

# Concepts of Care nurse aids Medicare patients

## Woman journeys to small country towns to minister to home-bound patients' needs

By April Coventry  
Reporter

Margo Tadlock, her bag slung over her shoulder, grabs a coffee cup in one hand and her golden retriever's leash in the other. She drops the bag on the floor of her white pickup and puts her dog, Windy, in the back.

First, it's off to the veterinarian, and then down Highway 21 to Milano, Rockdale and Bartlett.

Her truck travels down dusty, country roads, winding through open spaces and small towns until she reaches her first stop — a small house in Milano. She jumps out of the truck with her blue-jean bag and a clipboard. An elderly black man greets her, taking her inside to his wife.

Tadlock, 27, grasps the woman's hand and smiles. She pulls out a stethoscope and begins her work — checking the woman's heartbeat and heartrate, taking her blood pressure, weighing her and asking her questions about her health. This is the first thing she does with all her patients. She then attends to their special needs.

Tadlock is a registered nurse for Concepts of Care, a home health agency. Nurses employed at the agency care for patients at St. Joseph Hospital who are covered by Medicare. Three times a week, Tadlock travels to towns where the hospital has home-bound patients.

The nurse also is a Young Life leader at A&M Consolidated High School. Young Life is a high-school campus ministry that allows leaders to reach out to teen-agers and tell them about Christ.

Tadlock spends much of her time with senior girls at the school, helps

lead music at the Young Life club and has a team meeting with other leaders each week.

But she enjoys her busy schedule because it allows her to spend time with people.

She worked at several camps in the summer before her freshman year of college and spent time with the camp nurse, who became her role model. Tadlock thought it would be the ideal job because she could work when she wanted and also enjoy the young people. She didn't think about the long hours, late shifts or physical labor that go into a nursing career — she just wanted to work with people.

But nursing didn't come easy for her. "I'm not scientifically oriented, so I had to work to get through," she says.

Tadlock attended Texas Tech University for two years and then went to Texas Women's University's nursing school at Parkland Hospital in Dallas.

The two-and-a-half years of training at the hospital were challenging, she says. Because there was so much competition among the nursing students, she learned to be a fighter.

"I hated it my first year," she says. "The Lord used it to really stretch me."

After working at a hospital in Dallas for two years, she decided to move to College Station because her sister lived there and because she wanted to grow and be challenged spiritually. She says her friends thought she was crazy for going to College Station.

She began working for Concepts of Care about two years ago and prefers it to working in a hospital be-

cause there's not as much of a set routine.

Sometimes, Tadlock says, she spends several hours at a patient's home just talking.

And she doesn't mind driving to small towns because she loves going to the antique stores.

Her cozy home is decorated with pieces of old furniture from garage sales, bazaars and antique stores.

"I only bought one piece of furniture new," she says.

About a year ago, the Reagan administration's cutbacks on Medicare began to affect Tadlock's job. She now has more detailed forms to fill out on each patient so the government can ensure that each one really needs a home nurse.

"I love my job, but the paperwork's a bear," she says, laughing.

Before the restrictions were added to home-bound patients who receive Medicare, Tadlock worked a longer week, but she enjoys the shorter hours because she can spend more time with high-school students.

During her visits, Tadlock practices a gentle-yet-firm attitude with her patients. She holds patients' hands as she comes and goes from their homes. Her friendly smile and bubbly personality seem to make them feel comfortable.

One of her patients, an elderly, diabetic man, had sores on his feet. The wounds, she says, take longer to heal because he has poor circulation, which can be attributed to his age and diabetes. He also was putting Vaseline on his feet to soothe them, but this sealed the wounds so they wouldn't heal. Tadlock gently washed his feet, explaining to him that he shouldn't put anything on them.



Traveling nurse Margo Tadlock continues to make house calls.

Photo by Sarah Beth Cox

She laughs at the authority she has from being an R.N. because of her young age. She tells a story about going to visit one of her patients:

As she drove up to the man's house, she noticed a fire engine parked in the front. She got out and ran inside and saw that her patient was being attended by two paramedics. Her patient thought he was having a cardiac arrest because he was suffering from chest pains, so he had called for an emergency vehicle.

When the paramedics saw her in her nurse's nametag they both took a step back because she was a registered nurse. She says they didn't realize that it had been two years since she had been around a cardiac arrest. She managed to remain calm as she checked the man's pulse rate and other vital signs and then helped get him into the ambulance.

