

The Birthplace of Nevada Medicine to be released this Fall

Our latest book, which highlights Carson City as the birthplace of Nevada medicine, will be released later this fall with a book signing at Carson-Tahoe Regional Medical Center. The book highlights interviews by Richard G. Pugh of Doctors Richard Petty, Henry Stewart, William King, Rex Baggett, James Colgan, Ted D'Amico, Michael Fisher, Michael Jones, Richard Newbold, William O'Shaughnessy, Del Snider, Colin Soong, Stuart Stoloff, Bob Brown, and James Pitts. In addition to these doctors, we will feature the careers of over one hundred physicians who were recorded as being in the Carson/Eagle Valleys from 1851 to World War II.

The Carson City area was the remote western edge of the Utah Territory in 1851, and it was here that the Latter Day Saints outpost, Mormon Station, became the birthplace of medicine in Nevada. Thus, in 1851, Dr. T. A. Hylton is recorded to be the first

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A Legend and Legacy in Nevada: Kenneth Frazer Maclean MD (1914-1985)¹

By Dr. Bob Daugherty

"A tremendously interesting curmudgeon"

"He was very, very, rude, abrupt and abusive"

"Yes, he was abrupt, but one always knew exactly where one stood with Ken."

"He was one of my physician heroes in Nevada."

"He wasn't in the business of medicine for money—he was really a good doctor."

"The Board of Medical Examiners was run by the seat of the pants of Ken Maclean."

"He was the leader of the Board."

"His importance didn't stop at the door of the Board."

"Ken cared deeply for the well being of his patients and of his peers."

"Ken demanded quality of care for Nevada's citizens."

All of the above quotes from fellow physicians describe Kenneth Maclean, an important physician who practiced surgery in Reno from 1946 until his retirement in 1983. He was a Reno native whose medical legacy began in Scotland with his grandfather, who pioneered academic surgery in the United States, continued with his father, an early Carson City physician, and brought into the Golden Age of Medicine by Ken.

Ken Maclean's grandfather, Donald Maclean, was born in Canada in 1839, received his medical education in Scotland where he was a student of Joseph Lister, the father of aseptic medicine, and served in the Northern Army during the Civil War. Returning to civilian life in 1872, at the age of thirty-four, apparently because of his success and

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¹ Sources of information are George Maclean, Dr. Ken Maclean's nephew; Board of Medical Examiners' records; *Reno Gazette-Journal*; AMA records; *Mayo Clinical Proceedings*, and University of Michigan records.

(Birthplace cont.)

doctor in the territory. In addition, Dr. Benjamin King was also mentioned as residing in the area in the early 1850s, but the first recorded contribution to Nevada's medical history belongs to Dr. Charles Daggett. In 1855 Mormon missionary Orson Hyde documented his treatment by Dr. Daggett for frozen feet.

Many doctors followed Daggett and their training varied from none to two years that was required for a "regular" physician, and their philosophy of practice varied from quackery to "regular" traditional western medicine. This lack of uniformity was corrected with the 1875 and 1899 Nevada laws. In addition to the varied practices of these early doctors, we will feature the careers of women and Chinese medical practitioners who settled in the area previous to 1945.

Notwithstanding the development of the medical profession, we will detail the development of the Carson-Tahoe hospital system, organized medicine, and the importance of Nevada's two-year medical school and later training programs in twentieth-century Carson City. Prior to Carson-Tahoe Hospital patients were sent to Washoe County Hospital and Saint Mary's Hospital in Reno. Dr. Simeon Lee stated he was "in charge" of a hospital in nineteenth-century Ormsby County, but its physical description is unknown. In addition, Dr. Fred Anderson recalled that there were "nursing homes" with practical nurses, but no true hospitals until 1949 when Carson-Tahoe Hospital was built. Surgery, which we would now recognize as minor in scope, and even some obstetrical care were referred to Reno. You will find this book to be an important chapter in the development of medicine in

Nevada. (It can be ordered from the University of Nevada School of Medicine's Pathology Department/350; Reno, NV 89557 for \$35 plus \$3 for shipping.)

