

DR. DONALD HIGGINS

REMINISCENCES OF DR. HIGGINS 1975

I'M DR. DONALD HIGGINS, OF COTUIT. I WAS BORN AND BROUGHT UP IN MARSTONS MILLS, WHICH IS, AS YOU KNOW, ABOUT THREE MILES FROM HERE. MY DAD PRACTICED MEDICINE MOST OF HIS PROFESSIONAL LIFE.

HE ARRIVED THERE IN 1894, SHORTLY AFTER GETTING OUT OF HIS MEDICAL TRAINING IN BOSTON. AND WAS MARRIED THE FOLLOWING YEAR, TO MY MOTHER, WHOSE MAIDEN NAME WAS GRACE BABBIT.

THERE'S AN INTERESTING STORY OF THEIR EARLY DAYS. SINCE DAD HAD BEEN IN MARSTONS MILLS FOR A YEAR BEFORE MOTHER ARRIVED, HE THOUGHT THAT SHE SHOULD HAVE SOME SORT OF FORMAL INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMUNITY. SO, SEVERAL MONTHS LATER THEY HAD A RECEPTION FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE OF MARSTONS MILLS AND HIS PATIENTS IN COTUIT AND SANTUIT AND OTHER AREAS TOO.

THE INVITATIONS READ, FROM 7 TO 10 - EVERYBODY CAME AT 7 AND STAYED UNTIL 10. I THINK THERE WERE 400 INVITATIONS PUT OUT. IT WAS A BIG OLD HOUSE, BUT IT WASN'T BIG ENOUGH FOR THE CROWD. ONE OF THE HEAVIEST LADIES IN MARSTONS MILLS CLAIMED AFTERWARDS THAT SHE WAS CARRIED BY THE CROWD UP THE WINDING CIRCULAR STAIRCASE IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE WITHOUT ONCE TOUCHING HER FEET TO THE STEPS. (LAUGHS)

THE ONLY PLACE THAT THERE WAS ROOM FOR THEM TO STAND WAS THE PLACE FOR THE TRAIN OF MOTHER'S WEDDING DRESS, WAS IN FRONT OF ONE OF THE FIREPLACES, WITH THE TRAIN IN THE FIREPLACE, OF COURSE. AND DURING THE EVENING, PEOPLE WOULD COME AROUND LOOKING FOR HUSBANDS OR WIVES AND THEY WOULD COMPLAIN BITTERLY THAT THEY HADN'T SEEN THE SPOUSE FOR THE WHOLE EVENING. THAT INCLUDED THE DR., DR. CLEMENTS FROM OSTERVILLE. HE AND MRS. CLEMENTS CHASED EACH OTHER AROUND THE HOUSE THE WHOLE EVENING.

AFTER THEY GOT THROUGH, THERE WERE TWO BARRELS OF CAKE, LEFT OVER. THEY WERE TAKEN TO THE ALMS HOUSE AT WEST BARNSTABLE, THE NEXT DAY.

ANOTHER OF DAD'S EARLY EXPERIENCES, HERE ON THE CAPE. - I BETTER INTRODUCE HIM. HIS NAME WAS JAMES HAYDEN HIGGINS. ALWAYS WENT BY HIS MIDDLE NAME.

WAS WITH THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGE OF MASHPEE. WHICH AT THAT TIME WAS EVEN MORE THAN IT IS NOW, AN AREA WHERE THERE WERE A GOOD DEAL OF MIXTURES OF INHERITANCE WITH ORIGINAL INDIAN STOCK HAVING BEEN DILUTED BY CONTACT WITH THE HESSIANS, THE SAILORS WHO MADE IT THEIR FIRST PORT OF CALL ON THEIR RETURN FROM WHALING VOYAGES, AND VARIOUS OTHER RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS. WERE VERY INTERESTING PEOPLE, IN MANY WAYS.

ONE TALE THAT HE TOLD WAS THAT OF AN OLD LADY HE WENT TO SEE WHO WAS SITTING BY THE FIRE AND HE SAID, WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOURSELF, HERE? AND SHE SAID WELL, SOMETIMES I SIT BY THE FIRE AND THINK AND SOMETIMES I JUST SIT.

ANOTHER OLD LADY, WHEN ASKED HOW SHE FELT THAT DAY SAID, WELL, I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE NO GIT UP AND GIT. I DON'T KNOW WHEN I EVER WAS SO GITLESS!

IN LATER YEARS, THE MASHPEE LADY WHO USED TO COME DOWN AND BE MOTHER'S LAUNDRESS, USUALLY ONCE A WEEK, WAS OUT IN HER YARD WHEN DAD WENT BY ON HIS WAY TO A PROFESSIONAL CALL.

