

PARTY AT THE NAVAL BASE

Dr. Jim Nixon was the Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at the VA Hospital for many years. In addition to this, he was an outstanding teacher and diagnostician, as well as physician for the Philadelphia Eagles.

After he had been at the hospital for a while, he somehow became involved in throwing a party given by the Clinical Staff for other professionals who also worked at the hospital. The Officers Club at the Naval Base, at the Broad Street Naval Terminal in South Philadelphia, was frequently selected for such activities, since there were many contacts between the VA Hospital Staff and the staff of the Naval Hospital. Also, special prices could regularly be obtained at the Officers Club for activities such as luncheons, dinners, and cocktail parties. Since both parking and the location were very desirable, this Officers Club remained extremely popular among VA professionals.

On one occasion, Jim Nixon was particularly active in hosting a cocktail party to which José had been invited. That Saturday evening he and Josy arrived at the event, where dinner would follow. When they entered the Clubroom, Jim's wife approached from the other end of the hall.

“José! How are you!” she called out, throwing her arms around him.

“Rosie!” he cried in surprise.

He turned to Josy, explaining that he recognized Rosie from the Medical Corps, where they had both served at the University of Pennsylvania's Twentieth General Hospital in Assam during World War II. They had not seen each other since, some twenty years later.

They continued to exclaim excitedly over the coincidence when Jim approached.

“So you know Rosie?” he asked José.

”I know her very well indeed, from way back when we were both in the Service together!” José replied.

To which Jim responded dryly, “Well, you may know her longer than I do but, I hope, not as intimately!”