

LUCILLE RIDDELL DENEVAN

Interviewed by:
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Oral History Project
Latah County Museum Society

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LUCILLE RIDDELL DENEVAN

Bovill; b. 1900

nurse

2 hours

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with Sam Schrager

Nov. 11, 1975

II. Transcript

This conversation with Lucille Riddell Denevan, took place at her home in Lewiston, Idaho on November 11, 1975. The interviewer is Sam Schrager.

SS: When did you first think you were interested in becoming a nurse?

LD: Oh, I always wanted to be a nurse, from the time I was a little girl. We lived close to a hospital in Warren, Minnesota. And my mother said I use to follow those nurses down the street every chance I got. I guess I admired their uniforms, that's what I liked. So I always wanted to be a nurse, as long as I can remember I wanted to be a nurse. Well, I wanted to go to Minneapolis and take my training, because I thought I'd have so many more advantages, bigger schools and everything. But my mother didn't want me to be a nurse. She wanted me to be a teacher. And I told her I didn't think I was smart enough to be a teacher. See, I only had one year of high school, that's all I had. And she said, "Well, you can go on to school and be a teacher." You know, nurses aren't thought much of. So, my older sister, who was 17 years older than I, she was just like a mother said, "Why don't I take her??" 'Cause I was only 16. "Why don't I take her with me and take care of her?" And she only lived two blocks from this small hospital. I got very good training there, and then I had by last 6 months in Chicago.

SS: You trained at the hospital?

LD: Yes. That was at Mowbridge, South Dakota, where my sister lived. And then my last six months I had at ^{the} Washington Boulevard Hospital in Chicago. So that was good. Then I came from there to Bovill.

SS: What was the basis for your mother thinking that nurses were...

LD: I don't think that years ago that people thought too much of nurses, I really don't think so. The idea of them having to bathe men and all ^{that}. My mother didn't like it. She was a person that didn't go along with that at all. And she thought it would be so much nicer if I would be a teacher. I would be looked up to so much more if I were a teacher. She said, another thing, ^{Really} it was awfully hard work, which it was. hard work and she just didn't want me to be a nurse. She thought that I could do better than

being a nurse. ^{Now} I look at the wages the nurses make now. Course, we didn't when I look back and think how we worked, really took care of the patients and now the nurses don't do a damn thing and get all that money and I can't understand it. You got to a hospital now, and if you have any kind of an operation, they expect you the next day to get up and take care of yourself. So this one nurse said to me, ^{Its} "Better for you." Okay, if it's better for you, why don't they let the patients go home instead of keeping 'em in the hospital, if you're going to take care of yourself. Why can't you go home then, why should you run up that big bill?" And you know, those patients that have had abdominal surgery, major operations, they're up the next day, taking care of themselves and going to the bathroom and taking their own baths and everything like that. What if they faint or something like that? Nobody to look after 'em. Those nurses don't pay any attention to 'em.

SS: Your mother changed her mind and let you go.

LD: Well, yes, but she didn't really want me to, but she did let me go. Because I was going with my sister who was 17 years older than I. And she put me through training and bought all my clothes and everything. I was about the best dressed nurse there.

SS: Your sister or your mother?

LD: No, my sister. My mother didn't want anything to do with it. She didn't stop me from going, but she certainly wasn't happy about me going.

SS: What was your sister doing?

LD: She was married, and had a husband with plenty of money.

SS: She helped support you?

LD: Yeah. She put me through ^{three} my years of training. Bought all my clothes. I had anything I wanted. 'Cause she never had any kids of her own. So I really was like her daughter ^{to her}. And her husband liked me real well. Anything that she wanted to do for me, why that was fine with him. I know one time I saw a hat downtown that I wanted. And it was twelve dollars and a half. And I just mentioned it, that's all I did, ^{was} just mention it, how pretty it

was. wasn't very long, couple of days, and I had my hat. So. She had a really lovely home and she was a person that entertained a lot. Instead of entertaining ~~couples~~ and everything like that, her husband had a clothing store, she would have these parties like on Thanksgiving and Christmas and New Year's for the young men around town that didn't have homes. And she'd fix these big dinners for them. Have her table stretched out in her dining room. Gosh, I don't know how many she could sit at it. And ^{for} most all the time, if I was available so I could help her, I did. If I couldn't help her, most of the time she did it herself. Just she and her husband. She'd do all that cooking for all those people. Wonderful cook, marvelous cook.

SS: What were the men doing?

LD: Railroad men.

SS: She was doing that as a kindness.

LD: Yeah. Absolutely. Now, that big vase there, my brother-in-law won that at a carnival and he gave me two of 'em and my sister had 'em packed in different boxes up in her garage and of course, those days nobody thought about in their garage or in their house or anything. And then all my nurses books were in a box there too, I just left 'em when I went to Chicago. And I told her ^{that} probably I would need a book or so, but I'd taken what I thought I needed. I needed a book and I sent to her for it so she went out in the garage to look for it. ^{Here} All my nurses book, somebody had stolen them and stole one of the boxes with the vase in it, so I only have the one. See. And I didn't have it for a long time 'cause there wasn't a way to get it to me. Finally I got to Mowbidge and was able to bring it back with me.

SS: What was the training like learning how to be a nurse?

LD: Well, I suppose like it ^{was probably like it} is now. See, we had three months probation period. And now I think it's six months. We only had three months. And of course, the first three months, we did mostly all the dirty work that nobody else wanted to do, why we did. And then when we had been there three months, we got ^{our} caps and we got our cuffs to our uniform. We got different aprons and

different uniforms. We got the striped uniforms then. And before we had just plain, blue uniforms. ^{With} White aprons. And we had to furnish them ourselves. But the hospital gave us our uniforms. Caps and bibs and everything.

SS: Did you learn from the older nurses?

LD: Oh no. We had instructions, we had teachers and everything. We went to class every day. And we had ^{all kinds of} books. Our anatomy, probably that thick a book. And we had to study, just like going to school.

SS: You studied at the same time you worked in the hospital?

LD: Sure we did. We had classes everyddy. Course, not in the summertime, but we did all through the ^{school} ~~term~~ we did, just like anybody else. And we had doctors and we had our head nurse.

SS: Was Mowbridge actually a college?

LD: Oh no, it was just a small hospital. Very small hospital. We had a couple of doctors, though there. The second doctor, he taught a lot of our classes, and our superintendent taught the classes too. Course, I don't suppose we were probably as well educated. We were more ⁱ doing things instead of being so book smart. We was more practical work with us. But of course, we had to take a state board and everything like that so we had to know something about it.

SS: Did it come easy to you?

LD: Oh yeah. I loved every bit of it. And I would love to go back and do it over again. I've heard a lot of nurses say, "Not me." Well I enjoyed every bit of it. It's always been awful hard for me to understand how people can work and not be happy with their jobs. I don't see how you could. I would thinkt that you'd have to like your work to be happy and to make everybody else happy that you were taking care of and everything like that. If you hated your work, how could you be a very kind nurse? I can't conceive of anything like that. But I've heard a lot of people say, "I just have to drive myself to work." I said, jeepers, why don't you get a different job? You're not in the right thing. That's one thing I do think about the kids nowadays. They just don't know what they want to do. I think in our time, we, all of us pretty much knew,

course, we were all striving to get ahead. and everybody was. Where now if you are striving to get ahead, you can usually make a pretty good go of it 'cause there's too many people that don't want to. They don't want to make anything of their lives, I guess, I don't know what they want to do. But I knew all my life what I wanted to do and like I say I never was sorry for it.

SS: When you say those days everybody was striving to get ahead...

LD: Sure.

SS: Did that make it more difficult?

LD: You bet it did! Because everybody was trying as hard as you were. And where now I think if you really wanted to get ahead, you wouldn't have too much trouble, 'cause there's too many people that don't care about what they do or if they do anything or not.

SS: Do you think many people in those days were doing the kind of work they wanted to do?

LD: I think so, 'cause I think they knew what they wanted to do. I really do. And my older sister, who was 7 years older than I, she wanted to be a music teacher. She was very talented. She played the piano beautifully! And my mother sent her to the conservatory in Minneapolis. It cost her six dollars a lesson then, and that was years ago, it was probably about 1916 and '17. That girl practiced six hours a day! So that she could get everything, 'cause she realized it was hard for my mother to pay that much ^{for her}. And my younger sister, she really didn't want to do anything and she never did do anything. When she got out of high school, she made high school in three years, in fact, she was the only one in our family that graduated from high school. And there was seven of us. Course, my older brother, my mother's first baby died when he was just 9 months old. But the rest of us all went to high school, but none of us finished, except Florence and she made it in three years. But she got married, she didn't do anything with her education at all.

SS: The girl that went to the conservatory, was she able to use that?

LD: Yes, she played in church, she played for the shows and she ^{taught} music

lessons and she did everything. And then when she got married, she got a man that had a lot of money, she didn't get married young. She waited til she was 28 years old. And he bought her a baby grand piano.

SS: Is this the sister you stayed with?

LD: No. But my older sister was a schoolteacher. And that's why mother thought ^{that} I should be a schoolteacher. She was teaching school out of the eighth grade.

SS: Your older sister, her idea was you should do what you want to do?

LD: Yeah. Absolutely. And she talked to mother and she said, "You're going to make a terrible mistake if you don't let Lucille do what she wants to do, because all her life she's wanted to be a nurse. And she's crazy about the hospitals and the nurses and the uniforms and the whole business. You couldn't take her out of that and give her anything else. She wouldn't be happy." And I don't think I would've.

SS: It seems like a lot of women got married.

LD: My mother wasn't married too young. She was 18 when she was married. But she said a lot of girls she knew got married at 15 and 16 years old. Never had any high school, they were lucky if they had the eighth grade. But I ~~came~~ along a little bit later than that and I always wanted to get married, as far as that goes, but I certainly wanted to be able to have something to do. Course, my mother always told us, my dad died when I was 10 years old, my mother never remarried, and my mother always told us, "I'll put you through high school, but when you get through high school, you're on your own. You've got to make a way for yourselves. And decide what you want to do and what you want to be."

SS: In your family, there was more of a stress of making a living for yourself.

LD: Absolutely. I don't know if more so in my family than in any other family, though because everybody went along the same line and their kids were all smart kids and they went away to school and everything and all made something out of themselves. Mostly teachers. I went with a kid, I went with him all through school. He wanted to be a doctor and I always said I wanted to be

a nurse. And I said, when we get through, I really didn't think about marrying him, but I said, maybe I can come work for you. He said, "You bet you can come work for me." But of course, I never happened to be where he was. He was about three years older than I. And but we just knew that that's what we wanted to do, and he had to leave college, I don't know if he was out one year or two years to make enough money ^{so he could} to go on and finish college and go to medical school. Because in those days our parents just didn't have that kind of money. People now, their kids can do pretty much what they want to do, as far as money's concerned. But in those days it wasn't so easy. And that's why I say, the kids all had to work and make their own way.

SS: When you went to Chicago, was that the first time you'd gone to a big city?

