

# Arizona State University

---

College of Nursing  
Tempe, Arizona 85287

## ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

### INTERVIEW AGREEMENT\*

The purpose of the contributions of Cadet Nurses Project is to gather and preserve historical information by means of the tape-recorded interview. Tape recordings and transcripts resulting from such interviews will become part of the University Archives, Arizona State University as The Joyce Finch Collection. This material will be available for historical and other academic research by scholars, students and members of the family of the interviewee, regulated according to the restrictions placed on its use by the interviewee. Arizona State University, College of Nursing is assigned rights, title, and interest to the interviews unless otherwise specified below.

-----

I have read the above and voluntarily offer the information contained in these oral history research interviews. In view of the scholarly value of this research material, I hereby permit Arizona State University, College of Nursing to retain it, with any restrictions named below placed on its use.

Nature of restrictions on use of TRANSCRIPTS:

Nature of restrictions on use of TAPE RECORDINGS:

A. Jane Yettke R.N.  
Interviewee (signature)

March 29, 1987  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Interviewee

\*Modified from: Charlton, T. L. (1981). Oral History for Texans. Austin: Texas Historical Commission. p. 64.

This is Joyce A. Finch, Ph.D. Today is March 29, 1987. I'm interviewing for the first time Mrs. Jane Yettke. This interview is taking place in her home at 8263 Emilita Avenue, Mesa, Arizona.

This interview is sponsored by the Arizona State University College of Nursing and the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities Council. It is part of the Contributions of Cadet Nurses Project.

JF Okay, we'll start out talking some about your nursing education. You graduated in 1947?

JY Yes.

JF So you went in in 1944?

JY 1944.

JF What was your school of nursing?

JY Iowa Methodist School of Nursing in Des Moines, Iowa.

JF And about how large was the hospital?

JY I believe around 500.

JF About how large was your class when you entered the program in '44?

JY There was approximately 40 in the class. We had a Spring class and a Fall class, and then we would graduate the two together. My own class was approximately 20.

JF And about how large was your class when you graduated?

JY About 20.

JF So you did not have a lot of attrition in your group.

JY No.

JF Now, did you have any affiliations in a college, take any of your classes at a college?

JY We did have some of the girls that went to the Menninger Clinic in, I'm trying to think where ...

JF Topeka, Kansas.

JY Topeka, Kansas, yes. But, I chose to stay at the hospital and I worked in the Emergency Room.

JF Now that was your last six months?

JY Yes.

JF Did you have any other affiliations, like did you have psychiatric nursing or contagious disease nursing in any other hospital?

JY It dawned on me, some of the girls did go to the VA Hospital in Des Moines, I forgot about that.

JF That was in the last six months experience?

JY Yes.

JF You then spent your time, your six months, in the Emergency Room?

JY Yes.

JF Did you have any classes for that?

JY It was more on-job training.

JF How were you supervised?

JY The supervisor was a Methodist graduate and she'd been there, oh, a long time. She was very thorough and very well thought of, so I was more or less left alone with her as being my instructor.

JF Okay. The Cadet Nurse Corps made a difference ...

PART OF INTERVIEW MISSING -- TAPE BLANK

JY ... afford it, although my sister did go into nurses' training, well she had to pay her own way. But it was hard on her and my parents, so I was glad that I was able to have Uncle Sam pick up the tab.

JF You did say that you worked some before you went into nursing school.

JY Yes, I was a receptionist at the Soldiers' Home Hospital in Marshalltown, Ohio.

JF So you had a little taste of what being around patients was like before you got into the nursing school. It wasn't totally cold.

JY Yes.

JF Alright. So then after you finished in 1947, what was your first work experience?

JY I had to wait until I got my results from my State Boards. So I worked at the same little hospital that my sister graduated from in Marshalltown, St. Thomas Hospital. I worked there I think approximately six months. Then once I got my license, my girlfriend and I went to work at University Hospital in Iowa City.

JF Now, what was your position at the Marshalltown Hospital?

JY Believe it or not, I was put in charge of the Nursery. You were "jack of all trades", you had to make the formula and take the babies out and bring them back in, make sure the laundry was taken care of. There just wasn't anyone else, you were it.

JF Now you said that your sister had trained in this hospital?

JY Yes.

