

Mrs. Neander: I landed up there. As I pondered today, I don't remember where they're [inaudible 00:00:09] fourth grade or not, I don't remember that part. I stayed there until I was through eighth grade. We lived 25 miles from town, where my father and mother got poorer and poorer and poorer because we lost all our crops every single year, through drought and the last one was a big hailstorm.

My father asked me if I wanted to further my education and I said, "I sure would." There was no way of me going to Saskatchewan [inaudible 00:00:47] because my mother and father didn't have enough money. He said, "Well listen, I have to lend from my dad, your grandpa." He says, "If you come to their home and take care of the house and everything, you can go to high school." They lived in Southern Minnesota.

Although we had a big hailstorm so I knew I couldn't go. My school teacher that I used to go and visit [inaudible 00:01:19] only about a quarter and a mile away, so she gave me the money to go. So, I went to grandpa's house. I was with them a year and most of the next summer.

My grandma and my grandmother had a small stroke, so she couldn't do anything. I did everything they couldn't, baking of bread, and cleaning the house, washing clothes, and [inaudible 00:01:56] and everything else. They went to their daughter's home, on a farm, and lived there [inaudible 00:02:05].

In my second year, I worked my way through it because I didn't have any money either. I worked for a family whose mother had a [inaudible 00:02:20] small children. I worked for them [inaudible 00:02:26].

Then the next year, I worked for a minister and his family, and on the fourth year, I worked for a doctor and his family. It was through them that I got into nurse's training. [inaudible 00:02:43]. The [inaudible 00:02:44] wouldn't-- and interned at [inaudible 00:02:46] and this is where the [inaudible 00:02:49] graduated from [inaudible 00:02:49]

The daughter, she was on a private school here in Illinois, she graduated high school the same year that I did, and she wanted to be a nurse. Mrs. Williams asked me if I wanted to be a nurse and I said, "That would be out of this world," because I didn't know what I wanted to be. All the girls are going to be school teachers and I don't want any part of that.

There was no way I could-- The only way I could do it is work at county and get enough money to go to [inaudible 00:03:23] college. That's what I thought [inaudible 00:03:25] Then I got this opportunity, so I went to County and graduated from there.

Interviewer: Wonderful. You went with your daughter?

Mrs. Neander: Yes.

Interviewer: She was also a graduate the same year?

Mrs. Neander: Yes. No. She graduated from-- I can never remember the name, sorry. Shimer? There's a school here in-

Interviewer: Oh yes, there's a school named Shimer. Well, there used to be, I'm not sure if it's still around.

Mrs. Neander: I think it's coed now, but it was a girls' school at that time. She flunked the first six weeks. They gave her another chance because of her mother and father. She flunked again.

Interviewer: Oh, no.

Mrs. Neander: She quit. She had to quit.

Interviewer: [inaudible 00:04:10] training school.

Mrs. Neander: She couldn't graduate.

Interviewer: Cool. She went on to Shimer instead.

Mrs. Neander: No, she was in high school in Shimer.

Interviewer: Oh, I see, okay. I think Shimer had a college also.

Mrs. Neander: I don't know. Well, I don't know about that.

Interviewer: You finished and your daughter didn't. That's interesting.

Mrs. Neander: Well, I studied. [inaudible 00:04:35] I knew what I wanted to be.

Interviewer: Let me start going through the questions a little bit. Tell me a little bit about your life as a child. You did a lot of travel. It must have been hard for you to be away from your family when you were in high school.

Mrs. Neander: It was terrible. I used to cry myself to sleep.

Interviewer: [inaudible 00:05:00] When you finished nurse's training, did you go back up to Canada?

Mrs. Neander: No, no. I got married.

Interviewer: No, oh. [inaudible 00:05:11] Cool. Where did your family come from?

Mrs. Neander: Well, my mother was born and raised near Detroit lakes. My father had a farm there. In the summer in the [inaudible 00:05:29] they had a farm in Tennessee, the other farm of my grandfather. They would go down there in wintertime, and then they would go back [inaudible 00:05:42]. My father was born and raised in Minnesota, southern Minnesota [inaudible 00:05:52].

Interviewer: You do have brothers and sisters?

Mrs. Neander: Yes, four brothers and four sisters.

Interviewer: Oh, that's a big family.

Mrs. Neander: Three of my brothers are dead. I'm the oldest.

Interviewer: You were the oldest.

Mrs. Neander: I had four brothers and four sisters.

Interviewer: Is that the reason you were the one that went away to high school because you were the oldest?

Mrs. Neander: No, it's because I wanted an education.

Interviewer: Oh, and the rest of them didn't?

Mrs. Neander: Well, my two sisters, two older sisters, they became beauticians and my younger sister became a school teacher so they stayed up there. They had no way of getting down here. If they had come down here [inaudible 00:06:45]

Interviewer: Right.

Mrs. Neander: [inaudible 00:06:48]

Interviewer: They managed to make ends meet in the farm.

Mrs. Neander: They stayed with Papa.

Interviewer: Most of them stayed in Canada?

Mrs. Neander: Yes, stayed in Canada except one of my brothers, he's in California. He came down. The doctor and his wife said, when I finished high school, they wanted to know if one of my brothers would like to come and stay with them and work for them throughout their high school. I said, "Sure," so I asked my oldest brother and he said no. The next brother, he said yes, so he came and he worked for them for four years during his high school. [inaudible 00:07:34]

Interviewer: More opportunities.

Mrs. Neander: [inaudible 00:07:38]

Interviewer: They were very nice people.

Mrs. Neander: Yes, they were.

Interviewer: The reason, basically, that you decided to go into nursing was because of the influence of the doctor and his wife?

Mrs. Neander: Yes.

Interviewer: She graduated from the [inaudible 00:07:51] training school also?

Mrs. Neander: Yes.

Interviewer: Do you have any idea what class?

Mrs. Neander: 1907.

Interviewer: 1907. Is she's still living by any chance?

Mrs. Neander: No, she's [inaudible 00:08:03] and the doctor.

Interviewer: I interviewed some of them who graduated the class of 1919.