LD: Yeah, I'll say! It was.

SS: What did Chicago seem like to you?

LD: I don't know. I was so cock-eyed busy when I was there that I really didn't have much time to really go an awful lot. And I didn't go a lot because if you didn't have an escort you just didn't go out in Chicago, that's all there is to it. And they just simply told us that we had to be awful careful. When we did have dates, that was alright, but if we didn't have a date, why, we used to go over on Michigan Avenue where there was a Chinese restaurant and we spent all of our money over there, that's what we did. And that was a lot of fun, but we'd go with a ^{bunch} of girls. And then when I did graduate, this superintendent, she said, "Well Miss Riddell, I certainly am surprised at you." I was always a little bit scared of her, I don't know. I was always a little bit on my guard, not that I didn't do my work and everything but I was just a little bit leery of her and I was awful afraid of the head doctor too. And I met him one time in the hall way and he said "Miss Riddell, I want to ask you something," I said alright. He said, "Every-time I meet you you act like you're scared to death of me." I said I am. He said, "Why are you scared of me?" I said I don't know, you just scare me, you're so gruff and everything. And he laughed. So one time, I had gotten out of surgery and ^{I WAS WORKING} on fourth floor, they called for Miss Riddell to come

up to surgery. To help out, they were having a brain operation—and quite a mess up there, so soon as I come in the door he says to me, "Miss Riddell, do you know how to wipe up blood?" And I said I sure do. "Okay, get busy around here and clean up this mess for us." That's the kind of man he was. But then after that we got to be real good friends. He told me he felt awful bad when I was going to leave because he said, "You are a good nurse and we'd like to keep you here." I said, you're awful slow asking me. And that's what I told Miss Buckley, our superintendent. I said, I didn't know you were interested in me. But, she said, "If I would have any idea that you were planning on leaving, I would have asked you to stay." I said, why do you think I would ^{n't} be looking for something to do if you didn't mention it to me? I thought probably that you weren't satisfied with my work. Oh yes, very satisfied with it. She said, "We just hate to lose you." I said, I'm sorry, but I've made other arrangements now. There's nothing I can do about it. I might come back and work for you sometime. I did go back to Chicago, but I ^{never went} back to Washington Boulevard. My friend and I went to Contagious, we worked out of Contagious in Chicago, where there were nothing but children. And once in awhile we'd have adults, but not very often. It was scarlet fever and diphtheria. We worked out there for a long time. It was just like staying in a big hotel. Our dining room was just massive. We had the most wonderful meals! They just treated us royal. Because, of course, it was hard to get nurses to work in those contagious places. Some of 'em were afraid, some of 'em didn't want to. It was a county institution. You know how kids are. All kids are nice. I just loved it there. But I did, I always liked my work and I don't know, I love my home and I love to work in my home and it's hard for me to understand women that really can't do anything and do a good job of it. I can't understand why there wouldn't be one thing that they ^{could} do and do it good. But you'd be surprised, they can't.

SS: At Washington Boulevard, you were still in training?

LD: Um huh. I was senior nurse, of course. We were senior nurses in our last

year. We had a little bit of preference. And not only that, when I went to Chicago, we got 15 dollars a month, and that was just about like what a hundred dollars a month would be now. Because that was a lot of money, because we got our board and room and everything. And of course, I got money from home all the time. And so I just was living the life of Riley, that's all there was to it. We worked awfully hard.

SS: Was there, how much and what kind of work?

LD: We worked 10 hours a day. We worked hard too, we really worked hard. We had a lot of patients to look after. They had to be bathed and taken care of and their beds had to be made, and brother, I'm telling you, we had no coffee breaks or nothing like that. We worked. And we worked our full ten hours, too. Night duty, we got two hours off at night there. Of course, I didn't when I was in Flourbridge, we worked straight 12 hours at night. But when we went to Chicago, you got two hours off at night. And sometimes, if we weren't too busy, it was really nice, maybe you'd get 5 to 7 off in the morning. You could go home and sleep for a little while, then you could go out and have a good time, the rest of the time, see.

SS: Is there a lot of difference in work between a nurse in training and a full fledged nurse?

LD: Of course, it would depend on what you were doing. Now ^{a lot of} nurses, after they get through training, they go into a doctor's office or they like to be head nurses or they like to be special nurses, or maybe they want to work in surgery, surgical nurses or something like that. ^{that's} what I wanted to be was a surgical nurse. And I wanted to go to Cook County, Chicago and take a six months course. But I felt like I should work a while. And that was bad for me, I should have gone right from training to Cook County and taken my six months, and then I could have had a real good job. Course, I never really had much trouble getting a job. I was always able to work. I never had any trouble like that, because nurses were always in demand then and they are now and always will be, probably. Long as they have people anyway.

SS: Did you live with the other nurses, like in a dormitory?

LD: Yeah, and my sister, she'd call me up and she'd say, "What hours are you going to have off?" I'd say maybe 1 to 3, 2 to 4, something. "Come down, I've got something for you." I'd go down there, and maybe she'd baked a cake. Maybe she had sandwiches made for me, or something like that. She was afraid I wasn't going to get enough to eat, and lord, they fed us so good. I didn't have a chance to get fat 'cause I worked too hard, to get fat.

SS: She was living in Chicago too?

LD: No, that was in Mowbridge. She lived two blocks from the hospital. When I went to Chicago I didn't know anybody. Nobody. But of course, I got in with the girls, it was a 100 bed hospital and there were quite a few nurses in training. We got along wonderful.

SS: Was there much difference in your social life in the two places?

LD: Of course yes, there was quite a bit of difference because we went to a dance in Mowbridge, you were very popular because there weren't that many girls. When you got to Chicago, there were all kinds of girls. But we didn't really go and dance too much in Chicago. We went to roller skating rinks. We used to skate a lot. And in the wintertime we ice skated and everything. I never really did dance too much because we just didn't do it. I suppose some of the nurses did, but the bunch that I traveled around with, we liked to roller skate and ice skate, things like that.

SS: Did they have big facilities?

LD: Oh lord, I should say they did. Those skating rinks were just really big. And of course, when I came to Bovill, I think there were about three of us girls, and of course, there were all kinds of lumberjacks there. Jeepers, nothing to go to a dance and have 8 and 10 and 12 dances ahead. It was really fun, really popular. I never lacked for fellows, I always had plenty of fellows. I didn't ever lack for them.

SS: Eight and twelve dances ahead. You'd have to keep track?

LD: Yeah, but of course the guys, they pretty much kept track too. But sometimes

of course, they were program dances. Lot's of time they weren't. But of course, lot of times I wasn't able to go, although ^{this} friend of mine, who I worked with, and she also graduated same hospital I did in Mowbridge, but she graduated a year before I did. Well, then she decided to go to Chicago, and take, she was only a two year girl and I was three years. But she decided to go to Cook County. I wanted her to wait til I could go, but she wouldn't do it. She went and took her six months course. Well, we were together quite a bit, and she came to Bovill with me. And she really didn't care about dancing, she was quite a bit older than I. She didn't like ^{to} dance, so most of the time I got to go, unless there was some emergency or something that I couldn't get away.

SS: Were the dances in Bovill full of more men than women?

LD: Oh yes. I should say. Always a lot of fellows. Not very many girls. Course, if the weather was good, the girls came from Elk River and other places to Bovill. But in the wintertime it was pretty hard to get around.

SS: Did more of the lumberjacks not from Bovill, did they come too?

LD: Yeah, and young men, not really from around Bovill, from other places, all over the country, as far as that goes, and came there to work in the woods. They were nice fellows. When they went out any place, they always looked nice.

SS: When you were at Chicago, did you see the different immigrant groups?

LD: Well, I'll tell you, where I was, this hospital was on Washington Boulevard and the nurses home was on Warren Avenue. We had an awful lot of Jewish people. Terrible lot of Jewish people. And of course, I suppose we had other people too, but ^{an} awful lot of Jews and we had some colored people too 'cause there were quite a few colored people in that district too. But I do think probably in those days, people didn't really go to the hospital and it isn't like it is now. Where they have medicare and all this and that. But in those days it was really expensive to go to a hospital. And you just didn't go unless you absolutely had to go. Course, like our baby cases and everything

like that, we had a lot of babies and things like that, and of course, we had a lot of surgery too. And another thing we had was an awful lot of ulcer patients. Dr. Sippy, I suppose he's been gone many years now, I don't know how long he's been gone, but he was an ulcer doctor and we had practically one floor of nothing in the world but ^{just his} patients. But like I say, you just didn't go to the hospital for every little thing like they do nowadays.

SS: Did you ever have contact with the immigrants?

LD: I suppose we did. I don't remember that it was anything out of the ordinary though. It was just regular run of people. But you want to remember, that goes back a long time and I can't remember all that stuff!

SS: You remember quite a bit, really.

LD: I just, because I had contact with too many people and I couldn't ^{remember} them all. Like the other night I went to a card party over at Clarkston, this lady said to me, "I was talking to one of your patients." I said one of my patients? She said "yes." I said, was it a man or a woman. She said, "It was a woman." And she said, "She told me what a good nurse you were." I said who in the world was it? She said, "I can't remember her name," but she pointed her out to me. She was a woman that I'd taken care of in Bovill. She'd had a bad hand. "And she showed me how you fixed her hand up." I said, Edith has always felt like I really did something wonderful for her. Because I did things that no other nurse would do because they didn't have a doctor. And I would do all those things. And really, God was good to me because I never got in any kind of a mess. And I used to worry a lot about it too. Because I thought I did that and maybe I shouldn't have. But I couldn't tell you how what Edith did to her hand. I know it was quite a while and I took care of it and everything. I don't remember ^{whether} I took any stitches or not. It's in this thumb, I think, on the right hand. It is, it's almost a perfect jump. She showed me the other night. I had to go, after she told this woman, I walked over to her then, I said, Edith, you're still bragging about me, aren't you? She said, "Ya, every chance I get, Lucille." I said let me

see that thumb of yours. So she showed to me. I said, it does look like a pretty good job. She said, "I'd say so, I'd say it was a real good job." But then another thing, it was hard to work in a place like Bovill too. Because they didn't have a doctor, and they thought just because you were a nurse that you should know as much as a doctor. And if you didn't know as much as a doctor you just weren't very smart now, I'm telling you! Because they just expected as much of you as they did of a doctor.

SS: What time period was it when there wasn't any doctor?

LD: Good god, there was a lot of times that we didn't have a doctor. In fact, practically from the time my kids were growing up. When my daughter was born, that was '26, and we didn't have a doctor then, I had to go to Potlatch when she was born, and I was gone from home pret'near a month! Waiting for her, and then after she was born. And then when my son, my youngest son was born, he was born in '30, we did have a doctor from Chicago and his wife, who was a nurse, and they were a fine team. So I got to stay home for that delivery. I told my husband I'm just not going to go to the hospital 'cause I'm not going to leave those two kids. I had a girl and a boy. I said, I'm just not going to go. And he said you better go, 'cause you'll be so particular, if everything isn't done right around the house it'll worry you to death and I said, no, I'm not going to go, I'm going to have Dr., I don't know for sure what his name was. I don't know if it was Raylius or what it was. But anyway, he was some kind of a foreigner I think, of some sort. But they came to the house and the baby was delivered. And then, off and on, we had doctors, but there was an awful lot of the time that we didn't have any doctors. Bovill had been without a doctor now for many, many years. I don't know if they even have a nurse up there any more. I don't know.

