

Kathryn Scott
Narrator

Jay Fier
Interviewer

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JF: 00:00 Today is July 6, and this is Jay Fier, and I'm sitting in my home with Kathryn Scott. Can I call you Kathryn?

KS: 00:12 You sure can.

JF: 00:15 Can you tell me when you were born and where?

KS: 00:17 April 28, 1901, Correll, Minnesota.

JF: 00:22 And where is that?

KS: 00:23 Next to Appleton.

JF: 00:35 Milan Beach.

KS: 00:36 Milan Beach. And Milan is a distance from there but miles on that, I may. Well, it was about a mile and a half from the Minnesota River.

JF: 00:50 How big a town was that?

KS: 00:52 Well, right now, it's 95. [laughs] In that time, it was around 200.

JF: 01:00 What did your folks do?

KS: 01:01 My father was a depot agent, [inaudible 01:03] railroad.

JF: 01:09 What was your father's name?

KS: 01:10 Peter Friedl, F-R-I-E-D-L.

JF: 01:18 Your mother's maiden name?

KS: 01:21 Rose Luchsinger, L-U-C-H S-I-N-G-E-R.

JF: 01:28 What nationality?

KS: 01:31 That's Swiss.

JF: 01:34 Was Correll a Swiss settlement?

KS: 01:35 No. And Friedl is German. My grandparents came over from Switzerland.

JF: 01:45 Do you recall them, or do you know them?

KS: 01:46 No, I do not.

JF: 01:48 Do you know what they did for a living?

KS: 01:51 Well, they farmed at first, and my mother and grandmother used to make Swiss cheese and sell it.

JF: 01:58 To the neighbors or?

KS: 01:59 Go around the county and sell it in those days.

JF: 02:03 Did they come to Correll when they first came?

KS: 02:06 When they first came over, I don't know where they went. But it seems to me it was Minneapolis, or around Minneapolis, Anoka or somewhere there. And then, they came to Big Stone County, and they farmed there for a while. And then, I don't know where they moved.

JF: 02:23 And then, your father was born.

KS: 02:25 And then, my father was born at Norwood, Minnesota.

JF: 02:31 And when did he move to Correll?

KS: 02:31 Well, he was a telegrapher. So, he was transferred to different places. I believe his first job was at Plato, that's near Norwood. And then, from here, he was at Correll.

JF: 02:48 And you went to school in Correll, then?

KS: 02:51 Went to school at Correll and graduated in 1918. And I worked in the store until I was of age so I could get nurse's training.

JF: 03:03 How old was that, then?

KS: 03:05 I had to be 18 before I could go into nurse's training. And then, my parents didn't want me to be a nurse, didn't want me to go away from home because I was an only child. So, Ortonville had a training school at that time.

JF: 03:26 For LPN, or for RN?

KS: 03:29 RN. So, I went up there and then, they transferred me to Northern Pacific Beneficial Association Hospital in St. Paul, and that's where I graduated in 1923.

JF: 03:43 Now, what kind of hospital was that?

KS: 03:46 That's a railroad hospital. But it's affiliated with the Northern Hospital and the university hospital and general hospital. We had to go to those places for some of our courses.

JF: 03:59 So, you went to nurse's training for four years?

KS: 04:01 Three years.

JF: 04:05 And how big was the class?

KS: 04:07 There were eight of us.

JF: 04:10 And you went to Ortonville for how long?

KS: 04:13 Three years.

JF: 04:13 And then finished up for one year at the Northern?

KS: 04:16 Northern Pacific Beneficial Association.

JF: 04:18 Is that still around, Northern Pacific?

KS: 04:19 Yes. It's south of Como, and it's about two blocks from Snelling.

JF: 04:32 I think I know where that is. Yeah, that's kind of in the state fair area.

KS: 04:41 Yeah, but it's south of there. But Snelling [crosstalk 04:47]

JF: 04:51 How did they teach you? Was there—

KS: 04:54 Well, we had all those services are where I'm telling you.

JF: 04:59 Did they have doctors teach you, or other professional nurses?

KS: 05:01 Yes, we had classes. Two of the doctors taught us, I had class with, and there was one registered nurse.

JF: 05:13 And could you have graduated from Ortonville, or would you have had to go to—

KS: 05:18 I don't think so, but I don't know.

JF: 05:21 That was like the preliminary. And then—

KS: 05:25 You see, it was run by the Evangelical Church Association, the hospital.

JF: 05:33 And so was the RN program?

KS: 05:35 Yeah. And then, we had to go to Sioux Falls or somewhere around there. They couldn't keep it up, so that's why we got into [inaudible 05:49].