Mrs. Neander: The reason why I graduated here, Agnes Davies, she lives in [inaudible 00:08:29] from here.

Interviewer: Right. I was going to see her, and you and Mrs. Dixon all on the same day.

Mrs. Neander: Oh.

Interviewer: Then I had to cancel because of the snowstorm yesterday. Mrs. Davies couldn't see me today, so I'm going to have to see her sometime in the next couple of weeks. I couldn't get them off on one day, so I had to do two.

Mrs. Neander: She graduated five years ahead of me.

Interviewer: Right. You've kept up with her also?

Mrs. Neander: Yes, I keep up with her.

Interviewer: That's good. How did your family feel when you told them that you were going into nursing and not going to come back home?

Mrs. Neander: They were very happy.

Interviewer: Were they?

Mrs. Neander: They were really happy. They wanted me to have what I wanted. They weren't holding me back.

Interviewer: I'm sure that would've meant to them that you wouldn't be coming back home after you finished high school.

Mrs. Neander: Well, that's [inaudible 00:09:31] with my family and me too.

Interviewer: Did you have any other influence about deciding to go into nursing besides the doctor?

Mrs. Neander: No.

Interviewer: That was it?

Mrs. Neander: Yes.

Interviewer: Do you remember which of the sessions you started in? Was it October? January?

Mrs. Neander: October 4th.

Interviewer: It was the same as Mrs. Dixon?

Mrs. Neander: Yes, we were classmates.

Interviewer: Did you know anything about the reputation of the school before you went?

Mrs. Neander: We went through Dr. Williams and Mrs. Williams told me-- The very first thing I asked, I said, "Is it a hospital that takes care of the poor people?" I didn't have the least idea what it was. They said, "Yes," so I was very, very happy. I thought when I got out of high school and I didn't want to be a teacher, I thought probably I would turn out to be a missionary because that was one of the things they did in the negotiators. [inaudible 00:10:40], to be a missionary. That's why I thought it would be nice to [inaudible 00:10:48] so I got [inaudible 00:10:52]

Interviewer: Did you have any expectations or any fantasies about the school before you got there, before you went?

Mrs. Neander: No.

Interviewer: Do you remember how many classmates started with you?

Mrs. Neander: There was about 60 of us. I think there was only 30, 31, or 32 that graduated.

Interviewer: What happened to them?

Mrs. Neander: Some of them got kicked out, some of them quit, and some of them got married.

Interviewer: If you got married you couldn't continue?

Mrs. Neander: I got married but they let me continue.

Interviewer: You're kidding. Really? How did you manage that?

Mrs. Neander: I was a very good student. [laughs]

Interviewer: Oh, really?

Mrs. Neander: Yes, and I had never had anything-- I had never done anything wrong.

Interviewer: How far along in your education did you get you get married?

Mrs. Neander: It was in my second year, the end of my second year.

Interviewer: In your second year.

Mrs. Neander: Yes.

Interviewer: You were taking a chance, weren't you?

Mrs. Neander: Yes, I was. I was. When you're young and silly, you'll do things like that.

Interviewer: Did they allow you to live with your husband or did you have to stay within with the--

Mrs. Neander: No, I stayed with-- No, I couldn't live with my husband because he lived here. He lived in Chicago and I was in nurse's training. I couldn't live with him.

Interviewer: You sound like that's just something that couldn't possibly be done, but nowadays people, if they're married and they go to nursing school, they don't live in the dorm with the rest of the students.

Mrs. Neander: Oh, no. We couldn't do that. I couldn't do that, either.

Interviewer: They wouldn't allow you to do that.

Mrs. Neander: No. I was supposed to-- They had a big board meeting about it and Ms. [inaudible 00:12:43] was in charge of the class. Ms. Logan was on vacation. She called me to the office and she says, "We don't want you to wear your wedding ring." Of course, I hadn't. "And don't tell anyone that you're married." She said, "On the last day when you're finished by then, you can wear your wedding ring and tell everybody."

[laughter]

Mrs. Neander: That's the way it went.

Interviewer: Did you tell them that you were married or did they find out?

Mrs. Neander: No, they found out. Some woman wrote a letter. We knew who it was right away because there was only two people who knew besides ourself that we were married. Of course, the school found out through that letter.

Interviewer: You must have felt bad.

Mrs. Neander: They were real mean people. They've always been lousy, just plain lousy. My roommate in school, my first roommate, she got marry when she was in school a year and a half. The relatives of the husband [inaudible 00:14:03].

Interviewer: Was she allowed to stay or did they kick her out?

Mrs. Neander No, she quit.

Interviewer: She quit?

Mrs. Neander: Yes, she quit. These relatives of hers says, "You are not going to continue in nurse's training. You are going to take care of my son. So, she couldn't finish.

Interviewer: It's a good thing your husband's family didn't have that attitude.

Mrs. Neander: No. [inaudible 00:14:35]

Interviewer: You were lucky.

Mrs. Neander: Yes, I was lucky I was with him. Come on, you'll get cat hair all over you.

Interviewer: That's all right.

Mrs. Neander: She has to investigate a little.

Interviewer: It's no problem. She can do that.

Mrs. Neander: [inaudible 00:14:53] cat hair sheds.

Interviewer: Yes, my cats do the same thing. What other reasons did people not finish school other than getting married?

Mrs. Neander The least little thing they'd get them kicked out. There was one learning nurse I always remembered because we-- When the children's hospital was built and then when we-- Pediatrics always over there in the home the whole hospital was children, babies, and [inaudible 00:15:36]. The teacher that taught us pediatrics, she was very, very strict, very strict. She was a terrific woman. She knew pediatrics like nobody else. She used to come at night to see if we were taking care of the babies all right. She'd come during the day, too, and made sure that the babies were taken care of properly.

We were never allowed to put a baby who was in bed and then prop up a bottle so the baby could feed in the bed. We always had to hold the babies. She caught this girl with the baby bottle in the bed.

Interviewer: So, she got kicked out of school for that?

Mrs. Neander: She got kicked out of school. [inaudible 00:16:32]

Interviewer: Yes, it sounds like they were strict.

