

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Betty Gross

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Gross, Betty W., 1914-2005
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Betty Gross,
Dates:	July 15, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:47:48).
Abstract:	Nursing education administrator and nurse Betty Gross (1914 - 2005) was the former director of the Provident Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago, Illinois. During her long career, Gross helped establish two allergy clinics, one at Provident and the other at Howard University's Freedmen Hospital. In 1977, she left Provident and became a lecturer at Chicago State University. Gross was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 15, 2002, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_101
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Betty Gross was born on October 24, 1914, in Rock Island, Illinois. She was one of seven children born to a homemaker mother and a father who worked as a plasterer. She graduated from Canton High School in Canton, Illinois, in 1933. Following graduation, Gross followed her older sister Catherine, who worked in Chicago's Provident Hospital, into the nursing profession.

From 1940 until 1942, Gross worked as staff nurse at Provident Hospital. In 1942, she took a break to continue her education at Howard University in Washington, D.C. She received her degree from Howard University in sociology with a minor in psychology in 1946. In 1951, she received her B.S. in nursing from Loyola University and in 1957, earned an M.S. from DePaul University.

For thirty-one years at Provident Hospital, she worked her way up from staff nurse to the director of Nursing and Nursing Education. During her long career, Gross helped establish two allergy clinics, one at Provident and the other at Howard University's Freedmen Hospital. In 1977, she left Provident and became a lecturer at Chicago State University.

Gross served eight years as a member of the Illinois Nurses Association Board of Directors. She has been a member of Zonta International since 1968, and a member of the Alpha Gamma Pi Honorary Sorority since 1964. Gross passed away in 2005.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Betty Gross was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 15, 2002, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Nursing education administrator and nurse Betty Gross (1914 - 2005) was the former director of the Provident Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago, Illinois. During her long career, Gross helped establish two allergy clinics, one at Provident and the other at Howard University's Freedmen Hospital. In 1977, she left Provident and became a lecturer at Chicago State University.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Gross, Betty W., 1914-2005

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Gross, Betty W., 1914-2005--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Provident Hospital (Chicago, Ill.)

Occupations:

Nursing Education Administrator

Nurse

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers|MedicalMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Betty Gross, July 15, 2002. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Betty Gross, Section
A2002_101_001_001, TRT: 0:29:59 2002/07/15

Nurse Betty Gross shares her mother's and father's backgrounds and describes growing up in Canton, Illinois. Gross remembers attending elementary school and her family's holiday celebrations. Gross also explains her initial interest in nursing and describes her experience at Provident Hospital's School of Nursing.

Video Oral History Interview with Betty Gross, Section
A2002_101_001_002, TRT: 0:30:18 2002/07/15

Nurse Betty Gross recalls her educational experience at Howard University and Loyola University, and explains how she met her husband. Gross then details her many successful years at Provident Hospital, where she eventually rose to be director of nursing and nursing education. Gross recalls her encounters with racism in the medical community. Gross talks about the importance of Provident to the black community, and blames its closing partially on economics and integration.

Video Oral History Interview with Betty Gross, Section
A2002_101_001_003, TRT: 0:30:27 2002/07/15

Nurse Betty Gross mentions some of the famous patients treated at Provident Hospital, as well as Provident's most famous and influential physicians. Gross also details her community service, especially her work in the organizations Zonta International and Alpha Gamma Pi. Gross also gives her opinion on the current state of medicine, saying it has become too commercialized.

Video Oral History Interview with Betty Gross, Section
A2002_101_001_004, TRT: 0:17:04 2002/07/15

Nurse Betty Gross explains how she led by example when

she was director of nursing at Provident Hospital, and tells of how her leadership earned her department compliments from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. Gross also considers the impact of integration on hospitals, and explains how she was a trendsetter in the nursing field. Gross says she would like to be remembered as a fair person who tried her best.