

The Beginnings

Halvard Wanger, MD

In 1956, Dr. Halvard Wanger organized an extensive scientific assembly to celebrate the Eastern Panhandle Medical Association's 50th anniversary.

Participants praised the Potomac-Shenandoah Postgraduate Institute's outstanding speakers, who had been invited because senior students at medical colleges in the Eastern United States voted them best lecturers in their respective fields. This method for developing a



Dr. John Traubert (center), enjoying his Hal Wanger apple with Dr. David Hunter (left) and Dr. William Wanger (right) at the 2nd Annual Hal Wanger Family Medicine Conference.

roster of outstanding lecturers worked very well, and subsequent Institutes drew many participants.

Dr. Wanger directed the annual Institute through 1974. When Dr. Wanger cancelled the Institute in 1975 because of health reasons, the West Virginia University Department of Family Medicine assumed responsibility for

continuing the fall conference. Dr. John Traubert, then the newly appointed Chair of Family Medicine, assumed the role of course director for the newly named Hal Wanger Family Medicine Conference, held at West Virginia University.

Since the original setting of the Postgraduate Institute was West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle, local orchards supplied apples for refreshments, a tradition that has been continued at West Virginia University.

Dr. Traubert considered Dr. Wanger the "founding father" of continuing medical education in West Virginia. This assessment is widely shared by medical peers throughout West Virginia. West Virginia University is proud to carry on the legacy begun by Dr. Hal Wanger, a leader and pioneer in continuing medical education.

Upon Dr. Traubert's retirement, the conference continued under the direction of Dr. James Arbogast and Dr. Anne Cather for 15 years. Now the conference has entered a new era under the leadership of Chairman, Dr. Dana King, Dr. Anne Cather, and Dr. Erika Bodkins.