

Memories of Betty Eeten

By Carolyn Rohrbaugh, Sutherland

The date was June 19, 1968, and we were expecting our second child any day. My fifteen-year-old sister was staying with us to take care of our daughter when it was time for me to go to the hospital.

I had been putting off redecorating our daughter's room, and as long as I had help I decided this would be the day to do it. My sister helped me move the furniture from the room, paint the walls, put down an area rug and move the furniture back into the room. As the day went on, my back ached and I had to stop to rest quite often. By five o'clock that afternoon I knew we should head to Hartley, a twenty minute drive from Sutherland. Foolishly, I decided that I had time to make our daughter a pair of shorts, fix supper, and take a bath.

When we finally arrived at the Hartley Hospital, the nurses informed us that Dr. Brown was at the Lakes. It was soon evident that Dr. Brown was not going to get there in time. Betty Eeten, the head nurse, had checked into the hospital that evening to have surgery the next morning. The nurses did the only thing they could do. They summoned Betty. She got out of her hospital bed, quickly scrubbed and stepped into the delivery room just in time to deliver our son. She was one of the best.

By Evelyn Reimers Checkel

I knew Betty well. I worked with her at the Hand Hospital in the late 40's with Doctors Peterson, Radcliff, Grams and Brown.

I went over to her house once or twice a week to play the card game, canasta. I remember one night when we made treats to send to her brother, Joel, who was a Marine.

I was one of the people who attended her wedding and reception at the Patch-Eeten House pictured in the photo in the paper. The servants' quarters were located in the back of the home. Her grandfather was the banker in Hartley.

Betty served at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, before I worked with her. She once told me of the time when the Vice-President of the United States was one of her patients. He would not allow the nurses caring for him to wear perfume.

*Evelyn recently celebrated her 90th birthday on February 22, making her birthday 2/22/12.

You are invited to contribute stories about Betty Eeten, the Cemetery Chapel, or cemetery memories. Send them to btaylor@tcaexpress.net, or mail them to Betty Taylor, 170 S 8th Ave E, Hartley, Iowa 51346. If we can collect enough memories, I will compile them for a book to be used as a fund raiser for the Hartley Historical Society. Next week's issue will have a chapel memory by Maurine Rawlings.