

Early Days of the Nursing Station

Collector: Gertie Fowler

Contributor: Phyllis Roberts

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, today is July 8th 2009 and my name is Gertie Fowler and I'm here in the home of Phyllis Roberts today, and Phyllis is going to share with me some memories she has of early days working at the Forteau Nursing Station. So Phyllis would you like to share some memories with me today.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yes, I would like to share some memories of the time I worked at the Nursing Station in Forteau. Ah... I started working at the Nursing Station in 1956 and I was hired on has a cook....ah... there was two of us girls working there, one... I was a cook and the Olive Belbin she was an aid.... what they use to call them then hey... aid. And we had a nurse... ah... Nurse Taylor, ah... she was here a few years before that.

I think she come in 1953, she come here...

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Phyllis Roberts:

And ah.... she worked as a nurse and a doctor all together. Ah so ah... I was hired on cook but I did a lot of work with Miss Taylor, like ah... in the dispensary they use to call it then, not an emergency room, it was a dispensary.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay, that's what they called it.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah. So whether I was cooking, or whether I was washing the dishes, or whether I was getting the meals ready, or something, and she had somebody in the dispensary that she needed help and Olive wasn't around, she would call on me.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes.

Phyllis Roberts:

And whatever I was doing, I just had to just let it go and go into the dispensary with ah...

Nurse Taylor. And ah... whether it was ah... pulling a tooth, she always needed help like holding your head and that. We use to hold their head...patients head for her until she get the tooth out.

Gertie Fowler:

So she use to pull teeth and everything?

Phyllis Roberts:

Oh, yes. She use to pull teeth.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes maid.

Phyllis Roberts:

And the same thing, if anybody had a arm or a leg or anything broken, then she needed help to put the cast on. We were called on to that, either me or Olive but I did spend a lot of time in the dispensary with Miss Taylor, hey. And I learned a lot from her.

Gertie Fowler:

Did you?

Phyllis Roberts:

Really. I did so.

Gertie Fowler:

Hmmm...

Phyllis Roberts:

Although, I was only young but ah... I learned a lot from her. Yeah.

So ah... at that time we use to have a lot of patients in to, hey. Like probably, we'd have five or six in sometimes. And we use to have to get their meals set up the trays and ah... bring their meals into them into their room to them. And then in the night time, we use to have to set out the trays for their breakfast. Set them all out on the cupboard and put all the dishes on them, ready to put whatever we had for breakfast whether it was cereal or eggs or whatever, we use to have to have them all sut up ready for in the morning.

And ah.... they use to have to go up every morning around seven o'clock and bring her up her cup of tea in her bed every morning, hey.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

Every morning, she use to have her nice cup of tea brought to her in the bed.

Gertie Fowler:

That was nice. She deserved it, I guess.

Phyllis Roberts:

Oh, yes. She deserved it, yup.

Gertie Fowler:

So Phyllis, where did ah... where did they have the food come from now?

Phyllis Roberts:

From St. Anthony.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay. Everything use to come in.

Phyllis Roberts:

Use to have it come over on the Cluett. Use to bring it over and their supplies for the winter and ah... we had a storage room downstairs in the basement. A big storage room, that's where all the food was stored too. In this big storage room, hey.

Gertie Fowler:

Hmmm.hmmm.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yup, and there was ah.... she use to go outside like ah... visiting at the homes.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

Anybody sick. She use to do a lot of visiting, outside the hospital. Going to their houses and look at them and take care of 'em....

Gertie Fowler:

Did she maid?

Phyllis Roberts:

... whatever they needed. Yeah.

Whether it was something for the flu, or something for cough, or anything, if she was called on... she'd go outside and do a clinic so well as she would at the hospital. Is that right?

And ah...she use to go to L'Anse au Loup too, for to do a clinic...

Gertie Fowler:

Hmmm.

Phyllis Roberts:

And L'Anse au Clair. She use to take a day and go outside in ah...

Gertie Fowler:

So where would she have that clinic to now?

Phyllis Roberts:

In L'Anse au Loup, she would have it at Aunt Ann Barney's.

Gertie Fowler:

Hmmm..hmmm.

Phyllis Roberts:

That's where she use to have her clinic to down there. So ah...

Gertie Fowler:

Do you know where she had it up to L'Anse au Clair?