HE COULD SEE THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF SMOKE AND SHE WAS BEATING AWAY AT SOMETHING WITH A BROOM. SO HE STOPPED AND WENT IN AND SAID, MERCY, WHAT'S THE TROUBLE? HER NAME WAS MERCY HENDRICKS. SHE SAID, WELL, THIS IS A MATTRESS THAT SOMEBODY GAVE ME. SOME LADY GAVE ME A MATTRESS, AND SHE SAID, IT WAS TOO BIG FOR THE BED THAT I HAD, AND I THOUGHT I'D CUT OFF A PIECE OF IT. I STARTED TO CUT IT AND IT LOOKED LIKE AN AWFUL LOT OF WORK. SO THEN, I THOUGHT, WELL, IF I JUST SET FIRE TO IT AT ONE END, AND LET IT BURN A LITTLE BIT, TILL IT GETS TO WHERE I WANT IT, AND THEN PUT OUT THE FIRE, IT WOULD BE ALRIGHT. BUT SHE SAID, YOU KNOW, SHE SAID, I JUST ABOUT GOT IT STARTED ON ONE CORNER AND FIRE BEGAN TO COME OUT THE OTHER END! (LAUGHS)

THEY USED TO HAVE A PARTY AND A DANCE IN MASHPEE ON TOWN MEETING DAY. SO, ONE TOWN MEETING DAY DAD GOT CALLED UP THERE TO SEE SOMEBODY WHO'D BEEN INJURED IN ONE OF THE FIGHTS THAT HAPPENED AFTER THEY ALL GOT PRETTY WELL DRUNK. ONE MAN HAD BITTEN THE LIP OFF ANOTHER, AND THE MAN WHOSE LIP WAS MISSING WAS RATHER DRUNKENLY LOOKING AROUND TO SEE IF HE COULD FIND WHERE IT WAS. THE ASSAILANT SAYS. DON'T NEED TO LOOK FOR IT, I SWALLOWED IT! SO MUCH FOR MASHPEE.

DAD HAD A PATIENT OVER IN OSTERVILLE, WIANNO, WHO WAS A MAID OF ONE OF THE SUMMER FAMILIES THAT CAME FROM THE SOUTH. THIS COLORED LADY'S NAME WAS SADIE LEDPONT. SHE TOLD DAD THAT SHE HAD TO HAVE TREATMENT BECAUSE SHE HAD A POWERFUL MISERY IN HER INNARDS. SO DAD TRIED TO DETERMINE WHAT THE CAUSE WAS AND GAVE HER SOME MEDICINE FOR IT. THE NEXT TIME HE HAPPENED TO BE IN THE HOUSE AND SAW HER HE WANTED TO KNOW HOW IT WORKED. "OH, IT WORKED FINE, DOCTOR," SHE SAID. "DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEDICINE TASTE LIKE?" DAD SAID NO, I DON'T BELIEVE I EVER TASTED THAT PARTICULAR MIXTURE. SHE SAID, "WELL, IT TASTES JUST LIKE A WET DOG SMELLS."

DAD HAD BEEN IN MARSTONS MILLS ABOUT TEN YEARS BEFORE I WAS BORN, BEING THE YOUNGEST OF FIVE CHILDREN. AND - BY THAT TIME, BESIDES HAVING USUALLY THREE OR FOUR HORSES TO DRIVE DURING THE WINTER MONTHS HE ALSO HAD A CAR. HIS FIRST CAR WAS A STANLEY STEAMER, IN 1900. HE HAD TO GO TO WHERE IT WAS BUILT, SOMEWHERE IN EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS, I THINK IT WAS TAUNTON, AND LEARN HOW TO RUN IT AND HOW TO REPAIR IT. AND WHEN IT CAME, IT CAME IN A FREIGHT CAR, KNOCKED DOWN, TO WEST BARNSTABLE. - WHERE HE HAD TO GO AND PUT THE WHEELS ON AND SO ON, BEFORE BEING ABLE TO TAKE IT THE FIVE MILES TO MARSTONS MILLS.

DAD TOLD US IN EARLY DAYS, OF THE FIRST TRIP HE MADE WITH IT, IN GETTING IT TO THE MILLS. AND HE SAID THAT ONE OF THE MEN IN WEST BARNSTABLE NAMED JENKINS HAD A HORSE THAT WAS SCARED BY IT. THE HORSE RAN AWAY AND THEY FOUND IT TWO AND A HALF DAYS LATER IN HARWICH! PROBABLY FIFTEEN, TWENTY MILES AWAY. WE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT DAD WAS PULLING OUR LEG A LITTLE ON THIS, BUT WHEN I FIRST CAME TO COTUIT TO PRACTICE IN 1935, IT WAS ABOUT ONCE A YEAR THEREAFTER THAT SOMEONE IN WEST BARNSTABLE WOULD TELL ME THE STORY AND IT WAS PRACTICALLY A REVISION THE WAY THAT DAD HAD TOLD US.

