

AMA Selects Elderly Montana Physician As 'Most Outstanding Family Doctor'

Seattle, Wash.—(AP)—The nation's "most outstanding family doctor" is a 71-year-old man with a twinkling eye who has delivered babies in boxcars and fought blizzards to tend the sick.

Dr. Edward M. Gans, 80, Harlowton, Mont., has been selected by the American Medical Association's house of delegates to wear the gold medal and hold the title of General Practitioner of the Year.

Dr. Gans, a graduate of the University of Minnesota, has been a "country doctor" for 51 years. He has never had a plush uptown office or a carriage trade practice. Instead, his patients have included the iron workers in Minnesota's Mesabi range and the sheepherders and cowboys of the Montana prairies.

"My first practice was in the Mesabi country and this was an education in itself," Dr. Gans said. "The Mesabi was a melting pot of nationalities, and the combination of cultures and manisms, mixed up with payday and liquor, put me on a busy schedule right from the start."

Patient Returned To Flith

He recalled that one of his first patients was a pregnant woman lying in labor on a filthy bed.

"I bathed her and made the bed with clean sheets, only to return a short while later to find she had remade the bed with the dirty bedclothes and redone her dirty gown."

But Dr. Gans finally had his way and the baby arrived in good shape.

"Ten months later, he recalled, 'I had a call at the same house to treat another patient. There was the baby, husky, healthy and eating head cheese, drinking beer and walking all over the place.'

After six years in Eveleth, Minn., Dr. Gans moved to Dickinson, N. D., and then on to Montana, where he settled in the town of Judith Gap. Seventeen years later he moved to Harlowton, where he has practiced for the last 27 years.

"You might call me a horse and buggy doctor," he said. "But that wasn't my only mode of travel in those days. I've used railroad handcars, haywagons, and half-broke horses to reach my patients."

One maternity trip in the teeth of a Montana blizzard kept him from home for three days.

Watch That Coffee

His patients have included

Trophy Presented to Crater High School

Central Point—H. P. Jewett, superintendent of schools, Central Point, presented a trophy to Crater High school at its assembly Wednesday honoring John E. Foley, a student there.

Foley, route 1, Central Point, received the trophy on behalf of the 1956 Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild model car competition in the junior age division for Oregon.

Enrollments are now being received for the 1957 competition with awards amounting to \$115,000 offered to winners.

Awards for the best models entered in the guild competition include eight university scholarships for national winners in junior and senior divisions.

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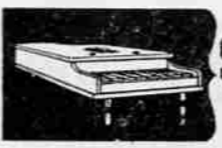
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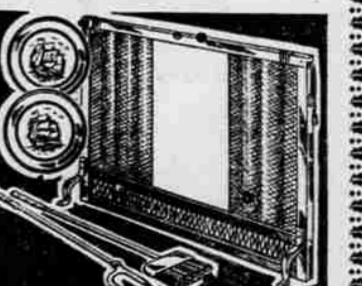
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