

CLASS OF 1948



School of Nursing

*50 Year
Class Reunion*

*Saturday
August 1, 1998*

Martha Joan (Olson) Andros

Spring, TX

*Betty (Vennum) Batterman **

Iowa City, IA

Employment

Retired from the V.A. Medical Center, Iowa City, Iowa after 38 years.

Personal

Spouse: Lester

Spouse's Profession: Insurance sales

Children/Ages: Connie/44; Sheri/30

Grandchildren: Erica/13; Anna/10

Hobbies/Interests: Traveling, bridge, bowling

Comments

Fifty years have now passed since the notable class of 1948 graduated from Bryan Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. I still recall vividly, receiving my watch, and white shoes (with coupons). The shoes were definitely a sign of that nursing era, and I still have the watch as part of my treasured items.

I am thankful to have received my nurse's training during the World War II years. It was only because of the Cadet Nurse program, I was able to attend Bryan Nursing School. We received \$15.00 per month in training, which subsequently was increased to \$20.00. For the last 6 months as seniors, we received \$30.00 per month. In addition to nursing, we also learned how to manage our money, whether we liked it or not.

We were required to wear clean starched uniforms each day, polished white shoes, with clean white shoestrings, white cotton stockings with seams straight, a cap correctly folded, hairnets, no jewelry, and no bright objects in our hair. Our hair was to be trimmed so as not to touch our collar. Very little make-up was allowed, and finger nails were to be absolutely clean, and no nail polish. Our overall appearance was inspected and evaluated each day in the mornings as we went to the chapel at 6:30 a.m. I only wish some of these restrictions and requirements were presently required of nurses in the workplace. Personally, I resent the image some nurses present on the job now these days. In addition, we could wear uniforms only within the confines of the hospital and nurses' quarters.

Working on the wards was not easy in those days. Very shortly after entering training, we were taught how to give injections. We would work the night shift alone on the ward, and

would need to call the supervisor if we had to give a narcotic by injection. In the morning, following a night shift, we could sleep very little, as there was studying to be done as well as many other things throughout the day. Training classes commenced at 1:00 p.m. daily Monday through Friday followed by work on the floor of the hospital wards, so there was precious little time for personal needs.

In addition to nursing duties, we watered plants, changed the flower's water, and rearranged patient's flowers, dusted beds, emptied the wastebaskets, carried trays to wards, and whatever else needed doing relating to patient care and running the hospital. I recall a Dr. Misko had a cholecystectomy, and I was assigned to him one morning. It was a frightening challenge, for Miss Johnston directed me to rearrange his flowers three times before they finally suited her. We also cooked special diets in the diet kitchen for patients. Mabel Johnston asked me one time which restaurant I worked in, as I was not carrying the tray properly according to her judgement.

Another memorable incident was that a patient had taken her laxative the day after a nephrectomy. Needless to say, I was sent directly to the Director of Nurses, where I received a long lecture of reprimand. Finally, she directed me to seek out the patient's doctor, and tell him what happened. His response was, "Honey, if she wanted her laxative, let her have it." Some of our classes were held at Wesleyan College, and we took a bus to the campus. I remember our bus driver's name was Johnny. We had study hall each weeknight from 7:30-9:00 p.m. Sometimes we walked several blocks for ice cream before the 10:30 p.m. lights out time. Friday or Saturday night we could stay out until midnight. Sunday night curfew was at 10:30 p.m. Marriage and nursing could not mix, as no one in nurses' training could be married.

One memorable Saturday night I recall at 7:00, just when we were to be off duty, and most of us had dates, Miss Brown emptied the cupboards where the bed pans, urinals, and enema cans were kept and told us they all had to be washed before we went off duty. Contrast that with today's work rules.

The delivery room and nursery were adjacent. The mothers were way down a long hall. I was working on the mother's side, and put the bottle nipples on to boil. Just then I was called to assist with a delivery, during which time the nipples boiled dry. Not pleasant! On another night I was on call for deliveries when there were two deliveries between 6:00 and 7:00 a.m. When the OB supervisor came on duty, I did not have the delivery rooms cleaned, nor the blood washed from the sheets, etc., and I received a stern lecture about timely work practices. Another item which remains in my memory concerns narcotics. All narcotics were in tablet form which we prepared by putting them in sterile water in a tablespoon heated over an alcohol burner.

My husband and I came to Iowa in 1952 because of his employment, and later that year settled in Iowa City. The major portion of my nursing career, other than a brief period of teaching, was spent at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center.

