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Some examples of the kinds of errors to be found in the transcripts are provided below.

Filename	PDF Version Page	Error
jmf_int_transcript_Williams_2_2_1976.pdf	20	“Parkalnd”
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MARKED & CUT

Dr. Steffan

Decatur

?How long have you been in ~~there~~ there ?

Oh, I've been here since the beginning of July. I started practice the 20th of July of '76. I've just been rolling ever since. ~~Now did you select it?~~

?How did you select it?

I wanted to go someplace in the country that was not too far ~~from~~ from the city. but still out in the country. I like living out in the country to start with and this is pretty much of an ideal location. It's about an hour from D-FW and 45 minutes from Fort Worth and then it's not far from sailboat racing, which I do just about every week on Eagle Mountain Lake.

?Wondered if you were a sailboat _____?

Yeah.

? _____?

In Dallas really, years and years ago, on White Rock Lake ~~really~~ was when I first started sailing, but this seemed to be a good location. They needed another doctor or two up here and they had a new hospital that was under-utilized. When you only have two doctors and a 50-bed hospital, it's hard to adequately use it.

?Coming into town big old house said "hospital"?

Oh, that's not it. It's on South 51. It's about a mile and a half from here. And we're, I'm going to, there's a new office building being built right ~~now~~ next to the hospital and I'll have an office there. So that'll be the utmost of convenience. I can use the laboratory and x-ray facilities in the hospital and not have to mess with that stuff and

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still have the convenience of it being right there.

?When resident, did you do a preceptorship in the community?

Oh, I went over in Arlington with, there's a pediatric ~~clinic~~ clinic out there, and I worked with those guys and I visited docs in the surrounding area. When I was ^a student, I went out in the country with a doc for a week, and that was very educational. I really liked it, and this guy worked an 18-hour day every day, it really was. This was in Ponchatoula, La., which is a smaller town than this, and I guess the hospital he used was about 10 miles from there in one of the other little neighboring towns that's across Lake Ponchartrain from New Orleans, and it was, he was just busier than a bee and took care of everything. You know, did all the OB's and did all the surgery and set bones and took care of the kids and the old folks in the nursing homes and had, oh, 15, 20 patients in the hospital all the time.

?Is your routine like that?

It is right now.

?Catalog of your patients?

I ^{ve} got a section I'm going to do day after tomorrow. I helped on an emergency Caesarean section Saturday which was two days ago. I explored a belly on a girl a couple of months ago and fixed her up. She had a lot of problems and, oh, I put on about three casts a week, and I wish I'd taken a little more orthopedics in that regard. Send patients into town once in a while, I just diagnosed a guy's having temporal lobe seizures and sending them to a neurosurgeon for further evaluation. Can't find any tumor yet, but that seems to be

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sp? a possibility, and I had a lady die with Cartogener's syndrome, and that's an unusual congenital problem with a right-sided heart and reversed gut and bronchiectasis, usually developing tuberculosis, which she did, she had ~~deafness~~^f from the drugs for treating the t.b. and she died in heart failure. I ^{'ve} ^{ed} treat a lot of heart patients, heart attacks, and them in the hospital and I just operated on a guy last Wednesday. He had a bladder stone and took that out with the urologist and he also had prostate surgery at the same time. What else? Oh, just a vast variety of, I've got a lady had cancer of the _____ and she's five years post-op for a Whipple procedure and that, and she's 72 years old now and just doing tremendously well.

sp? ?Is it really a family practice?

I really couldn't classify it as just a family practice 'cause I've got everything under the sun and I take care of almost everything, and what I can't take care of primarily is major trauma, where you need a general surgeon to handle and we really are not equipped for that here. We don't have emergency anesthesia available and sometimes we can't even get it and one ^{of} us will have to give anesthesia if we have a big problem. We usually do things under a spinal in that case, just watch them carefully. That's...

?Group of doctors here?

Yeah, there are four and a half doctors. One guy's got one arm, and so...he's close to retirement. He's ~~my~~ in his upper 60's. He's pretty sharp and does a good medical practice. Our little staff of doctors at the hospital is five doctors.

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He's the chief of medicine and one of the other guys is the chief of surgery and one of the other guys is the chief of OB-gyn, and I'm the chief of pediatrics. So we just kind of rotate, and I'm the secretary on the staff for what that's worth, but you know we're pretty active. We have a tri-county medical society which is Wise County, Clay County, Montague County, and we meet up in Bowie once a month, and we have a little dinner and a program. Last month it was on MBD, and this month it'll be on , or next month it'll be on GI, acute GI problems. So we, we have a pretty active...

?Who organizes?

