

This Novel tells about the practice of American medicine from colonial times through the 20th century, and its effects. Medicine was in its infancy. Epidemics of malaria, dysentery, yellow fever, and others, decimated the populace.

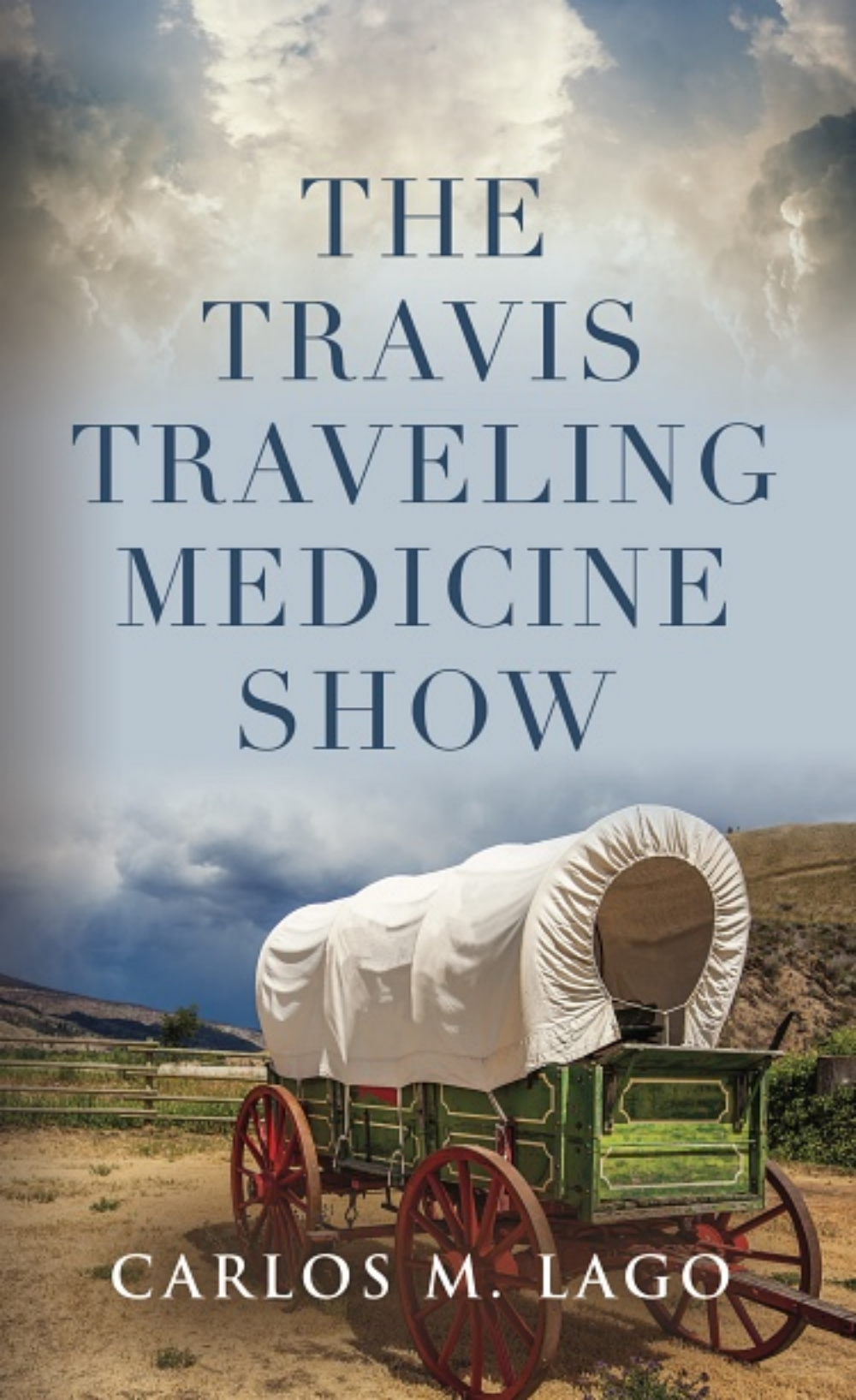
The Travis Traveling Medicine Show

By Carlos M. Lago

Order the book from the publisher [BookLocker.com](https://www.booklocker.com)

<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/12676.html?s=pdf>

**or from your favorite neighborhood
or online bookstore.**

A green covered wagon with a white canvas top and red wheels, parked in a field under a cloudy sky. The wagon is the central focus, with a wooden fence and rolling hills in the background. The sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds, some dark and some bright, suggesting a storm or late afternoon light.

THE TRAVIS TRAVELING MEDICINE SHOW

CARLOS M. LAGO

Copyright © 2023 Carlos M. Lago

Print ISBN: 978-1-958877-43-2

Ebook ISBN: 979-8-88531-317-9

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the author.

Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Trenton, Georgia, U.S.A.

The characters and events in this book are fictitious. Any similarity to real persons, living or dead, is coincidental and not intended by the author.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Lago, Carlos M.

The Travis Traveling Medicine Show by Carlos M. Lago

Library of Congress Control Number: 2022914079

Printed on acid-free paper.