When I was 40 years old, I think I had a mid-life crisis, as I quit work to attend the University of Iowa where I ultimately received my BSN, MSN as well as my Pediatric Practitioner

Betty (Vennum) Batterman - continued

Certificate. I then decided to try teaching nursing, and taught three semesters at Mt. Mercy College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and one semester at Kirkwood Community College. From this experience I learned I liked teaching, but NOT all the politics involved in academia. I then returned to the Veteran's Administration Medical Center, remaining there until my retirement in June, 1993.

Frances (Herr) Berg

Springfield, MO

*Locada J. (Johnson) Bruce **

Juniata, NE

Current Employment

Position: Retired

Personal

Spouse: Jay Clarke Bruce II

Spouse's Profession: Retired - drives a school bus for fun.

Children/Ages: Jay Clarke Bruce III/48; Michael Lynn Bruce/44; Lori Dawn Oliveros/41

Hobbies/Interests: Crafts, flowers, quilting and helping the elderly.

Comments

I want to thank the instructors, living or no longer with us, of 1945-1948, our upper classmates, and Bryan Memorial School of Nursing for preparing all of their students to be able to go into the world and accomplish many interesting and diversified opportunities in the health field.

Personal Information: Married Jay Clarke Bruce II on April, 1949. Three children, Jay Clarke III, Michael Lynn and Lori Dawn. In 1966 graduated from Hastings College in Hastings, NE-BA Degree. From 1969 - 1980 worked on Masters Degree - never completed due to home responsibilities.

Career Information: I continued to work at Bryan for several months following graduation and worked at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital a short time while waiting to go to Deadwood, South Dakota. I moved to Deadwood, married my husband and started working at St. Joseph Hospital. Within a few months we moved to Sturgis, South Dakota where we were employed at Fort Mead Veterans Hospital. The benefits and work opportunities were the deciding factors for me to change jobs. My responsibilities included supervising two

buildings that housed patients, working in surgery, and the hospital building. A procedure that was new to me and that I had to learn was scrubbing for lobotomies.

Fort Mead, a Veteran's Psychiatric Hospital, sits on the site of an old Calvary post. This hospital accepts only male Veterans with psychiatric problems. Some patients have been there for many years, others vary as to the length of stay. The hospital also has Veterans that had experiences in World War II, but the men that concerned me the most were the Veterans that experienced emotional and physical wounds from the Japanese. These men had lived in baskets that hung from trees. A team had received special training in Minnesota and worked with these men.

In late 1950, we transferred to the new Veterans' Hospital in Grand Island, NE. Most of Grand Island Veterans were male, however we did have a wing for women although only a few women used the hospital while I was there. It was a good experience and I learned many new things.

In 1951, we resigned from Veterans' Hospital and moved to Juniata, NE. It was hard for me to make this move as I really enjoyed the work, benefits, and the people.

I started to work at Hastings Regional Center immediately and continued for the next twenty-one years. I held many great positions, such as supervisor of the Medical/Surgical Building, developing curriculum and practical experiences, and teaching and testing for Ward Aides I and II as they prepared for upgrading their classification. I had two exceptional Psychiatric Aid III Assistants. We had a request to allow employees from various areas of the hospital to join our classes. We modified curriculum to include problems, relationships, etc. of their areas. Everyone appeared to become more respectful of each other and their duties. These classes lead to better total relations for everyone.

In 1965 the Department of Education - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Department of Institution decided to start a program with clients from Hastings Regional Center. Rehabilitation Director was in charge of programming which lasted eight years. I was supervisor of the Vocational Programs, approximately fourteen programs, and had an excellent staff who knew their jobs.

In 1972 we had provided service for all the eligible patients. This reduced the census by a large number. From 1972 to 1992, I initiated the Human Service Program at the Central Community College and development of courses of which I was responsible. I updated the courses regularly with new texts. I was responsible for the texts of my courses.

In 1992 I retired. Since I retired, I enjoy visiting my children, going on trips with my husband and/or my children, visiting and helping the elderly, quilting, crafts, church work, and spending time with old classmates.

*Alda (Pieper) Carlson **

Lincoln, NE

Employment

Retired as 11-7 Supervisor at Bryan Memorial Hospital

Personal

Spouse: Abe (*deceased*)

Children/Ages: Dana/49; David/46; Jay/41; Paul/39

Hobbies/Interests: Grandchildren's activities, travel, miniatures, flowers and just any "digging in the dirt", genealogy

