



INTERIM NEWS & COMMENT

September, 2012

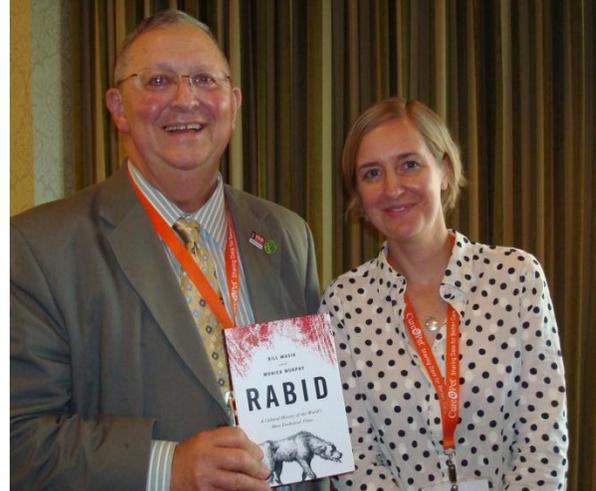
Dr. Phyllis H. Larsen, reporter

Congratulations, Doctor Currier !!!

In San Diego, AVMA President Rene Carlson honored Dr. Russell W. Currier with its Public Service Award for his many years of outstanding service in the field of public health. Noting his office as President of the AVMHS, the AVMA press release then recounted that after graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1967, Dr. Currier soon decided to do graduate studies and go into public health. At the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), he worked on the epidemiology of rabies, foodborne illnesses, hepatitis A, measles, and turkey-associated psittacosis. Later as the Iowa State Public Health Veterinarian, he dealt with diseases such as trichinosis, West Nile virus, and brucellosis. In particular, he successfully assisted with head lice outbreaks in schools, and in managing a large problem with scabies in hospitals and long-term care facilities.

Dr. Currier has been active in organizations related to public health and service, having been president of the Iowa Public Health Association, National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Iowa Rural Health Association, SERTOMA civic service club, as well as having been Executive Vice-president of the American College of Preventive Veterinary Medicine. He was an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve Veterinary Corps, from which he received the Legion of Merit medal shortly before retirement.

As we in AVMHS know, Dr. Currier has just finished serving two very busy, consecutive terms as President of our Society and Chair of the J.F. Smithcors Student Veterinary History Essay Contest. In addition he has spear-headed the effort for AVMHS to reprint *American Veterinary History* by Bert W. Bierer, first published in mimeographed form in 1940, including a persistent search for its funding. While he is now Immediate Past President of AVMHS, Dr. Currier is continuing to serve as chair of the essay contest, while he begins teaching veterinary history at Iowa State University.



Dr. Russell W. Currier, AVMHS president with Dr. Monica Murphy who spoke about her new book, *Rabid*, in San Diego

Speakers at San Diego

The AVMHS had two excellent speakers at its annual meeting in San Diego. Dr. Howard Erickson reports that Dr. Monica Murphy presented an excellent review of her recent book, authored with her husband Bill Wasik. Its title is *Rabid: A Cultural History of the World's Most Diabolical Virus*. Bill Wasik is a journalist, the senior editor of *Wired Magazine* and previously a senior editor of *Harper's Magazine*. Dr. Murphy is a veterinarian and freelance journalist. She earned a B.S. in biology from St. Mary's College, a DVM from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, and an MPH from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She worked for several years as a clinical veterinarian but has a fascination with better understanding infectious diseases.

A review of *Rabid* by Steven Winn (San Francisco Chronicle.docx) cites how it links the cultural history of rabies to other zoonoses like the Spanish flu, AIDS, swine flu, West Nile virus and bubonic plague. He notes how Murphy and Wasik trace – in their words -- the “incredible and abiding psychological power of animal origins in the cultural reception of disease.” We fear zoonoses because they come from animals, and whole

societies have often over reacted irrationally. For instance, as recently as 2009, Egyptians killed 300,000 pigs because of fear of swine flu. A reviewer named *kwombles* (www.science20.com) emphasizes that *Rabid* shows how the history of rabies is evidence of the importance of vaccines, citing how the government of Bali killed its dogs instead of vaccinating them, when rabies broke out.



Dr. Ridgway speaking about the history of marine mammal veterinary medicine.

