



Margaret Ann Newman, Research Center's Nursing Director
She's Not Missing San Francisco

—Staff Photo by David Darnell

Nurse Doctors Faulty Starts

By ALICE DeWEESE

A MEMPHIS bachelor girl is beginning an exciting new career after faulty starts, which included a college degree in the wrong subject.

She is Miss Margaret Ann Newman, director of nursing at the Clinical Research Center of the University of Tennessee since its opening last month.

Her education includes a B.S. degree in home economics from Baylor University in 1954.

"I considered nursing during college as a means toward foreign mission work, but I didn't like the idea of being a nurse."

After she was graduated, she worked five years as an executive secretary.

"I never have used my home economics degree, except that it has come in handy in my personal life. And I wanted to stay in Memphis with my mother, who was an invalid.

"All that time, I was struggling with the idea of nursing, but there seemed no possible way."

IN 1959, WHEN SHE was 26 and the secretary of the plant manager of the W. R. Grace and Co., she switched careers and began years of study and work in nursing.

"The day after mother's funeral, I reached the culmination of seven years of thinking. I had only 10 days to get into that year's class of UT's College of Nursing, but I have a week's notice and enrolled."

Three years later, she received her B.S.N. degree and then was an assistant instructor in medical-surgical nursing a year at the college.

"My interest is in bettering nursing, and the only way to

be effective was by graduate study, I could see."

SO THE YOUNG WOMAN went West, to the University of California at San Francisco, for a master's degree in nursing.

"It was a wonderful year. It was stimulating intellectually and a happy time socially because I was squired the whole time by a fellow from Tennessee whom I met right away.

"I'll never forget that beautiful, friendly town. I felt a part of it. Why, even the pharmacist at the corner drug store was a Chinese who was a UT graduate and who went out of his way to be kind."

Margaret Ann smiles rarely but with charm. "I can almost imagine sometimes that I'm back in San Francisco, when I'm in my apartment or cooking on my hibachi (Japanese grill) on the patio."

She lives in a delightful apartment which she calls "my attic" at the top of a big home at 135 Morning-side Park.

SHE'S NOT missing San Francisco.

Four months ago, she began work of recruiting nurses for the new clinical Research Center.

When the center opened, she was ready with a staff of registered nurses, many of whom have master degrees and all of whom have had experience in research.

The unit is small, with a present capacity of 22 patients. The planning and administering of individualized nursing care are important elements of the research with patients.

"IT'S UNBELIEVABLY exciting," says Margaret Ann. "We take part in medi-

cal and nursing research to try to find more effective methods of care. A good part of my work is reading, thinking and evaluating.

"I took my time about finding the right career. But I knew my first year in nursing school that this work seems to satisfy all needs.

"I heard a doctor say once that nursing provides the means for the fullest utilization of a woman's personality and for her intellectual, emotional and spiritual stimulation.

"How right he was."

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