AT THAT TIME THE ROADS WERE ALMOST ALL EITHER SAND ROADS OR SHELL ROADS, THERE WERE NO HARD SURFACED ROADS. THO, SOME OF THE SHELL ROADS THAT WERE WELL USED HAD A FAIRLY GOOD SURFACE. AND EACH YEAR A FAIRLY THICK LAYER OF OYSTER SHELLS WAS SPREAD ON THEM AND ROLLED WITH A BIG STEAM ROLLER. WHICH, OF COURSE, WAS OF EXTREME INTEREST TO US CHILDREN.

ALSO, IN HIS EARLIER YEARS, DAD, WHO WAS A BIG MAN, AND WEIGHED AROUND TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY POUNDS, USED TO MAKE SOME OF HIS ROUNDS ON MOTORCYCLE. AND ONE OF US WOULD GO WITH HIM, SOMETIMES, RIDING ON A LITTLE LUGGAGE RACK ON THE BACK. NO FOOT REST. WE DID HAVE A BELT STRAPPED AROUND DAD'S BACK THAT WE COULD HOLD ONTO. FORTUNATELY, WE NEVER HAD AN ACCIDENT WHILE WE WERE RIDING WITH HIM.

AT ONE TIME, BEFORE I REMEMBER - DAD HAD AN ACCIDENT IN WHICH THE CHAIN OF THE MOTORCYCLE BROKE AND THE MOTORCYCLE STOPPED SUDDENLY. AND DAD DIDN'T AND PLOUGHED ALL THE SKIN OFF BOTH HIS HANDS, PALMS, AND HAD TO TAKE A SEVERAL WEEK VACATION. SO HE DECIDED HE'D MAKE THE BEST OF IT AND TOOK A TRIP DOWN TO NOVA SCOTIA WHERE HIS PARENTS HAD BEEN BORN. AND VISITED ALL THE RELATIVES THERE.

BESIDES HIS OFFICE, IN THE HOUSE AT MARSTONS MILLS, DAD HAD, IN THE EARLY DAYS, ONE OFFICE IN OSTERVILLE AND ONE IN COTUIT. THE ONE IN OSTERVILLE IS NEAR WHERE THE HYANNIS - CAPE COD BANK AND TRUST COMPANY BUILDING IS NOW. THE ONE IN COTUIT IS IN THE, WAS IN THE HOUSE WHICH IS NOW OCCUPIED BY NURSE PARKER, ON MAIN STREET.

HE HAD OFFICE HOURS TWICE A WEEK IN EACH OF THESE OFFICES AND THEREBY WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE A NUMBER OF THE PATIENTS WHO HAD NO TRANSPORTATION TO GET THEM TO MARSTONS MILLS AND YET COULD SEE MORE PATIENTS THAN HE COULD IF HE WAS SEEING THEM ONLY ON HOUSE VISITS.

ONE OF MY EARLIEST MEMORIES OF COTUIT, PROBABLY WHEN I WAS FIVE OR SIX YEARS OLD WAS OF RIDING WITH DAD ON HIS ROUNDS AND HAVING HIM DETAINED BEYOND THE TIME HE HAD EXPECTED TO BE AND THEREFORE, BEYOND MEALTIME. AND WE PICKED UP A JAR OF CREAM AT A FARM, AND SPONGE CAKE AT A STORE, AND WENT ALONG DOWN THE STREET ON OUR WAY, EATING CAKE AND CREAM. WHICH MAY ACCOUNT SOMEWHAT FOR DAD'S TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY POUNDS.

GROWING UP IN MARSTONS MILLS, OF COURSE, I WENT TO SCHOOL THERE, WHICH AT THAT TIME WAS A ONE ROOM, SIX GRADE SCHOOL WITH ONE TEACHER NAMED MISS MURDOCK WHO WAS, WE THOUGHT, VERY SEVERE, BUT PROBABLY WASN'T. BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAD ONE PUPIL THERE WHO SEEMED TO INCUR HER WRATH VERY FREQUENTLY.

I CAN REMEMBER HER WHIPPING HIM WITH A HORSEWHIP AND BREAKING THE WHIP AND SENDING SOME OF THE OLDER BOYS IN THE SCHOOLROOM TO THE STORE TO GET ANOTHER WHIP.

