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MSU ARCHIVES

Dr. James Quisenberry (born Jan. 31, 1932) was the first person to suggest Dr. Louise to me <sup>AS A PHYSICIAN</sup> and the first person to tell me of her virtues but that she did not take new patients. He also remarked, as did so many others, that Dr. Louise still keeps current on everything in the medical field. He said her house was piled with medical journals. As her next door neighbor, I assumed he would know.

Talking to Dr. Quisenberry about his attitude toward and experience with Dr. Louise is like listening to a list of her qualifications for sainthood. He has a mighty respect for both Dr. Louise and Susie and attributes his health and that of his whole family to them. He is still a patient of Louise's. Today, Dr. Quisenberry is a retired professor of speech from Morehead State University and still lives in Morehead in his house on a high hill and overlooks Dr. Louise's tennis court - where she taught his (and many others) children to play.

**Interview with Dr. James Quisenberry.**

PATIENT, NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR & PATIENT

When we came here (Morehead, Kentucky) in the fall of 1968, we were expecting our first child and no other doctor was taking OB/GYN cases and so Louise became our family doctor by default. We moved here in August and Lynn was born in November, and ~~at~~ her six weeks check-up Dr. Louise caught a heart condition, a murmur that is not ordinarily caught until six months check-up. Louise referred us to Dr. Jacqueline Noonan, a pediatric cardiologist at the University of Kentucky. and the x-rays proved ~~that~~ Louise's diagnosis, that Lynn had a hole between the two bottom chambers of her heart. Now, Jacqueline Noonan is one of the outstanding pediatric cardiologists in the nation and so we felt like Lynn was in the best hands possible. Now, Louise and Susie had planned a vacation in Hawaii; instead of going to Hawaii, Louise took that time to go to Johns Hopkins <sup>HOSPITAL IN BALTIMORE</sup> for a special seminar on Lynn's condition. And so, that kind of dedication is very moving. Nobody can say a bad thing to me about Louise Caudill. That's the kind of a lady she is.

I just found out about what she did accidentally, maybe Susie mentioned something about that. It was just most reassuring to find somebody who practiced medicine that way.

The fact of the matter, OB was her big thing, she was great with it. I asked her one time, I said, "Why is it that you don't just specialize in OB/GYN and baby deliveries?" She said, "I like to know my baby's family history, I like to treat the whole family. Then you know what to look for." And I guess that is what has made her one of the finest diagnosticians around. I went in there one day and I thought I had pleurisy and my chest was just killing me and I knew that I had pleurisy. Well, she listened and then she said, "You haven't got pleurisy." So I said, "Well, what on earth is the matter with me?" She said, "About three days ago you had the dry heaves and you made your muscles sore." And she was right, that's what had happened. She's just a marvelous diagnostician.

Once I had this little twist in my back and went to her for that to check it out and she said, " Now, somebody may tell you scoliosis, but I don't think so, I think you've got a fatty tumor on your left shoulder blade. But, I'm going to send you to a specialist." So, I went to the specialist and came back and he's had diagnosed a fatty tumor. And I told her that I'd found out the difference between a specialist and a general practitioner and she asked what's that. And I said about \$35.00 on that office call.

But, that's the way she practices medicine and she has diagnosed every condition that I ever had and then sent me on to a specialist who'd just confirm her diagnosis. But, she has never missed on me or on any member of my family. She has been our family doctor ever since that first time with Lynn; with Martha and the girls, with Lynn until she married and moved away. She delivered Lynn in 1968, so from August of '68 she has been our family doctor and will continue to be until she hangs up her practice.

And, the amazing thing to me is that she lives where she lives (i.e., her own home) because of a case. The fellow who owned this land, (Quisenberry is her next door neighbor on the <sup>South</sup> other side) was all farm land at one time. He had two children, both of whom had multiple sclerosis. Louise built her house next door to them and so close to them that they shared a driveway, so she could get to those children any hour of the day or night; so she could do everything that could be done. The little boy lived to be about 12. He loved horses and he wanted to ride in the world's grand champion horse show at the Kentucky State Fair. And Louise fixed him up with medications enough that he was able to ride at what he called his "World's Fair." He always wanted to ride in the World's Fair and he did and I think he died less that six weeks after that, But, she managed to get him there.

She lived there so she could care for them. She is the most compassionate person I've ever known. She says that she is just doing her job and that's her praise.

Yes, she says she just does what she has to do but that's because of who she is. Nobody holds anything over her head, it is her own motivation.

Now, there was a time here when she was a power here in her political affiliations. I don't know if she is still active or not but I know she was ~~one~~<sup>of</sup> the first members on the Council on Higher Education. She was a member of that and active in that, She does many things and is active in many ways that never get out because, she thinks, that is part of her job too. Just like building a hospital here was a job that needed to be done and Louise could to it.

When I came here in 1968, phase I of that hospital was there, Now we've got phase III. Phase II was opened when Lynn was ~~about~~<sup>about</sup> 4 or 5 years old and we were there for that grand opening. Well, Dr. Warren Proudfoot came walking by ~~all~~<sup>all</sup> that night. Now, Dr. Louise was Lynn's GP, Jacqueline Noonan was her pediatric cardiologist, and Marie Brossey was her dentist. So, when Warren Proudfoot walked by and I spoke to him, Lynn asked who that was. And I told her it was Dr. Proudfoot. She said, "Oh, he can't be a real doctor, he's a man!"

