

Church I guess I need to speak louder. Okay, now as I said, feel comfortable not to answer the questions if you don't want to, can't remember ... can you talk a little about your life prior to going to the Illinois Training School?

Tarrant Um my what?

Church Prior to going to the training school, what your life was like, your family background, where you went to school as a child.

Tarrant Oh I just grew up in a small town and uh just a typical small town and I can't tell you anything more than that, it was just a normal childhood.

Church And uh, what about your family? Where they immigrants or?

Tarrant Oh no, no ... long duration, they have lots of ancestors they were very much Established, good living people mhm

Church They were farmers then?

Tarrant Oh no,

Church And what kind of education did you have before you went to the-

Tarrant I had a high school education

Church Was there anything special about your high school? Was it a private school or a ... School?

Tarrant No it was a very good school, it was a very good school.

Church How did you decide to go into nursing?

Tarrant Well I don't know, I never ... really, I thought there weren't very many opportunities in a very small town like that and I wanted to get out and uh I don't know why I chose nursing yeah

Church How did your family feel about you going into nursing?

Tarrant They were very agreeable
And how did they feel about you going to the Illinois training school, leaving home and-

Church

Tarrant Oh well they knew that's something I'd had to do

Church So they were all very supportive about it?-

Tarrant Oh sure

Church Do you have any remembrance on how you decided to go to the Illinois training school?

Tarrant No no nothing really I've never analyzed it I don't know I just, it was a very noble thing.

Church How did you hear about it?

Tarrant Through the doctors in this little town that had sent a number of people to the training school and to the county hospitals back then... medical students.

Church Did you know any nurses that had gone?

Tarrant No

Church No

Tarrant There were some that did but I didn't know them.

Church So it was basically from the... points of a doctor then. Okay. Do you remember what session you started in? Was it in October, January, April or June?

Tarrant Well, it must have been in October, it was in the fall.

Church And let's see, you graduated in 1924?

Tarrant Yes

Church So that means you probably started in 192, is that right?

Tarrant Yes

Church Do you remember anything about the reputation of the school or why you chose to attend?

Tarrant Well, I was just told it was a very good school, and it was highly recommended that's all

Church Mmh-hm, did you have any expectations about the school? Any kind of fantasies before you went?

Tarrant No

Church Do you remember how many classmates you started with?

Tarrant Oh I don't know, I have no idea how many there were twenty five or thirty probably

Church And do you remember how many finished of that group

Tarrant Well, I think most of them did, I can't remember but I think most of them did.

Church Do you remember what reasons why the ones who finished and did not finish?

Tarrant No there wasn't very many, I don't know. I don't remember that there were very many that didn't finish.

Church Do you remember what a typical day was there like at the school?

Tarrant Well I don't think there were typical days, I think sometimes you changed, uh, you spent 2-3 months in one ward then another and uh had night duty for three Months. I don't think there's any typical day.

Church How long were the work days generally? How many hours?

Tarrant Well I think they were like seven, um I think seven to six with an hour off at noon for lunch we had long hours. And twelve hours I know at night...

Church How much time did you spend in class?

Tarrant I can't remember, we had lots of classes to begin with. Many more than we did in the service and we had great many many classes in the afternoon.

Church Did you go through the three month probationary period in the beginning?

Tarrant Yes

Church Is that when you had most of your classes?

Tarrant Yes we had many of our classes then.

Church Ok. Do you remember what kind of classes you had?

Tarrant Oh they were on on well some were on nutrition, yeah any number of different courses, on basics of nursing and uh um we had splendid teachers extremely good teachers and on the uh nursing itself um treating patients and that sort of thing. We had excellent teachers

Church What did you like about the teachers?

Tarrant Uh, they were very well equipped, they were very uh, they were very well educated.

Church Do you remember what classes you enjoyed the most?

Tarrant No, I don't

Church What kind of work did you do in the hospital while you were a student?

Tarrant Well we did we did ward work and uh we would be 2-3 months in one ward then 2 or 3 in another ward an uh we would have, we would go from women's medical to women's surgical, or men's medical, surgical., or children's we had some time at the children's hospital, some at uh contagious hospital we didn't go into Tuberculosis hospital, we didn't need to nor the psychopathic they were different buildings. And we had private duty nurses... we had private duty nurses in Highland Park hospital

Church So you went out to Highland Park hospital?

Tarrant Yes

Church Oh awesome, okay, did everybody do that or did you get a choice of doing different times

Tarrant No, no that was a general course

Church Oh, hmm you said you did regular ward duties, what kind of duties were those?

Tarrant Well the bed baths you gave them baths and uh um taking care of all the patients and it was what you were assigned to do, sometimes you had medicine and sometimes you had bed baths to give and sometimes you were assigned to private rooms snf uh, you had different assignments.

Church How about medication and injection?

Tarrant We gave them to patients, at I think they were on when you made up medicines and you gave them medicines, there were routines in each one of the wards

Church Can you tell me what the relationship was like between the nurses and the doctors?