JF: 05:53 Do you recall what the tuition was, back then? Did it cost a lot to go?

KS: 05:56 I don't think we had to pay anything at that time.

JF: 06:00 Did you have an entrance requirement or anything like that? Do you remember, did you have to take a test? Just had to know?

KS: 06:04 You had to be a high school graduate.

JF: 06:07 And 18 years old.

KS: 06:08 Yeah.

JF: 06:11 Then, after you graduated from St. Paul, did you return, then, to western Minnesota?

KS: 06:17 I returned to my home, yeah, and did private duty with plans to go back to Minneapolis or St. Paul and my folks wouldn't even hear of it. So, I did private duty for a while. And then, in 1925, or '26, I started to work for Dr. Kaufman.

JF: 06:45 Was he in Appleton, then? And do you have any idea how long he'd been in Appleton when you got there? Did he have a well-established practice then?

KS: 06:59 Very. Very, very good. He'd been here a long time, then.

JF: 07:12 How old a man was he when you started? Do you recall? Middle aged, young man, twenties, thirties, forties? Maybe he was one of those ageless types that you could never tell.

KS: 07:27 Oh, I imagine he was forty or fifty.

JF: 07:35 Was the Kaufman Hospital operating then?

KS: 07:39 No. Well, it was when I started to work. But when he first came to town, I understand that he had a little hospital in a hotel, about four rooms. And then, moved to a brick house, in Appleton. And then, from there, he had the hospital built. I wonder if that wasn't in 1917 or '18.

JF: 08:04 But it was a fairly new facility by the time you came.

KS: 08:07 Yes.

JF: 08:07 And you were the only nurse?

KS: 08:13 No, I had— there was another RN with me.

JF: 08:17 No LPN.

KS: 08:19 No. Just aides that we taught ourselves.

JF: 08:26 Where did the aides come from? Just from town here?

KS: 08:28 Just in town, and the surrounding country.

JF: 08:31 And they were—was there any difference between an RN in the 1920s than there is now? Was there by the time you retired?

KS: 08:40 Well, it seems to me we had to do everything. RNs nowadays have specialties.

JF: 08:50 In other words, you guys did almost everything except the surgery?

KS: 08:58 We assisted.

JF: 09:02 Did Dr. Kaufman have a specialty?

KS: 09:08 No, he took care of everything.

- JF: 09:14 Unless someone was really ill, he could pretty much handle just about everything?
- KS: 09:20 And I'll tell you, he never gave up. I'll never forget one patient that was seriously ill. She had pneumonia and an infection. And he had ordered a stimulant and I wasn't going to give it and I told him she was going to die and there was no use giving that stimulant and he said, "You give that, for when there's life there is a soul. That woman is married and has children." He never, never gave up.
- JF: 10:05 He must have been a really hard worker.
- KS: 10:07 He was. During the flu years, that was 1918, '17 and '18, he used to have a fellow drive for him. And it was in the winter one time and he got a call. He would sleep while the man would drive. He'd go to places I don't know, but I know he'd be at Louisburg, he had to do Bellingham, Odessa, out to Shible, and Fairfield, and back to Appleton and work the next day. And when he came to our place one night, my mother said, "Take off your coat and I'll make you some coffee." "No, Mrs. Friedl," he said, "If I take off my coat, I'm going to go to bed [inaudible 10:54]."
- JF: 11:00 He covered quite a large area. Was he the only doctor?
- KS: 11:03 There was another one at that time but he didn't have much practice. I think it was the time that Dr. Sheldon took ill. I'm not too sure. There was a Dr. Little here, though, but he was much older than Dr. Kaufman.
- JF: 11:20 He was here when Kaufman started.
- KS: 11:23 Yes.
- JF: 11:24 How wide an area, because I'm not familiar with these towns so much? How far is Louisburg?
- KS: 11:36 Louisburg is only four miles; Bellingham was about eight miles southwest of here. Odessa is about 14 miles west. And Fairfield and Shible Township are a good 10 miles. And he'd go out east, too.
- JF: 12:03 So, he was fairly well known, then, in the countryside.
- KS: 12:07 Oh, yes. We used to get patients from Ortonville in Big Stone.

JF: 12:12 Did you ever accompany him on any of his calls out to the country?

KS: 12:16 You bet. He always wanted a nurse to go on baby cases. And sometimes, he'd leave us there.

JF: 12:24 For delivering babies?

KS: 12:27 We wouldn't deliver, maybe the mother wasn't ready, so we'd have to stay there, and then call him.

JF: 12:36 Did you have cars, then, or horses?

