

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, in the old Kirby House, served the area from 1932 to 1960.

ARING

"LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THAT SCHEDULE . .

ROBERT J. WALKER had just obtained his medical degree from Trinity Medical College, Toronto in 1895, when he received a letter from the pastor of the Congregational church, a Reverend W. Lindsay, asking him to set up a practice in Saugatuck because the doctor serving the area was an atheist.

Although the new Dr. Walker had plans to open an office in Adelaide, Ontario, he agreed to come to Saugatuck. Was he, like the pastor, concerned with the spiritual wellbeing of the people? Or was there something else about the community, or the financial arrangements, that made the offer more enticing?

His new position ran into a glitch when he went to the train station to buy a ticket. Train officials in Canada had never heard of Saugatuck, and couldn't locate it on their schedules because it didn't have a train station. He was routed out of his way, one story has it that he was sent to Saginaw, before he finally got near enough to Saugatuck that someone knew what he was talking about. Dr. Walker arrived on June 3, 1895 — by stage coach.



DR. ROBERT J. WALKER in a photo taken about 1899. He opened his practice in June of 1895 and served until December of 1943. A grateful village erected a memorial to Dr. Walker and his service to the area in the Saugatuck Village Square near his old office.



DR. AND MR. WALKER, nearly 50 years as village doctor. Because there was no local ambulance, he carried a stretcher in the back of his car. Retired in 1943.