Mrs. Neander: They were very strict. It was like in the Army.

Interviewer: Yes. That's what it seems from talking to people.

Mrs. Neander: One of the supervisors told me, she says, "This is like the Army."
[laughs]

Interviewer: Be prepared. [laughs] Can you describe a typical day in school for me?

Mrs. Neander: It was always a happy day for me.

Interviewer: You liked it, huh?

Mrs. Neander: I enjoyed every minute of it.

Interviewer: What time did you get up in the morning? What did you do during the day?

Mrs. Neander: We had to be on duty at 7:00. We always had to have breakfast. There was only once that I didn't have breakfast. They'd check on you. "Did you have your breakfast," in nurse's report in the morning. "Did you have breakfast," the whole bunch. This one morning I didn't have breakfast, so I had to go back and have breakfast and come back.

Interviewer: Really? Oh, my gosh.

[laughter]

Mrs. Neander: We had wonderful meals. The meals were out of this world. We had a lot of post-graduates coming. They couldn't get over the good food we had. They always said, "Where we come from, we half-starve. We couldn't get enough food, and the food was terrible once we had the food we had to eat. They had wonderful food, out of this world.

Interviewer: Post-graduates from where?

Mrs. Neander: All over Chicago. We had everything at County. We had everything. Most of these girls at school don't have cycle. They didn't have contagious. We had a family that had TB sit on their face. It sounds very cool over there, a special hospital. We had everything. There was nothing that we didn't get. These girls came and they did so many months [inaudible 00:18:36] every subject that their own hospital didn't teach.

Interviewer: That's interesting. Were they already nurses by the time you came to Cook County, or they were--

Mrs. Neander: No, they were still students.

Interviewer: They were still students but they had to fill in the gaps of what they didn't get.

Mrs. Neander: Yes, that's why. See, if they didn't have contagion, they'd go into contagion. If they didn't have TB, they'd go into there. If they didn't have pediatrics, they'd go into pediatrics, like that.

Interviewer: I see. Do you remember how much time you were actually in class and how much time you were on the wards?

Mrs. Neander: The first year we'd have classes and then we'd have to go to work. We had theory and practice together. With classes, I don't remember exactly now how many classes we had our first year. [inaudible 00:19:37] next day, I would remember that. In our third year, we had what they called-- It was equal to a year of college. We had three months of very, very intensive school.

I remember that. [laughs] We had to study for that. We never went on the wards at that time. That was the only time we didn't go to the wards. [inaudible 00:20:13] That was a very [inaudible 00:20:20] one class after the other all day long.

Interviewer: What kind of classes were they?

Mrs. Neander: Well, they were recycle, and everything else. I can't remember all of them right now.

Interviewer: They were regular college courses.

Mrs. Neander: [inaudible 00:20:37] go through a college course.

Interviewer: You remember who taught them?

Mrs. Neander: Oh, no. There were so many doctors.

Interviewer: They were doctors and [crosstalk]

Mrs. Neander: A lot of them were doctors, [inaudible 00:20:48]

Interviewer: What classes did you enjoy the most?

Mrs. Neander: All of them.

Interviewer: You liked them all. You enjoyed it, I can tell, yes.

Mrs. Neander: I enjoyed everything we did.

Interviewer: Your hospital work schedule, you said most of the time you started at 7:00. Would you work eight-hour shifts with 12-hour shifts?

Mrs. Neander: Yes, eight-hour. No, no, we never did 12-hour shifts. They were in for eight hours [inaudible 00:21:19]

Interviewer: Did you have to work some evening shifts and some night shifts also?

Mrs. Neander: We'd take our turns with the afternoons and nights. I only had two sessions at night because I was sick a lot during the-- [inaudible 00:21:32] never sick a day in my life before I came into nurses' training, so the doctor wouldn't let me work nights. I was only [inaudible 00:21:43] nights and emergency admitting. I was on nights until this. That was all the nights I had. Most of them had much more nights than I had, but the doctors didn't know.

Interviewer: Were you catching things for your people in the hospital, was that why you were also sick?

Mrs. Neander: No. I had one cold after the other and if it couldn't have been so fast, it wouldn't even be funny. I had a couple of real bad infections and [inaudible 00:22:17]. I got blood poisoning [inaudible 00:22:20] blood poison.

Interviewer: Ooh, how'd that happen.

Mrs. Neander: [inaudible 00:22:25]

Interviewer: Oh, wow.

Mrs. Neander: That'd be me. On this one too, a really bad infection. On this one too, I had a bad infection. During my second year, I was diagnosed of hypothyroid. I was working in pediatrics, I was [inaudible 00:22:51] at the hospital. This one day, I [inaudible 00:22:58] The supervisor [inaudible 00:23:07] my name [inaudible 00:23:10] take me to the hospital. [inaudible 00:23:12] It wasn't a hospital; it was just [inaudible 00:23:17] rooms. That was in our dormitory on the third floor.

Dr. Case was called in. Dr. Case and Dr. Williams who were roommates when we interned. They call in Dr. Case to see what should be done for me. He didn't approve of an operation. In those days they took the thyroid out and just like [inaudible 00:23:47] everybody had to take it out [inaudible 00:23:50]. He said, "No." He says, "She isn't to be operated on." He says to the doctor, "[inaudible 00:24:01] and we'll take care of you." I went back to [inaudible 00:24:10] for one month. I only had bathroom privileges.

Next, I could get up and go downstairs [inaudible 00:24:18] then I could go and I could walk for a few blocks outside. [inaudible 00:24:27] they put me on half-time duty [inaudible 00:24:33].

Interviewer: You were away from the school for three months?

Mrs. Neander: Yes. Seven months [inaudible 00:24:42].

Interviewer: That's a long time to lose. Did you have to make that up?

Mrs. Neander: Oh, yes. I had to make that up. We were supposed to graduate after the fourth, and I graduated on May 12th, 1930.

Interviewer: Oh, I see.

Mrs. Neander: [crosstalk] graduate after the 4th. [inaudible 00:25:03] on the 9th.

Interviewer: You graduated after the school had changed over the County School of Nursing?