KS: 12:39 We had cars. In the wintertime, of course, if you couldn't get through, you had a sled and horses.

JF: 12:47 Did you have to use that quite often?

KS: 12:50 Then he wouldn't take a nurse with him. But quite often.

JF: 12:54 Did he use his own horses?

KS: 12:58 Yes, I should say so. He had a number of teams that he would have. But he always had a man drive.

JF: 13:08 How big a staff was at this hospital? Just two nurses, a doctor, a custodian on staff?

KS: 13:17 I guess you could call him a custodian, we always had a man that was doing some things around that we could always call. But there was a night nurse, and two or three nurses besides myself. And we'd always be on call.

JF: 13:40 Did you guys work—how many hours did you work on the average? Or was there ever an average?

KS: 13:47 There wasn't an average. Sometimes we worked all night and all day, took a couple hours if we could.

JF: 13:58 How was the pay?

KS: 14:02 Not very good. But of course, at that time, the pay wasn't very high.

JF: 14:09 Do you remember what you got paid, your first nursing—

KS: 14:11 I got \$90 a month.

JF: 14:14 And that was no overtime, that was just to do the job.

KS: 14:17 You betcha. You'd be there and you'd do it.

JF: 14:22 Were there a lot of nurses around then?

KS: 14:24 Not too many at that time.

JF: 14:26 There was kind of a shortage, then.

KS: 14:30 Yeah. But that was [inaudible 14:31] very much in those days. We expected to work.

JF: 14:39 Did you guys work, pretty much, seven days a week, holidays?

KS: 14:44 Yes, if it happened that I could get off, it was all well and good [inaudible 14:52]. We had patients to take care of.

JF: 14:58 So, otherwise, Kaufman expected you guys to be just as dedicated as he was.

KS: 15:02 That's right.

JF: 15:06 Did you ever speculate, what was the difference? Today, it's quite a bit different as far as doctors go. Do you ever wonder or think about what the difference is between nurses and doctors?

KS: 15:24 Dedication.

JF: 15:27 I wonder, why?

KS: 15:31 [inaudible 15:31]

JF: 15:42 Did Dr. Kaufman share his salary [inaudible 15:45]? Do you have any idea?

KS: 15:48 Dr. Kaufman had all the money that he has had coming, he'd be a millionaire and he never turned anybody down.

JF: 15:57 Whether they could pay or not.

KS: 15:59 That's right.

JF: 16:02 Did they pay? Did they ever use barter to pay?

KS: 16:06 Many of them tried to pay. And some of them couldn't. You know as well as I do that some people don't want to pay their bills regardless of if they have the money or not.

Well, somebody would bring in a hog, or maybe a cow of some kind, or grain, but that was a different time then.

- JF: 16:29 That was all fine with him as long as they tried to pay?
- KS: 16:32 Yeah. He never turned them down.
- JF: 16:35 And even if they were, say, treating somebody who couldn't pay him, the next time they came in, he would treat them again?
- KS: 16:45 A couple of times. But when it came to many, many, many times, well, then he'd ask when you gonna pay the bills. But he didn't turn them down before that.
- JF: 16:59 How big a hospital was this [inaudible 17:05]?
- KS: 17:06 Only had 20 beds.
- JF: 17:10 20 bed hospital. How many rooms were there? How many beds to a room?
- KS: 17:16 We had three wards, and two beds to a room. And then, there were about six private rooms with one bed.
- JF: 17:33 How big were these rooms, comparable to the size of today?
- KS: 17:39 I think they were even larger than the ones today. Some of the rooms that I've seen that are private were pretty small.
- JF: 17:46 And was there a special room for the surgery?
- KS: 17:49 Yes, that was on the third floor.
- JF: 17:54 Was that the only room on the third floor?
- KS: 17:55 And then the nurse's rooms were up there too.
- JF: 17:59 The nurses?
- KS: 18:00 That stayed there.
- JF: 18:02 Oh, did you live there, then?
- KS: 18:04 Uh-huh.

JF: 18:04 Oh, you lived right in the hospital. That's convenient. So, no wonder you were on call all the time. Did you have to pay for board and room?

KS: 18:23 That was in our salary.

JF: 18:28 And there were two nurses quartered up there or three?

KS: 18:31 There were three.

JF: 18:33 There were three. So you lived next to two. And was this... how did they light the surgery room, did they have a lot of windows or maybe fluorescent lamps?

KS: 18:48 Not fluorescent at that time. But it was well-lighted. They had, I think, three windows in there. Of course, it wasn't a very large place. It was a small room. And then the sterilizing room was right off from the surgery.

JF: 19:13 What kind of anesthetic did you use?