SS: In all the years that there was no doctor there that you were...

LD: First Aid nurse for Potlatch for many, many years.

SS: Were you, the people were supposed to go down to Potlatch if there was anything at all?

LD: Sure they had to go if they had to have surgery and things like that. But I used to take care of a lot of 'em. I only delivered one baby. I was fortunate, ^{not} to only get myself in one mess. Come through that alright, but I tell you, I worried myself sick for ~~feary~~ everything wouldn't go alright. But it did and finally the doctor got there before I had to cut the cord and oh lord, I thought, I know how to do it and everything, but I don't know if I can do it or not. I was just so worried, cause I thought, my land, what if anything, ^{would} happened to that baby or that mother? I'd never forgive myself.

SS: Was it an unexpected delivery?

LD: No, but she was a little bit early. And when they called me her labor was so far advanced and I called the doctor right away. He had to come from Moscow. And I said, you're going to come right away, and he said, "Yes, I'm going to come right away." I said I'm really worried about cutting that cord and he said, no, really it should be about 45 minutes before you cut it anyway, so don't worry about that. So, but nevertheless, it didn't help matters then. I did, I really worried. But there probably are some people around Bovill that would tell, and I'm not saying this to be smart or anything like that, 'cause like I say, I did do a lot of things and I ^{had} awfully good luck with anything that I did. And they would tell you that really I was an awfully good nurse. Because I did things for them and I didn't charge for 'em cause nobody had any money! And I did all this gratis, you know. And when I did get paid, and of course, when we got this one...

(End of side A)

SS: This was a guy that worked at Potlatch?

LD: Yeah. The superintendent of the Potlatch.

SS: He said you were gonna get paid for it?

LD: I did after he came, I didn't. And he said I had to buy my own supplies and everything. He said, "I want you to give me a list of every thing that you need." I said, listen, ~~is~~ this just going to be for the people in

Bovill, work for the Potlatch, or is it going to be for everybody? ^{in Bovill} He said no, pret'near everybody in Bovill is Potlatch anyway. And he said, "NO, I want you to give me a list of everything that you need and then anytime you come down and take care of, when they stop by and you give a shot or anything like that, the ambulance stops at your house, I want you to be paid for it. You worked for nothing long enough. From here on out you're not working for nothing anymore." But all the time I was married, I was married in '21, we left Bovill in '53, I did all the nursing in that town from then til I left. Course, I did have Doc White there. He was a veterinarian. But he had taken medicine and he did intend to be a doctor, but he decided it was going to be too long, so then he decided to be a veterinarian and he was good at that, but he was also pretty good M.D. too. But he would help me out, and he would say, I'd say you do it and he'd say "No, I can't because they could come back on me. But they couldn't come back on you. So you don't have to be afraid to do it. I'll tell you what to do." He said, "You do it." So that's the way it was. But I sure liked Kenney White, he was wonderful. ^{to me} And then another thing, I really had good thing established with the doctors in Moscow. They knew I was reliable, and they always let me have narcotics, of course in a bad emergency like that, you had to have morophine, things like that. So I never had any trouble having that. And I got along well with all the doctors in Moscow. I worked with all of 'em. Everybody didn't have the same doctor in Bovill and one would have this one and one would have the other one. Then they'd say if they needed shots or anything, well, ^{take} this up and give it to Mrs. Denevan, she'll do it for you. I gave a lot of penicillin and stuff like that. People that had allergies and stuff like that, gave 'em shots and everything. I'd like to have a nickel for every hypo I've given. Be a rich woman.

SS: Sounds like you did that as an expense to yourself if you were actually having to put in supplies.

LD: Yeah, well another thing, in the meantime, I was raising my family and helping my husband too and well, I was just busy all the time. Yeah, just

all the time. But I never felt like I had to really neglect my family because I couldn't go and take care of people 'cause I had all I could do at home. But in the case of emergency I always did go and help out. In fact, one time I went to help a friend of mine, her son was having convulsions, and I had sent my daughter home, we just lived a little ways and Helen was ^{just} a little girl. And I told her, Helen, you go home and pick up some chips for mother, and then when I come home I can build a fire. Do you know what she did? She went out there in the wood shed and grabbed up the axe, she was gonna make some kindling and she was probably 8 years old. And cut her finger clear through, right through there, still carries the scar. Here was her mother taking care of somebody else. And so then she come over and she was crying of course, and blood all over everything and Louise didn't dare tell me because she was afraid it would upset me so bad and of course, her son was so bad, the doctor was there and everything. But she came in and I said, what's going on out there? Who's that crying? Sounds like Helen. She said, "It is." I said what's the matter with her? She said she cut her finger a little bit. She didn't dare tell me how much she cut it. It was things that you ^{just} had to do, that's all. I just automatically had to do them. I don't think I ever turned anybody down that came to me and needed help. And lots of time I'd take care of people maybe two and three weeks. I know one man, he hurt his hand awful bad trying to chop presto log and cut his hand real bad. I probably took care of his hand for two or three weeks. I never got any money out of it. I never even got a thank you out of it.

SS: When you worked with the vet, what would he give you suggestions on how to do?

LD: Well, one time there was a real good friend of mine, she came and she had cut her finger real bad. And the darn thing wouldn't heal. And it wouldn't heal. I called Doc White and said could you come over, I've got Louise McDonald here and she's got a bad finger and ^{it} won't seem to heal. And she

had cut it like this. And there was quite a piece of skin on the back. I just smacked it up like that and thought it would heal alright. But it didn't. And he said, "Do you know what's the matter? You're going to have to cut that piece of skin off because the blood supply is gone." I said I couldn't do that. At that time I don't think I had morphine like I did later on. I wouldn't have a thing to give her. And she said, "I can stand it. I can't afford to go to the doctor. I can stand it." So I sterilized my scissors and cut it off and the darn thing healed up and filled in just fine. But that's what he told me. I didn't know that. He said, "You're going to have to cut that chunk of skin off." I wanted him to do it, but he wouldn't do it. And then another time I had this funny religion people. They were from Elk River. And they brought this girl and her hand was cut awful bad. Oh lord, I knew she'd have to have a lot of stitches. I said the only thing I can do for you is give you first aid. You're going to have to take this girl to the doctor. No, they wouldn't take her to the doctor. I said she's going to have to have those fingers fixed, that's all there is to it. Then they told me that they belonged to this religion and they didn't believe in doctors. I said, well, I don't know what to tell you because there's nothing I can do but wrap ^{up} the girl's hand. That's what I did, wrap it up. 'Cause like I say, I always had bandages and stuff like that. And I don't know what they did with her, I really don't know whether ^h they took her on home to Elk River or if they did decide to take her to a doctor, but I said, she's going to have to have stitches in that hand because if you don't it just won't heal, that's all.

SS: Do you remember what religious group that was?

LD: I don't know. Seems like it was Rose of something or kind of a funny religion, I don't know.

SS: An unusual one.

LD: Yeah, unhuh. Nothing that you really hear about too often.

SS: How is it that you decide^d to come to Bovill in the first place?

LD: Well because I got this job offered to me. Doctor Bufler who was from

Seattle was the head of the Milwaukee hospitals. He came to Chicago and he was looking for a nurse, in fact, he was looking for two nurses to go to Bovill. So they told him, or he knew about it, Maybe Doctor Gibson told him, maybe he knew about it, I don't know how he knew about it. Anyway, Dr. Bufler talked to me and asked me if I'd like to go to Bovill and work. Course, I thought it would be wonderful to have a job. I guess I thought I wouldn't get one. And so I told him ya. Then on my way coming out to Idaho, I stopped in Mowbridge to see my sister and her husband and they 'bout had a fit. "Why don't you come back to Mowbridge? You know there's all kinds of work here for you. There were two hospitals there in Mowbridge. And I said I don't know. I kinda wanted to go out west and see what it was like. I said I'll work long enough to make enough money to come home and then I'll come home. Didn't do it. They weren't very happy about it either.

SS: This doctor was a Seattle doctor?

LD: Uh huh, Dr. Bufler who was head of the hospitals. He was Milwaukee Hospital Association. And of course, this hospital at Mowbridge, and then there was one at Three Forks, Montana and then there was one at Orofino and then of course, we were affiliated with the hospital in Chicago. That's how we got to take our last six months there, which was really nice coming from such a small hospital. But I don't know how they found out, that's too long ago, I can't remember but I know that I came out here and worked at Bovill, anyway.

SS: When you first got out to Bovill and saw it...

LD: I don't know, I just fell in. When you go to Rome you have to do as the Romans do. We didn't have any lights at night and we were on call at night. Worked all day and ^{when} at night we were on call. We had the patients pretty well, course if there was somebody real sick it was different, but most of the patients didn't need anything at night. If the patients were real sick, maybe we could have some ^{of their} folks stay, with them, and they would call us if they needed us. Maybe they needed a shot or something like that, then we would have to get up and do it.

DENEVAN

SS: What was the hospital in Bovill like?

