

Church: Now, we have no noise. Okay. Okay. Um, I have, uh, a standard list of questions here that I ask everybody and there's really no right or wrong answer. And if you can't remember, then, you know, that's certainly all right, because we realize that it was a long time ago that you were at the Illinois training school. So, and also some of the questions may, um, um, poke your memory a little bit about things that you want to talk about so that, um, you know, we're not looking for really anything more specific than really your remembrances about your days at the Illinois training school. Okay? All right. So, can you tell me a little bit about your life before you went to the Illinois training school? Like where you lived when you were a child and about your family?

Ackerman: Yes, I remember that. Yes. I was born to the doctor and Mrs. Phillips C Giltner in Maunie Illinois, White County, in 1902, and I grew up there and at the age of 17, I started teaching school. Uh, I taught grade school for three years. And, but before that, I always said I wanted to be a nurse, but my father being a doctor realized how hard the nurses had to work in those days. And he didn't want me to be a nurse. So, when I became 21. I said, damn, I still want to be a nurse and I'm going to be a nurse. So, my father gave consent and I guess he thought I was old enough to know. Uh, then I went from there to Chicago, uh, and at my time at the, Illinois training school for nurses and graduated from there, um, it was a very small town. And, uh, my father was the only doctor there and we had a drugstore and my mother ran the drugstore and we were a very busy family. I have two, one brother, one blood brother, and then a foster brother and they were both registered pharmacists. They graduated from ... university and, um, of course they both married. One went to New Mexico and one went to Indiana and they had families. Um,

Church: Did you graduate from high school?

Ackerman: I had three years here at Carmi and then I finished in Chicago at Lewis Institute. Finished my final year.

Church: Uh huh, how was it that you ended up coming to Chicago to finish high school?

Ackerman: Well, there was a nurse from Carmi, which was our county seat who had come to Chicago. She was older than I was. And I had a friend here in Carmi because this is where I went to high school. Uh, so we knew this nurse was up there in Cook county, and we had seen her, and we had talked to her and we knew it was supposed to be a wonderful place. So, the girl from Carmi and I decided that this is where we wanted to come. And I remember she met us at the station and took us to the nursing home and made us feel welcome up there. I'd never been to Chicago before, neither had this other girl.

Church: So, after you finished your last year of high school, did you go right into school or, or did you teach right in?

Ackerman: I went to summer school. I went to, I believe it was three summers. I went to Eastern Illinois university, you know, during the vacations.

Church: So, did you receive a degree before you taught?

Ackerman: No, you didn't have to, then. You could get right out of high school. You could get out of the eighth grade, I think and teach that. No, I received my degree from George Peabody college in 1954.

Church: Not in nursing?

Ackerman: In public health nursing education.

Church: Okay. Okay. That's interesting. So, did you start school in the fall?

Ackerman: You mean my nurse's training? Yes. I started to see, there were two divisions and I was in the September. Yeah. 1923.

Church: 1923 was when you started in September. Okay. Um, you mentioned a little bit that the nurse that you knew who was from Carmi had said that the school was good. Um, Illinois training school was good. Uh, do you remember anything more specific about the reputation of the school?

Ackerman: No. I knew nothing about, nothing about it. In fact, I had tried to get into a hospital in Evansville before that see Evansville, Indiana is just about 30 miles from here and I tried to get in there, but they had their class already filled up and I couldn't get in, and it was just luck that this, this other girl really, uh, knew her because she lived in Carmi. She knew her better and she really got most of the information that we used, you know, really. I had no idea only my father did say to me, he said to me, well you will see things at cook county hospital that they've never heard of. And well he's a little off, I remember him saying that.

Church: And he was probably right huh.

Ackerman: Yes, he was right that's true!

Church: Did you have any expectations about the school before you went there?

Ackerman: No, only. I just wanted to be a nurse. I just want to be a nurse so bad.

Church: Okay. How many classmates did you start with? Do you remember?

Ackerman: Well, I don't know, but I know there were 56 in our class, but it seemed to me there were 42. Because I know the September group was always larger than the January.

Church: Do you remember how many finished?

Ackerman: Well, I think 56 is listed in our book.

Church: Oh, okay. Okay. That was the number that you were talking about that finished.

Ackerman: 56. Those names are listed in the issue.

