

Dr. Church:

So that we can get started, okay?

Mrs. Weaver:

Mary C. Wheeler Was the Superintendent for all the time that I was there in training, but soon afterwards, not too many years afterwards, she took sick and had multiple surgeries, and was not able to go back at full capacity. So at that time, it wasn't long after that, til Cook County decided to have their own training school then, so they abandoned the area where we lived, on 509 Honore Street, and build a new nurses' home over on Polk Street, on the other corner of Cook County. That was a fabulous building, and much more elaborate. They also connected up a tunnel from under the hospital to this place, so we none of us had to go out on the outside, which we used to have to do.

Mrs. Weaver:

But it didn't have a lot of things. We had cloth tablecloths, and we had cloth napkins, and we had nice silverware. We had an old building, but the floors were still out of white maple like, and they scrubbed them by hand, and they were real nice and white. The building was old. We had carpet in the living room and a piano, and each day we marched out in front of the Superintendent and two or three of the head nurses. If we had shortened our skirts or the apron that went over the outside, the next day, when we'd come back from the laundry, they were let out again. We had to wear them a certain length, and we all wore black shoes, because at that time, that was a long time ago, don't you know?

Mrs. Weaver:

We worked nine and a half hours in the morning from 7:00 to 1:00, and then we'd come back and work 3:00 to 9:30, so that made a break, so we put in about nine and a half hours. If we were on night duty, we got up for it twice, which they don't do anymore.

Dr. Church:

Yeah.

Mrs. Weaver:

No nights, they're not getting up for nights.

Dr. Church:

What time in the day did you have your class?

Mrs. Weaver:

Whatever the doctor ... Most of our classes were given by the doctors, so whenever they had the class, like the afternoon, if we were on nights, we'd have to get up in the middle of the afternoon, 2:00 to 3:00 or 4:00 to 5:00, and we'd have to go to class. We had one teacher, a woman teacher, that came from [inaudible 00:02:41] to teach anatomy and physiology. The rest of them, Dr. Hedger, who taught one class, and another doctor, Dr. Davis, and the different doctors taught us classes, most of them. It was their convenience, they'd stay in class for maybe 10 days, and it wouldn't be every day, maybe once a week or every so often.

Dr. Church:

Was that a change? Because the impression that I'd gotten from some of the other ladies that I've interviewed was that there were nurses that taught the classes.

Mrs. Weaver:

No. There wasn't any nurses, except this one, a young nurse, maybe 25 or 30 years old. When I was there, there wasn't. They were all doctors that taught those classes. Well, not the one, what do you call that? The technique, Kay Robertson taught that. She was a teacher, that was technique, how to give baths, and we'd all sit in the room, and we're sent out to another room where all these things were that we didn't even know what they were. We had to go out there to bring something back in, probably a bed pan, or a urinal, or something. [inaudible 00:03:59]. When we'd come back, we didn't always have the right thing. She taught that technique, but from aside from that, all the classes that I went to, like nervous and mental, and obstetrics, that was all taught by doctors.

Dr. Church:

That's interesting to know. Okay. Can you tell me a little bit about your life before you went to the Illinois Training School? Where you grew up?

Mrs. Weaver:

Yes, I was born over close to Bristol, Indiana. Not too far from here. It's about 10 or 15 miles from [inaudible 00:04:34], born in Bristol, Indiana. I was one of five living children. At a very young age, like nine years old, I had my first job taking care of a lady who was a distant relative in the family. I prepared the meals, they lived on a farm, and I got up at 5:00 when they went to the barn to do the chores, and made the beds, and fixed the breakfast. They did the chores at the barn, and they came to the house and had breakfast, and separated the milk in a separator. Took the milk back down and fed the calves and things.

Mrs. Weaver:

This lady was about maybe 25, and she had, had a miscarriage at about three or four months along. It was her first child, and she needed somebody to take care of her, and they didn't actually need me at home. However, there was three younger and one older, so I was elected to go up there, and I stayed one week, and then I got homesick. I had to pick beans from the garden, it was the summertime, and I picked beans from the garden. We had an outdoor john, and we had no running water in the house. All we had was a pump on the outside, and we pumped the water and brought it in. Somebody did the washing, I didn't do that, but I had to take water in for her to take a bath, and take her a tray in. I had to do the cooking for the man of the house and the hired hands.

Dr. Church:

At nine years old?

Mrs. Weaver:

At nine years old. That wasn't when I decided I was going to take nursing. Then I was there a week, and I decided that I better go home. They were very unhappy, of course, and they thought I couldn't go. I said, "Yes, I'm going to go, because I think there's too many things to do here." I picked a 12 quart pail of beans, and we had some for dinner that evening. Caned them and got them ready, but I didn't know what to do with the rest of them. It just seemed that I was used to more people around, so they'd keep

me going ... We had long days. He called me at 5:00 in the morning, and sometimes it'd be 7:00, 8:00 before we got to bed.

Mrs. Weaver:

That was a long day for a kid, and no kids to play with, and no one to talk to all day, because when I was checking up she sometimes ate some, and sometimes she didn't. I took the water in and went through and helped and washed her. She washed her own face and hands, but I'd have to wash her back, and change the bed, and whatever had to be done. I remember I thought it was kind of a lot to expect of a kid. Then there was a neighbor who'd come down and took the washing, I didn't do that. I remember I said, "Well, I'm just going to go home." My mother said, they kept saying, "They don't need you at home." I said, "I know, but I need to go home."

Mrs. Weaver:

Then my mother went back, and I stayed there for a while. My mother just went back and stayed another couple of days, another week or so, but she couldn't leave the whole family to go either, because I had a younger sister that was about 22 months old, and I had one that was about three years old, and then myself, and my older brother. Then we moved within a mile of that place the next year. My dad bought a little farm up there, and that wouldn't have been so bad, because I could have gone home some of the time. But to go up there and stay all week with people that I didn't know too well, it seemed it was more than I could do, and I got homesick. I said, "I'm really not feeling that I want to stay any longer." That's how that happened.

Mrs. Weaver:

Then after I left there, we moved within a block of that ... No, it was about a half a mile. Then I drove from there to high school for four years to Constantine, which is about eight miles, back and forth with a horse and buggy for three years, and then I rode with a neighbor for about one year. Otherwise, I'd go back and forth for three years for high school. I graduated in '21, and went in training in '24.

Dr. Church:

What'd you do in between?