THE SCHOOLROOM WAS HEATED WITH A BIG OLD CAST IRON STOVE THAT TOOK TWO FOOT PLANKS OF WOOD VERY EASILY. SOME OF THE OLDER BOYS IN SCHOOL WERE PAID FOR CUTTING UP CORDWOOD INTO THE TWO FOOT LENGTHS.

IN THAT CONNECTION I REMEMBER BEING SENT TO THE STORE, WHICH WAS NOT FAR AWAY, TO GET A CONTAINER FULL OF LARD WHICH WAS USED TO LUBRICATE THE SAW.

AFTER I HAD FINISHED THE SCHOOL AT MARSTONS MILLS, WHICH BY THAT TIME HAD BECOME A NINE GRADE SCHOOL, I WENT TO THE LOWER HIGH SCHOOL, WHICH WAS THEN ON LOWELL ROAD IN COTUIT, WHERE THE BALL FIELD IS NOW. WE TRAVELLED BY A SCHOOL BARGE, NOT A BUS, BUT USUALLY A CAR THAT HAD BEEN ADAPTED FOR THE PURPOSE. AND MY CLASS, AS WE GRADUATED, THERE WERE SIX PEOPLE. FIVE OF THEM FROM MARSTONS MILLS, INCLUDING ONE OF MY SISTERS, AND ONE FROM COTUIT. WE WERE RATHER A BIG CLASS BECAUSE THE YEAR BEFORE THERE HAD BEEN ONE MEMBER AND THE YEAR AFTER US, ONLY TWO. BUT WHEN MY WIFE GRADUATED THE FOLLOWING YEAR, I THINK THERE WAS A CLASS OF EIGHT. IN THAT CLASS, AMONG THE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOW LIVING IN COTUIT, ARE EUDELL PERRY, OF SANTUIT AND ----- TURNER, OF COTUIT. THERE WAS ALSO MELISSA DOTTRIDGE AND MARCELLA FISH, BOTH OF WHOM LIVE AT THIS TIME.

I WAS A MEMBER OF THE BASEBALL TEAM, AT ELIZABETH LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL, FOR ONE GOOD REASON. THERE WERE NINE BOYS IN SCHOOL. THEY PUT ME IN RIGHT FIELD WHERE NOBODY EVER HIT AND I PROMPTLY STRUCK OUT WHENEVER I WENT TO BAT SO I GOT OUT OF PEOPLE'S WAY RATHER QUICKLY. PARTICULARLY I REMEMBER MAY 30TH GAME THAT WE ALWAYS PLAYED WITH OAK BLUFFS ON THE VINEYARD. WE'D SAIL OVER THERE IN CAPTAIN JIM PHINNEY'S OLD CATBOAT, THE ADMIRAL, AND PLAY THE GAME, AND THEN STAY OVER NIGHT, AND SAIL BACK THE FOLLOWING DAY. OF COURSE, WE HAD NO SLEEP AT ALL ANYTIME WE WERE ON THE BOAT OVER THE NIGHT. AND WE SPENT ANY SPENDING MONEY WE HAD IN THE FIRST FEW HOURS, SO WE WERE HUNGRY, AND TIRED, AND OFTEN IT RAINED. ALTOGETHER, IT WAS A RATHER RUGGED TRIP. BUT THE CROWNING TRIP WAS THE LAST ONE WE MADE. WE HAD A HEADWIND AND THE MOTOR ON THE OLD CATBOAT WOULDN'T RUN, AND SO WE WERE TACKING

BACK AND FORTH FROM FALMOUTH TO HYANNIS, TRYING TO GET INTO COTUIT FOR THE WHOLE FOLLOWING DAY. WE GOT BACK INTO COTUIT PERHAPS SIX IN THE EVENING. THEN I HAD TO RIDE MY BIKE TO MARSTONS MILLS, AND WENT TO BED AND SLEPT FULLY AROUND THE CLOCK. FOR THE FIRST AND I THINK THE LAST TIME IN MY WHOLE LIFE.

AFTER GRADUATING FROM ELIZABETH LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL, I SPENT THE NEXT YEAR AS A POST GRADUATE STUDENT AT BARNSTABLE HIGH SCHOOL IN HYANNIS.

AFTER BEING ADMITTED TO HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL, I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH AND SO POSTPONED MEDICAL SCHOOL FOR TWO YEARS AND TAUGHT PHYSICS IN THE ENGINEERING SCHOOL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

FOLOWING GRADUATION FROM HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL, IN 1930, I TOOK A ROTATING INTERNSHIP AT THE NEWTON HOSPITAL, WHICH IS NOW CALLED THE NEWTON WELLESLEY HOSPITAL, IN THE SUBURB OF BOSTON.

