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ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

Headlining the Musical Backdrop to Pauline Siegel's Caesarean Section “Under Local Anesthesia”



Allen and Pauline Siegel of Chicago, Illinois, seem elated in 1941 following the successful Caesarean-section delivery of their son by obstetrician Edward L. Cornell, as performed “under local anesthesia.” During the procedure, the 29-yr-old mother listened to soothing frequency-modulated (FM) radio music. Her obstetrician insisted on keeping the “pain-calmer” music “from distracting the operating staff.” Seventy-seven years ago, this story made newspaper headlines nationwide. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology.)

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