, W. Curtis (Ward Curtis), 1925-

Kolnitz, George F. "Tony" von

**Subject (Genre):** Oral histories.

Interviews.

**Summary:** Dr. Victor E. Del Bene was Medical Director of the MUSC Medical Center as well as a faculty member in the College of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, in 1989. The interview begins with a brief conversation between Dr. Del Bene and Dr. W. Curtis Worthington, Jr., who sat in on the interview. The discussion then turned to the days leading up to Hurricane Hugo's landfall. Dr. Del Bene recalls the decisions he made to ensure the safety of patients, staff, and the hospital and clinical facilities. A few areas of concern he touched upon included decreasing the number of staff and patients in the hospital, power outages, flooding, and loss of water. The interview also includes discussions on staff and patients' reactions to the storm, damage sustained by the hospitals and St. Luke's Chapel, and recovery efforts. A significant portion of the interview pertains to Dr. Del Bene's involvement in the St. Luke's Chapel Restoration Committee.

**Collection:** Waring Historical Library Oral History Collection

**Contributing Institution:** Waring Historical Library (MUSC)

**Media Type:** Oral Histories

**Note:** This interview is part of the "Hurricane Hugo Oral History Project" series. These interviews document the experiences of administrators, hospital personnel, and maintenance staff who worked on the MUSC campus during landfall of Hurricane Hugo, September 21-22, 1989. Eleven interviews were conducted between June and August 2009 in preparation for the development of a physical and online exhibit, "MUSC Remembers Hurricane Hugo." The online exhibit is available at <http://waring.library.musc.edu/exhibits/hurricanehugo/>.

Transcripts has been edited by the interviewee.

In cases where the audio and the transcript differ, the audio is provided for background use only.

See also: Collection # OH 3 and OH 3.1-3.11

**Language:** English

**Digitization Specifications:** Audio recorded using a Marantz digital recorder. Archival masters are .wav files.

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**Citation:** Hurricane Hugo Oral History Project, Waring Historical Library, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC.

**Series Title:** Hurricane Hugo Oral History Project, 2009

**Duration:** 01:04:11

**Transcript:** 37 p.