



Center for The Study of The History of Nursing

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Schutt, Barbara G., 1930-1986

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Biographical or Historical Sketch.

Barbara G. Schutt, RN, DS, MSc Ed was born March 25, 1917 in Ithaca, New York, daughter of Warren and Clara Gordon Schutt. She graduated from Jefferson Medical College Hospital (now Thomas Jefferson University), Philadelphia, PA (1938), received her Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude, with distinction in psychology, Bethany College, Bethany West Virginia (1942), and a Masters of Science in Education (major in nursing) from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (1949).

Schutt's professional career began as a staff nurse and instructor at Jefferson Hospital, Philadelphia, PA (1938-1939). From 1939 to 1942 while studying for a bachelor's degree at Bethany College and upon graduation she did college health nursing, camp nursing, private duty nursing and part-time general duty nursing. During World War II she joined the U.S. Army Nurse Corps doing service mainly in Okinawa (1944-1946). Upon discharge from the U.S. Army she joined the staff of the Pennsylvania Nurses Association assistant executive secretary (1946-1957) and executive secretary (1958-1971). Schutt's main focus was improving nursing services, nursing education and assisting with development of economic and welfare programs for its 18,000 membership. She utilized such techniques as public relations, lobbying and *collective bargaining for the advancement of nursing in Pennsylvania. She also was editor of the *Pennsylvania Nurse* which received the general excellence 1952-1954 award by the American Journal of Nursing Company.

Schutt was best known to the nursing community during her tenure as *American Journal of Nursing*, editor (1958-1971) where her perceptive and forceful editorials made a lasting impression. Mr. William Scott, legal counsel for the Board of Directors of the *American Journal of Nursing* stated at her retirement dinner,

“Barbara has combined a trenchant, incisive and powerful pen with the ability to edit and encourage the work of others. She has built a superb editorial staff. Under her the Journal has become an influential and powerful voice for professional and organized nursing.”

Following her retirement from the *American Journal of Nursing*, Schutt directed the division of nursing at Mohegan Community College and left that position in 1979 and was presented the presidential citation for her five years of service. She served in various capacities for Eastern Connecticut Health Systems Agency and Southeastern Connecticut's Commission on Aging and participated in Senator Lowell Weickers' Senior Intern Program in Washington, D.C.

Schutt received several honors in recognition of her service to the profession. In 1973, she was made a charter member of the American Academy of Nursing, also receiving an honorary doctor of science degree from Bethany College. She received recognition awards from both the American Nurses Association, Connecticut Nursing Association, other honors from Connecticut and Pennsylvania Nurses Association, The Connecticut Nursing Association established a nursing scholarship in her honor. Her distinguished nursing career came to an end on December 26, 1986.

Summary.

These papers span Schutt's professional life documenting her commitment and assisting

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establishing the economic and general welfare program for the profession. This collection is comprised of addresses, articles and files which reflect her associations with National and state nurses associations and the *American Journal of Nursing* company.

Series Description. This collection has been arranged into five series:

- Series I. Personal, 1930-1986
- Series II. Addresses, Articles and Reprints, 1948-1983
- Series III. Professional Organizations, Associations and Mohegan Community College, 1974-1979
- Series IV. Awards and Honors, 1960-1989
- Series V. Photographs—1944-1984

Series I. Personal. This is a small series which includes correspondence, educational course paper, college transcripts and diploma, and Schutt's thoughts on how World War II had an impact on her future career, and her obituary.

Series II. Addresses, Articles and Reprints, 1948-1983. In this series are a large number of addresses Schutt presented to state nurses associations meetings and conventions and article reprints published in the various professional journals. It also includes some of her handwritten notes, as well as cue cards used at various meetings.

Series III. Professional Organizations, Associations and Mohegan Community College. This series documents Schutt's nursing career as Assistant, Associate and Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Nurses Association, as well as editor of *The Pennsylvania Nurse*, editor of *The American Journal of Nursing*; director of the Associate Nursing Degree Program, Mohegan Community College, and volunteer activities.

Series IV. Awards and Honors. This is a small series which includes certificates of appreciation, distinguished accomplishments, honorary degree, and the Barbara G. Schutt Scholarship Award.

Series V. Photographs. This series has photographs documenting Schutt's attendance at various state nurses association meetings and conventions including the International Council of Nursing. Included are the scrapbook photographs of her retirement dinner from the *The American Journal of Nursing* Company.

Series I. Personal

Box 1

f.1 Certificate of Registration—State of Connecticut, 1971

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Correspondence

- f.2 Position references, etc. incoming and outgoing, 1949-1982
- f.3 Repository of B.G. Schutt manuscripts, etc., Mugar Memorial Library, Boston University, incoming and outgoing 1972-1973
- f.4 Speedy recovery wishes, incoming, 1970

- Jefferson Medical College; Training School for Nurses 1930-1939
- f.5 Bulletin—Trainings School for Nurses, 1930's
- f.6 Graduation invitation and program, 1939
- f.7 The Impact of World War II on my Career
- f.8 Obituary—Barbara G. Schutt, 1917-1986
- f.9 Professional resumes, 1935-1985
- f.10 Transcript, Bethany College, Bethany, WV, (academic record), 1942 University of Pennsylvania
- f.11 Grades and report cards, 1943-1948 and course paper: various philosophies of education, Ed. 652, 1947
- f.12 Diploma, Master of Science in Education, 1948

Series II. Addresses and Article Reprints

Addresses

- f.1 “Your professional associations,” Colorado State Nurses Association, 1960
- f.2 “Speaking for nursing,” California State Nurses Association, March 6, 1960.
- f.3 Commencement, Jewish Hospital School of Nursing, Cincinnati, OH, August 28, 1960
- f.4 “Some foundation stones for good public relations,” Nebraska State Nurses Association, October 5, 1960
- f.5 “Economics of the nursing profession,” Iowa State Nurses Association, October 25, 1960
- f.6 “Taking a stand,” Arizona State Nurses Association, November 10, 1960
- f.7 “The future of nursing, October, 1961
- f.8 “New dimensions of nursing, tomorrow’s dividends from today’s assets,” Connecticut Nurses Association, October 10, 1962
- f.9 “Our opportunities and our resources,” Oregon Nurses Association, 1962 (?)
- f.10 “Nursing in perspective,” Maryland Nurses Association, October 10, 1963
- f.11 “Professional nursing practice—whose responsibility?,” Casper, WY