Each of us take turns. I present the one in February which will ^{be} ~~a~~ a gastroenterologist from Fort Worth, so it'll be very interesting.

?Work through continuing medical education office at all?

No, not now I don't. There are some programs available in Denton that I'll be getting into, but not immediately. It's an hour and 20 minutes to the medical school, and it's just a lot of time to get out. It's easier to go to Denton or to do things by correspondence, which I do.

?Look back on residency, with Dr. Jacobson?

Dr. Pillow was (in charge) at the start and Jacobson at the ~~end~~ and , of course, we didn't, at Peter-Smith we have the family health center and a family practice program, which is what I was in. We didn't have the family health center to start with and then I think in my second year we got that, going.

? _____ ?

mdgr

Steffan Add 4

Um-Hm. Which was pretty good 'cause you got to at least see what a clinic life was like. The way it really is in real practice and , of course, it's not exactly like that in private practice, but at least gives us an idea and the local docs that come in and help us really give us good insight into what's going on. They , of course, they're in private practice, so they're going to know. They also teach us quite a bit about medicine at the same time. But it was a pretty good education being able to do that. We had a little lab set up ^{there} in the clinic ~~where~~ we could use, which most docs have in their offices.

?Family practice residents compatible with _____?

Yes, we got along pretty well. It was a lot of fun because we could cover for each other, which is what life is about out here. We cover for each other all the time.

? _____?

Let's see, where ~~we~~ were we?

?Your residency?

?Scope of the program?

It's pretty wide. Just do, the only spots that I wish I'd done more training in were gynecology and orthopedics. And I'll pick that up with time, but it'd just be a little nicer if I had a little more. But that's the way it goes. Dermatology is also really important, see lots of skin problems. Sometimes you know what they are, and sometimes you don't.

?Work in another field?

No, I did lots of different things.

?Thought you might have done more in pediatrics?

, more

Steffan Add 5

Sp?
I did, which was of value. I see about 15, 20 kids a day, and some of them are really sick. And sometimes I'll refer them into Fort Worth to one of the pediatricians. A lot of them are blood problems which go to Dr. Windmiller in Fort Worth. When I'm not sure what's going on, then I have a couple of kids I follow up here, one with ITP and one with neuroblastoma, which he has seen. And we kind of work together on them, so they don't have to go into Fort Worth every month. Just stick locally and get the blood work done here and whatever treatments are necessary.

?Been here 6 months, have a good feel^e for the community?

Oh, moderately good. I think so.

?What does it feel like?

It's a small town, but it's not as closed as a lot of little communities are to newcomers. They have a, one small plant here--Pocographite, and which is a unique outfit that probably make the best synthetic graphite in the world. And they have, my neighbors are Ph.D.'s from Pocographite from New York or Chicago, and the guy that runs the plant is from Chicago, and so it adds somewhat of a little bit of diverse flavor to the town. Then all the locals are very interesting we've got a lot of unique people out here. And...

?What do that they do?

This is a big dairy county, and a lot of dairy farms and agriculture and some small industries. Down in Boyd they have the Boyd _____ plant, and so they make, they're the largest manufacturers of cattle feeding equipment, and we get a lot of emergencies up from them, eye injuries and cut off fingers

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and stuff. Now I've finished those up. and what have you, broken feet and broken legs, a lot of orthopedic stuff I send to Denton or the ear, nose and throat or rather the eye problems, they have two pretty good ophthalmologists over there, and I send them over there. If I can't take care of their eyes. I take out foreign bodies and do evaluations and if it's something I can't handle I send it over to them. But a lot of things I can take care of either in the emergency room or here in my office. So that works well.

?Quickly involved in community affairs?

Oh, through the hospital and I've talked to one of the high school classes and they wanted, I think that's when the movie "Sybil" was on t.v., and they wanted to know about multiple personalities, and I just kinda talked to them about schizophrenia and some of the theories and treatments and what it was like and some examples. Kids really liked it. It was sophomore science class. The teacher was one of my patients at a little, his 18-month-old was in a car wreck, and I had ~~h~~ a broken femur and I treated that in the hospital. Of course, I had a Dallas orthopedist come up and look at him once or twice. And put the spika cast on but , let's see, I talked to the junior women's club about the biggest disease in the United States, obesity. That went over big. Oh, there are just all kinds of little things going on, kinda get involved in. It's kinda busy. I alternate call with another guy here in town, and I'm on a week and then off a week, and I take every Thursday off, and that's an afternoon off. And this other guy takes every Wednesday off, so it

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works out pretty well. So when I'm on call, oftentimes it's eight or nine o'clock before I'm home at night.

?Called away from home very often?