Comments

My mother once told me that before I even started school - someone asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I answered, "a nurse." This surprised her because she did not know how I even knew what a nurse was. Well obviously I did, because I never changed my mind. I was just a sweet young girl of 17, fresh off the farm, when I began my nurses training at BMH on August 29, 1945. Little did I realize how hard I would work and study for the next three years. The students back then staffed the hospital. There was only one head nurse, RN on each area on 7-3 shift. Senior students would be in charge on the 3-11 shift. One week after I was capped in February, 1946, I started working the 11-7 shift; six nights a week - (Back then you only got one day/night off per week). I worked the float pool, which meant you worked one night on each of six different areas. 1st West, 2nd South, 2nd North, Pediatrics, OB-both AP & PP and Nursery. Little did I realize I would work that shift for most of my nursing career. However, right after I graduated I worked at the old St E's, old LGH, did some private duty and was a surgeon's office nurse. For a while I also worked some days and evenings, part-time on 1st West when Betty Rasmusson was the head nurse. During this time I also had four sons. Then in January, 1962 when they were 2, 4, 10 & 12, I came back to Bryan, part-time on 11-7 shift again, in the Float Pool. Later worked full-time on 4E - that was Urology and eye and a little of everything else too. Then in 1975 Mildred Rowley twisted my arm and convinced me to become the "Miss Smith" of the 70's & 80's, working as the 11-7 House Supervisor. Twenty-six years of 11-7 had passed, by the time I retired on September 1, 1988.

My husband Abe died in November, 1987. My four sons now live in Minnetonka, MN - a suburb of Minneapolis; Las Vegas, NV; Talala, OK which is North of Tulsa; and my youngest stayed here in Lincoln. I am blessed with two grandsons and eight granddaughters.

I love to travel, always keep a suitcase ready to go. I play cribbage, which I learned to play at Ingelside many years ago when we took our three months of psychiatric nursing there. Play with my doll-house, work with miniatures, and work on my genealogy. I still live in my own home and do as much yard work as I can myself.

I enjoyed all of my nursing career very much. I worked in every area of the hospital except Surgery, which actually was my favorite area. I loved to "scrub." My classmates are still all

Alda (Pieper) Carlson - continued

my great friends, and I feel I've been richly blessed. If someone was to ask me now what I would do if I had my life to live over again, I'm sure I would still answer, "be a nurse!"

Alda Pieper Carlson

*Ruth (Grone) Clayton **

Englewood, CO

Employment

Retired after working a total of 32 years. The last 27 years I worked in the newborn nursery and the intensive care nursery.

Company/Facility: Swedish Medical Center

Personal

Spouse: David B. Clayton (*deceased - 1/9/87*)

Spouse's Profession: Insurance agent

Children/Ages: Jane/43; David Lee/39

Hobbies/Interests: Needlework, especially counted cross stitch; reading all types of books; trips with the group from the Senior Center; some classes at the Senior Center.

Comments

Moved to Colorado in February, 1949. Worked one year in Colorado Springs. Worked at National Jewish Hospital in Denver, and Presbyterian Hospital. Married January 25, 1953. Worked 2 ½ years at Porter Hospital, and the rest of the years after that at Swedish Hospital. Have lived in various locations in Englewood the last 45 years.

*Helen (Otley) Clifton **

Omaha, NE

Current Employment

Position: Retired

Personal

Spouse: Duane Clifton

Spouse's Profession: Retired

Children/Ages: Michael/46; Frank/41; Thomas/40

Helen (Otley) Clifton - continued

Hobbies/Interests: Grandchildren (2) ages 2 & 4; enjoy traveling, walking, Bible Study and learning the computer.

Comments

We've been blessed with three sons and now two grandchildren who have brought much joy into our lives. We lived in Hastings for nine years and have been in Omaha for 40 years. Our son Frank is retarded and lived at home for 31 years so I was a homemaker much of the time. However, I have done nursing in Surgery, Recovery Room, and Psychiatry. Nursing is a wonderful profession to be used at work or at home. Over the years it has been a delight to stay in touch with other Bryan nurses.

Phoebe (Karas) Clore

Cutbank, MT

Current Employment

Position: Homemaker

Years in Current Position: 50

Personal

Spouse: Marvin J. Clore

Spouse's Profession: Retired

Children/Ages: Kathlene Slaughter/49; Suzanne Cooper/47; Michael Clore/46; Gregory Clore/43; Cindy Holmstrom/39; Debra Howard/38; Bradley Clore/37

Hobbies/Interests: Gardening, corresponding with friends and family, world travel

Comments

I remember the long hours we worked and the fun we enjoyed together when we had a little free time. I did office nursing for Drs. Harvey and Garlinghouse the first year, then we started our family. Marvin's company moved us to many different states and then in January, 1971, we left his company and purchased a hardware store in Cut Bank, MT. We sold the business in September of 1982 when Marvin developed cancer on the voice box. He had 7 weeks of cobalt treatments and quit smoking. We were blessed that it made him hoarse and so was treated early. We have since doubly enjoyed our friends and family and feel blessed to have all these years together. We celebrated 50 years of marriage on April 4th of this year. Our daughter, Kathlene Slaughter, and husband, Bill, gave us a nice dinner party in Fort Myers, Florida. In August our youngest daughter, Debra Howard, and husband, George, are planning a full family reunion in Gresham, Oregon.