Mrs. Neander: Yes. They came and asked me if I wanted to stay with [inaudible 00:25:13], stay with ITS, or [inaudible 00:25:16]? I said, "Yes, I want to stay with ITS."

Interviewer: Good for you.

Mrs. Neander: Well, all my friends grew and these were all new, that were coming in. I was the last one. I was the baby.

Interviewer: Wow, that's interesting. You were the very, very last nurse-

Mrs. Neander: Very last one.

Interviewer: -to have graduated from ITS.

Mrs. Neander: Yes.

Interviewer: Wow.

Mrs. Neander: [inaudible 00:25:42] this hospital [inaudible 00:25:42] on those days.

Interviewer: You're famous, or you should be famous. Maybe you will be famous when Dr. Church writes all these up.

Mrs. Neander: I've lived an interesting life.

Interviewer: Did you go to a luncheon that they had, I think in '81 when they closed the cooking school [inaudible 00:26:05]?

Mrs. Neander: Yes. They came in the nursing school. we went to Agnes [inaudible 00:26:12] babies. We used to go. We didn't go last year, I don't remember why. I had been really sick last year, I've had pneumonia.

Interviewer: Well, do they still have them? I thought they had their last one in '81 [crosstalk]. Now they still have them?

Mrs. Neander: Yes, they're having every year. We were invited but I couldn't go. I was still [inaudible 00:26:36] the news, so [inaudible 00:26:45] that's a whole day in there. It's really interesting. You can take a tour of the hospital if you want to, then I had a lecture and [inaudible 00:27:02] the University of Illinois, I just like it over there. We went over there and they have a lot of pictures of [inaudible 00:27:13] It was really interesting, [inaudible 00:27:17] they have in this room. This room is dedicated to [inaudible 00:27:26]

Interviewer: Right. Dr. Church, the professor at the university who is doing this project, she's the one who's in charge of that room and all the records. She's a nurse historian.

Mrs. Neander: Yes, Dr. Church was there when we went there.

Interviewer: She's the one that I'm working for, doing these interviews.

Mrs. Neander: Oh, that's wonderful.

Interviewer: This is her project. Let me ask you some more about your school days. Do you remember what your responsibilities were in the hospital, during your work time, what kinds of things you had to do?

Mrs. Neander: Well, we had to take care of the patients. We had as many as 25 patients to take care of every day. We had 50 patients in the ward and they took one whole side and then, they had a bath. You had to give your patients a bath thrice a week. The rest was the worst of case, worst of day, take care of their toenails and their fingernails, comb their hair, and make sure they brush their teeth.

Most of them didn't have their toothbrushes in those days. We used to break the [inaudible 00:28:50] Do you know the [inaudible 00:28:53]?

Interviewer: [inaudible 00:28:58]

Mrs. Neander: Tongue depressors. We used to break them in half, break them in half again, then we made our own dressing over there. This man, who kept all the gauze, he had big drawers. They were about this long, like this, upstairs, way upstairs, above surgery. He had among them [inaudible 00:29:27] the drawers, he cut them up there.

The selvages, we get all the selvages and made those-- We wrap those tongue depressor pieces, and that would be the toothbrush. We each had a basket, each of us had a basket. In that basket, we had a cornucopia, we make them out of newspapers or anything that [inaudible 00:30:00] something to pick up [inaudible 00:30:01] in there. Then we had lanolin ointment. Well, we made our own lanolin. we melted the [inaudible 00:30:14] and then when it was melted we poured it in jars and put the cover on it. Then put in the nurse's basket. If there was any redness or anything that needed extra healing, we rub lanolin on it. If their but was-- We were never ever allowed to have a bench soar and we never did.

that was for nursing, and that would get kicked out too, for something like that. We applied lanolin to any place that we got that should be taken care of and lanolin was wonderful and then the very-

Interviewer: That was you just melted down sheep's fat?

Mrs. Neander: Melted down the sheep's fat.

Interviewer: That's what lanolin is. True.

Mrs. Neander: That's lanolin, sheep's fat.

Interviewer: I didn't know. [laughs].

Mrs. Neander: Oh well, it's [inaudible 00:31:16].

Interviewer: I'm used to lanolin coming out of a tube.

Mrs. Neander: It's very, very healing as time went on we used to put the-- We used to put-- wasn't Benadryl, it wasn't [inaudible 00:31:35]. It was kind of [inaudible 00:31:40]. It was brown liquid and once you put that in and that activated the healing process too. That was wonderful.

Interviewer: It was an iodine maybe or something?

Mrs. Neander: No, it wasn't iodine. [inaudible 00:31:59]. I believe it was wonderful it was just out of this world. Nobody ever had bed sores. In the first week, I had to turn my patients, too. Our patients who were incumbent so they couldn't [inaudible 00:32:16]. Every two hours they had to be turned from side to side. [inaudible 00:32:22]

Interviewer: Just one person would have 25 patients?

Mrs. Neander: Yes, we had 25 patients. Then it was for every-- They had to have two baths a week. Then if they had a temperature of 102-6, we had to bathe them every four hours in a cool bath to get the temperature down. When we get the

temperature down to probably one degree or 1.5, 1.8. We had to continue [inaudible 00:32:59] every four hours we bathe them around the clock.

Interviewer: That's a lot of work for one person to do.

Mrs. Neander: We [inaudible 00:33:08].

Interviewer: Yes that sounds like it.

Mrs. Neander: It is.

Interviewer: Do you remember what the relationship was like between the nurses and the doctors at the time?

Mrs. Neander: We revere the doctors. If we were sitting and a doctor came into the room, we had to get up. we stand up for all the doctors. They were very [inaudible 00:33:37] highly.

Interviewer: Did the doctors respect your judgment? Or did you offer any opinions about anything?

Mrs. Neander: No, we weren't allowed to do that.

Interviewer: Not as students. What about the regular the other nurses? The nurses who already graduated who were working now?

Mrs. Neander: [inaudible 00:33:57] they could do that either.

Interviewer: They couldn't do that either?

Mrs. Neander: No, no, the doctors were high.