THEN WENT TO EPPING, NEW HAMPSHIRE, WHERE I PRACTICED FOR THE FOLLOWING FOUR YEARS BEFORE COMING BACK TO THE CAPE AND SETTLING IN COTUIT IN SEPTEMBER, 1935. EXACTLY FORTY YEARS AGO! FOR THE FIRST EIGHTEEN MONTHS THAT WE WERE HERE, WE LIVED IN THE CHARLES BROOKS HOUSE ON THE CORNER OF COOLIDGE STREET AND MAIN STREET, AND THEN MOVED INTO THE HOUSE AT THE CORNER OF MAIN STREET AND POPPONSETT ROAD WHERE I HAD MY OFFICE FROM THEN UNTIL RETIREMENT IN THE FALL OF 1971.

WE HAD BOUGHT THE HOUSE IN THE FALL OF 36' AND WORKMEN HAD BEEN IN IT ALL WINTER AS WELL AS A GREAT MANY OTHER PEOPLE BECAUSE WE MADE THE MISTAKE OF PUTTING HEAT IN THE FIRST THING IN THE FALL. ORIGINALLY THE LITTLE CAPE COD HOUSE HAD BEEN A SO-CALLED HALF HOUSE WITH A FRONT DOOR AND TWO WINDOWS ON ONE SIDE ONLY. BUT WE HAD FILLED IN THE CORNER TO THE OTHER SIDE SO THAT IT BECAME A WHOLE HOUSE OF A REGULAR CAPE COD PATTERN WITH A DOOR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FRONT AND TWO WINDOWS ON EACH SIDE. THE GROUND FLOOR PORTION OF THE NEW EDITION BECAME THE WAITING ROOM AND THE OLD PARLOR BECAME MY OFFICE WITH THE LITTLE BORNING ROOM BACK OF IT BECOMING MY BEDROOM AND LAVATORY.

WE HAD MOVED TO THE CAPE AGAINST THE ADVICE OF ALL OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. AND THEY THOUGHT WE WERE CRAZY TO LEAVE A GOOD PRACTICE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE WHERE THINGS WERE GOING ALONG WELL, WITH HOSPITAL CONNECTIONS AND WITH OUR TWO SMALL SONS HAVING ARRIVED. BUT, WE HAD FOUND THAT WHENEVER WE HAD ANY CHANCE TO GO ANYWHERE WE IMMEDIATELY HEADED FOR THE CAPE, AND DECIDED THAT WE'D MUCH RATHER SPEND THE FORTY EIGHT TO FIFTY WEEKS A YEAR ON THE CAPE THAN JUST THE TWO TO FOUR WEEKS THAT WE WERE GETTING.

ONE FACT THAT CONTRIBUTED TO OUR HAVING A GOOD QUICK START IN OUR PRACTICE HERE WAS THAT DR. JAMES L. CHUTE OF OSTERVILLE HAD RECENTLY BEEN ILL AND HAD GIVEN UP HIS GENERAL PRACTICE AND WAS LIMITING HIS PRACTICE TO SURGERY. SO MANY OF HIS PATIENTS WERE ABLE TO BECOME MY PATIENTS MUCH TO OUR SATISFACTION.

OUR FIRST DELIVERY OF A BABY FROM THE COTUIT POPULATION WAS LAURIE CAMPBELL, DAUGHTER OF ETHEL AND LEWIS CAMPBELL. WAS BORN EARLY IN NOVEMBER THAT YEAR.

MIGHT SAY THAT THE CAPE COD HOSPITAL HAD BEEN STARTED IN 1920, AND MY FATHER WAS ONE OF THE CHARTER STAFF MEMBERS. I DID NOT BECOME A FULL MEMBER OF THE STAFF UNTIL A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS AFTER MY ARRIVAL IN COTUIT BECAUSE OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS. BUT I WAS ALLOWED TO WORK UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF SOME OF THE OTHER DOCTORS. AND SHORTLY, I WAS ENGAGED IN A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF ANESTHESIA PRACTICE THERE AS HAD BEEN THE CASE AT THE EXETER HOSPITAL WHILE I HAD BEEN IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

THE NEW PART OF THE HOSPITAL AT THAT TIME WAS A BRICK WING WHICH HAD BEEN BUILT ABOUT A YEAR PREVIOUSLY WHICH WAS ATTACHED BY A CORRIDOR TO THE ORIGINAL WOODEN BUILDING AND THE BRICK PART IS ALL THAT NOW REMAINS OF THE ORIGINAL HOSPITAL - OR RATHER THE HOSPITAL AT THE TIME THAT I FIRST KNEW IT.

