



COUNTRY DOCTOR

When the new residents start the next academic year, it will be 60 years since the unforgettable photo essay, “Country Doctor,” was published in *Life* magazine, Sept. 20, 1948. It still evokes the essence of the hardworking “GP” who was called on to care for patients from birth to their last breath. The photographer, W. Eugene Smith, spent weeks with Dr. Ernest Ceriani, who cared for patients in and far beyond the small town of Kremmling, Colo. “Country Doctor” is an enduring portrait of the family physician. This issue presents some of the iconic images from “Country Doctor,” in tribute to family medicine’s legacy.

Linda K. Hengstler, Editorial Director

Dr. Ernest Ceriani, in the hospital emergency room, has just stitched up the head of a 2-year-old girl after she was kicked by a horse ▶



PHOTOS BY W. EUGENE SMITH/TIME LIFE PICTURES/GETTY IMAGES

“Strong Medicine for America”

LETTERS

Your letters in response to our editorial* about the “Strong Medicine for America” effort by the AAFP brought to light the tie that binds all of us, irrespective of our varying personal perspectives—dedication to providing the best care available

Jeff Susman, MD, Editor-in-Chief

The expanded letters section in this issue excerpts as many of your letters as space permits.

* *J Fam Pract.* 2008;57:148

Let’s embrace our “old GP” legacy

I harken back to when I was applying to medical school. I was working at a Defense Department Supply Center in Richmond, Virginia. Although I was in the military, I worked almost entirely with civilians, who were pleased about my decision to become a doctor. They were particularly happy that I was going to be a family doctor, like the “old GP” they grew up with,” who seemed able to fix anything. We shouldn’t turn our backs on that legacy—we should embrace it. The less Madison Avenue slickness, the better. We function best when we are identified with Main Street, not Wall Street.

Wayne S. Strouse, MD Pen Yan, NY