

# NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY COLLEGE

CORNELL UNIVERSITY ITHACA, NEW YORK



CHRISTMAS, 1956

DEAR ALUMNUS:

This letter is sent to you from the old stand. A year ago I was quite sure that we would be comfortably installed in our new quarters by this time. But alas and alack, proper allowance was not made for the exasperating slowness of governmental red tape. The story of Nero and the burning of Rome was re-enacted; we did the burning while Albany fiddled.

The new college buildings are now essentially complete, the fixed equipment has been installed, and much of the new furniture and equipment has been delivered and is stored on the site. Failure to complete the grounds work, the finish grading and the building of curbing, roads, and sidewalks, was the main reason for our not moving last summer as we had expected to do. The moving will certainly require several weeks and during this time the usual services of the College will undoubtedly suffer. Now that we have failed to make the move before the beginning of the academic year, it is likely that we shall postpone it until after its end.

You will be interested in knowing what we propose to do to perpetuate the names of James Law and Veranus A. Moore when we abandon the buildings which long have borne their names. The name of James Law will be given to the new auditorium; and the middle wing of the basic science building which houses the laboratories of pathology, microbiology, and parasitology will be named the Veranus A. Moore Laboratories. Since there is no removable marker on James Law Hall, we plan to have a new plaque made to identify the auditorium and on it there will be a statement for posterity about the building which once bore his name. The bronze plaque which now identifies the Moore Laboratory will be removed at moving time since this building will not thereafter be known by this name. We plan to place it in a suitable place in the new buildings with a smaller one containing a statement about the original building which bore that name.

When completed the new veterinary buildings will have cost about 6.5 million dollars, and another  $\frac{3}{4}$  million will have been spent for new equipment. Some time next year it is presumed that we will hold some sort of dedicatory exercises but those of you who attend the Conference next January probably will be given a preview of them.

A lot of building has been going on on the campus. The addition to the south end of Statler Hall is well under way. At the intersection of South and Central Avenues, where the old weather kiosk used to be (for those of you who graduated more than 15 years ago) and where Olin Hall now stands, two new buildings are going up. On the northwest corner is the new Gannett Dispensary which will house the offices of the Student Health Services, and diagonally across, where the diesel laboratories have stood since wartime is Carpenter Hall, the new administration and library building of the College of Engineering. With Olin, Kimball, Thurston, and Phillips Halls now complete and functioning, with two others under construction and another assured, the Engineering College is nearing its goal of a completely new plant. The Old Armory, of fond memory to many of the oldsters, is on the skids since one of the buildings is to take its place.

Across the road from Schoellkopf Field, on the lower end of Upper Alumni Field, the new James Lynah indoor skating rink is rapidly taking shape. With it, Cornell can again go into the hockey business which has been dropped in recent years because of the notorious uncertainty of the ice on Beebe Lake.

An interesting campus development has been the refurbishing of the old stables and carriage house of Andrew D. White for use as a gathering place for alumni and others. It is being called "The Alumni Center." Steam heat has been installed but otherwise the old structure has been left pretty much as it was. Gordon Danks was helpful in finding several sets of old coach harnesses in good condition to help in setting the atmosphere of the place.

We are getting so many new buildings on the campus that all the open spaces where we formerly parked cars are no more. Students are not permitted to park during the day but there are so many decrepit (or lazy) professors, janitors, stenographers, and deans that want to park and are permitted to do so providing they can find a place, that parking has become a hot game, Monday through Friday. I am told that a lot of Arts College professors who never were seen on the campus before ten o'clock until recently are now reporting in at eight o'clock. There will be some inconvenience in the off-center campus location of our new College, but one whopping advantage will be complete removal of the parking headache. We have provided near-at-hand parking spaces for 230 cars, and quite a few more can be worked in here and there without difficulty.

There have been no deaths or other catastrophes among the faculty group during the past year. The employee with the longest period of service, Archie Wilson, died during the spring, however. Archie began working for the College in 1911 when he was 19 years old. He was 65 years old when he died from a heart attack, having served in his position as engineer and mechanic continuously for 46 years.

Pete Olafson and his family returned from their year's sojourn in Israel last February. From what I see in the papers, it looks as if his timing was pretty good. Bob Dougherty and his family are now "down under" in New Zealand where he and two other ruminant digestion (and indigestion) experts are revelling in the favorite pastime of New Zealand cattle, which is bloat. Bob says that New Zealand is a fine country but the plumbing fixtures and the house furnaces aren't up to the standard to which he had become accustomed in the

soft life he leads when at home. He will be back in February. Dorsey Bruner took his first sabbatic leave last spring. After a busman's holiday of four months in which he worked on a revision of that famous volume of Hagan and Bruner, he set out by car with his wife to explore some of that rough wild country west of Chicago. And he got back in early September, by golly, with no broken bones, the same car and the same wife. So it was a good and highly educational trip, Mac Miller is on sabbatic leave at present. Bob Habel is in charge of Anatomy and Howie Evans is acting as Secretary of the College during his absence. Mac is in Ithaca putting in some extra licks on that anatomy text on which he has been working for so long.