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, one year, my next job, I worked at a box factory one summer. That was the year I was in the second year or the third year of high school. I didn't have money for a room or anything, and I got this job, and worked at Palm Corners on the boxes. Worked for my board and room. She had seven roomers, and I made those beds, and packed their lunches, with her help. She didn't make the beds, but she helped pack the lunches for seven roomers, that summer. Then the next year I stayed at home because I was taking care [inaudible 00:09:24] my mother fell that summer, and I stayed at home for a year, and I entered training in '21 and graduated in '24.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Why did you decide to go into nursing?

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, the next summer, my mother went and took care of two different families, and I did the work at home. Well, I decided it was easier to do the nursing than to work at home. She did that two or three times with five of us, and she took my younger sister, which was three years old, and went to see her mother in Washington state when my younger sister was three years old, and I stayed at home that summer. My dad said that if we paid off the mortgage, if we were free of the mortgage, she could go and stay with her mother, she hadn't seen her for many years. She took the young, the sister, and I had the three kids, my dad, and myself.

Mrs. Weaver:

She went to see her mother out in the state of Washington, and was gone six weeks. She knew that was going to be the last year I'd be home, so she felt if she didn't go, she wouldn't go any other time. My grandmother lived out in the state of Washington with a bachelor son of hers, and so my mother went out there to see them. That year, there was a girl came here from Florida, and that girl from this little village right close to where we lived, and she also took care of the same woman again that had convulsions. The next time she got pregnant, she had convulsions, and she was very sick. She was there and was a neighbor, she said, "Why don't you take up training?" Of course, I was too young at that time, but that kind of dawned on me.

Mrs. Weaver:

Then the girl that I really went to school with when I was in first, and second, and third grade, she went to County to take nursing too, and she was home on vacation. So I had known her since I first went to school, she went to school where I did. She went to Turners County, and we used to get together every summer. She was from a larger family, I think they had 13 kids. But her and her sister, her sister and her brother taught school, but she went on into nursing, and she went to the same school, and she was from my area. When I talked about nursing, she said, "Well, that's the place to go." When she was home on her vacation, I got the credentials that I needed.

Mrs. Weaver:

Of course at that time, County had all kinds of affiliates from all over. See, we had people from Grand Rapids, and sometimes they stayed down there and sometimes they didn't. We had people from South Bend, and Elkhart, and Grand Rapids, and Kalamazoo, all those different girls affiliated up there. I think Margarite was as much of an influence on me growing up there. She married a doctor later on, and went to Africa for about 15 years. But she wasn't married then. She was in training too, but she had two people at Madison, had a lot of competition, so had to wait, didn't finish til quite a while after I did, she come back. She went to Africa without being graduated, then she came back and finished up some more time there, and finished up when they got their first school.

Mrs. Weaver:

I had known her, and still used to write to her as long as she was in Africa. She was really quite responsible for a lot of things. I thought if she could make it, I could make it. Of course, we realized that we were from the country, because after I went to high school ... I went to grade school out in the country, then I went to high school in town, and that makes a little difference. There's a little different feeling there. Of course, they had more time to study than we did, because we drove back and forth, that took a couple of hours.

Dr. Church:

Yeah.

Mrs. Weaver:

Not that we couldn't find time, but if we did anything else, and of course on the farm we always had a certain amount of chores to do.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). What did your family think about your going away to school?

Mrs. Weaver:

They were very much against it, they fought it all the way. Because I had two cousins that are just about the oldest one, girl in each family, went and taught school, and that's what I was supposed to do. When I said I was going to Chicago, my dad was so against it, that the first couple years, they wouldn't send me any money at all. I said, "I don't need it. I'll get some of my own." I borrowed some money and paid it back, and I did it mostly on my own. But my own mother said, "If you ever have to have some money, I'll sign a note for you." I said, "Don't worry, I don't need it."

Mrs. Weaver:

I had figured out that some way I would do it, and I got a loan, a very limited amount of things, but there were a lot of other girls that did that too. Although there's a lot of girls who borrowed \$400 or \$500, and one of them I know even borrowed more. I lived with a girl that had money from her mother's estate, and she and I roomed together all the time we were in training. But she really had more money than she knew what to do with. It used to worry me, because they'd send her \$150 for a coat. Well, it would lay around there. We had a place to stash it down in the office, but she didn't like to do it, because when she wanted it, she couldn't get it. I said, "Well, I'm not going to have that money laying around, because if it disappeared, I'd be the one that would be blamed for it." I said, "Down it goes." So I went down to put it in the vault, so later on, she could see that too, but at first that didn't bother her. Because the girls ...

Mrs. Weaver:

She had lovely things. She had nicer clothes by far than I did. I used to borrow that coat of hers. She paid \$150 fur coat when we got there. They borrowed that. It was navy blue with a gray squirrel color. It was a beautiful thing. Well, they'd be borrowing it. We had a lock on the door, but it was never locked. There's a lot of kids that come from there, there was a lot of people, girls that were way in debt when they graduated. I think I owed about \$50 when I graduated, but I had borrowed, but I finished without losing any time.

Mrs. Weaver:

Now, if you lost time, you had to make it up. I didn't happen to do that, and so I got to work three months. I stayed there til she finished, because she was sick a number of times. She had her tonsils out and different things. She asked, wondered if I'd stay on. I said, "Well, I might as well. I need some money to rent a room and to buy uniforms and things," so I stayed on about three months, March, April, May, we graduated in May. I stayed on, and by that time, I had enough to buy uniforms, and to pay my rent, and pay my registration fees. I took the state board in July, after I graduated in May.

Dr. Church:

When did you start? What month did you start?

Mrs. Weaver:

I started in the fall.

Dr. Church:

In the fall.

Mrs. Weaver:

In September.

Dr. Church:

You started in September, okay.

Mrs. Weaver:

And I graduated in May. That was a three year course.

Dr. Church:

And you started in 1921?

Mrs. Weaver:

'21, and graduated in '24.

Dr. Church:

Okay. What was the reputation of the school?

Mrs. Weaver:

Very good.

Dr. Church:

When you chose it?

Mrs. Weaver:

Very good. They had the most to offer, because they were training everybody for supervising jobs, and nurse superintendents, or something like that. We were looked down on because we did private duty, but I decided I liked private duty, so I did most of the private duty. It was an experience to me, because I could go different places. Did you say you were from Lake Forest?

Dr. Church:

No, Evanston.

Mrs. Weaver:

Evanston.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, see I worked out of Lake Forest. At that time, there was a family out there that was President of the old elevator company. They had a very lovely place, and they had a daughter that had a kidney stone, and she delivered this youngster, and it was a blue baby, as they called it. It wasn't at County, but it was right close to the little hospital right close to County. She had a room for the flowers, and a room for the baby, and a room for herself.