Church: Were there some people that dropped out in the process?

Ackerman: Yes there were, um, one girl died and, and, um, yeah, there were a few, I don't, couldn't tell you how many.

Church: So, do you have any remembrance of what were the reasons that people ended up dropping out of the program?

Ackerman: Well, uh, part of it might've been, uh, some, um, behavior problems. I'm not really sure. You don't think, it was kind of secretive, you know? They didn't discuss it. They didn't put it on the bulletin board.

Church: Do you remember what a typical day was like for you? At Illinois training school?

Ackerman: Yes, fairly well, you know, depending on what the sections you were working in was. No, but I, I remember, I can't remember. I think the bell, I believe we had, I believe someone rang a bell at about six o'clock, something like that. I'm not, I'm not even sure of that, but that came to my mind. And of course we all had breakfast in the dining room and then we came up to the living room and we had little chapel service before we went on duty. And there were always two of the faculty members who stood at the front door and they looked us up and down before we got out the front door. I remember that, uh, you know, and if anything, didn't look just right, you were sent back to your room to readjust. In fact, if you'd had too much powder on your face, we couldn't wear a Rouge or anything like that. But if you had too much powder or if your skirt wasn't the right length and you didn't have everything, your pins, just so you were sent back to your room to adjust things. Then of course, our nursing home was half a block from the hospital. We were not allowed out the front door without a hat on our head. We never, our caps were left on the ward in the hospital when we came back and we had to put a hat on, we had our uniform hat off with us. And then our days, I guess, started at seven. It seems to me, I don't, I think it was seven. Yeah, I'm pretty sure it was. And of course we didn't have eight hours. I remember, it seems to me a common shift would

be worked from seven to one. Then you were off till I believe three. And he went back and worked till six, or until you got the work done, we just worked till we got things done, you know? And, uh, I remember always coming home and lying down because I was so tired. Just that little between one and three that I had to go back. I didn't spend it running around anything. I was always wanting down time to rest before I had to go back. A night shift, I guess, was from, I can't remember what time we went on, but it was 10 o'clock at night or I'm not sure, but of course its way ran until seven in the morning and the afternoon, um, I, I can't remember that as a student. What, what those hours were.

Church: Do you remember how much time you spent in classes?

Ackerman: No, I have no idea. But we have a lot of classes. I can remember that.

Church: Was it like a couple of hours a day? Did you have classes every day?

Ackerman: Oh yes, we're having classes-- yes, we have. Yes. At least that much. And then we had intensive times. It seems to me, we had some intensive for six weeks where we did just classwork and didn't go on the boards at all.

Church: So, toward the end of your, your time at Illinois training school, you didn't have any classes. It was all working in the hospital?

Ackerman: Uh, no, we always had classes.

Church: You always have classes.

Ackerman: As I remember, we always had class.

Church: Do you remember what classes were offered?

Ackerman: Oh, dear me. Uh, well of course we had, um, anatomy, um, uh, chemistry, uh, uh, nursing history, uh, drugs and solutions, obstetrics, uh, medical diseases. Uh, oh geez. We had some more they don't come to me right now.

Church: So you remember a lot!

Ackerman: Later we had pediatrics that was in our, I think probably in our second year, maybe something, we had pediatric nursing. Uh, I, eye, ear nose and throat instruction we had, as I remember we had instruction on all the fields up there.

Church: Do you remember what you enjoyed?

Ackerman: Well, I love pediatrics the most and that's what I was became. I took six months post-graduate work in pediatrics, however, contagious disease. And I

was in the contagious disease hospital for five years after I graduated. And I enjoyed that. And then I went from there to pediatrics.

Church: Well, do you remember what your hospital responsibilities were? What kind of things you did when you were on the ward?

Ackerman: Well, I remember the first thing we did of course, was to get report. And then we had to go out after we got our assignments and the first thing we did was order the wards. They called it order the wards. So you got the wastebasket and you went around and picked up everything. You know, if there'd been anything lying around on the floor, on the tables, in the room before you start giving your morning care and they end up of course--. There'll be some nurses who would be assigned to taking the temperatures of everybody, you know, that was in the morning with rush going on and that had to be done before you went off at one o'clock. And then after that you started getting with your bags and so forth. And then we had medicine girls who passed meds, and then we had the girl who passed bed pans and they had a long cart and they put all the bedpans down. They went down the big ward, you know, right and left and passed out the bedpans. And then you had to go back and collect them. It was all routine at certain times it's all done. And I can't remember who passed the water. I don't remember if we did that. We had the kitchen help, you know, and we had maids, now we didn't have to do any mopping or sweeping forward or anything like that because we had good housekeeping department.

