

# S. J. McKee Archives



## Janet Seward interview

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions14458>

Part Of: Westman Oral History collection

Description Level: Item

Item Number: OH196.Sew

Accession Number: 35-1998

GMD: sound recordings

Date Range: March 23, 1981

Physical Description: 1 audio cassette [00:12:20]

History /

Biographical:

Janet Mortimer Seward (nee Anderson) was born on May 5, 1898 at Crown Hill, near Barrie, ON. She graduated with her RN from the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie in 1921. Coming to Brandon in 1927, she became a graduate of the first post-graduate class in psychiatric nursing at the Brandon Mental Hospital. In 1929, she became superintendent of nurses at that same institution. She stepped down from her position when she married Ernest Seward (1877-1949), a widower, in 1934, but following her husband's death, she resumed her nursing career, finally retiring in 1966. The couple had no children. An active member of St. George's Anglican Church, she also volunteered for the Red Cross. Janet Seward died on June 14, 1991 in Brandon, MB. She is buried at Brandon Municipal Cemetery.

Custodial History:

As part of the Westman Oral History Collection, this collection was accessioned by the McKee Archives in 1998. The original tapes from the Westman Oral History project were deposited in the Brandon Public Library. Copies of these originals were made by Margaret Pollex of the Brandon University Language Lab at the request of Eileen McFadden, University Archivist in the early 1990s. These copies compose the collection held in the McKee Archives.

Scope and Content:

Item is an audiocassette tape containing an interview with Janet Seward about health care and her experiences as a nurse. Subjects discussed include the working conditions in hospitals, medication and treatment that were done, patient care, and the doctors who worked in Brandon, including doctors Barager, Davidson, Goulden, Evans, Cromary, Peters, Bigelow, Shultz and Purdy. Postgraduates Miss Steward and Miss Cansfield are also mentioned. Interviewer is Phyllis Long.

Notes: History/bio information from the records and Seward's obituary.  
Transcript by Leah Stephens (2020). Description by Christy Henry.

Language Note: English

## Audio Tracks

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## Documents

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Westwood Oral History collection	
Interview Date	1981-00-28
Interviewer (Interviewed)	Joan Howard
Interviewer	Phyllis Long
Location	Brooklyn, Minnesota
Transcriber	Leah Stephenson
Date Transcribed	2020-08-02
Recording Format	Cassette, WAV, MP3
Length of Recording	00:12:00

Question 300004

**Subject:** healthcare, Thursday 2:30 of April 1991, Phyllis Lang, interview, 1:00 opening

Today with Mr. Scott Swartz, 54-04-06-02, who now lives in Fairview center (2000) residence, 1000 18th Street NW, Silver Spring, Maryland graduated from the Royal Victoria Hospital in Toronto, Ontario, Canada in November of 1957. We had been doing private duty in Toronto and then Dr. Benjamin, a cousin of Mr. Swartz, was involved to have a general practice interested in mental nursing and he had a number of applications and one from a graduate from Chicago, Scotland and one from Vancouver General. He chose them and were the first pairings to attend a three-month course in psychiatric nursing. Can you tell me a little bit about the psychiatric course that you had in those days?

**Answers (B) (1) (a)**

Well we had lectures on the psychiatric patient and treatment. There wasn't too much medication given, they used more baths, tube-feeding, and isolation and they sometimes put patients in hot packs. The nurse was not allowed to go into a disturbed patient's room alone. Patients were sometimes restrained and talked to, he tried to convince the patient that we were trying to help them. Dr. Berger gave us lectures on psychiatry. Dr. Goodwin was in charge of the East and West ward where the patients were admitted. Dr. Goodwin had the female patients in the main building of Broadmoor Hospital for mental diseases and Dr. Shott had the male patients in the main building. The doctor's club

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