

## Dean's Reminiscing Today Is Pardonable

### Dr. Douglas Counts 2,400 Births

Dean among medical men of this area on this hospital - conscious day is Dr. William James Douglas, 79-year-old physician from Atkinson, who has complet-



Doctor Douglas . . . once performed appendectomy on a kitchen table.

ed more than 51 years of practice in that community.

More than one of the 2,400 babies he has helped bring into the world will be present at the dedication ceremonies of St. Anthony's.

Doctor Douglas would be pardoned if he would take this occasion to reminisce at length, to turn back the pages and retrace pioneer trails in Holt county which he traveled with his little black bag of healing.

Doctor Douglas was born in Pekin, Md., and came to Nebraska with his parents in 1878. He graduated a doctor of medicine from the Omaha medical college in 1900, and after brief practice at Clarkson, Dodge, Benedict and Tilden, he moved to Atkinson where he has been since that time closely and intimately identified with that community's life.

His experiences have been those of a typical frontier doctor, whose only hospital was his patient's bed and his only advantage a courageous spirit.

At one time he maintained a stable of 17 horses to get him over the country, and with the advent of the automobile he was the proud owner of an early Hupmobile, a dubious honor, since often when low on gas he was stranded in an area where only a few communities "stocked" gasoline.

Some of the drama in the career of this country doctor might easily fill a book.

As, for instance, the time he was called to a farm to attend a boy who obviously required an appendectomy. The parents refused at first, so diplomatically the doctor packed his grip, and with a flourish started to town.

"The parents came after me," he recalls, "and I operated on the kitchen table with the hired man administering the anesthetic." The operation was successful. This was one of the first appendectomies performed in the state of Nebraska.

It is also remarkable in the life of Doctor Douglas that in the more than 2,400 deliveries he has assisted, not one confinement case has been fatal to the mother.

Doctor Douglas married Anna May Campbell on June 17, 1904. They became the parents of a

daughter, Mrs. David (Catherine Delores) Adler, who is now living in Winnetka, Ill.

Mrs. Douglas has been dead for many years.

During World War I, Doctor Douglas served as a captain in

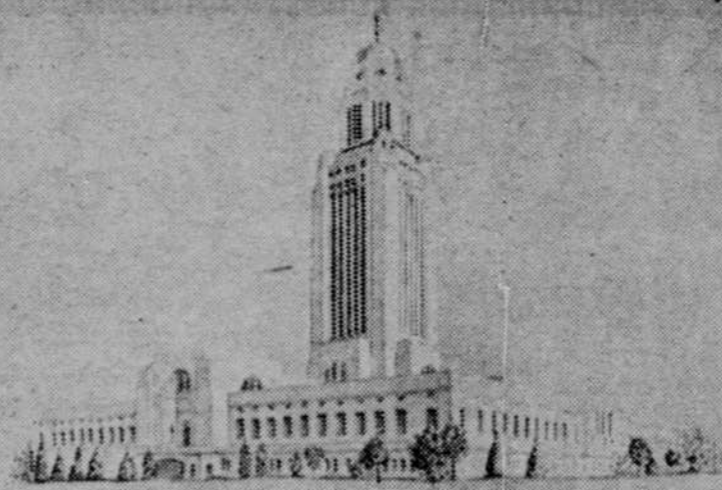
the medical corps and was district American Legion commander in 1933-'34.

He has been a lifelong republican, is a member of the Catholic church, Knights of Columbus and American Medical asso-

ciation.

Last year, Doctor Douglas was honored with nine other Nebraska physicians and surgeons for having completed more than a half-century in the practice of medicine.

VAL PETERSON  
GOVERNOR  
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PAUL F. WAGNER  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

STATE of NEBRASKA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
LINCOLN

September 12, 1952

Mr. James M. Corkle, Chairman  
St. Anthony's Hospital Building Association  
O'Neill, Nebraska

Dear Mr. Corkle:

I am very pleased to extend my sincere congratulations to you, your committee, and the civic-minded people of the O'Neill territory upon the dedication of the beautiful new St. Anthony's Hospital at O'Neill. I am always proud of Nebraskans who are able to analyze their needs and then take action to help themselves.

This community hospital will be of great benefit to your area and will be a great factor in alleviating suffering and saving lives. I wish you every success in its operation.

Sincerely,

## Bright's Red & White STORE



We respectfully welcome St. Anthony's Hospital to our community . . . and we regard the entire project as something very worthwhile and exceedingly well done.



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# Congratulations

TO EVERY INDIVIDUAL who in any measure, great or small, has helped to make possible ST. ANTHONY'S HOSPITAL we tender our warmest congratulations. The story behind ST. ANTHONY'S HOSPITAL is indeed a brilliant chapter in North Nebraska history.

— BURL MUNSELL, Manager

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