Church: How-- you passed medicines and gave injections?

Ackerman: What did you say?

Church: Did you pass medicines, and did you give injections? Yes. Oh yes.

Ackerman: Yes yes oh yes. Uh, now I don't remember. Well, at all, we were training before we were allowed to do that, but oh yes. I remember very young. I did, you know, very young and training. I did that.

Church: Okay. Um, do you recall what the relationship was like between the nurses and the doctors?

Ackerman: Well, we were scared to death of them I remember that. And especially the attending staff. We weren't so scared of the interns and the residents, but, uh, the attending men, most of them, but still, we had a lot of respect for them because we realized, recognized them as being important people, you know, and of course we always stood when they came in, even if they weren't talking to you, you stood if they were out of the office. And on the elevators, you always stood back and let them go on the elevators first. And if you were making rounds with them, you let them enter the room first. And I remember all that, and that was hard for me to break. I, I used to do that later and the doctors would say "sit down, sit down."

Church: Do you think the doctors at that time respected the judgment of the nurse?

Ackerman: Yes, I do. Of course, they didn't ask us, you know what I mean? They didn't depend on us as much because, of the interns. You see they did a lot of the things that nurses do now. Like we didn't do an intravenous as we didn't start. In fact, we weren't even allowed to remove the needles when an intravenous, was finished, while I was in training, but because we had interns and we never took blood pressures, the interns did all that and they didn't take blood pressures then like they do now, you know, not as frequently.

Church: Hmm. Well, that's interesting. Did you ever go to any medical meetings?

Ackerman: Well, we went to the, uh, we went to a lot of, um, uh, uh, clinic so I can, you know, where the other medical students would go and like autopsies and things like that. We attended, we had regular autopsies. I don't know how often. And cause we had a big morgue with a nice theater and everything. And we attended though, was I know that was part of our training. We had to go to.

Church: Uh huh. How do you think the doctors viewed your education?

Ackerman: Well, you know, I don't know whether we were conceited or not, but we felt that everybody, it felt; and we certainly felt that we were getting a very good education because they would say that the I've heard the doctor say, well, you could go any place and get a job if they found out you were a graduate of Cook county hospital.

Church: Oh, that's interesting.

Ackerman: Because it really did have a high standard in those days and was respected all over, I guess.

Church: Mm-hmm. How do you perceive the emphasis of the ITS training?

Ackerman: Say that again please.

Church: How did you perceive the emphasis of the ITS training? Was it, um, did you get an emphasis on hospital nursing, community nursing or private duty nursing?

Ackerman: Well, of course it was mostly institutional nursing because now-- before my class, they had a, they spent, I forgotten what it was two months in a private hospital. I can't remember that name of that.

Church: Highland park?

Ackerman: Yes. Highland park. Yeah. Uh, some of our classmates, they didn't like it too well out there cause it was different, you know? And I know that ... made a little fuss about something. And so they discontinued that and I didn't get to go. And I was very disappointed because I was looking forward to it, you know? Uh, but there was something, uh, that some girls didn't like, you know, and I'd heard complaints all the time about it, but I still looked forward to it, but it was discontinued during my class. Some of them got to go and the rest of us didn't get there, but we were, well, they used to make us feel that we were trained to be superintendents of hospitals and supervisors. We always had that feeling that we were being trained as supervisors, not just, uh, you know, floor duty nurses or anything like that. And they gave us some, um, uh, well, they let us do supervision, you know, earlier, I mean, back when you were a senior, you know, you helped with a lot of that, you learned to do supervision.

Church: Hmm yeah. You're not the first person who said that there've been several other, um, people that we've interviewed that have said that same thing. That's interesting.

Ackerman: Yeah. I think it is too. Uh, and I think many of our graduates did go out and they've established nursing schools all over. The early ones, you know?

Church: As your education progressed, did you continue to remain focused on the hospital or, or did you get like a community focus at all?

Ackerman: No.

