

News

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*****Three generations
of Drs. Boone.

DALLAS--One Texas family is truly a "Boone" to medicine.

The Boone family, descendants of the Rev. Claude L. Boone, a Baptist preacher from Central Texas, now consists of 13 doctors (several medical missionaries in Africa, two who staff a free clinic in Mexico, one a president of the Harris County Medical Society), several nurses and lots of potential.

There are about 70 in the clan, many of whom live in the Houston area. The Rev. Claude L.'s three sons, Drs. James B. Boone, Carroll L. Boone and Hal Buckner Boone, graduated from The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in the 1940s and '50s, each specializing in family practice.

On June 2 James Carroll Boone, the Rev. Boone's grandson and Dr. Hal Buckner Boone's son, will be the seventh Boone to graduate from Southwestern. He will be one of a class of 196 graduates.

Says Harris County Medical Society President Dr. Carroll L. Boone, "We are a close family. We grew up feeling we had to have an excuse for existing, that being alive is no justification for breathing. And we grew up in absolute poverty. This reinforced our loyalties to each other."

Dr. Carroll L. is active at the family's clinic in Pasadena outside Houston with his two physician nephews and one son. His son, Dr. Robert Boone, is a Southwestern graduate. "Since we were so poor, our heritage is all intellectual and philosophical. We've managed to give some of this to our children. The three older Boones were unique in our time since we were able to make it through school in spite of an absence of money."

Dr. Carroll L.'s nephew James and the other four children belonging to Dr. Hal B., grew up in Africa. Dr. Hal B., now retired as the result of an automobile accident in Kenya, spent 21 years in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya as a medical missionary with the Southern Baptist Convention. Combining medicine with a strong religious zeal, Dr. Hal B. says he held clinic "under thorn trees, under banana trees, under thatch roofs, in mud huts and finally, when churches were established, in mud churches." He finished building and opened a "first class" hospital in 1958 in Tanzania, and then in 1962 went into mobile medicine. Traveling in a Landrover, Dr. Hal would take a refrigerator full of medicines, equipment and instruments to treat villagers in the bush.

Three of Dr. Hal Buckner Boone's sons are graduates of Southwestern--Drs. Hal Browning Boone, Daniel Boone and James Carroll Boone. Of 18 grandchildren in Dr. Hal's family branch, 12 are now living in Africa. Two daughters, one son, one son-in-law and one daughter-in-law are medical missionaries in Kenya, Uganda and Barundi. Graduating son Dr. James Carroll Boone also plans to work in Africa after he finishes his residency training.

Dr. James B. Boone, oldest of the three brothers, is retired yet periodically travels to Mexico with his son, an orthopedic surgeon in El Paso. In the mountains of Mexico these two Boones staff a free clinic for 1,500 to 2,000 indigent patients.

It was Dr. James B., first of the Boones to graduate from Southwestern, who set the medical school precedent.

"A part of our psyche is commitment," says Dr. Carroll L., "that is, a life of service, a life of meaning."

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