



Sun Times photo by Willy Waterton

Dr. George Taylor of Owen Sound works among the orchids in his greenhouse

Baby doctor has delivered thousands

By ANN KELLY
Family Living Editor

At least 3,000 babies in this area were brought into the world by Dr. George Taylor. Still on the staff of the Owen Sound General and Marine Hospital, Dr. Taylor will return to Toronto next week for the 50th anniversary of his graduating class.

While far away fields beckoned classmates to places like India, Vancouver, Sudbury and Thunder Bay, Dr. Taylor set up his practice in Tara, partly in response to a newspaper ad placed by the village council and partly in response to the urgings of a medical associate, the late Dr. Watt of Port Elgin.

Following their marriage in October, 1936, Dr. Taylor moved his city-born wife into a brick home with no insulation, three stoves, a chemical toilet and a pump in the yard. "She could put a fire out faster than any fireman," according to her husband. The couple rented that house for \$10 furnished.

Mrs. Taylor kept the books for her husband and they still have accurate records of every call he has made, if it was paid and how it was paid. Some paid in strawberries and cords of wood.

In the early days office calls were 50 cents and an office call,

including medicine, \$1.50. In 1939 a house call was \$4, and often took the doctor several miles out of the village. Any rental fee for horses Dr. Taylor paid, whether or not he ever collected for the house call.

On an average Dr. Taylor made house calls five nights out of seven. His office was a popular spot on Saturday nights when farmers came to drop their cream at the creamery. On the way out of town they'd take a notion to have their blood pressure checked, or pick up medicine. For that reason Dr. Taylor often hid his car.

Many house calls stand out in Dr. Taylor's mind. One took him to a home where even the mail hadn't been through for three days. He travelled by hired team and cutter, at 10 cents a mile one way, but the snow was so deep the horses were having trouble. It meant walking ahead of them and tramping the snow down.

After six years in Tara the Taylors moved to Owen Sound. For a time Dr. Taylor returned to Tara on Wednesday afternoon and Sundays, but was unable to keep up the pace.

"Despite everything, Tara was good to us. We worked harder than the devil and collected \$1,000. You were lucky then to collect 40 per cent," said Dr. Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor recalls an average monthly income of \$100 with slightly more than \$43 each month going toward the car. Dr. Taylor was born in Lincoln, England, and came with his family after the First World War for a better life in Canada.

The first two winters they were in Tara the Taylor's family gift, when they went to her Toronto home, was a bushel of Spy apples. That's all they could afford.

It wasn't uncommon for Dr. Taylor to be all night in a country home. Once he arrived through the elements, it wasn't safe to leave, even if the baby wasn't ready to be born. He vividly recalls a hair-raising experience that required him to work all night with a mother who retained the placenta. In that case there was no chance for help.

In many cases "the salvation of these things was the old widow lady housekeeper who came in before the baby was due and stayed about a month. Very few babies were born in the hospital."

After graduating in 1934 Dr. Taylor interned at St. Michael's East General for two years. He was overseas with the army but was honorably discharged for medical reasons. He took courses while practising and received his OBS specialty in 1952. He was

known as Owen Sound's "baby doctor."

Dr. Taylor has voluntarily quit operating but still "follows a few patients." For 11 years he's been growing orchids and has 10 varieties. He's an avid reader and enjoys cross-country skiing. Twice now he's been the oldest in the Crippled Children's cross-country ski event, and already has money pledged for next year from "a woman I delivered." He is the only surviving charter member of the Tara Rotary Club and the oldest living past-president of the Rotary Club in Owen Sound.

The couple has a son, Bill, and daughters, Carolyn and Mary Louise. They have eight grandchildren but no Taylors, "this is the end of the line."

Dr. Taylor's first to admit he sacrificed himself for medicine, it came first. "My kids paid for this and so did Freda. This 30-hour week now is for the birds. In our day people went in as a way of making a living, interns didn't get paid and hours didn't mean a thing."

Dr. S. F. Penny, a pathologist at the General and Marine Hospital, will also be attending the class reunion. He has been in Owen Sound since 1966, coming from Toronto.

Thank God that Ansis Silnieks' suffering is over. We went to London on Friday and to the funeral parlour. Bruce and Sadie McLeod were already there with Karen Swete and the Studenny family. We stayed over for the funeral on Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Don Wagler and Mrs. Holtzauer who have cottages at Chesley Lake came from New Hamburg and Kitchener. Andy came to Chesley lake with Mr. Cauka in 1957. They bought a lot together and later Andy sold his share to Caukas and bought a lot with a cottage. He renovated over the years and finally retired to his beloved Chesley Lake. He will be missed very much.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Richards honored Bruce and Sadie McLeod on their wedding anniversary by taking them to dinner at 'Spike Muldoon's', Southampton. They report they would recommend this new restaurant in the old Southampton station.

LAMAIN—Robert and Susan are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Timothy Robert, born May 8th, 1984, weighing 9lbs. 2½ozs. First grandchild for Al and Anne Lamain of Elsinore and Conrad and Olive Hannah of Hamilton. Special thanks to Dr. Hunsberger, M. Mundle, R.N. and all OBS staff at G&M Hospital.

McKNIGHT—Paul and Wendy (Nelson) are happy to announce the arrival of their first child, Scott Paul, born May 18th at St. Marys Hospital, Kitchener, 9lbs 15½oz. Proud grandparents and first grandchild for Alex and Myrtle Nelson first grandson Evelyn McKnight and great grandson for Ida son, Allenford.

CONNOR: Wayne and Carol are very pleased to announce the safe arrival of their wonderful new daughter, Lynndsie Kendra. Born at Saugeen Memorial Hospital, April 21, 1984 at 4:04 p.m. weighing 6 lbs. 6 oz. Little, but strong and healthy. We sure have a living doll giving us such happiness. Proud Grandmas are Mrs. Phyllis Connor, Southampton, and Mrs. Hazel Airhart, Port Elgin. Special thanks to the main man - Dr. Earl, who delivered unexpectedly for Dr. Flock, and nurses who helped with patience with the delivery also the caring nurses on Obs. staff. 2b19p