ALTHOUGH THE BULK OF MY PRACTICE WAS WITH PEOPLE IN COTUIT AND THE NEARBY COMMUNITIES SUCH AS MARSTONS MILLS, MASHPEE, OSTERVILLE, WEST BARNSTABLE - AT THAT TIME I OCCASIONALLY WENT ON CALLS THAT WERE CONSIDERABLY MORE REMOTE. GOING TO FALMOUTH AND SAGAMORE AND DENNIS AND OCCASIONALLY ON INSURANCE EXAMINATIONS AS FAR AS HARWICH. ONLY ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS, OF COURSE. AT THAT TIME MY OFFICE HOURS WERE RUN ON A CATCH AS CATCH BASIS, NOT ON AN APPOINTMENT BASIS, BECAUSE I FOUND THAT THE PATIENTS WERE MUCH MORE ANNOYED IF THEY HAD TO WAIT THREE OR FOUR HOURS TO GET

FROM THE WAITING ROOM TO THE OFFICE IF THEY HAD AN APPOINTMENT THAN IF THEY DIDN'T.

A COUNTRY DOCTOR'S PRACTICE DEPENDS NOT ONLY ON THE COUNTRY DOCTOR, BUT TO A VERY GREAT EXTENT ON HIS WIFE. I'VE BEEN BLESSED WITH ONE WHO HAS FILLED THE ROLE AWFULLY WELL. IN FACT, WE HAD ONE PATIENT, ELDERLY MAN WHO'SE BEEN BLIND SINCE HIS EARLY TEENS WHO TOLD ME ONE TIME THAT HE ALWAYS TRIED TO CALL ON THE PHONE WHEN HE THOUGHT I WOULDN'T BE THERE, BECAUSE HE NOT ONLY LIKED MY WIFE'S VOICE BETTER, HE LIKED HER ADVICE BETTER. INCIDENTALLY, UNTIL HIS LATER YEARS, HE EARNED HIS LIVING QUAHOGING. HE'D GET INTO HIS BOAT, ANY HOUR OF DAY OR NIGHT, MADE NO DIFFERENCE TO HIM, IN THE DARK AND WOULD GO OUT FROM THE TOWN WHARF TO WHEREVER HE THOUGHT THE QUAHOGS WERE - AND RAKED QUAHOGS UNTIL HE HAD WHAT HE WANTED IN AMOUNT, THEN, DEPENDING ON REFLECTED SOUNDS FROM SHORE TO GUIDE HIM BACK TO THE TOWN WHARF, HE'D GO BACK THERE AND UNLOAD HIS SHELLFISH AND GO ALONG HOME.

MANY OF THE DELIVERIES AT THAT TIME WERE NOT HOSPITAL DELIVERIES, BUT HOME DELIVERIES AND USUALLY WERE ATTENDED NOT ONLY BY SOME MEMBER OF THE FAMILY, BUT ALSO THE VISITING NURSE, WHOM I WOULD CALL AS SOON THINGS SEEMED FAIRLY IMMINENT. WE HAD SOME VERY INTERESTING EXPERIENCES ALONG THOSE LINES.

I REMEMBER ONE CASE IN WHICH THE FIRST TIME I'D SEEN THE PATIENT WAS ON THE AFTERNOON BEFORE DELIVERY WHEN SHE CAME IN TO THE OFFICE AND WAS THE ONLY ONE I EVER HAD THAT WAS TOO BIG TO BE WEIGHED ON MY OFFICE SCALE. SHE WEIGHED UP TO THREE HUNDRED POUNDS. THAT NIGHT, UP IN MASHPEE IN A VERY SMALL, RICKETY OLD HOUSE, SHE WAS IN AN UPSTAIRS BED - WHICH WAS RIGHT OVER THE KITCHEN. BEFORE THE BABY WAS BORN, I HAD VISIONS OF HER AND ME AND THE BABY AND THE MAN SHE WAS LIVING WITH AND HIS MOTHER ALL DESCENDING ONTO THE KITCHEN STOVE WITH A GREAT CRASH!

AT FIRST, ARRIVING IN COTUIT FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE, ONE OF THE NICEST THINGS THAT OCCURRED WAS THE ASSOCIATION WITH MY DAD WHO WAS STILL IN PRACTICE IN MARSTONS MILLS. THOUGH, SLOWLY PHASING OUR HIS PRACTICE.

WE NEVER REALLY HAD A JOINT PRACTICE, BUT WE DID TALK OVER CASES TOGETHER AND, OF COURSE, I GRADUALLY ACQUIRED MANY OF HIS PATIENTS AS HE REDUCED THE VOLUME OF HIS PRACTICE.

