

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Margaret R. Lemm (1906 -)

Margaret Lemm has softly curling white hair, still bright blue eyes and a way about her that make one think she had a wonderful "bedside manner." She was born in Butte in 1906, raised in McQueen and has practiced nursing since 1929.

Her father was an Irishman, a drilling champion and foreman at the Black Rock mine until eighteen months before his death in 1924. He and her mother met while she was working in a boarding house in Iowa.

In 1926 Mrs. Lemm entered training at St. James hospital, after working at various jobs to earn the necessary \$385. After graduation she was hired as assistant superintendent at St. James, a position she held for two years. In 1930 she married Robert Lemm, an employee of the Northern Pacific Railroad. She stopped nursing in 1931, had three children, and returned to public work in 1942. Over the next thirty years she did special duty nursing, worked with a group of ear, nose and throat specialists, did physical therapy, and from 1956 to 1972 was a school nurse in Butte.

In 1953 she was involved in the organization of the short-lived Butte Nurses Union. They lobbied successfully three times to defeat a bill which would introduce nurses' aides to the hospital, but were defeated on the fourth attempt by the combined power of the hospital administrations and the Montana Nurses Association. Although 150 nurses joined the union, they were unable to withstand the pressure of the administration and the organization did not survive.

Mrs. Lemm lives with her husband on the Flat, is active with handicapped groups, and, judging by the number of neighbors dropping by and calling, is kept very busy.