Church: No, nothing like that?

Ackerman: No. I, we were kind of isolated from the community, I think, because it was so big and, and we had so many different patients from, you know, all nationalities and all that stuff.

Church: Did you get any kind of public health experience?

Ackerman: Um, now let me see. We were supposed to, and what did get. Uh, I can't remem--I did visiting nursing in Chicago one summer, but I was a graduate then I believe, just for vacations, because I was in contagious disease. And in the summertime, our census got so low that, you know, they could release us for different things if you wanted it. We could go to the main building to work in-- well, I went in surgery two or three summers and then this one summer I asked off to go to do visiting nursing. And I did that. Uh, but I was a graduate nurse then.

Church: Yeah. Yeah.

Ackerman: But now it seems to me that there was something I can't remember. What was that?

Church: Was it infant welfare. Did you do that?

Ackerman: Oh yes! We went to infant welfare stations and help that's right. We would go and would observe and all. Yes, that's right. Yeah.

Church: Now, did you, do you, do you remember if you got that instead of the Highland park experience or was everybody getting that public health kind of thing?

Ackerman: Well, I think every, I think everybody got, I think everybody got that.

Church: Okay.

Ackerman: But in this ...I remember going to those infant welfare, uh, stations, you know,

Church: Can you, uh, tell me about a particularly memorable case that you nursed when you were a student?

Ackerman: Oh, dear me. I can remember little things said to me, you know, I remember little things. I remember we had this one black lady, we loved her and that she was dying and my best friend and I were in there talking to her, you know, and I remember she said this, honey, the Stroud ain't got no pockets. And I'll always remember that. But we saw, I remember seeing a case of leprosy, you know, that was, I didn't take care of it. They had an isolated unit, but I remember that, and I don't know, it was so big you didn't get really attached to any one person, of course, in children's now in pediatrics, uh, you got terribly attached to those children. You knew you were closer to them. I guess than you were maybe to adults. But we seem to me, we saw so many different things.

Church: Do you have a favorite memory of your ITS days?

Ackerman: Well, I'm trying to think of one special thing. I don't really know cause I love Chicago, but I love everything up there and I never wanted to quit. Never. I used to think they were going to find me dead on bed from just being overly tired because I worked so hard, but I never wanted to quit. Never. Uh, have I remember the companionship in the nursing home, you know, we were all very close. Uh, and I there were my instructors. I felt very close to, to Of course I was older. I was 21 years old when I went in and I taught school. I had three years. Uh, you know, I wasn't afraid as afraid of them as some of the young kids were.

Church: Sure, sure.

Ackerman: But, uh, I don't, I can. It was just all lovely to me, I loved every bit really.

Church: Do you have any unfavorable memory?

Ackerman: No, I can't, only the hard work, you know, but I expected, I expected that no, I don't. I never was called the office or reprimanded in any way. And I tried to do, I was, I was afraid to break any rules, I know that.

Church: Yeah. Do you know anything? Did you, were you told when you were in school, anything about the closing of the school?

Ackerman: Oh yes. We knew that it was going to be closed. Oh yeah. We knew that.

Church: How were you told? What information were you given? Do you remember?

Ackerman: I don't know. Just by word of mouth, I think.

Church: Do you remember what reason they gave for the closure?

Ackerman: Let me see now, they felt that they wanted to be connected with the university. I believe it was what was the first we heard it. And I think I had the feeling that they thought we really were going to be a part of the university of Chicago. I thought that because see, our records are stored at the university of Chicago. And I think, I don't know. I kind of thought that they felt that, that if they, you know, were hooked up with university of Chicago, it might raise the caliber. I don't know what. We didn't like the idea at all.

Church: You didn't like it, huh?

Ackerman: No, we didn't.

Church: For what reason?

Ackerman: Well, we just didn't want to see our school discontinued. We didn't even like the change, you know, it changed to the Cook County School of Nursing from the Illinois Training School of Nurses, see that happened in my time and, and we were upset about that. We couldn't see why that had to be done. Yeah.

Church: So the general consensus among everybody was that, that you were not pleased about the closing of the school.

Ackerman: No we were disappointed. I, I feel that the, the friends, my classmates, and all that, and we talked about it, we just felt that's the end of it. You know.

Church: How would you compare the, the education that you received at ITSN to the training that the cook county school of nursing got?

