

Interviewee: Rena E. Boyle, Ph.D., Former Dean of the College of Nursing (1972-1979)

Interviewer: Bernice M. Hetzner, Former Director of the McGoogan Library of Medicine (1948-1973)

Date: July 6, 1979

Boyle: One of the things that came up very early was the fact that the University of Omaha had a program for registered nurses. It led to a baccalaureate degree in nursing, but it had no nursing. It had a course in administration and in supervision, but nothing in clinical nursing. At the time in the University, President Hardin had said there would be just one nursing program and that it would be accredited.

That was quite an experience, too. How do you phase out a program? The person who headed the program couldn't have been more helpful. We had a committee with more than half from UNO, from engineering, from counseling, from liberal arts-you name it. I remember Dr. Hodgson from here was on it and two of us from nursing. We were able to plan so that the students in UNO's program could either finish it within the twelve month period or else come into the program here. Much to my delight, it only hit the newspapers twice and in very small articles and even those comments were not too negative. But it was a very large program; they had over 150 in it.

Hetzner: It must have gone out quietly because I don't remember any great fuss about it.

Boyle: There really wasn't and UNO has always been very supportive of the nursing program.