KS: 19:15 Ether. And then, or, Novocain.

JF: 19:23 There was more... who would do the anesthesia—the nurse? To anesthetize, what are they called, anesthesiologists now are the specialists who would do that. How would you administer the ether? Over the face?

KS: 19:38 Over the face. Drip. Dr. Kaufman would check you, often.

JF: 19:45 And that was enough to keep the person out for the whole surgery?

KS: 19:50 Once in a while, I'd get a squirm a little bit.

JF: 19:55 And then, would somebody be monitoring the anesthesia? Would there be another nurse helping Dr. Kaufman?

KS: 20:02 Another nurse would help Dr. Kaufman. Or else another doctor, sometimes.

JF: 20:10 But you guys didn't have any fancy machines or anything like that. All the surgery was done by hand?

KS: 20:17 And then, later on, why then, we had suction machines, you know, we would just use things like that [inaudible 20:23]. Or, if there was some liquid in there, they had a ruptured

appendix or something like that, we'd remove the fluid from that.

- JF: 20:33 Do you know what machines [inaudible 20:33]
- KS: 20:35 I don't.
- JF: 20:38 That's... it would be quite some time [inaudible 20:38]
- KS: 20:39 Oh, yes.
- JF: 20:45 And then, after the... down below the surgery room was...?
- KS: 20:49 The hospital rooms— patients.
- JF: 20:52 All 20 beds were on the second floor?
- KS: 20:54 No, then some of the beds were on the first floor.
- JF: 20:58 What else? Was second floor just the hospital, just the patients?
- KS: 21:02 Yeah, patients. They were patient rooms.
- JF: 21:05 And the first floor was then...?
- KS: 21:06 And we had, let me see, there was a ward, and two other rooms on the first floor. And then, Dr. Kaufman and his family lived on the other part of the first floor.
- JF: 21:21 And then, was there a basement?
- KS: 21:22 Yes. And that was a dining room and the kitchen, and the furnace room.
- JF: 21:36 Did the... is that where meals were prepared for the patients?
- KS: 21:39 Yes. Two cooks. And then, we had a dumbwaiter, too.
- JF: 21:44 So you could get your food up to the—
- KS: 21:46 No, we went downstairs to eat, but for the patients, it came up on this elevator, this dumbwaiter.
- JF: 21:53 What kind of food was served? Were there special diets?
- KS: 21:58 Oh, sure.

JF: 22:02 They were monitored for salt and—?

KS: 22:04 Salt-free. You had your diabetics.

JF: 22:11 How was the food?

KS: 22:17 Well, the food was good. It depended on your cooks. Of course, there were changes with that like there were changes with everything else. People would work just so long, and then they'd quit.

JF: 22:34 You'd have your cooks working [inaudible 22:36].

KS: 22:38 No.

JF: 22:39 Were they elderly women from town?

KS: 22:46 Well, sometimes they were elderly. Sometimes young, middle-aged. Sometimes we'd get younger ones.

JF: 22:59 Talking with [inaudible 22:59], you did it.

KS: 23:07 I'm not saying.

JF: 23:09 You used to have to come to work a lot of hours. Did he ever give pep talks? Somebody told me one time that he had a heart of gold, but you'd never know it.

KS: 23:25 That's right. But he never turned anyone away.

JF: 23:28 He had a real kind of a hard exterior. Did he do dental work too?

KS: 23:40 Oh, once in a while, he would remove a tooth.

JF: 23:43 [inaudible 23:43] How many years did you work for him?

KS: 23:53 If I remember correctly, it was 47 years. Until we moved into the new hospital. It was off and on, because my mother died, I took some time off then, and my father died, I took some time off, then, and then another time, I was sick for a while. And...

JF: 24:19 Did you get married?

KS: 24:20 Oh, yeah. But I still went back to work. No, I took a month off.

JF: 24:25 When did you get married? What year?

KS: 24:26 Pharmacist. But he's gone.

JF: 24:29 What year?

KS: 24:30 1938.

JF: 24:33 But you still went back to work. And then, when did you quit? Did you quit nursing altogether?

KS: 24:49 No, I was going into the new hospital in July, woke up one morning after I worked the evening shift with a blood clot in my eye and that's the first I knew I had high blood pressure. Imagine that, [inaudible 25:08].

JF: 25:10 Oh, so you worked pretty hard in your younger days, and it sounds like you worked hard up until—

KS: 25:16 Well, I loved nursing. That was my life.

JF: 25:23 Did you notice a difference in the patients in the old days? Was there a difference in the relationship between the doctor and the patients from the way it is now?

KS: 25:38 No, I don't think so. You do have confidence in your doctors, regardless of age or anything else. That's the main thing.

