

Dr. Dunnagan's Decision . . .

'Look' Magazine Features Piece By Local M.D. On 'Why I Stopped Being A Family Doctor'

"Why I Stopped Being A Family Doctor," an article by Dr. William A. Dunnagan of the Memorial Hospital staff, explains just what the title implies in the issue of Look magazine that was delivered to local newsstands this morning.



DR. WILLIAM A. DUNNAGAN

Dr. Dunnagan and his family moved here from Clayton in January, when he joined the Memorial Hospital staff for three years of residency in the Department of Radiology under Dr. Ernest Wood.

A native of Winston-Salem he attended the University before and after World War II and was graduated from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1951. Following a year of internship in Detroit he entered private practice in Clayton. He is the brother of Claude Dunnagan, editor of a publication for Gravelly Sanatorium, to whom he attributed a great share of the credit for publication of his article in "Look."

Dr. Dunnagan noted that his only background for writing was a course under Phillips Russell of the UNC journalism faculty, and several pieces which he has had published in professional journals. However, his bent for the literary seems not to be limited to writing in his field, for he has also written a number of unpublished children's stories which are greatly enjoyed by their own children—a girl and three boys.

The high pressure existence of a general practitioner gave him the idea to write the Look article,

Dr. Dunnagan said, after he read several medical pieces in this magazine. He sent the magazine a brief outline of his story idea last fall, and they telephoned him the next day to follow it up.

During his last week of practice in Clayton this past winter, a writer and photographer from Look practically lived with him, the doctor recalled. The writing of the "Look" magazine article represented many hours of revision, checking, and re-checking with authorities. Dr. Dunnagan said a condensed version of this story is carried in the adjoining columns of this issue of the News Leader.

By WILLIAM A. DUNNAGAN, M.D. (Condensed From "Look")

I have been practicing general medicine in a typical small town in the South for three years. The townspeople have been splendid to me and to my wife and four young children. We have made lifelong friends. I have earned a good living. In spite of all this, I am giving up being a family doctor to enter a specialized field of medicine.

The reasons I'm quitting explain, I think, why an official of a national medical association said recently, "One of our biggest problems is placing doctors in small towns and getting them to stay there."

Here are my reasons for deciding that I have had enough:

I have too many patients to treat each one adequately. Like many rural physicians, I have often treated 40, 50, or 60 patients in one day. Under this kind of pressure, no physician can give each patient good service. His practice becomes sort of high-class first aid—and not so high-class, at times. A compromise with quality in an effort to serve all comes in unfeeling to the patient and frustrating to the doctor, no matter how energetic he may be.

I don't have time to keep abreast of new medical discoveries. I don't have enough time for home life and civic activities. The fact that few small towns and rural communities have 24-hour clinics makes the general practitioner subject to call at any hour of the day or night.

Many of my bills go unpaid. Can a good doctor also be a good businessman? I believe he has to be or he cannot survive in our present-day economy, though he must be a good doctor first and foremost. The operating expenses of my practice average 40 per cent of my gross income (payable, but not always paid).

I am expected to assume the burden of charity patients. I have treated many charity patients, as every doctor has, without compensation for time or drugs, and I will continue to do so. But now and then, it becomes a great strain physically and financially.

Few health insurance policies provide for the family doctor. Though fulfilling a vital need, the average hospitalization or medical-care policy carries no clause of compensation for the general practitioner, though the financial interests of both hospital and surgeon are protected. There are undoubtedly sound fiscal and statistical reasons for this from the insurance companies' viewpoint. But I don't believe the reasons justify the omission.

I don't mean to say that being a family doctor does not offer rewards and professional gratification. I would trade nothing for the wealth of warm human experience that has come my way as a country doctor in three brief years of practice.

Several specific steps can be, and are being, taken to encourage doctors to enter general practice and to stay in the field. Here are some basic approaches:

1. Any community that does not have a single doctor could adequately support two general practitioners.

2. To close the gaps in health insurance, representatives of the various state medical societies and officials of the leading insurance and medical-car groups might well discuss guaranteeing a general practitioner his fee, even if it means raising premium rates.