Interviewer: The doctors were really up on a pedestal.

Mrs. Neander: On a pedestal is right. They were honored [inaudible 00:34:06]. I worked at [inaudible 00:34:09] and then [inaudible 00:34:14]. We had to [inaudible 00:34:15] and then determine [inaudible 00:34:16]. That's the best I [inaudible 00:34:19] and then he says, "No." I had taken a nurse's place in a doctor's office when she went on vacation. We couldn't find a nurse. He asked me if I come and take care of his office and then I said, "Yes."

It was terrible at the time. It was answering the phone I had to worry about and I had to greet the patients. Because he gave all the shots and everything else but I didn't [inaudible 00:34:59]. I says, "I never, never, never go into a doctor's office." He says, "Well why don't you come and try it?" Well, he was out of his [inaudible 00:35:08] and we get along great, [inaudible 00:35:11].

Interviewer: Oh [inaudible 00:35:14].

Mrs. Neander: He was a general practitioner and we did everything. They'd bring in the baby he would circumcise babies and did minor surgery. We did casts and we did burns. We did everything; it was wonderful.

Interviewer: He let you do a little bit more than what you were expecting from your last experience in the [inaudible 00:35:40] [crosstalk]?

Mr. Neander: Well, he was a private doctor that [inaudible 00:35:43]. We did everything and then when I was with him about two and a half years he went back to school to become independent specialist. He was amazing, "Don't get into anything." He said, "Because you're going to be my nurse when I come back." I went back to him and-

Interviewer: How long was he in school?

Mrs. Neander: He was in school about two and a half years. He got five years-- Or he got they were supposed to have five years to study for internship I mean an internal specialist. He had a practice for another three years, he got credit for that. He only had to take two years but then he took three months extra, and something else that he wanted to acquire. It was nice for him, oh yes, and then he was up there in the [inaudible 00:37:00] hospital. The one on [inaudible 00:37:02] Street that's where he was stationed.

[pause 00:37:08]

Interviewer: Do you know if the doctors had any opinion at all about the kind of education that you were getting?

Mrs. Neander: No, I don't think they [inaudible 00:37:21] over that because our education was terrific. No, they never did that.

Interviewer: Do you think that the emphasis on the Illinois training school was community, private, practice, or hospital nursing?

Mrs. Neander: Well, it was entirely hospital. [inaudible 00:37:43] a course of people.

Interviewer: You had some community experience now, didn't you?

Mrs. Neander: Yes, I went into-- I took intern-welfare, you know what I mean?

Interviewer: Yes.

Mrs. Neander: Yes, I had a [inaudible 00:37:56] had either intern-welfare or-- what's the other one?

Interviewer: Medic?

Mrs. Neander: Yes, one that they do with the babies. It was two months ago it was up on [inaudible 00:38:15] my station was.

Interviewer: All your education was focused on the hospital except for that [inaudible 00:38:26] [crosstalk]-

Mrs. Neander: Yes because we had everything. That's the only time we [inaudible 00:38:29].

Interviewer: Is there a particularly memorable case that you had when you were a student that you can remember?

Mrs. Neander: Oh no, there were so many. Well, I could tell you the first one when we were still in-- What do you call it those few months?

Interviewer: Probation?

Mrs. Neander: Probation. We had man who was a big, handsome man and he and he had no one and he was sick. We took turns taking care of him. One day I took care of him and then the next student would take care of him like that. Then in the afternoon, the [inaudible 00:39:17] would have to do the same thing, take care of him until somebody [inaudible 00:39:22] comes. He was very, very, very sick and he died.

He was going to have autopsy and we all had to so see the autopsy. The place for the autopsies-- In those days when I first entered [inaudible 00:39:45]. It was a [inaudible 00:39:48] of the big-big building, no paint, no nothing it was all bare. The seats were up like this and-

Mrs. Neander: That one big wall, it was a very big wall it was like a-- Then we sat there and then we had to watch and they did everything they even did his [inaudible 00:40:10]. Oh, we had to close our eyes. It was just terrible to see. Because he was out favorite patient. We wanted him to get well. It was terrible. It was just awful but they made us do that.

Interviewer: Who?

Mrs. Neander: The [inaudible 00:40:29] autopsy and it was just awful. We all cared about him because we all had a little bit of admiration for him because we had to take care of him.

Interviewer: True, true it must have been terrible. Did your instructors realized that was going on you? With all of you that you've taken care of him that you-

Mrs. Neander: No we had to do it.

Interviewer: You had to do it?

Mrs. Neander: We had to do it. There was no sympathy, no. [chuckles]

Interviewer: Did you close your hearts and just deal with it, huh?

Mrs. Neander: Well I did it. It was terribly hard. That was only one but there were many. We had one-

Interviewer: Do you have a favorite memory about the Illinois Training School?

Mrs. Neander: All of it was favorable. [chuckles]

Interviewer: All? Do you have a most favorable moment that happened to you anything like that?

Mrs. Neander: No. I guess they were all famous. It was wonderful, I enjoyed every minute.

Interviewer: Well you can see that when you talk about it. Your face just lights up that that was one of the high points of your life in the nursing school.

Mrs. Neander: It was.

Interviewer: Was that time with the man that you took care of and the autopsy. Would you say that was probably your most unfavorable memory of it?

Mrs. Neander: Yes that was a bad one.

Interviewer: At the Illinois training school?

Mrs. Neander: Because we wanted him to get well. We'd never think he was going to die. We didn't know that much about dying in those days.

Interviewer: Was that the first patient you had that had died?

Mrs. Neander: Yes, well we were probationers. We had only been there a month or two months or something like that. We were just brand new kids.

Interviewer: Okay, yes, that makes it double hard because the first patient that you've ever had that died, and went to watch doing an autopsy. That must have really been terrible.

Mrs. Neander: Yes, when he died we had to clean him. We bathed all our patients who died. Then we had a [inaudible 00:42:41] sheet that was made out of muslin. Then we had to take care of them, we had to put paper on the eyelids so they stayed shut and [inaudible 00:42:54] and we had to tie their arms like this, like that.

