

PINEHURST NEWS

By MARY EVELYN de NISSOFF

Commencement Speakers

Dr. Price Gwynn, of Leaksville, former dean at Flora Macdonald college in Red Springs, will deliver the baccalaureate sermon to the graduating class of the Pinehurst high school on Sunday, May 31, at 8 p. m. at the Community church. The speaker at the commencement exercises, to be held Monday evening, June 1, at 8 o'clock will be Dr. Edwin Poteat, pastor of Pullen Baptist Memorial church of Raleigh.

Entertain

Maj. Gen. and Mrs. I. T. Wyche entertained at a cocktail party Saturday evening at their home.

Mrs. James E. Harrington was hostess Wednesday afternoon at her home at a miscellaneous shower for bride-elect Miss Sandra Zelle.

Briefs

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Freedom

Eaton arrived Friday from Wellesley Hills, Mass., and are making a short visit at Mystic cottage here.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald D. Cooke left Monday for New York City and Watch Hill, R. I., for the summer months.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel G. Allen are spending a few days in New York City this week.

Capt. and Mrs. John C. Wallman and their two small daughters, of Ft. Benning, Ga., have leased an apartment in The Cloverleaf for two weeks while Captain Wallman is in training at the USAF Air-Ground Operations School.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert C. Aborn left this week for Putnam Heights, Conn., where they will visit their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Peckham, before going on to their summer home in Cutchogue, L. I.

Mrs. Washington Innes-Taylor has returned from St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and is visiting Mrs. Hargrove Vail for a short time before going on to her brother's home in Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. William Snow and their son, Bill, left Saturday for Windy Hill, S. C., where they have an apartment for a week. Mr. Snow, who is executive secretary of the Carolinas Golf association, is competing in the CGA tournament being played this week at the Dunes Golf and Beach club at Myrtle Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. John Garnier, who have been occupying an apartment here this winter, have moved to the Mayfair apartments in Southern Pines.

Prices of fed cattle are not expected to change greatly throughout the remainder of 1953, with the possible exception of the fall, when seasonal increases are expected.

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Dr. R. G. Rosser of Vass Rounds Out 34 Years of Wide Country Practice

His "Second Mile" Service Stems From Mother's Influence

By BESSIE CAMERON SMITH

Thirty-four years of going in and out of the homes of sick people in Vass and neighboring communities—extending out of Moore County into Hoke, Harnett and Lee—is the record of Dr. Robert G. Rosser of Vass. Many are the accounts, given by appreciative patients, of great service rendered at a surprisingly low fee. Back of this is a story that few of them know.

Youngest of the 12 children of the late Joseph J. and Mary Ann Kelly Rosser, Dr. Rosser was born on a farm near Broadway in Lee county, of farming ancestry. From early boyhood he dreamed of some day being a doctor. His mother tried to dissuade him from the idea, assuring him that he could do well enough farming. But the spark that flamed within the youth refused to be put out.

It wasn't that his mother lacked ambition for her youngest son; it was that she secretly feared that he might let the lure of financial gain overshadow the goal of service to humanity, and it was not until after she had exacted a promise that he would not "overcharge" people that she gave her consent for him to study medicine.

His father died when Robert was about 16 years of age, and times were none too good for the farm family, so he started his college career on the proverbial shoestring. A meager wardrobe and his beloved fiddle were the possessions with which he set out for Davidson college.

There were many obstacles to overcome and much work to be done during those college years, but the youth studied diligently, and when the going got too rough, he fiddled his cares away.

Robert borrowed \$100 to put him through his senior year. When graduation day came, he finished his course with the second highest grades of any member of his class of 20. Ony Hamilton W. McKay of Sumter, S. C., who later became president of the Southern Medical association, outdistanced him, and that by only 29/100 of one percent.

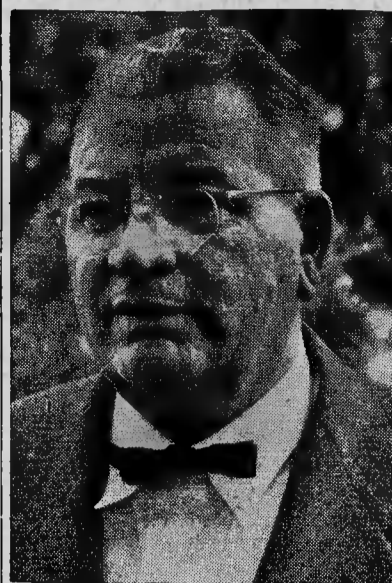
Dr. Rosser's first year of practice was in Warren county, after which he returned home to practice his profession in the Broadway community and help with the farm work—a duty which lasted for five years.

With the coming of World War I and the calling of many medical men into the service, Dr. Rosser went to Rockfish for two years, then to St. Pauls for a little more than a year, to help out until the doctors called from these communities returned. Then in May 1919, he came to Vass.

With him were his wife, the former Maude Harrington of Broadway, and their little son, Robert G., Jr., born during their stay in St. Pauls.