3. Through existing welfare agencies or through a locally sponsored charity medical fund, communities should compensate doctors with a standard, if lower, fee for treating charity cases.

4. Medical schools should continue the trend toward incorporating "division of general practice" into their programs.

5. America's press and entertainment media have a wonderful opportunity to help shore up the relationship between patient and doctor. Radio, TV and the movies, without sacrificing dramatic appeal, can work toward a more realistic approach to today's modern small-town physician, showing in their portrayals that a doctor is not only human and a valuable person in his community, but might even legitimately be a good businessman.

Until these and other similar steps are taken, I am certain that other young doctors in my position will do as I am doing.

White Cross News Letter

By Mrs. Edmund Strowd

Several girls and boys of this community are attending FFA and FFA camps at White Lake this week. Those attending are Carol Bynum, Sheila Dawson, Anne Morrow, Frances Strowd, Billie Wayne Andrews, Wayne Womble and Clayton Lloyd.

Gordon Neville and Nancy Carson gave a hay ride and watermelon slicing Saturday night for Kermit Lloyd and Leonard Cheek, who are at home on two-weeks' leave from the Air Force. They are stationed in Illinois.

William Edd O'Daniel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson O'Daniel, is home on furlough from the armed forces.

Mrs. Walter Lloyd and Mrs. Johnny Lloyd gave a stork shower Saturday night in the Orange Chapel Church basement, for Mrs. Carson Lloyd. The large number of guests present enjoyed amusing games and refreshments.

The Orange Chapel MYF girls and boys ball teams played at Whitney Saturday afternoon. The boys played the Mt. Carmel team and won the game by one run. The girls soft ball team played the Cedar Cliff team and lost, 8-5.

Ernest Crawford is coming home Saturday from Ft. Benning, Ga., where he has been at ROTC camp for six weeks. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Crawford. Mrs. Weston Lloyd came home Sunday from a hospital in Burlington.

Jeter Lloyd was sick last week, but is better. He was at church Sunday night.

Colon Thompson underwent a stomach operation at the VA Hospital in Durham last Thursday. He is getting along as well as was expected.

Mrs. John Kirby and Mrs. Lizzie Copeland visited Mrs. Arthur Dawson at her home last week. Mrs. Dawson recently returned home from Watts Hospital where she spent several weeks as a patient.

Mrs. Marvin Morrow is at home from Memorial Hospital. Mrs. John Durham, Mrs. Ada Byrd, Mrs. Mabel Glosson, Mrs. Myrtle Glosson and Mrs. Cary Snipes visited Mrs. Lillie Morrow last week at Butler Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bowden are the parents of twin boys born last Wednesday. The twins are named Donald and Ronald.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Whitfield have a baby girl who was born last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bradshaw and Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Bowden went to the mountains for the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Alton Durham are in Florida this week. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Weaver and Doris Yow went to New York last week to visit relatives.

Faye Andrews is visiting her sister, Mrs. Milton Cheek, in Grafton, Va., for two weeks. Mrs. Elsie Durham is visiting her daughter, Mrs. G. R. Aldridge, of Durham.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Snipes and daughter, Susan, took a trip to the mountains last week. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Sturdivant and family went to Lexington last weekend to visit relatives.

Faye Mann is spending this week in Burlington with relatives. Jean Harris, of Burlington, spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. Ben Mann and family.

Judy and Phyllis Strowd are visiting their cousins, Leonora, Mary and Britt Norwood this week. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Riley and Mrs. Madge McIver were visitors at Antioch Church Sunday.

Exchangeites Appoint Four New Chairmen

Four committee chairmen were appointed by Charles Stancell, General Chairman of the Gold Rush project, at the Tuesday meeting of the Exchange Club.

They are Herb Holland, Judge; George Cannefax, Grounds; Dick Young, Awards; and Whid Powell, Participation. An annual event, the Gold Rush has been tentatively scheduled for October 6.