Phyllis Roberts:

Nope I don't know where she use to go to L'Anse au Clair, but I use to ... there was a few times, I went to L'Anse au Loup with her.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

To ah... help her to ah...go to work or whatever. At this particular time, she went at L'Anse au Loup. She went down in the morning which she was planning on coming back again after supper like hey, or whenever. Ah...but she couldn't get back, now the reason, I don't know. I don't know if it got stormy or where she went down in the boat and it blew and she couldn't get back, I don't know. I can't think.

But she didn't get back anyway.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Phyllis Roberts:

And we had ah... I think, there was three women, we had in at that time was expecting babies, hey? So ah... here me and Olive was left to the Nursing Station with these women, and which Miss Taylor thought when she left, everything was okay. Everything was perfect. So ah.... early night, I don't know what time, we were gone to

bed anyway, this lady came and knocked on the door and told us we had to get up, we said “what for”. She said “I’m going to have me baby”.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, maid.

Phyllis Roberts:

Now, here it was just me and Olive and I mean, we never had no... nothing about any more then what we see when we was working there, hey. We did help her to deliver a lot of babies...

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Phyllis Roberts:

...and helped her do her work, whatever was needed to be done. So ah..., we thought she was only joking with us, so we got up and come down. She said “no my dear” she said, “I’m gonna have me baby”. So ah.. very good, so I goes down to Mrs. Flynn’s, Aunt Bessie Flynn’s , ‘cause they had the was no telephones or nothing. They had landline is what you’d call it, I suppose.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes.

Phyllis Roberts:

And ah... I tried to get her to get hold to Mr. O’Brien, I think it was in L’anse au Loup.

Gertie Fowler:

Leo O’Brien.

Phyllis Roberts:

Leo O’Brien. To relay the message to Miss Taylor that we had a woman that was going in labor and what should we do when so... but she couldn’t get through the lan..the lan... the landline was down or pole was down or something, anyway they couldn’t get no communication. So ah... Aunt Bessie said, “should I go up”. I said “nope, nope, me and Olive is going to ... if we got to, we’re going to deliver this baby”.

So anyway, I come back and I told Olive, I said “no maid, we can’t through to Mr. O’Brien’s, I guess we’re going to have to do the best we can.” So anyway, we went into the dispensary and took out the doctor book which we did have some experience because like I say, we helped her with babies before, hey.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes.

Phyllis Roberts:

So we got the doctors book out and we through a few things and she sung out, she said “you better come out” she said, “cause me baby is coming”. (laughs)

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, maid.

Phyllis Roberts:

So ah... “so very good, Olive, let’s put down the book, we got to go and deliver this baby and ah do what we can and hope and pray that everything is going to be okay”. So anyway, we went in with this lady, and ah.. I won’t say her name....

Gertie Fowler:

No, that’s fine.

Phyllis Roberts:

I went in with this lady and ah... we got her all sut up and brought in the tray with all ... everything sterilized on it and everything. We knew where to get all that too, hey. So we brought it in anyway, and set up the tray on the table and ah... we hoped and prayed that everything was going to be okay.

So anyway, we had a good delivery, I think it was a girl. I’m not sure now, ‘cause that’s a long while ago.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

I think it was a girl and ah... we had ah... she had ah.. she had a good delivery, perfect, couldn’t have no better. And we just, the baby never safe... never nothing only just come out and start to cry.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

Just as simple as that.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah. God took care of everything.

Phyllis Roberts:

God took care of everything for us.

Gertie Fowler:

Hmmm...hmmm..

Phyllis Roberts:

So anyway, we fold ... wrapped the baby up and put it in the crib and everything and did all our work and cleaned everything up. Although we kept everything for

Gertie Fowler:

Sure

Phyllis Roberts:

... for the nurse, hey. When she come back.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

For their exam and everything.

So anyway, she came back the next morning, the next day dinner hour and ah... she come in. But that night in L'Anse au Loup, she told me, that she went to bed but there was something telling her there was something going on at the Nursing Station, that night. But she couldn't ...she couldn't figure what it was, hey.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Phyllis Roberts:

So ah... "about four or four thirty in the morning", she said, "everything left her".

Gertie Fowler:

That was when the baby was born?

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah.

So she said ah... she went to sleep and she woke up the next morning and she said she didn't have a thought or a clue or nothing that.. what could have went on that night when she was a way. So she came back the next day, and we told her we had a surprise for her. So we brought her in and she saw the baby in the crib, she didn't know what to say.