That was back in the Tin Lizzie days, when good roads were few and travel, especially in winter, was slow and hazardous. But neither bad roads nor high water stopped him from going in and out at all hours of the day or night when his services were needed.

Frequently he worked under conditions that today it is hard to believe existed so recently. On one occasion he was called to the home of a family living in a tobacco barn and there ushered a new baby into the world by the light of his automobile. One lady tells of going to his home one morning and asking for him, only to be told by Mrs. Rosser that he was taking a bath at the moment. She explained that he had come in about daybreak so smoked and sooty that she could not refrain from laughing at him even though she sympathized. This time he had had only a lightwood knot for illumination for a labor



DR. ROBERT G. ROSSER of Vass, who is rounding out 34 years of service to the Vass section, was honored at a testimonial dinner at the hotel in Lakeview Saturday night by the Moore County Medical Society. Mrs. Rosser, their two sons, Dr. R. G. Rosser, Jr., of Jacksonville, Fla., and John H. Rosser, a Charlotte pharmacist, were special guests along with wives of members. Dr. Clement Monroe of Pinehurst introduced Dr. M. W. Marr, also of Pinehurst, who, in behalf of the Society, presented Dr. Rosser a bronze plaque, suitably inscribed, in recognition of his 21 years (1929-1950) as secretary of the Society. Mrs. Rosser was given an orchid corsage.

The Rev. Grover Currie asked the blessing and closed the meeting with prayer.

case, plus, again, his car lights. In addition to his wide country practice, Dr. Rosser's work in baby clinics and in the fight against venereal disease has been outstanding. Health nurses praise him for his untiring efforts along these lines and for his fine spirit of cooperation.

However, all of "Doc's" cures have not been wrought by medicine. His wit and funny jokes have started their healing power in many instances even before his hypodermic needle or pills could get into action.

He is an honorary member of the State Medical Society, and served as secretary of the Moore County Medical Society for 21 years (1929-1950). On May 9 he was honored by the Moore County Medical Society at a testimonial dinner at Lakeview hotel and presented a bronze plaque in recognition of this long service as secretary.

Dr. Rosser is a Presbyterian, and for a long period during his busiest years served as a Sunday School teacher. "A wonderful teacher and one of the best men I ever knew" is the tribute paid him.

He is also a lifelong Republican, and although he takes his politics seriously, election time is always a time of good-natured parley with members of the opposing party.

A Master Mason who has been a member of Southern Pines Lodge No. 484 continuously for 33 years, he was last July presented a Life Membership certificate in recognition of his "outstanding devotion to this Lodge and for his unselfish service to humanity." The presentation was made at a picnic in his honor, given at Lakeview by the Masons with members of Magnolia Chapter 26, Order of the Eastern Star, in which Dr. Rosser was active for many years, cooperating.

Since he came to Vass, Dr. Rosser's family has increased from one to three children, all of whom he has seen grow to successful adulthood.

Robert, Jr., followed in his dad's footsteps in the study of medicine, and is now a specialist in urology at St. Dixon's hospital in Jacksonville, Fla., where he and his wife reside. He was accepted for membership in the American Board of Surgeons a few months ago.

John, the second son, is a registered pharmacist, in charge of the pharmacy of Presbyterian hospital in Charlotte. He is married and has a little daughter, Ann.

Youngest of the three is 24-year-old Janet (Mrs. Russell Spicer), who is carrying on the musical tradition of the family. On April 26 she gave her graduating recital and within a few days will receive her Master's degree in violin from the Philadelphia Conservatory of Music, where she has already been accepted as a member of the faculty for the coming year. She graduated there last spring and continued her studies on a scholarship which she won.

Mrs. Spicer's accomplishment is more notable in consideration of the fact that she keeps house in Haddenfield, N. J., for her husband and four-year-old son in addition to teaching there and

continuing her studies. She has already started her son Christopher playing on the baby-size violin with which she thrilled her father's patients as a tot of four or five, while accompanying him on his calls.

Despite the fact that he has kept his promise to his mother, and has made countless calls for which he well knew he would never receive a penny, Dr. Rosser is now comfortably situated in a modern brick home, large enough to take care of all the children and grandchildren when they come home.

He spends time in his office, makes some home calls and attends clinics, but he is now taking it easier than in former years and there is no one in the community who would say that he doesn't deserve to let up a bit.

People of the Vass section realize and appreciate the fact that through the years one of the greatest blessings a community can have has been theirs: a conscientious, sympathetic "country doctor" who lives up to the highest traditions of his profession.

AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Attending the annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, held Tuesday and Wednesday at Christ church, Raleigh, were the Rev. C. V. Covell, rector, and the following lay delegates from Emmanuel Episcopal church: N. L. Hodgkins, senior warden; Sherwood Brockwell, Jr., junior warden; Hoke Pollock, Men's Club president, and W. E. Cox, Jr., lay reader.

The group drove to Raleigh in time for the opening session at 2 p. m. Tuesday, returning Wednesday night.

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