

Dr. J. W. Stokes - 1930
Entering His Office



Dr. J. W. (James William) Stokes

September 16, 1898 – May 28, 1977

James William Stokes was born in Springfield, South Carolina to Methodist Reverend George Edwin and T. Elwell Stokes. He was a Corporal in the medical corps for the U.S. Army during WWI. Following his father's career path in the ministry, he initially enrolled at Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. After serving three years in the ministry, in 1924 he shifted his focus to medicine and attended Vanderbilt University, where he earned his doctorate degree.

In 1930, through contacts in the Methodist Church, he came to Hinton, set up a practice and served our beloved community as well as anyone could.

Dr. Stokes was a mainstay in Summers County for over 50 years. He once said he had long ago lost count, but he estimates he had delivered over 8,000 babies in Summers County.

He was the City and County Health Officer and Coroner for over 25 years and served on the Summers County Board of Education for 22 years, serving as President until 1963, and was Hinton High School Bobcats team physician from 1935 until his retirement in 1972.

His generous "giving back to the community" will never be forgotten. He was a member of the Methodist church, on the board of stewards and the president of the John Wesley Bible Class. He was also a member of the Elks, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Moose, and Chambers of Commerce, and Governor of Rotary's District 755 in 1962-63. He was Hinton city health officer and Summers County health officer for more than twenty years, physician for two local Summer camps for children, and physician for the Hinton Bobcats. Aside from playing the organ, he was an avid amateur photographer. He also logged in some 700 hours as a private pilot before heart attacks made flying his own plane too hazardous.

"Is he thinking of retiring? Doc put it this way, as he sits in his Hinton office: "My grave marker has already been installed on the hill at Restwood. When I retire, that's where I'll be. As long as I can put one foot in front of another, I'll be here." - Taken from The Rotarian June 1965.

The Stokes Scholarship fund, donor-advised by the Hinton Rotary Club and housed in the Hinton Area Foundation, is the oldest scholarship fund in the county, having given out scholarships annually since 1963. Dr. Stokes was the archetypal country doctor serving Summers County from about 1930 until his death in 1977. He was much beloved and delivered so many babies that many county residents have "Stokes" as a middle name. He was very active in the community, serving for many years as the President of the Summers County Board of Education. A stalwart of the Hinton Rotary Club, he is the only member to have ever served as District Governor of the Southern District of West Virginia Rotary International.

In 1984, Dr. Stokes was posthumously named into the West Virginia Public Health Hall of Fame.

Passing through Hinton, in the Avis area, you travel over Stokes Drive, named after Dr. Stokes. The significance of this area is that the once proud Hinton High School football stadium was named after Dr. Stokes. Thus, this through-way is called Stokes Drive.

Dr. J.W. (James William) Stokes

We Salute You!

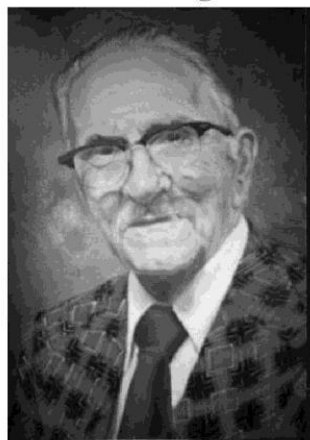
Dr. J.W. Stokes - 1965



**Dr. J.W. Stokes
with pet, "Partner"
ca 50s**



**Dr. J.W. Stokes
Painting**



AT THE GAME —

**Dr. J.W. Stokes
Hinton High School - Team Physician
ca 60s**

