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1 Why did you decide to become an NP?
As a child, I would practice my skills in cleansing scrapes and abrasions on my friends. In school, the school nurse allowed me to put on the Band Aids. It was my intention to become a full nurse … however in those days, the 1940s, students in nursing were not allowed to marry because they lived and learned in the hospital. I chose to marry.

In 1969, after giving birth to four children, I started classes in an associate degree nursing program. From there, I continued my quest to learn more and was fortunate to become one of the first nurses (along with Merrily Allen) to start the Vashon Island Community Clinic, with backing from University of Washington School of Nursing and medical backup from Harborview Hospital.

2 Will you/have you pursued a doctorate of nursing practice? Why/why not?
I had been moving along with the need for further education, as we nurses moved to our own practices. For me, the quest was a master’s degree in nursing. I entered a master’s program after that became the entry level for NPs, even though I had been in advanced practice for years. I am not going to pursue a doctorate, mainly because of my age. It’s also due to the fact that I am not quite sure why we move to doctorate programs. Some women and men will not be able to obtain that degree, yet they will have the skills reflecting it.

3 What’s your favorite prescribing reference tool?
For a long time the PDR. Now, Monthly Prescribing Reference (MPR) Nurse Practitioners’ Edition, acknowledging our practice. It is updated often and provides rationales and options. And it travels lightly.

4 What app did you download most recently?
I do not have a need for apps. I do use the programs offered on computer (i.e., Medscape and pharmaceutical programs; messages from the DEA). I realize that there are numerous apps with new programs and continuing education. I find it is much clearer and most important to meet in a live situation and then be able to learn, discuss and have discourse about our practices, especially for those of us in rural practice.

6 What career do you think you would have pursued if you hadn’t become an NP?
Having earned a degree in sociology, I believe that I would have continued my quest for someone, somewhere who needed the caring services that I could give. Who knows? I may just go that direction now. I jokes, as my Eskimo friends say! ■

5 Who has had the most impact on your NP career?
Not necessarily who but what? That was the need to provide care for isolated populations as we had on Vashon Island in Washington. Young physicians did not want to go into the rural areas alone. But nurses are everywhere, and we give care to those who need it. So who better than the local communities to find someone who could and would give care to those isolated or far away from the hospitals and acute centers?

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