Gertie Fowler:

(laughs)

Phyllis Roberts:

She was overjoyed for us....

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, because ye'

Phyllis Roberts:

But she... 'cause it was such a job we done, hey. And like you say, we were only just two, never with no ah... ah... experience at all anymore than when we was in with her, although we seen a good many babies being born. But ah...she did she did say a few words to the patient because she should have told her before she left that she ... she didn't have any pain, but there was some feeling that she was going to go in labor that night. But ah... she didn't tell Miss Taylor so, if anything happened I guess it would have been...

Gertie Fowler:

The patients....

Phyllis Roberts:

...her mistake, not ours, hey. But anyway, we had a fine night of it and ah...everything went good and the baby was good and everything and the misses was good so ah...

Gertie Fowler:

Good learning experience.

Phyllis Roberts:

Good learning experience, yup.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, sir.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yup...really good experience. And we had...we had another experience too, me and Olive ah... I don't know wherever I'm too or whatever I'm at, I'm always getting into something whether it is good or bad, I suppose. (Both laughs)

She was to L'Anse au Clair this time to ah.. went up and done a clinic.

Gertie Fowler:

Hmmm.

Phyllis Roberts:

And Mr. Phil Hancock, he was ...brought down a quarter of paint to put on the stove for warm it or something. And whatever foolin' he had, he tipped the paint over on the stove and the...and the paint caught a fire and he took the can with his two hands, like that and left the house... left the kitchen and went out-a-doors with 'em. With the can in his hands. Burnt his two hands, they were right raw.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, maid.

Phyllis Roberts:

So he came in then and Miss Taylor and Nurse Taylor wasn't home. So me and Olive got the ... got out the container with all the sterilized gauze and Vaseline gauze and everything was into it. We wrapped his hands up and ah... told him to leave it on for two or three days, hey, without touching it.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes.

Phyllis Roberts:

So she didn't bother about looking at it when she came home. She said, that's what she would have done herself so the next two or three days, he'd come in and she unwrapped his hand and we looked at 'em. And she told us, that we sove his two hands....

Gertie Fowler:

Yes.

Phyllis Roberts:

By what we done. She said he could have lost the two of 'em.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, for sure.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah. So I had ah... I had quite a few experiences when I was working over there in things like that hey... but ah... never got much pay just the same. Our pay was very low.

Gertie Fowler:

Was it maid. What did you get?

Phyllis Roberts:

We got fifteen dollars a month.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, maid. I 'spose that was a lot then.

Phyllis Roberts:

Well it meant a lot to them, I guess. But ah...

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

...but that's what we got fifteen dollars a month, hey.

And then we use to have to ah... like if you use it like now, I don't know what they

does now for sterilize but we use to have to do a lot of sterilizing like ah... wrap up gauze, like and wrap up instruments, and everything and put in this big... this big container with ah... pressure cooker on it.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

And that's how we use to do our sterilize.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh. Okay.

Phyllis Roberts:

We use to take that out and ah.. put it in.

Gertie Fowler:

How did that operate now? Did that go by ah... 'cause ye had...

Phyllis Roberts:

Yes.

Gertie Fowler:

Ye' had electricity.....

Phyllis Roberts:

We never.. we had electricity, we had our own diesel out in the ... out in the power plant, hey?

Gertie Fowler:

In the back.

Phyllis Roberts:

Our own diesel that would operate the lights and the heaters like ah... the heaters you would have... water heaters or something.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh. Okay. Radiators.

Phyllis Roberts:

Radiation, yeah. That's what that use to operate, hey.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Phyllie Roberts:

But as for our cooking and that, we had to do it on a wood stove, we had wood and coal.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

That's how we use to do our cookin'

Gertie Fowler:

Where did the wood come from now?

Phyllis Roberts:

Well the men use to haul wood and ah...bring it over there and get so much a load for it. I think they use to pay some kind of a little fee or something. Hospital fee or something, So much a year is it?

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

And they use to bring wood over and haul it over and write their names down in the book, who brought the wood and they would get paid for it like that.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes maid.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah. That ah... they had a pretty good system going, though didn't they?

Phyllis Roberts:

Oh yes, yeah. And we had a little boy down the outside room too, I use to go down and give ah.. give him a needle.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah. So what was that all about?

