

WHEELING HOSPITAL was opened by Dr. Edward Larson in 1927. While it was built to serve the community, it provided emergency facilities where Dr. Larson could patch up automobilists who survived the many accidents that occurred, especially on summer weekends, along heavily-traveled Milwaukee Ave. The hospital began in the doctor's house, which was enlarged until finally he built a new home so the entire building could be used for treating his patients. The closest hospital, otherwise, was at Highland Park and some Wheeling people used Chicago hospitals when the situation was not one of emergency.



Francis Moeller

Francis: During the influenza epidemic of 1918 Dr. Larson was so busy visiting his patients that he had people drive him on his calls and he slept in the car between stops.

During the epidemic some people at the Chicago House had the flu. There were no nurses around, so the girls who worked at the hotel took care of them. Dr. Larson was against the use of alcohol, but he told us to take a small shot of whiskey before going into the room, and another after coming out. We never caught the flu, and Dr. Larson didn't lose a patient during the epidemic.

John: Dr. Edward Larson made his own pills and everything else. He made house calls. And at that time they had visiting nurses who came around to check up on you. In 1941 I came down with pneumonia and he took care of me for three months.

Highland Park had the closest hospital until Dr. Larson opened his on Milwaukee Ave. It was a small place. I think he had three or four nurses at that time, and I think he had twelve beds or so. He was a good doctor. He saved my life.

Bills  
copy

Wheeling Independent April 9, 1964

Our town's first and only hospital was established by Dr. Larson in 1920. It had 9 beds and was in operation until 1945. The hospital stood at 203 S. Milwaukee and the Larsons lived next door at 189 S. Milwaukee Ave.

Until roads were improved, autos became more reliable and hospitals were built closer, Dr. Larson's hospital was the only one available for emergency cases.

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Notes from Wheeling Thru the Years... The hospital had 12 beds on the upper floor and Dr Larson had 3-4 nurses. Mary Flynn was the R.N. Paddock, Jan. 1932.

# Wheeling's Beloved Dr. Larson Dies In Florida

Wheelingites were saddened to learn last week of the death of Dr. Edward L. Larson of Palmetto, Fla. He missed by six years his wish to reach 90.

Services were held last Saturday at Oehler Funeral Home, Des Plaines.

"Doc" Larson was for many years the only doctor in the area and won the love and affection of all the local residents.

Below is an article about the "Doc" that appeared in the Wheeling INDEPENDENT April 26, 1962.



Dr. Edward L. Larson and wife Belle read some of the many poems he has written.

## DR. LARSON HAS HAG LIFE OF UNUSUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

"My prime ambition is to live to be 90," Wheeling's youngest octogenarian, and most interesting personality, Dr. Edward L. Larson, recently informed us.

Chances, are he'll do it, too, for Dr. Larson has had a life of unusual accomplishment since he first saw the light of day up in Racine, Wisconsin, back in 1891.

For example, he is our town's leading poet -- having written over 200 poems, some of which have been published in the INDEPENDENT. "He often wrote poetry before breakfast," his charming wife Belle tells us.

Dr. Larson came to Wheeling in 1917 -- three years before our first road or street was paved. He graduated from Bennett Medical College in Chicago (Now a part of Loyola University) in 1913.

Before that, he had spent three years soldiering in the Spanish-American War. He served as a Telegrapher in the Signal Corps, with the rank of Corporal. He came back unscathed, although bullets were fired in his direction several times. He has used the romantic Philippines as the setting of several of his poems.

Our town's first and only hospital was established by Dr. Larson in 1920. It had nine beds and was in operation until 1945. The hospital still stands at 293 S. Milwaukee Ave. The Larsons live next door, at 189 S. Milwaukee Ave. Until roads were improved, autos became more reliable and hospitals were built closer, Dr. Larson's hospital was the only one available for emergency cases.

