

Josephine Carson, Shirley Ketchum, and Sandy Bane
Nurses

By: Joseph Iman and Brian Neuman

Mrs. Carson, Mrs. Ketchum, and Mrs. Bane were all local nurses in Morton County. Mrs. Carson was County Health Nurse, Mrs. Ketchum was a nurse in a physician's office, and Mrs. Bane has worked in many capacities in the Morton County Health System. These women have contributed to the community in many ways.

Mrs. Carson was a Red Cross nurse in Chicago during the polio epidemic that swept through the nation during the 1950s. Mrs. Carson thinks that the technology has saved many lives; Mrs. Carson said that's where technology ended for her due to changing her nursing type. Inflation affects many businesses, but the only way inflation affected her was her salary increased steadily as the inflation grew, and she gained more experience. Mrs. Carson's starting wage was \$1.75. When Mrs. Carson came to Morton County, she was eager to do many jobs; Mrs. Carson eventually became the Morton County Health Nurse. She was able to separate herself from being a nurse by keeping busy; she said "...I didn't take my work home with me very often." Mrs. Carson loved almost every aspect of being a nurse; there were very few things she didn't like about nursing. Mrs. Carson specifically mentioned that there was some bureaucracy she didn't care for. Mrs. Carson said that dealing with death is hard, especially when dealing with children and you have your own children. Mrs. Carson believes that being a nurse is revered in the community. She believes that her job was able to help some people relax in a stressful situation. Mrs. Carson made the statement "The best thing you can say to the community as a whole is you really do help people."

Mrs. Ketchum was a young girl during the polio epidemic. Her best friend got polio after staying the night at Mrs. Ketchum's (childhood) house. Mrs. Ketchum's mother was scared that Mrs. Ketchum might get polio, but she never did. Mrs. Ketchum worked for Dr. McCreight when she came to Elkhart. She wasn't a trained nurse, but she was a nurse's aide and worked in an office. Mrs. Ketchum didn't think that inflation really affected her job other than her getting a raise. Since Mrs. Ketchum was a nurse's aide she never had to deal with death within the hospital. Mrs. Ketchum's favorite part of working at the hospital was interaction with the people. Mrs. Ketchum's contribution to the community was greater than she realized because it is essential to have a doctor here.

Mrs. Bane brings a more recent perspective to nursing in Elkhart. Mrs. Bane went to nursing school in Hays and speaks about Hays getting new equipment in the intensive care unit. After Mrs. Bane obtained her degree, she came to Morton County and did a little of everything. Mrs. Bane said the advance in technology really affected patient care. Mrs. Bane thinks that inflation has affected health care not really nursing. Mrs. Bane in particular remembers going to this meeting where a man talked about the medical advancements to come; and he talked about how people who were admitted to the hospital would be charged a certain amount of money and could stay for as long as needed. Mrs. Bane didn't think that that would happen in Morton County because they are a small community and they take care of their people. About seven years later, the hospital started using this method for time and money. These policies continue to change almost constantly. Mrs. Bane thinks that working, it isn't that hard to separate yourself from your job when working as a nurse. She says, "You do what you have to do at the time and when it's all over maybe fall apart." Mrs. Bane enjoyed all of her jobs which she said sometimes were scary, but there isn't anything she didn't like. Once Mrs. Bane got out of school, it didn't take her long to work off her debts. Mrs. Bane thinks that it is important to have a hospital in the community especially small communities like Morton County.