JF So you had some responsibility for the nursing students?

JY I think ... I know what, at the time I graduated from training, they had already stopped having student nurses at the hospital so there were no more.

JF Oh, I see. Did you feel prepared for that job as Head Nurse in that Nursery?

JY I thought it was a little too much for someone fresh out of nurses training.

JF The responsibility?

JY Yes, the responsibility. I could have stood, I think, some help, too.

JF So after you got your registration you went to Iowa City and you went to the medical center, I mean the University Hospital?

JY The University Hospital, yes.

JF And what did you do there?

JY I first worked on the Ear, Nose and Throat Ward. It might have been, I can't remember if it was a whole year that I worked there -- six months to a year. Then there was an opening in the Clinic, so I was able to work there.

JF And when you were in the Clinic what was your position there?

JY The Head Nurse had migraine headaches frequently and she was off-duty quite a bit of the time, so I was more or less in

charge. I had to take over the duties, but didn't get the pay.

JF Was that a fairly large staff in the Clinic?

JY No, I was trying to think. I think it was like one Aide, and then two RN's as I recall.

JF And this was out-patient?

JY Out-patient and in-patient, too.

JF In the Clinic?

JY Yes. Lots of times the patients would be seen in the Clinic for dressing changes and things like that, rather than on the Ward, because they had more equipment there.

JF So you would see people coming and going, so to speak. Have some continuity.

JY Yes, and then the Chief of Service had his own private patients and you helped them. And then there was an Oral Surgeon who was there and he also did the harelips, helped with harelips and the cleft palates. So there was a lot of that type of surgery, too.

JF Alright. So you were then in this Clinic position for about how long?

JY I think that was about four years; no, let's see, I would have been three years because that last year I came back I was in a different department. Then in 1951 I went on active duty in the Air Force.

JF Now, you went into the military, well into the Air Force, as you said. That was kind of in the middle of Korea, of a police action as they called it in those days. How did you happen to decide to go into the military?

JY I guess it just seemed more glamorous, I don't know.

JF Okay, and why the Air Force, as opposed to the other branches of the Service?

JY Well, I get motion sickness. I didn't think the Navy was my cup 'a tea if I'd get on a ship. I knew I couldn't be a flight nurse, but it just seemed like I might be able to see the World more in the Air Force.

JF Did that happen?

JY No, I stayed Stateside the whole time.

JF Where were you stationed?

JY Oh, I was stationed at Kaiser Air Force Base in Mississippi.

JF So that was a big change from Iowa.

JY Yes, weather-wise and, well, it was a lot of humidity and a lot of rain, bugs.

JF When you were at Kaiser what was your position?

JY I started out on ... Oh, when I first was there I was in an Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic, that's right, I imagine because of my past experience. Then I was on a Dependent Ward for just a short while and then I finally was on the Pediatric Ward, and that was the one I was in charge of until I was separated from the Service.

JF What was your rank while you were in the Air Force at that time?

JY Just a First Lieutenant.

JF So you went in as a First Lieutenant?

JY As a First Lieutenant, yes.

JF I assume that was customary that nurses went straight in ...

JY They sort of went on your age and experience, and see, I didn't go right directly in from training, so rather than a Second they gave me a First.

JF Okay, so you left. Now, was that unusual to stay for only one year in the Air Force?

JY At that time you could stay in for one year if you wanted to. Now the minimum is two years.

JF Was it difficult to get into the Air Force?

JY Not particularly, no. At that time it was also, you know, wartime, so they were eager to get nurses and doctors. It was no big problem.

JF So you worked with children, so I assume these were dependent children of the military.

JY Yes.

JF But at one time, you had said that you were involved in training the Medics.

JY That was when I was in the Reserves, when I finally got back. Oh, I know what we were talking about -- we would get the washouts from the radar school. If you were on the Ward

it was on-job training for the Medics.

JF And the nurses did this?

JY The nurses did that, yes.

JF So you had a bunch of kind of grumpy people.

JY Yes, they weren't exactly happy to be there.

JF At the end of a year, then you left the Air Force and you went to ...

JY I had a friend from Michigan and she had really talked up the University of Michigan. That's where she had graduated from, her school. So I thought, well I'd give it a try and see if I liked it. So I worked a short time at the University Hospital in Ann Arbor and was not all that happy with working there. Do you want me to elaborate?