He treated the son of a Milwaukee Brewer about 20 years ago. Although the boy eventually died as the result of injuries received in a plane crash, the father contrib-

uted a refrigerator and linoleum to Dr. Larson's hospital. Another father was not so appreciative. His son was treated by Dr. Larson after a bad auto accident. The father, also a wealthy suds maker (for washing dishes, not drinking), paid only \$975 of a \$3,000 bill Dr. Larson rendered for treating the man's son for five months. Dr. Larson just took this in stride. He was more interested in being a good doctor than making money. This outlook is no longer common among our younger doctors. None of the doctors with offices in Wheeling live in town. Some of them avoid housecalls as much as possible, to the point of being "unavailable" outside of office hours. Dr. Larson was always available. He lived right in town next to his hospital. He delivered over 3,000 babies, many of them during a cold winter night in a lonely farmhouse. Yet he has never complained or tried to avoid doing all he could for his patients.

Among the many now prominent persons that Dr. Larson brought into this world were Don and Ed Wehrle and Scotty Cargill -- to name a few.

Always active in Civic affairs, Dr. Larson was one of the first members of the Businessmen's Club, which later

### MEMORIES

You can't take away my memories,  
Be it even for a day,  
Like a Hollywood star who has had his day,  
And the glamour and glory of it all.

Bill, you can keep this article

RESUME AND PERSONAL DATA SHEET

NAME LARSON, EDWARD L. PLACE: RACINE, WISCONSIN  
 BIRTHDATE: 1891 MARRIAGE DATE: 1945  
 DEATH DATE: 1964 PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 FATHERS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MOTHERS NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse: BELLE (ROCHENBECH) LARSON PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 BIRTHDATE: 2m wife \_\_\_\_\_  
 DEATH DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 FATHERS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MOTHERS NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN	BORN	PLACE	DEATH
<u>F. Fulle (married name)</u>			

PERSONAL AND FAMILY DATA:

FATHER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 MOTHER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SISTERS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 BROTHERS: \_\_\_\_\_

ACHIEVEMENTS:

ARRIVED IN WHEELING - 1917  
GRADUATED BENNETT MEDICAL COLLEGE  
CHICAGO - 1913  
VETERAN SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR  
ESTABLISHED 1<sup>ST</sup> HOSPITAL IN WHEELING - 1920  
AT 203 S. MILWAUKEE AVENUE  
DELIVERED OVER 3,000 BABIES  
MEMBER OF BUSINESSMEN'S CLUB (LIONS CLUB)

*Additional information in file folder.*

July 2, 1985

Dr. Edward Larson

Dr. Edward Larson was a doctor during the 20's and 30's. He had a small hospital on Milwaukee Ave., which is now 189 South Milwaukee with an office on the first floor and rooms on the second floor. He lived next door, and now is the Wheeling Funeral Home. Doctors at that time made house calls. His first wife passed away about 1928 and then he remarried about 1945 to *Bette* Rothenbach.

Betty Barrie/gc

*Dr. Larson was in the Spanish-American War*  
DAUGHTER. MRS. F. FULLE -

*Arrived in Wheeling - 1917*

*Dr. Larson - Edward - <sup>Fork</sup>*

*opened his own hospital  
(~~first~~ funeral home) 3 or 4  
nurses - 12 beds*

*40s ?*

*Wife*

*d. May 31 - 1945*

*2nd-wife <sup>Bette</sup>  
Rothenbach*

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**DR. E. L. LARSON**  
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON  
203 SOUTH MILWAUKEE AVENUE

OFFICE HOURS  
MON., TUE., WED., THUR., FRI.  
AND SAT., 9 TO 11; 7:30 TO 9:30  
SUN., 9 TO 12 A.M.

TELEPHONES  
OFFICE LE. 7-0455  
RESIDENCE LE. 7-0122

**Wheeling Historical Society**

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**From:** <webadmin@wheelinghistoricalsociety.com>  
**Date:** March 09, 2014 12:41 PM  
**To:** <webadmin@wheelinghistoricalsociety.com>  
**Subject:** emailform01 at www.wheelinghistoricalsociety.com/contact.htm

Name: Robert Howland

Email: [rahowland@yahoo.com](mailto:rahowland@yahoo.com)

Message: I am working on my wife's genealogy and we are looking for information regarding Edward Larson or Larsen. It is our understanding that he ran a hospital on the main highway that treated al Capones men. what ever information you would have I would appreciate.

Thank You  
Robert Howland

03/11/2014