Every night, when I'm on call. When I'm off call, rarely, but once in awhile if there's some big emergency or something or other. We kinda get together to handle them. We had a car wreck last week and a couple of us had to go in for that. One of the kids died. We sent a couple of them to Fort Worth, but we're not really set up for major trauma. We just don't have the manpower for it. That's why Fort Worth is where it is. It's just close enough we can get them in. It's only about 25 minutes on a fast ambulance, so we can call them and tell them we're coming, and they can be ready for them in Fort Worth.

?What appeal to you about this practice?

Well, it's kind of a relaxed atmosphere. The patients are pretty nice, and it's somewhat of a coherent practice, and then I see the patients for most of their problems, and if I'd want to refer them out, I can, ^{fine} and most of the folks are pretty decent people and the rural life and activities seem to appeal to me. I lived right on the edge of town, and I've got cows in the backyard that come right up to the ~~edge~~ fence because I live right ^(no) the edge of a ranch. I'm still in town, but it's very, very rural and agrarian, so to speak, and I really like that. Just, ^{it's} very relaxed, it's about when I get up in the morning and turn the radio on and listen to the traffic on Stemmons and Central, ~~into~~ Expressway and wonder if I can make it through those two stop-signs to the

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hospital 'cause that's all there are, ~~just~~ two stop-signs and I'm at the hospital. There are no traffic signals in Decatur, but there are two sets of blinking lights, so that they blink red one way and yellow the other, so...it's just a little more relaxed pace and everything's somewhat close together although it's nice to have Fort Worth for going shopping.

?Grow up in Dallas?

I grew up in Chicago. But I spent many years...I moved to Dallas when I was about 12 or 13 and lived there for many years ~~and felt~~ until I went to college, traveled around a bit after that in the military, Washington and the West Coast. up and down the West Coast and Vietnam. So...

?So you've been thinking about this sort of practice ~~for~~ sometime?

Um-hm. Well, that's why I went to Peter Smith. Because I knew it's reputation was awfully good as far as training men to be well-rounded physicians and handling just about whatever came in, and we do here, whatever comes in, you have to take care of it. You can't say, "Well, call somebody else," because, well, I might call somebody else to help me take care of it, but it'll be one of the other guys here. or we'll ship them into town if it's too serious or if it's just something beyond our scope of capabilities.

?How many patients in the hospital?

I think I've got five or six in right now. Last Wednesday, ~~the~~ I see, I had 10 in, and sometimes it'll go down to four. Usually it's about five, six, eight.

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?What are they in for?

Let's see, last Wednesday, when I had 10 in, I had one for cystoscopy. She had blood in her urine. And I had a lady with a stroke who was having seizures. I had a guy with a heart attack. I had a lady with asthma that was pretty bad, a lady with what I thought to be fractured hip, but we still couldn't find any fractures, may have dislocated, so that's that one. Then I have a boy with orchitis, who's very sick, and the man that had the bladder stone and , let's see, there's somebody else back there. I can't remember how many I've gone through. I think another lady with a heart attack. Yeah, somebody else back on that side, and I can't remember who it was now. That's somewhat of a scope of what I...

?Are these your patients?

They're my patients. They say, "I'm sick--help me." "Well, I'll meet you at the emergency room, and we'll do what we have to do." Since I don't do much lab work here in the office, the emergency room is the place to do things. We've got x-ray and everything there, and it doesn't take but about five minutes to get a tech in to do all the lab work and x-ray and everything.

?What was your first day like?

First day, very interesting. I assisted on a vaginal hysterectomy and came to the office, and I saw eight people the very first day. I had no advertising, I had no sign on the place, nobody knew I was here , so I....

?How many did you see the second day?

I think about ten. I was kinda surprised.

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Steffan Add 10

? _____ ?

Oh, through the emergency room and folks in town, the new doctor's coming and all that. And two months before I came here, another new guy came here so I was the second new guy.

?Do they change doctors?

Well, there's not...the three guys who were here initially were really snowed and so instead of waiting four hours to see somebody, they'll just think, "Gee, I'll just try that new guy and see what he's like." And then a lot of people, a lot of people went to Denton, especially for pediatric problems and some internal medicine problems and they decided, "Well, let's see what that new guy's like, and then we won't have to drive 65 miles to the doctor or whatever that round trip is, and then some folks are going into Fort Worth and some folks were going to Bridgeport and Bowie and elsewhere. So it really doesn't take long if they need docs, people just come floating in with all kinds of problems, the first day I had a kid with a broken something-or-other in his hand. I put casts on and all that jazz.

?If we came up here would your patients cooperate?

