

The Life and Times of Ina M Brickley, 1895-1990

An Honors Thesis (ID 499)

by

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Introduction

Every day people are born and people die. Our lives impact other people's lives whether it be for good or for bad. This is a detailed story of a woman's lifetime and how she was able to contribute to the people around her while she was alive. Her niece, Jean Kober, refers to her as "a remarkable lady." This woman contained a responsibility within herself to help other people not wishing to bring rewards to herself. It is a useful life to examine and see how one person can have a positive influence on other people's lives. This story would not have been developed had it not been for the cooperation and patience of this woman's children and friends.

Ina M Agar was born May 15, 1895 in Perth, Australia. Her father, William Hoyle Agar, was a younger son in a well to do family. His father and earlier family manufactured clocks in England and were members of the Church of England. His grandfather had been knighted. Will was a skilled engineer and an inventor who loved to travel and see the world. Because he was a younger son, he did not inherit money from his family (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

Ina's mother, Janet Muir Mc Guire (Jessie), was Scottish. Jessie's family lived off the coast of Glasgow on the islands and was of the Presbyterian faith. The family moved to York, England which is where Will and Jessie met. It is no surprise that Will fell in love with Jessie as she was educated as a proper young lady, sewed beautifully, and played the piano. She had very white skin with blue eyes and blue black hair. She was very home loving (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

In contrast, Jessie's sister Dinah did not want to stay at home. Instead, she shocked her family by becoming a nurse which was not an occupation considered respectable for young ladies in the eighteen hundreds. Dinah later moved to the United States and became a private nurse, companion to Julius Rosenbloom, the founder of Sears, Roebuck. Dinah also later

became a role model for her niece, Ina M Agar (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

As Ina entered the Agar family, she became the third child. She had an older sister named Olive and an older brother named Will. Her parents had traveled from York, England to Australia because of an engineering project in which her father was involved. They lived there for about two years. While Ina was still a small baby, the family moved from the far western part of Australia to Melbourne, Australia. Her mother enjoyed this part of Australia because it was less rustic and the scenery was lovely (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

When Ina was two years old, her father was called back to England, and they made the long sea journey home. They stayed in England only a couple of years. Then Will was asked to work on a project in the United States in Chicago. Therefore, he moved his family to the U.S. to the small town of Pullman, Illinois, just outside of Chicago (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991). "I was five years old when we came to Illinois," I. M. Brickley stated (personal communication, August 10, 1990).

Pullman was a town built by the railroad owners primarily for the workers of the Pullman Company, manufacturers of the Pullman Passenger Cars. Will helped design new and better features for these cars. He invented the first windows that could be opened. The children went to school in Pullman where

they had some private lessons, but mostly they studied in the school provided for the workers' children (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

The Agar family was happy in Pullman. They enjoyed long visits with relatives who had also moved to the U.S. They also attended church, either the Presbyterian or the Episcopalian depending upon where they lived and which church was available to them. Soon, another daughter was born named Edith Jean (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991). As Ina grew, her mother used to say to her, "You have to be interested in helping other families. You have to help the other fellow out" (I. M. Brickley, personal communication, August 10, 1990). Parental influence and regular attendance at church helped Ina establish a very deep faith in God that she lived by ("Florence Starr, Ina Brickley," 1987).

In the early nineteen hundreds, disaster struck the family. Will had taken a trip to Washington with a friend and partner to secure some patents for new inventions. While on the trip, he developed pneumonia and died very soon after returning home. He was a fairly young man and had not saved a lot of money, thinking that his new inventions would make him wealthy. Upon his death, his partner rewrote the patent applications in his own name and he became very wealthy while Ina's family was left in a difficult situation. Her mother was not equipped to support her family. It was now even



Edith Jean Agar and Ina M Agar
(Submitted by J. D. Balaguras)

larger because of adopting two children left orphaned by the death of close friends (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

The family moved to Chicago to be closer to relatives. Jessie gave piano lessons and also received aid from other family members. Jessie and her children managed to live very meagerly. Ina's brother left school to work and make money and Ina took over the care of her little sister Edith. Although times were hard, Ina enjoyed the city and loved the museums and the free band concerts in Grant Park. She especially loved hearing John Philips Sousa, the famous composer of so many famous marches--a Chicago celebrity in the early nineteen hundreds (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

When Ina was sixteen, her mother died after a long illness. Ina had been responsible for most of her mother's care, as well as for her little sister's care, and had been unable to finish high school. The older siblings had moved out but continued to help Ina, her mother, and Edith financially. Because Ina was determined to support herself and because of her Aunt Dinah's nursing career, Ina decided to apply for nurses training. Meanwhile, Edith went to live with their older sister Olive and her new husband (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

Nursing in the early 1900s in America was going through change. Women, who became aware of the opportunities of

caring for the sick and the wounded during the Civil War, did not want to stop nursing after the war was over. Soon in 1873 the New York State Charities Aid Association opened the first nursing school in Bellevue Hospital in New York City (Kalisch and Kalisch, 1975).