Dr. Church:

Oh, gee.

Mrs. Weaver:

She had this kidney stone-

Dr. Church:

Was that in Crescent Woods? Was that the hospital?

Mrs. Weaver:

No, no.

Dr. Church:

No?

Mrs. Weaver:

It was ... I'm trying to think of it. It was a little hospital. See, the Presbyterian is over the other way, and we did most of our private duty there, but this is a little hospital right west of County, on that same street. I forgot the name of it. It was very insignificant, but this doctor went there, it was a woman doctor that worked at County too. She had been a nurse, and then she took up doctoring. She was quite small boned and everything. She says, "Just believe me, I'm more gentle with the delivery than some of these doctors with the big hands. I can make an examination with a small hand, and it doesn't hurt near as much." She was quite famous. There's a book, White Coat Surgeon, a book about her. I can't tell you her name now, and I thought I had it, but I don't. I tried to think of it, and I can't.

Mrs. Weaver:

She went a couple times to Hawaii, or different places to deliver the youngsters, and they'd pay her \$1,000 way back then. She was extra good. She was ranked with Dr. Haney, who was a top OB man on Presbyterian, but she ranked with him in a lot of things. Of course, Dr. Volm, and Dr. Myers, Dr. Carl Myers, one was a night man and one was a day doctor at the hospital when I was there. Because they were getting up in years, Dr. Volm was, but he was the night man, and Dr. Myers was during the day. I just can't think of that name. It was a place where they didn't use any alcohol. They were a little bit biased about something like that. They didn't want alcohol in any form. Yup, and they didn't have their own training school. They hired nurses. Francis Willard Hospital.

Dr. Church:

I've never heard of it.

Mrs. Weaver:

It's just a little one. It's right on the next street over from County.

Dr. Church:

Hmm. Well, it must not exist anymore then.

Mrs. Weaver:

I don't think it does. They didn't have a training school, I don't believe, but I know a number of people that were operated on. This patient from Lake Forest was ... Well, they gloried in the fact that they could come in there and do what they wanted. A lot of her meals was sent out from the Blackstone Hotel. The dad would stop there, and get them, and bring them out there.

Dr. Church:

Wow.

Mrs. Weaver:

Because she liked certain things. Her mother was heir to the Crane Company, and her dad was President of this elevator company, so they had money galore. Had their own greenhouse, and we had fresh vegetables from that all winter long. I lived out there til the baby was six months old. That's unusual, to keep a registered nurse for that long.

Dr. Church:

Yeah.

Mrs. Weaver:

While I was there, I had a couple days off to take state board, and she paid me right through. She said, "That's all right, you go and take the state board and come back." She was fabulous. That was a sad story, I know it doesn't really affect you, but they couldn't find the stone, it shifted, and her folks thought she needed a vacation. She left the two boys, who were older than the baby that I took care of as the nurse maid, and I stayed with Joanne. They went to Europe on a trip and came back, and they didn't come on the same plane, and they went down, her mother and daddy died, and they had those kids to raise. When their plane with their suitcases and their truck come back, they had a monogrammed piece of linen and a handkerchief for me, and the family sent that to me. Got my address and sent it to me.

Dr. Church:

So the grandparents had to raise the children?

Mrs. Weaver:

Yes, and of course they financially could do it. Now he, at the time, her husband was, when those big speakers come out on the radio, that's what he done in Milwaukee. He went back and forth to

Milwaukee from Lake Forest quite often. But the family ... I've often wondered how those two boys would be, they'd be 50 years old by now. But the girl died, and the little girl ... See, they wanted this girl that took care of the two boys to take care of all three of them. She said, "That's too much." She didn't want to do it, so she turned it down. I said, "Well, I've been out there long enough, six months." I said, "I want to go back in to Chicago."

Mrs. Weaver:

So they got this girl who was a high school graduate, and she took care of all three of them, but this girl never was rugged. She was a beautiful little kid, and got a little too fat, but she was toddling around, and they went to the same park where we went all the time, and she fell in one of those ponds and died before they could get her out.

Dr. Church:

Oh no.

Mrs. Weaver:

They had a lot of tragedy. Those two boys, Larry and Charles, probably had every advantage in the world. I never did know what happened to them after that. I only worked there about six years in Chicago, and then I decided to ... We went to California for a while, and then we moved to Michigan, up to Michigan.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). How many classmates did you start with?

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, we entered four times a year. In my division, there was about 40. They didn't all stay. I don't know, they dropped out some of them.

Dr. Church:

How come? Do you have any recollection of why some of them dropped out?

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, it was different things. There was one girl or two that physically maybe couldn't ... They were sick all the time, that didn't work out. But they entered several times a year. Then there was another group that entered. See, I entered in September, and then there was a group ... We entered three times a year, but only graduated once a year. Then there was the '25 class, but they were so few of them, they put them over in our class. I think when we graduated, there was about almost 100 graduated.

Dr. Church:

Good group.

Mrs. Weaver:

It was bigger than you would think. I'm not exactly, but there was a couple of them that didn't graduate, because ... Of course, that's the time that they were starting to have bobbed hair, and you were not to have bobbed hair, because they said your cap won't stay on. You can't pin it so it stays, so it would bob

around. Of course, Mrs. Wheeler was very old fashioned on a lot of things, and we had to walk about a block and a half or a block from the nurse's entrance to the hospital. We couldn't go bareheaded. We used to wear a hat. If we were caught going without a hat, why she'd make us carry the hat and go for a week or two carrying the hat and not wear it. Then you'd know she was being punished.

Mrs. Weaver:

There was a lot of things about it, now that I look ... We only had one late night a week, until you're there six months, and then if you had a good reason, you could have maybe more than one. In that respect, they kept it pretty well organized. You had to tell them where you were going and give the telephone number and everything. You didn't just go someplace.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mrs. Weaver:

There was a lot of regulations. They had to know where you're going and when you'd be back.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mrs. Weaver:

I can see, of course now, I imagine it's a lot different, but then, well we didn't know any better than to do just what we were told. If you took advantage of it, you were in trouble. Of course, at that time, they didn't want you to go to go with the interns either, because eventually if they wanted to, they could write up a lot of orders that would cause you some headaches, so she could tell you didn't do that. When we got through training, if we wanted to go on staff, we were not to have any dates with the doctors while we were in training.