JF: 25:51 I was wondering if the whole attitude towards doctors—of course, Dr. Kaufman was around for such a long time, he was almost a saint of the town and that probably helped, too, didn't it? People figured they were going to get cured when they came in.

KS: 26:09 Yeah, that's right. Absolutely. Just the other day, I was at the senior citizens, and I didn't know the head lady, so one of the girls that was working there, she thought I had to do some stuff for her, and she says, "You know, this lady and Dr. Kaufman saved my life." Well, that's just the way a lot of them felt.

JF: 26:35 You mentioned the years of the flu. Were there other epidemics that came through periodically?

KS: 26:42 No, not that I can remember.

JF: 26:44 You never had trouble with a bad year of smallpox and pneumonia?

KS: 26:52 No, we had people with smallpox.

JF: 26:54 Never where the whole town got knocked down.

KS: 26:57 No. It was 1922, the [inaudible 27:02]

JF: 27:04 People died? Young children, old people?

KS: 27:11 Mostly middle aged and older people.

JF: 27:19 Do you recall at all what it would cost to, say, have your appendix removed in the 1920s?

KS: 27:25 At that time, I think you got \$150 for the operation and the hospital bill, and that included the room. Because the rooms at that time were \$3.25 a day.

JF: 27:50 Did that include a meal?

KS: 27:51 Yes. But it did not include medications. If you had surgery, it wouldn't include the price of your surgery, the use of the surgical room, and all the anesthetics.

JF: 28:03 That cost extra?

KS: 28:05 Yeah. And dressings.

JF: 28:10 Did you ever often have to go into the home for folks that needed hospital care?

KS: 28:15 No.

JF: 28:16 You never had calls?

KS: 28:17 Well, I have, but not very often. Once in a while, he'd want me to go into a home, something like that.

JF: 28:28 Did you guys use herbs at all? Did you use herbs for anything? Or pretty much stayed with pharmaceutical drugs? There was a local pharmacist in town that would [inaudible 28:44]?

KS: 28:46 At that time, yes.

JF: 28:50 And they weren't part of the hospital.

KS: 28:51 No.

JF: 28:53 There was only one pharmacist.

- KS: 28:54 There were brothers at one time, and then they dissolved and the older [inaudible 28:57]
- JF: 29:06 That was your husband
- KS: 29:07 Yes. And he was [inaudible 29:09] for a while.
- JF: 29:16 I'm always curious to hear stories of the tough old farmers, and how they wouldn't come in until they just couldn't get up out of bed in the morning with ruptures, or hernias, or a bad back. Is that true, or is that just a myth?
- KS: 29:33 Oh, I'll say that's true. We had one lady that had a growth somewhere on her cheek, and she had been to different doctors. She came up here to see Dr. Kaufman. Somebody had told her about him. He told her that he would try and remove it. He said, "I'll do the best I can," and he did. She got along just fine. [inaudible 30:01] hernias, having strangulated hernias that would come in, [inaudible 30:12].
- JF: 30:22 Was it particularly busy after, say, harvest, or after planting? Would people postpone their doctor's visits?
- KS: 30:32 A lot of people did. The farmers did. They'd wait until most of the fall work was done, come in the wintertime, or something like that.
- JF: 30:43 [inaudible 30:43] Was the hospital ever filled?
- KS: 30:47 Oh, yes. We had patients in the hallways many times.
- JF: 30:54 Do you recall how many? I think you said it was 20 beds, would you sometimes have 30 people there? Or not that many?
- KS: 31:02 No, I don't think 30, but I think we did have about 20 patients at a time in there. I know I had to get the [inaudible 31:08].
- JF: 31:17 There's another thing I've always heard that nurses tend to get sick themselves from being around sick patients, just because you're exposed.
[pause 31:32-31:56]
- JF: 31:56 They had the babies delivered at home?
- KS: 31:58 Most of them did in those early years.

JF: 32:02 The doctor didn't mind? Or was that the general practice?

KS: 32:05 I guess that was the general practice.

JF: 32:09 Did they come in for pretty regular checkups?

KS: 32:12 Many times, they did not. It was common to come out and deliver a baby and would be the first time that we would know she was pregnant.

JF: 32:21 You might not even know she was pregnant.

KS: 32:22 That's right.

JF: 32:24 They were just expecting you to come as soon as the time came, right?

KS: 32:29 I should say so.

JF: 32:31 Did you ever have calls to deliver a baby yourself?

KS: 32:35 Well, I delivered a baby, but I wasn't called to deliver it. It was because the doctor didn't get there in time.

