

In Memorium

THADDEUS P. SEARS of Colorado could have had (for him) no more classical exodus. Truly he “died with his boots on” in a glorious effort to reach his favorite society meeting. The place of this sad happening was Tallahassee, Florida. The meeting that of The Society of Nuclear Medicine in Miami.

Thad was born Aug. 20, 1892, in Leadville, Colorado, the second of a three-generation line of Colorado doctors. His father, Dr. Mark H. Sears, was a pioneer Leadville physician in the 1880's, and a member of the first graduating class of Northwestern University Medical School. Dr. Mark Sears later came to Denver and was a professor in the old Gross Medical College which later merged with the University of Colorado Medical School.

Dr. Robert Sears, son of Thad and grandson of Dr. Mark Sears, is a Lakewood pediatrician.

Thad attended the University of Denver, 1911 to 1915, received his bachelors degree, then attended CU Medical School 1915 to 1920, with a year out for army service in World War I. He gained his medical degree in 1920 and interned at Mercy Hospital, 1920-21. His specialty was internal medicine. He was a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and a fellow of the American College of Physicians.

Since retiring in 1962, Thad had been assistant to the dean for alumni affairs at CU Medical School. He was executive secretary of the Colorado Medical Alumni Association. In 1924 he was made out-patient physician at Colorado General Hospital. He became a faculty instructor at the CU Medical School in 1933 and was promoted in 1957 to associate professor of medicine. After 1962, he was associate professor emeritus.

During World War II, Thad was a colonel in the Army Medical Corps, serving as chief of Medicine in several large military hospitals. He returned to Denver in 1946 as chief of medical service, Denver Veterans Administration, stationed first at Fort Logan.

THE SOCIETY OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE:

Thad was local arrangements chairman for the meeting in Estes Park June 1960 and did such a tremendous job it lead to his election as president-elect in the 1962 meeting which, of course, progressed to presidency at the end of the 1963 meeting and his leadership as president at Berkeley in 1964.

To say that “we will all miss him” is trite, of course, but to omit it would be unforgivable.

He is survived by Therese B. Sears, amongst others. Those of us who had the privilege of intimacy with his operations knows that she was a key, not subject to recutting.

ASA SEEDS, M.D.
HISTORIAN.