Ackerman: Right. Well I think theirs was just as good. It was just like a continuation. And maybe in some respects there's might've improved. Time goes on. I think all schools did.

Church: Yeah.

Ackerman: But I think cookout school of nursing had a good reputation. It was just a kind of a continuation of Illinois training school for nurses.

Church: Yeah. Do you think there was any difference between the amount of class time and duty time between the two schools?

Ackerman: For sure. The duty began to shorten, I don't know, just when that happened, but I know they didn't, I'm sure they didn't have to work the long hours that we had to work and they, now they may have had some more classwork, but, uh, I thought we had sufficient classwork really. I thought we were well-educated and and prepared for what we were expected to do.

Church: Okay. Do you think the emphasis changed on the type of nursing that was taught between the two schools?

Ackerman: Well, I think there still was that emphasis on supervision, you know? Uh, now, I think they may have had more, they, I think they had more experience in public health in some form. I don't quite remember.

Church: So, do you think overall a different type of nurse was produced?

Ackerman: Well, only as generations change, you have a different type of person that, you know, and things the girls begin, you know, uh, they were a little more daring we thought maybe than we were, but that was just the continuation generations, you know, make sure they didn't stay the same.

Church: Yeah. Right.

Ackerman: But they turned out to very good nurses, I thought, of course I left there, you know, in 43. So there, there was a lot of--I don't remember when cook county school of nursing was discontinued even, but I think it was still for a few years after I left.

Church: Oh Yeah, definitely.

Ackerman: Yeah. But as it, as the years went on, I guess the whole place went down on it from what I understand.

Church: Yeah. I'm not sure what year at the cook county school of nursing closed, but it wasn't that terribly long ago.

Ackerman: Uh-huh, yeah. But I'm sure I know their. Their atmosphere of, of in the nursing department was not what it used to be.

Church: Do you remember getting back to ITS, do you remember who made the decisions about the educational requirements and the courses that you had to take? Was it, was it the, the administrators of the hospital or the superintendents of the school or the doctors?

Ackerman: I think it was superintendent. I think the nursing department did that. You know we were kind of separate from the doctors. I mean, our own board, our own Illinois training school of nurses board all took care of us. And that's why we were never afraid of political situations because you know, people, you see what we're going to report to the politics and things to some politician. We never had to worry because the hospital was political, but the nursing school was not in any way.

Church: Sure. Do you know if that differed from, um, the, uh, the way cook county hospital school of nursing was run? The decisions about educational stuff?

Ackerman: I think that all came from the, uh, from the nursing staff.

Church: Okay. Let's talk a little bit about your experience after you graduated. Um, you said you, you worked at cook county until 1943.

Ackerman: Yes. I left there. I was gone one year from there in 1938. I came to Evansville Indiana, and I was assistant director of the welfare and contagious hospital there for one year and I got home sick. So, I went back to Chicago.

Church: What were your responsibilities when you were working in the contagious hospital and when you were working in pediatrics?

Ackerman: Well, I was, uh, when I graduated, um, I was, I think just the next two or three days I was made head nurse at the cook county contagious disease hospital. And I worked there for five years and then I believe that was the time that I stopped and did my six months postgraduate work in pediatrics. And then I worked in pediatric all that time, but someplace in there before I went to pediatrics, because I did the visiting nursing for one year, then um let's see, I went to Evansville, stayed on, then I came back, I went back into pediatrics and I was first, I think I was first made, uh, afternoon supervisor either that or night supervisor. I did both of those shifts for several years. And then I, before I left there, I was the administrative supervisor of the, all the pediatric department. Um, I, and I had a nice office down on the main floor and, you know, and I listened to said laws. And I remember when they hired me for that position, I didn't have a degree then, but I'd had some college work because I've had some for ... and then I'd been taking night classes off and on, you know, just, just at random. I didn't have any thought of what I was going to major in anything. I just picked up subjects. I wanted, I was interested in and I went to ... which was only two blocks away from there on Madison st. And I

went to night school there quite a bit and picked up several classes and, uh, they call me and to see if I would accept this position. And they said, we want you to know that you are the first person that's ever been offered this who doesn't have a degree. And most of the women had master's degrees, but they told me the reason that they were offering it to me was that I knew the, knew the children's hospital very well. I knew all about it. And that I could get along with everybody. And they had to have someone that could keep the doctors and the nurses all, you know, if they confronted each other, I was called in, you know, and I think it was kind of a peacemaker maybe, although we had very few episodes of anything like that, but I enjoyed that. I was really, I felt that was very important. Just having that big glassed in office on the main floor.

