

Ralph Scoville (12/10/10) – Memories of Dr. Walker

He played the piano and sang, often at the Men's Club; Bob Tankersley was a member and had a great voice. Ralph thinks the town gave him a piano. [I have heard this also.]

He liked gadgets and had the first battery wall clock in town.

Dr. Martin, a NY City surgeon who had an Italian wife, lived in "The Castle." Luigi was his caretaker and drove Dr. Martin and his family to NYC. Luigi shot himself in the mouth. Dr. Walker was the medical examiner; when he saw Luigi's body, he said, "Why did you do this to me."

He was a "hell of a good doctor" – though he could be grumpy. Dr. Grandlenard (sp?) was the doctor before Dr. Walker and lived in "cottage row" where Brian Kavanaugh now lives. He sent his patients to Pittsfield on the train.

Dr. Walker's wife Katie was very interested in village improvement. She answered the telephone for Brad, "not always so sweetly."

Brad's secretary's "didn't stay too long."

Dr. Walker always drove a Nash – with a reclining front passenger seat. One day he took the car to Vedel Mogenson, the mechanic for Mr. Cartwright, because it was making a funny noise. Vedel drove it and said he couldn't get it to make a noise. "How fast did you drive it?" asked Brad. "Up to 80 MPH and there was no noise," replied Vedel. "Well, you had to get it up to 100 MPH to get the noise," pointed out Dr. Walker. He was said to have moved the cones forming the Goshen traffic circle in order to have a straight shot through the circle.

Ralph's direct experience with WBW: Ralph was farming and working for the Town crew at the same time. He went to Dr. Walker because he was feeling "too much pressure." WBW told him he should choose one or the other.

When Ralph's father was at Migeon Manor in a coma, WBW instructed him not to visit as he "won't know you."

WBW went to Boston for a week when he was ill – had no memory of his stay there.

He was a JP and Probate Judge – Ralph believes Katie did most of the work.

WBW carried a valise full of pills with him whenever he went on call. Later the Marvelwood kids would break into his office to steal pills (Darvon).

"Doc" smoked Kool cigarettes; when the ash grew too long, the nurse would catch the ashes.

WBW had three sons.: Teddy moved "up north.

Tom was a doctor; he was diabetic, so there was a container of orange juice on every floor of the hospital.

Bill moved to Texas.

When Rodney Wilcox got shot, WBW picked the shot out of his behind.

Charlie Osuch ran a chain saw up his leg – there was no ambulance, so they put a handkerchief on the wound, and WBW drove him to the hospital.

Harry Root got drunk one night; John Horner came the next morning and invited him to go hunting. Before they left, Harry threw a can of gasoline on the wood stove instead of kerosene. John threw him into the brook and WBW drove him to the hospital; he later went to the burn center.

He probably delivered 2000 babies. Thalia Scoville said she questioned his bill of \$50. for the pre-natal care and delivery of one of her babies. “Why, he asked; do you think it’s too much?”

No, Thalia thought it was not enough. She said he sent out bills about once a year.

Thalia also said that when WBW retired, folks were invited to come get their medical records. But, says Thalia, you couldn’t read them because his handwriting was so bad!

When asked what they thought was WBW’s most outstanding characteristic, both Thalia and Ralph replied with “Compassion.” – thought he could be grumpy, probably from living with Katie, Ralph thinks.