

News and Comment

AVMHS Programs in 2009-2010

On behalf of the entire Society, President Al Moore thanks President-elect Howard Erickson for his extraordinary work setting up an experimental veterinary history event at Kansas State College of Veterinary Medicine to be held on June 9, 2009. Dr. Erickson accomplished this in addition to arranging a morning program for the AVMHS Annual Meeting at the Red Lion Hotel on Fifth Avenue on July 13 during the AVMA Convention.

When the Annual Meeting convenes for business, it will have results from the Kansas State event to guide it. To decide whether to hold another such program at a college, or in conjunction with a state veterinary meeting, it will also be necessary to have in hand offers from members willing to organize and carry through such a program. If you wish to make an offer, please contact President Al Moore at vetal@aol.com or 281-852-2385, or Secretary/Treasurer Susanne Whitaker at skw2@cornell.edu or 607-253-2499.

Smithcors Essay Contest Results

Dr. Russell Currier reports that twelve papers were submitted to the 2009 Smithcors Student Veterinary History Essay Contest. As with other years, they were judged in a blinded fashion to eliminate bias. Contest judges Drs. Wolfgang Jöchle, Raffaele Roncalli, and Debbie Tacium ranked the winning papers as follows:

First place:

Ashley Mitek, University of Illinois: "From Early Man to Man o' War: A History of the Cribbing Horse"

Second place:

Valerie Livingston, Kansas State University: "Foot and Mouth Disease: A Story of Resilience"

Third place:

Tiffany Lee, Kansas State University: "Brisket Disease in Cattle: A Brief Overview and History"

The winners have been notified by email. The panel thanks all participants for their interesting contributions and congratulates the winners on their especially deserving papers, which will be published in upcoming issues of *Veterinary Heritage*.

Happily, Dr. Roncalli has reported that Merck and Company will again provide prizes for winners in 2010. AVMHS continues to be grateful to Gary Zelko of the Merck Veterinary Manual for arranging this important assistance for so many years.

39th WAHVM Congress, Turkey 2010

The 2008 WAHVM Congress was held in the lovely and picturesque Alpine village of Engelberg, Switzerland; and veterinary historians, scholars and family members are in for another treat with the 2010 Congress in Antalya, Turkey. Situated on a wide bay of the Mediterranean Sea, the city looks down over a harbor where a Roman lighthouse sits at its southeastern approach. The winding streets lead to Roman and Greek ruins, museums, markets and beaches. The Antalya Archaeological Museum houses one of the finest collections of antiquities dating from the Paleolithic Age to Ottoman times. At Engelberg, WAHVM delegates from Turkey expressed their love for their country and for

veterinary history, a required course in Turkish veterinary colleges. They are excited about our visit to Antalya in 2010. However, details of that Congress are not yet available. If you would like to have information as it unfolds, contact Lesley Gentry, AVMHS Liaison to the World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine at lgentry@ncken.com.

Veterinary Librarian Awarded the Gottlieb Prize

Congratulations to C. Trenton Boyd who was awarded the 2009 Murray Gottlieb prize for the best unpublished essay on the history of medicine and allied sciences written by a health sciences librarian. Boyd is the Veterinary Medical Librarian at the Zalk Veterinary Medical Library of the University of Missouri, and a recent Board member of AVMHS. His paper is called "The Lost History of American Veterinary Medicine: The Need for Preservation." In an extensive search, Boyd could find no holdings for 18 of the veterinary schools that are no longer in existence, and more than half of the holdings from the other 23 schools are in historical societies, state libraries, and non-veterinary academic libraries. He reported on the dearth of material on defunct veterinary associations and praised the Special Collections Unit of the Iowa State University Library for having solicited such records for many years. Noting the scant holdings of veterinary supply catalogs, house organs, and patent medicines, he wondered how many of the current publications or advertisements of pharmaceutical companies would be available to veterinary historians in future years.

Although primarily directed at librarians, his closing question, "What is being saved at your institution?" is likely to resonate with everyone who cares about the history of our profession.

Women's History in Veterinary Medicine at the OVC

Dr. Susan Jones, WAHVM President, will be the keynote speaker at this seminar entitled 2009: Changing Lives...Women in Veterinary Medicine, sponsored by the Ontario Veterinary College Alumni Association. Topics will include: Pioneering women in veterinary medicine, the role of women in early veterinary medicine and vets on screen. The seminar will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2009 at the OVC Lifetime Learning Centre in Guelph, Ontario (Canada). To register, write to eventsrvp@uoguelph.ca. Admission is free; more information available at <http://www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/conferences/2009/>

How Old Is Your Practice?

This question along with exhibits about some veterinary practices over 50 years old will appear at Kansas State in June and at the AVMHS booth during the AVMA Convention. Secretary/Treasurer Susanne Whitaker has prepared a form for registering a Heritage Veterinary Practice, as well as a useful guiding format for submitting its history. A list of some old practices can be seen on the AVMHS website www.cvm.missouri.edu/avmhs. The materials for guidance and registering can be obtained from Susanne Whitaker.

Former AVMHS President Richard Detwiler has submitted a wonderful example of a thorough history of the practice that his grandfather began and which was moved to its present location by his father after World War 1. A third generation veterinarian, Dick is now busily retired, volunteering at the American Museum of Veterinary Medicine, except for retaining an office and occasionally seeing long-time clients at what is now a VCA (Veterinary Centers of America) practice with an 88-year history at the same location.

Please let Susanne know if you would be interested in helping with this Heritage Veterinary Practices project. Some of the stories could be grist for articles in Veterinary Heritage. Also needed are funds to enable AVMHS to provide certificates or other means for spreading veterinary history through practitioners' offices.