BookLocker.com, Inc.

2023

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	9
Chapter 1: Charles Reynolds	11
Chapter 2: The Patent Medicine Industry	16
Chapter 3: Charles, Carole, Search For A Job.....	20
Chapter 4: On Medicines and Traveling Shows	23
Chapter 5: The Early Medications	26
Chapter 6: The Indispensable Doctors.....	29
Chapter 7: Doctor William Reynolds	35
Chapter 8: Doctor Reynolds Falls In Love	42
Chapter 9: Charles Reynolds, Practising Apothecary	52
Chapter 10: A Growing Market.....	55
Chapter 11: The Travis Patent Medicines	59
Chapter 12: First Part Of The Show Draws In The Audience	61
Chapter 13: Second Stage of The Show: “The Spiel”	64
Chapter 14: Third Stage of The Show Sells The Remedy	66
Chapter 15: First Travis Show of The Season: Debut of Charles and Carole.....	69

Chapter 16: Second Travis Show of The Season.....	76
Chapter 17: Wallace and Myrna	80
Chapter 18: “Honest Abe”, The Travis Spieler	82
Chapter 19: The Medical Examiners	88
Chapter 20: Charles And Carole In Love	94
Chapter 21: Deceit and Death.....	98
Chapter 22: Findings of “The Fraternity Plus”	104
Chapter 23: Dangerous Patent Medicines Unmasked. (See: Appendix A)	106
Chapter 24: Lack of Early U.S. Food and Drug Purity Legislation.....	108
Chapter 25: Crusaders For Change	110
Chapter 26: The Associations Played A Role.....	117
Chapter 27: Dr. William Reynolds and Theodore Roosevelt	119
Chapter 28: Roosevelt Vs. Wiley.....	120
Chapter 29: Snake Oil Elixirs	122
Chapter 30: Carole Blanchard: An Enigma	125
Chapter 31: Carole’s Fateful Decision.....	128
Chapter 32: Carole Idolizes Lillian.....	131
Chapter 33: Operettas/ Broadway/Alma Travis.....	133
Chapter 34: The Travis Shows and New York City.....	138

The Travis Traveling Medicine Show

Chapter 35: Wally and Myrna “Seriously Talk”	145
Chapter 36: Jeremy Talbot.....	147
Chapter 37: The Merry Widow Operetta.....	152
Chapter 38: Finding Each Other Again	156
Chapter 39: Possibly, A Future Together	160
Chapter 40: Appendices.....	166

Chapter 1—Charles Reynolds

Raymond Reynolds lived a few miles away from the city of Schenectady, New York. The city was founded on the south side of the Mohawk River by Dutch colonists in the 17th century. It quickly developed as part of the Mohawk Valley trade, manufacturing, and transportation corridor. By 1824 more people worked in manufacturing than in agriculture or trade. Raymond Reynolds, and his wife Lucia Reynolds, live in Schenectady. They are the proud parents of Charles and Laura Reynolds, students at Jefferson High School.

Raymond had retired from a high-paying management position in a Wall Street securities firm. He was now a wealthy man and looked forward to travelling around Europe with his wife Lucia. Raymond enjoyed spending his free time pursuing his hobby of orchid collecting and hybridizing. He'd been successful in creating new orchid hybrids with flowers of amazing size and coloration. His hybrids were routinely awarded by the New York Orchid Society. Lucia Reynolds had worked for the New York City government. Having retired, she found time to pursue her hobby of genealogy.

During the 19th century, successful manufacturing companies like the General Electric Company (GE), and the American Locomotive Company, had made Schenectady their home. The city was part of an

industrial manufacturing belt that generated high technology products for both government and the private sector. These were years of great affluence and prosperity in America. Many more people lived in cities and towns than in the rural areas, and good paying jobs were readily available.

Mr. Raymond Reynolds's big brother, Mathew Reynolds, is a physician with a civic purpose and lofty goal of taking the curative practice of medicine to the American frontier. Mathew went West after receiving his medical degree. Though hundreds of miles away from his brother, he never failed to stay in touch with Raymond by letter or telegram. Mathew intended to return one day and retire in Schenectady near his brother Raymond.

Charles fondly remembered his High School years. He was always a good student, easy to get along with, and blessed with many friends. He was also very handsome, and the young ladies at school were drawn to him like butterflies to blossoms. His sister Laura grew up to be a lovely young lady who enjoyed British and American Literature and planned to become a teacher at a nearby college.

Charles saw in his first day of classes at Jefferson High School that the young men gravitated towards joining the football team. Charles could have made the team, but he wasn't really interested. The reason was that he wished to become as good a Jefferson wrestler

as his father had been. Fortunately, the school had a very good wrestling coach who taught him the finer points of wrestling. Charles quickly learned all the important wrestling holds needed to achieve a rapid “takedown” of an opponent.

Balancing his athletic pursuits with academic work, Charles enrolled in many of the Chemistry courses taught at Jefferson High School. He felt that chemistry would create solutions to many of the urgent problems that challenged mankind. Charles spent a few hours a week in the School’s Chemistry Laboratory working as a Lab Assistant.