Then this muslin thing, we had to cap them in it. Like this, you had to pull all the casing [inaudible 00:43:05]. We had to [inaudible 00:43:07] body was completely covered.

Interviewer: Why did they use muslin, any particular reason?

Mrs. Neander: Well I suppose it was the cheapest thing they could find. Muslin in those days was really good cloth.

Interviewer: You were part of the last graduating class. In fact you were the last graduate. Were you aware that the school of nursing was going to be closing?

Mrs. Neander: Oh yes, they came and asked me if I wanted to be in either IPS or county and I told you that. We knew that for a long time.

Interviewer: How about when you started, did you know?

Mrs. Neander: Oh, no, no this was the next year they told us.

Interviewer: That they told you?

Mrs. Neander: It didn't happen until then. We had no idea what they were going to do. We hadn't researched anything.

Interviewer: Do you remember how they told you?

Mrs. Neander: Well I think I was sick in the Margaret Laurence rooms when Mr. Foster came and asked me what I preferred. I had no choice.

Interviewer: How did you feel about the ITS closing?

Mrs. Neander: Well there wasn't anything you could do about it. There was no use of the-- You couldn't get upset about it because we had already given all our money to the University of Chicago to open a nursing school in the University of Chicago. We knew that the school was all over.

Interviewer: Do you remember what the atmosphere of the school was like after everyone knew that ITS was closing?

Mrs. Neander: No we never paid any attention to that.

Interviewer: You were too busy. [chuckles]

Mrs. Neander: No we accepted it and we didn't munch things over like they do today. Today they pick things apart but we didn't do that in those days.

Interviewer: You just took the information in.

Mrs. Neander: No we knew we had to accept and what we could do.

Interviewer: Well in many respects that's a good philosophy of life.

Mrs. Neander: It was good discipline and nobody went home crying because they accepted these things. We all accepted these things.

Interviewer: Do you remember or do you have any idea about the difference in the style of education that Illinois Training School gave its nurses compared to Cope County School of Nursing? Were there any differences?

Mrs. Neander: I don't think there was any differences. It was always a very bright school, a very exclusive school. We had the hardest curriculum of any school in all of United States. We did, and at this first meeting we had with the county nurses. I think we were having lunch. They told about the nurses and how [inaudible 00:46:25] they were compared to some other schools.

They have graduated with a 600 instead they only needed 500 to be a pass. They were over 600 and then they told about they were bringing students from other countries who never had anything like that. Later they said that there was never any [inaudible 00:47:00] the students [inaudible 00:47:02] and that it was the same at ITS, too. Where they never had [inaudible 00:47:08].

Interviewer: That's a good reputation.

Mrs. Neander: Well you know the interns when we took our state board, the interns took theirs about the same time. We wrote for three whole days and the interns said that our exam was even harder than the interns.

Interviewer: No kidding.

Mrs. Neander: Yes.

Interviewer: Really?

Mrs. Neander: [inaudible 00:47:40].

Interviewer: That's amazing. [chuckles]

Mrs. Neander: That's what they said.

Interviewer: After the school changed from ITS to Cook County do you think there was any difference between the time that the students spent in class compared to the time that they were on duty?

Mrs. Neander: Well I don't think so. [inaudible 00:47:59]

Interviewer: It was just the same? Was there a difference in terms of the emphasis? You said, ITS emphasized hospital nursing. Did Cook County carry on with that emphasis?

Mrs. Neander: Yes the [inaudible 00:48:12]

Interviewer: Do you think that they produced a different type of nurse at Cook County?

Mrs. Neander: No I don't think so. I think they were similar to us.

Interviewer: Followed on in the same good tradition, huh?

Mrs. Neander: I think so.

Interviewer: Do you remember who made the decisions about the educational requirements at ITS? Was it the nurses? Was it the doctors? Was it the hospital administrators?

Mrs. Neander: You mean the studies?

Interviewer: Yes, the classes that you took and the curriculum.

Mrs. Neander: It was all standard. It was so many hours of biology so many hours of this and so many hours of that [crosstalk].

Interviewer: Who set those regulations, though? Do you have any idea?

Mrs. Neander: Well that was the-- I don't know, it would be probably the supervisors I don't know. It would have to be supervisors.

Interviewer: Mrs. Logan or Mr. Logan?

Mrs. Neander: Well Ms. Logan was for students. She wasn't even in to the hospital. She was with the students.

Interviewer: I see. It was the supervisors in the hospital, the nursing supervisors-

Mrs. Neander: It'll be. yes sure.

Interviewer: -that you think set that, oh, okay. What was your nursing experience after graduation? Did you work at Cook County or?

Mrs. Neander: I worked at Cook County during the Depression. It was only about three months I worked. My husband didn't want me to work. He said, "I work, you're not working," when I started there too. Because they wanted me to take charge of-- where they had the OBs come in. It's in the paper today, the **[inaudible 00:49:57]** school. It was a separate building over there. The OB patients used to come over there. They came in from the time they were pregnant and they had to do all their visits over there, until the baby was born. They wanted me to take charge of that, helping nurses. My husband said, "Absolutely not." I cried, and I cried and he says no. That was that.

Interviewer: You didn't--

Mrs. Neander: No, I didn't. Fantus--

Interviewer: Fantus Clinic, yes.

Mrs. Neander: Yes, Fantus clinic, Uh-huh.

Interviewer: So it's strictly OB at that time.

Interviewer: Oh, okay, for now, it's a general, I think, for just all kinds of things.

Mrs. Neander: Yes. **[inaudible 00:50:54]**.

Interviewer: They wanted you to be in charge of the whole thing.

Mrs. Neander: They wanted me to be in charge of it.

Interviewer: Wow. When did you start practicing nursing again?

Mrs. Neander: Well, I didn't start nursing again. I had cases of relatives and friends of relatives, every once in **[inaudible 00:51:18]** a nurse in the hospital, so I nursed them.

Interviewer: You did private duty?

Mrs. Neander: Yes, private duty. I didn't-- that was it. There was friends, relatives of friends and stuff like that. When my son was going to school, then I started working at Little Company.

