

U. S. CADET NURSE CORPS

10<sup>th</sup> and King St.  
NILM  
Oct, 1946

Announcer: This is another in the series of the American Legion Auxiliary broadcasts and there is participating today our Cadet Nurses from the Delaware State Hospital, Farnhurst, Delaware. There are 65,000 students needed in the school of nursing this year, and the American Legion Auxiliary is interested in helping to recruit these students in order that the civilian population and the military forces are adequately cared for. The cadets taking part today are Cadets C. Kinonian, H. Murphy, T. Duffy, R. Walsh, Horney, F. Adams, R. Marsh, Schwirian, Ivaniski and Wegemer.

Cadet T. Duffy: There are many questions I would like to know and I have an idea that there are many girls who would like to know about the United States Cadet Nurse Corps, this splendid organization which provides all-expense scholarships in schools of nursing for its members.

Cadet Kinonian: We think that everyone should know about the Cadet Nurse Corps.

Senior Cadet Zelum: Of course you do, Miss Kinonian. And rightly so! Whatever her postwar ambitions may be, every young woman should know of this opportunity to be educated as a nurse. For some it will mean a lifetime career in one of the noblest professions open to women. Others, who are making a real contribution to Victory in these trying months--will make good use of their experience later as wives and homemakers--once that soldier boy is home from the front. I enrolled at Delaware State Hospital School of Nursing in September 1942. I'm awfully glad to be doing something as essential as nursing.

Cadet Walsh: Well, all my life, at least as long as I remember, I've wanted to be a nurse. It's such wonderful work for any girl to do.

Cadet Murphy: So you're realizing a childhood ambition. I suppose that when you were a youngster your dolls were always suffering from broken arms and legs.

Senior Cadet Zelum: Oh, my, yes. I had a regular hospital and doctored and nursed all of them.

Cadet Walsh: Well then, Cadet Nurse Murphy, how long have you been a member of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps?

Cadet Murphy: I enrolled last Sept., just 3 months ago.



U.S. CADET NURSE CORPS

-2-

Cadet Walsh What do you like most about your work?

Cadet  
Murphy Most of all, I like the feeling that I'm helping to do really necessary war work, and war work that's definitely a woman's job.

Cadet Horney That's right. Then, of course, nursing is war work with a future. When the war's over, I'll have not only a job, but a professional career ahead of me.

Cadet Walsh You mean as a graduate nurse?

Cadet  
Horney Yes, after I take my state board exams, I'll be a R.N. a Registered Nurse. And that's a lifetime career.

Cadet Walsh And the United States Cadet Nurse Corps pays all your expenses, doesn't it?

Cadet  
Horney Yes, our scholarships provide for the cost of tuition, fees, books, room, board and school uniforms. Besides all that, we are given monthly spending allowances and official Cadet Nurse uniforms.

Cadet  
Ivaniski Those Cadet Nurse uniforms are certainly handsome, too. How much does your spending allowance amount to, Cadet Horney?

Cadet  
Horney Those of us who enrolled in the Corps last Sept. are Pre-Cadets, and we're paid fifteen dollars a month allowance. That's not a fortune, of course, but it's wonderful to have spending money in your purse.

Cadet  
Ivaniski It all adds up-if you keep it in your purse.

Cadet  
Horney Well, that not so easy--but anyway, in June we'll start getting twenty dollars a month as Junior Cadets. We're looking forward to that!

Cadet  
Ivaniski What happens after you're Junior Cadets. Do you graduate?

Cadet  
T. Duffy It depends. We've had all our basic training by then, but some schools require a longer period before graduation. In that case, we're known as Senior Cadets for the remaining period--and receive at least thirty dollars a month as an allowance.



U. S. CADET NURSE CORPS

-3-

Cadet Adams Pre-Cadets, Junior Cadets, and Senior Cadets. Can you tell us a little more about what those different grades mean Cadet Kinonian?

Cadet Kinonian During our first nine months in school as Pre-Caders, we spend most of our time in classwork, in studying and attending demonstrations in nursing practice. We do some supervised work in the wards too. Then for the next 15 to 21 months, as Junior Cades, we spend less time in classwork and more in clinical practice, concentrating on medical and surgical nursing, in operating rooms and out-patient departments.

