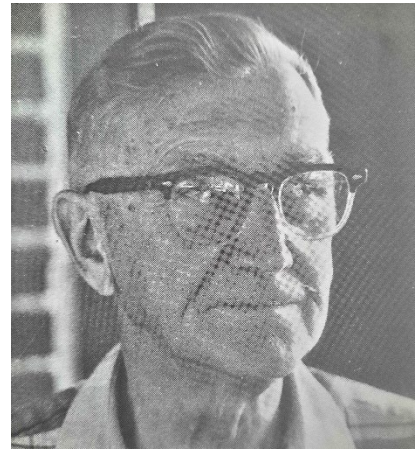


CULTURAL MOMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 CELEBRATES DR. NORMAN TRUEMNER AND HIS DENTIST CHAIR

"Open wide," the dentist said to his golfer patient. The examination was simple. "The verdict is in... There's a cavity, a real 'hole-in-one!'"

Norman Truemner came into the world in 1895. Little did anyone know that when he grew up and graduated from the Royal College of Dental Surgeons at the University of Toronto in 1918, that this Dr. Truemner would serve as a Lieutenant in the Canadian Army Dental Corps in World War I and that he would be the dentist in Arthur, Ontario.



Norman married Lora Connors, with whom he had three sons: Ross, Morley, and Paul.

After purchasing Dr. W. Elgie's dental practice in Arthur, Norman began his dental practice in 1919. He was the dentist to many generations of Arthurites during his 50 years of practice.



In this village he could walk to work. The Truemner home was at 150 Clarke Street, adorned with magnificent shrubbery and a goldfish pond in the front garden. His office was on the main street, on the 3rd floor above Rebel's clothing store, where the John F. Smith Insurance office was located.

Many stories could be told of his patients' experiences. In the 1920s tooth extractions were \$1. He was always dressed in a white lab coat and was very much the gentleman.

Dr. Truemner retired in 1967. His first dentist chair was a wooden structure. When he retired he brought this circa-1930s chair to the summer kitchen on Clarke Street. Lora insisted that the old

chair be gone and burned. Norman chopped it up and burned it!

Norman later used a Samuel Stockton White dental chair built in New Jersey. This family-owned company, created in 1844, is still making dental equipment and products which continue to advance dentistry.

This chair was sent to Dr. Stanley Winegard and his wife, Dr. Nadine McEwen (2nd eldest of six daughters of Grant and Ethel McEwen). It then travelled to Timmins where it was on display for 14 years. Upon their retirement, Drs. Winegard and McEwen kindly donated the chair and a mahogany X-ray cabinet (circa 1904) to the Arthur and Area Historical Society.

How to relocate the chair back to Arthur? Historical Society member Wayne Orr, with his pickup truck and livestock trailer, and Jack Benham drove to Timmins, loaded the chair and cabinet, and drove them to the Historical Rooms at the David M. Kozinets Centre in Arthur.

The Weber Dental Manufacturing Company made the X-ray equipment. There was limited radiation protection in those days. The duration of exposure time for an X-ray was several minutes, unlike the seconds it takes today.

In April 2025 these items were moved once more, in a Township of Wellington North truck, bound for the Arthur and Area Community Centre, placed on the elevator, and up to another new home in the Upper Hall.

The members of the Arthur and Area Historical Society welcome you to visit the S.S. White dental chair. It may trigger a memory if you sit in it. Permanently closed for dental extractions, but open to your stories!

Submitted by Faye Craig, Wellington North Cultural Roundtable