HE CONTINUED TO BE FAIRLY ACTIVE UNTIL ABOUT NINETEEN FORTY ONE AND HIS TERMINAL ILLNESS RESULTED IN HIS BEING A PATIENT AT CAPE COD HOSPITAL FOR HIS LAST SIX MONTHS. FROM THE FALL OF 1941 UNTIL HE DIED EARLY IN APRIL IN 1942.

WE ATTENDED MEDICAL MEETINGS TOGETHER AND ONE MEMORY IS OF GOING TO A STAFF MEETING AT THE CAPE COD HOSPITAL AND FINDING SUDDENLY, AS IT OCCURRED TO BOTH OF US SIMULTANEOUSLY, THAT AT THAT PARTICULAR DATE, WHICH WAS OCTOBER 2, 1937, HE WAS EXACTLY SIXTY SIX AND TWO THIRDS YEARS OLD AND I WAS EXACTLY THIRTY THREE AND ONE THIRD, MAKING OUR TOTAL COMBINED AGE EXACTLY A HUNDRED YEARS TO THE DAY. SOMETHING THAT HAD NEVER OCCURRED TO EITHER OF US BEFORE.

WITHIN THE YEAR OR TWO AFTER OUR ARRIVAL IN COTUIT, THE OLD ELIZABETH LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL WAS TORN DOWN AND MUCH OF THE MATERIAL THAT CAME FROM WRECKING IT WAS USED TO BUILD A NEW FIRE STATION, ON HIGH STREET.

VERY SHORTLY THEREAFTER I WAS ACTIVE IN HELPING TO TRAIN MEMBERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN FIRST AID WORK. THIS LATER WAS COMBINED WITH TRAINING WE GAVE IN THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IN THE EARLY STAGES OF WORLD WAR II - WHEN WE HAD FIRST AID TRAINING FOR NEARLY EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY WHO WAS INTERESTED IN IT - AND HAD SESSIONS AT FREEDOM HALL AND IN OTHER AREAS WHERE WE HAD SIMULATED CASUALTIES. HOWEVER, BEFORE AND AFTER WORLD WAR II THE TRAINING OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS IN FIRST AID WORK CONTINUED AND WAS CARRIED ON BY THE LOCAL RED CROSS CHAPTER WITH THE GRANTING OF RED CROSS CERTIFICATES TO MOST OF THE MEMBERS ON THE RESCUE SQUAD.

LATER WE ADDED EQUIPMENT, NOT ONLY FOR THE AMBULANCE, BUT EQUIPMENT FOR LENDING TO PATIENTS WHO NEEDED USE IN THE HOME IN TIME OF SICKNESS. SUCH AS BEDPANS, WHEELCHAIRS, CRUTCHES, WALKERS, ETC.

IN 1948 THE SCHWAB FUND WAS STARTED AND THAT HELPED A GREAT DEAL IN PROVIDING SUCH EQUIPMENT AND ALSO AMBULANCE EQUIPMENT AND CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE COST OF A NEW AMBULANCE. THIS FUND WAS A VERY INTERESTING AND, I THINK A UNIQUE TYPE OF FUND. IN THAT IT WAS STARTED BY THE FAMILY OF ELLEN SCHWAB, MRS. SIDNEY SCHWAB WHO WAS A LONG TIME SUMMER RESIDENT OF COTUIT. SHE WAS FOUND TO HAVE A CANCER FOR WHICH THERE ARE ONLY A PALLIATIVE

OPERATION COULD BE DONE AND WAS SENT HOME WITH THE IDEA THAT SHE WOULD PROBABLY LIVE FOR A FEW WEEKS, TO POSSIBLY A MONTH OR TWO. BUT, ACTUALLY, LIVED FOR SOMETHING OVER SEVEN MONTHS, ALL IN COTUIT. DURING THIS TERMINAL ILLNESS, SHE WAS IMPRESSED WITH HOW RELATIVELY COMFORTABLE SHE COULD BE BECAUSE OF MANY THINGS THAT WERE PROVIDED. NOT ONLY SUCH AS SOME MEDICINES, BUT, CHIEFLY OTHER THINGS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO HER COMFORT AND WELL BEING. SHE THEREFORE SET UP FOR THE FUTURE A FUND WHICH WAS SUBSCRIBED TO, AT FIRST, CHIEFLY BY MEMBERS OF HER FAMILY AND RELATIVES AND FRIENDS. BUT LATER, CAME TO BE A RATHER GENERAL COMMUNITY AFFAIR. AFTER HER HUSBAND, DR. SIDNEY SCHWAB, A ST LOUIS PSYCHIATRIST, HAD DIED, IT WAS CONTINUED AS A MEMORIAL TO HIM ALSO. AND LATER, BECAME A MEMORIAL FUND IN MEMORY OF MANY COTUIT RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF COTUIT RESIDENTS, BOTH WINTER AND SUMMER.

