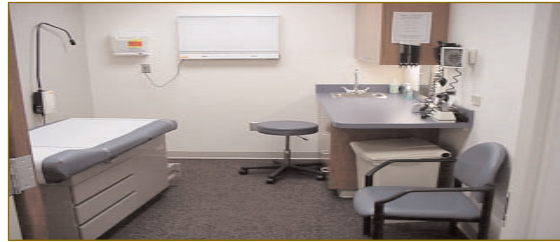


# My First Visit to the Doctor



Mom and Dad, "I have changed my mind about being an elementary school teacher when I graduate from high school this spring." They were quite surprised because I always talked about being a teacher. I would set my brothers and sister down and we would play school. I changed my mind after I talked to my friend Avalon. She told me about her great job with Western Union as a Telegrapher. She told me about traveling to different cities and states to work wherever Western Union needed help. This got my attention. It would be a dream come true to be able to travel, this was my chance.



**Esther Brooks**

All preparations were made, and one week after I graduated from high school we were on our way to Fargo, North Dakota. I checked into the YWCA where I would live while in training. Now I was really on my own. I was in training to be

a telegrapher for Western Union.

Western Union required their employees to have a physical examination, this was scary for me, I had only been to the doctor once before for something minor. My Supervisor made the appointment for four o'clock. I walked to the doctor's office; I sat down and waited my turn. Doctors were extremely busy because so many had been drafted into the military and those that were left were really overworked.

I finally was taken into a room and the doctor came in and did the preliminary check of eye, nose, throat and breathing, then he said, "Put on this gown and I will be right back." I did what he said and waited and waited and waited. I would get up and start to get dressed and then I thought I heard someone coming so I would lie back down and wait some more.

Finally I hadn't heard any noises for quite sometime. I got up and dressed. When I opened the door the Janitor was coming down the hall; talk about a surprised look. He said, "What are you doing here?" I tearfully said, "The doctor forgot me." He shook his head, I guess he couldn't believe it either, he said, "Everyone has gone home." He unlocked the door and let me out. If he hadn't of been there I could not have gotten out, because a key was needed to unlock the door. The girls at the YWCA were really getting concerned they didn't have a clue as to what happened to me.

I went to work the next morning and told my supervisor what had happened and she called the doctor's office and they said, "Send her right over." I got the royal treatment and lots of apologies, I felt like Queen Esther. By the way I passed the physical just fine. I will never forget my first visit to the doctor.



by **Esther Brooks**

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