From 1860 to 1920 there was a rapid growth of hospitals resulting from increased urbanization. With the increased numbers of people, the accumulation of wealth, and the increased numbers of the poor, came increased amounts of health needs and the challenge of doctors, churches, and religious orders to found hospitals to meet those health needs (Kalisch and Kalisch, 1975).

Problems existed. In order to keep the hospitals from going under "physicians had free use of the hospitals, hospitals became nurse-training schools and used students for staffing, and people who could not pay for care did not receive care" (Kalisch and Kalisch, 1975, p. 225).

The initial American training schools were influenced by Florence Nightingale's model for nursing (Fitzpatrick, 1983). Florence Nightingale believed that nursing schools should "train hospital nurses, train nurses to train others, and train district nurses for the sick and the poor." She thought "a hospital alone was not to be a center for the education and practice of nursing." In addition, she saw students as a learner and not a worker. "A nurse should do nothing but

nurse. If you want a char woman hire one. Nursing is a specialty" (Fitzpatrick, 1983, p. 64).

By the turn of the century, there was a rapid growth of hospitals in the United States. Many of these hospitals were constructed with an unstable financial base. The hospitals sought the most economic means to staff the hospitals and began using students for their staff. Soon the students were learning by working on hospital wards. In short, student nurses were cheap labor for the hospitals (Fitzpatrick, 1983).

At age 16, Ina sat on the steps outside of the Washington Park Hospital in Chicago, IL, until she was let in (J. Kober, personal communication, March 6 1991). The requirements to become a nurse in Illinois as of July 1, 1910 were that the applicants must be twenty-three years old and have three years of a systematic course in a general hospital (Dock, 1912). Ina was an exception. She really had to prove herself since the nurses in charge of training thought she was too young. Ina had to sew her own uniforms before entering training. She had to be perfectly dressed, starched, ironed, and groomed at all times. Ina did not have to pay tuition for training, but she was given a place to live and a very small amount of money. What little amounts of money she saved, she sent to her sister Edith (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991). Most hospitals at that time paid 10-12 dollars per month to their students (Kalisch and Kalisch, 1975). Ina worked in the hospital as she learned, and she

only had Sunday afternoons off (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991). "In the majority of hospitals, students worked six and one-half days per week" (Kalisch and Kalisch, 1975, p. 229).

Ina's normal working day as a student was 12 hours in length. She also learned the importance of keeping the hospital clean (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991). Nursing students were working 10-12 hours a day at a time when laboring men advocated the eight hour work day. The student nurses had to work hard to keep the hospitals clean. They dusted, scrubbed floors, washed dishes, etc. With such long hours day after day, the health of many of the students declined. In fact, many acquired tuberculosis and typhoid fever (Kalisch and Kalisch, 1975).

The discipline during nurses training was strict, and the workload was heavy. For example, beds were to be made with precision. The blankets were to be placed so that not even a tenth of an inch hung down further on one side than on the other (Kalisch and Kalisch, 1975). If the beds weren't perfect, the nurses in charge would pull the sheets off the beds and make the student remake the bed. In the nursery, babies were "sewn" into a little shirt, and every time the baby became wet, the student nurse in charge had to take out the stitches and resew the clean shirt closed. The doctors also placed demands on the students. Ina was lectured to by

doctors and had to observe every type of treatment (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

The students who came out of nurses training had an unbelievable amount of self-discipline, the capacity to make every minute count, and the ability to accomplish whatever it was they set out to do. Many students couldn't take the long hours and the amount of hard work and dropped out (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991). Afraid of expulsion from school, students voiced few objections and carefully complied with the strict rules and regulations enforced by a nursing supervisor (Fitspatrick, 1983).

