

Dr. David LaBau

Dr. LaBau arrived in Nelson in 1889. He was the physician in the district, and became the first medical health officer in Nelson, and held the position until 1902. He gained notoriety in 1895 for working with a local jeweller to fashion a replacement jaw made out of local silver and gold. In 1907 LeBau moved to Spokane, and later to Victoria. In February of 1922 he died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Helen Butling: Physiotherapist

Born in 1913, Helen Butling moved to Nelson in 1942 and began working as a physiotherapist at Kootenay Lake Hospital later that year. She worked at KLH for 28 years, expanding the physiotherapy services from a one person department operating out of a converted broom closet, to a full fledged rehabilitation centre with an activation program covering six hospitals and eight communities in the Kootenay region. The physiotherapy department at KLH is named after her, in recognition of her pioneering work in the field.

Pharmaceutical Promotional Materials

In the past, pharmaceutical companies would freely give doctors “gifts” of all kinds, such as anatomical teaching models, paper weights and other functional objects in order to promote their products to patients right in the doctor’s office. This practice was banned approximately 20 years ago.