Dr. Church:

Can you describe a little bit what your hospital responsibilities were? What kind of things you did in the hospital?

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, we started out about the end of three months, we weren't probies til we were there six months. But we started out, I had my first night duty when I was there less than three months. I was in charge of the night duty. It was tonsillectomies and cleft pallettes that you irrigated every half hour or 15 minutes, if it was dry. We had a lot of the head nurses, if they were operating, had their tonsils out, they were put on that floor. I happened to have one that hemorrhaged. I couldn't find the head nurse, the night nurse making the rounds. I called several places and nobody answered.

Mrs. Weaver:

I got scared, and I called the doctor, and I had an awful time getting over there, because you're not to go to the doctor directly, you had to get ahold of the nurse. Well, I said, "I couldn't find her, and she was spitting a lot of blood." She was a head nurse at that time, and I was worried about her. They took her

up that night, and put a stitch or two in her. But it worried me because I felt I had too much responsibility, and if anything happened to her, and I'm on the floor, what would happen to me?

Dr. Church:

Sure.

Mrs. Weaver:

We had a lot of things there, it wasn't a serious night duty, but I wasn't only a probie yet. I hadn't been there six months, and they stuck me on there. I often think of the times I made some mistakes I know, and I remember seeing delivered four babies and went to three autopsies, and we had to help deliver two or three youngsters in homes, because some of them weren't able to get there, and we'd have to go with the doctor, and with no facilities hardly at all, we'd have to set up for a delivery at home. Lots of times, you had what we called an OB pack we took along, but lots of times we'd have used newspapers to put down first, and then put our sterile things on top.

Mrs. Weaver:

We really had quite a varied training. I think if they gave you enough nerve, you'd try most anything. When I first graduated, I hadn't been out more than five years, I delivered a youngster in a home without sterile water, and without running water, and without an indoor toilet or anything. I happened to have to do that. I was glad I really knew how to do it.

Dr. Church:

Yeah. How did you happen to have to do that?

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, it's a sad story. It was my baby sister. I was home, it was an icy night, and they called the doctor. First of all, I was working at a small hospital, in charge of surgery at that time. I'd taken a week off, because I knew she was going to have the baby, and my mother was going over to where she lived in Goshen, Indiana, and take care of her. At the last minute, she decided she was going to stay at home. I had asked for time off because I knew I had a little girl then about two years old, that my mother wasn't going to be able to look after, I'd have to be there to look after her.

Mrs. Weaver:

It got icy, and the doctor never come. They stayed there, it was at my folks' home, and of course, I remember the day very well. My folks didn't have a car, and there was a family friend, they wanted to go to the funeral. My husband said, "I'll take them, but I'm not going unless you go." Well, I said, "Okay, I'll go," so I went. My sister was in labor then, but I had made a rectal order, and I saw she didn't have much dilatation, she was a young kid, and I knew she wasn't going to work on it very hard. I said, "Okay, we'll go to the funeral, but we must come straight home." She was still having cramps, of course, but not too close together.

Mrs. Weaver:

This was the middle of the afternoon, but before midnight, she delivered. She didn't have a chair. I didn't have anything. I had everything done, the placenta expressed, and no chair at all. I didn't have silver nitrate to put in the eye, and the doctor came the next morning. It was icy, and he couldn't go

anyplace, but when we were out, it wasn't that bad. But by the time we got back, it was. So I went ahead and delivered her, and she had nothing. I had no ether or nothing, but I had some boiled water, and I boiled a string, and used it to tie the cord. Everything got along, and she had no infection, so I guess I must have done a fairly good job.

Dr. Church:

It sounds like it. Interesting experience.

Mrs. Weaver:

So I was glad I had, had that training before. I'm sure the ones I'd done at the hospital was much easier than this one was, because I had to do it up in her room. There was no access to things, and I had an electric light at the time up there, but I had no hot water. I had to have boiled water, and had them bring a pan of boiled water up, and I go over there and tied the cord, and we had no difficulties, except that she was a young kid. Of course, right away, she wanted to have her friends in there, and that was bad. I had to go back to work in a few days, because after my time was up, I had got relief for about a week, and so I went back to work.

Mrs. Weaver:

That's an experience, because I had the baby to do afterwards, and clean up, and get her dressed, and everything. She really didn't have too bad a time, except she didn't have enough milk. She really wasn't old enough to have a family, but she quit about ... Well, I think she'd only had one year of high school, and she got married, but he was older than she some. He wasn't anymore, couldn't manage him anymore, and my folks were up in years when Ruth comes along. She now is about 14, 15, 16, about 17 years younger than I am.

Mrs. Weaver:

She really was young, and she quit school, and got married. Then they had a lot of ups and downs. Of course, he had a good job. I'll say that much for him, nearly all the time, but they were kids, and they couldn't manage. But he helped move furniture, and he was getting \$8 an hour, so that was good pay at that time, but they just couldn't manage. Neither of them were good managers.

Dr. Church:

Can you tell me a little bit about what your relationship was like with the doctors when you were in school?

Mrs. Weaver:

I don't know. You mean the attending then, the doctors at the hospital?

Dr. Church:

Yeah, well the attendings, and the interns, and the residents.

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, I'd have to say that once in a while I did go out with one. I had one doctor that was working his way through school, he was a very nice fellow. I had several dates with him. Of course, it wasn't known to the powers that be, because they didn't approve of that. I think the doctors had a lot of respect for

the nurses at Cook County, because when they ordered anything, most of them were conscientious. At that time, a lot of our younger men were married men. They were conscientious, and they really worked hard to get where they were going. They had some of the best doctors, I'll say that, that Dr. Davis, who was a famous brain surgeon, and operated for many years, I suppose he doesn't anymore, at the Illinois Hospital, the Chicago Illinois Hospital, he did a lot of brain surgery. After I was through with training, I many times went back and worked for him.

Mrs. Weaver:

I'm sure they had a great deal of respect for the Cook County nurses, because they used to even ask for a Cook County nurse on the staff. They wouldn't have done that, I'm sure, unless they'd have been satisfied with the work we did. We did a lot of private duty at the Presbyterian too, but they didn't have enough of their own nurses, and we were given a go ahead sign most of the time, we could work there. I guess it was St. Luke's and the Presbyterian, both of them.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative), yeah.

Mrs. Weaver:

My husband was sick for a number of times under Dr. Plummer, he was in a car accident, a train accident, and had a broken vertebrae. I took care of him over at St. Luke's before St. Luke's ever left the Michigan Avenue. He was a patient there for about six months.