Also present at the Washington Park Hospital were interns and young doctors. The student nurses weren't allowed to on date, however they did have time to look over the crop of interns and young doctors--and vice versa, for the nursing students and young doctors ate meals together. Although doctors were treated like gods in hospitals, the interns and nursing students were trained partially together and were more like allies against a common enemy--the hospital tyrants or teachers. The interns, young doctors, and nursing students became friends. Nursing students were known to aid the interns in their wildest practical jokes on each other, especially in the playing of nasty tricks on the queenly nursing supervisors (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

After Ina graduated from nursing school, she began working at the Illinois Central Hospital. As she worked, she began to gain clout and soon became the assistant nursing superintendent to the hospital ("County Hospital Superintendent," 1918). While Ina worked at this hospital, she met a young man named Harry Dwight Brickley who was soon to graduate from medical school and be a doctor (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7 1991).

He was born in 1886 in Bluffton, Indiana ("Florence Starr, Ina Brickley," 1987) and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Brickley ("Hospital Superintendent Weds," 1918). His father was a farmer and Dwight grew up doing farm chores. He went to school in a one roomed schoolhouse in the country near Bluffton. After he completed his high school education, he taught the lower grades in this schoolhouse for two years. Then his life took a different turn. He decided to become a doctor. He went to Valparaiso University for pre-med school and then went to the University of Illinois for his medical training. His internship was done at the Illinois Central Hospital. Two of his professors at the University of Illinois were Clarence Darrow and Williams Jennings Bryan, two men known in U.S. history who battled in the Scopes Trial on whether evolution should be taught in schools (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, April 24, 1991).

Once on a rare holiday break, Dwight Brickley invited several of his friends to visit his parents at his farm home

just outside of Bluffton. Ina and two of her friends were invited. Ina thought that she was coming along as a chaperone since one of her friends had told her that she was going to get Dwight to propose to her. However, Dwight introduced Ina to his parents as his favorite girl, suprising Ina and her friend (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

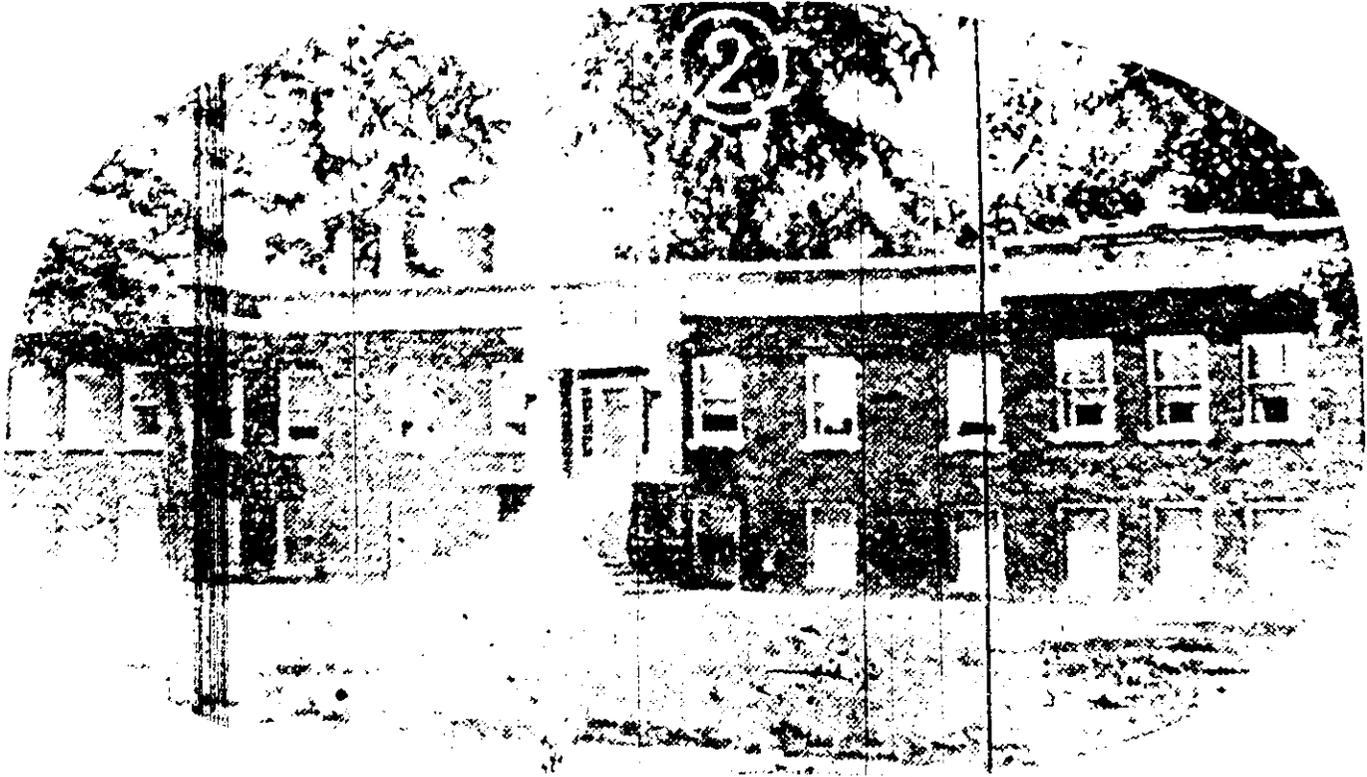
Later, Dwight proposed to Ina at their favorite spot in Grant Park, a lovely little Japanese bridge. They were making plans to be married in Chicago, and Dwight had started practicing with Dr. Fred Moeller, the surgeon with whom he had studied, on the south side of Chicago when the United States entered World War I. Dwight and many of his friends enlisted in the service, and he was sent to Long Island, New York, for training (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