In addition, according to Dr. Erickson, Dr. Sam Ridgway, Emeritus Professor, University of California, San Diego, and one of the founders of marine mammal medicine, gave an outstanding lecture on the History of Marine Mammal Veterinary Medicine. Ridgway has published over 260 papers, book chapters, and books, including *Mammals of the Sea*, one of the most definitive works on marine mammals. Ridgway earned his B.S. and D.V.M. degrees from Texas A&M University. In 1960, he was commissioned as a veterinary officer in the U.S. Air Force and sent to the U.S. Navy Marine Mammal Program at Point Magu in California. There, he pioneered anesthesia in dolphins and medical technology to study dolphins swimming freely in the open sea. His work transitioned into human/diver marine mammal teams working for personnel safety in harbor defense, mine hunting, and underwater object recovery. In 1970 Ridgway received a Navy fellowship to study at Cambridge University, where he earned a Ph.D. An excellent review of his work with marine mammals can be found in *Aquatic Mammals* 34:471-513, 2008.

Dr. Ridgway, who is also the Founder and President of the National Marine Mammal Foundation, has written *Dolphin Doctor*, a lively book for the more general public. In it he tells how at first he didn't know how to take a blood sample, let alone interpret the results. Once he was able to locate a device to mimic the unusual way

dolphins breathe, he and his co-workers were able to anesthetize a marine mammal for the first time. His presentation on the perfection of this technique with Dr. James McCormick at the 1965 AVMA convention was published in *JAVMA* [Ridgway SH. Medical care of marine mammals. *JAVMA* 1965 Nov 15;147(10):1077-85.] *Dolphin Doctor* also tells how Dr. Ridgway and "Tuffy", his most frequent experimental marine mammal became friends.

New AVMHS Officers for 2012-2013

Dr. Martha Littlefield, who teaches anatomy at the Louisiana State University College of Veterinary Medicine, has moved to the Presidency for 2012-2013. Our new President-elect is Dr. Helen Wojcinski, a turkey geneticist, who lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Susanne Whitaker, veterinary reference librarian at Cornell University Veterinary College, has been elected for a new two-year term, as Secretary/Treasurer. New Board Members are Dr. Ana Alcaraz, professor of Anatomic Pathology at Western University of Health Sciences in California, and Dr. Cynthia Hoobler, a clinical veterinarian in Friendswood, Texas who served in the U.S. Public Health Service. Look for more about new officers in the fall issue of *Veterinary Heritage*.

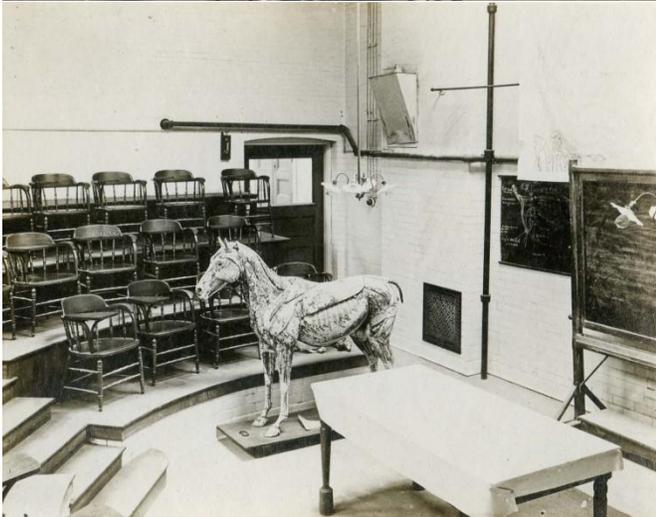
To contact officers or new Board members, please use this abbreviated list or look on our AVMHS Web site. Others are inside the back cover of *Veterinary Heritage* for May 2012.

Famous Veterinary Teaching Aid Restored

As described in a June 2012 news notice, we learned that Pfizer Animal Health supported the restoration of an important full-size anatomic model held by the veterinary college at Alford, France.



