

# Doctor Cunningham



His office was on the east side of S. Kanawaha St., just south of Main St. - in the general area of this image.

When I was in Junior High school, my feet became infected with a fungus, likely contracted at the Waterdale swimming pool in Sprague. The infection worsened so mom took me to our GP who prescribed an ointment. If I recall correctly, the advice was to clean and dry the feet thoroughly, apply the ointment and then bandage them. When there was no improvement after a couple of days, mom took me to see a dermatologist who prescribed yet a different ointment. The infection worsened. My feet were swollen and the redness was beginning to travel up toward my ankles. As a last resort, Mom took me to see Doctor Cunningham. He was an elderly gentleman who was always dressed in a suit and tie. He kept the suit coat and tie on throughout the day and also kept a pipe in his mouth, even while talking to patients. Spittle would

sometimes run down the length of the pipe and drop onto his shirt and tie. He was personable and exhibited genuine care for his patients. Another unique thing about Doctor Cunningham was that regardless of the patient's issue and regardless of what medicines he dispensed, his charge was always fifty cents (\$0.50).

Doctor Cunningham took one look at my feet, rose out of his chair and went to the back of the office, returning with a small tube of power which was labeled with some sort of "Tricolro., Trisulfa., ..nilimide" I kept the label from the tube for many years but have since lost it. He advised washing the feet, drying them completely, puffing the powder between the toes and on other open sores, then leaving the feet open to the air, preferably in sunlight. When we left his office, mom paid him fifty cents. He wouldn't take another penny.

We went home, followed his instructions and, the very next morning, the infection was entirely gone. Some sores remained, but all the redness and inflammation was gone. We kept up the wash/dry/power regimen and my feet were like new in a few days.

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