In the meantime, many of the doctors in Bluffton, IN, left to join the war effort while a new hospital was being built and was soon to open in Bluffton without a superintendent of nursing (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991). Before Dwight left for the service, he asked Ina if she would serve as superintendent of nursing of the new hospital ("Florence Starr, Ina Brickley," 1987). Members of the hospital board also went to Chicago and asked her to please come to Bluffton and become the hospital

superintendent (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

Ina accepted the position, and in June of 1918, at the age of 23, Ina came to Bluffton, Indiana. Because of her experience and her high recommendations, Ina was selected by the board of trustees for the position of nursing superintendent of the Wells County Hospital which was nearing completion of being built ("County Hospital Superintendent," 1918). Ina brought with her two nurses from Chicago, Miss Hansen ("County Hospital Accepted," 1918) and Miss Engstrom ("Another Nurse," 1918). The requirements to be a nurse in Indiana at that time were: the equivalent of a high school education, twenty-one years of age, and a course of two years with systematic teaching in a general hospital (Dock, 1912).

On June 23 and 24, 1918, the hospital was built, had received all of the necessary equipment, ("Hospital Equipment," 1918) had met state standards, and was opened for the public to tour. The hospital was located at South-Main Street. It held twenty-five patients and was built so a third story could be added if a larger capacity was needed by the community. The cost was approximately \$40,000 to build. Thousands of people came to see the hospital ("New Hospital," 1918). I. M. Brickley spoke about this day, "We were happy when all of the people came to look at it" (personal communication, August 10, 1990).



Front external view of the Wells County Hospital open for the public to tour on June 23 and 24, 1918 (Taken from Bluffton News Banner, June 24, 1918).



Standing on the front steps of the Wells County Hospital are:

First row, left to right, Dr. I. N. Hatfield, Dr. George E. Fulton, Superintendent Miss Ina Agar, Nurses Miss B. Hanson, and Miss H. Engstorm; J. A. McBride, trustee; Dr. J. E. Allipport, architect.

Rear row--Drs. J. L. Redding, J. W. McKinney, Erskin Summers, B. E. Huffman, L. H. Cook, Trustee Carl Bonham and Drs. C. H. Mead, L. W. Dailey and J. C. Fulton (Taken from Bluffton News Banner, June 24, 1918).

The hospital was then open for patients. Ina directed the older doctors who had remained to staff the hospital. She also directed all of the nurses, who were much older and more experienced than she was. It was quite a challenge, and the staff couldn't believe that they were to be guided by this "child". Before long, they were convinced of Ina's capabilities, and they didn't seem to mind taking orders from her (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

Ina changed some of the old procedures and brought in new ideas being used in Chicago, one of which was improved hygiene. One of her first and most difficult challenges was a doctor who practiced and even operated in his long underwear. He, of course, didn't scrub past his wrists because he didn't want to get his underwear shirt sleeves wet. To everyone's surprise, Ina banned him from the operating room until he changed shirts and scrubbed properly (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

Ina, along with the other two nurses, were counted upon to add all the cheer possible to those who became patients at the hospital as well as to give them the best of care. The ladies worked hard to keep the hospital very clean ("New Hospital," 1918). "You've got to keep things spic and span," said I. M. Brickley (personal communication, August 10, 1990). In addition, Ina trained other nurses to work at the hospital. The nurses stayed in a nurses dorm located in a green house

south of the hospital, and they worked 12-16 hours a day (D. Surface, personal communication, February 8, 1991). Ina taught the nurses some technology including the newest surgical procedures and how to work the new x-ray machine (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

Ina saw the first baby born at the hospital ("First Baby," 1918) and cared for patients who underwent various types of surgery ("Operations Today," 1918). On August 13, 1918, the first caesarian section was performed at the hospital. At that time a caesarian section was a rare and delicate operation ("Delicate Operation," 1918). The hospital also provided care for sick soldiers who fought in World War I ("Sick Soldiers," 1918).