JF: 32:42 So, you just did it yourself.

KS: 32:44 Yes.

JF: 32:49 Did most of the women breastfeed in those days?

KS: 32:52 Most of them did.

JF: 32:57 When did formula start coming in?

KS: 32:59 I don't remember.

JF: 33:03 Do you remember Dr. Kaufman maybe supporting one side or the other?

KS: 33:09 It made no difference to him.

JF: 33:13 Would he try to get the women to rest in bed for a few days after delivering a baby?

KS: 33:22 Oh, they had to stay in bed for between seven and eight days.

JF: 33:27 He demanded that.

KS: 33:30 Yeah, they were supposed to rest.

JF: 33:32 Did women do that, though?

KS: 33:34 Well, I think some of them did but some of them did not. And they got along okay, too.

JF: 33:39 Some of them just got out of bed. In the home, then, did the doctor use any anesthetic or things like that to deliver the baby?

KS: 33:52 If he had a nurse along, he would give them some chloroform at that time.

JF: 33:58 In those days, there was little talk of natural childbirth, then. When did women start coming to hospital to give birth? [inaudible 34:15] more and more did all the time?

KS: 34:18 If there was complications, if the doctor decided there were complications, well, then, many times he would ask them to come to the hospital and they did. But as a rule, it wasn't until about 1930, I think, that they started.

JF: 34:42 Did he have an office, then, for patients to come and see him? But much of his time was spent out on calls.

KS: 34:49 No, much of his time was down at the office. And after office hours, why then he'd make his calls and sometimes they'd last until midnight.

JF: 35:02 So, did people make appointments?

KS: 35:03 Sometimes, sometimes not.

JF: 35:06 They'd just show up. I wondered if [inaudible 35:12] going to people's houses. Did he ever do surgery out there that you know of?

KS: 35:24 I heard him tell about doing surgery on a kitchen table at somebody's home, but I don't remember where that was.

JF: 35:30 Do you remember what it was?

KS: 35:32 No, that I don't remember, either.

JF: 35:45 You mentioned a little bit before about the Depression. When people who were farming with horses, would you get a lot of horse related accidents?

KS: 36:00 Not too many at that time.

JF: 36:03 There were more accidents after machinery...

KS: 36:05 Yes.

JF: 36:12 A lot of those accidents included people would fall during harvest time?

KS: 36:17 Yes, that time.

JF: 36:29 If Dr. Kaufman told somebody to do something, did they usually do it? They didn't talk back to them, or did he ever have trouble with them?

KS: 36:38 It depended on what he wanted done. They had a mind of their own, as well as Dr. Kaufman.

JF: 36:47 Do you know any examples of that?

KS: 36:49 No, that I don't. [laughs]

JF: 36:56 You mentioned before that there were a number of different nurses who worked with Dr. Kaufman.

KS: 37:02 Oh, yes.

JF: 37:04 Was nursing considered a profession when you first started? Many of the nurses were nurses their whole lives, they weren't just a nurse for a few years before they got married?

KS: 37:17 No, that was the point. At that time, there were no LPNs, they went to become a registered nurse.

JF: 37:31 When did LPNs come in, about? Quite a number of years later?

KS: 37:39 Yes, they did. I don't remember.

JF: 37:49 I just was wondering, I wonder what gave rise to the LPNs. Was it just so much—

KS: 37:58 You didn't have to take nurses training and go on in a hospital or something, [inaudible 38:09].

JF: 38:11 What was it?

KS: 38:12 That, I can't tell you right now, because I didn't work much with the LPNs.

JF: 38:17 Right. I suppose LPNs came about a little bit before when the nurses just kind of worked all the odd hours.

KS: 38:35 I wonder if it wasn't in the 1940s, but I don't know for sure.

JF: 38:44 What was it like to be a nurse during the war? Did it make any difference in the way things were?

KS: 38:53 That I don't know. To me nursing is always nursing if you wanted to do it right.

JF: 39:06 Was there an old folks home? Did you do much elderly care?

KS: 39:10 Well, it was a boarding care, instead of a nursing home. Many times, we'd get some of those patients, so they could get cared for. And there was an old hotel here, that a lot of the older people were staying at - the men.

JF: 39:33 Would you ever have someone stay in your hospital? What was the longest that somebody stayed? Months? A year?

KS: 39:44 Somebody was there almost a year, some old man. But I can't tell you how long. He had no home or anything. He was just senile. Of course, at that time, it didn't cost very much. I think he was on welfare.

JF: 40:11 Were quite a few of the patients on welfare during the '30s? What would be the average stay in the hospital, say for an appendix?

KS: 40:37 It was about 10 days.