JF Sure, go ahead.

JY I had just come from the Deep South where the Negroes kept their place and they were good workers and everything. And then to get up there in the Detroit area where they had their freedom -- they just didn't want to work and they would leave the Ward, you couldn't find them. They were insubordinate in my book. So I was very frustrated, so I finally got a job in the Infirmary, the Student Health Infirmary. I worked there until school was out and then I got a job as a camp nurse in northern Michigan on Burt Lake, Camp Dalagonkian, and that was about two or three months.

JF What kind of a summer camp was this?

JY It was the boys camp, I had 144 little campers. We were supposed to have had a doctor and I think to this day he probably got a better paying job. My Merck Manual and I were inseparable. We did have, I think he was a junior or senior med. student who was working there, he was out with the horses and different things like that, so he wasn't really that much help to me. But I also had, they had First Aid kits that had to be made up in great big tin cans. They would go on canoe trips and they had to have all this kind of equipment. Then if they also went on any other kind of hikes they had to have First Aid equipment. So, I had to keep all that current and make sure -- for sick call, everyday there was sick call. Keep all that equipment and records, so on.

JF Sounds like a busy summer.

JY It was, very busy.

JF Was your pediatric experience helpful in the summer camp, or were they unrelated?

JY Mostly in Pediatrics, as I recall, it was more real sick little children that needed IV's and things like this. The type of children we had there were children of parents from the automobile industry. They were spoiled. All week long I would be in jeans and they were just down to earth little guys, but when Momma and Daddy came on weekends, they would be so their little noses were out of joint. I had to wear a white uniform to show that there was a nurse on duty at all times. You could just tell that they were kind of bratty at that stage because Momma and Daddy were there. At first they were homesick, so then they would come up -- they knew I had funny books and they would come up for just trivial things, you know, wanted me to take a temperature and things like that, kind of vague pains. Then later on they got kind of tired of camp so then that was also a good place to come to get out of any of the other activities. I guess I was an outlet for some of them.

JF Some of the literature on camps suggests that the longer kids stay in camp, the more prone they are to upper respiratory diseases, or respiratory diseases in general. Did you have any infections?

JY Not all that many, although it was awfully cold, especially at night up there. I about froze myself. But there were some broken bones, poison ivy, I'm trying to think of some of the other things. I guess we did have some upper respiratory, too, come to think of it. We had about three or four beds that we could put children in if they had to stay overnight.

JF So after your summer camp then you went back to Iowa City you said?

JY Yes.

JF And that would have been about '53?

JY 1953, yes.

JF You had said earlier that you worked in a different area then, your first tour there.

JY Yes, at first I worked in the Orthopedic Clinic, and then they started to consolidate the Central Supply System. All the little clinics had their own sterilizing and they wanted to have it all under one heading. So then it was my job to get it all organized and I had a problem of these little old ladies that had never liked each other to begin with and they were all thrown into the same area, and I was to try to be the peacemaker, which was a hard job.



JF Did it work?

JY Not really. I think a lot of times they just tolerated each other. But I did have to order extra linens and some supplies and make sure that the autoclaving was done properly. One time they sent me an orderly to help. He was a parolee from one of the prisons in Iowa, and he just wasn't working out. I told him, "I would rather do it myself and know it's done right than to have someone that I can't depend on." So pretty soon I was heaving all the stuff in the autoclave myself and doing it because it was too much of a hassle.

JF I'm not just quite clear on this -- this wasn't exactly the large Central Supply Department, but it was Central Supply for the clinics?

JY Well, it was for the operating rooms that they had combined, the big operating rooms for all the major surgeries; let's see, I think we were doing it for Ear, Nose and Throat and there was a couple of other clinics, maybe the GU Clinic. It's been a number of years ago, I can't remember. So that was the idea, it was to not have all separate autoclaving going on all over the hospital and having it consolidated.

JF How did you get that job of setting that up and trying to make peace in these warring factions?

JY I wish I knew, I don't remember now particularly, except I guess I was just one that was in the right place at the right time, or wrong place. I don't know what to say.

JF Did you apply for it, or did they approach you?

JY They approached me as I recall. I liked the Orthopedic Clinic, I would have liked to have stayed there.

