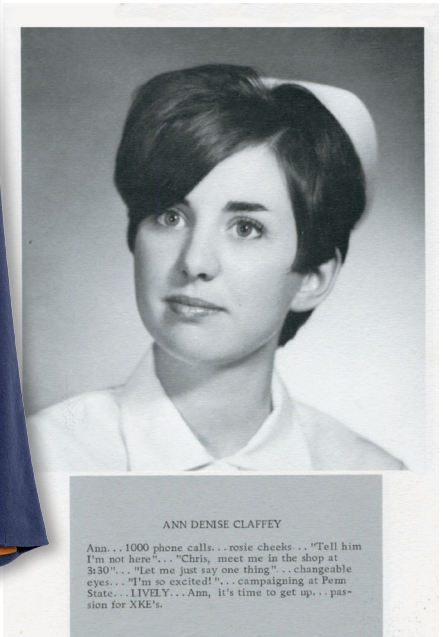


James regularly volunteered at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Germantown (Philadelphia) and at the parochial school the young Claffey family attended, lending a helping hand wherever needed. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic service organization. Ann's mom, Edith, was a charge nurse (shift supervisor) in the emergency room at Germantown Hospital. "She was one tough woman and didn't take any nonsense from anyone," Ann says fondly.

Edith was one of the few full-time working mothers in the neighborhood. She worked the night shift, hurried home, and went to bed after her four children left for school. They walked home for lunch, so she'd wake up, feed them, and grab a few more hours of rest before the school day ended. She certainly wasn't a typical 1950s wife and mom. But she was revered because, as Ann recalls, "she would do anything for anyone. She was the first woman, the first person, anybody in the neighborhood called if there was a problem, if someone was sick, if someone got hurt, if someone had a tick in their head—anything at all. My mother would go over and decide, yes, this one has appendicitis and needs to get to the hospital. Yes, this one needs an enema. My mother probably gave an enema to half the people in our neighborhood." Not surprisingly, Ann adds, "some of the local kids were scared of her."

When a local family was quarantined due to a case of meningitis, Edith coordinated meals for them. If someone on the block needed a babysitter, Edith offered Ann's services. If they needed help with food shopping, she'd lend a hand or volunteer one of her kids to do it. Helping others was as



ANN DENISE CLAFFEY

Ann...1000 phone calls...rosie cheeks... "Tell him I'm not here"... "Chris, meet me in the shop at 3:30"... "Let me just say one thing"... changeable eyes... "I'm so excited!"... campaigning at Penn State... LIVELY... Ann, it's time to get up... passion for XKE's.

White cap and white shoes

One of Ann's most vivid memories is watching her mother in the mornings when she got home from work and the kids were getting ready for school. As tired as she must have been after eight hours in the emergency room, Edith always took time to polish her white shoes and delicately put away her nursing cap and nursing pins. It's no surprise that Ann and her sister, Carolyn, became nurses. "It impressed us as a wonderful profession," Ann says. 🌸

ABOVE: Ann has carefully preserved her first nursing cape and her very first RN cap, the same cap she wore in her yearbook photo. "My personal belief is that the day the hospital nurses took their caps off, we shot ourselves in the foot," Ann says. "I think that was a bad change. Just like the military wears their uniforms, we wore ours. Uniforms and caps stand for something. You know who you're looking at."