

## Chief Surgeon in the Wallace Case

Joseph Francis Schanno

By PHILIP SHABECOFF  
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WASHINGTON, May 17 — It was undoubtedly the most unusual and dramatic post-operative procedure that Dr. Joseph F. Schanno had ever been through.

Dr. Schanno is the vascular surgeon who headed the seven-man team of doctors that performed exploratory surgery on Gov. George C. Wallace Monday night after Mr. Wallace had been gunned down by a would-be assassin. Instead of relaxing when the long, exhausting operation was over, Dr. Schanno was conducted from Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Md., to a nearby boys club where, in a bare, vaulted gymnasium, he was confronted by a battery of television cameras, a thicket of microphones and several hundred reporters clamoring for information.

Although pale and probably exhausted, Dr. Schanno responded to the questions about Governor Wallace's condition professionally, and without emotion, even coldly, according to some witnesses.

### Admirer of His Patient

It was an ordeal for the 44-year-old surgeon, who was described by his wife as "a doctor of the old school who tries to avoid publicity and having his name in the newspaper." But although he found himself unexpectedly in the center of an intense national spotlight, Dr. Schanno conducted himself as calmly as if he were in his own operating room.

When he finally reached home in nearby Bethesda the following morning, Dr. Schanno had little to say



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"A doctor of the old school."

about his ordeal. Instead he talked about the Wallace family, particularly Governor Wallace's wife, Cornelia, and how well the family behaved and what fine people they were.

By coincidence, Dr. Schanno has been a long-time admirer of the man he operated on Monday night.

"He has always liked Governor Wallace," his wife reported.

Until now, Dr. Schanno's passion for anonymity had apparently kept him relatively obscure, even among his colleagues in the Washington area. Although he studied with Charles Hufnagel, the world famous heart surgeon, few cardiologists in the area knew anything about him.

"He must maintain a very low profile," said one heart specialist in Washington. "I've heard his name before

but I don't know a thing about him."

Now his treatment of Governor Wallace's injuries have brought him sudden fame. But some members of his family, which numbers eight children, are not unduly impressed. When his wife took a poll among the children today to decide what was their father's greatest achievement, they voted on his capture of a 43-pound bass off Huntington, L.I., five years ago.

### Biggest Fish of Year

"It was the biggest fish caught that year," Mrs. Schanno said proudly. "He caught it the same day the astronauts set foot on the moon for the first time."

Joseph Francis Schanno was born Nov. 12, 1927, in Jamaica, Queens, the son of a doctor in general practice. He received his bachelor's degree from Georgetown University in Washington, an M.S. from Fordham University, and graduated from the Georgetown University Medical School in 1954.

His wife, the former Mary Jane Munder, is also from New York.

Dr. Schanno, a specialist in vascular, or blood vessel, surgery, now practices in Bethesda. In addition to his work at Holy Cross, he is director of vascular services at Providence Hospital in Washington and a clinical instructor in surgery at Georgetown University medical center.

Until taking on an associate two years ago, the brown-haired, medium-sized Dr. Schanno often worked a seven-day week. Recently he has had more time to spare to spend with his family and on his hobbies—fishing and hunting.