Dr. Church:

I didn't even know St. Luke's was ever on Michigan Avenue.

Mrs. Weaver:

Yeah, it was. It was a big place. It was big. I would say even bigger than the Mercy Hospital. St. Luke's, it had 17 floors. It did most industrial work, like railroad people, or at lot of industrial work patients who were taken there, because it was bigger than Presbyterian at that time. Michael Reese, it was down there right close to where Michael Reese was.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mrs. Weaver:

Of course, Michael Reese was mostly Jewish. They had some very good doctors that worked there, and also at St. Luke's. Of course, if they were Jewish, they worked up at Michael Reese.

Dr. Church:

Yeah. Now you said when you were in school, the emphasis in your training was pretty much on private duty.

Mrs. Weaver:

No.

Dr. Church:

No?

Mrs. Weaver:

On supervision.

Dr. Church:

Oh, okay.

Mrs. Weaver:

Supervision, like superintendents, or the head nurse. They didn't like private much, to do private. We only had six weeks of private duty out at Highland Park.

Dr. Church:

Okay, all right.

Mrs. Weaver:

We went out there six weeks, and that's all the private duty we had, and we got X-ray out there. About two or three weeks of that was X-ray, because we had of course an X-ray too. But they thought that really we were trained to be superintendents, or head nurses, or heads of hospital, or something like that.

Dr. Church:

Oh, okay. During the course of your education, did you go into the community at all?

Mrs. Weaver:

Yes. Well, not to work, except we went on trips, like to the Art Institute. We went to the ... Where they slaughter the ... What are those? How is it? Stockyards.

Dr. Church:

Oh yeah, yeah.

Mrs. Weaver:

Where they did the killing of the animals.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mrs. Weaver:

They had one about every two or four months, we'd have a lunch, or we'd have someplace we'd go to, someplace to visit in Chicago.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative), okay. What I was thinking of when I was asking the question was more in a professional capacity. Did you do V&A work?

Mrs. Weaver:

We had a certain amount of visiting nurses training, but I didn't have any ... What do they call it? For industrial nursing, we didn't do that, but I did afterwards too. I replaced a head nurse, like at [inaudible 00:38:14], they had about 1,500 patients, and they'd have a nurse or two nurses. During their vacation, I'd substitute there for two or three weeks for their vacation. But so many of them were Polish people there or foreigners, and I couldn't understand them very well, and I found that very difficult. Then I had to ride the streetcars to work there, and I never could get on a streetcar, because I'd get off the same time they did, but some of the girls liked it, because they did their nursing in their uniforms, and you worked in a straight eight hour day. You got good pay for it, and you were home nights, and you had weekends off many times. I worked at two or three different places industrial nursing, after I finished, after I was a graduate, but I did private duty most of the time.

Mrs. Weaver:

I liked it there, because I could go different places. Then after we were married, we went to California. My husband was hurt see, and he couldn't go back to work for a year. We had never taken a trip. I was working in the OR when we were married, so I said, "Well, I think that'd be a good idea. You can't go to work for a year." We were doing 12 hour duty in Chicago, and we went to California, and they done eight yours and got the same pay. I worked there all summer. We went out in April, and I worked there til September. But we wanted to go to Yellowstone, and you had to get there before the 1st of October, so we came back.

Mrs. Weaver:

But I went out there and right away I got a job. I went down one day or two, we hadn't been there very long, and I went out and put in the application. They said, "You'll hear from us." I didn't have any time to think about it, and I worked on the floor where the nurses were all married. The girl right next door, or right next to the next suburb, had drove back and forth to work. Transportation was bad there. We were used to all cross transportation in Chicago. I lived out at 6-72nd Street, and I had to go clear downtown and come back to 28th Street to get to the hospital on the bus. Yeah, on the bus.

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, after I got there, I wasn't there a week or so, when I got acquainted with her, and she lived just beyond me, so I rode with her all the time, and we worked eight hours. We got one long day a week off. I got off on Sunday at 3:00, and I was off all day Monday, and went back to work on Tuesday. Then I had all the evenings off. We went and done a lot of things while we were out there, because we had friends out there at the time that had come from my hometown, so I was elated. I had a doctor who was taking training in Chicago, he was an osteopath however, and his wife had been ill, and he had to get a job at one of those stores. It gets very expensive, so he and his wife would move there, and they were very good friends of ours, so we had a real nice time, because he was downtown.

Mrs. Weaver:

We used to go down there, and he had lived there for quite a while, so he knew a lot of the places. When we had the car, after Elmer got so he could take a cast on and off, he had to wear a body cast for almost a year, but it was so he could remove it. I think that was our biggest trouble, he couldn't sit down

on the [inaudible 00:41:33], but he couldn't get off of it, unless he had the cast on. If he had the cast on, he just had trouble with it, it got hot, you know? Anyway, it worked out.

Mrs. Weaver:

I worked until we seen we weren't going to make it, so we wanted come up and see Yellowstone while we were out there. I said, "Well, I think we better get started," so I handed in my resignation. I met a lot of doctors that I knew in Chicago, so it wasn't all Greek to me either. I had Betty Davis was a sister to the one of the Davis's that was popular in movies and things like that, and also Mr. Pringle, he had cancer, and he had a son who was a noted actor. The place, it was the California Lutheran Hospital, and it was really a nice place. It was a private hospital, and they had very good food. It was so much cleaner than Chicago. You could wear a uniform there a couple days, and easy enough.

Dr. Church:

Sure.

Mrs. Weaver:

But in Chicago, you wore a different one every day. I was very happy about it. When we came back, we came right back to Michigan then. Of course, it was during the Depression, and it was hard to get work anyplace then after that time. I went back and worked at County six days a week, and then I'd be home four, and go back and work six days.

Dr. Church:

You commuted from Michigan to Chicago?

Mrs. Weaver:

Yes. The bus, it was crazy, but I'd pick up the bus there right at my folks' place, or at the filling station, it'd come there once a day. I'd pick it up, and I'd get a call to come in that night to work. I could take the bus and I'd be in before 11:00 to go to work. Then I'd work those two or three days, or a week, or 10 days, and then I'd come home.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Getting back to your student days, can you tell me about a memorable case that you nursed, a patient?

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, that's one thing, we never got real close to a patient, because the turnover there was drastic. But we did have a number of cases ... I happened to have, but it wasn't at County, it was over at Chicago University. I had this patient that had polio, and there was eight or 10 kids, and they were living in one or two rooms. He was 19, and he's the one who had polio. I think I was with him about a week or 10 days. Because he was so sick, they couldn't have him on floor care, and his saliva would roll off all the time, so I special-

Dr. Church:

Okay.