LD: They had everything. You know where that hospital is, at Hall's Apartments that was our hospital. As you go into the hospital on your left on the second floor was our operating room. We had a real nice operating room. We had a sterilizing room and everything. And doctor had his office downstairs. He had a little place off where he had all his medicine. He would dispense that medicine as people needed it. And of course, we also had a pharmacist ^{there} at that time in Bovill too. One time Bovill was quite a town. And, we would assist ^s doctor just like a doctor would. 'Cause we had to. And we got along fine. I can't think of anybody ever dying from neglect or anything like that. We had one man die and I think ^{that} Dr. Gibson waited too long to operate on him. And he died on the operating table. Who am I to say? Because he was a very conscientious man. He was a doctor. By golly, when he diagnosed a case, ^{you} knew what was wrong with that patient. He went in, he found out what he said it was too. ^{that's a} Damn sight more than the doctors know nowadays. They guess at an awful lot and they have much better facilities and everything. And that's what I can't understand. Why these doctors don't know what's wrong with these people any more. Now my son, they doctored him for two years for ulcers. And I never did think he had ulcers. I thought that he either had gallstones or he had kidney stones. Well he finally got so sick and so his doctor called in another doctor. And they did an exploratory on him. And Jack had all the symptoms of gall bladder. And I couldn't see why that doctor couldn't see it. He was so jaundiced and everything. But they said the x-rays didn't show any gallstones 'cause he didn't have stones, ^{he had} just the gravel which was in the gall duct and causing that terrific pain. And the sweat would just pour off him. Well, they did this exploratory. And they found out that he had this gravel in the gall bladder duct, so of course, they removed his gall bladder and he felt fine. So I said to this Doctor Barnes who was our surgeon and that's about all he does did you find any evidence of ulcers? And he said, no. But he said, "You don't get gall bladder overnight either. But I couldn't understand it because I

knew that that boy either had to have gall bladder or he had to have kidney stones, one of the two. Because he had this terrific pain and he had all of the symptoms. If I would know that, why wouldn't those doctors know that? And another case was my husband. He was in the hospital and he was very sick and I said to his doctor, did you take an x-ray of his chest? And he said no, should I? I said, I don't know, but I think he's probably got emphysema. And he said okay we'll take an x-ray of his chest then. They did and he showed Merle the x-ray. And he told Merle that there was a small area in his lungs. So then the next time Merle went to the doctor, he wasn't feeling very good, so I thought I should go along with him in case something happened. So I went with him. And he said to me, "Do you want to see that x-ray of your husband's lungs?" He didn't know that I was a nurse 'cause Merle said he never told him and I certainly didn't tell him I was a nurse. I said, I probably wouldn't know anything about it and he said, "Well I'll show it to you." I said I thought you told my husband it was just a small area. It looks to me like that's a pretty big area. He looked at me so funny, he said, "You suppose that man could have pneumonia?" I said I wouldn't know. So he put him on antibiotics, and he did, he got better. He said, "I can only leave you on that for a week." Merle went right back into a slump again. Then he had to give him to, I don't know for a week, but a few days. There was that nut, and I said to my doctor in Moscow, shouldn't have that doctor known that that man had pneumonia when he took that x-ray? And of course, doctors never run the other guy down and besides my doctor and this doctor were very good friends. anyway, in fact, he'd recommended this doctor down here. He said, "I would think so."

SS: Dr. Gibson, you feel he was better than most doctors?

LD: You're damn right I figure. I figure that he was a lot better than the average doctor nowadays. Because he knew...

SS: I mean in those days.

LD: Yes, he was a brilliant man, he really was. He was a brilliant man. He knew

exactly what he was doing all the time. Another thing, he had his internship at Cook County in Chicago. Which you really got to be right up there 'mongst the best of 'em to do your intern at Cook County, now I'm telling you. 'Cause you get every thing imaginable there. ~~and~~ his wife was a nurse, that helped him too. She used to help us. She used to come and give the anesthetics. And one time she was pregnant and she gave these anesthetics all the time I guess, while she was pregnant. And she had an awful time with this baby. He just simply didn't get along. In fact, I think he died before he was too old. I don't know, I couldn't prove it, but that's what they said, 'cause she gave that, those anesthetics, she shouldn't have given 'em. But I don't know whether there's any truth to that or not, I really don't know.

SS: I've heard people talk about Dr. Gibson in a mixed way. Said he was a good doctor, but he could also be rather touchy with a patient.

LD: He was an awful cranky thing, yes he was. And lots of times he wasn't very nice to his patients. That's the truth. And you know Dr. Gibson, when he died, and I had this man tell me and it was nobody in the world but Dr. Dupree from Palouse and he told me that Dr. Gibson told him, he said, "You know I'm going to have terrible, terrible lot to account for." He said, "Really I'm afraid to die." Dr. Dupree said to him, "I think you better call in your minister and talk to him." And he had a ^{terrible} ^{horror} of cancer and that's what he died of. Cancer. But he was, he was pretty gruff and everything and he was a man that you really had to put him in his place. You really did. I told him ^{one} time to go to hell. I said, I don't know, Dr. Gibson, we just can't please you. When the hospital is full, you're so mean and ornery and when it isn't full you're mean and ornery and we ^{just} don't know how to please you, that's all there is to it. We don't know what to do. I said, as far as I'm concerned, you can go to hell. I said, I have worked myself to death since I've been here and I don't have to work for you. There's other places that I can go. I said I'm going to. He gave me the devil 'cause this woman, who had had a gall bladder operation, her folks came

and it was probably a week after she was operated on, but she wasn't a very young woman. Older woman. And they brought her some, I don't know what kind of pie it was. I believe it was bannana cream pie or something. But they didn't give her very much, but it did make her awful sick. Dr. Gibson told me I should have known better, I said I didn't know. Had I known that they brought that pie, I wouldn't have let 'em give it to her. But I didn't know it. I said, we can't watch the people all the time, 'cause we have too much to do. So then he come down kind of, off his high horse. I said, you expect so much of us doctor. It isn't humanly possible to do all that we do and all that we should do. You can't do it, 'cause there isn't time. enough in a day to do it. And then I did, I told him I was gonna leave and I did leave, too. I went back to Chicago again. That's when I went to Contagious and worked. And they wanted me to stay there, too, but I was kinda of one of these people, I didn't know what I wanted to do. I wanted to get around and see things. Then I came back to Spokane, I worked in Spokane, ^{Sacred Heart.} I was in charge of Edgecliff for a year and a half and, not the whole Edgecliff, just the men's floor at Edgecliff. I had 36 men on my floor and only five amb^ulatory patients. And I had one orderly and one nurse's aid to help me. So you can imagine how we worked to take care of those people. In the morning they either had to have egg nogs or some cock-eyed thing and in the afternoon they had to . And I just worked myself to death there. And finally Fr. Gibson came to see me. He wanted me to come back to Bovill. And when he saw me he had a fit. "How much weight have you lost?" I said, quite a bit and not only that, I've developed a cough too. I don't know whether it's a sympathetic cough or it really is a tb cough. He said, "I'm telling you one thing. You better get out of here while you're able to get out." So I left Edgecliff then and I came back to Bovill to work for him.

SS: Edgecliff sounds extremely rugged compared to these other places.

LD: Course, there was a lot of 'em that wasn't awfully sick. But there were

a lot of 'em that were sick and needed a lot of care and everything. And another thing, it was so hard to keep other charts because they were on four hour temp and all that. You had to take their temperatures every four hours. There were so much to it, so much book work and everything. Gosh, I look back now, I think, how in the name of gosh did I do it. And that's what I'm telling you, all the nurses, not only me, but every nurse worked hard then. We just went along with it, we knew we had to work hard. We had to work, that's all there was to it to get done and do what they expected us to do, course, they were awful good to their nurses. We got wonderful food there and we had a wonderful place to stay at Edgecliff. And everybody was lovely to us. When I was there Dr. Miller was there. And our superintendent of nurses was Mrs., no it was Miss Hahn. She's probably been dead for years, I don't know. I don't know whether Dr. Miller is ^{still} alive or not. I really don't know. He was a pretty young man when I was there. He probably is still alive, I don't know.

SS: What was the course of T.B. like? It seemed so prevelant then.

LD: So many people died with T.B. you know. Well of course, they had to be ^{AWFUL} careful with their sputum and we, I can't remember whether we had kleenex there, or what we had for them. I don't know, maybe we had little squares of gauze for them, I don't remember. That's too long ago, I can't remember about that. But I remember that everybody had a sack on their bed. And we didn't handle 'em. The patients themselves had to put those little squares or whatever we used, in those paper sacks. And then of course, everything was burned up. We had a man that came along and collected those sacks and everything and we would put clean ones on their beds. And so we didn't contaminate ourselves. And we were ^{really} careful. When we taking care of real sick patients, why, we wore masks and things so that they wouldn't be coughing in our faces and so forth. But they were nice bunch of, I always rather take care of men than women. I like to take care of men. Seemed like I got along with 'em better, and you know ^{with} women, there's always

something wrong with 'em, they're hard to please and everything, but I always preferred to take care of men. That's why, I could have been in the children's ward but I said no, I thought I'd go along with the men. And they said well, they ^{would} rather that I would because it was easier to get a nurse that wanted to be with children. And I said no, I thought I would be happier taking care of them. And I was. And like I say, had a really nice orderly and my nurse was very good and they were just like everybody else. They worked hard too. And the three of us did manage it. But I don't know how we did.

SS: Was there any hope for most of the people that had T.B.?

LD: Oh yes, oh indeed there was! Sure, we lost 'em too, but not too many deaths.

Because they were taken good care of and they got good food and everything you know, and got good care. That's all it took you know. And then lots of times we'd push 'em from their rooms out into these porches, it was colder than the devil you know. ^{Believed} in fresh air, you know. And then they'd be out so long, then they'd have to be pulled back in. But of course, when they were hemorrhaging, everybody rushed then, and it was really emergency. And in fact, in the afternoons when we had our time off from two to four, probably not, it was probably one to three that we had off. Why then they had an emergency bell and there were always men then ambulatory patients ^{that} could let us know, they'd ring the emergency bell. Course, everybody'd fly over then. And of course, then the doctor would come and take care of 'em when they were having ^{these} hemorrhages. I don't know what we did for 'em, I don't remember. Too many other things happened to me. But like I say, I enjoyed my work there too. But I did, I got awful thin and ^I developed this cough, and I don't know whether it was strictly bad cough and there was danger of me getting T.B. or whether it was ^{just} a sympathetic cough and ^I was just coughing because everybody else did maybe. I don't know. But I, like I say, I never did any nursing that I didn't like. I just loved it. Every bit of it. No matter how dirty

or how nice it was. I just fell into it just wonderful.

SS: All that weight that you lost, did you realize that...?

LD: Well, I knew that I was working terribly hard. But I thought, well work won't hurt anybody if you're born to bear the load, why work isn't going to hurt you. But it did. Like I say, not long ago I had a little bit of trouble with my heart and I said well I've always been a person that's taken good care of myself. I said, I've never drank, I've never smoked and I said, I can't see why there'd be anything wrong with my heart. And he said, "The only thing that's wrong with your heart is ^{that} you always have worked so hard. That's probably what's done it." And that could be the only thing, because I haven't, but my heart's alright, my doctor wasn't worried about it. But he said it was missing a beat and that they would have to get it regulated. So then I went to another doctor because I got poisoned and was awfully sick last summer, and was sick for month and my daughter insisted that I go to somebody else, so I did. And he said, "Well yeah, your heart is missing a beat, but that's alright." he said. He said, "I'm not going to give you anything for it, it'll be alright. It'll work itself out alright. But I think you should slow down a little bit." But you know, I was married, well, we had our 50th wedding anniversary in '71. And my husband passed away 17 months ago. And so you see, I was married quite a while. And I was never sick. I always felt wonderful and everything. I always worked like a horse when the time I was married, and of course, I worked like a horse before I was married too. But I don't think ^{that} hard work hurts anybody, if you've got a strong enough back. I really don't think so. It never hurt me, but like I say, I always took pretty good care of myself too. Took as good a care as I could. When I was working at Edgecliff, I realized that I was probably working too hard there, but I thought well, it won't hurt me.

SS: Sounds like when you were working, you weren't trying to get the best paying job.

LD: I always wondered if maybe I was earning the money that I was getting. I felt like maybe I wasn't. And jeeppers, when we left the, see, we had the Latah Nursing Home when it was first built. And like I say, I wouldn't have been more surprised if they'd asked me if I wanted to be the mayor of Moscow. Wouldn't have been a bit more surprised. But all the time we were there I worked hard too. My husband and I only got 650 a month, the two of us. And then they brought these other nuts in and they got \$1000 a month, didn't do a damn thing! That's gratitude for you.

