

A medical history

Former hospital in Eagle holds memories for Frances Heintz-Taylor

EAGLE — The last baby born in what used to be Eagle's Hospital at 224 Main St. was Frances Heintz-Taylor. The date was Nov. 4, 1932, when other historic events also occurred.

There was an unheralded Democratic landslide, ushering that party into Wisconsin's State House in the person of Albert G. Schmedeman. Franklin D. Roosevelt was celebrating his presidential victory close to Heintz-Taylor's birth.

Heintz-Taylor says, "That made it easy for me, datewise, on my high school history tests. Roosevelt was the 32nd president and my birth year was the same — 32."

News items like these are in scrapbooks. Heintz-Taylor has a building in Eagle which is her special memento of the past.

The former hospital was remodeled since its closing in the 1930s. Now it is the home of Elmer Kilian and family.

Medical history started in Eagle in 1866 when C.B. Bannister arrived. He attended to people in the town and its vicinity until the late 1880s. The house on Main Street was built during this time.

The Heintz family doctor, J.J. Fitzgerald, came to Eagle in 1895 and within a few years the home became a hospital. Horse and carriage were turn of the century mode. Their speed limited the area a medical facility could service.

Waukesha's facilities were not within range for emergencies. In fact, Heintz-Taylor says prior to her birth her relatives were born at home. That was and still is 318 N. Main St., North Prairie.

"When I was born, it was a real



Joan Holman

change for my grandparents. I think they were a bit scared when mother left to have her children even though it was the 6 miles to Eagle."

"It was in November but the weather must have been very warm; which helped their anxiety. They could go outside and plant tulips."

Dr. Fitzgerald, like most of the medical men of the time, felt it necessary for a long confinement after a birth. Mother spent almost two weeks in the hospital. The cost was \$125.

Although Fitzgerald remained as the family doctor, the hospital facilities were replaced by those in Waukesha as distance became minimal with the coming of cars. The doctor himself left the area in 1953.

The next year the Eagle Advancement Corporation was established. In October 1954, digging was done, construction completed for the Medical Center. An open house was held in December.

Dr. Wilbur Rosencranz was the next doctor in Eagle. Medical growth expanded to include Dr. Eugene Zwisler in June 1958. Louis Marino, DDS, came in 1956



Casey Lake, FREEMAN STAFF

Frances Heintz-Taylor, 318 N. Main St., North Prairie, was the last person born in the building behind her. The house on Main street in Eagle was a hospital at one time.

and Dr. Schoenenberger, optometrist, arrived in 1958.

But by the 1970s, another era ended. Expansion and major highway development caused the medical team to move to

Mukwonago. Presently the dentist alone remains at Eagle's Medical Center.

Buildings and memories, however, still stay. Frances Heintz-Taylor can visit her place of birth.

These days it would be a social call for the Elmer Kilian family has made the hospital a home.

(Joan Holman is a Freeman correspondent who lives in Eagle.)