

May 31, 1936

Portage Scans Half Century Career — and Applauds

[State Journal News Service]

PORTAGE—For more than a half century Portage has watched the comings and goings of a modest almost shy little man, with a deep fondness grown from a heart long thankful for the service he has given and many who still live, work, and play here owe him their lives.

That man is Dr. Byron C. Meacher, who at 79 is chief of staff of St. Savior's hospital here, a position he has held since the institution was founded by the Sisters of the Divine Savior.

That they have not forgotten the years of his life dedicated to the health and welfare of the city was attested recently when the sisters and 13 Portage physicians honored him with a banquet held in the hospital, and the city watched it and remembered too.

53 Years of Service

Dr. Meacher has been practicing here for the past 53 years. Most of his professional career was spent in "pioneering surgery." When he came to Portage there wasn't a hospital within 50 miles. At that time he performed operations of the most difficult nature on kitchen tables and part of the time members of the family were called on to shoo the flies away while he was operating.

Dr. Meacher studied at the old Rush Medical college in Chicago and then served 18 months as an intern at the Cook County hospital, followed by a year and a half study at Heidelberg, Vienna and Munich.

\$100,000 Due

Dr. Meacher, who has always abhorred publicity, has worked quietly and unassumingly among those

who needed help, never giving a thought to financial return nor public response. Fellow physicians tell that he has probably more than \$100,000 in uncollected accounts. Although he refuses to talk about his achievements other Portage colleagues quickly give him due credit.

Keen eyes well set in an intelligent face, a close clipped mustache and a fringe of grey hair that surrounds a bald head mark his features. He is of medium height, and of a stocky build with broad shoulders.

Portage surgeons who have been associated with Dr. Meacher and who have at various times been his partners are Dr. A. J. Batty, J. A. Rowlin, E. P. Andrews, and W. A. Taylor, his nephew, who shares offices with him. At the present time Dr. Meacher is still active and visits his office three days a week and makes an occasional home call.

440 Acres of Woe"

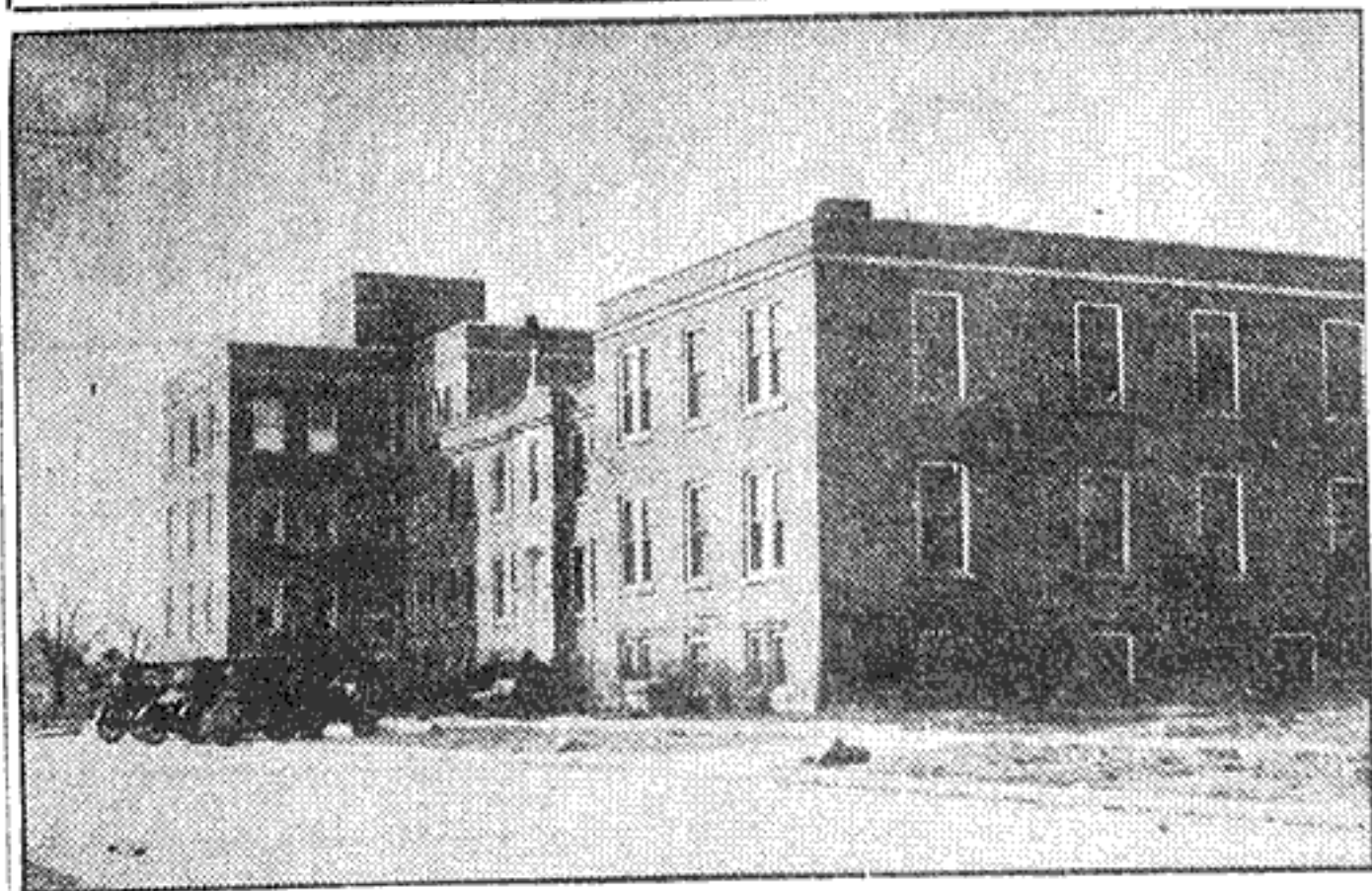
The chief diversion for Dr. Meacher is his farm, which he calls his "440 acres of woe," near Cambria where he has made a specialty of raising full-blooded stock.

For 30 years Dr. Meacher kept deer in a pen at the rear of his home. His favorite doe, Diana, bore a total of 36 fawns, several of them triple births, which were given to zoos and game farms in the state. Frequently the deer escaped and could be seen placidly grazing on lawns throughout the city.

Dr. Meacher is the oldest former intern of Cook County hospital. He is a member of the local, county and state medical associations, of the American Medical Assn. and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

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Here a Career Blossomed



St. Savior's hospital at Portage where Dr. Meacher at 79 is still chief of staff. Under his careful guidance and with his capable service this hospital has become one of the finest hospitals in the state.