

Jola Hope Erickson Sundstrom Endowment



*J*ola Hope Erickson was born in Rolla, North Dakota, on November 19, 1929, to Edward and Mary Erickson. She attended all twelve years of her education in the Rolla Public School, graduating with honors. After school and during the summers, she worked for Drs. B. J. Hughes and S. C. Crae at the Rolla Clinic. She continued to work at the clinic until the following fall.

After terminating her job in the clinic, she attended the school of nursing at Bottineau, North Dakota, where she received her degree as a registered nurse. Her internship took her to Saint Aloisius in Harvey and Saint Alexius in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Her first job was at the Rolla Hospital which was managed by the Sisters of the Presentation. She was a very dedicated nurse and often called the nurses' station when she was off-duty to inquire how a patient in a certain room was doing. She was often asked to tend the difficult patients who were not happy to need hospital care because of her special manner of caring for them with kindness and gentleness.

She decided to apply for a position in a VA hospital, and after her interview she was hired to work in the Veterans Hospital in Rapid City, South Dakota. It was while working there that she met her future husband,

Ernest Sundstrom, who was attending the School of Mines.

They were married in Rapid City, and when Ernie graduated, he got a job working for MDU in Mandan, North Dakota. It was there that they raised four children, one of whom followed in her mother's footsteps and became a nurse.

Linda said, "*When I had a difficult day at work, Mother always had the right thing to say to make me feel better.*" Iola's mother would always say the same thing.

Four active children kept Iola very busy, and she was always very concerned about healthy nutrition for her family. She encouraged her children in all their various activities.

Later, the family moved to Saint Louis, Missouri, where Iola was employed in a privately owned hospital. She was pleased to be accepted because she knew they screened their employees very carefully so their pa-

tients would get the best care possible.

Their last move was to Jackson, Michigan, where Iola was employed at

the Foote Memorial Hospital. Here she was assigned to the ICU caring for all the seriously ill patients with heart problems. This was an intensive job because there were many patients in a large unit. The nurse on duty was constantly observing patient monitors to check on their welfare.

Iola continued to work at Foote Memorial until the day she was diagnosed with liver and breast cancer. She made weekly trips to

the doctor for a liver procedure until she became bedridden. She died February 8, 1988. She was survived by three brothers and four sisters, including Shirley Gores of Devils Lake.

This endowment was established by Shirley to provide scholarship support for students, with preference given to those enrolled in nursing. •

The Nurse

The world grows better year by year
Because some nurse in her little sphere
Puts on her apron and grins and sings
And keeps on doing the same old things.

Taking the temperatures, giving the pills
To remedy mankind's numberless ills.
Feeding the baby, answering the bells,
Being polite with a heart that rebels.

Longing for home and all the while
Wearing the same old professional smile.
Blessing the new born babe's first breath.
Closing the eyes that are still in death.

Taking the blame for the Doctor's mistakes.
Oh Dear, what a lot of patience it takes.
Going off duty at seven o'clock
Tired, discouraged, and ready to drop.

But called back on special at seven fifteen
With woe in her heart, but it must not be seen.
Morning and evening, and noon and night,
Just doing it over and hoping it's right.

When we lay down our caps and cross the bar,
Oh Lord, will you give us just one little star
To wear in our crowns with our uniforms new
In that city above where the Head Nurse is You.