Church: Good! Sounds nice.

Ackerman: But that was then when I left there, I came back to the live with my mother because my father had died and she was living alone and she wasn't too happy about it. So, and I had been taking, you know, before I went in the school, the war during the war, you know, in 43 and there was kind of a shortage of teachers. And the school board had told my mother that if I would come back, I could have school any day there. So I decided that I'd go back and live with my mother and I went back into teaching. So, I taught in the grade school down there. I was principal down there for two years. Then uh radio kept calling for nurses, you know, for the service, they needed nurses so badly. And I began to feel guilty. I was an RN and I was teaching school. And of course, I was kind of taking care of the illnesses of kind of like a school nurse unofficially. But anyway, I felt so guilty that before my school was out, I had already signed my papers and gone to Chicago and had my physical for uh, in the army. So, they wanted to take into some of the best, but I was 42 years old and they wouldn't accept it. The army was the one saying it wouldn't accept you over 40. So then, my school was out one day, and I left the next day, for camp McCoy and the army nurse corps. And then, um, from there went to McCoy and had my basic training. And I. This is a private affair. I don't know if you want this or not about my marriage and all, but anyway, I was married while I was in the service, but I was shipped from camp McCoy after basic down to port McClellan, Alabama, but I only had out of t there five and a half months, but I had all the benefits of the GI, which, I really liked army nursing very much. And I would've stayed in, but I'd gotten married and my husband had been in service and he was already out. And so, then they started describing the married nurses and those, you know, who wanted to get home.

Church: Oh, so you never went overseas or anything.

Ackerman: No no, but I was signed up to go overseas, but my husband had been overseas for three years and he got back in the states. Yeah, waiting. He, he was kind of aggravated when I enlisted. But I thought the war was going to go on forever. I didn't-- he was overseas, and I thought why don't I go? When he came back and he was back and I was getting ready to go overseas, but I didn't have to go. But that was so—

Church: So, what did you do when you got out of the army?

Ackerman: Uh, I came home, and I had a baby. I was 43 years old and I had my first child.

Church: Congratulations.

Ackerman: I was married when I was at 42, and at 43 I had a son. Yeah.

Church: So, you were ahead of your time, most of the women are waiting these days!

Ackerman: I'll tell you, I really did well. I accomplished one of the great goals.

Church: Well, good for you. It sounds like you led an exciting life.

Ackerman: I had a very interesting life. Really, I have. And then after, when my son was almost a year old, I went back into teaching and then I was, uh, I taught two more years down there in the grade school. Then I was asked to come to the Carmi township high school, and that's how I had been to Carmi as a school nurse, I had to teach girls physical education. So, I taught girls physical education for five years there. And I taught home nursing classes and home nursing, which is full unit credit. And then I taught health and first aid. And, all driver's training classes had to take first aid I thought that-- and I lived here in Carmi and I was a school nurse too, at the high school. And then in between times while I was over there, I did some private duty on the weekends because we had a lot of private duty nurses then here in our little hospital. And they would be on cases maybe for months; and they'd like to have a weekend off, so they'd come get me. I would work on Friday and Saturday nights farther to relieve them, so they could have some days off. And, uh, that's, that's the only part to do, but I you know, over years I did quite a bit of it in a way. An then after, um, let me see my husband, no, after I retired from teaching, which was 1967, I believe, I started working here in Carmi in a nursing home, and I worked there from 67 till up, let's see, 85, July of 85, right.

Church: My gosh! How old are you?

Ackerman: I'm 84.

Church: Wow.

Ackerman: I'll be 85 in November. But the only reason I did was because they wanted to cut down on expenses and uh, you know, I would want to have stayed there because I'd been, you know, I'd worked for many years.

Church: Yeah. Otherwise, you'd still be working there.

Ackerman: I'd still be working there, but they really needed to cut down my time. It's getting kind of, I didn't like to get up early in the morning and go through the snow and ice to get to work at all. I only work two days a week sometimes, but I would have worked as many as four days a week. When it got the pinch.