JF: 40:41 [inaudible 40:41]

KS: 40:44 Overnight. Unless there were complications.

JF: 40:51 How about gallbladder surgery?

KS: 40:56 Oh, that would be more about two weeks.

JF: 41:07 [inaudible 41:07]

KS: 41:24 [inaudible 41:24] I can't remember... it seems to me that we'd remove part of the stomach. We had other doctors

come [inaudible 41:33] I know we had a doctor from Minneapolis come out and do that.

- JF: 41:45 Were they similar type doctors to Dr. Kaufman?
- KS: 41:50 Well, they were older men. Not older than Dr. Kaufman, but that age.
- JF: 41:59 And I was thinking more their attitudes towards care.
- KS: 42:03 No, I don't think so. They'd bring their own instruments and everything.
- JF: 42:08 They were pretty tough characters, too, I suppose.
- KS: 42:10 Oh, yeah.
- JF: 42:12 Were they coming on the train, then?
- KS: 42:15 No, they came by car. [inaudible 42:18] I'm trying to think of the name of one of the fellows that came out a number of times, but I can't remember him.
- JF: 42:29 Personal car?
- KS: 42:32 That I don't know.
- JF: 42:32 [inaudible 42:32]
- KS: 42:35 No. He was practicing in the city.
- JF: 42:41 Did you know of any out of state and metropolitan surgeons who made it a practice to service small hospitals like Kaufman's [inaudible 42:55]?
- KS: 42:58 Not that I know of.
- JF: 43:00 I've always wondered about that, if there was some guy you knew was up [inaudible 43:04] in Crookston. Did most doctors, then, have hospitals, private hospitals?
- KS: 43:18 Not that I know of.
- JF: 43:19 It was kind of a new thing, doctors were running hospitals?
- KS: 43:25 Now, the one in Ortonville, that was run by a church organization, and I don't think the Montevideo was, unless it was Dr. Smith, but I don't think it was. And Marshall was, I think that was run by a doctor...Arneson?

JF: 43:53 But there was no hospital here at the time until Kaufman was the doctor of the community.

KS: 43:58 He started off as the only doctor we had in the whole town. He was living in kind of a large brick building, brick house. And he had a [inaudible 44:10]

JF: 44:18 When did Appleton start talking about a public hospital?

KS: 44:26 It must have been [inaudible 44:27].

JF: 44:28 Did they talk about it for quite some time?

KS: 44:30 Yes. It was finished and we moved in in '51.

JF: 44:38 [inaudible 44:38]

KS: 44:40 That was [inaudible 44:40]

JF: 44:45 What did Dr. Kaufman think about a public hospital? [inaudible 44:47]

KS: 44:49 Well, he was getting older, and he [inaudible 44:51] but, I don't know. He was kind of let down. There were newer methods and everything, and he couldn't keep up his own hospital.

JF: 45:17 Plus, that expense was getting...

KS: 45:20 Yeah, there was more and more [inaudible 45:22]

JF: 45:25 The building was starting to get old. Was he on the board or the town board?

KS: 45:34 He was on the board, first.

JF: 45:36 Of the new hospital. And then they let him go. But he still worked out of the hospital.

KS: 45:42 Oh, yes.

JF: 45:46 How come the younger people didn't go to Dr. Kaufman? They thought his methods were—they weren't backwards, or—

KS: 45:54 I don't know. I don't know that. Well, don't you think if you were a younger person, you'd rather go to a younger man than an older man?

JF: 46:07 Did Dr. Kaufman keep up with new medical practices?

KS: 46:13 Well, he would go to some of the meetings. Not too often.

JF: 46:17 He was busy. Did he subscribe to any magazines or anything like that?

KS: 46:23 Yes. Yes, he had medical magazines.

JF: 46:26 Would they talk about new findings, things like that?

KS: 46:28 I imagine so.

JF: 46:31 You guys never had any cause. How about as far as nurses, the training goes. Did you ever have to go back to school for more training, different training?

KS: 46:43 I don't think we [inaudible 46:44]

JF: 46:49 Was there a state organization?

KS: 46:55 Well, there is a state organization and different districts would have meetings every month, or every so often.

JF: 47:04 What was the district for this area?

KS: 47:08 Sometimes Madison had it, sometimes Ortonville had it, sometimes Monte had it, and we had a meeting right after.

JF: 47:16 And that would be just for nurses?

KS: 47:17 Yes, it was.

JF: 47:18 What kind of things did you talk about?

KS: 47:21 Well, we'd have voting and more fees, and everything else.

JF: 47:27 Were you unionized?