JF Now, how long did you do this then?

JY It was just about a year, and then this girlfriend wanted to come out to San Francisco. By that time I was ready to go.

JF Was this the same girlfriend who talked you into going to Michigan?

JY No, this was another one.

JF Well, that's okay. I just wondered if maybe she was improving with her track record. Okay, so you went to San Francisco in 1954 and the weather's better, not cold.

JY Oh, October we hit it, and that was a lovely month.

JF And you went to work where?

JY I applied at Letterman Army Hospital and she applied at Kaiser. Of course, I stayed there 14 years at Letterman.

JF Now, you were a civilian employee?

JY Yes, under civil service.

JF And that gave you opportunities to go up in grade and pay and build seniority, and those kinds of things.

JY Yes, right.

JF Because Letterman is a military installation, did you work under the Army nurses?

JY Yes, I did. At the last, though, I was Assistant Head Nurse on the officers' Surgical Ward and it might have been that I got the job because I had been in the Air Force Reserve all those years, and I was gone one weekend a month and two weeks each summer.

JF Now when did you go into the Reserves?

JY It must have been about '54 or '55 that I finally decided to go ahead and go in the Reserves. At first I didn't get paid, and then finally the pay looked pretty good, and then the points you accumulate count towards retirement, too.

JF There was no problem for an Air Force Reserve officer working in an Army hospital?

JY There might have been some jealousy, I don't know. I just kind of chalked it up to personality clashes.

JF But it wasn't enough to bother you?

JY No.

JF So you said that you worked in the officers' unit.

JY At the last, yes.

JF So I take it that officers and enlisted men are not mixed in Army hospitals.

JY As rule not, no; although, you have enlisted corpsmen working on the officers' ward.

JF Is one better than the other to work in, one unit better than another?

JY Oh, I've worked on many a GI ward, and really they're a lot of times a lot better because they roll with the punches a little better, I think.

JF You did say that when you were in Ann Arbor, that you had some problems working with Negroes, did you have those same problems at Letterman, or in the Reserves, because I know the Services were integrated by this time.

JY No, it must have been a better caliber or maybe the location in the Country, I never had that problem anywhere else. They were really nice to work with.

JF Now you said that you were there 14 years, and that would be about 1968.

JY Yes, I got recalled with my Reserve Unit, got recalled with the Pueblo Incident.

JF Do you remember about when the Vietnam veterans started coming back in to Letterman?

JY It probably was in the early 60's. Because we were so close to Travers Air Force Base. That's where the Airevac system was bringing the patients in, we did get a lot of the patients who needed to have hand surgery, tendon repair, and everything, of any type in the body. We had very good surgeons and that's why we seemed to get a lot of them down there.

JF I'm not sure just exactly how to ask this question, but you know, I've watched M.A.S.H. for years.

JY Yes.

JF So, these people who were coming back from Vietnam, they would have been through triage, and emergency care, but they could still be very sick.

JY Very sick and usually they were on the way to be in a hospital that would be closer to their own home. If it was a real bad case it would be a larger hospital, but if it was one that the fellow would never go back on active duty again, it would probably be just a small hospital near his own home.

JF Now as I recall -- I used to live in San Francisco for a couple of years back in the late 60's -- and Letterman seemed, just driving by, very large, so that they would offer just about any service that the military or a dependent would require. Is that correct?

JY Yes. I did work in the old hospital. They were just starting to build a new hospital and I never did get to work in it. I did go back later and I got to see it from the outside, but I never really did get inside. But now it's very huge and it's very tall -- I don't know how many stories now, about 13 or 14 I think. Maybe not quite that many. I can't remember.

JF But it would seem as if it was always an important hospital.

JY Oh yes. But that one I was in was the old wooden, it almost looked like a barracks-type.

JF So the services might not have been quite as extensive, would that be a change?

JY Well, considering what they had I still think they had good service. And then, we did get the doctors from the different -- let's see, we got some from Stanford Hospital. I'm trying to think -- they came out to affiliate to get some military experience.

JF Well there was Stanford nearby and then University of California at San Francisco.

JY Yes, I can't remember about that. But they might have come out too. And then we had a residency program there too, so they did get a lot of good doctors in there.

JF So you've just about [always] been associated with teaching hospitals?

