

# Town Has First M.D. Since 1968

By MARY ELLEN COLANDENE  
JM Special Writer

Gilbert Irwin M.D., Manassas internist, has opened an office in the town of Haymarket becoming the first doctor to practice medicine in the town since Dr. J.L. Mathews Jr. kept office hours there from 1961 to 1968.

Irwin, who has practiced medicine in Manassas for nearly 12 years, decided that the time was right to open a second office. He said people had talked about the need for a doctor in Haymarket for years. "It was inevitable that growth would take place. The population was mushrooming," said Irwin. "Many of my patients in Manassas were from the Haymarket area and other

people there were going to Warrenton and Leesburg for medical care," he explained. A Haymarket

Gossom's Hardware off Va. 55.

"Haymarket needed a doctor. We were fortunate to find one as quali-

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office would save them the time and effort of a trip.

"There had been talk, talk, talk concerning the need for a doctor. I thought it was time to stop talking and do something." He is renting office space in a building near

fied as Dr. Irwin. I hope he is here many years because he will prove to be an asset to the community," said businessman Alan Gossom.

Dr. Irwin attended the New Jersey College of Medicine, took training in Internal Medicine at Georgetown

University, and studied Infectious Diseases at Yale. While in the armed services, he oversaw the Hepatitis Research Program at Walter Reed Hospital in D.C. for 4½ years.

Irwin said, "You can't practice medicine by keying on one thing. I try to look at the whole person." A patient needs to have confidence and faith in one individual who will provide a continuity of health care even though it is necessary for the individual to consult a specialist at times, he added. Dr. Irwin said he is convinced that a physician who is familiar with his patient's background and the patient's family's background can save extravagant treatments and costly hospitalizations.

When asked about memorable experiences in his years of practice Irwin responded, "What stand out in my mind are the courage and the confidence a lot of people have had when faced with serious illness. It is an interesting aspect of the human individual and I never cease to be amazed with it."

Irwin keeps fit for his busy schedule of splitting hours between his Manassas and Haymarket offices by jogging when he can find the time. A seven- or eight-mile run is an average workout.

Former Mayor Muriel Gilbertson is enthused about having a doctor practicing in town again. "Of course we appreciate it. Everyone is very pleased. It's one of the important things we've been struggling with (having a physician). Everyone is happy to have him here."

Irwin's Haymarket office number is 754-9271. Office hours are Monday and Tuesday 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Wednesday 2 to 5 p.m., Thursday 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. to noon, and Saturday 11 a.m.



Gilbert Irwin M.D.