Mrs. Weaver:

This doctor's son was going to college and he took sick, had terrific headaches. He'd come in on the plane, and they took him off, and put him in a private hospital there. I'm trying to think it was down out south and west. I just didn't live too many blocks from there. I don't know, because I had to take a streetcar, I couldn't walk. Anyhow, he got off of the plane, and his father of course was a doctor there, and he was going to be a doctor. They weren't sure it was polio, but they diagnosed it as being polio before he got through. It was very popular. It seemed that it was something that a lot of people were having trouble, but not everybody in the family would get it, just one or two. I took care of him for about a week. But it was a small hospital, and I just can't ... It was on the south side, I just can't remember the name of it, but I remember going in there.

Dr. Church:

Was this while you were still a student or after?

Mrs. Weaver:

No, I was graduated.

Dr. Church:

Oh.

Mrs. Weaver:

No, we didn't do much going out much while we were students. When we went in there, we studied a year or two before we did much. We didn't actually do one patient. In fact, it was most of my job, I don't know, whenever I went to a floor, that was my job, to line these 22 beds in this one room, and line the beds and the tables, and that was my job. I don't care, one of the first thing I'd be assigned to it before I was very long. That was kind of important, because it had to be in line. I don't know how they do it now, but that was a lot of patients, and we'd have screens that we'd put around them when we were doing it. The whole side would be lined.

Mrs. Weaver:

We also had lots ... I used to hate to have them half a day, because we'd have 80 babies in the nursery. We'd often have 80 babies in the nursery. That's a lot of babies.

Dr. Church:

That is, a lot of babies.

Mrs. Weaver:

The night nurse, there'd be a couple of us on there, but we had to take all those kids out to the breast and bring them back, and check all their temperatures, and change the diapers. It wasn't a small job.

Dr. Church:

I can imagine.

Mrs. Weaver:

We had patients waiting, one patient would undress, and then it would be the nurses to check the stool, and take the temperature, and to take the statistics or observe anything, and then another patient would dress them.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mrs. Weaver:

Sometimes at night, you might have eight deliveries, and those kids had to be washed, and dressed, and tagged, and everything, for the morning. It wasn't a small job, but it made you capable of handling a lot of things that you would never have been able to do otherwise.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Can you tell me what your favorite memory is of your Illinois Training School days?

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, you mean as far as work was concerned, or what we done? We had a picnic out in Jackson Park, it was one of the nicest ones I think we ever had. They ordered a big lug of cherries, those big ones from the west, and we took a boxed lunch, and we went out there and had a picnic. It was almost a beautiful place at that time, but the last time I was through there, I thought, "To think I ever thought this was beautiful."

Dr. Church:

Yeah, not so beautiful anymore.

Mrs. Weaver:

I was disillusioned by it.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Go ahead.

Mrs. Weaver:

We thought we lived in a nice area, because we lived near the parkway, and that connects with the University of Chicago. We walked over and we used to walk there instead of going to a park. But the last time I was there, I was saddened to see it. I used to walk across there and go to work at night, and come back. You couldn't do that now.

Dr. Church:

Yeah, right.

Mrs. Weaver:

The bank we used to go to, [inaudible 00:48:36].

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mrs. Weaver:

I couldn't believe it.

Dr. Church:

How about an unfavorable memory of your Illinois Training School days?

Mrs. Weaver:

Yes, I have an unfavorable memory. I gave the wrong dose of medicine. That was very sad. The patient made a fuss about it, so I didn't know what to do. I went to the doctor, who was the senior on that floor, not the attending, but the senior, and he said, "Well, they never should have been sent here in the first place." They were sent in big gallon bottles. I said, "Well, I wish you'd come and see her." So he did a I don't remember exactly what he done, but I remember at the time it was not a nice tasting medicine to begin with. I think it was supposed to be mag salt, that was a diuretic. Now, we used to give that to most drunks that come in there on Saturday nights, sometimes we'd have eight or 10, we'd have to pump their stomach, and they'd pump their stomach and get out all this stuff that they drank, and then they'd put a couple ounces of mag salt in the stomach pump and put it in their stomach. That would make them have frequent stools, and eliminate a lot of this.

Mrs. Weaver:

A lot of them could take ... They didn't mince words about it, they wanted them to be sitting on the bedpan the rest of the night. But then there was, and I can't remember now what it was, but it was something that was sitting right [inaudible 00:50:35]. I know he didn't have too much bad effects from it, but it stuck with me. It should have never happened. They shouldn't have been the same thing sitting right there in line. They were soon moved after that. I remember I had a mark, for that little thing, I didn't get my bar on my pin til about ... All the rest had them in the class but me. You see I was being punished for it.

Dr. Church:

Yeah.

Mrs. Weaver:

I don't remember just what else, but that was one thing, I didn't get my bar when everybody was getting it but me. Finally, they decided that I had been punished enough, and they gave me the bar. There was never anything much done about it, but of course, I could have been sued, but I had nothing, so they didn't.

Dr. Church:

That's true.

Mrs. Weaver:

At that time, we didn't think so much for that, but now everybody sues everybody.

Dr. Church:

Yeah. Did you have any knowledge that the school was going to be closing?

Mrs. Weaver:

No. Well, we did before it closed, because when Ms. Wheeler couldn't take it over, we couldn't find a superintendent who would do what she did. There was nobody, that was one mistake she made, there was nobody built up, ready to take that.

Dr. Church:

What about Laura Logan?

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, Laura Logan, she took it for a while, but she didn't live there, she lived somewhere else. She had an apartment somewhere else. Then Ms. Powell, she was the one that we dealt with a lot when we'd come in there to go to the band, because we could rent a room at the nurse's home for half maybe what we could down at the hotel. She'd make arrangements for us to stay there at this new home that we never lived in. But then there was still people there working at Cook. Some of the girls stayed over a long time, like Viola Strip, and Peterson, and oh I don't know how many more. I got away from there, but I know they used to be night nurses, night supervisors, they stayed on a long time, even Laura Logan did.

Mrs. Weaver:

But Laura didn't live there anytime, and most of the money that she had taken over from the school, and Ms. Wheeler was very thrifty. She saved money, we had money for a lot of things. She set a real good table, they had very good food. We had nice linen, and she did a lot of things on a little bit. It took a lot of ... Well, she didn't have any outside life much, no social life. That was her life. After Ms. Logan took over, I don't know whether she ... But they said that our pictures and things was supposed to have a room at the Chicago University, in that area, but the money we had, most of it went to Chicago University, for what, I don't know.

