



What's next for our newest Nurse Practitioner?

More surgery.

"I love surgery," she laughs. "I always have and that hasn't changed since I earned my degree."

Yes, our Cindy has finished school and is a for real and true Nurse Practitioner. "After 9 1/2 years," she says rolling her eyes, "it's good to be done."

It was a long haul, she admits, and one she wasn't always sure was worth it. "I spent about two years of school wondering why I was doing this. I do love the information I was learning — the anatomy, physiology and pharmacology. I just didn't want to go back to school to get it."

Very supportive of his wife, Cindy's husband Brian is the reason she has that ARNP after her name. "I did really well in nursing school and he told me, 'You're not stopping there.' He's either very proud of me or he's into torture!"

For the last four years, Cindy worked full-time at Lincoln Hospital as the OR supervisor and circulator, and studied for her Nurse Practitioner degree in her guest bathroom.

"I have to have things quiet, so I set up a desk in there and watched my horse out the window to keep my sanity," she smiles of the hours spent pouring over books and lecture notes.

All this from a girl who never wanted to be a nurse.

"I love medical terminology and the study of medicine, but I never wanted to touch a patient," she admits of her early education. "I tried everything but being the nurse and look what happened! I can't even watch someone get a shot!"

Not a practicing clinician, Cindy says she has no plans to start seeing patients. "My only plan is to stay at Lincoln Hospital."

A Reardan native and 1974 RHS grad, Cindy admits Lincoln Hospital, is home. "I'm very uncomfortable in the city."

And this is the place she can do what she was meant to do — surgery.

"I think the surgery department provides a tremendous service and it's only getting better," she says. "I want to be a part of that. I don't want to miss out."

In Davenport, the surgery staff is well-rounded — which is part of the job's attraction. "We all know each other's jobs. If I were in Spokane, I would be doing a very narrow, specific job. Here, I'm involved in all aspects of patients care and preparation."

Cindy says because Lincoln Hospital's surgery department is so small, it has some distinct advantages over the city. "The surgery crew knows each other so well. We really take care of each other. We all think ahead and back each other up. It's a big part of our success."

As is Dr. Huntwork, whom the crew works with most of the time. "They don't get any better. She's the same person in the hallway as she is in the OR. She's never rude and doesn't get upset. She's the biggest reason I've stayed," she smiles, admitting she enjoys all her comrades in arms, including visiting docs.

"Our department really wants to be something special to our surgeons. We want them to enjoy being here whether they live here or drive in from Spokane."

She says it's all about relationships — something she can again focus on now that school's done. "In hindsight, my education is the greatest thing to happen to me, but I really wouldn't want to do it again."

Just think Cindy, you could have been a doctor...

