



Interview No.: OH 1.3

Title: Hazel Doris Alston Interview by Brooke Fox, 16 March 2011

Interviewer: Fox, Brooke

Interviewee: Alston, Hazel Doris

Date: 2011-03-16

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Subject (Topical):

Medical College of South Carolina.

Medical College of South Carolina. Medical College Hospital.

Medical University of South Carolina.

Medical University of South Carolina. Medical University Hospital.

Licensed Practical Nurses.

Hospital Workers' Strike, Charleston, S.C., 1969.

Nursing Service, Hospital -- organization & administration -- South Carolina.

Hospitals -- history -- South Carolina.

Roper Hospital (Charleston, S.C.)

Kidney Transplantation.

Subject (Names):

Alston, Hazel Doris

Alexander, Carmen Renee.

Subject (Genre):

Oral histories.

Interviews.

Personal narratives.

Summary:

Hazel Alston joined the staff of the Medical College Hospital in 1956. In this interview Mrs. Alston discusses graduating from the Roper Hospital School of Practical Nursing in 1953, working at Roper Hospital, and then joining the Medical College Hospital as one of its first licensed practical nurses on staff and one of its first African-American LPNs. She recalls the first patient to be admitted to the Medical College Hospital and the types of patients she primarily looked after (initially cancer patients and then kidney transplant patients until her retirement). She describes the duties of a practical nurse, her daily work routine and interactions with patients, and shares stories about unusual experiences she had during her years of working night shifts. She identifies her nursing supervisors and her coworkers. She recalls the various awards she received from the hospital, including employee of the month. Mrs. Alston also shares her memories of hospital segregation and then its eventual integration. She recalls the 1969 hospital workers' strike and its impact on not only her daily activities but also its effect on hospital administration, staff and patients.

Mrs. Alston also talks in depth about her personal life, her husband and children. Her daughter, Carmen Alexander participated in the interview and provided additional information and stories about her mother and her time at the Medical College Hospital.

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Media Type: Oral Histories

Note:

Carmen Renee Alexander, Mrs. Alston's daughter, participated in the interview and shared stories of her mother's time working for the Medical University Hospital.

Transcript has been edited by the interviewee.

In cases where the audio and the transcript differ, the audio is provided for background use only.

Language: English

Digitization Specifications: Audio recorded using a Marantz digital recorder. Archival masters are .mp3 files.

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