

Stalking My Hometown
1924-1947
Doc Halleck Recovers His Stolen Microscope

Doc Halleck was a small-town General Practitioner, but with big-city smarts.

For my birth until I moved away 7 years later, Doc Halleck was my doctor. From the farm town of Winamac in northwest Indiana, he shared the healthcare of the Pulaski County population of about 12,000 in the 1950s with four or five other physicians.

As a young child, I hated visiting Doc Halleck. His office “smelled funny” (likely Lysol), and I usually had to drop my pants and get a shot. While those inoculations were for my own good, between the indignity and the needle sting, I was very unhappy. In fact, at the tender age of 4, I once expressed my dissatisfaction with him and his needles with foul, foul language that I had heard from my father when he was drinking. My mother, a classmate of his nurse, Eva Ewing, was red-faced. But when my paternal grandmother heard, she was tickled pink.

Doc Halleck had come to Winamac in 1927 one year after graduating from Medical School at Indiana University.

In June of 1933, someone stole Doc Halleck's microscope from his practice. A month later after having given up recovering it, he went to Indianapolis to buy another used microscope from one of its many pawnshop. At one pawnshop, he found his original microscope.

Later that fall, when he purchased his first x-ray machine, you can be sure it was firmly bolted to the floor.

It was another 30 years, before I saw him again. I returned for my great uncle Bill's visitation and funeral. Feeling confident at 36, I introduced myself to Doc Halleck, expecting a broad smile and a glad hand. He barely acknowledged my greeting. Either he had forgotten me over the intervening 30 years, or he remembered my foul mouth at 4.

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County meanest thief steals from invalid and Doc Halleck

Thieves Get Tiny Turkeys, Physician's Microscope

The county's meanest thief entered the back porch at the home of Pat and Miss Jennie Higgins some time last Friday night and stole twenty three-week-old turkeys. The little turkeys and the hen had been placed in a box on the porch to keep them safe from rats but only the small ones were taken. Mr. Higgins has been an invalid for a number of years.

A sneak-thief made a haul at the office of Dr. H. J. Halleck the latter part of last week, when he carried off a valuable microscope. The instrument was removed from the glass dome under which it was kept, and carried from the office while no one was present to ask questions. Several hours elapsed before it was missed. The doctor is offering a reward for information leading to its recovery.

It is possible that the thief who stole baby turkeys from a 76-year-old invalid and his sister felt so small that he needed the physician's high-powered microscope to see himself.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 1 Jun 1933: 1. Microfilm.

Doc Halleck's microscope swiped

A MICROSCOPIC PERSON

Some person of microscopic caliber stepped into Dr. H. J. Halleck's office one day last week when there was no one else about and left with a valuable microscope. The doctor's words were anything but microscopic when he discovered his loss, and he is offering a liberal reward for information leading to the return of his instrument.

—Buy in Winamac—

Winamac (IN) Republican 1 Jun 1933: 1. Microfilm.

Doc Halleck finds microscope

Own Microscope Offered Doctor by Pawnbroker

A microscope stolen about six weeks ago from the office of Dr. H. J. Halleck was restored to him Tuesday — or rather he himself located it in an Indianapolis pawn shop.

Having given up hope of regaining the instrument, he decided to look around the pawn shops to see what he could pick up to take the place of the lost one. He was shown two or three, and suddenly discovered that one of them bore the number of his. He was able to further identify it, and brought it home after taking the matter up through the police and paying what the pawnbroker said he loaned on it.

The instrument had been pawned by some person giving Noblesville as his address.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 20 Jul 1933: 1. Microfilm.

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RECOVERS MICROSCOPE

Dr. H. J. Halleck returned from Indianapolis Tuesday evening much pleased with a fruitful trip as he recovered the valuable microscope which was stolen from his office May 26. The instrument was found by Dr. Halleck himself in a prominent pawnshop, where it had been "hocked" by the thief. Acting on a hunch, the doctor went into the pawnshop on the pretext of buying a microscope. Recognizing the instrument and checking the number, he left the pawn shop and went to police headquarters, where records showed it had been pawned the day following the theft.

Winamac (IN) Republican 20 Jul 1933: 8. Microfilm.

Doc Halleck gets X-ray

**New X-Ray Apparatus
Has Modern Features**

A modern X-ray machine has this week been installed in the office of Dr. H. J. Halleck. It is described as one of the latest models, mounted on wheels so that it is easily moved and turned in any position. The equipment is entirely shock proof, thus eliminating much of the danger of operating some of the older machines.

The shock proof feature is due to recent improvements by which all high-tension units are immersed in oil, similar to high-tension transformers. This enabled the builders to construct an apparatus in unusually compact form, making it easy of manipulation but detracting in no way from its power.

It is the same unit that has recently been installed in both the Logansport hospitals.

Pulaski County (IN) Democrat 28 Sep 1933: 1. Microfilm.

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HALLECK INSTALLS X-RAY

Dr. H. J. Halleck, this week received one of the latest models of X-ray equipment in the form of a Victor shock-proof machine, built by the General Electric X-ray Corporation. A representative of the company was here until Wednesday when he completed setting up the apparatus and giving it a thorough test.

The X-ray is a neat, compact but powerful unit in which all danger of shock to patient or operator has been eliminated.

It is of the same type as that recently installed in the two Logansport hospitals.

This new equipment enables Dr. Halleck to make X-ray diagnosis and give moderate X-ray treatment.

Winamac (IN) Republican 28 Sep 1933: 1. Microfilm.