SS: When you decided to go back to Bovill, even though you didn't leave the best of friends.....

LD: No, but Dr. Gibson, now like I say, I'm not saying this to be smart or anything, but Dr. Gibson realized after I was gone, what a good nurse I was. And he wanted to get me back if he could. And when he came to Spokane and knew that I was at Edgecliff, the superintendent of nurses at Sacred Heart recommended me for the job out at Edgecliff. She said, "I think it would be wonderful for you, Miss Riddell." And I said, "I don't know if I could handle it or not." "Sure you could handle it, why couldn't you handle it?" I said, "well I don't know. I'm little bit afraid." And she said, "NO, you can do it. You do it too. I hate to lose you, but it's a good job for you. It'll be good for you." And so I went out there and I had no trouble getting a job at all. Course, like I say, she had recommended me. But, and like when we were recommended for this job, ^{in Moscow} people that we really didn't know too well recommended us for this job. And I am sure if you ask anybody in Moscow, while we were there for six years, there was never any talk about the nursing home at all. ^{there couldn't have} ~~been~~ because everybody did their job and they had no turn over of help. We had girls work for their team the first day we were there and they were there when we left. We just didn't have any turnover of help at all. Everybody enjoyed their work. And wanted to work.

SS: When you were in Sacred Heart, Spokane was altogether a different city than

Chicago.

LD: When I was at Sacred Heart, the only thing I did was special. Just special cases. Like operatives and things like that. I didn't work general duty or anything like that. I just special^{ed} when I was there. I lived about two blocks from the hospital, so it was real nice for me. I didn't work there too long because this job came up and Sister Bernice recommended me for it.

SS: You must have liked Bovill pretty well to go back there.

LD: Yeah I guess so. And of course, I'm one of these kind of people, I forget pretty quick. People can hurt me, but I don't hold a grudge. I forget and of course, like I say, we just never said anything to ~~doctors~~ like that and I was really surprised at myself when I come out and told Dr. Gibson he could go to hell.

SS: When you went back to work for him, were you still on a pretty...?

LD: Oh yeah. Yeah, he knew that I wasn't going to take anything off him. 'Cause I gave him to understand, the only way I was going to come back and work for him was if I didn't have to work myself to death. I said, if I'm working myself to death here why coming and working for you isn't going to help matters any. But if the attitude around there is good, why then your work is easy. And Dr. Gibson, but of course, he's quite a bit like me too. He'd get mad at things if everything didn't go just so. He was a person that was very meticulous about everything. Everything had to be just so. Dr. Gibson would never have an infection because he was just such a clean person, and that hospital had to be so clean and everything, why, staph infection and anything like that would have been the last thing we would ever thought of. 'Cause we kept things clean, we had to. Dr. Gibson, when you went to work for him, he told you, "I'll tell you once and I might tell you the second time, but I'm not going to tell you the third time what I expect of you." Said, "You're going to know by that time." We sure did know by that time, too. But of course, I'm pretty much like that

myself. And things have got to be just so or I ^{just} can't stand it. That's all there is to it. And this other nurse, like we had a cook working for us. And she said to me one day, "I want to ask you something, Miss Riddell." And I said, okay, what do you want to ask me? "I want to ask you why in the world you always look like you stepped out of a bandbox. And Miss Hennesy, her uniform is always dirty and her apron's dirty and everything and you both do the same work?" I said, it's just because we're different people. I could work and I wouldn't get dirty. But she, it just seemed like she couldn't do anything ^{unless} she was all messed up. And that was the way Dr. Gibson was. Everything in the surgery had to be just so and if it wasn't just so, why you were told about it. And he said, "I expect my instruments to be kept just so because in case of emergency they just simply have..."

(End of side B)

SS: When I talk to the old time loggers, they remember some really bad accidents. Did many of those case wind up in Bovill for first aid?

LD: Well yes, like arms off and legs off. ^{stuff} like that. We had, now Merle worked with a man that got his arm off. But I don't think we had a hospital in Bovill when he got hurt. But I remember giving him the shot and everything. Sending him down to Potlatch. We had bad accidents. But I don't know, I can't remember those really. Those really awful bad accidents. And if we did have them, and like I say, ^{they} got along alright, course, I suppose we lost some of the men. But not too many I don't think. This man that died on the operating table, I always will think that Dr. Gibson neglected him. I don't know why he did it because he wasn't a man like that, but I felt like if would have operated on him in the morning instead of waiting ^{til} at night to do it that he would have saved the man.

SS: What was wrong?

LD: Well he'd been hit by a log or something and I think he was injured internally. Probably bleeding. But I can't remember all those things, I just can't remember them because like I say, there've been too many things

happen in my life. Personally, I've done too many things myself. That I just can't remember all those things. I just can't. I couldn't help you out too much on those bad accidents, but as I remember, we didn't lose too many patients there. The doctor did really advanced surgery^{too}. Did a lot of hysterectomies, gall bladders and, plus appendix cases. It just seems like they got along just marvelous for Dr. Gibson, 'cause I think his technique was so good, there just wasn't any danger of anything. And like I say, he worked with us nurses. He didn't have another doctor,^{to assist him} just him. He had to do it all himself. I think, I don't care even if Dr. Gibson and I had trouble and everything, I never would say that he wasn't a wonderful doctor. 'Cause he was, he was a wonderful doctor. I think a lot more of him than I do now of the doctors, 'cause I don't know. I think these doctors nowadays let a lot of people die that they don't know what's wrong with them and I can't understand it. I just can't.

SS: You told me that there was another doctor and a guy was on ether.

LD: That ^{was} Dr. Visser. And I told his wife, if you don't send your husband down to Potlatch, he's going to die. And I said, for heaven sakes, don't let Dr. Visser hear that. Or tell him anything about it. So then they just told him that they decided that they wanted to send him down to Dr. Gibson. He did die. That was Frank Mosher.

SS: Is that when you'd tried to get him to look at the guy and he'd been out?

LD: Yeah. Course, that was after I was married too. I was up to the hospital taking care of him.

SS: Did you know he'd been on ether until then?

LD: No, I didn't know it. 'Cause I wasn't up there, I didn't know anything about it.

SS: You weren't actually working?

LD: No. I just help out when they get busy at the hospital or maybe some real sick patient and I'd help out. And then I did, I went down to Potlatch and took care of this man too, but I didn't take care of him very long 'cause

he didn't live. His wife is still in Lewiston. I see her once in awhile.
Not too often.

SS: How did you meet your husband?

LD: I met him in Bovill. I always said ^I was going to marry a farmer, 'cause I wanted to live on a farm. I loved farms. I guess I should have stayed in Minnesota. Course, there weren't too many farmers out here where I was anyway. ^{I'm} Still looking for my farmer, by the way, if you know any rich farmers. (laughs) I don't think I could do very good on a farm anymore though. I just can't work like I used to work, that's all there is to it. I just can't do it. Course, I can put in a pretty good days work too. But course, I don't know, the farms are so modern now I guess they don't have to work very hard out there.

SS: That's true on most farms. What was Mr. Denevan doing?

LD: He was a lumberjack. And then after he'd been a lumberjack for years, he went in a store up ^{at} Bovill. We were in the store for 18 years. It's too bad that Merle couldn't have an education. He was a smart man. And he should have gone to college. He could do about anything. He was a pretty good carpenter, ^{and he was} a good businessman and when he was at Latah nursing home, he really did a good job out there too. Good with books, and figures and things like that. Run it very economical. Course he knew ^{how to buy} having been in a store, he knew how to buy. And that was one reason why we got the job was because I was a nurse and Merle had been in business and they knew that he would know how to buy. And he certainly did. Then they got that kid in, just because he was a college graduate and he didn't know anything and he left them 50,000 dollars in debt when he left. But they probably thought more of him than they did of Merle.

SS: I ^{doubt} they could in looking back.

LD: Like I say, I don't think you would find anybody in Moscow that would say that we didn't do a good job when we were out there. Never any trouble or anything and the commisioners, we got along wonderful with them and they

all liked up and the doctors liked us. It was just because we belonged to the wrong party. We were ^{strong} Democrats and old Smiley was a Republican and he didn't like us, and his old sister, she looked like an old sport instead of a nurse, and she didn't like us. Hope you're not recording all this. I couldn't prove that she was, I said she looked like one. (chuckles) She might not have been one, but she looked like one.

SS: When you were doing the nursing in Bovill, what was the story about the guy's badly cut lip?

LD: I don't know. I sewed his lip up, and I thought ^{I'd} probably lose my job. Dr. Gibson told me he couldn't have done any better himself. But you know, I had an unlimited amount ^{of} nothing in the world but guts. That's the only thing that you could say. I could no more do those things now than I could fly to Guinea. It just seemed like, I don't know. I didn't want to, I tried to tell that man that I couldn't do it, but he wouldn't take no for an answer. And Hennesy, she was egging me on. She said, "Sew it up for him as long as he wants it sewed up." I said, oh no, I'm afraid Dr. Gibson would can me." No," said "he won't can you." I said, well, he'll be back tomorrow maybe, if I don't put the stitches in right, maybe he can take it out and fix it. We'll put you to sleep and fix you up. So I said, you be sure and come in tomorrow. He did. Like I say, I sewed up legs and things like that. No more should have done it than anything, but I don't know. I just thought I could do anything and ^{did} it. Like I say, the Lord was good to me and I never had any trouble. Course, I was so darn clean with everything, I couldn't have any infections, that's for sure. But then I didn't always think that maybe I did the right thing. I'd worry all night about it. My husband'd say to me, "Why do you worry about it? You always get along alright." And ^I said I know it but what if something would happen and I'd be the cause of somebody's death or something like that. That always worried me.

SS: When you sewed the lip, had you done that kind of stitching?

DENEVAN

LD: We had everything there to work with. Needles and suture and everything. Hemostats and forceps and anything that you'd want. So I just took the doctor's tools and fixed him up. But of course, I realize that it's probably hard for you to believe that, but then you can ask the people in Bovill about it and they'll tell you that I did.

SS: I had the strong feeling that you must have been a very competent nurse. Considering the situation you were in, the town was very lucky to have some nurse, with no doctor.

LD: Yeah. Well and like I say, I had an unusual amount of confidence in myself. I would have to have it. Because if I hadn't have, I couldn't have done those things. No way could you do 'em. 'Cause ^{how} you going to do something if you think that you can't do it. And I'd say to these people, well, I'll do the best that I can and then they'd say, "Well, that's all anybody can do." Like I say, everything always turned out alright. I don't know why it did, because I think I had the ability to do it alright, but I don't think I was that smart. But I don't know. Everything just worked out alright and I just go in there, rough shod and do it, no matter what it was. Seem like it, oh, I had people come to me with all kinds of troubles. And you know, it would just surprise you. I remember one time I had a woman come to me, a young woman and she said to me, "You know, I think I must be rotten on the inside." I laughed at her and she said, "Well I am. I just smell terrible." I said, what have you done, why would you think there's anything wrong with you? I don't know, seems like she had a correctment or something. I can't remember. But I can remember that I found that sponge in her and it was just absolutely rotten. Absolutely rotten! That doctor had left that sponge in there. And I took it out for her. She got along alright afterwards. But I don't know what would have happened to her if we ^{would have} just left it in there. Course, the doctor didn't do it on purpose or anything like that. Those things happen.