Herb Gilman recently received the A.V.M.A. Borden prize, a fitting recognition of his lifetime's work on brucellosis and other diseases of cattle. In October Bob Habel made a flying trip to Holland, where he was a student two years ago at the University of Utrecht, to defend his thesis on "The Innervation of the Bovine Stomach." This he successfully accomplished, and, as a consequence he is now the proud possessor of another veterinary degree. The language situation is a bit complicated. A native English speaker took his examinations in Dutch and received a degree in Latin. Bob is our principal linguist. Even the Dutch can understand his Dutch, he is pretty good at German, and he abstracts Russian articles regularly for the A.V.M.A. Journal. I am reliably informed that languages are easy after you have mastered the first three or four. Most of us never learn Greek, and other foreign tongues are Greek to us.

Don Baker is still going strong. Last summer he pursued his new avocation of serving as chambermaid to a planeload of simian immigrants from the Philippines to the United States. Hugh Dukes hasn't stopped any more falling buildings and is completely recovered from his experience of about a year ago. Charlie Rickard, in a whirlwind finish last spring, completed his requirements for his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. John Bentinck-Smith and his rubber apron are back at the old stand after the year spent (John, I mean; maybe not the apron) in Sweden. Apparently the Swedish girls had no more luck with John than our own.

So far as I can think, the rest of the staff have not been up to any special shenanigans during the past year, so I can report only that they have been sawing wood, or making hay, or whatever is most appropriate to say about those who have been keeping their noses to the grindstone.

We have a few more students this year than last because we accepted a slightly larger entering class last spring when we thought we would be in the new buildings this fall. When we actually move it is our intention to increase the size of the entering class from 50 to 60. The number of graduate students this year is slightly larger than usual, being 22 instead of the usual 16 to 18.

The 49th Annual Conference for Veterinarians will be held on January 2, 3, and 4, 1957. It will be held as usual in the Statler Auditorium. I think I am pretty safe in saying that the next one will be in our own auditorium. Perhaps it is fitting that the 50th, the semi-centennial meeting of our Conference, be the occasion for dedicating our new plant. The Conference, like the College, has grown greatly during the last 50 years. Ken McEntee is chairman of the committee which has been arranging the program for this year. You should

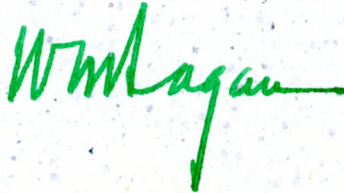
receive your program at about the time this letter appears. I hope to see many of you here.

As usual the grim reaper has been on his job of thinning the ranks of the Alumni but he has been a little more considerate this year than usual. Since the last letter was written I have learned of only six deaths, and I must add another which occurred earlier but escaped our not-very-efficient intelligence service. I would appreciate it if all of you would be good enough to remember that we are anxious to keep our records straight and would appreciate it if you would send us newspaper clippings or at least news of these events when they occur. I am sorry to report the deaths of the following: John Laughlin, '20, Lockport, New York, August 17, 1955; Walter Boyce, '11, Superior, Nebraska, November 4, 1955; William J. Moersfelder, '23, New York, New York, December 19, 1955; William Caslick, '27, Paris, Kentucky, June 3, 1956; Arthur A. Brockett, '05, Little Falls, New York, June 13, 1956; Maurice A. Quinn, '16, Norwich, New York, October 1, 1956; and Franklin L. Foster, '08, Pico, California, October 15, 1956.

As Christmas approaches it is fitting that we should be of good cheer and hold kind and charitable thoughts of our fellow men. It is a time dedicated to peace and good will. Unfortunately the news reports from abroad—Israel, Egypt, the Middle East, Hungary—are ominous and disturbing. This is written in early November and much may happen before this letter reaches those for whom it is intended. I hope that the situation will be brighter than it is now. I recall the warnings given over and over again to tourists by the Yellowstone Park guards: "Beware of the bears. There is no such thing as a tame bear. By familiarity with man he may appear friendly and harmless but his innate savagery and treachery is easily aroused. He is always dangerous." The Russian bear is on the prowl. He has provided ample proof to us all that he is as ruthless and treacherous as the wild beast for whom he was named. Eventually he must be destroyed or he will destroy us. None of us want to go to war again to do this, but we must keep strong as a nation, since this is the only thing, apparently, that deters the Soviet leadership from imposing its heavy hand on the rest of the world. There has been some encouragement within the past year for the belief that the Soviet hierarchy may eventually crumble and fall. My best Christmas wish to you and to mankind is that this may come about soon.

In behalf of the faculty of the College I send greetings and the wish of all that you have a wonderful Christmas and a fine year in 1957.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. M. Magan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.