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Guide to the Alfred Gras Interview, 2005

Alfred Gras was a graduate of Duke University Medical School in 1944. He went into internal medical practice in Newark and Nutley, New Jersey; and Vermont.

Descriptive Summary

Collection Title: Alfred Gras Interview, 2005

Creator: Gras, Alfred

Extent: 1 record storage box, 1 item, .25 linear feet

Processed By:

Date Completed:

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Biographical Note

Dr. Alfred Gras was a graduate of Duke University Medical School in 1944. He was the twenty-third reported case in the New England Journal of Medicine as a recipient of penicillin, an event which occurred when he was a student at Duke University Medical School. Dr. Gras went into internal medical practice in Newark and Nutley, New Jersey; and Vermont.

Collection Overview

Contains audiotapes and transcript of an oral history interview with Alfred Gras. Gras discusses his experiences with penicillin as a medical student at Duke University School of Medicine.

Online Catalog Headings

Gras, Alfred

Oral histories.

Interviews.

Transcripts.

Related Material

Detailed Description of the Collection

Interview on September 23, 2005

Dr. Gras discusses his renaissance of interest in his own receipt of penicillin as medical student; notes from his father's journal about the event; Mary Poston; David Tillerson Smith; sulfonamides; his near death and miraculous recovery from bilateral staphylococcal pneumonia from use of penicillin; availability of penicillin at the time; Dr. Edward Levy and Dr. John Peck setting up penicillin drip; Dr. Levy and Dr. Peck telling him he was receiving a vitabrew in his leg; vein problems due to the treatment; further use of the penicillin extracted from his urine; obtaining the penicillin; his lack of having heard about penicillin; write-up of case in New England Journal of Medicine; cost (none) of his experimental penicillin versus estimated cost of same amount (\$10,000); coming to Duke Medical School; lack of event status of the incident among his peers; cessation of penicillin due to complications from intravenous delivery; further career.

Box 1

Interview tapes [1 audiotape (30 minutes total)]

Transcript [11 pages]