JY Yes, I feel lucky that way.

JF So you got recalled into the military in 1968 because of the Pueblo Incident. What was your rank at this time?

JY I was a Major.

JF How did you get to be a Major, what did you have to do to attain that rank?

JY Well, it was longevity and I guess being faithful and going to my Reserve meetings. Well, the type of work I must of done, I must have merited it. I got good efficiencies, so when you're due for an evaluation if you don't hack it, you don't get promoted. So I got promoted.

JF Alright. Was there any kind of formal or informal education along through this period when you were at Letterman?

JY Well, they had in-service programs that were very good. I'm trying to think -- there were some seminars that they would have.

JF Would these in-services be like how to use new equipment or new treatments, or something like that?

JY Yes, and then current movies and medical things that would apply. Even some that were from combat pictures,

showing wounds and how they were treated, things like that. Or, like you say, new equipment.

JF So, once you were recalled where did you go in '68?

JY I was recalled to ... Oh, first I went out to Hamilton Air Force Base which is in Marin County, it's northeast of San Francisco, but I still kept my apartment down in San Mateo where I lived, which is near the San Francisco Airport. I would stay up there all week and then come home on the weekends. Eventually, I guess it was the computer that did it, anyway everyone was scattered, no one got to stay at Hamilton, and I was transferred to Scott Air Force Base at that time.

JF And Scott is in Illinois?

JY Yes, it's east of, about 20 or 30 miles east of St. Louis.

JF And so when you got there, what was your role?

JY They had me working in the RON Ward, which is "Remain Overnight", for the patients that came in Airevac. I was very frustrated with having to take care of a patient only for a few hours or overnight that I knew very little about and I'd never see again, so asked if I could have a job in the General Hospital, which I was given.

JF And so what was your new role?

JY It was being in charge of a Medical Ward, and it had the male officers in one part and then females on the rest of the Ward. Some were dependents, some were active duty.

JF About how large a ward was this?

JY One ward in the back was an open ward and I think there was about 20 in that alone. It's been awhile. I think it was between 40 and 50 patients.

JF Sounds like quite a responsibility.

JY Yes, it was a big ward.

JF How long were you there, in charge of this ward?

JY Well, I remained on active duty for two years, and then I got off active duty in January of '70.

JF Okay, and I think that you had said earlier that you were married when you came into the military in '70?

JY Yes. We were married in November of '79.

JF You mean '69?

JY 1969, yes, sorry.

JF That's okay, these things happen. So you were not going to leave the area after that?

JY No, but I couldn't get a job there in Civil Service because they didn't have an opening, and also I didn't think it was all that good an idea to work there once I had the rank of a Major. So, then I decided to go back to a VA Hospital, which is like Civil Service and you can accrue the time with VA to add on to Civil Service.

JF So you went to the VA in St. Louis?

JY Yes.

JF What did you do at this VA?

JY I couldn't get a job at Jefferson Barracks at the time, there was no opening, so I started working at John Cochran and it was a busy Surgery Ward, and we were always shorthanded. I was a little frustrated with all the hard work and not having enough personnel, so I asked if I could be transferred to Jefferson Barracks. I finally got transferred there and was much happier.

JF Okay. Now, one of the things that seems kind of strange -- let's see, John Cochran is in St. Louis?

JY It's the inner city.

JF And then Jefferson Barracks is outside of ...

JY Yes, it's south and east of St. Louis, it's down right on the Mississippi River.

JF Is that not kind of unusual to have two VA's so close together?

JY Yes, it is unusual. The old Jefferson Barracks was really from Civil War days and it was a hospital area even then, so it is quite historical out there. It's very pretty.

JF Well that must be a very large population area to support two VA Hospitals in that regard.

JY Oh yes, it is.

JF Okay, so then was there any difference in the kind of patients that went to the two VA Hospitals?

JY Yes, you had more acute patients at the John Cochran. A lot of them that were maybe long term were really out at

Jefferson Barracks, and they had the big Psychiatric section out at Jefferson Barracks, too.

JF But you did not work in the Psychiatric section?

JY No.

JF So you were working with somewhat more long term or chronically ill people.

JY Yes.

JF And you liked that better.

JY Yes.

JF And what was your role in the Jefferson Barracks Hospital?