Interviewer: When he was in grade school?

Mrs. Neander: Yes, when he started his grade school.

Interviewer: Oh, okay. You said you worked at Little Company for 25 years.

Mrs. Neander: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: That's a long time. What motivated you to go back into nursing?

Mrs. Neander: Well, my husband was [inaudible 00:52:01]. He was a very bad alcoholic. He used to hit-- he [inaudible 00:52:10] it was. He came home and he was so drunk, then he came home and he was so rude. He attempted to kill me [inaudible 00:52:21] so I had to get out of the house. So I went on days in Little Company and he'd be in bed asleep when I came home. He never got out of bed until I went to work so I got away from him [inaudible 00:52:40]

Interviewer: It must have been a hard life for you.

Mrs. Neander: It was a very hard life. When he drank beer he was all right. He did drink beer but drank whiskey every day. [inaudible 00:52:54] of the day. I just wanted to [inaudible 00:53:02] get out of the house.

He'd sleep till I started at seven and I'd be home a little after three, and the child's going to be home about the same time because school is [inaudible 00:53:18]

Interviewer: You just had one child?

Mrs. Neander: No, there was [inaudible 00:53:24]

Interviewer: Do you remember what most of your classmates did after graduation, what kind of nursing they did?

Mrs. Neander: [inaudible 00:53:44] Well, in those days, she [inaudible 00:53:45] she worked for a long time. Anyway. [inaudible 00:53:53] is dead. In [inaudible 00:53:55] She worked for a long time, too in nursing.

Interviewer: Did she work at Cook County?

Mrs. Neander: No. When she got through nursing, she went to college and got a degree and became a schoolteacher.

Interviewer: Oh.

Mrs. Neander: She went to her hometown in Lincoln and taught fourth grade there for many years.

Interviewer: She decided she really didn't want to be a nurse after all.

Mrs. Neander: Well, she was that kind of a person. She was in the wars a nurse. She was in World War II, for the whole thing.

Interviewer: Oh, wow.

Mrs. Neander: She was a nurse. And she had some terrible experiences.

Interviewer: I can imagine.

Mrs. Neander: She was on the plane that Elizabeth was, shift back and forth with the soldiers who were [inaudible 00:54:58] and she was supervising them. She [inaudible 00:55:09]

Interviewer: She quit teaching school to join the army?

Mrs. Neander: No, she was in the army then she went to school.

Interviewer: Oh, then she went to school. She was really motivated for an education, sounds like.

Mrs. Neander: Yes, she was. She had a wonderful husband and a wonderful mother. Her mother lived [inaudible 00:55:34] and her husband, he worked in [inaudible 00:55:39] in charge of [inaudible 00:55:42] a wholesale place in Chicago delivering [inaudible 00:55:47]

Interviewer: Is she still living in [inaudible 00:55:52] right now?

Mrs. Neander: No, she's in her family home in California. We don't know whether she's still living there [inaudible 00:56:00] at Christmastime so I don't know what's happened to her.

Interviewer: Do you have any recollections about Laura Logan?

Mrs. Neander: Yes. She was a wonderful person. She was marvelous. So many people didn't like her, but she was always real good to me. She invited me twice to her extra special dinner. She used to have everything from soup to nuts.

[laughter]

Everything was beautiful. It was beautiful china, beautiful everything and we'd eat there and when everything was over at the dinner table, we'd go in the front room. She had a very [inaudible 00:56:46] and we'd have dinner parties. She invited me.

Interviewer: What were these extra special dinners? I've not heard anybody talk about them before.

Mrs. Neander: It was her idea to invite certain nurses and she could do that. That was her life, for her parties. [laughs] It was her home in the home.

Interviewer: Did she actually live there?

Mrs. Neander: She lived there. She had a real pretty place [inaudible 00:57:27]

Interviewer: How often did she have the dinners?

Mrs. Neander: Oh, I don't know. I was invited only twice. I don't know how many dinners she had.

Interviewer: Oh, so people didn't talk about that? You didn't talk about it among yourselves, being invited to her dinners and stuff?

Mrs. Neander: Well, I don't remember any part of that, it just happened.

Interviewer: I don't know if we're understanding each other?

Mrs. Neander: No, I don't think so.

Interviewer: You went to her her extra special dinners twice during the time that you were a student, but I would assume that there were other students that were invited at different times?

Mrs. Neander: Probably. I don't know.

Interviewer: You don't know.

Mrs. Neander: I don't remember that.

Interviewer: Okay. What I was doing was assuming that if she had these dinners every so often, and she invited other people, that you would all talk about it. The nurses, the students would talk about it among themselves being invited to her private quarters to--

Mrs. Neander: I don't remember that.

Interviewer: You didn't do that?

Mrs. Neander: No.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you just have--

Mrs. Neander: We didn't do much talking to each other, because when we came home from work, we ate our supper then we had to take a bath every day, you had to take a bath every day, then make sure that your room was all clean and everything like that, and go to bed on time.

Interviewer: They kept you happy.

Mrs. Neander: We didn't have much time to gossip and talk to each other. We talked to our roommate.

Interviewer: Right. When you went to dinner with her, was she just there by herself or were there other students with you?

Mrs. Neander: Yes, there were other students with us.

Interviewer: Oh, okay.

Mrs. Neander: They were nice people.

Interviewer: Yes, it sounds very nice. These were the people that were invited to these dinners, were people that she was singling out because of their good work or--

Mrs. Neander: I don't know about that part. [chuckles]

Interviewer: How do you think you got invited?

Mrs. Neander: I don't know. I don't know, she just invited me. She was always good to me.

Interviewer: You said other students didn't like her too much.

Mrs. Neander: There were some who didn't like her. There was a lot of people that didn't like Mrs. Logan.

Interviewer: Really? Do you have any idea why they didn't like her?

Mrs. Neander: No, I don't know. She was very strict, she was very strict because she had to be. Things had to go right.

Interviewer: What other contact did you have with her besides the dinners?

Mrs. Neander: [inaudible 01:00:01] she could care for us.

Interviewer: But that was it. [laughs]

Mrs. Neander: Behind doors.