He was also active in Jefferson High School’s Music Department, learning to play the guitar. Fortunately for him, a music teacher with a great ear for talent, just happened to hear Charles sing and was very much impressed. Mr. Fisher thought that Charles’s beautiful tenor voice could be put to great use in Jefferson High School’s Musical Shows. He recommended that Charles take singing lessons at Jefferson High. Once his voice training was completed, Charles was regularly selected to play the male lead in Jefferson High School’s Musical Shows. Jefferson H.S., and neighboring Monroe H.S., annually joined forces in producing a Christmas Show. Carole Blanchard, a blond young lady with lovely blue eyes, was a student at Monroe High School who periodically came to Jefferson High School to practice for their joint Christmas Shows.

Charles and Carole were the best singers in their High Schools and routinely played the male and female leads in their joint Shows. There was an undeniable physical attraction between them. It was understated, but noticed by some students. Because they did not live close to each other, and because they were not enrolled in the same schools, Charles and Carole never actually dated.

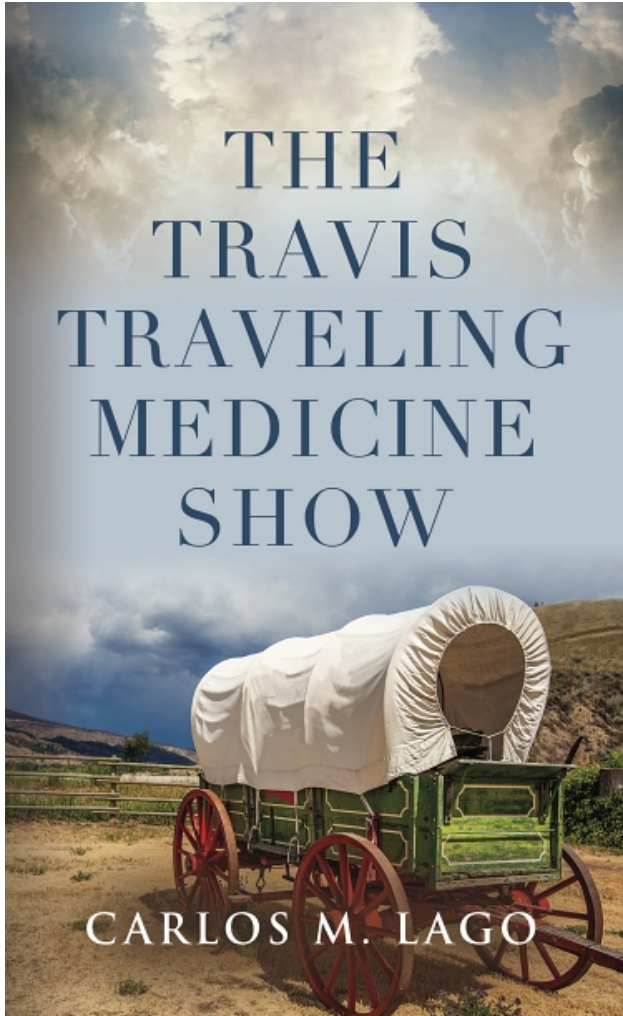
Charles's main interest at school was "chemistry". He knew that the most important early pharmaceutical work in the U.S. at the time was the "PHARMACOPEIA OF THE U.S. OF AMERICA", and that a copy of the book was readily available in the School Library. Chemists Samuel Mitchell and Lyman Spalding wrote the book in the year 1820. The primary list of drugs included in this compendium numbered: 217, and included 41 chemical compounds of importance.

Charles thought that being an apothecary could become a very promising future occupation for him. He knew that a good apothecary, to be successful, needed to be an outstanding chemist. His uncle William functioned as both a medical doctor, and a superb apothecary. Because Charles displayed great skills in analytical chemistry, his goal was to become as fine an apothecary as his uncle William. At that time, a pharmacist was defined as a professional who dispensed prescription drugs in a hospital or retail pharmacy, while an apothecary was a person who prepared and sold drugs or medicines.

The Travis Traveling Medicine Show

As an apothecary living in the 19th century, Charles would be expected to prepare a wide variety of medications using the published official recipes for compounds such as potassium tartrate, calomel (mercury chloride), and silver nitrate. In his Junior and Senior years at Jefferson High School, various professors convinced him to assist a few non-performing students in Chemistry so that they'd pass their final exams. He was well remunerated for his services.

To be an effective chemist, Charles knew he had to acquire basic knowledge about “patent” medicines (also called “proprietary” medicines), and about the many epidemics of deadly diseases in America. He visited various medical libraries and also talked to physicians and local apothecaries about their daily practices.



This Novel tells about the practice of American medicine from colonial times through the 20th century, and its effects. Medicine was in its infancy. Epidemics of malaria, dysentery, yellow fever, and others, decimated the populace.

The Travis Traveling Medicine Show

By Carlos M. Lago

Order the book from the publisher [BookLocker.com](https://www.booklocker.com)

<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/12676.html?s=pdf>

**or from your favorite neighborhood
or online bookstore.**