She says she was really nervous, though, and called the hospital later to see if the man was all right. Nurses always have a small fear that

they have diagnosed something wrong, she says.

Although she enjoys making house calls, Tadlock says her real love is teaching. She says she is devoted to the Lord and she wants high-school students to know her God.

Her dream, she says, is to be a Young Life staff and she has applied for a staff position in Lubbock. She says she will really miss College Station if she gets the job, but she wants to have this opportunity.

## Center gives mothers chance to see babies before their adoption

FORT WORTH (AP) — Young, unwed mothers visit with their babies for the first and last time in a small room with a rocking chair at the Edna Gladney Center, the nation's largest private maternity home and adoption agency.

"It gives them an opportunity to say goodbye," said Eleanor Tuck, the center's executive director, adding that limited contact makes separation easier for the mother.

Adoption is the choice for 80 percent of about 300 young women who stay at the Gladney center each year and receive prenatal care, counseling and schooling, Tuck said.

This year marks the 100th anniversary for the center, started in 1887 by the Rev. I.Z.T. Morris as a home for children from "orphan trains" that started on the East Coast.

The orphans would seek new parents at stops along the way. Fort Worth, being the railroad's

last stop, had a steady stream of homeless children left on their own.

Edna Gladney, a director with the home, became superintendent in 1925, when Morris retired, and unwed, pregnant young women eventually became the home's focus. The agency was renamed in Gladney's honor in 1956.

Gladney is credited with successfully lobbying to stop use of the word illegitimate on birth certificates. She retired in 1960 and died one year later at the age of 75.

In 1984, two women sued the center, claiming they were pressured into signing over their babies for adoption, but the center prevailed both times.

With a staff of more than 100 and a budget of more than \$4 million, the center resembles a college campus that takes up a block near downtown Fort Worth. It can house 174 residents.

## Cabins progress from fad to business

# Log homes making a comeback

By Shannon Boyesen  
Reporter

If the rising popularity of log homes is an indicator of housing fashion, Daniel Boone-style architecture may be making a comeback.

Wood specialist Chuck Stayton, of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, says he thought log cabins were just a fad 10 years ago. However, for some people, they have turned into a prospering business.

The Satterwhite Log Home Co. in Longview builds about 80-100 log homes per year, but sells enough logs to build about 200 homes per year in Texas alone, Stayton says.

"There is no question about their popularity," he says. "In the United States, there are over 200 log cabin manufacturers."

Stayton says the homes have a number of advantages — one being that they can be energy efficient if built correctly.

"The typical 5.5-inch wall (in a log home) is comparable or better than the conventional 2-by-4 wall," he

says. "You get better control on air loss and a natural insulation."

"The homes are not cheaper to build, although the cost is comparable to conventional-type homes. The people who buy these homes aren't

*"The homes are not cheaper to build, although the cost is comparable to conventional-type homes. The people who buy these homes aren't looking for that, but for the aesthetic qualities of these types of homes."*

— Chuck Stayton, wood specialist

looking for that (cost), but the aesthetic qualities of these types of homes."

The homes must be treated every five years with an EPA-registered wood preservative to protect them from weathering, Stayton says, which helps keep them from rotting and makes them fire-safe.

"Log homes are a lot safer from fire than conventional homes because of the thickness and the density of the wood walls," he says. "Lab

tests have shown that when heated to a temperature that will cause steel beams to sag, the walls of a log home will have only the outer half-inch to three-quarters of an inch charred."

Stayton says people interested in log homes should buy one from a lo-

Spruce. Dead-standing means that has been killed by beetles, disease, blight, but has remained standing," she says.

"The forest service in Colorado has an annual auction to clear these trees," she says. "That's what we get all our trees, except for a few from Montana. We don't take trees that are alive, just ones that would have been wasted anyway."

"From there, they are milled into what are called cants (the logs into square beams); then they are loaded and shipped to Longview."

The dry climate in Colorado is the fact that the trees have not died and standing for awhile, Stayton says, helps the sap drain out and preserves them.

"Green logs mill beautifully," Stayton says, "but they tend to warp when the sap has dried out of them."

Satterwhite says her company sources suppliers throughout a five-state area comprised of Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, New Mexico. They will sell homes at any stage of completion buyer wants.

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