

Veterinary Legacies to Remember from 2013

By Dr. Donald F. Smith

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Before we bid farewell to 2013, I would like to pause to remember some of the veterinarians who passed away during the year. While there were others who died too young, here I focus on the remarkably diverse life stories of those who graduated in the middle decades of the last century. In reading tributes to their lives, I marvel at their accomplishments. What they accomplished, both individually and in aggregate, makes me proud and grateful, and also helps me understand life in other times and places.

Perhaps these brief stories of four nonagenarian veterinarians will likewise inspire you as we embark on a new year.

Let's start with a woman who is remembered most for her political advocacy for girls and athletics. A native of Toronto and 1945 graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College, **Joan Parent** married her classmate and moved with him to his Minnesota hometown where she became the first licensed woman veterinarian in Minnesota. She practiced with her husband and his father for several years, then branched into local civic activities as a member of the school board where she exhibited a passion for promoting public education and advocating for school-sponsored athletics.

A longtime champion of education and advocate for girls who wanted to play sports, Parent is believed to be the first woman in the nation to head a scholastic athletic association when she served a one-year term as president of the board of directors of the Minnesota State High School League in the 1970s and was president of the National School Boards Association in 1983.¹

Dr. Parent also waded briefly into state politics, serving as running mate for James Lindau in an unsuccessful primary bid for the 1986 gubernatorial race. She died at age 90.

One of the most distinguished large animal academicians of the 20th century was **Douglas C. Blood**, an Australian who graduated from Sydney in 1942. Dr. Blood spent the formative part of his career at the Ontario Veterinary College before moving back to Australia as the founding dean of Melbourne. He is best known for the seminal textbook on diseases of large animals, co-authored with J.A. Henderson and still in print under different authors. Dr. Blood died in June at age 93.²



Jeanne Neubecker Logue, DVM 1944
(© Cornell University)

Another author, but of a different genre, was **Jeanne Neubecker Logue** (Cornell 1944) who was 92 when she passed in August. A charming personality and versatile veterinarian, Dr. Logue established a vibrant general practice in eastern New York and later chronicled her professional and personal experiences in a beautifully and passionately written book published in 1979.³ Her ability to balance the demands of her profession as the sole owner of a busy practice, with those as mother of a growing family and wife to a husband who also had demanding professional responsibilities as an engineer, provides an interesting and insightful read for women and men of all ages.

Dr. Logue published a second book 16 years later. “Beyond the Germ Theory” is an historical account of the seminal role that Cooper Curtice, the first veterinary parasitologist, played in the discovery of the role that a tick played as intermediary host in the pathogenesis of Texas Fever.⁴ Meticulously researched from primary source material, including detailed accounts from Curtice’s family records, Dr. Logue’s book captivates the reader and is one of the most detailed accounts of the late 19th century discovery that eventually led to the control of yellow fever and the successful building of the Panama Canal.

The zoo veterinarian who engineered perhaps the most famous and politically important animal swap in modern history—two giant pandas from China in exchange for a pair of musk oxen—also died in 2013.⁵ **Theodore H. Reed** (KSU 1945) was also responsible for the zoo’s acquisition of an Indian white tigress in 1960 and a pair of Komodo dragons from the Indonesian government four years later.

Reed started working at the National (Smithsonian) Zoo in 1956 when it was in its infancy and, as he famously called it, a “zoological slum” while trying to secure funds to improve the scope and quality.

The giant pandas which arrived in 1972—a male named Hsing-Hsing and a female named Ling-Ling—represented a goodwill gesture from communist China after then-President Richard M. Nixon’s landmark visit to renew diplomatic ties. After several years of failing to produce offspring from the pair, Reed told a Washington Times reporter that he had “come to the conclusion that unlike humans, most animals will not breed if they don’t like each other.”⁶ Reed died at age 90.

¹ [Minnesota StarTribune Obituaries Oct 9, 2013](#).

² [JAVMA News](#), September 15, 2013.

³ Logue, Jeanne. *The Wonder of It All*. Harper & Row, New York. 1979.

⁴ Logue, Jeanne N. *Beyond the Germ Theory. The Story of Dr. Cooper Curtis*. Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas. 1995.

⁵ Vitello, Paul. [Theodore Reed, Who Lifted National Zoo’s Profile, Dies](#). *New York Times*, July 7, 2013.

⁶ Dazio, Stephanie, [Veterinarian turned National Zoo into international destination](#). *The Washington Post*, Jul 4, 2013.

Note: The author also acknowledges the record of obituaries contained in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* as an additional source of information.

KEYWORDS:

History of Veterinary Medicine
Douglas Blood
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Theodore Reed
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Texas Fever
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The Wonder of it all
Women in Veterinary Medicine

TOPICS:

Women in Veterinary Medicine

LEADING QUESTION:

What veterinarian was a leading advocate for girls in sports after the passage of Title IX?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dr. Donald F. Smith, Dean Emeritus of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, had a passion for the value of the history of veterinary medicine as a gateway for understanding the present and the future of the profession.

Throughout his many professional roles from professor of surgery, to Department Chair of Clinical Sciences, Associate Dean of Education and of Academic Programs and Dean, he spearheaded changes in curriculum, clinical services, diagnostic services and more. He was a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and a member of the National Academy of Practices. Most recently he played a major role in increasing the role of women in veterinary leadership.

Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine is one of his projects where he was able to share his vast knowledge of the profession.