I have used the nursing skills I learned at Bryan all my married life. I feel we enjoyed a healthier family because of those years. I never panicked when an emergency happened.

*Charlene (Frost) Cox **

Holdrege, NE

Current Employment

Position: Retired

Personal

Spouse: Rodney T. Cox (*deceased*)

Children/Ages: Linda Van Marter/48; Ralph Cox/46; Mason Cox/45; Susan Fisher/40

Hobbies/Interests: Walking, all events at Methodist Memorial Homes.

Comments

Busy raising four kids while balancing nursing and moving to nine different cities. We all have to keep busy somehow! It's been a long time since I was the 14th baby born at Bryan Memorial. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the reunion.

Marjorie (Star) Daugherty

Fairfax, VA

*Grace (Peterson) Ericson **

Omaha, NE

Personal

Spouse: Louis L. Ericson, MD

Spouse's Profession: Physician

Children/Ages: Kevin-computer business; Jay-architect; Kristin Manley-social worker; Lisa-working on vocation

Hobbies/Interests: Caring for huge antique collection which we inherited in 1968. Eric restores antiques and enjoys woodworking. Favorite charities relate to mental health issues. We enjoy going to professional conference together. Nice that Md's and Rn's can go to same ones nowadays.

Comments

My student days were among the happiest in my life. How could we be so lucky to be surrounded by interesting people every day? It was an adventure just meeting my class mates and I have warm memories of each one..."Phoebe Karas from Elk Creek", sure and confident-quick witted Jody who saw humor in everything! Vernelle, sweet and beautiful asking "How

Grace (Peterson) Ericson - continued

old are you? I'm nineteen," she replied. Wreatha, who had worked in a phone company (I thought you had to be a genius to do that) I still do, come to think of it. Betty, with her good posture and quick walk who turned out to be the impressionist in the class (what was the name of that patient on 2 North?--Gosling? There was the thrill of seeing familiar Carole from LHS - Barbara with her beautiful skin and teeth who could prepare for class in seconds and get good grades. Giggling Marcy with the guy she was madly in love with (she ended up marrying someone else). Frances Herr, whose courage we all admired, for coming back to finish her education after a long and difficult illness. We were so proud to have her join our class.

Remember the morning we woke up and discovered Mae Standlea missing?!! She slipped over to the hospital, while we slept, and had an appendectomy. I remember Wreatha loaning her fur coat to Jody and me one evening! We took turns wearing it.

Life Since Graduation - I worked in pediatrics, in various capacities, at Bryan and St. E's while I was working on my degree. I ended up as Supervisor and Instructor of Pediatrics at Bryan. Some of the people I lived with were Jody, Wreatha, Patty and Casy (Bryan lab techs), Joan Grimes (Bryan Dietician), Betty Rasmussen. I was working in Pediatrics in Denver, when I came back to Nebraska to serve as Vernelle's nurse. He was a surgeon and a friend of Eric. This was great because he let me attend UN Grad School part-time. When Eric came back from the Navy, we married and settled in West Point, NE. Those were lively years as we acquired our 4 children while Eric worked the most ungodly hours possible.

During the early 70's, we moved to Omaha where Eric worked in the Clarkson Emergency Room. Eventful years followed while our kids grew into adulthood.

We have a 5 yr old grandson, Tyler, and a 6 month old grand daughter, Skye, who live about 10 minutes from us. We consider ourselves pretty lucky. Kristin and Gary are the parents.

Remember when we used to steal huge quantities of canned goods from the hospital so we could have feasts at the Nurses' Home?

Barbara (Moore) Farr

Creighton, NE

*Arlene (Carey) Fiene **

Lincoln, NE

Current Employment

Position: Housewife, maid, cook and bookkeeper

Company/Facility: Fiene household

Years in Current Position: almost 50 years - Retired from Nursing!

Arlene (Carey) Fiene - continued

Personal

Spouse: Oscar

Spouse's Profession: Retired John Deere dealer

Children/Ages: Michael/44/single; Katherine/43/married with 3 boys; Douglas/40/married with 3 boys; Diana/37/single

Hobbies/Interests: Travel, real estate, Grandchildren who all live within three blocks! What a joy they are!

