

C. B. Bannister

First Doctor in Eagle Village

Medical history in Eagle village begins with the entry into the village in 1866 of C. B. Bannister. He had been graduated from an academy in Bennington, Vt., and studied with Dr. Samuel Fuller of Madison, N.Y.

But, his health failing, he gave up his study of medicine and took up farming. Later he resumed his study with Dr. L. Nash and again practiced, this time in Eagle in 1866.

He continued practice in the town and its environs until the late 1880s. In that time he built the house on Main st. now owned by the Partridge heirs.

Dr. DeWayne Townsend followed Dr. Bannister, coming to Eagle in 1881. Dr. Townsend was born in Waukesha county near Oconomowoc. He attended a medical college in Louisville, Ky., where he was graduated in 1876. He practiced for a few years, but went to Chicago Medical college, now the medical school of Northwestern university at Evanston. After graduation he came to Eagle.

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Doctor Ill

Dr. Townsend's death was due to his deep dedication to his ministry. Ill with influenza, he was called to a case miles away in a winter when roads were blocked with snow and winds were blowing with blizzard intensity. His horse couldn't manage to get through the snow, but the doctor trudged for three miles through hip deep banks. On reaching the patient, the doctor was sicker than the patient.

For several weeks the doctor lived on, but he was not able to throw off the effects of pneumonia. He died in April, 1888.

Dr. Charles Sharpe attended the community in the late 1880s and 1890s leaving Eagle to practice in Chicago.

In 1895 Dr. J. J. Fitzgerald came to take up a practice which lasted till 1953 and included the administration of a hospital for many years.

Medical Center

Thanks to the Rev. Alvin Briggs, the legal proceedings to establish the Eagle Advancement corp. was established. In October, 1954, the first shovelful of soil was turned for the building in which to house doctors, dentists and whatever specialists were needed in keeping a community well. By December of that same year the medical center held open house.

Dr. Wilbur Rosencranz took up a practice which immediately became almost overwhelming. In June of 1958 Dr. Eugene Zwisler came to assist in the ever-growing popularity of the center.

Dr. Louis Marino, doctor of dental science, came from New York city in March of 1956; Dr. Schoenberg, optometrist was added in 1958, and last summer, Miss Lois McDowell, a registered nurse, was also added to the medical staff.