Special "SUPER-RIGHT" Luncheon Meat 3 12-Oz. Cans 85c

Instant COFFEE 2-Oz. Jar 49c 6-Oz. Jar \$1.29

Reduced! A&P RED SOUR PITTE Pie Cherries 2 16-Oz. Cans 35c

Awaken appetites... SELECT FROM A&P'S WONDERFUL VARIETY OF FINE QUALITY SUMMER FOODS!

JANE PARKER APPLE Pie 39c Each

JANE PARKER GIANT Jelly Rolls 49c Each

BURRY OXFORD CREAMS 12-Oz. Pkg. 27c CHICKEN OF THE SEA CHUNK TUNA 6 1/2-Oz. Can 29c

Northern Toilet Tissue 3 Rolls 23c Wisley Soap 8 Bar Bag Assorted 56c

Silver Dust Large Package 32c Giant Package 79c Breeze Large Package 32c Giant Package 79c

Whiting 1 1/2-Lb. Box 21c "Super-Right" Meats

"SUPER-RIGHT" MILK FED VEAL Shoulder Roasts - Per Lb. 39c

"SUPER-RIGHT" FRESH LOIN END Pork Roasts - Per Lb. 39c

"SUPER-RIGHT" SLICED Bologna - 1-Lb. Pkg. 39c

Ready-Made Name Awaiting

Sired By Frozen Semen, Calf Arrives On Friday The 13th

Some people think of Friday the 13th as being unlucky, but a little calf born on the Guernsdel Farm on Friday the 13th of July has every right to feel that Friday the 13th is a lucky day.

This calf, born to Guernsdel Princess Fern, and owned by Dr. H. C. Carr of the Guernsdel Farm, was sired by Bournedel's Maxim's Duke, an outstanding bull now located at the Larcum Farm, West Virginia.

The sire of this calf was the result of a new technique developed in the artificial breeding program. The Guernsdel Farm owns one-half interest in this bull, and in cooperation with the other part owner, semen was collected and frozen by a special process. The semen is diluted and placed in 1 cc. sterile ampullas. These ampullas are wrapped in sterilized cotton and placed into holes bored in dry ice. The dry ice is then packed into insulated containers and shipped by air to the local Raleigh-Durham Airport. On arrival at the Guernsdel Farm the ampullas are taken out of the dry ice and placed into a thermos jug. Alcohol is then poured into the thermos jug covering the ampullas and the whole thermos jug is then packed in a case of dry ice. Then,

the case is placed in a deep freeze unit. In this manner semen is at a constant temperature of 80 to 85 degrees below zero. Semen has been kept alive by this process for as long as 12 months. A variation of as much as 5 degrees up or down will destroy the vitality of the semen.

\$150,000 In Grants Given To Psychiatry

Dr. George C. Ham, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry of the University School of Medicine, has announced the receipt of a total of approximately \$150,000 in grants from the National Institute of Mental Health of the U. S. Public Health Service for the present fiscal year.

These grants include funds for (1) Stipends for residents in psychiatry and salaries for staff members to supplement the regular departmental staff's instruction in this specialty; (2) A pilot project to explore the possibility of more effectively teaching and integrating basic psychiatric concepts with the other basic medical science disciplines; (3) An experimental teaching plan for first-year medical students oriented toward the multidisciplinary study of human illness; (4) The development of a program of training, research and service in child psychiatry and (5) The extension and expansion of a psychological internship program in the Department of Psychiatry.

GREENE ELECTRIC CO. ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR FREE ESTIMATES Phone 8-1537 Chapel Hill

CAROLINA Flower Shop Opposite Post Office Phone 4851

ORDER FUEL NOW! DON'T BE CAUGHT SHORT ON FUEL! Be ready when cold weather comes! Stock up now while prices are low. There's an ample supply now, and you're assured of prompt delivery. Call us today and order. Bennett & Blocksidge 105 E. Franklin St. Phone 6161

Canning PEACHES Per b.