

Lopez welcomes their doctor

Dr. and Mrs. George W. Dengler and their son, Steven have moved permanently to Lopez. Dr. Dengler, who is leaving his Mountlake Terrace practice in the prime of his professional life, will be the first full-time physician ever on Lopez Island.

He expects to begin seeing patients in the new Catherine Washburn Memorial Clinic on April 1. Dr. Dengler will probably have normal day-time hours four days a week, and will be available for emergencies the rest of the time.

The Denglers have owned property on Lopez since 1968, and over the years have built a small house on the southeast side of Mud Bay, where they have two acres. For the last six years, they have been living a double life, one at Lopez on weekends and summers, the other in the Seattle area most of the time.

They have grown discontented with city life, and are very happy about their decision to live only one life, on Lopez. They feel they will much prefer living and working in a small community. Dr. Dengler's professional experience has been in family practice, so he will be able to meet the medical needs of Lopezians of all ages.

George Dengler is 45 years old. He was born in Argentina in 1928, and spent his boyhood in Germany. He came to New York in 1938, and he grew up and went to high school there. He was graduated from Hofstra College in 1950, and earned his M.D. at New York University Medical School (at Bellevue Medical Center) in 1955. Dengler completed a one-year rotating internship at Flush-

ing Hospital in New York in 1955-56. From 1956 to 1958 he served at Fort Lewis in the Madigan Army Hospital, and it was here that the Denglers were first introduced to the Pacific Northwest.

Dengler then had one year practicing in Springfield, Vermont, followed by two years in Plattsburg, New York, from 1959-61. In 1961, the Denglers returned to the Seattle area, and Dr. Dengler has spent the last 13 years in family practice at the Phillips Clinic in Mountlake Terrace. He passed the extensive family practice boards two years ago.

Dr. Dengler's wife, Hildie, was born Hildegard Markschaffel in New York. They met there in high school in 1945, and were married in 1952. The Denglers have four children, the oldest of whom is 18-year-old Suzi. She graduated from Lopez High School last year and is currently attending Evergreen College. Steven, 13, has recently enrolled in school at Lopez.

Twin daughters, Joann and Karen, 16, are at the Fircrest School in Seattle. Hildie has attended the University of Washington and Everett Community College as an anthropology major.

Dr. Dengler has been active for 10 years in the field of mental retardation. He has been president of the Inglewood School for the Retarded, has served on the Snohomish County Mental Retardation Board, and is in the Washington Association for Retarded Children.

The Denglers have nothing but praise for the Lopez School and its teachers. They feel that the small school, in which each student receives more individual attention, gives their children a better education than it is possible to receive in Seattle at this time.

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"Our experience has been that the big-city schools we were connected with in the Seattle area have nothing to offer compared with Lopez," said Dr. Dengler.

Dr. Dengler first approached the Board of Trustees of the Washburn Clinic in late October 1973 with his idea of practicing on Lopez. When it was decided that Dr. Dengler would move to the island, certain major changes had to be made in the design of the clinic, which had been intended for use by a nurse practitioner.

A laboratory, an X-ray machine, and a second examination room had to be included in the plans. Dr. Dengler committed himself at just the right time as far as the building of the facility was concerned.

As Dr. Dengler put it, "The timing was very lucky. If I had entered the scene later than I did, the clinic would have been too far along to permit the necessary adaptations. There would have been major problems."

Dengler is looking forward to living on Lopez: "Working in a close-knit community like this will mean that I can get to know my patients personally, which means a lot to me. The quality of life in general is superior here, compared with the city. This situation also gives me and my wife a chance to work together, since Hildie will be helping me at the clinic, doing a variety of jobs there."

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