

Extract from Castlegar News, October 21, 1965 Page 1
Victor Basil Goresky

Pioneer resident Dr, Victor Basil Goresky, 60, who passed away in the Castlegar and District Hospital Saturday, will be remembered by friends and colleagues not only for his contributions to his fellow men, but for the man himself.

He was born the son of a blacksmith and was one of, a family of 13 raised on a dairy farm in Stonewall, Manitoba. He received his high school education in Stonewall and was awarded an entrance scholarship to the University of Manitoba for high standing in that province.

In 1930 he graduated from the University of Manitoba with an MD and interned at the McKellar General Hospital in Fort William, taking a further year of residency training at the Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. In the depths of the depression he began the practice of medicine in the town of Willingdon, Alberta.

At that time none of his patients had money, physicians were few, and the amount of work was great. He married Elsie Serdiak and the proceeds of the practice, such as geese. chicken. pigs and an occasional side of beef served to support his family. Those were the days when a doctor travelled by horse and buggy and navigated the winter blizzards in a "snow-plane", a vehicle mounted on skis driven by a rear airplane fan.

In 1937. fatigue and illness combined led him to seek a new, practice. Dr. L. M. Beck wrote to him from Castlegar saying that he was preparing to leave and invited Dr Goresky to "come and starve in BC rather than starve and freeze in Alberta," Dr. Goresky packed up his first two children, his wife and his gun, travelled the narrow. winding mountain roads to Castlegar, settling in the then, very small community. At that time, the community was clustered close- to the hubs of activity...the CPR station, the Castlegar hotel, West's store (which housed the post office).

Ralph West offered him temporary accommodation. There was little money available, but by virtue of a mass vaccination and inoculation program for the school children he accumulated enough money to purchase an acre of wild land for \$200, land which now lies in the centre of the Castlegar business district. He built a house on the land and with some help from his patients, soon converted this into a horticultural paradise. He grew many of the flowers native to the mountains and many native to other areas... holly, rhododendron, hawthorne, azalea and magnolia. When he was able to care for the garden, it was filled with a luxuriance of colors and fragrances.

In Castlegar, as its sole physician for many years, he worked hard and as the town grew and other physicians joined him, his interests began to change.

Dr. Goresky began at first a part time and finally a full time pursuit of the psychological factors involved in the production of the symptoms of disease. He developed a practical approach to psychotherapy, a technique based principally on the dual and coexistent use of desensitization and situational adjustment, a technique which was rapid and effective. He wrote and published a book upon the subject, "The Quick Technique In Mental Therapy", copyrighted in 1949. In 1948 he published a. Summary of his techniques in the Journal of the B.C. Medical Association. In 1961 he republished them in capsule form, in the British Journal, Lancet. That same year he received recognition in the editorial columns of Lancet, an accolade rarely bestowed in these days of modern medicine, upon a physician engaged in the practice of general medicine. In 1965 Simms reviewed Dr. Goresky's findings in his textbook of psychiatry. Dr. Goresky was in much demand as a lecturer by teachers, church groups and others. He contributed freely of his time and often stirred up a great deal of interest in his listeners. His hobbies, were many. The most outstanding of those was land development. He purchased a tract of land in Kinnaird, destined to be a family farm. He found the cost of putting water on' this to be prohibitive and was soon joined in 'this endeavor by Messrs. Cecil Watson, Omer Lightle and Norman Wells. A water system was installed, the land subdivided and the- family: farm became a real estate development, the core of the a present day community of Kinnaird.

The community today bears little resemblance to the uncleared land :with which they started. The family- farm got a new start at Wesley, at the.site of the former lumber mill. As time passed, the potential of the valley changed and finally Celgar decided the land was necessary for, them to build their pulp mill. ;After some persuasion, the land was sold to them.

Dr. Goresky: was interested in alpine flowers. Despite his weight he continued to visit many of the local alpine highlands over the years. He introduced many people to the hanging gardens of Idaho Peak above New Denver...an area almost unique in its profusion of alpine flowers during the early summer. His enthusiasm overflowed into gemmology. He explored the beauty of much of, the country rock 'in the area, and, with Allan Woodrow and his son Carl, demonstrated the feasibility of obtaining gem peridots from the Lightning Peak deposit.

He was a man who was good to his family and his friends, who was a patient counsellor to -many who leaves many in his debt by virtue of a legacy of kindness and good. deeds. He did, things for. others with a unique personal touch, a first person manner which was unmistakably his: His enthusiasm for the pursuit of happiness and of the non-material goals of life has spilled over to many of his

friends and his family. He Was a member of Fidelity Lodge No. 32 in Trail and of the Scottish Rite. Kootenay Lodge of Perfection in Nelson.

He is survived by his wife Elsie of Castlegar; his sons, Carl, an. assistant professor of Medicine at McGill University, a medical specialist, and Gerald, a second year student at McGill University; his daughters, Mrs. Ora Thomassen of Youbou, Miss Eileen, Goresky, a school teacher in Castlegar and Miss. Linda, Goresky; and by nine grandchildren. Of his brothers and sisters, he is survived by Norman of Winnipeg, Isidore of Thorhild, Alberta, Allan and Nick of Stonewall, Manitoba, Mrs. Victoria Pettitt of Castlegar, Mrs. Jean Zubeck of Toronto and Mrs. Olympia Dzuba.