JY Let's see, Jefferson Barracks I worked -- actually, I worked on a number of wards over the years. Let's see, I worked ten years for VA. I was on some Surgery Wards and I was on some Medical Wards. They were doing a lot of remodeling and stuff so you would get transferred to other wards temporarily, so I sort of had a cross section of nursing.

JF One of the things that seems to be very common here in Arizona is that people are required to rotate shifts. Did you have to do that?

JY The VA is noted for that, yes, so I had a lot of shift work.

JF So you were on a combination of Charge and Staff positions.

JY Yes. I got to the point where I liked evenings, so I did more evening than I did the other two; 11 to 7 or 12 to 8 duty, that was not my cup 'a tea -- I didn't sleep well, I didn't eat well. So I thought if I couldn't be on days, evenings seemed to be more my thing.

JF So you could control your shift to that extent, that you didn't have to work all three shifts.

JY Yes. Of course, you had to work your share of weekends, too.

JF During this period did you have any formal or informal education?

JY Yes, they had good in-service programs and about this time I also had to start on the continued education program for my California registration which I wanted to keep up. I really didn't know whether I'd ever get back to California again or not, but it's still my favorite state. So I was busy trying to get the CE's.

JF What kinds of activities did you use for building CE's?

JY You want to list sort of what I did?

JF Oh, just give examples of some of the things that you did.

JY One was touch of healing, which was an excellent one. One was on diabetes, another one was management responsibilities for nursing, and then one was on intensive care, as I recall.

JF Now, you had some experience in Intensive Care there?

JY Yes, this one ...

TAPE IS BLANK THROUGH THIS WHOLE SECTION

JY Yes, the Fall of '79 my husband retired and we were able to move out here to Mesa, Arizona.

JF So once you got to Mesa did you work?

JY I took a few months off, I had hurt my knee ...

TAPE IS BLANK THROUGH THIS SECTION

JY ... had problems with my knee, and that was right before I was to come out here, and so I was very uncomfortable even trying to travel out here, so I didn't work for I think about two or three months, plus trying to get the house organized and everything. Then I went to work at Desert Samaritan Hospital working in the evening two days a week, and I think I worked there approximately six months. Then, I already had my name in at Williams Air Force Base for a Civil Service job and so I worked there a year, and that was a temporary Civil Service job, so that vacancy was reverted back to a military slot.

JF What was your role at Williams while you were there?

JY There again, it was sort of like what I did before with the military. On days you wouldn't be on Charge, of course, but evenings and nights you were the only nurse. The same deal if you were on the evening or night shift, you were also the ...

TAPE BLANK AGAIN

JF ... on the base, is that a large facility?

TAPE BLANK AGAIN

JY ... or ready for being on the flight line and everything. Usually if they came in they were not all that sick, but a lot of the enlisted kids were sick. We would keep the



enlisted ones more days than you would normally keep them because they would have to go back to a barracks if they weren't married, and there were no facilities for eating or anything there. So, they felt it was safer and they would get balanced meals and everything, so we would keep them longer. So they really weren't all that sick.

TAPE BLANK AGAIN

JF ... you kind of lost that job after about a year, and that would be about '81 or '82?

JY Yes.

JF And then what did you do?

JY Then I laid off a little while after that job. I'd had foot surgery and I wasn't really able -- I could get around but it wasn't comfortable. So I might have laid off two or three months. Then I started working part-time two days a week on the evening shift at Los Flores Nursing Home, and that was my last job before I retired in '83.

JF And that was skilled care nursing?

JY We had a skilled care ward and then another ward was less skilled, it was more like patients that were able to go to the dining room, or they just couldn't be taken care of in a home situation.

JF That was quite a change, going from Williams to Los Flores.

JY Yes, it sure was.

JF How did you cope with that change?

JY I don't think I did. I was very frustrated and I think that's where I got burned out on nursing.

JF So your last job was a little bit -- a "bad taste in your mouth" is what my mother would say.

JY Yes. There again, shortage of personnel and not having enough equipment or the proper equipment, and I was always frustrated. So, I would have been due to retire anyway in six months and I just decided six months early to retire, so I did.

JF And that was '83, I think you said earlier.

JY Yes.

JF Okay. One of the things that I'm going to do is shift then since we've kind of completed the positions that you've

held. Up to the end, did you always want to stay in nursing?