Ina really had a talent for administration and was extremely efficient. At that time, the superintendent of nursing took charge of business matters of the hospital as well as overseeing the nursing responsibilities (D. Surface, personal communication, February 8, 1991). However, her really important attributes were that she was genuinely interested in each and every person. She never raised her voice and she had an essentially warm and friendly nature. She always meant what she said, generally knew what she was doing, and people very rarely argued with her, at least not for long (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

After the hospital was open and running, Ina was able to travel to New York where Dwight waited in Mineola, Long Island for further military orders. He was working at the base hospital at Camp Mills. Ina joined him, and they were married September 9, 1918 in New York City. When this news traveled to Bluffton, it was a pleasant surprise to most people because Dwight and Ina's engagement and wedding were kept a secret ("Hospital Superintendent Weds," 1918).

Ina stayed with Dwight for a short time and then returned to Bluffton and her position as superintendent. She then sent for her sister Edith to come and live with her in Bluffton and to attend high school. Edith was a very happy natured girl, much more carefree than Ina. Edith loved Bluffton and made a lot of friends while in school (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

During this time, the flu epidemic had reached Wells County. Because the Wells County Hospital needed to be clean for surgery and obstetrics, Ina aided nurse Stella Ladd in establishing an auxiliary hospital in the Bluffton Lodge No. 92, Knights of Pythian Home ("Florence Starr, Ina Brickley," 1987). They acquired cots from various furniture stores, bedding from private homes, and food from the local Red Cross. The nurses who cared for those with influenza were volunteers ("Arrangements Made," 1918). The following rules for combatting influenza were written by Dr. William F. Lincoln, advisor of Lake Division American Red Cross, Lake Division



Harry Dwight Brickley
(Submitted by J. D. Balaguras)

Territory, Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky ("Rules for," 1918, p. 2):

1. All colds, however slight, should be treated as possible attacks of influenza. Patients affected by colds should stay at home and sterilize discharge from the nose and throat.
2. Avoiding feeling or spreading of the disease.
3. Avoid crowds.
4. Regulate bodily functions and keep them going.
5. Avoid the breath or expelled secretions from people suffering from colds.
6. Wash out the nose and throat two or three times daily by a nasal spray or douche and by gargle with a "normal salt solution" (1/2 teas. salt to 1 8 oz. glass clean water).
7. All those in attendance on patients with influenza should wear masks.
8. Clothing should be warm and dry. Food simple and easily digested. Drink water freely.

During Halloween, Bluffton was closed down. No one was supposed to be out. There were no banquets or parties because of the threat of getting the flu ("Halloween Closed," 1918).

In November, Dwight was able to come home on furlough to see Ina ("Lieut. Brickley," 1918). In March of 1919 Ina handed to the board of directors of the Wells County Hospital her resignation as superintendent to take effect the last of May. Ina then joined Dwight where he was stationed at Camp Mills as an army doctor ("Hospital Superintendent Tenders," 1919).

When Dwight's service as an army doctor was finished, he and Ina returned to Bluffton instead of Chicago. Ina helped Dwight start his practice. They worked closely as a team and would go to farm homes to deliver babies since very few births took place in a hospital. They made many house calls and

visited a lot of farm homes to care for people who were ill. It was hard work getting started, many hours, not much time away from patients, but it was a happy time. (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991). They lived in a lovely brick home on the northeast corner of Main and Cherry Street. The first floor of the house was used as Dwight's office and the second floor, third floor, and attic were used as their living area (R. A. Brickley, personal communication, April 8, 1991).