In 1846 the first papier-mâché model of a horse was created to enable veterinary students to mimic a thorough dissection. The technique, which involved a strengthened form of papier-mâché, plus parts in metal wood and isinglass had been devised for human dissections only two years earlier by Dr. Louis Thomas Jérôme Auzoux (1797-1880) when he was still a French medical student. Most of the earliest Auzoux horse models were commissioned by the French Ministry of War for cavalry schools and remount depots, according to a Pfizer Animal Health news release. The 1846 model at the Alfort National Veterinary School was in bad condition until early this year, when a restoration, funded by Pfizer, was set up in the school's famous Fragonard Museum.



Views of Cornell's Auzoux horse model (circa 1898) which had been purchased in Paris by Andrew Dickson White who was the University's first president. Dr. James Law is seated next to the model in the veterinary college's amphitheatre.

More information about this preservation project can be found at: <https://animalhealth.pfizer.com/sites/pahweb/>

[PressReleases/Pages/HistoricVeterinaryTeachingHorseRestored.aspx](#)

In addition to Cornell's model, of which only a forelimb still exists in poor condition, does anyone know of any other early veterinary colleges in the U.S. or Canada that may also have had such a teaching aid?

Along with animal models, Dr. Auzoux's studio produced human eyes and other structures. For more about the different Auzoux anatomical models, readers may want to look at an 1844 *Catalogue of Anatomical Models, made by Dr. Auzoux, and for sale by George Dexter* available online at <http://archive.org/details/101161215.nlm.nih.gov>. Another interesting 38-page research project paper titled, "Nineteenth century papier-mâché anatomical models and the teaching of anatomy at the University of Melbourne" by Alexandra Gerner can be found online at <http://mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/sites/mdhs/files/Papier-Mache%20Anatomical%20Models%20Alexandra%20Gerner.pdf>. An exhibit, "Artificial Anatomy: Papier-mâché Anatomical Models," can be viewed on the Smithsonian Institution's American Museum of American History Web site at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/anatomy/index.html>

WAHVM and Veterinary Organizations

The 40th International Congress of the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine (WAHVM) was held in Utrecht, The Netherlands on August 22-25, 2012. There were 109 participants from 22 countries. The Netherlands Veterinary History Society (chaired by Rob Bach) and its Organizing Committee (chaired by Bert van der Weijden) mounted a memorable conference superb in every respect.

On August 27, 2012, the Dutch celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Royal Netherlands Veterinary Association. In April of 2013, we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the World Veterinary Association. In June of 2013, we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the AVMA. In light of this, the main themes for the congress were: "History of Veterinary Associations," "History of the World Veterinary Association," and the usual free communications.

There were more than 40 speakers. In addition, a very attractive social program was organized beginning with a reception on Wednesday evening, August 22, hosted by the Mayor of Utrecht at the Institute of Veterinary Pathology, former premises of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. On Thursday evening, August 23, attendees

visited the Railway Museum for a dinner buffet and listened to live music by Yazzy and Soul. The Congress dinner was held at the Academy Building in the University of Utrecht. There was a post Congress tour to the Dutch Open Air Museum at Arnhem.



The 41st Congress will be held at Imperial College, London, England in September 2014 in the Sir Alexander Fleming Building, near many museums. The two themes for the congress will be “History of One Health,” including zoonoses, and “War, Animals & the Veterinary Profession,” including not only animals in warfare, but also the relationship between war and the development of veterinary knowledge and institutions. For more details, <http://www.veterinaryhistory.nl/> or contact Lesley Ann Gentry at lgentry@nckcn.com.

There were three AVMHS members at Utrecht this summer: Dr. Susan Jones, the WAHVM co-president, Philip Teigen, the WAHVM secretary, and Dr. Howard Erickson, who presented a paper on “History of the American Veterinary Medical Association”. Dr. Jones’ presentation was called “Veterinarians and the Endemicity of Plague in North America.”

Our Society is well represented in the WAHVM leadership, but we fielded only two papers out of more than 40 at Utrecht. Now we already know the main topics for 2014. Let’s see if we can come up with some presentations for London.