Phyllis Roberts:

He will any time Miss Taylor was busy and she couldn't make it down that day that she was suppose to go down, she use to send me or... I don't know... I don't know if Olive went down or not. Anyway, I knows I went down, I went down several times. She use to give me her nurses kit and I traveled over the road, walked down from the hospital

over the road, down outside room and with the nurses kit in me hand. You wouldn't know but I had a million dollars. (laughs)

Gertie Fowler:

(laughs) So Phyllis....

Phyllis Roberts:

I use to be proud of it...

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah. Ah.. she showed you how to give a needle?

Phyllis Roberts:

Oh yeah. She showed us how to do it, give a needle.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh, okay.

Phyllis Roberts:

Went down, yes. And give him his needle and walk back home again and ... no such thing as get on in your car or truck or nothing...

Gertie Fowler:

No.

Phyllis Roberts:

...you had to walk.

Gertie Fowler:

That's why she couldn't go, I guess wasn't enough time to walk with everything else she had to do.

Phyllis Roberts:

Oh, yes. We had to ah... we learned to do a lot of things like that.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, for sure.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah, we ... I 'spose what you would call a "Jack of all Trades", I suppose. Olive use to help me when I was busy and then if they needed extra help, I use to go and help them, hey.

Gertie Fowler:

So how many hours a day then did you work?

Phyllis Roberts:

How many hours? All... well really we was on from ...twenty four hours around the clock, put it that way.

Gertie Fowler:

If you were needed...

Phyllis Roberts:

We slept in. We use to sleep in over there.

Gertie Fowler:

Sleep over to the

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah, sleep over...

We had our own bedroom, and we use to sleep...every night and ah... and any hour in the night, if she wanted help for anything, anybody come in sick or anything, she use to come up and call one of us and if I got up one night, well then the next night if she had to get anyone up, Olive would get up.

Gertie Fowler:

Sure, you'd take turns.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah, take turns like that, hey.

Gertie Fowler:

Hmmmm...hmmm.

Phyllis Roberts:

We use to get a half a day a week off. I use to get Wednesday evening off and Olive use to get Thursday evening. And we ah... use to be every second night, we'd get out.

Gertie Fowler:

Would you?

Phyllis Roberts:

Other than that we were there the whole twenty four hours around, hey?

Gertie Fowler:

Is that right?

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah. No such thing as work eight hours a day and then you're off and

Gertie Fowler and Phyllis Roberts:

...go home.

Phyllis Roberts:

But just ... you still... you was on such a thing as you were on duty or on call all the time. Whenever you was needed.

Gertie Fowler:

You life wasn't your own....

Phyllis Roberts:

No.

Gertie Fowler:

...like you was over there and...

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah.

Gertie Fowler:

You just devoted it to ah...

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah. Yeah. But she was a good nurse, like I say, she act like a nurse and a doctor, hey.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

Because ah... we use to have a RT... we never had no telephone, we use to have a RT set. And ah... you'd call St. Anthony and relay the message and if they didn't get 'em then you'd call Mary's Harbor and Mary's Harbor would relay the message and Flower's Cove was same thing.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh. Okay. So that's how you....

Phyllis Roberts:

That's how we would get the

Gertie Fowler:

If people was sick to hey, you was telling me.... if people was over to St. Anthony, the only way they would get the ah...report...

Phyllis Roberts:

The only way you would get the report was on the RT set.

Gertie Fowler:

So how did that work.

Phyllis Roberts:

Well she would ... they would give the nurse the report.... now if we went on talking, they wouldn't give us the report.

Gertie Fowler:

No?

Phyllis Roberts:

But she they would relay the report to Nurse Taylor.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh. Okay.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah. Hmmm. I can hear them now. I forgets the call letters now, I knows it was 3 – 0 – 3 -3, was one. I don't know which one it was. I believe it was ours. (laughs)

Gertie Fowler:

Was it?

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah.

Gertie Fowler:

They had numbers...

Phyllis Roberts:

Oh yes, we had a number, hey. Flowers Cove had one and Mary's Harbor had one, St. Anthony had one, Forteau had one.

Gertie Fowler:

So what did you say yours was?

Phyllis Roberts:

I think 'twas 3-0-3-3.

Gertie Fowler;

Yeah. Okay.

Phyllis Roberts:

Seems like it wasI ... I'm not quite sure, but ah...

Gertie Fowler:

So what else did you do over there?

Phyllis Roberts:

Oh my. I don't know. I could tell lots of stories, I could tell more than that but ah... they were personal things.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay. Yeah. So ah...

