

June DeAngelo (formerly June Lucia) in Florida  
Telephone Interview

I was secretary to Dr. Tom Walker [surgeon, Charlotte Hungerford Hospital] for 26 years until he retired. I knew Dr. Brad Walker as his father - I was in his company a lot, and I worked with him briefly at the hospital. He never did his rounds early (shift was from 3 to 11 p.m.); he came in at 10 p.m. because he always had to make his house calls first. That was a little disturbing, because we had to wake the patients up. But he was loved by all - he was very kind and he took care of the nurses, too, even if they were not his patients.

Fees: If you could pay, you paid, and if not, his patients brought him produce. He never pressured anyone for their money. He said to me once, "Did you hear those young whippersnappers are charging more if they have to make house calls at night?" He was furious. "If you need the doctor in the middle of the night, you need him. Does it make any difference when you get sick?" Half the time he didn't charge anybody - he was a very giving man. If you're not making any money, your bills gotta be paid. Sometimes he had a dispute with his wife over this, but he didn't care.

[Katie Walker?] - I can't say anything about her one way or the other.

[Diabetes] I don't think Dr. Walker was a diabetic. I'm sure he wasn't when I knew him. His son Tom was a diabetic, that I knew, but not him.

[Replies to questions about specific public health issues, re: VNA]

Polio - Polio was quite a thing back then.

Relationship to alternative medicine - Alternative medicine was a no-no in our day. He didn't like chiropractors or acupuncturists. The doctors, they didn't want new ideas coming in and stepping on their toes, interfering with their medical practice. He didn't want any chiropractors, trust me! Of course, some of them were just quacks. Younger men today are really very much better about this. They [alternative medicine practitioners] are medically aware and pretty smart these days.