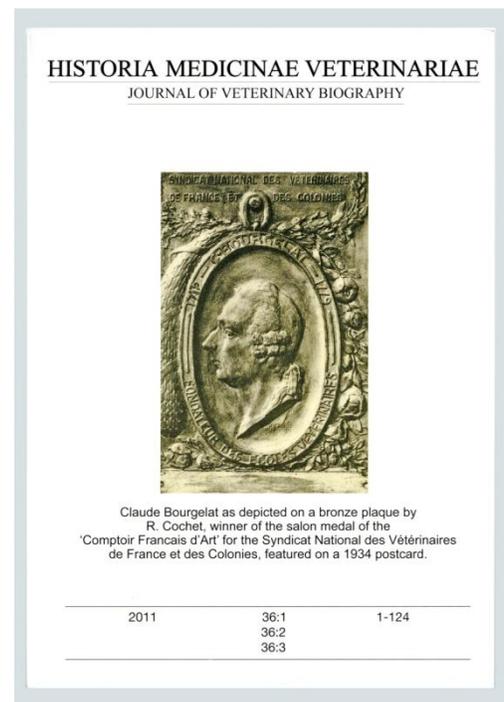
Veterinary Museums and Historical Exhibits

In 2001, Dr. Harold J. Davis compiled a list of veterinary museums in the United States to aid veterinarians as they traveled around the country. It was revised in 2005 by Dr. Robert C. McClure & Trenton Boyd. Having recently completed service as Executive Director of the Utah Veterinary Medical Association, Dr. Davis is again in the process of updating the directory with assistance from Susanne Whitaker. This enhanced version will include color illustrations and

additional listings of historical exhibits and collections related to veterinary medicine. Watch for posting on the AVMHS Web site later this fall.

Trenton Boyd’s Postcard Issue

Three combined issues of *Historia Medicinæ Veterinariae* for 2011 feature an extraordinary collection of postcards. They have been collected over the years by former AVMHS board member C. Trenton Boyd. Formerly head of the Zalk Veterinary Medical Library at the University of Missouri, his new curatorial assignment involves collection development of historical resources in both human and veterinary medicine. Coincidentally, each person attending the WAHVM Congress in Utrecht received a copy of this special combined issue. More information will be available in the next issue of *Veterinary Heritage*.



2013 Essay Contest Announced

For the 22nd year in a row, veterinary students in the U.S., Canada and West Indies will have an opportunity to investigate, study, and write about a veterinary history topic of their choosing. Submission deadline for the 2013 contest is April 15, 2013. Despite the unexpected discontinuation of funding from our long-time sponsor, Merck & Company, in 2010, the prizes have been provided by generous individuals while we continue to seek a corporate or foundation sponsor.

To further encourage student historians, Dr. Currier, our essay contest chair, has compiled some suggestions for potential essayists this year based upon his many years of personal experience in biomedical research and writing. His advice has been posted on the AVMHS Web site along with a complete list of all essay winners from 1992 and a full listing by subject.

So if you have contact with DVM students or an affiliation with a veterinary college, please talk about and encourage students to enter the Smithcors contest. Along with a color brochure, an 8.5x11-sized poster can be printed for bulletin board display or downloaded for electronic distribution from the AVMHS Web site.

In Memoriam: Richard H. Detwiler, VMD

Dr. Richard H. Detwiler died on January 7, 2012. Dick was President of AVMHS for 1996-97, and a frequent participant in its booth at AVMA conventions. Very active in the Pennsylvania VMA, he was its delegate to the AVMA House of Delegates from 1986 to 2003, with the result that many veterinarians would stop by to greet him whenever he was at the AVMHS booth. During Dr. Detwiler's presidency, the AVMHS Annual Meeting was unusual. That year, as part of the AVMA Personal and Professional Development Program, our Society cooperated with the Association for Women Veterinarians on a full day of history about women veterinarians.



In addition to being a loyal member of AVMHS, Dr. Detwiler was a founding member of the group that eventually became the American Museum of Veterinary Medicine (AMVM). Despite acquiring Dr. Robert Shomer's collection of veterinary history books and the Roger Carus library of books and TV programs, and despite Dick's many hours of identifying old veterinary equipment and helping develop educational programs,

the AMVM had to close its excellent center in Birdsboro, Pennsylvania, for financial reasons. AMVM contents are now stored awaiting a building for its new location as part of Agrarian Country in Grantville, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Detwiler had a personal interest in veterinary history. Beginning in 1889, his grandfather, father, and uncle had also become veterinarians. He first practiced with his father in 1948 in an AVMHS recognized Veterinary Heritage Practice that his father had established in Reading, Pennsylvania in 1921. He took over the practice in 1952, more recently sold it to VCA Animal Hospitals, and continued to go to it part time until about 2008.

