

## Jim Gold's memories of Dr. Walker

Jim spent summers in Cornwall with his mother while his father Douglas, a physician in Bridgeport and Fairfield, drove up Thursday night, then came back from Sat until Monday AM, when he returned to work. As an adult, Jim's family summered in Cornwall; Jim came up for week-ends and vacations weeks. Jim now is retired and lives full time on Rexford Rd in Cornwall. He said he was pretty healthy so doesn't have many "doctor" stories as such; but here is what he remembers.

Dr. Walker was a "gruff old doctor," but gentle

Dr. Walker "drove like hell" (50-60 MPH) but the police recognized him and ignored him.

When Jim's Uncle Ben Gold came down with polio, the following "immunization" occurred. Jim remembers being awakened in the "middle of the night"; he was told to lie on his stomach and felt a "sharp sting" in each buttock. Dr. Walker had injected each side with a large syringe of whole blood, one from his mother and one from his father. Jim thinks he was less than 10 years old. He never contracted polio.

Much later, Jim's son Douglas (named after his grandfather) was ill with a high fever while the family was here in the summer. Jim's father, Dr. Gold, who was with them, called Dr. Walker about 10 PM. The two men sat on the porch exchanging stories, smoking and chuckling while Dr. Walker checked regularly on young Doug. When the fever finally broke, Dr. Walker stood up and went home.

Dr. Walker strongly advised against the practice of "rump bumping" in the Housatonic River (riding the current in large black tire inner tubes – still enjoyed today). The kids ignored the warning – nothing serious happened. But Dr. Walker feared the strong current and potential for serious infection.

When Jim was in his teens and had his mother's car for the afternoon, Joe Calhoun [he thinks] "creased his forehead" when he dived off the dock at Cream Hill Lake Association and hit/grazed a spike off the corner of the dock – which everyone knew about. So an "army of people" piled into the car with the top down and tore off to Brad's office where Joe was stitched up.