Comments

It hardly seems fifty years have flown by. Why didn't someone tell me about counting every minute? I always thought there would be so much time to read, walk visit with friends, enjoy music and now there's not enough time. I stopped working as a nurse when the kids started arriving - keeping busy with them. Oscar always had lots of irons in the fire with real estate and building, subdividing, etc. We kept rentals and he went into the John Deere machinery business. At the same time we had a summer resort South of Estes Park in the Wild Basin area. We owned and operated it for 18 years - a wonderful summer spot. Oscar commuted from Lincoln so it was a busy time. Looking back it was great for the kids. All four worked somewhere - the barn, hotel, cottages or restaurant and they loved it. When I see how difficult and necessary it is to keep youngsters busy in the city nowadays - it was great. We made many new friends and although it was work, we had fun. Square dancing, fishing, hiking, riding on the trails and picnics make it a good memory. We kept a cabin when the lodge sold so all enjoy it year round.

Now we enjoy the grandchildren - six boys - who all live withing three blocks of us - 4 years to 12 years of age. The two youngest start to Randolph with the other three and one goes off to Junior High - tis scary! Three of our children live in Lincoln. Two are married and two single. The oldest son Michael, lives in Kansas City and gets home often. We are truly blessed in our old age. We are pretty healthy, travel a bit and rest a lot! Memories from the years gone by are enjoyed with our friends and family.

*Carolea (Miller) Lee **

Yuma, AZ

Current Employment

Position: Retired from Nursing in 1995. Worked in Nursing from 1948-1995. Most years in Rural Hospital Sun Valley Idaho, Inc. - OB, ICU, ER - all that is required in small hospitals except OR (Did Lab-X-ray in early years). Now work as cashier & starter at golf course in Arizona

Personal

Spouse: Divorced

Children/Ages: Dianne (killed in accident 1997 @ 41 years); Douglas/40; Mary Ellen/37

Hobbies/Interests: varied - mainly golf in Arizona. I ride a litting racing bike - for exercise only of course!

Comments

How could I ever equal Grace's letter? It is wonderful what a close wonderful class we had, and I remember each and everyone of the girls for something special. I have had a couple of nice visits with Wreatha since she looked me up at Sun Valley and I thank her for calling me and my sister in Lincoln to remind me of our #50.

I was in Lincoln in June and cannot make it back there again this summer. I'm sorry, since I haven't seen anyone but Wreatha since our twenty year reunion. I might have a few stories to swap.

- I have a wonderful picture of my parents and a few of our class taken in front of our house on South 17th in Lincoln. When the girls had time off or wanted to get away, they sometimes spent a night there - my parents were home of course!
- The time Wreatha and I were isolated in the old nurses' quarters for one week - outcasts with scabies (God knows how we got that!). We had to take sulfur baths twice a day and our isolation food trays were delivered.
- Betty's beautiful fur coat of which we were all envious, and she let us borrow it for a date!
- The chapel service on Wednesday was always great. Why? We got those huge donuts for breakfast.
- What a drag it was when Penicillin first came out and had to be given IM every 2-4 hours. All we got done was to carry those trays around and give shots. By the time we finished a dose was about due again.
- Mrs. Rasche deemed me a follower not a leader when we demanded less hours - well I did prove her wrong. Nearly lost my job over one situation in the early days.

And so it goes actually fifty three wonderful years - most of them practicing nursing.

*Lorene (Stenson) Loop **

Hutchinson, KS

Employment

Position: Retired R.N. after 24 years as a school nurse at Buhler U.S.D.

Personal

Spouse: Norman

Spouse's Profession: Retired

Children/Ages: Gary/47 - graduate Kansas State University; Larry/45 - graduate Hutchinson Community College; Norene/39 - graduate Wichita State University; Bonnie/38 graduate Kansas State University

Hobbies/Interests: Travel - R.V. and Bus Tours; camping, boating and fishing; crocheting - won Best of Show and First Prize for a bedspread.

Comments

I worked as a medical-surgical nurse in Superior, Nebraska when I first graduated. After our first son was born, I just worked as Surgery nurse. We moved to Rock Rapids, Iowa. We were there ten years. I did part time nursing and private duty. This was in an old two story house with a freight type elevator to the second floor. Very interesting place. They finally constructed a new Community Hospital.

When we moved to Hutchinson, I worked on Med-Surg floors until I accepted an offer to be the School Nurse in the Buhler School District where our kids were in school. I did this for 24 years and took early retirement.

Our six grandchildren have been interesting. We have two grandsons and four granddaughters.

Since I retired, I started helping our kids in Wichita doing commercial Christmas decorating. Decorating and lighting Christmas trees and wreaths. Making several hundred bows for one season. It gets wild there around Thanksgiving. Everyone wants them up at the same time. The same after Christmas - they all want them down at the same time.