Dick Detwiler's infectious smile, hearty laugh, and loyalty are missed.

40th Anniversary of Japanese Veterinary History Society

On October 27th, the Japanese Society of Veterinary History will host a ceremony and lectures to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Society. To be held at the University of Tokyo, topics of the three presentations will include:

1. History of Influenza
Taisuke HORIMOTO
2. History of companion dogs in Japan - from the view of human-animal bond
Manabu KOZASA
3. History of animal-assisted activity, therapy and education
Hiroko SHIBANAI

Anyone interested in attending or wanting more information should contact the JSVH Secretary-General via Mr. Junya Yasuda at junya_yasuda@hotmail.com

Meeting Calendar

2012

Oct 27 40th Anniversary, Japanese Society of Veterinary History, Tokyo, Japan

2013

July 20-23 AVMA Sesquicentennial Convention, Chicago, IL

Sept. 17-20 World Veterinary Association (WVA) 150th Anniversary, Prague, Czech Republic

2014

Sept. ?? 41th WAHVM International Congress,
London, England

Townley, Merrill. *A ride with a country vet*. Marceline,
MO: Walsworth Publishing Co., 2012. 88 pgs. ISBN:
9780615584461

New Books

Gamble, Luke. *The vet : to be a Pilgrim*. London:
Hodder Headline, 2012. 352 pgs. ISBN:
9781444721805

Knight, Robert P. *Vets in the West : establishment of the
veterinary profession in South West Victoria : a history
of the profession in a memoir*. Noorat, Vic., Australia:
Robert P. Knight, 2012. 168 pgs. ISBN:
9780646579610

Love, David W. *A Nation in Making: the organization
and administration of Canada's military in World War
One*. Ottawa: Service Publications, 2012. 2-vols. ISBN:
9781894581721 (v. 1); 9781894581721 (v. 2).

Wasik, Bill and Monica Murphy. *Rabid: a cultural
history of the world's most diabolical virus*. New York:
Viking Press, 2012 275 pgs. ISBN: 9780670023738
It covers the history of rabies and zoonosis going back
to ancient times, and is written for a popular audience.

* * *

Send news, comments, and suggestions for the next
News & Comment to: Dr. Phyllis H. Larsen, 1675 Ellis
Hollow Road, Ithaca, NY 14850, or phone/fax 607-539-
6181, phlarsen@clarityconnect.com or to the Secretary/
Treasurer at skw2@cornell.edu, fax: 607- 253-3080 or
phone: 607-253-3499.

Contents of Recent Veterinary History Journal Issues

Copies of articles may be obtained through interlibrary loan services provided by your local college or public library, or from the
AVMHS Secretary-Treasurer if unavailable from other sources.

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Macdonald AA, Warwick CM. Early teaching of the 'veterinary art and science' in Edinburgh....227-273.

Clewlow J. A previously unrecorded copy of 'the Gentleman's pocket farrier' by a veterinary surgeon (1838)...275-
277.

Durrant GR. The Jottings of Brigadier G.R. Durrant: Four veterinary corps officers: their contribution in the context of
their times...278-283.

Glegg GF. Connie May Ford, MBE, MRCVS 1912-1998...284-289.

Jordan FTW, Grant G, Collins M, Weaver AD. 3 the crescent, York: reminiscences of four assistants in their first
practice...290-301.

Donaghy T. Feeding the ancient horse...302-324.

Fussell GE. The Fussell papers: Old time farrier writers: Snape, Sainbel and Blaine....325-327.

Book announcements: Beyond Bokhara; With the S.A.S. and other animals: The story of the Army remount service;
The publications of O. Charnock Bradley...328-329.

Letters to the editor: Hall SA. Norman Comben...330.

Mann J. Obituary: Richard David Locke BVSc, DVSM, MCRVS...331.

Boulton C. From the RCVS archives: From green monkeys and baboons: The story of the RVS Museum...332-336.

Additional Journal Articles Related to Veterinary Medicine

Bezuidenhout JD. Heartwater : an abridged historical account : historical article. AOSIS OpenJournals, 2012.

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