[laughter]

Mrs. Neander: If anything was bad, she heard about it, or it was good she heard about it.

Interviewer: So did you have any private meetings with her ever?

Mrs. Neander: No.

Interviewer: You didn't. How would you compare your nursing education during your days at ITS with the education that nurses get today?

Mrs. Neander: Oh today, they don't make nurses. [inaudible 01:00:35]

Interviewer: In what way?

Mrs. Neander: They don't even know how to give a bath. One of my nurse friends was sick and that was a few years back now. The nurse threw the dishpan at her and hold your wash rag, and I'll get the water, bath yourself. She had blood running in one arm. She said, "How can I bathe myself?" So she says, "You'll get back here and I'll show you how to give me a bath".

The kid didn't know how to give her a bath. A nurse. At a [inaudible 01:01:21] community. They don't care about it today like we used to do about it. We did everything, everything. We supervised. There was only one man over in [inaudible 01:01:37] that supervises those students when they came on the floor. And she was real, real, sick, strict. She was Sister, Gabriel, and she often got married. [laughter] But she trained good nurses.

Interviewer: Did she? She really supervised them closely, right?

Mrs. Neander: She supervised when they got on the floor but then there was nobody supervised these kids. Nobody. It wasn't like that when we were-- We were supervised. I'll tell you one instance. How they supervised. You know in the wintertime we had a lot of [inaudible 01:02:27] and we hid them in the very end of the ward. It was all glassed in there and then of course, we had them down the middle of the hall and the ward too. We had so many of them.

And this woman I was taking care of, she had terrible [inaudible 01:02:50] just terrible. I bathed her during and all the way down to [inaudible 01:02:58] and then I had to change sheets underneath her and it was just awful she screamed so badly. Then when I'd finished, here comes to supervisor and I didn't have the broadsheet one inch underneath the pillow case to the edge of the pillow case. It had to be one inch underneath there. She made me do it all over again. I couldn't say a word. We weren't allowed to say anything. And she screamed loud because this hurt [inaudible 01:03:41] That was definitely hard. But then [inaudible 01:03:52]

Interviewer: And if you'd been able to speak up, then you might have avoided having to do it again.

Mrs. Neander: Then I would have been kicked out of nursing, though. You are right, sure. It got back to the supervisor? We never opened our mouths. [inaudible 01:04:14]

Interviewer: Well, I'm pretty much finished with all the questions that I have to ask. Do you have anything that you want to add or ask me or?

Mrs. Neander: Me, everything was wonderful. [laughs]

Interviewer: Do you think- I thought of something else that I wanted to ask you about? Do you have any opinion about how Ms. Logan influenced the change of educational styles and the affiliation with the University of Chicago?

Mrs. Neander: I don't know. I don't think she had anything to do with that. I don't know. She might have. I don't know. There was one more thing I wanted to tell you. You know in OB, we had a big long wicker basket, it was about as long as from here over to that first chair. It was about this wide and it was about so long and it was on wheels.

When the babies had to go to the nurse, we put all the babies in there. We could have 10 babies and then we'd push them down the ward and passed the babies out and then we'd come back and we'd get ten more. Oh, I think of this so often because that was really something.

Interviewer: I bet.

Mrs. Neander: It was wonderful because it would have taken us so long to bring those babies to their mothers, but this way we have ten at a time, down the ward we'd go.

Interviewer: Did you ever get confused about what baby went with what mother?

Mrs. Neander: Oh no, the babies were all marked well. We never changed the babies. No. OB was wonderful. It was really good.

Interviewer: Yeah, it sounds like that's the part that you like the best.

Mrs. Neander: No, no. I like all the best. Everything the best.

Interviewer: What kind of nursing did you do when you worked at Little Company?

Mrs. Neander: I did private duty.

Interviewer: Oh, that's right. I remember. You told me that.

Mrs. Neander: I had to do floor duty two weeks every summer to be able to stay on the board. I had done private duty on the nursing and I had a big honor there. I was asked to take care of the very first transplant that was ever performed, that was a kidney transplant.

Interviewer: Really? Wow. As a private duty nurse.

Mrs. Neander: As a private duty nurse.

Interviewer: Well, you've got all kinds of things that you've done. Gee, the last graduate the Illinois Training School.

Mrs. Neander: My sixth year with the doctors and patients all the way around the world.

Interviewer: Wow. That's great. Congratulations.

Mrs. Neander: Yes, that was really wonderful.

Interviewer: You are very good nurse, obviously.

Mrs. Neander: I hope I was.

Interviewer: Mrs. Dixon showed me a picture of your graduating class. You were class officer, if I remember.

Mrs. Neander: I was the vice president. They wanted me to be president but I couldn't imagine myself ever being president. Somebody else could do better. So Alyssa Logan, she was given that honor and I accepted the vice president.

Interviewer: What kinds of things did you have to do as vice president?

Mrs. Neander: Oh, we were very active. [inaudible 01:07:52] We had a meeting with [inaudible 01:07:53]

Interviewer: Your classmates recognized you then as having leadership ability. So that was worth something. And you get your picture right in the middle of your row of the class picture. Are there any classmates that you keep in touch with other than the Mrs. Davies?

Mrs Meander: Agnes is the closest one.

Interviewer: Anybody else in the in the Midwest?

Mrs. Neander: No, there's nobody anymore. You know, our alumni isn't really [inaudible 01:08:35] We used to have meetings. We used to go down to [inaudible 01:08:38] for luncheon meetings once a month. But then everybody got so old they weren't able to come down anymore. So that was the end of that. And then the person [inaudible 01:08:54] this person was so active She died of a heart attack. She used to live down there in Western Chicago. And we'd get together [inaudible 01:09:07] So there are not many people left.

Interviewer: So there aren't many people left?

Mrs. Neander: No, there are not many people left.

Interviewer: Well, we try and check out as many leads as we can. If there is somebody that we might have missed talking to.

Mrs. Neander: There's nobody, not anymore. Except Agnes and [inaudible 01:09:31]

[01:09:32] [END OF AUDIO]

[01:09:32] [END OF AUDIO]