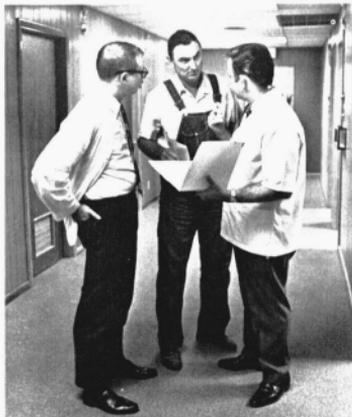


## TRAINING THE COUNTRY DOCTOR



Patient-doctor rapport was experienced first hand by student Bob Frazier while working with one preceptor, Dr. T. W. Garrison.

In an era of transplant dramatics, what happens to the patient with an ordinary, run-of-the-mill sore throat?

It's the exotic research that gets the headlines; it's the unusual illness that is often referred to the large medical center complex.

The School of Medicine on the Columbia campus has strong research programs in many areas. (See "Researchers Gang Up on Heart Disease" in the May 1968 issue of the *Alumnus*.) But in training physicians for Missouri and other communities, the school has not forgotten that it is the general practitioner who usually sees most of the patients. Included in the curriculum is a preceptorship course designed to teach the young medical student the art of the general practice.

Originally the program was instituted as an elective in 1956 when the University Medical School opened. Since 1964 students have been required to complete as part of their "study blocs" a preceptorship in an outstate Missouri community. Last year, more than 106 general practitioners, many of them MU alumni, served as preceptors. By working with these men, every student in the third or fourth years of medical school is provided with the opportunity to learn the role of the GP, both as a profession and as a citizen in a Missouri community.

Take Bob Frazier, for example, a fourth year medical student. He followed the "routine" of three general practitioners while taking part in the four-week preceptorship in Camdenton, Mo.

However, the general practitioners in the community of 15,000 where Bob worked certainly do not project the traditional image of a country doctor. The "family doctor" in Camdenton consists of a quarter of a million dollar investment by three University Medical School graduates in a medical center that serves the community and surrounding area, plus thousands of summer tourists who frequent the Lake of the Ozarks area.

Dr. T. W. Garrison, Jr., and Dr. Donald B. Holley are both 1958 Medical School graduates. The third physician, a 1965 Medical School graduate, is Dr. Max Carnell, who joined the practice after completing a forestry degree, also at the University. Dr. Garrison, called "Dr.



Bob found a general practitioner deals with a variety of cases during his busy day, including reluctant little boys. Below, he and his wife, Penny, find time for needed relaxation at her parent's Lake of the Ozarks cabin.





While learning to put children at ease when seeing a doctor, Bob actually was using techniques which will aid him in becoming a successful physician.

G" by his associates, commented that the trio designed the building occupying the 70-acre tract with the "least amount of steps possible." The three men share a tiny office, and "we weren't even sure we needed that." These are truly working doctors.

An advantage of the preceptorship program is that the student experiences first-hand the routine tasks of a physician. The hospital near-

est Camdenton is about 25 miles away, in Lebanon. Bob frequently made rounds in the morning with one of the three doctors who alternately drive over to visit their eight or nine patients in the hospital. Here Bob says, he saw illnesses not often treated in the medical center at Columbia. Bob views the goal of the preceptorship program as one "to expose the student to general practitioner's work and real-world medicine



that is apart from the more formal atmosphere of medical school."

The three physicians treated Bob just like another colleague; "Dr." Frazier accompanied one of the three each day in his work in the 15 green-carpeted examination rooms. Bob had the opportunity to assist in appendectomies and tonsillectomies, treating lacerations and a host of other things he does not have the chance often

to witness at the University Medical Center. For Bob, this variety of cases was a stimulating and practical part of his studies, because he found he "knew more than he thought he did."

Bob commented he had hoped to sneak in some fishing, since he and his wife, Penny, stayed in her parent's cabin on the lake. But while Penny learned what it is like to be a "GP's wife," Bob discovered that a general practice leaves little time for fishing.

Bob's preceptorship work differed from most in that his wife was able to accompany him. Usually the student lives with the physician's family. Dr. Garrison's wife explained the three doctors alternate in keeping the student for the four-week period. She said she "tries to make the student a part of her family" and cooks and launders for them just as she does for her husband.

Although the doctors are quite easy to find, because their phones are alternately hooked up to receive calls at night and on Sunday, they rarely travel to a patient's house. If they must see patients in the evening, they prefer to treat them in the center where there are proper facilities. This is probably what Penny meant when she said she had an opportunity to see what "GP life was like," because Bob frequently made late-night calls.

As a matter of fact, Bob spent most of his time at the medical center. The office is equipped not only with a physical therapy unit, X-ray facilities and business offices, but also has a pharmacy in front. A lunchroom is included in the structure, although Bob found the normal "twelve to one" lunch hour depended on the number of patients. And yet, the personal touch of general practice was not lost in this modern center. Not only was there a constant pot of coffee and breakfast rolls in the lab, but every employee took turns bringing a luncheon dessert.

It is this part of general practice Bob liked the best. The personal approach that the three physicians all brought to their practice was an enlightening dimension to Bob's medical studies. For this reason, Bob said he "is considering general practice more than ever before. It is certainly not," he emphasized, "any kind of a dying art." □