

Biog - G.

Reflections Of A Country Doctor

By JEAN BAKER
Sentinel Staff Writer

"Life was real then," she recalls.

And for her it was very "real." For she was a country doctor practicing in the State of Washington at the turn of the century.

Mrs. William M. Gentry—then Dr. Frances Waugh—says that she was never aware of being unaccepted by the other doctors in Yakima, through probably a woman doctor in those days was somewhat of a phenonema. "I just practiced medicine," she reflected, "and I don't think there were even any medical societies then. If there were, I didn't belong to one."

"I went to Washington when the land was being homesteaded. People lived

far apart and I reached them by horseback," she said. "One night I drove a livery team 25 miles to see a youngster who had been accidentally shot by her brother." The trip took several hours, she remembers but the little girl died before she arrived.

Mrs. Gentry, a graduate of the medical school at the University of Michigan in 1905, interned at Women's and Children's hospital in San Francisco in 1906. She left San Francisco just before the earthquake and went to Quincy thence to Yakima. She said when she decided to go to Yakima, she made the journey by horseback. At the Columbia river, someone offered to swim her horse across and she walked a trestle!

Mrs. Gentry descends from a line of medical men. Her father was the noted William F. Waugh of Philadelphia, professor, author of medical journals and one of the founders of the hospital now owned by the medical school at the University of Pennsylvania. Her mother, a pianist, was treasurer of the hospital board. She had one sister.

It was while in Yakima that she met Gentry. Not only was he one of her patients, but he also sold horses and when she needed one, it was to him she went. They were married in Yakima in 1912 and shortly afterwards, Mrs. Gentry concluded that being married to a rancher was a full time job and she quit her practice of medicine, which in some respects she still regrets.

Two sons were born to the Gentrys—Minor and Francis—and both live in the Santa Cruz area.

How much did she charge to deliver a baby? Her reply



JULIE, the pet poodle, gets a lot of loving and attention from Dr. Gentry, left, and her husband, William, who live in a mobile home court in Soquel.

was, "\$15. Babies were delivered at home, of course, and immediately upon their arrival, I always handed them to the father to hold," she added. Her fee for house calls was \$1.50, she said.

Gentry sold his farm in Washington and the couple has lived in California for the past 45 years, 30 years of which have been spent in Santa Cruz.

Looking back on the years

gone by, Mrs. Gentry says the upsurge of juvenile delinquency today is due to the fact that children don't have

anything "real" to do. She added, I think we should "go back and pick up the good things we've left behind."

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