

# NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release/Provided August 24, 2010

## **Family donates medical equipment to Glen Oaks Community College**

**CENTREVILLE---**Glen Oaks Community College nursing and health occupation students will benefit from medical equipment donated by the family of Dr. Harold and Lucy Olney. "It pleases us very much that our gifts to Glen Oaks are appreciated and useful to these college programs. The influence of our grandparents resulted in three generations of medical care in St. Joseph County, including three physicians and an RN graduate of the Glen Oaks Nursing Program," said a family spokesman.

"The Olney family donation in memory of Dr. Harold and Lucie Olney is very special to us since it represents a part of the local history of the medical care provided by them in the Centreville community and surrounding area," said Karen Ganger, Director of Nursing, adding "The Glen Oaks students, faculty and staff of the Nursing and Medical Assistant programs are appreciative of Dr. Harold and Lucie Olney's contribution. We are proud to have a small part of the legacy and we will strive to continue the quality standards of medical and nursing practice care that they have demonstrated."

Harold Elon Olney, MD, and his family have held a long tradition of medical care in St. Joseph County. Harold Elon Olney was born in the county in 1888. He graduated from Mendon High School, class of 1906, and graduated from the University of Illinois' Rush Medical School in 1916. He completed his internship at Passavant Memorial Hospital in Chicago, now a part of the Northwestern University Medical Complex. It was there that he met his future wife, Lucie Victoria Schivadecker, RN. He was accepted to a surgery residency at the new Mayo Clinic, but he surrendered that opportunity as he had a family to support and Mayo paid only room and board.

Harold and Lucie returned to Michigan in 1917 and began a general medicine practice in Centreville and Kalamazoo. They eventually moved to Detroit where he was on the staff of several hospitals and was Chief of Surgery at Harper Hospital in Detroit. In 1945, Dr. Olney "retired" back to St. Joseph County and soon had another busy, full time family medical practice. His influence and support assured the careers in medicine of his brother, nephew, and granddaughter, all physicians. His great niece earned a Registered Nurse degree from Glen Oaks Community College.

Dr. Olney died in his office, reading an x-ray, on a Saturday morning in 1965, six months after the death of his wife. He had practiced medicine for almost 50 years and was loved by all those who knew him, said the family.

**Photographs included below...**



**Harold Elon Olney, MD, upon graduation from medical school.**



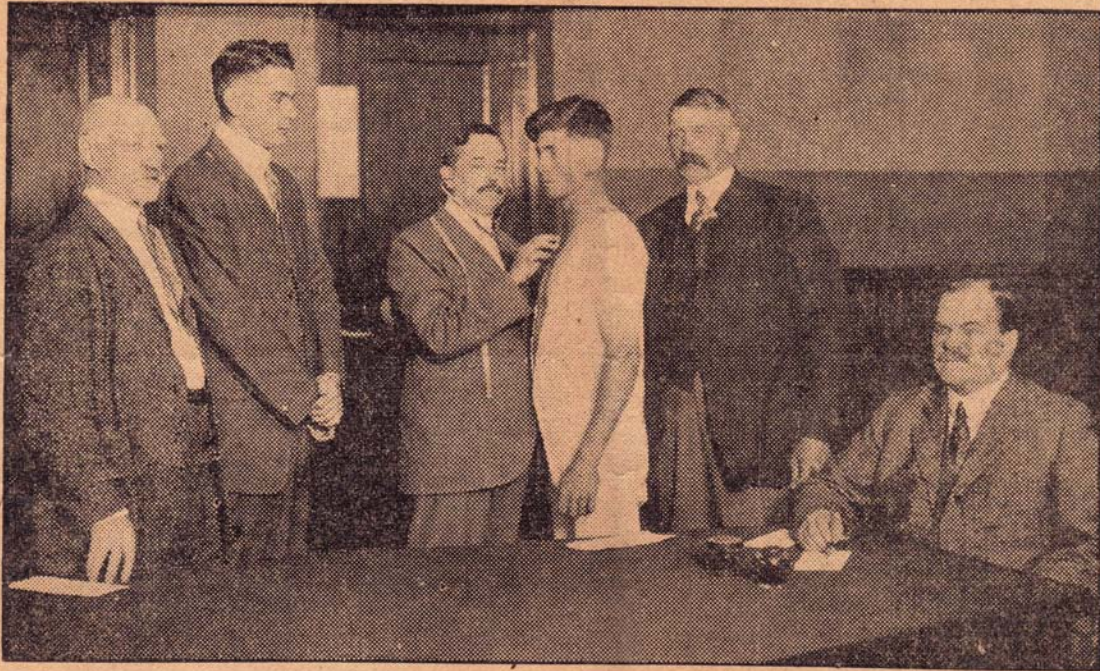
**Lucie Olney, RN.**



**Dr. Olney by Centreville ambulance in 1919.**

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Above are the first three volunteers to leave St. Joseph county for army duty to fill the quota for the first drawing under the selective service law. They are Howard F. McLennan, Keith H. Underwood and Clare E. Smith. Chairman H. P. Morley of the St. Joseph county board is shown addressing McLennan, before the group left Centerville for camp Monday night.

Below is reproduced from the files the scene at Centerville 23 years ago. Commercial Photo



Three Rivers, Aug. 7, 1917 — Photo showing the St. Joseph county board beginning the work of examining men in the selective draft for the National Army. Reading from left to right, C. R. Talbot, Dr. H. E. Olney, Dr. Bryant Weed, Samuel George Van Ness, the first man examined, Sheriff Eli Cupp, County Clerk E. E. Harwood. The photo was taken a few minutes after seven o'clock this morning by Photographer V. H. Van Horn. The negative was brought to Three Rivers, developed and the photo was on the way to the Crescent Engraving Co. of Kalamazoo, where everything was in readiness for making the half-tone, which was brought back to Three Rivers in time for the regular afternoon edition of The Daily Commercial, the trip both to Centerville and Kalamazoo being made by auto for this purpose.

**1917 newspaper clipping picturing Dr. Olney.**