Phyllis Roberts:

But I mean, I worked there for two years, that's how long I was there, but ah...like I say.

Gertie Fowler:

So Phyllis why did you give up now?

Phyllis Roberts:

I gave up and got married.

Gertie Fowler:

And back then, that was the thing wouldn't it?

Phyllis Roberts:

That was the thing then, yup.

Gertie Fowler:

If you got married, regardless.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah. But she told me several times that I worked under her care, she told me "Phyllis" she said, "you should go back to school and go get a nursing trade" she said, "you'd make a perfect nurse".

Gertie Fowler:

Did she?

Phyllis Roberts:

Yup.

Gertie Fowler:

But Phyllis, why would you... just because you was gettin' married, like right now, hey, this day and age...

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah, now everybody would go back to work.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

But I did go back to ah... she called me a few times.. Peggy Hancock, when she was an infant baby, she was a month old I think, she had the hooping cough.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

And ah... I use to go over and stay up one night and Olive use to go over stay up the next night.

Gertie Fowler:

Is that right?

Phyllis Roberts:

Use to take her and more than once give her a smack on the backside to try to get her to stop hoopin'.

Gertie Fowler:

Stop coughing.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah.

Gertie Fowler:

So what about darning and sewing and that now for the Grenfell Mission and that.

Phyllis Roberts:

I didn't do much sewing for the Grenfell Mission, but I done a bit of darning for Miss Taylor. (laughs)

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah. So what's darning now, what is darning?

Phyllis Roberts:

Well.. it's a hole, if you got a hole in your sock or in your mitt or your sweater or something, you get a bit of wool the color of the material and what you call a darning needle...it's bigger than a sewing needle.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

So put your thread in the darning needle and ...you get sort of a wave.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay. Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

You go one way straight and then you come back, you go waving. She use to tell me I use to do a good job.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

She didn't get nobody else do her darning, only me.

Gertie Fowler:

(laughs) Very good.

Phyllis Roberts:

But she really fell in love with me. But she did have some respect for me just the same, hey. It's ah..

Gertie Fowler:

For sure she did.

Phyllis Roberts:

... she was a very nice nurse. She had her faults and so did we. She might have give us a few blowing out sometimes, but it was our own fault like, hey.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay. Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

We gave her the reason to say it.

Gertie Fowler:

To do things.

Phyllis Roberts:

But other than that, I don't find.... And today, I don't see no fault in Miss Taylor.

Gertie Fowler:

You respect her.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah, I respect her and I

Gertie Fowler:

Highly.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah. I do so, highly respect her.

Gertie Fowler:

So do you think then that ah... the way of life improved ah... since the nursing station days.

Phyllis Roberts:

Oh my goodness, yes, improved a lot.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah and can you tell me in any ways, now.

Phyllis Roberts:

Well they got more advantages... more stuff to do their work with, and they got more nurses and they got more doctors and the telephone and everything is more convenient for ... for to get your word out there that you need help for anything, hey.

Gertie Fowler:

Hmmm..

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah.

Gertie Fowler:

So is there anything else now, you'd like to add to your story?

Phyllis Roberts:

Ah... no I don't think, anymore than we use to have ah... we use to have our Christmas parties and that you know.

Gertie Fowler:

Hmmm. So what was the Christmas party like?

Phyllis Roberts:

Christmas party between the staff.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh. Okay.

Phyllis Roberts:

The same as they do now, hey. Only there wasn't quite so big a staff now, but with Miss Taylor and we use to have our boyfriend in and so she use to ask a few of her friends around. Like Uncle Will and Aunt Pearl and Grandfather and Grandmother Hancock and ah...will we use to have about... well Steward and his... well I'd say we use to have in about ah.. twenty people or so.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Phyllis Roberts:

In for a party, we set up the place in the dining room and ah... we use to have Santa Claus and have a little gift exchange and ah... yeah.

Gertie Fowler:

So...

Phyllis Roberts:

I know one time and we had our Christmas party and we had oh, I think five or six perhaps more. No I would say five or six women, that had had babies during that week before Christmas, still went ahead with our party.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

and they stayed too. Yeah.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay. So Phyllis that was the thing then was it, if you was having a baby, you went and stayed at the.....

Phyllis Roberts:

If you was having a baby, during the Winter months, well they probably come up a month before their due date...

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, maid.

Phyllis Roberts:

And stay at the Nursing Station.