*Mary Kathryn (McKinney) Luebs **

Lincoln, NE

Current Employment

Position: Full time child care, house sitter and pet sitter

Company/Facility: Hubbell residence

Years in Current Position: 6 ½ years

Mary Kathryn (McKinney) Luebs -continued

Personal

Children/Ages: Kathy Hubbell

Hobbies/Interests: Yard work, reading, and crossword puzzles.

Comments

I have worked as an R.N. in Salina, Kansas; Kansas City, Kansas; Kansas City, Missouri; Peoria, Illinois; Minneapolis, Minnesota and in Lincoln, Nebraska at Bryan Memorial, Lincoln General and the Regional Center. I also processed medical claims at an insurance company for 3 ½ years and spent ten years doing computer billing, accounts receivable, etc. at a local physicians corporation office. In between times I spent a few years at home as a wife and mother.

After my Dad died, my Mother lived with me for seventeen years. She was completely bedfast for the final five years and I cared for her at home. My Mom and my Father-in-law died on the same day.

I have lived with my daughter (Kathy) and her husband (Steve) for thirteen years and we were joined by my grandchildren, Matt (age 11) and Kira (age 10). They have had pets too numerous to count but we are now down to four cats, one dog, four rats, one parakeet and fifteen fish.

I have had arthritis for forty years which can be quite disabling at times, so I stay at home most of the time.

*Mary Alice (Sautter) Lukow **

Holstein, NE

Current Employment

Position: Retired

Personal

Spouse: Clayton D. Lukow

Spouse's Profession: Retired Farmer/Rancher

Children/Ages: Rodney S. Mousel/47; Samuel E. Mousel/45; Sheila A. Nielsen/40

Stepchildren/Ages: Gregory Lukow/45; Julia Lane/43; Rex Lukow/38; Stanley Lukow/36

Hobbies/Interests: Grandchildren, quilting, church volunteer, playing piano, flowers and travel.

Comments

Following graduation, I attended the Fall semester at Nebraska Wesleyan and worked part time on 2nd South at Bryan.

In February, 1949, I moved to Hastings and began working at Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital in the newborn Nursery. (At that time a future sister-in-law, Willabelle Lukow, was the head nurse.) During this time I married Gilbert Mousel. In September 1949, I began working for Dr. Herbert Anderson, Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat Specialist, as office nurse. (Dr. Anderson was a son-in-law of Dr. E.C. Foote of the Foote Clinic in Hastings.) Then in January 1951, I took time off waiting for the birth of our son Rodney, who was born May 11, 1951.

In September 1951, Gilbert, Rodney and I moved to Hays Kansas. I started working at Hadley Memorial Hospital. This was a small 50 bed hospital. I worked on the Medical-Surgical floor. It was during this time that the polio epidemic was at its peak and one floor of the old hospital building had been converted to the care of these patients. This unit had their own staff but I did work a few shifts to help relieve when they were short staffed. Many of you will remember the hot packing and the iron lungs!!

In January 1953, I again took time off and our second son, Samuel (we call him Sam) was born May 27, 1953.

In April 1955, we returned to Nebraska (Juniata) and I began working in June at Hastings State Hospital, now Hastings Regional Center. After three months of inservice training I was assigned to a women's continuous treatment ward in the WCT Building. My responsibilities included classroom and clinical instruction for affiliate student nurses.

On January 23, 1958 our daughter, Sheila Anne was born. I returned to work in September, 1964 at the Hastings Regional Center as an instructor in the in service department for nursing. These duties consisted of classroom and clinical teaching for psychiatric technicians.

In September of 1972, I accepted a position as a Mental Health Instructor in the Human Services Department at Central Community College and remained there until June, 1973.

In March, 1986 I returned to Hastings Regional Center in Educational Services. In this capacity my duties consisted of orientation of all personnel and various classes for nursing employees. Then in June of 1994 I retired from Nursing.

I served as Executive Secretary for the District One, Nebraska Nurses Association in the 1960s and also served on various committees at the District level.

Now, on a more personal note - my husband Gilbert was killed in a trucking accident, November 29, 1968. On June 2, 1973 Clayton Lukow and I were married. His wife had died of cancer and they had four children. None of our children were married at that time, however, between us we only had three still at home. Putting two families together was challenging at best without the outside pressures of job responsibilities. We decided I would resign my position at Central Community College. I did not return to Nursing until March,

Mary Alice (Sautter) Lukow - continued

1986. Now all of our children have families of their own and Clayton and I have twenty adorable grandchildren!!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bryan, the hospital for providing the educational setting and most particularly, the School of Nursing and its outstanding faculty for the education that prepared me for my life's work. Without this foundation for my nursing career, I would not have achieved my professional competence.

