

Interview with Dr. Carlson

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Adam Michaud

Me- Interview with Dr Carlson, December 9, 1998

Me- What's your full name?

Dr. Carlson- My full name is Wayne Bruce Carlson

Me- Where were you born, and when?

Dr. C.- I was born at Marquette General Hospital then known as St. Luke's Hospital in Marquette, Michigan. October the 14th 1954

Me- Did you enjoy your childhood?

Dr. C- Yes, very much

Me- What kind of things did you do with your friends?

Dr. C- As a kid?

Me- Yeah

Dr. C.- Well... Since you're the only one hearing this, well I have to be careful of what I say because you know, we lived in Michigamme. And so as is today then there wasn't a lot to do in Michigamme. That kids may normally think of doing. There's just not a lot there. The lake was there so we spent a lot of time swimming, and you know playing around the lake in those days. One of my friends was Dave, I spoke him in the sermon. Dave Kerrinan. And we had a lot of fun together, played a lot of baseball a lot of community things. Not organized but kids of all ages would play baseball. Everybody played, 5th graders and seniors, they all played one game, and so that fun. In the winter, a lot of sled riding. They didn't sand the streets then, they plowed them but didn't sand them. So we could ride on a sleigh for three miles. Start by the school, and go all the way down to the lake. Maybe 2 miles. We did normal things, got into some trouble. Not bad, I did my share of smoking (Laughing and smiling) I was so guilty that I couldn't sleep. My parents wouldn't have worry, because I would go up in the

middle of the night, and wake them up and tell them that I was smoking. Dirty, filthy things but mostly peaceful things around home.
Me- When you were growing up what were some of the changes in technology that happened?

Dr. C- Well, Television. Television was the biggest that I appreciated in my childhood was the change in T.V. We got a t.v. when I was three years old, and it was very small screened, and only had one channel. The programming, it wasn't all day. So as I grew on my childhood we enjoyed more t.v. But there was only one channel, so everybody either watched t.v. and watched the same thing or you didn't. I didn't grow up with Sesame Street, I grew up with Captain Kangaroo. Do you know about that?

Me- I've heard of it.

Dr. C- Yeah, with Mr. Green Jeans, and Mr. Moose. Remember this?
(Asking my mom)

Mom- Yeah

Dr. C- See your mom remembers this. The other thing was technology with telephones. I remember when we had a 3 digit phone number, it was 291. If you wanted to make a long distance call, my dad's aunt lived with us, and she assisted us _____? There was no _____ either, and sometimes the call would just get cut off. Another thing you might say is in the wintertime the electricity would go out, and you'd have a power out for four days. The snow piled up, and the snowplows wouldn't come for three days. Other technology things might be, the cars of course changed, but functionally they were the same.

Me- Where did you go to college?

Dr. C- I went to college at Michigan Tech. in Houghton (I quit that) and then NMU for one semester. So I went to Northern for one semester then I quit that too, changed over to Social Work. But then I went back to Tech. and I finished at Tech.

Me- So how long did you end up going to college for?

Dr. C- 11 years.

Me- When did you first want to become a doctor?

Dr. C- Well, I didn't grow up with this desire. As I got close to graduation, everybody wanted to know. I was known around the school, so they'd ask. They'd go Carlton what are you going to do? Well it got to bug me so much that I said I was going to go to dental school. I mean I didn't have anything against it, I just had to say something to keep people off my back. And I guess it just stuck. Then after I quit my first year at Tech. like I said I switched to Social Work.

"You don't have to put all this down, because this sociology stuff is just a pain. You remember those, and you talk about what people spend their time doing. I mean it's just oooohhh!! It's terrible." (We are now talking about the question again.) The more I start thinking about it, so I went back to Tech. for pre-med. My best friend, Dave, he was a good resource for me. I have to tell you that God has really lead me to this. I prayed about this, and I just listened to him. Um, am I talking to much?

Me- No, that's fine. Hey, maybe your getting me an A. (Laughing)

Me- How have things changed since you were the patient, and now. (With you being the doctor). Like tell me some major things that have changed

Dr. C- In medicine?

Me- Yeah,

Dr. C- There have been lots of changes in medication, and diagnostic tests. Things like blood tests. In some ways technology has passed up our ability to cure. It can show us things that we have no idea how to cure. A lot of changes in drugs, I think the most dramatic thing that I have seen is how to treat heart disease. I would have to say that is the most dramatic thing I have seen. At this time there are more treatments for the heart, there is one where new blood vessels are actually formed. In fact right now I have two patients that are who are undergoing this treatment. It's called Innergenetic Stimulation. The new blood vessels aren't taken from another part of the body, they are actually formed right there.

Me- Besides being a doctor what other jobs have you had?

