

1946 Memories from Frances Sykora



My mother, Frances E. Sykora, earned her nursing diploma from the University of Minnesota in 1945 or 1946. She shared many stories with us as to how hard they worked and the equipment and supplies they used to treat the patients. I thoroughly enjoyed these stories especially given that I am a registered nurse. But my favorite story is how her nursing career led her to my father. After graduating from nursing school she was placed in Grand Rapids Minnesota in which she and another nurse lived in the home of the Clarence and Althea Silvis. It was here that she met one of their sons, Robert T. Silvis, while he was on a leave from the Navy and after three weeks of courtship they were engaged to be married. They married in November of 1946 and were married for almost 63 years when she passed away this past summer due to melanoma. My mom was a very caring person and although her nursing career was brief due to becoming a stay at home mom for 10 children she was very active as a volunteer for the local hospital and community in Monroe Wisconsin.

Lori Donovan, RN, MSN, CNOR