**Letter from Dr. Joe
George
18 May 2009**

"Received the latest Greasewood Tab.... I appreciate it once again as with all the rest. Your interest in history is great. I enjoyed Bob Daugherty's reviews and always the history of doctors in the 1800s. My daughter, June, graduated from the Medical School in 1986 and has done extremely well in surgery practice. I appreciate the medical School.... I do pretty well—age 96 in 2 days.

Am including obituary of my friend Armand Scully whose funeral was last Thursday...." Best wishes, Joe George.

**Dr. Robert Daugherty
appointed Co-editor of
Greasewood Tablettes**

Dr. Robert Daugherty has been appointed co-editor of *Greasewood Tablettes* and will serve with Dr. Anton Sohn. Dr. Daugherty has a longstanding interest in history and has written several articles for this bulletin. He graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine and was Dean of University of Nevada School of Medicine for seventeen years.

(A Legend cont.)

popularity among his patients and students, he was appointed professor and the second chair of surgery in Ann Arbor.

William Mayo, who graduated from the University of Michigan School of Medicine in 1883 noted: "In 1882, Dr.



Ken Maclean's Grandfather 1839-1903

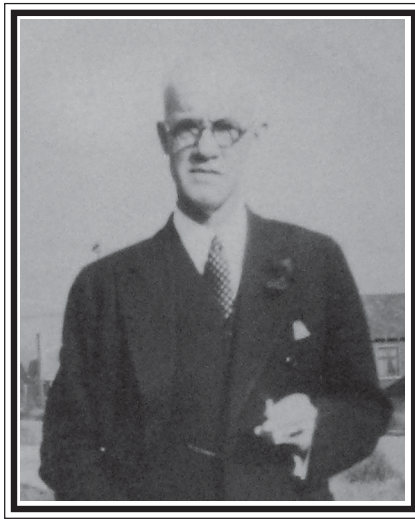
Maclean began to practice asepsis and antisepsis while teaching about the work of Joseph Lister. In my first year, I remember him being fastidious to operating room routine. Before surgery, he would roll up his sleeves and carefully wash his hands before beginning an operation and again a couple of times during the operation." Dr. Mayo went on to say that one of the most important concepts he acquired as a student and assistant to Ken Maclean's grandfather was "The sick man was the hub around which the entire education turned" and "the application of the art of medicine is based on the science of medicine" A concept that to this day, we admire and strive to instill in our students.

At the time of Donald Maclean's appointment at the University of Michigan, not only did the University of Michigan not have a teaching hospital, but no other medical school in the United States had one. In fact, hospitals were not a part of medical care in this country until late into the nineteenth century when scientific discoveries advanced medical care. Individuals who could afford medical care were never treated in a hospital. At the start

of the nineteenth century, there were only two significant hospitals in the United States, located in Philadelphia and New York City. Massachusetts General became the third hospital in 1821. The first hospitals were originally established as infirmaries to provide for the poor, disabled and the infirm. For example, Philadelphia General, Bellevue, and Baltimore General evolved from almshouses or pest houses—to care for those suffering from an epidemic. The county hospitals of Nevada evolved in 1860 from a pestilence—smallpox.

Thus, when the University of Michigan finished its hospital in 1877, there were fewer than two hundred hospitals in the country and none were university teaching hospitals. Ken's grandfather was the chairman of surgery in the first university teaching hospital in the United States. However, his seventeen-year tenure came to an abrupt end in 1889 when he advocated the relocation of the university clinics to take advantage of a larger teaching population in Detroit. This was against the opposition of both the Board of Regents and the president of the University. The Regents instructed the president to request Dr Maclean's resignation, which, of course, he provided. As further proof of his importance, in 1894, Donald Maclean was elected president of the American Medical Association. He died in Detroit in 1903 where he had lived since 1883.

