

[Page 2 - Lexie O'Hare Went to Boston](#)ISSUE : [Issue 42](#)

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She said, "You can stay with me. Why don't you go in training (for nursing)?" You have to be a certain age. I had to wait a year. I did housework. I said I was experienced. It wasn't too bad at all. People were very nice. They paid me. When I left to go in training, they didn't want me to leave, they wanted me to stay. (Even after you cooked the watermelon?) Even after I cooked the watermelon. I never saw a watermelon before. We never had any up there in The Glen--and we just grew cabbage and turnips, carrots and onions and things like that. I hired out and went to work, worked a few days, showed me around. Had to get up at 6 o'clock, had the house all in order. (What did you do with the watermelon?) I put it in the copper boiler you had to boil all the clothes in those days. And they went to church and she said, "The groceries are all there and we'll have the watermelon for dessert." It was a hot day. I didn't know what to do with it. Nobody could eat that. It was hard.

So I went down to the basement for the copper boiler and filled it full of water, and when it got hot I put the watermelon in, I thought it had to be cooked. And when they came home--the gentleman was very, very nice; she was a little bit snippy. The men were always nicer than the women--so I thought. They weren't training you and didn't have to tell you to do this and that and the other. So he said, "What's in that, Lexie?" I said, "The watermelon." The thing was boiling and hitting the top of the cover. He took the cover off--"Oh, my God!" Did he ever laugh! Then years and years later, after my husband died, I was taking out my second citizen papers. And I had to call on anyone I'd spent any time in their house, had to make a regular form. And had to go to this house, you know. And I sat at the table like a queen, served tea. (Lexie went in training, nursing at Massachusetts General Hospital. Then, after 18 months:) I had to give up training. See, my sister died and left a little boy (Raymond), two years old. Infection--turned into spinal meningitis--an ulcerated wisdom tooth started it. So there was my poor brother-in-law--and bills and bills and bills. They had furnished their house like so many did, on time. So he was chauffeuring for this Archer, the Moxie man--and they had a beautiful cottage down at Manchester-by-the-Sea for the chauffeur. I went down and kept house for my brother-in-law, took care of the little fellow., And the war came on (World War One). I was engaged to my husband. He enlisted. And so did my brother-in-law. So I had had 18 months training. I learned fast, and all I could possibly. So I put an ad in the paper: women that were hospitalized and wanted care in their own home. And it would have to be with the agreement that I could have the little boy with me. I moved into their home and I took care of them. The very first place, I was there for 6 years. Nursed her. She was married to a judge. When war was over, the boy's father came back and he married again, and Keddy's Motor Inn 600 King's Rd., Sydney, N.S. 164 Rooms Air Conditioned Colour Cable TV Licensed Dining Daily Features Restaurant Hours 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Featuring Cape Breton's Only Complete Indoor Recreation Facility • • Pool • Sauna • Whirlpool Bath • Oasis Pool Bar • Games Machines ENTERTAINMENT & DANCING NIGHTLY AT IVORY'S LOUNGE For Reservations Phone 539-1140 For over 25 years



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