WHEN THE FUND WAS STARTED, THE INFORMALITY OF IT WAS ONE OF ITS MAIN ATTRACTIONS, AND IT CONTINUED TO BE SO FOR THE TWENTY YEARS THAT IT WAS CONTINUED. AFTER WHICH IT WAS DISCONTINUED IN 1967 BECAUSE OF THE LEGAL NECESSITY OF ORGANIZING IT AND MAKING IT A FORMAL CORPORATION OR SOME SIMILAR ORGANIZATION IN ORDER FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO IT TO BE DEDUCTIBLE FOR TAX PURPOSES.

DR. AND MRS SCHWAB'S DAUGHTER, FRANCES, LATER MRS. ROBERT HUETT, CARRIED ON THE WORK OF MAKING AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONTRIBUTORS AND THE FUND WAS ENTIRELY ADMINISTERED BY ME AND MY WIFE. WITH NO RESTRICTIONS ON HOW IT WAS USED EXCEPT THAT THE INTENT SHOULD BE TO USE IT AS MRS SCHWAB WOULD HAVE INTENDED. THE FUND REALLY AMOUNTED TO A GREAT ASSET TO THE VILLAGE, AND WAS NOT ENTIRELY LIMITED TO THE VILLAGE OF COTUIT. AS WE TRIED TO HELP IN NEARBY COMMUNITIES WHEN THE NEED SEEMED TO BE GREATER THERE THAN HERE.

THE AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTIONS THE FIRST YEAR WAS ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY FIVE DOLLARS, OF WHICH FIVE HUNDRED AND THIRTY TWO WAS SPENT THAT YEAR. THE INTENT WAS NOT THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO SET UP A FUND THAT WOULD BE A -----FUND, BUT THAT WHEN THE NEED AROSE, WE WOULD SPEND MONEY AS IT CAME IN. ON THAT BASIS, THE FUND CONTINUED WITH A YEARLY AVERAGE AT FIRST OF AROUND SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS BUT THEN ACTUALLY REACHED TO OVER TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS A YEAR. THE TOTAL, OVER THE TWENTY YEARS, AMOUNTED TO ABOUT TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS.

THE TYPICAL YEAR WAS ONE IN WHICH THE AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED WAS \$1358.30 AND A BALANCE HAD BEEN HELD OVER FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR OF \$748.11. THE EXPENDITURES THAT YEAR INCLUDED DRUGS DISPENSED. THOSE WERE CHIEFLY, AT THAT TIME, ANTIBIOTICS WHICH WERE EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE, AND SOME OTHER EXPENSIVE DRUGS. DRUGS FOR WHICH PRESCRIPTIONS WERE WRITTEN. THE FORMER BEING \$449.94, THE LATTER, \$418.68. FOR LABORATORY WORK, \$17.00, FOR OXYGEN, \$42.72. MUCH OF THIS GOING TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THE OXYGEN USED ON THE RESCUE TRUCK, BUT ALSO SOME OF IT DIRECTLY GIVEN TO PATIENTS WHO NEEDED IT FOR A SHORT TIME. HOSPITALIZATION \$361.35, COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT, \$567.71, OF WHICH THE LARGEST AMOUNT IN THAT CASE WENT FOR A CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE NEW AMBULANCE. AND MISCELLANEOUS, \$82.28 WHICH I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IT COVERED, BUT AT LEAST SOMETHING THAT WAS USEFUL. MAKING A TOTAL OF \$1939.68 SPENT THAT YEAR AND LEAVING A BALANCE OF \$166.73.

I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE LARGEST BALANCE WAS THAT REMAINED AT THE END OF A YEAR, BUT I THINK THE SMALLEST WAS IN 1966-67 WHEN THE REMAINING BALANCE WAS \$34.68.

AMONG THE THINGS THAT ARE AVAILABLE, MOST OF WHICH ARE KEPT AT THE FIRE STATION, ARE NOT ONLY THE USUAL CRUTCHES AND WHEELCHAIRS, ETC., ETC., BUT WE ALSO HAVE SOME TRAINING EQUIPMENT WHICH IS USED NOT ONLY BY OUR OWN RESCUE SQUAD BUT ALSO LENT TO NEIGHBORING TOWNS FOR USE IN THEIR RESCUE SQUADS. ONE OF THIS IS THE RECUSSIE-ANN - WHICH IS A MANNEQUIN DEVICE USED FOR TEACHING ARTIFICIAL RESPERATION AND CARDIAC MASSAGE.

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