

Life Of A Country Doctor
Krum Physician, James C. Gose
By Laura Meine
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Krum -The woman who was critically ill lived several miles outside of town. The Krum physician, Dr. James Caughey Gose, hitched his horse to the wagon and with his son, drove to her farm.

The woman needed surgery, but the closest hospital, in Dallas, was too far for her to make the trip in a wagon.

The country doctor, called in Dr. Inge and a nurse from Denton. They cleared a table in the woman's home, scrubbed it clean, and placed the woman on the table to begin surgery.

Chloroform was all that was available to ease her pain. The doctors removed a large tumor and the woman lived.

The event and others like it filled the life of Krum's last doctor. Practicing in the early 1900's, Dr. Gose had none of the modern equipment available today.

Today, a plaster cast would have taken care of the young man who fell off a horse. All Dr. Gose could do for that man was to go to the barn, get some boards and cut them for splints. The man's leg was crooked, and he walked with a limp, but he got around without crutches and lived to an old age.

Dr. Gose, born April 30, 1858, in Milam, Mo., moved with his family in 1859 to Stony, west of Krum, where he lived for a year until they settled in Decatur.

Dr. Gose married Annie Lee Chance of Dexter, Cooke County, Tex. They had one child, Paul, born in 1885.

The couple taught at a country school called Pringle before he went to St. Louis in 1890 to study medicine.

His first medical practice was set up at Beavers Switch (now Electra). He also practiced at Decatur and Alvord before settling in Krum in 1898, where he spent 47 years as a county doctor. He was never ill and never missed a day from the time he opened his practice.

For a number of years Dr. and Mrs. Gose ran a drug store in addition to his practice. The store burned and he never rebuilt.

The Gose family faced the loss of all their possessions two more times in fires which destroyed their home.

Mrs. Gose, herself a busy and creative person, taught kindergarten in their home and also gave private art lessons.

She doubled as nurse when nurses were not available on short notice. She had several huge white aprons, kept immaculate for those occasions.

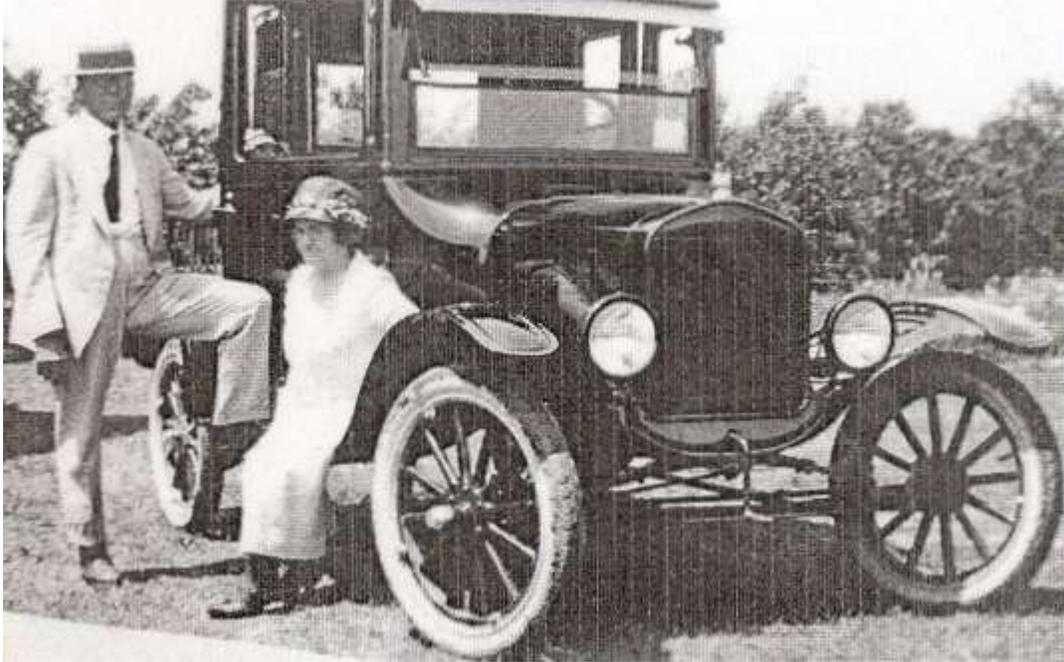
Dr. Gose, a lifetime member of the Methodist Church, was known to be a devoted church leader and a strict disciplinarian. He whittled carvings in his spare time, and his son has some of his handiwork.

Dr. Gose's transportation until 1912 was a horse and buggy. The car he bought was the seventh one in Denton County. Two or three years later he bought another one. With the bad roads and the many miles he traveled caring for patients, he wore out several cars before he retired.

Dr. Gose never made it rich as a physician. When he retired he marked all unpaid bills paid. He told his son that he did not want to go his Maker holding anything against any of his fellowmen.

Dr. Gose died in the Medical Arts Hospital in Dallas April 10, 1945. Mrs. Gose died three years later. Both are buried in the Gose Cemetery in Decatur.

From battling an epidemic of typhoid fever to delivering close to 6,000 babies, Dr. Gose fulfilled the busy, satisfying role of the country doctor, a role that has now disappeared from the American panorama.



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