Also, to my classmates I say "thank you!!" You helped me through the good and the difficult times. You were and still are the best!!!! Those years that we spent living and working together, the lasting friendships made, are among my life's fondest memories.

*Shirley Rankin **

Connell, WA

Current Employment

Position: Charge Nurse

Company/Facility: Othello Convalescent & Rehabilitation Center

Years in Current Position: 3

Personal

Children/Ages: Debbie/45; Glenda/44; Karen/40

Hobbies/Interests: Computer games, reading and music.

Comments

I worked 29 years at Hastings Regional Center and have moved several times since that time - working as Director of Nursing for seven years in Grand Island, NE - three years as Director of Nursing at Adams, NE (in Long-term care homes) - now working twelve days a month as Charge Nurse in a Convalescent & Rehabilitation Center in Othello, WA.

*Vernelle (Erickson) Rasmus **

West Point, NE

Employment

Position: Retired 3 years ago from Director of Nursing position at Oakland Height after 16 years.

Vernelle (Erickson) Rasmus - continued

Personal

Spouse: John

Spouse's Profession: Farming

Children/Ages: Kristen Kusik; John, Jr

Hobbies/Interests: Reading - belong to neighborhood club, working with flowers

Comments

My memories of being a student at Bryan are happy ones. Nursing was something I always wanted to do. We started with 16 students of whom 9 graduated - a 10th graduate, Frances Herr joined us in our senior year because of a previous illness.

World War II was on. Our class were members of the US Cadet Nurse Corp. We were the next to the last class to graduate under the Cadet Corp. During our first six months we took classes at Wesleyan - rode the Bryan bus. We lived in Fairview most of our training days—a lot of history had taken place there dating back to William Jennings Bryan. We moved over to the dormitory northeast of Fairview when we were seniors. We had to bring our ration books for sugar when we started training. I remember having a lot of creamed eggs, but I didn't mind, as I didn't have to cook them! During our "probie" months, we had 9 beds in a semi-circle, where we slept in the lower level under the main porch. Each student had one drawer for her clothes.

Our Ingleside affiliation was interesting and we had fun there. Also, I was president of the student council. We had a Lincoln student nurses association including Lincoln General, St. Elizabeth and Bryan. The years went by swiftly as we seemed to be busy most of the time.

Upon graduation, I worked as office nurse for Thomson Orthopedic Clinic—then I returned to my home towns of West Point and Oakland. Both had hospitals and Nursing Homes. I served as Administrator and Director of Nursing in both of them.

John and I were married Nov. 23, 1952. We live on a farm. I only moved 2 ½ miles from where I lived. We have a daughter, Kristen Kusik, who is a 1976 Bryan graduate. Also, a son, John, Jr., who is in the business field. We have one grand daughter, Jennifer. I retired in 1995 from being the D.O.N. at Oakland for 16 years.

I am very grateful for all my classmates and nursing experiences.

*Marjorie Yvonne (Snyder) Rasmussen **

Rushville, NE

Current Employment

Position: Part time Charge Nurse (fill in when they need help)

Company/Facility: Parkview Lodge Nursing Home

Years in Current Position: 11

Marjorie Yvonne (Snyder) Rasmussen - continued

Personal

Spouse: Alfred (Bud) Rasmussen

Spouse's Profession: Retired Retail Lumber Dealer and Building Contractor

Children/Ages: Diana Schlautman/47; Cynthia Stephenson/44; David Rasmussen/39; Scott Rasmussen/36

Hobbies/Interests: Golf, bridge, gardening, cooking and traveling.

Comments

After graduating in August, 1948, I worked for 15 months in the Surgical Department at BMH. In November '49 I married Bud and moved to Beatrice where he had a building contracting business with his father. All four of our children were born there. I did a small amount of private duty then went to work at the newly built Mennonite Hospital in the Surgical Department which I got to help set up.

In 1965 we moved to Rushville and bought the lumber yard. After a year I went to work in the doctor's office as Nurse Manager, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

In 1987 our Hospital closed and the doctors left so I contemplated retirement except for my daily dose of book work at the lumber yard. However, our 40 bed Nursing Home connected to the hospital stayed open with help from the Gordon doctors and I began helping them out whenever they got in a bind. They still call me occasionally in the summertime for which I am grateful.

In 1993 we sold the lumber yard and Bud became officially retired. We've been spending our Winters in Casa Grande, AZ which is a great way to spend time. We also do some traveling, camping golfing, carving (Bud) and Bridge (me). We've found that you can be busier retired than working.

Life is good! And I am so proud to be a graduate of Bryan Memorial Hospital!!

*Betty M. Rasmusson **

Tillamook, OR

Current Employment

Position: Retired

Personal

Hobbies/Interests: Gardening and photography.