By this time, Edith had finished high school. Ina and Dwight managed to put aside enough money to send her to college at Albion, Michigan to study teaching (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

Dwight and Ina's first born, Thomas Raymond Brickley came in 1921. Dwight and Ina were delighted. At this time, Dwight was seeing a lot of patients and his surgical practice had increased. He was acquiring a reputation as the best surgeon in the area (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

Edith came home from Albion for the summer just after Tommy was born. She had not been feeling well, and Dwight soon discovered that she had tuberculosis. The family raised the money to send Edith to a sanitarium just north of Chicago that was known for its good work with tuberculosis patients. Ina sewed beautiful clothes for Edith and took the train round trip to Chicago every other Sunday to be with Edith. Edith

seemed to be getting stronger and stronger, but after the beginning of her second year at the sanitarium, she lost ground and soon died (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

During this time, Ina practiced her nursing very little. She went on a few difficult house calls with Dwight, but spent most of her time taking care of Tommy and making the exhausting treks to visit Edith. In 1924, three year old Tommy developed an infection. Despite all the care, love, and ministrations of every doctor and nurse in the county, Tommy died from nephritis (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

Ina and Dwight were blessed with a second son, Richard Agar Brickley born on August 15, 1925. Eighteen months later on March 23, 1927, a third son, Harry Dwight, was born ("Florence Starr, Ina Brickley," 1987). These two lively boys kept Ina busy and brought a lot of happiness back into the Brickley home (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991). Once the two boys were going to run away. Ina packed their lunches and sent them off. They went as far as the tree in their yard because they weren't allowed to cross the street (I. Maxwell, personal communication, February 8, 1991). Ina was entranced by her children and by Dwight's sister's daughters (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

Just as she had done in her nursing career, Ina ran an efficient house. She never raised her voice and she always had a house full of children. Day or night there was always an extra child or two around and there was always a different number at the supper table whether it be adults or children. Children seemed to react to Ina as friend to friend rather than child to adult. She was firm and had rules but seemed to be on a person to person basis with everyone from the youngest to the oldest person she knew. She had a wonderful ability to completely disregard age in her relationships with people and to relate to people without any age barrier. This ability helped her to accomplish so much at such a young age and is why she enjoyed such a wide variety of friends even when she was beyond ninety years old (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

Dwight was now in practice with two partners, Dr. Clarence Mead and Dr. O. G. Hamilton. Lula Hamilton, wife of Dr. O. G. Hamilton, was also a nurse. She and Ina often went in to help new mothers in their homes or help very sick older patients. They did this on a voluntary basis. They both loved nursing and needed to use their skills whenever they could (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

Dick and Harry were growing and Ina wanted to make sure that they became dependable citizens. In the summer the boys were sent two days a week to work for their Grandfather

Brickley on the farm. They did learn to do chores and to have responsibility, but they also enjoyed these work visits because of Grandmother Brickley's full cookie jar and her habit of making their favorite corn fritters for dinner. They also learned from Grandfather Brickley a love of nature and of the outdoors. Dick and Harry were in the third and first grades when they learned that they were going to have a new brother or sister. They had decided that the new baby would be a sister and they were right! Harry had picked out names for the new baby and told Ina that she could name their sister Sparky, Herschel, or Jo Jo. Instead, Ina named her daughter Jean Diann, Jean for Edith Jean (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991). Diann was born June 20, 1934 ("Florence Starr, Ina Brickley," 1987). Diann brought a new group of children in and out of the Brickley residence (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

As the children grew, Ina kept busy in the community. In 1937 she was asked to help reorganize the Bluffton Girl Scouts. She received leadership training under Mrs. Barbour of Fort Wayne. Bluffton had five troops. Their activities included visiting Bluffton churches and going for a week of camp at Lake Webster ("Florence Starr, Ina Brickley," 1987). She also trained other mothers to be scout leaders (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

In the first Girl Scout troop that Ina started there was a very poor girl who desperately wanted to belong to the

troop. Ina and Lulie Hamilton made sure the girl had a uniform just like the ones all the other girls wore. In those days the material and the pattern had to be bought and then the girl would have to make the uniform (M. L. Kalt, personal communication, February 4, 1991). Ina worked with initiating girls into the troops. At East Rock Creek School, Ina helped with the initiation and came dressed up in a girl scout uniform (J. Kober, personal communication, March 6, 1991). Ina also helped a girl acquire self-esteem. The girl was always complaining in grade school about how big her feet were. This girl was much taller than most of her classmates and especially the boys. Ina informed the girl that she would look funny if she had little feet. She would probably topple over. Ina also informed the girl to stand up straight and tall and when she walked into a room she would be noticed. The little short "cute" girls wouldn't be seen (M. L. Kalt, personal communication, February 4, 1991).

Furthermore, it was about this time when Ina became a member of the Tri Kappa State Sorority and a member of the First United Church of Christ. As a member of the Tri Kappa Sorority, she helped establish the Tri Kappa Welfare Fund that provided the needy with money given by local business men ("Florence Starr, Ina Brickley," 1987).

