



**Dr. Carl C. Fuson*

EARLY PHYSICIANS OF MILLIKEN

Information courtesy of Lois Ann Onorato

Dr. George W. Sibbold was the first physician to practice in Milliken. He arrived in Milliken in 1909 from Denver and moved into the house built for Judge Milliken at 119 South Frances Avenue. Dr. Sibbold was appointed for the Denver, Laramie & Northwestern Railway to Denver. His first week proved to be a busy one. William Francis, apparently a member of the railway's construction gang, suffered a dislocated ankle and a crushed foot. Sam Collins suffered a badly crushed and sprained wrist, and Bud Reed developed a bad attack of pneumonia. Dr. Sibbold stayed in Milliken only for a short time returning to Denver in February, 1910.

The year 1910 marked a flurry of new doctors in town. In March Dr. E. H. Bidwell arrived from Connecticut. Another physician, Dr. Grantham, arrived in 1910. Apparently neither of these physicians stayed for very long; however, when the third physician showed up, he stayed until his death 47 years later.

In June, 1910 Dr. Carl C. Fuson and his wife, Grace, arrived in Milliken from Denver and established an office for the practice of medicine in the Antlers Hotel. Mrs. Fuson was a nurse and actively worked in their medical practice until her death. There is some suggestion that the Fuson family moved into the home of R. M. Benton at 120 S. Frances Avenue; however, there is no supporting information, and it seemed unlikely. Mayor Benton and his wife started building a new home in 1909 and lived in one of their commercial buildings until the construction was completed. No information can be found that they were willing to move out of the new home in 1910 to make room for the Fuson family.

In July Dr. and Mrs. Fuson moved their office from the Antlers Hotel to a room in the First State Bank Building on Broad Street. In November the Fuson's opened a hospital in their home (location uncertain.)

In 1915 the Fuson's hired H. W. Richmond, a local builder, to construct a 12' X 25' brick office building for the practice at 904 Broad Street. It served as their office for the remainder of their careers. A January 1916 article in the Milliken Mail reported that Dr. Fuson would soon be in his new office with the plasterer being finished and the finishing work being done. In 1959 after Dr. Carl Fuson's death Clyde Bejarano purchased the brick building where he opened a barber shop.

During World War I Carl was a major in the U.S. Army and served in France and England. In 1917 **Dr. G. N. Towers** and his wife arrived in Milliken and moved into the Mentz house on Broad Street. Dr. Towers planned to take over the Fuson practice while Dr. Fuson served in the Armed Forces; however, Dr. Towers stayed only two months. **Dr. W. B. Wilson** became the doctor for Milliken in October, 1917 when he took over the practice while Dr. Fuson was overseas. During that time Dr. Wilson was faced with an epidemic that kept him working day and night. To free up more of his time the Town Council hired a nurse and a driver to assist him.

After his tour of duty Dr. Fuson returned to his family and his practice. About that time another physician moved to Milliken. According to the article in the Milliken Mail dated 7/15/1920 "**Dr. C. A. Cattermole**, who comes from Boulder, has purchased the fixtures and goodwill of Dr. W. R. Wilson and has taken over his practice here in his place. Dr. Cattermole comes well recommended and no doubt will do well in his profession. Dr. Wilson has gone to Lake City, Idaho."

In 1920 the Fusons moved into a house at 301 Laura Avenue which served as both their residence and a hospital for long-term and maternity patients. It served as what today would be called a birthing center, and a large number of the residents of Milliken and the surrounding area were born there over the years. Later when Grace became ill and could no longer help with these patients, Dr. Fuson was invited to continue providing care to his patients out of the home of Mrs. Nazarenus who lived on Marjorie Avenue. The house number now is 500 Broad Street. Mrs. Nazarenus also helped to care for these patients.

Grace had periods of bad health starting in 1943 and had to quit working with her husband. She passed away in September, 1944. Carl Fuson died in July, 1958 after spending 47 years as a physician in Milliken.

