



POSTON'S FLORENCE NIGHTINGALES

MAY TAKEUCHI

Poston General Hospital was located in Poston I Camp so we moved there to take and receive Nurse's Aide training.

Small classes were started every 3 to 4 months and each group was housed in a barrack dormitory in Block 31 or 32. Lectures and classes were given by doctors and registered nurses. We were rotated every 3 to 4 months to different wards to get training in Medical, Surgical, Obstetrical and Communicable Diseases. After one year, capping was the biggest event with a special ceremony. After capping, we had special opportunities to scrub for surgery and take charge of a ward. If we were on a night shift, the ambulance came to pick us up at the dormitory. It was 8 hour work shifts and the pay \$16.00 per month.

Many names come to our minds who taught us—Ms. Kirchner, Ms. Vance, Ms. Vickers, M. Kodani, Dr. Iwata, Dr. Kasuga, Dr. Wada at OPD with Ms. Kushida and Ms. Miyoshi, etc.

In this environment, a lasting friendship was formed with roommates who shared the barrack dormitory. The dormitory wasn't convenient and comfortable like today's standard but we made the best of the situation. We couldn't get over the fact we had real mattresses on our beds. We came from Camp II where at that time, we were given a huge canvas like sack filled with straw to sleep on. (We had to fill it ourselves.) The straw shifted in every direction and when the beds were made, it had a wavy, lumpy, swayed look to it, so we really appreciated the real mattresses.

Miye Ihara was from Sanger, Ryo Ichikawa and Amy Ueda from Salinas, Midori from San Diego and May Ogawa from Sacramento. How we studied so hard to master those difficult medical words at night but we always looked forward to our late snack—that glorious "Lipton (dehydrated) Soup". We drank so much soup, we were happy and thrilled when Ryo Ichikawa moved in. She brought with her, peanut butter and crackers, we called it the "Gourmet Snack". It was the best tasting peanut butter we ever tasted. We had our usual shop talk, fashion talk from Mail Order catalogs, and we shared our ups and downs from that day's work in the wards. Death was always hard to take but birth was joyous.

We remember Ryo Ichikawa's special laugh and also how she faithfully brushed her hair, she had more brushes than any of us. They were good brushes and how her hair shined.

Forty five years have passed. We remember helping with the hot packs (Sister Kenny's treatment) in Ward I for polio patients.

We helped in two tuberculosis wards, one for men and the other for women. Now, we hardly hear much of these illnesses.

And so with fond memories, we dedicate this article in memory of our loving and dear friend, Ryo Ichikawa Kakebe, who passed away August 3, 1984.

Amy Ueda Izumizaki—Pacifica, California
Mickey Miye Ihara Wada—Sanger, California
May Ogawa Takeuchi—Sacramento, California



Back Row:
???, Shiz Suwa, Amy Ichikawa
Front Row:
Rose Yamamoto, Hanaye Watari, ??



Second Graduating Class
Capping Ceremony & Banquet



Dorm-mates of Block 32



Novel Hut Library



220 Mess Hall Crew



Community Activity Dept.



Utility & Maintenance



Shibai at Cottonwood Bowl



Motor Pool



Steward Department