Mrs. Weaver:

Then one time, they were going to charge us for hanging those pictures out there in that room. Dr. Calamaro went to bat for us. He said, "No way." I don't know whatever did happen to that, because I got out of the picture. It didn't mean enough to me to follow it up. I didn't. I figured, "Well, if we can't get it back, if she's giving it to the university, well there it is."

Dr. Church:

Yeah. Do you remember what the atmosphere of the school was like when the students were told that it was going to be closing?

Mrs. Weaver:

Oh, I think they all felt badly about it. But they got this new home, that's what they were playing up. This new home was super duper, and they had people from Carson Pirie Scott and all those people come out and furnish rooms up there. It was gorgeous furniture. We didn't have furniture like that. We felt badly about it, but changes, progress, they were going to have a wonderful home, and it was a beautiful home. Of course, we were treated like guests when we went over there because a couple of my

classmates even worked over there afterwards, because I went back to that home a couple times. I never did stay there after that, because I could see a lot of improvement, and then it wasn't. I thought, "This would have been wonderful if I had moved into training here." But after all, we had something, a lot of our kids were from very mediocre families. We came from the country, and we didn't have a lot of things, so we were perfectly satisfied with everything we had.

Mrs. Weaver:

It was a nice atmosphere, because most of the girls ... There was no girls there from Chicago. We were all from out of town. We were all country girls. Some of them from South Dakota, five or six girls in the next division after me was right up here in Michigan. The Genzel girl, and two girls from Monroe, and they were all right there from Michigan. That was funny because in my department, there wasn't. There was a couple girls from out west, from Washington state. There was a lot of different girls from there, but there was no girls right there from Chicago in the school. Most of us were rural kids. My roommate was from Wisconsin, and there was a couple other girls from Lacrosse, Wisconsin. She was from Monticello, Wisconsin. Really, we were all about the same background. A lot of them had more money than others, but there's a lot of girls borrowed money across the street.

Dr. Church:

Do you have any thoughts about the difference between the two schools? How things changed when Illinois Training School became the Cook County School of Nursing?

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, I think they had a different type of kids coming in there too. Because I met a couple of them, they kept saying they were from County. Of course they're not, and I thought I was from County too. Then I'd see their cap and I'd be like, "That's not County. They may be coming back ..." That's why they have this newer different cap and different pin, and of course, there was a lot of things ... Some of those girls, I know one or two girls that came in and I thought they were from areas that I thought I knew, but I didn't know them as well, but I had met them after I graduated, and when they said they was from County, and it would always dawn on me that I didn't realize just what training and things they had afterwards. Because I wasn't around there that much.

Mrs. Weaver:

I graduated in '24, and I worked there at the hospital for three months, and then I went out and did private duty. As I said, from here and there, I was all over. I didn't stay in any one place.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Do you remember who made the decisions about the educational requirements at the Illinois Training School? Was it Mary Wheeler?

Mrs. Weaver:

I think she did most of it.

Dr. Church:

She did most of it, okay.

Mrs. Weaver:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Dr. Church:

Do you know how that differed from the Cook County School of Nursing?

Mrs. Weaver:

No. See, I wasn't connected so much with that afterwards.

Dr. Church:

Right.

Mrs. Weaver:

I didn't really know much about it.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Okay. Did you ever leave nursing for any period of time?

Mrs. Weaver:

You mean after I finished school?

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, I didn't. I married in '28, and I had a daughter in '31. We had a depression, and my husband, after working for the railroads for 17 years, was laid off for five years. We had bought a home in Elm Park. We couldn't live there, and I could get work and he couldn't, and so we decided we wanted a farm. We traded the house on a down payment on a farm. I was much against it, but I said, "If that's what you want to do, I don't mind ranching a farm." But I said, "I'm not going there unless you do."

Mrs. Weaver:

We went and bought the farm, traded the house in, and bought the farm. Before we moved out there, we got a notice he was called back on the railroads. What to do? We rented it to a young couple that wanted to get married, we moved our furniture out there, and they used our furniture and lived there. I said, "If you're going back to the railroad, I'm going back to Chicago and going into nursing." It was during the time that we couldn't find something to do in that area that would warrant us living in the house, so if he wanted to farm I thought that's okay.

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, got up there, and he went back to work, but it didn't last. He got promoted to an engineer, and everything started going back up, so he's back where he started, so he's got to leave that. We had a couple on there for three or four years. Then he decided that he was going to take a leave of absence. I said, "Okay." We had electricity, but we didn't have central heating, and we put in a furnace, and we put

in a bath, and we moved out there. Of course, things kept climbing up, up, up. A lot of things we didn't have out there. Of course, I wasn't out there very long until I was called to be a nurse to work. I seemed to find a job all the time, but it was him that couldn't find anything else.

Mrs. Weaver:

The farm really, when we got the first mortgage, it had a second mortgage, we got the first mortgage paid off, he decided to [inaudible 01:00:59]. Our daughter was in the seventh grade. To take her back to Chicago wasn't good either, so we stayed there. We paid off the farm in about 10 years. We bought it in '36. We moved out there in about '43, and we sold it in '57, and bought this place here.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mrs. Weaver:

We couldn't do all the work on it. It was 279 acres. We had cattle, and we had dogs, and we had chickens. So we decided to sell it. I said, "I can't live through it and work too," because I never was done on the farm. We put it up, and in a month we had it sold.

Dr. Church:

That's great.

Mrs. Weaver:

That wasn't so good either. It didn't give us time to think about it. I was already satisfied. It didn't make a difference to me, but he kind of hung onto it because it was his project, and we did pay it off. But we had to put somebody on it. It didn't work out for us to live there and hire things, that we didn't want to do, so we sold it and got cash, which we had to give the government a lot of it, which they shouldn't have got it. He was going to pay only a down payment, but we borrowed money cheaper than the rate that we were asking. We got it from a land bank or something for a bout a cent and a half or two cents less. We took it and invested it in city properties, and we come out all right.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Do you have any recollection of what your classmates did after graduation, what kind of nursing most of them went into?

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, you know of it in Chicago, do you know Angela Davis?