Dr. C- My favorite job was when I worked at a sawmill. I had the very prestigious name of sawdust man. We earned \$3.70 an hour. So every now and then 80 bucks would go into my savings account and I had 18 dollars to do what I wanted. So I liked working at the sawmill. Oh, over one summer I worked at a gas station. I really like that job too. Um, I was hired at a grocery store when I was sixteen. In Michigamme there wasn't many customers, but oh the owners were drunks. So as it turned out myself and this other gal ran the store all summer. We ran the whole thing. This one guy would come in and he'd stagger through the store once then go to his house. (Which was behind the store). His wife would come out one morning and she'd be okay until about 10:30. Then she was just out of it. I'm not kidding. Blurry eyes, staggering, I mean we would have to walk her back to her house around noon just to get her out of the customers way. I just couldn't stand working there. So we took it upon ourselves to clean this place up. I mean everything. We took stuff on the shelves and swept. We had that thing looking pretty ship shape. Then I became the meat man. I had one half hour of training then he sent me out to the meat section. I'm not kidding. (Laughing) There are these big chunks of beef, and I'm manhandling them up on the bansaw. And I'm cutting up steaks for people and pork chops, and I've never done this in my life. I did it with a smile and apologetically and told the people they were going to get a wonderful steak. Because I didn't know how to make the most out of this piece of meat. It worked out it was really great. The downside of this was I finished and went back out to the floor. They were drunk of course most of the time and they didn't trust me. The owners didn't. It took me till October to get my money, I'd go there on Friday and they'd be blitzed. So they'd go, here's twenty bucks and I'd have to go back the next week. I got a job when I was in 3rd grade, no 4th grade. (Can't understand it)

Me- What were some of the toughest choices you have had to make?

Dr. C- um, deciding on medical decisions, those can be difficult. (Quiet)
(can't understand)

(HAD TO SWITCH SIDES ON THE TAPE)

Dr. C- Those decisions, some treatment decisions. Not all the choices are good.

Me- If you had to could you single out one person that changed your life?

Dr. C- Well..... generally, my confirmation pastor. He changed my life, because he told me a lot about Jesus. My dad also. In different ways my dad did. I'm not happy to say this, but I wasn't always good to my dad. It was not right. I wish I could just take it all back. He said make a contribution to society. He said I don't care what you do, just do something. On nice days he'd come in and shut the t.v. off. He'd say go on, go outside. He introduced me to the faith, I'm not sure he even knows it. He introduced me though.

Me- What was the most stressful event in your life?

Dr. C- Um, probably Gene's first _____. That was tough to get through. It was an important part in my life though, I think it made me a little tougher.

Me- When you retire what do you plan on doing? What would you like to do.

Dr. C- I would like to do some volunteer work. There are lots of places around the world that need help. We've (Him and his wife) talked about this. I think I'd like to travel though.

Me- How do you feel about the changes that have happened during you life? Not necessarily work related, we can try to get your mind off that for a while.

Dr. C- Ok, I would say the changes in society. Society has gone ways that I couldn't have seen. Um, I don't believe in youth unisia, or mercy killing. That's just wrong. I know they can be a big help with work, but I just don't like that idea. Talking about the abortion that's so big now. Um, I don't back that up either. I feel it goes against my creed as a doctor.

Me- Um, I hear the word creed a lot. What does it mean?

Dr. C- My creed is statement or oath that I took when I became a doctor.

Me- Okay. What was the happiest moment in your life?

Dr. C- Oh, marriage and children. Joy beyond words.

Me- Jumping from a high point to a low point, what was the saddest moment in your life?

Dr. C- Probably deaths, those are always tough to get through.

Me- If you can keep from turning red, what was the most embarrassing event in your life?

Dr. C- (Laughing) There's some things that I wouldn't say, but there was one time I was in the NMU band. I went up to play a solo, and I just totally forgot the entire thing. I couldn't blow a note. So I just went and sat back down. The rest of the band playing the background music. You could tell that the crowd was expecting a solo, and they didn't know what to do. That was really embarrassing. Well, no I couldn't say that. Well, I'll tell you one more. I went bowling once, and the lanes were lit near the pins. But not at the release where you let the ball go. I slipped when I was releasing the ball, and the momentum just carried me all the way down the lane. About two thirds. (Everyone laughs) So there I am like a beached whale on this bowling alley and everyone could see me because I was in the light.

Me- Would you say that you have had a pretty good life?

Dr. C- Yes, very good.

Me- What nicknames did you have when you were growing up?

Dr. C- Let's see..... Actually the nickname Wayne-O but there was one guy who called me Who. (Finish) So he calls me Who Boyga. And where this came from I don't know. Then in college some people called me Wine-O. I didn't drink though.

Me- Are you surprised about all the changes that have happened in your life? Not just technology.

Dr. C- Amazed might be a better word. It's amazing. I'm an anti-computer person. Computers can bring a lot of advantages. I'm talking about free search and scanning for the pornography. I mean anybody of any age can sit down and find that stuff. It's true they can. It probably takes ten minutes or less to get to something really bad, and I think that is something

that my children don't need. When I was growing up there nothing like that. Not on t.v. the radio, nothing. You had to work to get to that stuff. With the internet you don't have to work hard. I'm an anti computer person. For 42 years I've never sat down at one. And I hope I won't for the next 42 years. I think that people can work on the computer and it can be good. You can work faster and more efficiently, but there are some people who don't do that.

Me- I don't know if it's true or not. But I hear that next year you will be able to vote on the internet. I think that's just kind of teaching people to be lazy.

Me- What is the new and upcoming technology in medicine? You've talked about some but besides that is there anything else?

Dr. C- Molecular biology is really fascinating. I'm not so wild about all the genetics, I think we are traveling into unsafe water with cloning. But I think economics is driving all these issues.