



Although nominally retired nine years ago, Dr. William P. Woods still reads his Medical Journal and can't say no to his old patients. (Staff Photo by Stinson)

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## State Medical Society To Fete Physician, 80

By NORMAN AGATHON

A spry, retired doctor who has administered to the sick and injured here for a half-century will be honored later this month by the Indiana Medical Society.

Dr. William P. Woods, who admits he is pushing 80, will become a member of the profession's 50-year club at a banquet in Indianapolis Oct. 27.

The vigorous, untiring doctor quit the practice of medicine in 1945. Seated on a comfortable chair in the rear of Woods Drug Store at 7th and Main streets, he admitted cheating a little on retirement.

"I just can't turn these people down," the doctor said, with a healthy grin on his face and a sparkle in his gray-blue eyes.

### Old Patients

"You know, most of the people I treat today have been patients of 40 to 50 years standing and they just won't have anyone else look after them," Dr. Woods said.

The drugstore is sort of a hang-out for the doctor.

He likes the atmosphere and knows nearly all the old-timers who stop in from time to time, and then added with a big grin on his face:

"My two brothers-in-law and I owned this drugstore before Mr. Woods (no relation) bought it. It was known as the Best Drug Co. at that time."

Nodding to an acquaintance from time to time, Dr. Woods searched his memory for recollections of the days when he first set up practice in Evansville, back in 1905.

He came to Evansville on the insistence of his brother-in-law, the late Dr. P. C. Rietz. He had

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painted a rosy picture of Evansville and its potentials.

"What could I do?" Dr. Woods asked. "I came here, liked the set-up, and I've been here ever since. I'm not a bit sorry Dr. Rietz changed my mind."

During the first few years of practice, Dr. Woods made his rounds on a bicycle. He recalled the distances between house calls, saying:

"I did more work pumping the bike than I did among my patients."

After a while Dr. Woods went "modern" and bought a horse and buggy for transportation from patient to patient.

"I drove the horse four years, then bought an automobile. Mine was the 24th car in Evansville," the doctor said with a glint in his eyes, "and two of them were electrics."

Asked what he thought was the biggest advance in medicine since he had been practicing, Dr. Woods said:

"The advances have been terrific. They are too numerous to mention but I believe the development of new antibiotics, new techniques in surgery and anesthesia are among the greatest."

Born on a farm near Clarinda, Iowa, Dr. Woods who lives at 5050 Lincoln Ave., recalled his boyhood,

his year as teaching country school in Nebraska and the struggle he had putting himself through medical school.

He completed eight years of study at Arny College in Iowa in six years and then migrated to the University of Missouri Medical school.

"I picked Missouri," Dr. Woods recalled, "because they had just opened their medical school and offered free tuition to anyone outside the state who wanted to study medicine. He finished his medical career at the Chicago College of Physicians and Surgeons and served his internship at St. Mary's Hospital in Chicago.

He opened his first office in the old Boehne building, at 8th and

Main streets, and later joined his brothers-in-law who had offices in the old American Trust and Savings Bank building, at 6th and Main streets.

When Dr. Rietz died, Dr. Woods moved and Dr. A. R. Rietz, a dentist, continued practice there.

He then moved to a site at 6th and Sycamore streets, and remained there 15 years. Dr. Woods sold the building to Dr. L. M. McMurry and located on 7th street, between Main and Locust streets.

In 1945, Dr. Woods said, Dr. Pierce McKenzie was looking for an office "so I sold out—lock, stock and barrel and went into retirement—but:

"I'm doing a little cheating on retirement," he said smilingly.