Cadet Adams That amounts to either 24 or 30 months. The exact time depends on the school, I suppose.

Cadet Kinonian That's right. Senior Cadets take over many of the duties and responsibilities of graduate nurses. Under supervision, of course. They may stay in their home hospital or be assigned to some other institution during this time.

Cadet Ivaniski I suppose that prospective Cadet Nurses should find out the requirements of different schools before they plan to enroll. Where should a girl go for this information?

Senior Cadet Zelum There are several places. She may go directly to the Schools of Nursing. Or she may go to the Nursing Council for War Service here in Wilmington, or write Station WILM. The Recruiting Officer for the Nursing Council is Mrs. Elizabeth Lynam. The phone no. is 54738. She has all the information about the school of nursing and the Cadet Nurse Corps.

Cadet Ivaniski That's a good idea. What about qualifications?

Senior Cadet Zelum There again, qualifications vary according to each school. In Delaware, the Corps is open to graduates of accredited high schools, who have good scholastic records, who are between 17 or 18 and 36, and in good health.

Cadet Walsh What do you Cadet Nurses plan to do when you graduate?

Senior Cadet Zelum I'd like very much to be an Army or Navy nurse and maybe go overseas before the end of the war.

Cadet Marsh What about you Cadet Nurse Murphy?

Cadet Murphy I'd like very much to go into public health nursing.



U. S. CADET NURSE CORPS

-4-

Cadet Marsh Now, wait a minute. I thought that all you Cadet Nurses had to promise to serve with the Armed Forces when you graduate. That is, if the war is still on.

Cadet Murphy A lot of people have that idea. And they're wrong. The only promise we make when we join the Corps is to stay in nursing service for the duration of the war. Either essential civilian or military nursing... the choice is ours.

Cadet Marsh I'm glad to hear that. Anybody who has been in a hospital lately certainly knows that we need plenty of nurses right here on the home front.

Cadet Murphy And not only in the hospitals. Nurses are needed for industrial centers, schools, clinics, public health and many other essential services.

Cadet Schwirian Here's another question. What happens if the war ends before you finish training?

Cadet Murphy All Cadet Nurses who've entered the Corps ninety days before the end of the war may finish their nursing education under the program.

Cadet Schwirian I see. And what about marriage? Are you permitted to marry while you're still in school?

Cadet Murphy A good many schools admit married girls as students. As a matter of fact, I know of several girls whose husbands are overseas, who are seriously thinking about joining the Corps. A good education as a nurse is something no one can ever take away from you, you know.

Cadet Wegemer It will come in handy whether you hope to become head of a hospital or the mother of six children. Is that the idea?

Cadet Murphy That's about it.

Cadet Wegemer There's one other point I want to clear up. How does the Government come into all this?

Cadet Horney Well, you see, Congress appropriates the money for our education. The United States Public Health Service, through the Division of Nurse Education, allocates payments to the schools of nursing taking part in the program, and the schools in turn give us our education, maintenance, uniforms and allowance.



U. S. CADET NURSE CORPS

-5-

Cadet Wegemer In other words, your relationship to the school is exactly the same as it has always been.

Cadet Horney That's right. We're proud of our schools too.

Cadet Wegemer I can see that. I suppose going to nursing school is pretty much like going to college, isn't it?

Cadet Horney As far as classwork goes, yes. And we live in a dormitory, only we call it the nurses' residence, and share a room with another student just as we would in college. There are plenty of school activities too--Glee Clubs, dramatics, sports, school dances and teas. Some of the larger schools have swimming pools and the majority have tennis courts.

Cadet Wegemer Sounds like a good life to me. Well, I'm sure that you Cadet Nurses have cleared up a number of points which have probably been hazy in the minds of many young women who are interested in joining the Corps.

Cadet Horney I'd like to say that these benefits you'll receive in return for your wartime service--a complete nursing education tuition, fees, books, room, board, uniforms and an allowance... at no cost to you-- is a wonderful preparation for a wonderful lifetime career.

Cadet Wegemer This all sounds to me like a most practical way to be patriotic.