Betty M. Rasmusson - continued

Comments

It's hard to believe it has been 50 years since we graduated and now it's going on 14 years since I retired and moved to Tillamook. I really don't feel that old, but time is marching on.

As I look back on my career - the School of Nursing was probably the most satisfying. Although the earlier years as Head Nurse on 1st West brings back many memories of the post war years. As I recall, we were always short of help and I worked many split shifts. Patients were able to stay in the hospital months at a time, if necessary. My mother was on 1st West from April till August - when she passed away. No one fussed about moving her out. How times have changed!

Edna and I have enjoyed our retirement years in Tillamook. The small town atmosphere seems to agree with us. We have wonderful neighbors and have made many good friends - mainly through being active in the Methodist Church.

One of the highlights since we've been here was our 45th reunion in 1993. Doesn't seem possible that five years have passed since then. It was wonderful that so many of you were able to come - and now Alda and Arlene have been busy planning our 50th.

Hopefully, I'll be seeing all of you at the reunion, so I'll save the real reminiscing 'til then.

Love to all . . .

Betty

*Irene (Nelson) Renken **

Downs, KS

Current Employment

Position: retired

Personal

Spouse: Floyd Renken

Spouse's Profession: farmer

Children/Ages: Kathryn Ann/44; David Floyd/42; Daniel Martin/40; Steven Lee/38; Stuart Ray (1/7/61-8/61)

Hobbies/Interests: Sewing and music

Comments

After graduation I worked in Surgery at Asbury Hospital in Salina, later was a Nursing Instructor for two years at Asbury. Married on October 19, 1952. Stayed at home to raise my family for seventeen years then did part time work at Osborne Memorial Hospital. Worked as a Surgical Nurse and floor duty when not working in O.R.

Irene (Nelson) Renken - continued

Quit working after seven years because Floyd's father had become a semi-invalid after contacting a rare disease (Guillain-Barre Syndrome).

Did work at Downs Nursing Center some because they needed an R.N. to cover some of the shifts - probably about eight years ago.

Haven't worked for a long time. Spend my time babysitting grandchildren or enjoying their company.

Have enjoyed gardening, but have scaled back considerably because of health reasons - mostly rusty hinges!

Wreatha Rystrom-Sisson

Stromsburg, NE

Personal

Spouse: Boyd

Spouse's Profession:

Children/Ages: Jay Sisson

Comments

I will never forget "our dorm" (under the porch) at Bryan. The nine beds were all in sort of a circle with dark blue spreads neat and clean, on a freshly painted gray concrete floor. My mother, then of rural Gresham, said she felt so much better after seeing our room.

Grace has pretty much said it all in her note. All of us in February, 1945, were U.S. Cadet Nurses. Mrs. Mildred Domingo, R.N. had met me in the lobby of the hospital after I found my way there from York in 1944. Mrs. Domingo had very dark hair and was so neat and clean in her white uniform. Besides that, she was nice and she talked to me.

We students did have our cleaning duties, and we did them! I was astounded that the hopper on 2nd North was solid copper after Betty or Marcy cleaned and polished it.

Miss Ellen Newenberg (NU grad), head nurse on 2 North, had us do "rounds" after baths and we were told we must turn all the bed rollers inward, very neatly. Ellen was married in the Bryan home later. We all have some snapshots to bring, like the ones on top of the porch at Bryan. I'll try to bring Vernelle's photo in uniform.

Bonna Jean (Dunn) Shaw *

El Paso, TX

Current Employment

Position: Retired

Personal

Spouse: Robert B. Shaw (*deceased 1991*)

Spouse's Profession: Gen Corp.

Children/Ages: Ryan R. Shaw/46

Hobbies/Interests: Swimming, walking, reading, traveling and card playing.

Comments

Married to Robert (Betts) Shaw in 1991. One son Ryan R. who lives in Dallas and works for IntraCorp (Cigna), the Operations Manager for the 24 hour Health Information Line. We moved from Nebraska in January, 1957, living in Carlsbad, NM until the summer of 1958 when we moved to El Paso, TX. My Nursing history has included being Scrub Nurse, School Nurse at UTEP El Paso until my first heart surgery in '65. Began Psychiatric Nursing in '72 becoming a Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor in '80 working in 28 day programs of detoxification and rehabilitation. This enabled me to use both my R.N. and Certification to introduce the AA/NA Principles to maintain sobriety. Again in '87 I received a Mitral Valve replacement continuing to work in Chemical Dependency programs until retirement in '94. Each occasion we have to celebrate, are landmarks on our journey of life reminding us of friends who have shared our pilgrimage. Thanks for all you have added to my life.

Love . . .

Tiz

* - indicates support for the Class of 1948 Endowed Scholarship