

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF CEDAR RAPIDS

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW WITH J. Stuart McQuiston

CONDUCTED BY Carolyn Wellso

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Dr. J. Stuart McQuiston was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1904. He was married and widowed twice and raised one son. In this interview, we learn about medical school at the University of Pennsylvania-Philadelphia and Internship at the Mayo Clinic during the late 1920's and early 1930's. Dr. McQuiston tells about his selection of Cedar Rapids for his practice during the middle 1930's and shares his observations on how medicine and its practice have changed since those early years.

Interview With: J. Stuart McQuiston  
Date of Interview: July 12, 1984  
Interviewer: Carolyn Wellso  
Transcriber: Hazel Storm

CW: If you could give your name and birthdate.

McQuiston: This is Stuart McQuiston and it's kind of fun. I spell it Stuart, but occasionally I get mail Stewart; and I suppose it's finicky, but maybe it's from an old historic viewpoint. There was supposed to be some great relative that would tear the letter up and not open it if it wasn't spelled correctly, but I think we can't afford that approach at this time.

Anyhow, I was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1904, and my parents were working people. Neither my father nor mother had a college education. My father was in wholesale drygoods, and my mother was, early on, a secretary. But I was the last of three children, all boys, and I must say that there were no family connections or M.D.'s. I can't find one yet that was an M.D. So how did you become a doctor? Well, apparently I was sick and the doctor came and said this and that and the other thing, and when he left I said "I guess I want to be a doctor" like every kid does. But I think what happened is the family kept repeating that story so frequently that I finally became convinced I wanted to be a doctor and proceeded along those lines, period. In high school, actually, I was selecting courses in those years leading to a medicine career, basically to get into school. Comes college, I went to Allegheny College in