Gertie Fowler:

For that full month.

Phyllis Roberts:

For that full month, yeah.

Gertie Fowler:

So sometimes, you'd have so high as

Phyllis Roberts:

Sometimes, we would have perhaps a half a dozen in .

Gertie Fowler:

Is that right?

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah. Use to sit around the table and have dinner, supper, breakfast and they use to come and sit around the table with us and eat their meals...

Gertie Fowler:

And just wait for their baby.

Phyllis Roberts:

And just wait for their baby.

Gertie Fowler:

My God. Yes, maid.

Phyllis Roberts:

Well there was no other transportation then only by boat or by dog team; dog team in the winter and boat in the summer time. Now the road was true, but they never had it upgraded like or nothing hey.

Gertie Fowler:

Nope.

Phyllis Roberts:

'Twas nothing, to travel on.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

So Phyllis, you said you had a Christmas party at...with the staff and that but there was... was there any Christmas party or anything like for the community or anything.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah. We use to have one over in what they use to call Louie A. Hall.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

That ah... that building over... no... Brooks Hall.

Gertie Fowler:

Brooks Hall.

Phyllis Roberts:

Brooks Hall.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Phyllis Roberts:

In the ... what they use to call industrial nurses use to come over from St. Anthony and ah... do things like play games and everything for the youngsters and grown ups have something else for the grown ups, so we would have parties like that.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah, that's nice then.

Phyllis Roberts:

Oh, yeah we had a few scruffin's like that. They was grand old days.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, I bet.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yup, they were grand old days.

We were earnest about our work but we had our fun as well.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes.

Phyllis Roberts:

There was time for that too. There wasn't time for leisure all the time, we use to have our fun time as well as our work time.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Phyllis Roberts:

But when we was working, we had to be devoted to it.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh, okay.

Phyllis Roberts:

More or less, hey.

Gertie Fowler:

Okay.

Phyllis Roberts:

Had to be devoted to what we was doing and what we was doing, we had to have interest into it. But when that was over, then we

Gertie Fowler:

...had to work.

Phyllis Roberts:

...had to work. And if we had a baby born in the middle of the night, ah... perhaps two or three o'clock, three or four o'clock in the morning, we use to fry eggs and bacon and have our breakfast.

Gertie Fowler:

Yes, maid. And you...you would give it to the mother too?

Phyllis Roberts:

No... no... just me and the nurse ... me and the nurse and Olive.

Gertie Fowler:

Oh. Okay.

Phyllis Roberts:

Three of us.

Gertie Fowler:

That would be like, almost like a little celebration?

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah. Almost like a little celebration, you would call it, hey, after the baby was born.

Gertie Fowler:

That's nice.

Phyllis Roberts:

We had a few women that was ah....tipsy, turvey, I'd say...

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

It was pretty close to

Gertie Fowler:

Losing them or?

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah, pretty close to losing them.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah. And you never had no one to call on, hey.

Phyllis Roberts:

Nope, Miss Taylor.... one lady in particular she did call Dr. Marcoux from Long Point,

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

Which he came and helped her to ah... but I don't know, perhaps I shouldn't say so, but she was bad enough that ... they didn't know if they were going to save her or not. But after, they....

Gertie Fowler:

But she did.

Phyllis Roberts:

But after he came and I was in with her that time, too. Me, and her and the Doctor.

Gertie Fowler:

So Phyllis ah...

Phyllis Roberts:

So everything proved out the last, thank God.

Gertie Fowler:

So overall, like of all the babies and things and that she born and that ye borned at the hospital, like everything worked out that most all mothers was...

Phyllis Roberts:

Oh, yes.

Gertie Fowler:

Good.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah. They use to ... she use to keep them in for five or six days, probably six days. You might get home the fifth day, if ah.... everything looked good. But mostly six days, she'd keep them in.

Gertie Fowler:

Yeah.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yeah.

Gertie Fowler:

Would you have to stay in bed for the first few days.

Phyllis Roberts:

Oh, no. Oh yes the first couple of days, you'd have to stay in the bed. Then you'd get up and around, then.

But when you went home, she was sure that everything was okay.

Gertie Fowler:

Before you got out.

Phyllis Roberts:

Yup.

Gertie Fowler:

So is that all you'd like to add today?

Phyllis Roberts:

I'd think that's about it for today.

Gertie Fowler:

Well I'd like to thank you very much for your memories Phyllis, they were beautiful.