While the children were growing up there was always the fear of polio. Epidemics of polio would come and go, and no one really knew why or how the disease was spread. As Harry

started his freshman year in high school he came down with polio. Dwight's and Ina's medical skills were desperately needed. Dick and Diann were sent to live with Grandmother Brickley for over a year and Ina and Dwight's home was quarantined. No one could enter because polio was present (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

Ina was afraid of carrying the disease and so could not visit her other two children. However, she did make a lot of telephone calls. She devoted herself fully to keeping Harry from getting paralyzed and to nursing him back to good health. One of her original nurses at the Wells County Hospital came to the door, suitcase in hand, and moved in for the duration. Alfredo Norton became a new and valued member of the family. She worked with Harry by keeping his legs moving and using hot towels on the legs; the Sister Kenny method. Ina tried to keep everyone's spirits high and to keep a positive outlook. When Harry got better, he wouldn't believe that he had polio. Alfredo had to take the sign off of the front door to show him. Perhaps because of the excellent nursing care that Harry received, he was able to continue high school and make a record as a track star, winning many ribbons for his running ability (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

World War II was on everyone's mind as Dick and Harry were finishing high school. Dick was such a good student that he was able to start college early and then continue through

medical school on an accelerated program. He took 27 hours a semester as an undergraduate, being admitted to medical school at age 17. He went on to Northwestern Medical School and attended year around. After he finished his surgical residency at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, he went into the Airforce and was eventually stationed in San Diego (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

Harry left high school early to take one semester of college, and then at age 17, he went into the Navy. Eventually, he was stationed in San Diego. Harry returned from the Navy and started the long educational trip to becoming a surgeon. His surgical residency was also at Cook County Hospital (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

When Harry had finished his residency and when Dick returned from the Airforce, both young doctors joined in practice with Dr. Willis Gatch, Dean of Indiana University Medical School, and Dr. John E. Owen in Indianapolis. They had been urged to join in this partnership by their father. Dwight had received many offers to come to Indianapolis to practice surgery but had decided that the Brickley family would be happier living in Bluffton. However, he wanted his sons to have the opportunity he turned down to be in practice with two of the best surgeons in the state. The two Brickley men still say that the best surgeon they ever observed

operating was their father (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

During the time the boys were in medical school, Diann was growing up and enjoying the normal small town childhood. Ina worked with the Rainbow Girls, and Diann and her school friends were active in this group. Ina and Dwight's nieces, Hallie, Jean, and Joyce, had finished high school. With Ina's influence and help, they all decided upon nurses training. At Fort Wayne, all three trained in a hospital diploma program and became active nurses. Joyce's daughter eventually became head surgical nurse at the Wells County Hospital. Ina and Dwight's nephew, Don, went to Indiana University and I. U. Medical School and became a pediatric cardiologist who travels around the world lecturing on pediatric heart surgery (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

After finishing high school, Diann went to Indiana University majoring in pre-medicine and/or pre-law. Being the real exception in the family, Diann chose pre-law, majoring in political science and economics. She was active in college being president of her sorority, member of the Senior Supreme Court, Union Board Director, and vice president of the I. U. Student Foundation. Upon graduation, Diann was admitted to law school, but instead chose to attend the Harvard/Radcliffe Program in business administration. It was the first year of the Harvard Business School and women were not allowed to attend the Harvard Business School. Thus, Diann was an



Mrs. Ina M Brickley
(Submitted by J. D. Balaguras)

exception. Upon completion of this graduate program, Diann accepted a job with Harvey Olsen in Chicago and in time became assistant manager of Olson Travel Organization and director of the College Travel Program (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

With their children grown and away from home, Ina and Dwight had time to spend together. However Dwight was still working hard and Ina had kept up her nursing license and worked with the Red Cross at blood banks. She enjoyed her friends and always had drop in visits from the now grown children that she used to council when they were young and needed someone to share their problems with. Whenever they visited in Bluffton they never forgot Ina and they would bring their children for her to meet (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

Dwight had had two light heart attacks and did slow down a bit. He spent more of his time visiting the family farm and enjoyed the position he held for a long while as president of the school board and as director of the Old First National Bank. He was known to everyone as "Doc" and to many non-related children as "Uncle Doc". On November 17, 1961, ("Widow of," 1990) he came home from a busy day, spent a quiet evening with Ina, got ready for bed, leaned over and gave Ina a kiss, and was gone (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

