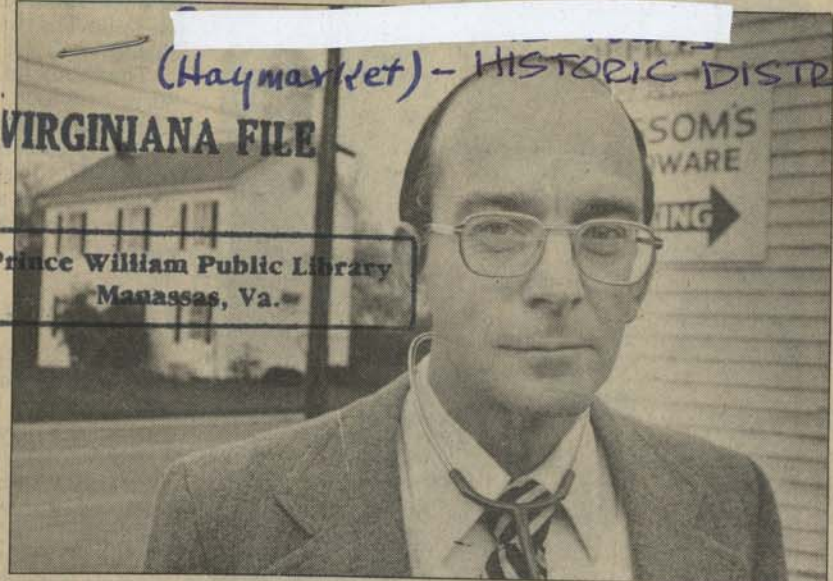


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REFERENCE

By Clifford Owen—Potomac News

Dr. Gilbert R. Irwin: to begin Haymarket practice

# First doctor in 14 years prepares to open practice in tiny town of Haymarket

By RUTH LARSEN  
of the Potomac News

Hear ye, hear ye — a physician's coming to town!  
And after a 14-year hiatus, 250-odd Haymarket dwellers, used to traveling to Gainesville, Manassas and beyond, soon will have health care within walking distance.

By December, Dr. Gilbert R. Irwin will open his downtown office right next to Gossam's Hardware on Washington Street. Dr. Gilbert, whose sole practice is now in Manassas, will juggle office hours between the two locales. He plans to work in Haymarket six days a week.

Previously, the majority of residents were forced to travel outside their small town to seek medical help. While Gainesville doctors are only a short drive away, "two miles is too far to walk when you're feeling sick," says retired Haymarket Postmaster Charles R. Jordan.

And since Haymarket's corporate boundaries encompass only one square mile, come Dec. 1, townfolk will be within a heartbeat of Dr. Irwin's stethoscope.

The 42-year-old physician is an internist or a "glorified general practitioner," he says. He and his family have lived five miles outside of Haymarket for the last dozen years. The New Jersey native came to rural Virginia after a four-year stint at Walter Reed Hospital, where he researched infectious diseases for the U.S. Army.

"I fell in love with the area, [with] Northern Virginia, the view of the mountains. [It] turned me on. Now it's time to give a little back," he says.

And the townfolk are ready. "I think it's great. We certainly need a good doctor who is nearby. If you have anything going, you have to go into Manassas. We don't have that many that are ill, though," said former Mayor Muriel Gilbertson.

Acting Mayor Gertrude Bean seconded Mrs. Gilbertson's opinion. "There just aren't enough doctors to go around," she said.

Dr. Irwin was educated at the New Jersey College of Medicine and served his residency at Georgetown University Hospital.

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