

OBITUARY

First dean of nursing at UND dies

■ Heyse Cory
guided college
to national
accreditation

By Dan Curry

Herald Staff Writer

The woman who was instrumental in founding the UND College of Nursing, and who served as its first dean, died Sunday evening at Valley Eldercare Center.

Margaret "Peg" Heyse Cory was 88. In her 18 years as dean, Cory guided the young college to national accreditation in 1963.

Securing funding for construction of a building to house the college was her proudest achievement, according to those who worked with her.

The building was completed in 1976, which enabled the college to expand, adding master's degree and nurse practitioner programs.

"She really put this college of nursing on a solid foundation with the university and the state," said Elizabeth Nichols, the current dean of the college.

Bernard O'Kelly, former dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, recalled Cory's unflagging advocacy for the College of Nursing at the many dean's meetings they attended together.

"Her contributions were always pointed, sharp, sensible and kindly," he said. "But she spoke her mind and refused to be intimidated by either dominate individuals or by smug majorities."

At 4 feet 6 inches tall, Cory was



Heyse Cory

DEAN/ Cory nicknamed 'Teeny-weeny D

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Church, of which Cory was a member. "She would be at their belt buckle, and they would be the one's who would blink."

Cory retired in 1976, but she remained active in nursing and university affairs for many years after.

She had been a member and served on the boards for the State League for Nursing, Red

River Valley District Nurses Association, North Dakota Committee on Nursing Needs and Resources, North Dakota Public Health Association, Sigma Theta Tau, League of Women Voters, Health Advisory Committee of the Grand Forks Public Health Department and the International Council of Nurses Congress and other civic, state and national organizations.

She was born on Nov. 4, 1911, in Colorado Springs,

Colo., where she attended elementary and high schools before enrolling at Colorado College and graduating with a degree in chemistry. From there, she received her masters degree from the University of Rochester, New York, and then graduated from the Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing in Boston.

Cory was an instructor of nursing at the University of Colorado and Yale University. During World War II, she

taught nursing at the University of Minnesota. She became a professor at UND in 1958. She became dean of the College of Nursing in 1959.

She is survived by nephews Dennis Larson, Harlingen, Tex., and Bill Patterson, Harlingen, Wyo.

Cory was preceded in death by husband Phil Cory and sister, Mary Patterson. Memorial services will be arranged through Amundson Funeral Home.

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