Ina never let herself get down. She was terribly lonely without Dwight but she kept very busy. She became responsible for the Brickley farm. She learned all she could about farms and jumped in with both feet to oversee the operation and to keep everything in order. Since Diann was in the travel business and could get special travel passes, the two traveled extensively. They visited England and took trips to Egypt, Israel, Paris, and Rome. Ina loved traveling, a characteristic that she might have inherited from her father (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

Diann married Nicholas Balaguras in 1962 and stopped the traveling for a while. They lived in Bloomington and Nick opened up the Aristotle Book Store, a college textbook store at I. U. Ina loved to visit Bloomington and enjoyed her three grandchildren, Jeanie, John, and Jeff. Ina drove herself in her own car because this allowed her the freedom to get home when she thought the time was right. She also enjoyed her grandchildren who lived in Indianapolis, Dinah, Sarah, Laura, Rick, and Andy. Ina was closest to her granddaughter, Jeanie Balaguras, the child dearest to her heart. Perhaps she saw herself in Jeanie or maybe the child Ina might have been if her life hadn't been so suddenly overturned and difficult. Maybe she saw a bit of Edith Jean in Jeanie. Nevertheless, Ina's good qualities have appeared in Jeanie who has much ability, much wit and charm, and much love to give (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).



Mrs. Ina M Brickley
(Taken from Bluffton News Banner, December 20, 1990)

Ina continued to serve the community of Bluffton and use her talents. The Wells County Hospital had went through major expansions in 1936, 1950, and 1960. Its name was changed to the Wells Community Hospital in 1969 (Beaty-Kreigh, 1987). Ina served as the first life-long member of the Wells County/Community Hospital Auxiliary ("Widow of," 1990). She had memberships in the Fort Wayne Medical Auxiliary, Fort Wayne Women's Club, and the Monday afternooon duplicate club. She also loved remodeling houses. During her lifetime, she was involved in the remodeling of 15 houses ("Florence Starr, Ina Brickley," 1987).

Ina remained in good health until she broke her hip at the age of 94. In spite of the doctor's predictions that Ina would not be able to walk for a long time, Ina ordered an ambulance and had herself taken home to recuperate. She was off and using a walker and led an active life with an active and quick mind until her 95th birthday. After falling another time, Ina began to fail in health. She needed help if she was to remain at home which she insisted on. Therefore, two care givers were hired to take care of Ina. Ina enjoyed their company but even though Ina spent her time in bed she was still in charge of her home (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

On August 10, 1990, a nursing student from Ball State University came to interview Ina about nursing. Ina gave several statements of advice:

1. Make up your mind that you can help them.
2. If you're willing, you can do a lot.
3. Know that you can do it.
4. Know what has to be done and stay with it.
5. Have them always respect you.
6. There's a good return for what you wish to do.
7. Always help the other fellow.
8. If you like it, it becomes easy to you.

Her last great moment came in September, 1990 during a good period. She had been determined that she would walk after her fall in the spring, but had not had the strength to even use her walker. One afternoon she asked her helper to have her husband come inside when he came to pick her up. Ina had a plan. When he arrived she had each one get on either side of her and she got up and walked around the room with their support. Everyone said, "She couldn't have." But, she did! (J. D. Balaguras, personal communication, February 7, 1991).

As 1990 wound down, Ina was hospitalized twice for hyponatremia. Her sodium level had dropped to 105 mg/dl. The normal sodium level for humans is 135-145 mg/dl. Dr. Richard Brickley and Dr. Harry Brickley couldn't figure out how Ina was losing sodium except that she was having some post nasal drip which she was spitting out. The two doctors ordered 3% sodium chloride which is rarely ordered because of its high concentration. When Ina received this solution, she would perk up. However, each of these periods of hyponatremia caused Ina to become much weaker. On Thursday, December 19, 1990 at 10:20 p.m., Ina M Agar Brickley passed away in the privacy of her home. No medical pathophysiology could

adequately explain what caused her death. As Dr. R. A. Brickley stated, "It was her time" (personal communication, April 8, 1991).

In summary, Ina contributed to nursing. She used what she learned in training and was assertive in establishing these new and improved practices in the Wells County/Community Hospital. She was committed and loyal to her profession and made the most of every moment. As a superintendent, she was a teacher and an administrator who cared about the patients and about the staff of the hospital. She was a partner with her husband who was a physician. Together, they served the community with home births and calling on rural people who were ill. Ina also actively ministered care to her family when they became ill. Her determination and will kept her going to accomplish whatever goal she had set. She loved those who were around her and she never lost her conviction to help those who were in need.

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