SS: You told me that somebody's foot got gashed with an axe.

- LD: Not a foot, a leg. ^{that} was a young fellow, he got the back of his leg cut. His friend was walking behind him with an axe, a real sharp axe and cut his leg wide open, see. And of course, I couldn't do anything, 'cause it had to be stitched. I ^{gave} first aid for the doctor and sewed it up. But that's when my youngest boy was, when he was, things like that always made him so sick. When they brought that man in the yard, he just went ^{out} in the yard ^{and} he just rolled. He was so sick as he could be. Just the sight of blood and he said he's still that way too. He drives truck and he said, "Mom, if I ever come out of a bad accident where there was a lot of blood, I don't think I'd be any good. ^{I don't think} I couldn't do a thing." I said well Jack, it's like this: you can do lots of things when you have to. You just probably think you couldn't but if you did you probably could do things that you ^{wouldn't} think you could. Course, now my older boy is different. I don't think anything like that would bother ^h him. But Jack was always that way.
- SS: Never bothered you?
- LD: Oh no. And that's what I say. You couldn't not be a nurse, if things like that bothered you, you just absolutely couldn't make a nurse, that's all there is to it. You may as well not try, you better go into something else. I know my granddaughter, she kind of thought she'd like to be a nurse. I said, Karen, you couldn't be a nurse. The sight of blood makes you sick. She said, "Yeah I know it." So she decided to be a medical technician. So she's in Spokane going to Kinmans. And she's going to be a medical technician.
- SS: You told me about your first kid that Dr. Gibson was not....
- LD: Very nice to me.
- SS: You were trying to get in a hospital?
- LD: He wasn't going to take me in. But then I still don't hold that against him as being a good doctor. Like I say, he was nasty and hard to, overbearing and hard to get along with, he really was. But I think that he was such

a conscientious man and he wasn't well at that time, he was having trouble with sinus and everything and of course, I don't know whether I got the infection from him or not. I didn't get along very good, in fact, I was terrible sick. I lost 30 pounds of my own weight when Bob was born.

SS: Was that your first?

LD: Un huh.

SS: Did you go to Potlatch for that?

LD: No, he was in Bovill then. But I went home and then I was only home a couple days and had to go back to the hospital. I was in the hospital for quite a while then. But I got along alright, but like I say, I was *always* awfully strong and had a good, I guess I came from good stock, I must have. I think I was one of the stronger ones in my family because I had a sister who wasn't too strong and my mother wasn't too ~~strong~~ wither, but I think when she was young she was strong. But I've always worked hard, and like I say, you could ask my kids, and my daughter especially, she'll tell you. *she said*, "Mother, I can never remember of you being sick when I was growing up and I can never remember of you that you were ever tired. I never can remember you saying that." I said I can believe that because I ~~wasn't~~ sick and I didn't get tired either. I seem like I can work, and that's what some of the girls would say to me in Chicago. "I don't see how in the world you can do it. You work all day and come home and take a bath and you're ready to go ^{and go} all night." I said, yeah, I guess so. But I just was, I was really strong. Like I say, I was happy all the time with my work. It ^{wasn't a} drag on me or anything, I loved every bit of it. I would love to be able to take about forty years off my life and go back to it, I sure would.

SS: Do you remember the depression very well?

LD: Oh yes. I should say I do. And that's when I did a lot of nursing and nobody had any money. I didn't have any and nobody else did either, so I did what I could for people and if people could pay me, they did. Lots of times

people brought me things. You've heard about 'em bringing to doctors. And they'd bring you chicken or they'd bring you eggs or they'd bring you stuff like that. But I don't know, I always had plenty to eat, place to live and everything so I wasn't too bad off, I guess. And my husband had a job and one of the better jobs too. He was a toploader and a good one, too. So we got along pretty good. And then, like I say, I had a couple sisters who were pretty well fixed and they could help out. My sister, seven years older than I, she sent me a lot of clothes for the children and a lot of clothes for myself. ^{too} I'm sure that we didn't have it tough as a lot of people did. Then of course, when the flu came along that was bad.

SS: The one after WWII?

LD: Uh huh.

SS: What was that like?

LD: What was it like? No nurses, no nothing to do anything. And in Bovill, see, I came to Bovill in 1919. And we had flu that year too. We lost 7 young men that year, with the flu. The oldest man I think was 45 and then the rest of 'em were all just young fellows. Lumberjacks from the camps. This one man came in with a temperature, I think it was 107 and I told Dr. Gibson about it. He said, "Oh it can't be." I said alright, you go and check on him. He said, "You're right." "Did you know that man came in in a lumberwagen?" Course, he wasn't there the next morning either. But that's about the only death ^{that} I really remember. Seven young men that we lost with the flu. That was when I was going to go to Boise and take my state board. And didn't get to. That was a bad thing, really bad. If I had it to do over again, I don't know how I could though, I couldn't go and leave those sick people. But it was bad for me. Because it was just like if you go to a college for four years and probably miss that last month or something and get that old sheepskin, it doesn't do you a bit of good, and that was the way with me. I ^{was} never considered a good nurse 'cause I wasn't an RN. Course, ^{when} I worked at Gritman in Moscow, I told the superintendent. She said, "That doesn't make any difference. I know

what kind of a nurse you are. We need your kind." I said, I just thought I'd tell you. You can do what you want to do.

SS: Did most of the women in Bovill have their children in home?

LD: No, I don't think so, I think that most of them went to the hospital.

Because we had a hospital in Bovill and when we didn't have a hospital in Bovill they either went to ^{Moscow or} Potlatch or someplace. I don't think there were too many women, Course, I suppose there were some too. I think Dr. Gibson used to go to the homes, but of course, we didn't go with him the nurses didn't go with him. Just the family. Or they'd have some woman maybe that was experienced, not really a midwife, but somebody who'd done those things and knew how to go ahead. Of course, we couldn't leave the hospital to go and help him. But I didn go one night out in the country with Dr. Gibson to deliver a baby. But I guess, probably there wasn't very many in the hospital, but I know I did go with him one time. I could get away.

SS: How many beds were there in the hospital?

LD: Probably 25 beds. 20 or 25 beds. We had about probably two or three private rooms and that's all and the rest were ^{either} two bed wards or three bed wards. We had a chart room and a surgery on second floor and probably about three private rooms. And upstairs we had a six bed ward and then we had another little room, in fact we had two rooms where ^{we} could put patients, if we needed them. But this six bed ward, we'd put these lumberjacks that were recuperating. Maybe had a broken leg or some little minor surgery, we put ⁱⁿ them there. There was a bathroom and everything up there for them. We had a lot of patients, and just think those patients only paid a dollar a month, hospital.

SS: To the Potlatch?

LD: Yeah. Was a dollar taken out of their checks for hospital. Course, there were an awful lot of people who never went to the hospital at all. Never had to go.

SS: So Potlatch, this wasn't exactly Potlatch's hospital?

LD: It was the Milwaukee hospital. The ^{Milwaukee} Railroad hospital. But of course, the Potlatch brought all their patients there. And all this money that was taken from every one of these men, went into the hospital fund. And I don't know, we never had any problem. We always had plenty to eat, plenty to do with and everything. So, ^{we} must have had plenty of money. But of course, these patients ^{had to} pay for it too, these private patients. Always had a lot of them. Surgery patients and everything. They had to pay their hospital bills. Which wasn't too much, but the maternity cases were \$4.50 a day and the others were \$4.00 a day. I guess they charged 50 cents to take care of the baby. (chuckles)

SS: Did you treat many women in the hospital?

LD: Mostly men. But of course, every once in awhile you'd have a surgical patient. We'd have babies there, and we had some women of course. ^{But} Mostly men. But I can't really ^{ever} remember of having a patient that was really disagreeable or anything like that. We didn't have too much trouble like that. The lumberjacks, they weren't hard to please, they were men that weren't used to a lot. ^{They} Weren't hard at all to take care of.

SS: What about alcoholism?

LD: We didn't have much of that. No smoking. Women didn't smoke then, you know. I think it must be terrible now to work in nursing homes. ^{These} Old ladies smoking cigarettes. Merle used to say, "Lu, what do we do when we have old ladies that smoke?" And I said, I don't know, I hope I'm not here. I guess I won't be.

SS: I was thinking of the lumberjacks. Some of them I know drank a lot when they could. But they never wound up in the hospital?

LD: No. We didn't have any trouble like that. No, there wasn't enough drinking going on then. Course, we had quite a time with the men. They wanted to smoke. Dr. Gibson wouldn't let 'em smoke. Course, I think they did when he wasn't around. And but we had signs all over the hospital that they couldn't smoke. Course, I think Dr. Gibson really didn't mind if they

smoked so bad, other than that he was afraid they'd set the place on fire.

SS: After ^{he} left, did another guy replace him or was there nobody there? He went to Potlatch didn't he?

LD: He went to Potlatch and I don't exactly know when he went either. I can't remember when he went. Yeah, we had doctors off and on, like I said, for quite a spell after Dr. Gibson left. But then for years and years they just didn't have any. These doctors would come and stay a while ^{then} They'd leave.

SS: Why do you think that was? There wasn't enough for a practice for a doctor there?

LD: Yes. And then, you know how the wives are. They don't like to settle in those little towns, there isn't much for them to do. They say now that's the trouble too, these small towns don't have doctors, not because the doctors wouldn't go to these towns, but their wives won't go. They just don't want to go ^{and} live in those little towns. It's pretty hard to get an old fashioned doctor any more. That'll go out on calls and things like that. ^{they just} Won't do it. Dr. Thompson, my doctor in Clarkston, he would go out on calls. He told me, "If you ever need me," like when my husband was so sick, "you call me and I'll come." Course, I had sense enough to ^{know} I wouldn't call a doctor in the middle of the night unless it was absolutely urgent. I realized they got to have their rest. Some people are calling 'em up all the time for some little old silly thing.

SS: Do you think in the early days there were a lot of people who believed in home remedy?

LD: I think so. But like I say, I don't believe that people had as much trouble as they do nowadays. Through dope and alcoholism and all this crap that they have now. And another thing, course, young people, they don't really have much trouble. And then you've got so many older people ^{now because people} live so much longer than they used to live. Of course, when you get older everything wears out. Has to be taken care of. In those days, if you

lived to be 60, golly, you were old. Now my mother was 72 when she died and my older sister, course, my oldest sister next to me was only 52. She died of a stroke. But my older sister, she died New Year's Eve and she would have been 73 in March. My mother died the day after Christmas, the 26th of December, she would have been 73 in August. So of course, that's been a long time ago too. My mother's been gone since '34. So she was really old.