JY Yes, pretty much. I used to love going to work when I was working at Letterman, but I guess maybe the type of people I was taking care of or else some of the young doctors ... Maybe it was because I was getting older, maybe they thought I didn't know what I was saying or doing, I don't know. I just decided it was time to hang up my hat.

JF Oh, you mean when you were at Los Flores?

JY Yes.

JF Well, it was the case -- when you did say "enough" you could leave, and you did.

JY Yes.

JF Then you mentioned that you were married, but you did not have children.

JY No, not by our marriage, but Clarence had a daughter from his first marriage, and then two grandchildren.

JF But even though the daughter was not in the home when you were married, you still had to juggle work and family responsibilities. How did you do that?

JY Well, we used a shorthand pad to write ourselves notes and we each tried to help each other like doing the laundry, cooking or shopping, things like that. We had two cars so it was never a problem getting to and from work.

JF I think you mentioned at one time that you and your husband worked different shifts, so that was why the written communication and that kind of activity.

JY Yes.

JF Why did you work?

JY Well, I guess you have your standards of living, and Clarence had had some bad luck with his first marriage, his first wife had a lingering illness and then she passed away, and he had a lot of bills. They were paid up when we did get married, but I decided to continue working for awhile.

JF Okay. Then, have you ever seen yourself as a leader?

JY Well, sometimes I probably say things I shouldn't. But, you know, someone says "Why didn't you speak up" or something. Well, I'm the one that speaks up, I let people know my idea. So I don't know -- maybe I'm a leader.

JF You were a Major in the Army -- no, I'm sorry I mean the Air Force. That certainly ...

TAPE BLANK AGAIN

JY Well, I think it varies, sometimes I think I'm a follower, and other times maybe I am a leader. It depends -- if I know the subject matter and I'm real gung ho on something I guess I'm a leader.

JF Now, one of the questions that I ask people is if they've seen themselves as involved in the Women's Movement, but when I use that term I do not mean that political, verbal ...

TURNING TAPE OVER

JF Have you seen yourself as involved with women working, and active in the community?

JY Well, I'm for women working. The only thing that bothers me is the fact that they don't always want to pay women for doing to same work at the same amount of money as a man. I really don't think that's fair if they hold up their end of the bargain, because you're putting in the man hours.

JF Now, when of the things your husband was saying earlier, is even though you are retired as far as working for pay is concerned, you really are still involved in what goes on in this community where you're living now and nursing.

JY This is a retirement community and we do have a number of people who have long term illness. I do have a blood pressure cuff and try to help people take their blood pressure if they need it. I did have a next door neighbor who has since passed away, he was on a number of medications and he was very groggy and very disoriented. So I ...

TAPE BLANK AGAIN

JY ... side affects, so she was able to get the list to her doctor and ... number of medications, plus the fact there was two doctors ordering things and evidently, one didn't know what the other had been ordering. So I want to think I helped in that case.

JF Do people seek you out?

JY Oh, I get phone calls from people wanting to know different things. We just had another incident with this fellow who'd had emphysema and then he got pneumonia, and he'd gone down to Desert Samaritan, then he ended up with a tracheostomy. She's a personal friend of mine anyway, so I went over and tried to help a little bit. Mainly, he's a strong-willed little guy, and he wouldn't let them suction him and was,

you know, giving them a rough time. So, Jim and I have a pretty good rapport, and I think I got him over the hump on that. He seems to be doing quite well now.

JF That's good. I'm sure that your neighbors appreciate your good services. Well, this somewhat ends my laundry list of topics here. But before we do conclude the interview, is there anything that we have not covered that you think might be important to add in on your experiences as a Cadet Nurse and Registered Nurse?

JY I can't think of anything right now, probably when you leave I'll think of something.

JF That is very often the case. One thing I do want to clarify -- it was my understanding from the material that you received that your name was Yeptke, but that's with two t's, Yettke?

JY Right.

JF Okay, we'll see that that's correct.

JY I didn't know whether to stop you earlier, but I wanted to remind myself.

JF Well, it will go in the labels with the correct spelling, but it sounds wrong when ...

JY Do you want my regular address with the box number?

JF Yes, I will need that, but I think this does conclude our interview. Thank you again.