

First Man Nurse To Graduate

Randy Samuel Arrowood, 26-year-old Navy veteran, has made a breakthrough for men into a profession dominated locally by women.

The husky former hospital corpsman is the first male nurse to be graduated in Burke County's history.

For 60 years, graduate nurses have been trained here, but Arrowood becomes the first male to get his diploma when he receives his associate in applied science degree at Western Piedmont Community College's commencement Friday night.

At a pinning ceremony last night for the ten-member nursing class of 1970, Western Piedmont officials announced his history-making accomplishment.

Arrowood, who is six feet tall and weighs 190 pounds, has accepted a position as staff nurse at Grace Hospital where he will go to work on June 1.

He plans to continue his education in the future but he has no definite plans yet.

There are many male nurses graduated elsewhere in the country, but they are rare in this area. None has ever graduated

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from the Grace Hospital School of Nursing which was established in 1910.

But many are expected to follow Arrowood's footsteps. The 1971 nursing class at Western Piedmont has four male students.

Arrowood became interested in nursing care while serving four years in the Navy as a hospital corpsman, the last year of which time was spent in Vietnam. He admits that if he hadn't gotten out of the county and become acquainted with men nurses in the service, he probably wouldn't have thought to pursue his nursing education.

He found nothing unusual in his training as the only male in a class of women.

His classmates accepted him readily as did the instructors and the patients. His clinical experience with patients was obtained largely at Valdeze General Hospital and Catawba Memorial Hospital under an affiliation with WPCC.

Some of his patients, he said, "thought it a little strange at first to be attended by a man nurse but after they got used to the idea they seemed to like it."

Arrowood, who is married and the father of one child, resides on Route 4, Box 376, Morganton. His home is on Walker's Chapel Road off new N.C. 18 in southern Burke.

A native of Burke, he is the son of Mrs. Clarence Brackett and the late Carl Arrowood.

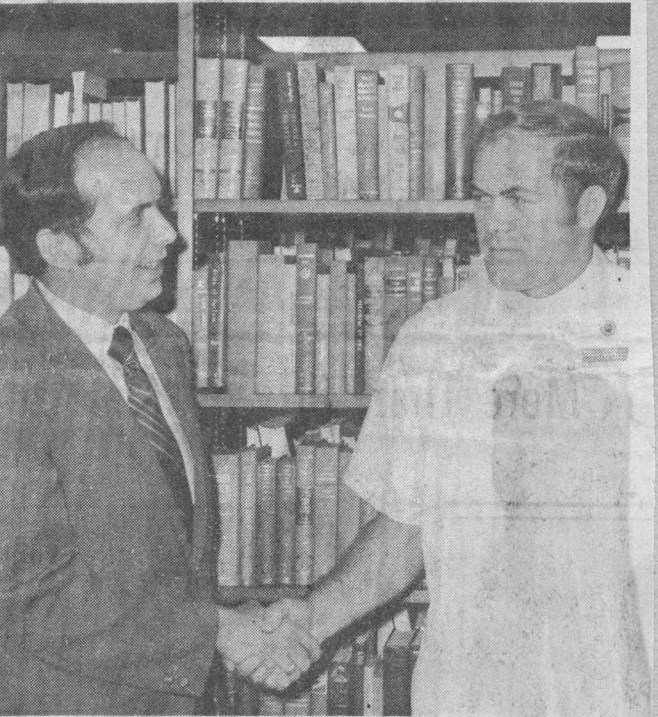
He attended George Hildebrand High School but entered the Navy in 1964 before graduating. He completed his high school education while in the service.

Upon his discharge, Arrowood worked for 18 months at Broughton Hospital before becoming a full-time student at Western Piedmont.

Arrowood, a muscular young man who looks like he might be an inner guard for the Green Bay Packers, is happy that his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Earl H. Arrowood of Hampton, Va., have arrived to witness his history-making graduation.

Arrowood is married to the former Miss Donna Tatom of Almagordo, New Mexico, and they have a daughter, Debra, age two and a half.

This is a busy and gratifying time for the new nursing graduate. He was interviewed on the run this morning before he reported for Mrs. T. Henry Wilson's poetry seminar which is one of the humanities courses he has been taking in addition to his nursing training. He was looking forward to the class, since he had found, somewhat to his surprise, that the study of poetry is a pleasant experience the way Mrs. Wilson conducts the course.



First Male Nurse Graduate

Receiving congratulations upon making nursing history in Burke County is Randy Samuel Arrowood, the first man to be graduated locally as a nurse. Dr. James M. Croft, local physician, shakes his hand following a pinning ceremony at Western Piedmont Community College where Arrowood is a member of a class of ten nurses who will be graduated Friday night. (Staff photo by Andy Corpening)



Nursing Class Receives Pins In Ceremony

Western Piedmont Community College's ten-member nursing class of 1970 received their pins last night in a traditional ceremony at the WPCC auditorium. The pinning ceremony will be followed Friday night by a general commencement at which the nursing graduates will receive the Associate in Applied Science degree. Members of the class are, left to right,

front row: Sharon Ennis Sebastian, Lovie Esta Honeycutt, Jan Huntley Pennell, Barbara Gwyn Hackney, Shirley Whisnant Franklin. Second row: Carolyn Virginia Harris, Gwendolyn Conner Austin, Randy Samuel Arrowood, Nell Cuthbertson Rhyne, Margaret Allene Worthley Harrison. (Staff photo by Andy Corpening)



Nursing Dean Visits WPCC Faculty After Ceremony

Dr. Lucy H. Conant (center), dean of the School of Nursing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, confers with instructors in the nursing department at Western Piedmont Community College during her visit to speak at a pinning ceremony for members of the nursing class of 1970. Left to right: Mrs. Mary Ann

Chou, Mrs. Brenda King, Dr. Conant, Mrs. Imogene Poole and Mrs. Annette Suttle. Unable to be present was Mrs. Mary E. Hanig, chairman of the nursing department who is recovering from recent auto accident injuries. (Staff photo by Andy Corpening)