

## 1959 Memory from Joy Shin

The School of Nursing Class of March 1959 convened in the basement of Powell Hall one evening about two weeks before graduation to collect our blues and white aproned uniforms so we could pack them up to be sent to Seoul National University for use in their nursing program. Many of them had been only slightly used as the rotation through the dormitory based uniform laundry system was so efficient and reliable that each of us used only three or four uniforms of the seven allocated per week. We tended to pick up and reuse the same uniforms in the next week rather than devaluing into the the back of our tiny closets for the unused ones. I have often wondered whether they were used in Seoul, Korea by this school and whether they were appreciated.

This was just past the time of the Korean War in 1959 and this country was trying very hard to rebuilt itself and its health services education after the devastation of the Korean War. There was poverty and struggle in all segments of the society and I'm sure this extended to the School of Nursing there. The, then Dean, Katharine Densford Drees (Katie J., as we called her informally) had arranged this project and interest in us. As we had a good turn out for the packing party, many boxes of uniforms were donated prepared and boxed up to be sent. I do not know whether they arrived or who paid the postage, but I certainly felt it was a worthwhile project. I was later to marry a Korean who had survived this war period, became a leader in American society and we had three boys and now have seven grandchildren.

I had a rewarding career as a School of Nursing teacher after obtaining my graduate degree at Teacher's College, Columbia University. I also helped raise two other teenage relatives whose lives were severely affected by the Korean War who are now productive members of the American society, raising their own college-aged students in the US who are excelling at Ivy League and other reknowned universities in the US. Thus, the world turns as Korea now is a strong partner in the global economic development. I feel now that I had a ity-bitty role in this development through this project, but more important it changed my perspective and outreach to the world as a whole as I aged.

Thought I would share this memory with you.

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