Ken's father, Donald Maclean Jr., was a graduate of the Royal College of Surgeons in Scotland like his father. Dr. Maclean came west and served as doctor in Hawaii during the Boxer Rebellion. After the service he came to San Francisco, and in 1906 moved to Reno. In 1910 he moved to Carson City, where he was the physician for the Nevada State Prison. After ten years in Carson, he moved to the Riverside Hotel in Reno, where the



Ken's Father 1872-1939

family lived and his practice was located. He died in Reno on January 4, 1939.

Kenneth F. Maclean was born in Carson City on March 9, 1914. He graduated from Reno High School and the University of Nevada in Reno and received his medical degree from McGill University School of Medicine in 1939. His surgical training at the University of Michigan was interrupted in 1942 by World War II. From 1942 until 1945 he served with the University of Michigan Unit 298th General Hospital in the European Theater of Operations. Over twenty years later, Dr. Ken Turner, an obstetrician from Las Vegas was appointed to the Board of Medical Examiners. Dr. Turner had been a private as a medical aid on a glider assault team and had suffered serious injuries requiring several operations. In talking about his war injury surgeries with Dr. Maclean, Dr. Turner recalled that Dr. Maclean had been one of the first surgeons to operate on him after his evacuation from France to Liege, Belgium, where Maclean was stationed.

After the war, Ken continued the legacy of his grandfather and father by returning to the University of Michigan to complete his surgical training. At the completion of his training, he and his wife, Margaret, returned to Reno in 1947 to begin practice. Two years later, he was appointed by Governor Vail Pittman to serve on the Board of Medical Examiners.

Ken Maclean was the leader of the Nevada Board of Medical Examiners for over thirty years, and thereby directly influenced the standards and quality of the practice of medicine in Nevada over three decades. It was during these three decades (1950-1980) that Nevada truly "burst" onto the national scene, going from a population of less than 200,000 to more than one million people. It was without question, the Golden Age of Medicine, with technological and scientific advances beyond anyone's dreams. During Maclean's tenure, the physician population increased from less than 1,000 to over 4,000 in 1980. The Board developed and established standards that determined the



Kenneth F. Maclean 1914-1985

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quality of medical care in Nevada into the twenty-first century. These new standards ranged from recognizing and licensing physician assistants, defining the criteria for legal abortion, establishing rules for professional conduct, setting up procedures for investigating and disciplining physicians, and enumerating punitive actions the board could impose on a physician found guilty of misconduct. These changes led to a much more precise extensive document that served as the under pinnings for the current Medical Practice Act.

The above description and accounts of Dr. Ken Maclean tell us a bit about the man known as the czar of Nevada medical licensure. He was considered a doctor's surgeon; a physician that other physicians would seek for their own personal surgical care.

The legacy continues in Nevada through the standards of practice enabled by the actions of the Board of Medical Examiners under his thirty-year leadership.

In Memoriam

Greasewood Tablettes was founded to preserve medical history. Unfortunately, we do not have the means to keep abreast of the lives of all healthcare practitioners. If we inadvertently miss a particular obituary, we invite you to send us a copy of a newspaper obituary.

Armand Scully, M.D. (1928 – 2009)

Armand Scully was born in New Orleans 5 July 1928. After serving in World War II, he graduated from LSU Medical School and practiced orthopedic surgery in Mississippi before moving to Las Vegas in 1963. His interest included the Crippled Children's Clinic in Las Vegas, and he was team doctor

for UNLV. (*Las Vegas Sun*, 2009)

Joseph Rojas, M.D.

Dr. Joseph Rojas died May 17, 2009, in Las Vegas. He was the founding chair of obstetrics and gynecology in Las Vegas for the UNSOM, but previous to his involvement with the University of Nevada school of Medicine, he headed up the OB/GYN program at the University Medical Center for OB/GYN residents from San Francisco. (*Las Vegas Sun*, 2009)

Hector De Los Santos, M.D. (1924 – 2009)

Hector was born and educated in the Philippines, and did a surgery fellowship in Spain. Returning to the Philippines he had an accomplished academic career before moving to the University of Alabama in 1980. The following year he moved to Reno to marry Pat Manalo, M.D. Dr. De Los Santos succumbed at home after a lingering illness. (*Reno Gazette-Journal* June 17, 2009)