Tarrant Well everybody was very busy and it was a good relationship

Church Did you attend any of the medical meetings?

Tarrant I don't know what you mean by medical meetings

Church Umm any of the... in services they would provide or

Tarrant No I don't think we were asked to do that, we had our own medical meetings

Church What about going on rounds? Did you go on rounds with the doctors?

Tarrant As you were there later and in charge of more that you did

Church This was after you graduated or when you were still a student?

Tarrant No no we had supervisors and they would make the rounds and sometimes we'd go with them

Church Do you think the physicians respected the judgment of the nurses?

Tarrant Oh yes
Church So did they ask for information from nurses?

Tarrant No, there... um and they respected they did respected the positions of course the interns came on and they were green and the nurses did a great deal to help them

Church That's very common. What do you think the physicians thought about the education you were receiving at the Illinois training school?

Tarrant I think they thought it was excellent.

Church That's generally the response that I get, especially you, your um, it was very common for doctors to recommend the training school to uh women who were interested

Tarrant Oh yes you got a training that you don't get in a private duty hospital because a patient that is extremely ill had a private duty nurse. And we took care of them when they were extremely ill, and we have, uh, we were always uh, always allowed to do things on our own. Um they never they didn't teach you how to do certain things, they just told you to do it and you had to which was excellent training.

Church So they sort of gave you the basics of how to do it then they expected you to, they sort of extrapolated

Tarrant Yes, they didn't explain a great deal, they'd just tell you to do it and you had to do it.

Church How would you perceive the emphasis of the uh training you received? Was it community based, private duty based, or hospital based?

Tarrant Hospital based I suppose

Church Hospital, but you said you got that whole year, was it an entire year of private duty or was it just uh, kind of a rotation?

Tarrant Oh no, it was very like a month or two months I don't know

Church What was private duty like as opposed to um the hospital?

Tarrant Well, you were in a hospital that was heavily... it's different from a private hospital these patients came from very wealthy families and you had to take care of them and uh... as I say if they were extremely ill they had their own private duty nurses. But um we learned to meet these people that were very wealthy and the doctors that took care of them and that was the entire situation at the ... hospital.

Church So it was a different type of patient population

Tarrant Oh yeah

Church Did you have to take care of, did you only take care of one patient a day?

Tarrant No, not to my knowledge, they didn't really do private duty nurses then, we did we had an assignment of 2 or 3 or something like that.

Church Oh I see, but that was very much different from your usual twenty patients or more at county hospital

Tarrant Yes we had sixty of them these wards at county were sixty beds long and we had a unit across the hall, in the large wards there would be a hundred and oh, I suppose a hundred patients or so

Church So on the average how many patients did a patient take care of on an average day?

Tarrant Well if you gave a bath every day, a bed bath, you couldn't do, you would do maybe ten or a half of one side, some of them were... but not too many

Church ... Did you get any community experience when you were at the Illinois training school for your nursing?

Tarrant No

Church You don't think so?

Tarrant mmm-mm

Church Some of the ladies that I have interviewed have said that they worked with uh, I guess infant welfare so they went out into uh, into homes for mothers and babies

Tarrant No no

Church You didn't do that? Was that offered to you as an option?

Tarrant No, not to my knowledge.

Church Okay. Can you tell me about a particularly memorable case that you nursed when you were at Illinois training school

Tarrant Well, I really don't... they were all kinds of different... of cases they used to come as far as Texas to see certain things they didn't see at other hospitals. They had a variety of

Church Okay, we were talking about a particularly memorable case that you might have

Tarrant I remember a-

Church You said people came from around the country for special things that the county had to offer, what were those things?

Tarrant I know one time, I, there was a black man who had an aneurysm large as a Grapefruit. I know they came as far, from Texas to see it. And they expected it to sort of explode. And they put a screen around him and instead of that it just seeped out. And I remember a case and I don't remember the diagnosis, but it's a uh where the skin turns looks like fish scales, there's a term for it but I don't know it. And there was one patient that had, and they allowed us to go look at it. One time I do know that there was a baby that was expelled from the uterus into The vaginal cavity about 24 hrs before she was brought in and uh it was encased in the membrane when they delivered it of course at the time it was dead, and they put this in a big basin and... went up to see it because it was in the natural embryo. And I remember that very distinctively and they allowed... nurses to up and see it.

Church Hmm. That sounds interesting. Do you have a favorite memory of your days at the Illinois training school?

Tarrant No, they were all very different and we worked all the time and...

Church How about your relationships with the other students?

Tarrant Well, we had some very good friends I wasn't a... type of person, I didn't go out a great deal, but some of these girls would go out a great deal at night or... I didn't do too much of that. And uh, I had some very good friends, couple of them have their master's degrees, they were a little older. I had very good friends

Church They had master's degrees in nursing?

Tarrant No no, but they came in later on after they had gotten their master's