SS: As a nurse, did you have much belief in the effectiveness of home...

LD: Absolutely. I think that there are a lot of things, like they used to put mustard plasters on when people had bad colds and everything, ^{had} pneumonia and all this and that. Jeepers, when we had the flu, we used to mix that mustard plasters up in great, big pans like that and put 'em on our patients. So they wouldn't get pneumonia. And another thing, it kept 'em from coughing and it took the pain out of their chests and everything and I firmly believed in them. And we used to mix 'em up and put 'em on them patients two and three times a day. Back and chest. And of course, as long as I can remember, we've always had iodine. Things like that to keep things clean. And I would say that I don't believe that you found as many dirty people years ago as you find now. I really don't think so. Their homes were pretty clean and they had clean things to do with. And had to wash on the board. Now the women got everything to do with and they can't even get along with what they got, to do with now. And that's why I say young people, I don't know what's the matter with, I've got a couple young people over here and I never see that man doing anything outside. The yard needs to be raked and this needs to be done and everything, and he's a teacher, he's not working that hard. And I'll bet you that I could put him to shame. I bet that I can work harder than he can. ^{work} I never see him outside doing anything. I can't understand that. Because you've got a home there's so many things to be done. And I think it's pretty good when the man expects his wife to do everything. After all, she's got

two kids to take care of and a house and everything. If there's ever any leaves to rake or anything, I see her outside doing it. Mowing the lawn and stuff like that. Once in a while I'd see him in the summer mowing the lawn, but most of the time she took care of it. I don't know what the ^{heck} he does. Sit in the house probably and don't do anything. Probably isn't too good a teacher either, because I don't see how he could be and not have any more ambition than he's got. I just don't see how he could be. And you know, things outside bother me. Now Saturday I got out there and raked and had the lawn looking so nice. Next morning they were all over. I ^{just decided I} couldn't do it because I got so dizzy the other day out there doing that, I thought, I'm not going to mow or rake those old leaves. Some kids don't come along, I'm just going to let 'em go.

SS: Do you think that you were demanding of the people who were under you as a head nurse?

LD: Nope, I wasn't. I just absolutely not, because I was one of these kind of people, I would rather do it myself than ask somebody else to do it. I really was. Course, I get awfully disgusted with people because it seems like they can't do anything. But like I say, when we had charge of that hospital, I didn't really have much to say about the girls. I told Merle, that's going to be your job. You can deal with women probably better than I can. And so that was his job. But like I say, we had such good help that we ^{just never had any} trouble. Everybody did their work whether we were there or not. They still did their work and they enjoyed their work. And Merle did get as much money as he possibly...

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LD: ...fit down there on the floor like that china closet there. And this thing was in her finger real deep. I told her, she was just a young girl and I said, well, I don't know, it's just like this, I could probably get it out, but I'm afraid I'll hurt you awful bad. Because I'd have to slit that nail. I said, I don't have anything to give you really. And she

said "I don't care. I cannot go to the doctor. We don't have any money and I can't go to a doctor, I've no way to get to Moscow. If you think ^{that} you can do it I know I can stand it." I think it was harder on her than it was on me. But I pinched that finger until, I don't think she had any feeling in it and I slit that nail, I always had a good pair of scissors and tweezers and stuff like that, the sliver come out just as slick as a whistle. Course, she lost the nail, come back and never knew anything about it. She said it really [?] didn't hurt too bad. I said, I don't know how you stood it, because your fingers are so sensitive. Like your toes, many nerves in 'em.

SS: So you pinched the finger, did you have a foreceps you used?

LD: Uh huh. Course now a days, where you ^{id} have ice, would have packed that finger, practically froze it in ice. Course, we didn't have ice then. Got ^{ice} in chunks, if you were lucky enough to have an icebox. But I just pinched that finger real, real ^{hard}, long as I could. And then I had her grab ahold of her finger, I said you think it'll make you sick? And she said, "I don't think so." I said, pinch that finger as hard as you can pinch it 'cause course I had to have both hands to work. I said, don't look at it, don't look at me, that might make you sick. Look the other way. So she did. I just slit that nail down there, grabbed that sliver and it just came out perfect. ^{pretty} Good size sliver, too. But it was sore afterwards I think. But she had a lot of guts too. It seems like when my kids got hurt, they were never babies, I don't know why. I guess I didn't make babies out of 'em. But I remember Helen got a bad sliver in her underneath her nail and I told her, Helen, I can't take it out for you I just got to call your dad. And she said, "Oh Mamma!" And I said I can't I just know how bad it'd hurt you. It hurt me worse than it would hurt you. So her dad came home. He took it out for her.

SS: You couldn't take it out?

LD: Not for her, ^I couldn't.

SS: Why?

LD: I don't know, I just felt sorry for her, I guess. I didn't want to hurt her. But I don't know, I pretty much made my kids tow the mark. My daughter had told me since, she said, "Mamma, I used to think you were awful strict with me." I said, I think I was Helen. Not that I was mean or anything like that to 'em, but I expected a lot of my kids. And I wanted 'em to grow up so I could be proud of 'em. Boy I can be proud of 'em too. She said, "Mother, I can understand it since I've had kids of my own. I know what you had to go through. I'm just the same way." I said yes, I wanted you to grow up so I could be proud of you. She said, "I want my girls to grow up so I can be proud of them." I said the only way ^{that} you could be too mean to children was be to beat 'em to death. But you've got to have discipline. She said, "I know that with five kids ^{I'd a had} to move out if I would have let each kid have their own way."

SS: What was your idea of being strict?'

LD: I told my kids what they had to do and what I expected of 'em. And they did it. She's got a boy who's going to be sixteen in March and I think he's a marvelous kid, I told her, Helen, you really should be proud of Pat. He'd tell his mother ~~he~~ was going to go this place or that place and I'm going to be home at such and such a time["], and he would be there. I said, that is wonderful. Because nowadays, the kids, they just run all over loose and where they are or what they're doing or anything. Brother, she wouldn't let her girls date until they were sixteen years old and very limited. I just wouldn't let Helen either. ^{Course} In a little town we didn't have much trouble, just school functions most of the time and just mother and dad ^{was} there too. But I remember one night her dad went after her. ^{was} about ten o'clock, and he went after her. There were a whole bunch of kids out in a car, but ^{he} just went after her. And told her she was supposed to be home. He didn't do anything to her or anything like that. We never did whip our kids or anything like that. Her dad gave her a licking one time. She was

fighting with our youngest boy and we had talked to 'em and talked to 'em and they didn't pay any attention to us. He took a light cord and hit both of the kids, but not very hard, but then they both bawled anyway. But she said, "Mother, I can see it now, but of course I couldn't see it then." And I said well I pretty much let you do things I thought you should do ^Helen. I said I wanted you to be a nice girl and we wanted to be proud of you. And we sure were and she got a nice husband and everything. He's a wonderful man, we just love him. By the way, his folks are coming tonight. The other grandparents.

SS: Did you quit working as a nurse when you got married?

LD: Uh huh. Well quit working, yeah. But then of course, I always filled in and helped out whenever I could. I never left nursing til I moved down here and that was 1966 I think, '66 or '67. Then I been away ^{from} nursing since then, but never from the time I started in until then was I ever away from it.

SS: Did you feel when you were getting married that it was a conflict for you to have to quit nursing and stop doing it as a full time job?

LD: No, because like I say, I was interested in my home and interested in my husband, although I was only married a short ^{while} when I went down to Deary to take care of a woman. And Merle was so mad when he come home because his mother had talked me into going and oh, this woman was so nasty to me. And she was made because she had to stay home and she didn't get to the hospital to have that baby. Well, that wasn't my fault, I couldn't help it that she couldn't get ^{there}. But it wasn't very easy to get somebody to take care of you and I had just been married. But Merle's mother she just thought I ought to go. Merle was so mad at her. "You don't tell her what she's going to do now. Let her do what she wants to do." So I stayed down there for ten days, but I think that's ^{about} the longest I ever was, because after I had the kids, I just couldn't go away and let somebody else take care of 'em. They were mine and I wanted to take care of 'em.

SS: This lady that you were nursing, she was nasty?

LD: Oh, she was so nasty and mean. Nothing pleased her and they baby was *awful* cranky and everything. I worked so hard when I was down there and I **guess** she didn't think I done enough. Lord, we use to do the washing, not the family washing, ^{but I did all} the baby washing and oh gosh, I don't know what people expect of them. If you'd ask a nurse now to wash out a diaper or anything she'd think you were plumb crazy. I went down on two cases at Deary and took care of two women down there. ^{then the} other woman was real nice, but she had a gall bladder attack after the baby was born and she was awful sick. But that husband was really good to me. He was so nice and he helped me all he could and we got along fine. But this other woman, she, and the doctor said she was nasty to him when he came there. ^{too From} Deary. She wanted to go to Potlatch to Dr. Gibson. And she wanted to be in the hospital when her baby was born. She waited too long and ^{she} got caught at home, and of course, she wasn't ready for it either. It was too bad, but there was ^h nothing any of us could do about it. I was wishing to God she could have gone to the hospital. Gone anyplace. Anyway, when I presented the bill to the husband, why I can't remember, ^h probably wasn't very much. He had kind of a fit about it and I said, well if I really charged you what it was worth to take care of that wife of yours, you wouldn't be able to pay it. He says, "She was kind of bad, wasn't she?" I said she sure was. (chuckles)

SS: When you worked in the Bovill hospital, what was the main work you did as far as nursing, what were the main responsibilities the nurses had?

LD: To take care of the patients. They had to be bathed every day and taken care of. ^{fed.} Cleaned up, the rooms cleaned up and we had to clean the bath-rooms and we did all the cleaning along with everything else. We didn't have to do the halls but we had to do the patients' rooms. We didn't have to mop 'em or anything like that, but ^{we had to} dust mop 'em and keep the rooms up nice. Just like any other nurse, there were shots to give and ^{enemas} to give and treatment sometimes. They had to have hot dressings and all

that stuff. We had to ^{do} just like anybody else would do. And we didn't have the things to do with now they have like hot pads and things like that. They got those things now to use. But we didn't. We had to wring these things out of boiling water and pretty near blister your hands. Its a wonder I've got any hands left. They had to have turpentine dressings. And a lot of things. And we took such wonderful care of our mothers. Lord, we worried to death about our mothers for five days and now they're up and home by five days. Took their temperatures four timea a day and Lord, afraid of infection and everything. I don't know. Kept 'em in bed for ten days.

SS: Was that a good idea?

LD: I don't know why it wasn't. ^{An awful} Lot of women that's still living that stayed in bed for ten days, that's the only rest they ever got. Now these mothers go home and start into work and everything. I don't know what's going to happen to 'em in years to come. We'll have to wait til that time comes to see how they turn out and I probably won't be here to see. Because those things all have to go back in place after you've had a baby and everything and if you get up and work and everything, course I know a lot of people did it and it didn't seem to hurt 'em. I don't know. But...

