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Tape recorded interview conducted on September 22, 1989 in Menomonie, Wisconsin, with Laura and Clebourne Graff. Clebourne was born on June 24, 1918. He was raised on a farm in the Town of Lucas and later worked at a home for the aged in Knapp, Wisconsin. There he met his wife, Laura Bosshart. They were married in 1941 and operated a dairy farm. In 1946, they moved to Menomonie where they bought a home and took in the elderly that became known as the Graff Nursing Home. They retired in 1969.

00:00 INTRODUCTION

00:40 The Graff's first began working with the elderly in Knapp, at a home run by Clebourne's aunt, Charlotte Ward.

2:40 OPENING A NURSING HOME

In 1946, they opened their own nursing home in Menomonie. Residents were taken into their own home. At that time there were few regulations. Patients were recommended by their doctors. The staff consisted of just Laura and Clebourne.

8:30 COUNTY HOME

After two years the Graff's moved their operation to the County Home. The building had been the Dunn County Poorhouse. At that time the building was empty. The rooms were large and needed to be remodeled.

16:00 RESIDENTS

The residents consisted of people with special needs as well as people who had financial problems. Many of them needed therapy. Cost in the 1940's was about \$30 a month.

20:00 RETIREMENT

The Graff's left the nursing home in 1969, in part due to increasing regulations.

22:30 BUILDING

At first, some residents were hesitant of coming to the facility because it had been the poor farm. It was a beautiful and well constructed building. It was eventually torn down because it didn't have a sprinkler system. The building had been located by the current health care facility. It was torn down around 1971.

27:15 RESIDENTS

Problem patients were placed in private rooms.

31:00 END OF SIDE ONE

Cassette 1, Side 2

00:30 ACTIVITIES

Residents had the use of radio, televisions, etc., but there was no person who was responsible for organizing activities. Very few people had problems adjusting to the routine of the home.

5:35 POOR FARM

When the poor farm was closed down, the residents were placed in housing in other parts of the county.

9:25 CHANGES

One of the major changes that the Graff's experienced was the great increase in paperwork.

15:00 PATIENTS

When the Graff's first started, most elderly stayed with their families. Now, with both the husband and wife working, it is more difficult to keep someone home who needs special care.

18:50 ANECDOTES ABOUT RESIDENTS

24:46 END OF TAPE