We've just had a marvelous relationship and I consider Louise not only my ~~physician~~<sup>AND</sup> her assistant, Susie ~~is~~<sup>TO</sup> almost as good at medicine as Louise is, because, well... Louise told me one time, she said, "Susie knows everything I know about being a doctor, but I don't know everything she knows about being a nurse." Susie's just great!

But, they are not just our neighbors, they are dear friends and we just count on them. Her house was here when I came here. We ~~built~~<sup>built</sup> this house. We bought the land from the same fellow that she bought her property from (Elijah Hogge). I didn't know her house was there when I bought this land, I'll ~~tell~~<sup>you</sup> what, Lige had decided not to sell this land off ~~by~~<sup>by</sup> then he decided he'd sell off these front lots here. The Sunday before Lynn was born we drove by here, saw this For Sale sign on that lot and I thought, well, that's a beautiful place. Lynn was born on a Monday and on Tuesday, while she was still in the hospital, I asked to buy it. He said, well, he had so many friends who wanted first refusal on it – so maybe the best thing to do would be to sell it to a stranger and then <sup>all</sup> my friends won't be mad at me. But, he said, I'm going to do one more thing. He asked me if I knew Louise Caudill and I said yes I did. He said, <sup>she's</sup> my neighbor and will be your next door neighbor and I'm going to ask her if it's all

but also  
my friend.

all  
that  
night.

right with her for me to sell to you." So, he got on the phone and called and told me, she'd as soon have you <sup>as</sup> and anybody. That was the first time I knew that they were going to be our next door neighbors. <sup>then</sup> She didn't ask if we played tennis, but she taught Lynn how to play tennis on her courts. She taught a lot of kids to play tennis. They were so busy but we'd run in over there every once in a while. On a Sunday afternoon she would have her medical journals spread out all over. When she drives to work she's got a cassette player in her automobile and she is constantly playing tapes to keep her updated on her profession. She stays current.

One of the pharmacists told me not long ago that Louise is still prescribing medicines before they are supplied to the pharmacists. She will find out that they are coming out and she'll prescribe them and the pharmacist will have to special order them. And she is very conscientious <sup>n</sup> about her pharmacology and she won't give you one medication without checking every medication you are taking. She said I will never give you more than two without checking everything. You know what one may do to another one, but when you put a third one there, you never know.

I still go to her, oh yes, I was there two weeks ago. My ears were all stopped up and thought I was going stone deaf. Well, she took one look and got them all cleaned up and now the television set can play back where it used to. I had it so loud the neighbors could hear it. I don't really know what I would do for a physician without her. I'm sure there are other good physicians here <sup>but</sup> she is always my first stop.

<sup>without</sup> For her family and her presence, <sup>at</sup> I don't know what this town would have been. She is a public servant because that was her daddy, too. He was one of the main figureheads and an unsung hero in bringing Morehead State University to this town. He worked on the committee with Fields and with Allie Young and he was more or less the one who didn't make the front page headlines. But, he worked with them as diligently as they did. And that's why we have Morehead State University. And that is Morehead's major employer and the second major employer is St. Claire Medical Center. So, Morehead would

be like some of our neighboring counties with double digit unemployment instead of being where it is. That is just for an economic standpoint. I think I would be safe in saying that half the teachers in eastern Kentucky come ~~from~~ <sup>out of</sup> Morehead State University. Then, ~~when you~~ consider that this hospital here is considered competitive with anything you have today in Lexington. I think that that was her pushing for quality. No doubt about that. She just absolutely demanded of her hospital what she demanded of herself. And that is doing her job to the best of her ability. And even today, you can see this.

From my church now, I am in and out of the hospital to visit <sup>side congregation members</sup> all of the time. That staff still reflects Louise and Susie's personalities. They like each other <sup>there</sup> and there is always a smile and they are cordial and congenial. Because of Louise, that attitude grows. You know, as the twig is bent, so grows the tree. The same thing goes for an institution, when it is founded on certain principles. They beget their own and employ people like themselves, with the same sort of philosophy and she is very much responsible for that. <sup>we're behind the HOSPITAL.</sup>

I think that bus crash is what united everyone. When people saw the kind of care that was given, that this hospital showed, people realized that this was a matter of compassion that the Sisters showed and the volunteer pastors, and assistants at the hospital are Protestants. We sign up and when someone of our faith is in the hospital, they call us.

I think Louise's dedication came from her Dad and I don't know where he got his. You know, I think a lot is how we first perceive opportunities and how we look at them as opportunities or challenges. I think a lot of it comes from ourselves. We do all we think that we can do — as Henry Ford said, "When a man thinks he can or can't — he's right." If he thinks he can he does and if he thinks he can't he gives up on the first try. I really believe that the most essential thing for success is the belief in ourselves. And Louise has, too, a belief in a God who will empower us to be all that we can be. I don't think Louise worries about whether or not she is successful. Success is achieving, it is not arriving at a certain point in time. I think Louise's idea of success is in terms of personal satisfaction; the top of the Maslow scale.

When she talks to you, you are here center of attention as a total human being. She's a sociologist, a humanitarian and a friend all in one; she is not just diagnosing a patient or a condition. She is treating the whole person because she cares about you.