KS: 47:28 No. And we'd have somebody out from the union, [inaudible 47:33].

JF: 47:41 When did you move out of the upstairs of the hospital? When you got married?

KS: 47:50 Sure, when we got married. But then, somebody else was taking that room.

JF: 47:57 Also another nurse?

KS: 47:59 Yes. And I had my own home here in town with my husband. I'd drive back and forth after my month was up that I had off.

JF: 48:11 You were still on call all the time, though?

KS: 48:13 Not during that time.

JF: 48:16 Not during the month.

KS: 48:17 After that.

JF: 48:18 Even when you lived at home?

KS: 48:19 Oh, yes.

JF: 48:24 That's pretty amazing. Nowadays, are nurses' salaried, or are they hourly?

KS: 48:29 I don't know what they get now.

JF: 48:33 Did you get paid the same amount during the Depression?

KS: 48:40 I started out at \$90 and I got up to 110, and then 120.

JF: 48:48 How about into the '40s? Were you still getting that amount?

KS: 48:52 No, I think... no 175 was the highest we got.

JF: 49:00 And would they still be starting off the other nurses pretty low?

KS: 49:03 Well, I don't know.

JF: 49:04 You never talked about that?

KS: 49:05 No.

JF: 49:07 You guys never signed a contract or anything, you just shook hands on it and that was the way it was until next time you talked. What do nurses make now? What did they make in the last years you were working?

KS: 49:28 Oh, golly. I don't remember. I was receiving \$200-some, eight hours a day. [inaudible 49:42] and now, I think they're paid way, way up, like 300.

JF: 49:55 Nowadays, you went to school for four years to be an RN.

KS: 49:59 Three years.

JF: 50:02 Is it still three years?

KS: 50:03 No, now I think it's four. I'm not too sure.

JF: 50:07 When you were working up at the St. Paul hospital, were you in residence? Did you have general training?

KS: 50:22 Not before 1933.

JF: 50:25 You just came right out of school and went to work, then.

KS: 50:28 Yes. My first exam, I had to go back and take that over again.

JF: 50:36 That was the written exam?

KS: 50:37 Yes, I had to go to St. Paul and take it.

JF: 50:44 By that time you were out here in western Minnesota.

KS: 50:46 Yeah and doing quite a duty.

JF: 50:53 Was there a state board of health?

KS: 50:56 Oh, yes.

JF: 50:57 And would they come out and check the hospitals?

KS: 51:01 Oh, yes. And it used to make me so mad, and it still does, even at the new hospital. One person will come out, you have to have this and have that, all right. You correct that. Another one will come out in about three or four months. Then, you have to undo all of that and have it just the way you had it before. That happened at the new hospital, too, while I was still working there. One woman came out and they wanted the drug room where the linen closet was. The linen closet had to be moved over where the drug room was.

51:49 I think it was three or four months after that that somebody came back to tell me we had to have it just the opposite. And I said, "Now that's a waste of money right then and there." What was wrong in the first place by having the drug room right next to the nurse's desk? And then, instead of that, they wanted it across the aisle, and then have your linen over here.

JF: 52:24 How often did they come out to the hospitals?

KS: 52:28 There for a while, they come out quite often [inaudible 52:29].

JF: 52:35 How often was that?

KS: 52:35 I don't know.

JF: 52:38 Was it in the 20s or the 30s?

KS: 52:44 I wonder if it wasn't in the '30s.

JF: 52:49 Why did they want it closer to you?

KS: 52:52 It wasn't improving it at all, like the screens and things like that.

JF: 53:02 [inaudible 53:02]

KS: 53:04 No.

JF: 53:09 But there never were any patients.

KS: 53:13 Not then. Of course, in the wintertime, we had to deal with the cold. And it was cold for a while.

JF: 53:26 How about when you first set up the hospital, did the board of health come out and see it all?

KS: 53:31 That I don't know. It was before my time.

JF: 53:37 But when you were just working there, they would come out and check.

KS: 53:40 Oh, yes.

JF: 53:42 Were they usually men who came out? Doctors?

KS: 53:48 There were some doctors once in a while. There were women most of the time.

JF: 53:52 [inaudible 53:52] would come out?

KS: 53:54 Yes. From Minneapolis and St. Paul.

JF: 54:02 Did they ever watch you—

KS: 54:05 In surgery or anything? No.

JF: 54:07 They never checked up on your patient care.

KS: 54:11 No. Sometimes they'd go in and talk to the patient about their care, and then they'd check our charts. But otherwise, no. [inaudible 54:22]

JF: 54:30 [inaudible 54:30]

KS: 54:37 Try to be.
[pause 54:45-55:08]