Church: Do you have any recollection of, uh, uh, what kind of nursing your classmates did after they graduated?

Ackerman: Oh, they scattered every place. Let's see. My friend did private duty, uh, Some, their marriage just didn't work at all. Uh, trying to think of an. Well, I'm sure a lot of them did supervision someplace, but, and some industrial, I had a friend who did industrial nursing that was considered a good job in those days. And school nursing! There were a few school nurses. Someone got married, raised families and all.

Church: So, it's all kinds of things.

Ackerman: Yeah, they were, yeah, they they went to, see, they were from all different states and a lot of them went back to their own state to work.

Church: Do you recall who was the superintendent while you were at ITS?

Ackerman: Yes, when I did my training it was Mary C. Wheeler and I think she was there until 1924, I believe. And then Laura, Logan took over and she was there when left you know?

Church: Do you remember what they were like?

Ackerman: Yeah yeah, they were two different persons, you know? Uh, cause they were all extremely gracious, very rich women. Mary C. Wheeler was the one that had been there for quite some time and she was a graduate of the Illinois training school for nurses and a very devoted nurse. That was it. It was, that was her life. And in fact, she wrote a handbook that I still have about all our procedures. It was well written, real, publicly. And, um, uh, we all respected her very, very much. Now and this Logan, Laura Logan was a different kind. She was a person who, um, who was more socially inclined. Now. I still think she was interested in nursing. You know, everything that we needed, ... I believe it was she who started our weekly teas. You know, we had a big tea once a week, and she was much she was more socially inclined.

Church: Did everybody attend the teas?

Ackerman: You didn't have to, but most of us did. It was kind of a nice thing, which I had to do; we had the very nice silverware and everything. It's a very nice thing, you know, for faculty and students. By the time I forgotten what the weekend was more, and then she uh, we had more parties and things, but she did a very good job, I think.

Church: Did you have any personal contact with either one of them?

Ackerman: Well Yes. At different times I have had had that, you know, like if you were called in for a promotion, or, um, I was, I was class president. I can't remember. I think it was about half a month. I can't remember God, but anyway, at that time, I remember talking to Mrs. Ms. Logan on several occasions,

Church: So, even though they were different people and different types of different focuses. You felt that they benefited very good job in terms of being superintendent.

Ackerman: Yes. And I respected them very much.

Church: How would you compare your peer education that you received at ITS to today's type of nursing education?

Ackerman: Really? I'm not too aware of the stuff they get today, but I know that they are getting a lot of newer things and things are changing much more rapidly today than it was when I was in training. It used to be the same, you know, year after year there wasn't too many things starting, and now, you know, like equipment, like I could never work in the hospital again. I wouldn't even know how to push these buttons on some of these things like that ... and now people, the public criticize they criticize nursing a lot, but they're not, they don't have a feeling for patients that the older nurses have, you know, I find that in that when I was working in the nursing homes, people would say about me "now she's very concerned about her patients, you know, patients come first" and they didn't feel that maybe in the younger ones, if that was true. But I think as I say, generations change, you know.

Church: That's true.

Ackerman: And wait, now I when I was in training I would never go out, like to stay out till midnight, unless I had the next day off to rest, you know, because I always required rest and I wanted to be alert, you know, and now these kids can stay out all night and then go back to work in the morning, things like that and we were never like that.

Church: You were prudent.

Ackerman: Well yeah, I guess I loved it. So I did always love nursing because I love teaching too, So I guess I said this to someone the other day, I've never had a job. I didn't like.

Church: Okay. Um, do you keep in touch with any of your classmates?

Ackerman: Yes. I keep rolling. I keep in touch with that ... she lives up in Eau Clair, Wisconsin. Okay. And I kept in touch with Clare Rosengrant, and she died just this last year at Christmas time I know I didn't get a greeting from because she died in October, and she lived in Florida, I visited her down there twice. And then I always kept in touch with ... she was my very closest friend. She died too I think, It's last year. I mean... the only one that I really keep in touch with in my class now is ... she still lives

Church: And she's the person in Eau Clair?

Ackerman: Yes she lives in Eau Clair.

Church: Okay, okay. Do you have her address by any chance?

Ackerman: Yes I do, if you have time for me to get it!

Church: Sure.