

January 26, 2011

CHS:

I've heard it said that children disliked Dr. Walker because of his gruff manner. This was not my experience at all. In 1940, Dr. Walker treated this ten-year-old's sinus and ear infection. He was an imposing figure, yes, but also sympathetic and kind. Later, he took my tonsils out, a minor operation that included a thrilling ride to and from Torrington in the doctor's speedy Nash.

However, my impersonal memories of Dr. Walker lean toward the negative. As the town's health official, he was in charge of the school. It was his opinion that basketball was too strenuous a sport for elementary school children. Even though there were hoops installed in the brand new gym in ~~the~~ brand new school, we were forbidden to play. Finally, in 1943, he relented – but then we could play for only ten minutes at a time, and under teacher supervision. I have often thought of this in subsequent years, especially when I watched my own son racing around the court in inter-school games, and running to weariness on the soccer field.

Bob Potter

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Potter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.