

Dr. Charles Trangott Noecker



When Dr. Charles T. Noecker died on a June morning in 1939, the news of his death made the front page of the *Waterloo Chronicle*. Dr. Noecker had served the community for more than fifty years and was Waterloo's first permanent medical officer of health.

He was remembered for his "sterling character and fine citizenship." In his honour, flags were flown at half mast at the Waterloo Town Hall and at the Dominion Life Assurance Company, where he had served as medical director for many years.

His obituary noted that Noecker had "an enviable record of 52 years as a practicing physician and was the first specialist in this district, his services being sought by people throughout the county."

Noecker, born to Waterloo hotel keeper Charles Noecker in 1864, decided to enter the medical profession at a young age after attending Central School in Waterloo, and high school in Berlin (Kitchener). He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1886, and after spending a year in Vienna, Austria he returned to open a practice in his home at 54 Albert Street.

Noecker was one of the first doctors on staff at the Berlin and Waterloo Hospital that opened in 1895 and became the first "specialist" in town, his particular emphasis being eyes, ears, nose and throat. He eventually "practiced in all departments of medical surgery."

In addition to his distinguished medical career, Dr. Noecker also volunteered his time to the growing education system, serving on the Waterloo Public School Board for forty-three years.

His daughter, Eloise Noecker, became a school teacher with the board, introducing the new subject of home economics when Elizabeth Ziegler Public School was opened in 1931. Noecker's son, Claude became an assistant town engineer under Charles Moogk and was later appointed Town Engineer when Moogk died in 1924. Noecker's wife, Roxanna, died in 1938.

Dr. Noecker suffered a heart attack just two months before he passed away. Shortly before his death he was "quite cheerful and chatted with members of his family." During his funeral service the town bell tolled for a man who had devoted himself to the "medical, civic and educational life of the community."

Photo courtesy of the Waterloo Public Library.