



Lynn Desoto	157.
ROBS History Project	10-10
Interview	4.28-29.10

Lynn has been an Elementary School Nurse in Brentwood for eleven years. Prior to coming to the district she worked as a nurse at Stony Brook Medical Center. She describes Brentwood as a place with a family atmosphere. Most memorable were her very first and last years. She has memories of preparing Thanksgiving baskets for needy families of students from North. She offers high words of praise for Brentwood’s teachers and nurses. Most challenging were the years before psych-services were provided and those responsibilities fell upon nurses. What was the best part of her job? “The kids”, she said. What did she want to eliminate? The Poverty.

*Why now? “My name is Lynn Desoto. Humm! Because I have a new grandson; my first grandson and I’m going to help my daughter out. I’m watching him for a few days a week and it’s time. I’m tired of being a Nurse. I didn’t start out in Brentwood. I started out in a Hospital; Stony Brook Hospital. I only came to Brentwood eleven years ago. Well, my husband was a teacher here and he had always been treated very well as a staff member. It’s always been a very nice family atmosphere here in Brentwood. Which I’m not too sure still exists, but it’s been a very productive place to work.*

*Probably one of my most memorable years came at the beginning. My Principal called it the “new teacher syndrome” which in my case was the “New Nurse” syndrome. I thought of getting a gum ball machine in my office for the kids and I came up with a message board to post birthdays and all of those fun things that I realized very shortly brings kids to my office for not the right reasons. Did I have in retrospect what I might now classify as a most challenging year? “Perhaps this year might be considered my most challenging.” I’m very proud of doing the Thanksgiving Baskets at Thanksgiving time to help our Brentwood families, most notably our Brentwood North Elementary families. I don’t know what the answer*

*“is but it’s a shame because teachers are worth what they get paid and it’s a shame that some members of the community don’t recognize that. What I’m basically saying is that taxpayers are more than getting their money’s worth in services their taxes provide kids and families in Brentwood. That’s why New York State has the best educational system because we pay our teachers well. We don’t pay Nurses quite as well, but I believe we have extremely dedicated Nurses in this District. I think that at the beginning of my career we didn’t have full time Guidance Counselors or Social Workers in the Building so I handled most of the Social Issues and that was tough. That was very tough, mentally; in other words, in those days I had to take what I saw home with me. Kids themselves were always the most satisfying reason for being a nurse. They were always thankful and appreciative for whatever we did for them. If I had a proverbial magic wand to wave for the purpose of making just one thing disappear from this public school district and the families it serves that would definitely be the poverty.”*

*“If I am ever to be remembered by students and other caring individuals with whom I served this Public School District, I would like to be thought of as a good hearted, productive member of this Community and if possible, kindly keep the gum ball machine and the Vaseline out of the Nurses Office.”*