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mrs. Weaver:

She did private duty for a while out for a little company in Mary, which I used to work out there too some. Another classmate of mine, Olivia Smart and Bertha Hardy were two classmates of mine, they were superintendents of the Geneva Hospital, out in Geneva. One was superintendent, and the other was under her, and when she resigned or gave it up, retired, the other one took over. There was another

one that was out at Highland Park for a while as a supervisor out there. Now there was a couple that ... My roommate got married right out of training. We graduated in May, and she was married in June, and never made it down to her state board. She just got married, and he was a man that wanted to get married, and she knew him when she come and trained, but her mother died, and she was unhappy with her stepmother. That's what happened.

Mrs. Weaver:

Now, there was another girl that went to Florida, and another one that was in Oakland, California, and we had a group that met in California and a group in Florida, that had alumni meetings the same as we did in Chicago. We would hear from them. There was one or two that went out there, and a couple of them went in the west, went and one did visiting nursing out in Arizona. Two of the girls are out there, and they worked in the ... Another one, Ruth, but I don't think she's alive anymore either. I think she did nursing out in Oklahoma.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mrs. Weaver:

Or it might have been Arizona.

Dr. Church:

How would you compare your education at the Illinois Training School, how would you compare that to the education that nurses get now?

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, there are so many different programs that I can't understand ... I have to [inaudible 01:05:29]. Excuse me.

Dr. Church:

Oh, that's my ride. Hi.

Ken:

I'm Ken.

Dr. Church:

We're almost done.

Ken:

That's okay, [inaudible 01:05:38].

Dr. Church:

This is ...

Mrs. Weaver:

How are you? Come on in, you can come in if you want?

Ken:

No, it's okay.

Dr. Church:

We're just finishing up.

Ken:

No problem.

Dr. Church:

Another five minutes or so. We're going up to Ann Arbor to visit a friend for the weekend.

Mrs. Weaver:

Oh, so how are you going?

Dr. Church:

94.

Mrs. Weaver:

Oh.

Dr. Church:

That's what he recommended.

Mrs. Weaver:

Yeah. Well, you'll have to go up north here to get 94.

Dr. Church:

Yeah.

Mrs. Weaver:

To Kalamazoo.

Dr. Church:

Yeah.

Mrs. Weaver:

Okay.

Dr. Church:

Okay, so we were just talking about how the comparison of your education to nurses who are educated now?

Mrs. Weaver:

There are so many different programs that I'm amazed. They have to go to school for six months, and then they work weekends at the hospital, and get paid. But they can have weekends off all the time, and we never got that. We had to be there one year before we had any time off, and then at the end of the night duty, we'd get a week or two off, or three off. We'd get four days off at the end of the night duty. Three weeks, we'd get a day for every week, because we didn't get half days then when you're on nights.

Mrs. Weaver:

There's a girl right across the street that their granddaughter is going to live with a family for a whole year, and the woman is pregnant, and she's going to live with her during this pregnancy, and be there when the baby come. What's she going to learn about that? That's what she does, that's part of her training, a year. That's a year out of there. When I was there a year, we were changing diapers, and making beds, and giving hypos, and everything else.

Dr. Church:

I never heard of that.

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, I never did either, but she's getting a credit for it. Her dad's a dentist and makes million of money, makes any amount, and her folks are having her stay there for a whole year. Then from that, she has to go to school for so many months, and then she'll start her training. She'll have two years of actual work. I think that's ... What'll she learn? Maybe how to keep house or whatever, if she's at their disposal. Maybe it isn't a family that has a lot of money or they said. I don't know. These people across here, see their daughter's married to an orthodontist. They used to live in South Bend. I've known the family quite a while because I've taken care of her when she had a broken arm, and I took care of him when he had a hernia.

Mrs. Weaver:

Their granddaughter, they knew that I was a nurse and they wanted her to come over and talk to me one day. I asked her and she told me that she's going there for a year and she gets credit for that year. I said, "How can you get credit for just going there and staying?" "Well, I'm to observe how she does, and look after her, and what she goes through." I think it's very different.

Mrs. Weaver:

Now, some of the other girls that go ... My granddaughter started in, but she decided it wasn't for her. She didn't like the sight of blood. No, I guess I don't even have a picture of her ... Yes, here's her wedding picture. That wasn't this, but that's after she ... That's at her engagement party. Well, she was going to take it up and she had gone to the school, but she had to go to a rural school part of the time. She went to Calvin, and graduated from Calvin with a degree, but they told her she had to go there for six months. She'd go to Calvin and take a class for six months, and then she would go down to Valley. They have this set up, so many months she'd go down there. It was out of a different school. Then she would come back and finish at Calvin, and she would be a graduate, but it would take four years, but she'd have a

college degree too when she finished. In other words, they lengthen it a year or so, if she made all the grades.

Mrs. Weaver:

But after she got into it, she decided she didn't like the idea of going to this other school for a while. It was so far out from where she had taken her training, so she switched. She graduated and got her degree anyway, and I guess it was all right. As soon as she got through and got her degree, she went on the road for two years and sang, a year and a half, with a group, and traveled all over Florida, and Chicago. She had a trip to Africa and came back, which she decided she didn't want to work in Africa either.

Mrs. Weaver:

But she switched to a course in psychology. She got a job, she got through college and got a job on her own. She went out and got the job working at a place, like a courthouse. A girl was taking a vacation for six months, and she took the job, and she worked there for almost a year, and then she got pregnant, and has a little girl, two years old, so she doesn't work anymore. But anyhow, from that standpoint, I thought she done pretty good, to go out of college and get a job on her own.

Dr. Church:

Now, I have one more question. Do you know of anybody in the Midwest that graduated from the Illinois Training School that might be interested in having us interview them? Do you keep in contact with any of the alumni?

Mrs. Weaver:

I used to, but most of them are gone.

Dr. Church:

Yeah, that's what we're finding. We had hoped to be able to interview 20 women who had graduated, and we've gotten 18 so far, but we're having a whole lot of trouble finding the last two.

Mrs. Weaver:

Well, I feel badly about it, because I know when I go to looking up somebody, because I can't find anybody. We quit having our alumni bulletin because we were going broke. There wasn't enough of us that were interested anymore.

Dr. Church:

Yeah. Yeah.

Mrs. Weaver:

I haven't been back since. I was a graduate for 50 years, and I quit.

Dr. Church:

Well, I interviewed Mrs. Davis, the lady that you mentioned.

Mrs. Weaver:

Mm-hmm (affirmative). She was a classmate of mine.

Dr. Church:

Yeah. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Mrs. Weaver:

She wrote me, and I answered her, but she never wrote back. She has a couple sisters that are from Michigan.

Dr. Church:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).