SS: What happened to people who couldn't afford to pay back a hospital? Didn't that happen?

LD: I suppose it did, but I had nothing to do with that. I suppose every hospital lo ses money on patients. And now of course it's pretty much, and even in my time you had to pay for your maternity case before you ever went into the hospital. Sign in doctor's office, "All maternity cases must pay in advance." 'Cause after the baby was born you couldn't very well take it away from 'em. I don't know who'd want 'em anyway.

SS: That sounds awfully bad to me that the doctor would say that you can't go in the hospital, they don't have room for you, as a nurse.

LD: And after I'd worked that hard for that man. He did, he really did, that's

the truth. I don't know if I could have anybody verify that anymore. ^{Because} _{My} husband's gone, but he could sure tell you. He was so mad. I think he just really would have cleaned up on that man. Anyway his wife came, "Why you can't do that Frank! Of course she's going to come in the hospital. She's planning on it for six months, she can't stay home. She's not ready to stay home. She hasn't got anything ready to be home." "We haven't got any place to put her." "Well you'll have to find a place."

SS: Did your husband talk to him too?

LD: Oh yeah. He went up to see him. He told him, "Lucille's in labor." "Well she'll just have to stay home, 'cause the hospital's full, we haven't got a place for her." "Oh no, she's not staying home. She's not prepared to stay at home. She doesn't have anything ready to stay at home. And you're going to take care of her." So, but I don't know what would have happened. I don't know what I would have done. See, Bob was born ⁱⁿ _^ the 21st of October. I might have been able to gotten to Moscow, but of course the roads were terrible then and I went into labor in the evening. He wasn't born until 6:30 the next morning. I probably could have gotten quite a ways any way. But of course, he was alright. And my husband said to him, "Believe me, when you get her in that hospital, you better be nice to her. If you don't, you're going to have trouble with me!" So of course Dr. Gibson was alright. But he was, he was sick, he had this sinus trouble and the next morning after he delivered me he had to go to Spokane. To be taken care of.

SS: So you think it might have been all the pressure he felt?

LD: Yeah.

SS: Was there a wide difference in the hospital, sometimes it would be full...

LD: Sure. Sometimes there wouldn't be hardly anybody in it. Then sometimes, just like every other hospital. Usually on holidays and everything it all slows down because people want to go home. And then as soon's the holiday's over then it's all full again. People coming in that need surgery and sick

and what have you.

SS: Was the Bovill hospital considered as good as the Potlatch one?

LD: I don't know why, we had the same doctor and ^{the same} nurses and stuff, I don't know why it wasn't.

SS: You had about the same facilities?

LD: Uh huh. Of course, the facilities were better in Potlatch because the surgery was larger and the sterilizing room was larger and there was room for more patients. It was ^{probably} nicer alright, but I don't know if the facilities were any better. Because like I say, wherever **Dr.** Gibson was, he had everything just so and that was that. And that would be the only way that he could run anyplace. It had to be just so.

SS: Being a lumberjack town like Bovill was, what kind of effect do you think that had on the town?

LD: I think it was good for the town 'cause they were all making good money. Everything was thriving in Bovill. They had everything imaginable there. ^{Went} down to nothing. And of course, after the work got further away and less work, why the town went down 'cause nothing to keep it up. And of course, you know how lumberjacks are, they spend all their money. Never save anything.

SS: So it was good for the economy?

LD: We had a nice drugstore and ^{we had} a couple of nice hotels. Couple nice stores and about three, four, five beer joints. They always had them. And a bakery and everything in Bovill. Now it's terrible up there. Course they don't have any people any more either. And they don't have any nice houses and the ones that do have ^{they} don't take care of 'em. And everybody is, "Well, I'm not going to live here all my life, I'm not going to build a nice house," and still they do. And I don't know what they do with all their money. That's one thing. We always had a fairly nice house when we lived in Bovill. And I didn't always have too much in it. I know one time my youngest boy said, "Oh Mom, I wish we had a house like Lanchesters, they've got such pretty rugs on the floors, they have such pretty furniture and

everything," and I said maybe someday we will have and if we don't, you will have. And he sure does. He has a lovely home and he's always buyin this and that for his wife. He sees something and he buys it for her just because he likes it. He buys all the furniture.

SS: Do you remember the Joneses?

LD: I took care of Mr. Jones before he died. Everybody thought she was so terrible because ^{they said} she stold that money from Red Cross. I don't lknow if she did or not, I sure couldn't prove it. But she sure didn't let him have much money to spend. And after all, he was the one that made it. Brother it must be terrible to have a wife and she tell you what you can do with your money. It's bad enough to have a husband and tell you what you can't do this and you can't do that. I don't know, to have such a domineering wife, I think that would be terrible. But I remember one time I was in Moscow and there was this funeral over there and I came out of the church and the Joneses were out there and they said, "Do you plan on going to the cemetery Mrs. Denevan?" And I said not really 'cause I don't have any way to go. And they said, "Come on, get in here with us and ride out to the cemetery with us." I don't know what I was doing there along; how I got over there or anything about it. So anyway I did. And they said, "Why don't you go to lunch with us?" I said I want to do some shopping and I've got to get home. But I said probably be alright ^{so} I went to lunch with them. I thought it was so funny when we got through eating, she got up and took the bills over to the counter and paid for them and she was just like a little, old banty rooster. ^{ANYWAY} And Mr. Jones said, "Doesn't that look awful? To think that I don't have any money and she won't give me any money to pay the bill. She has to pay it." I said, well yes, I think that's terrible. I did think so. I wanted to tell her so too. And of course, I wanted to pay for my own lunch, but no way, they wouldn't let me.

SS: Sort of nice to take care of your lunch.

LD: They were real nice to me. And I remember, I must have ^{probably} gone to Moscow,

as I remember, I don't know, maybe I went to Moscow with Merle and Merle went someplace else, he had to go to Pullman and pick up his vegetables and so maybe he'd gone on over there and he was going to pick me up on his way home. Anyway, I know I was alone and it was nice to go to the cemetery and also nice to go out to lunch with them and everything. I don't know, I liked 'em and they never did hurt me any. Like I say, I wouldn't say anything about Mrs. Jones because I don't know if she stold that money or not. Everybody said she did and so she probably did, but...

SS: In most of the marriages that you knew in those days, didn't the wife have as much responsibility as the husband, as much say so, or was it usually the husband?

LD: Well no, I don't think so. I think that was just a little bit late for that. I think that probably my mother when she was married that my dad pretty much had the say. That wasn't the way it was at our house. If we had any money, I was welcome to it and if we didn't have it, we just didn't have it, that's all. But like I say, no way could I marry a man that I would have to account for every cent that I spent, because I just have never lived that way and I couldn't live that way because Merle never said, "Well now, what did you buy that for, or what did you do with that money that I gave you?" He was never like that. Course I had quite a bit of money myself when I got married. So I was a little bit independent.

SS: Saved^{up} from all the work you'd done?

LD: I had a wonderful hope chest. That helped a lot. We had a wonderful shower and got a lot of nice things.

SS: Did you get chivareed?

LD: Yeah we did. And even my oldest boy, they chivareed them too. But of course the youngest boy and Helen, they weren't^{home}. Helen was married in Moscow and had a big wedding and they left on their honeymoon and then when they came back they had an apartment in Moscow so ^{she} didn't get up to Bovill. But they probably would've. And then Jack was the same way. He wasn't living

in Bovill when he got married. ^{We were living} down here in Lewiston and he was living with us. Then they got married and of course they had this little house there. And they didn't know that many people to chivaree 'em. But.. I've got to get busy right now! (pause in tape) After it ruptured here it ^{just} broke wide open and all that pus went right through him. And he just didn't have any pain anymore. And of course, he ^{got} high fever and everything. I knew Myrtle because I'd been with her when she'd had one of her boys. I told her, your husband's awfully sick. If you don't get him to either Moscow or Poptlatch, to Dr. Gibson, he's going to die. He'll die from peritonitis. So he did die too.

SS: Did you actually go and try to find a doctor?

LD: Yes, I went to his bedroom and talked to him. He was completely out.

He didn't even know when ^{this man} left. ^{Then when he did come to, why I told} him, ^{his folks took him to the hospital.} He didn't say anything.

SS: Did she come to you after going to him?

LD: No, he lived right there in the hospital. ^{He his} Had ^a room right there in the hospital. She didn't go to see him, I just told her. I said you've got to get your husband down to this hospital or he's ^{gonna} die. But now of course, I wouldn't want anything like that said because I couldn't prove it. That's too long ago. And of course I suppose Mrs. Mosher, she would ^{probably} testify to it alright.

SS: No one's trying to prove anything.

LD: Like I say, it is the truth. She ^{would verify it} too. But when they got him to the hospital they just opened him up. He had pus all over and Dr. Gibson said that he wondered if they'd ever get the place cleaned up afterwards. They had to sterilize, fumigate the operating room. And you should have seen, the ^x pus just rolled out of that man. Changed his dressings and changed 'em and changed 'em. It was just terrible. He was just simply, oh, must have been all rotten. ^{It was terrible.} And to think that somebody would let them go like that. But you know, I feel like this about doctors, and I'm putting

all those doctors in that category, that you have to be with the a doctor for many years before you really get established with him, before he really considers you a patient. Then he might be a little bit concerned about your welfare. But especially older people, I think they think, they've lived their life, they may as well be dead. I don't think that they're too interested.

SS: Those days?

LD: I think the doctors feel that way. And they only realize that they're going to be old some day too. Everybody's going to get old, that's something you can't do anything about.

SS: Did you find that you could diagnose like that.[?]

LD: I don't know if I should have, but I did anyway. And my son will tell you the same thing: I knew that that kid either had gall stones or a gall bladder attack, I mean kidney stones or a gall bladder attack. I figured that my husband, that there was something radically wrong with him, I didn't know what was wrong with him, but that doctor, he's supposed to be a diagnostician and he didn't know what was wrong with him. He said to me, "You suppose he could have pneumonia?"

SS: I wanted to ask you, you said that nurses in Bovill did things that doctors would have done in other places. What would that have been?

LD: We assisted him in the operating room. And where usually they've got another doctor, maybe two or three helping him out. And Dr. Gibson had nobody. His wife was giving the anesthetic and then ~~we~~ girls helped him out. One would be scrub nurse and the other wone would assist him. And we worked right along with him.

SS: What did the assistant do in the operation?

LD: Handed him the dressings and the instruments and everything. He^d asked for this and that and we handed it to him. We'd be all scrubbed up of course, just like he would. The rubber gloves and everything. And the instruments would be all laid out on the table, and everything sterile.

Then the other nurse, she'd be running around and helping wherever she needed to be helped, or whatever we needed. ^{there'd be lots of} Times we might need a pan of hot water or something, she'd go and get it. Course, the pans would be sterile, she couldn handle 'em on the underneath, put 'em in our places for us to use. Quite a thing.

(End of tape)