Oh, they'd love it. Most of them are really good folks.
A typical patient up here comes in with his back hurting,
and you ask him if he did anything strenuous, and he says,
"Well, no, I..." "Are you sure now? What did you do
yesterday?" Well, he'll have pushed a semi up a hill, you
know, with one hand or one guy fell off of a hayloft and
landed on his neck and was out for about 30 minutes and when

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he came to, he said he had to mow that last 30 acres, so he went out and mowed it. He couldn't turn his head around sideways, couldn't walk ~~sideways~~ at all, ~~couldn't~~ he had to turn his whole shoulders around to see behind him. ~~at all~~ He'd busted a bone in his neck. Typical patients up here are just tougher than nails. They're, they eat nails and gunpowder soup for breakfast, I'm convinced, and they're really pretty good people all in all. They don't plague the physicians with petty problems for the most part.

Now, of course, some of the young mothers, they get upset ~~with~~ when little things happen, and those, it's just a matter of a little bit of educating, but most of the folks are....

? _____ ?

And sometimes a little late, you know, most of the time they exercise pretty good judgment, and they're farm-type, cattle-type people, and they've got to work and work hard to keep up with their businesses. And it makes it a lot of fun. There are always a few people that are of ill repute that try to take advantage of the situation, but that works itself out pretty well. Sometimes they have to be a little bit firm with problems, so we've had a little bit of trouble with narcotics, and that's been squared away.

?Among kids?

Adults, not serious at all, and it's all back under control, but it's just takes a little bit of work. Psychiatrists in Fort Worth do real well. Psychiatric problems have not been terribly big, major psychiatric problems, I've seen a

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few people that really do need some help, and it's difficult to get them to ask for help, and the training I had was pretty good, considering a family practice residency 'cause we saw a lot of people with really big psychiatric problems at Peter Smith and had some good psychiatrists help us interview them and ...

?People come in with psychiatric problems?

Well, (they) come in with ~~sdem~~ something else. One young man won't admit to any problems and I really think he's a schizophrenic and a lot of problems at home and I was unaware of what was going on and I thought it was kinda peculiar, and then I talked to his father later and found out some of the more pertinent social history, really, really, told me what was going on and ~~thare~~ there are a couple of people I've seen that need some help. Some I've been able to help, and some you just can't. Some would take a court order.

?You have a sense of yourself in the community "the doctor"?

Oh, not really. I'd ~~like~~ like to just try to fit in with everybody. I'd ~~re~~ally, I just enjoy, I like to go out to the country club. That's quite exclusive here in Decatur. I think the dues are 15 bucks a month, you know, a little nine-hole course with a ~~log~~ of rocks. It's a lot of fun to just go out and have a good time.

?Community awareness of problems?

Oh, the women that work in the hospital, as far as the narcotics problems and stuff, because they'll hear what's going on, and then they're ~~are~~ kinda in the trade, so they're aware of it, ^e although the sheriff knows also. I've seen a

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couple of folks in jail. I saw a 15-year-old last week who was just sick, just had strep throat and I don't know what all and I took care of him. But that's another thing-- sometimes you have to see the folks in jail. They don't like to take them out of jail since they don't have many deputies. Usually go down there and see them.

? _____ ?

Just depends on what happens. I won't be on call. It just depends. I alternate call and then I'm on call every Wednesday, and then every other week I'm on call the rest of the week, and then I'm off every Thursday, every Thursday afternoon.

?Any day of the week?

Not Thursday, Thursday afternoon is Navy Reserves. I go to Grand Prairie and I see the sick sailors and their dependents over there.

?Make any difference whether you're on call?

Oh, call usually doesn't make too much...I usually end up , sometimes I end up really late for the office if I'm on call. 'cause there'll be something come into the emergency room in the morning, and then I'll have to put a cast on or heaven only knows what. Call can be kind of exasperating when you have an office full of people and you've got to repair somebody's head or face or what-have-you in the emergency room.

?On call for the hospital?

Yeah, I just take care of emergency call that day which can make a real, real busy day and night, and it's a

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week at a clip. Last night I didn't get called at all. I think about midnightⁿ there was one call, and that was it. You know, that's real easy. I can do that all the time, but sometimes you have to go in and see somebody or maybe put^{them} in the hospital. I put a guy in Saturday with a, from an overturned truck, a commercial truck. Evidently the wind just whipped the back of his truck around, an empty semi, and the winds were really blowing, it was hitting about 50 miles an hour. Decatur is a little over 1,000 feet elevation, and it goes down in very direction from here. It's kind of on top of a knob. We get some pretty good winds. I think Fort Worth's about 500 feet, so as you come up the hill, you get up to R _____ and that's the steepest part and then it slowly works its way up to Decatur....

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