

**A Biography of and Interview with
Andrew Malcolm Draper, DVM**
Class of 1938, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University
Author and Interviewer: Dr. Donald F. Smith, *Austin O. Hooey Dean Emeritus*

New York State Veterinary College Graduation Photograph



Dr. Andrew Draper, 1938

Challenges, Choices, and Cherished Results

Dr. Andrew Draper had a full measure of difficult challenges at various stages in his professional and personal life, but he approached each with a positive attitude. When forced by circumstances to make choices at particularly difficult forks in his life's journey, he emerged victorious, grateful and satisfied.

No matter what problem came along, something better always answered it. I just feel it was a wonderful way to spend a lifetime.¹

Born November 22, 1912, of British immigrants and raised in Fairfield, Conn., Draper developed an early love for cattle while working on a neighbor's dairy farm. He attended junior college after high school with the intent of becoming an engineer. However, a chance conversation with his family physician made him consider veterinary medicine, and he matriculated at Cornell in the fall of 1934.

Starting in 1931, the college admitted a significantly larger number of New York City residents. However, just three years later, the new policy came under pressure when revised admission guidelines were adopted that stressed a preference for applicants from rural areas:

Farm-reared boys are preferred to those from the cities, since the latter usually are handicapped because of their inexperience with animals... There is little time to teach students the intimate details of animal behavior that most farm-reared boys learn before they are of college age.²

Andy Draper was among those well-prepared for farm animal practice, and he thrived in a curriculum that was oriented towards the health and well-being of agricultural animals. It was no surprise then, that when he graduated in 1938, he accepted the recommendation of a former professor at Cornell to enter the emerging field of artificial insemination of cattle. He settled in New Jersey as Sussex County's artificial inseminator. Two years later, now married

¹ Personal interview, Dr. Andrew Draper '38, March 6, 2009.

² Dean's Report, in *Report of the New York State Veterinary College at Cornell University for the Year 1934-35*, 1936.

and with his first child, he returned to his hometown of Fairfield, Conn., and started a large animal practice.

Draper's World War II service required that he close his thriving practice and enter the federal Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI). Rather than being sent to Chicago or some other distant place to perform meat inspection duties, Draper was able—thanks to the intervention of Dean Hagan, who had also just been called up to the BAI—to remain with his family in Connecticut while he performed tuberculosis and brucellosis testing of cattle on farms throughout the region.

Draper's large animal career ended abruptly on June 14, 1946, when he was attacked viciously by an Ayrshire cow. His injuries—including fractured cervical vertebrae—were so debilitating that he was completely incapacitated for months and did not recover fully for three years. Because of the physical challenges associated with handling cattle, the veterinary career that was his dream was no longer possible, and he turned to small animal practice. To help get back into physical shape, he took up his former college sport of horseback riding and became an accomplished local equestrian and “master of the foxhound.”

An opportune meeting with the University of Pennsylvania's famous dermatologist, Frantisek Kral, catalyzed Draper's nascent interest in the emerging field of veterinary dermatology. He took advantage of short courses from Dr. Kral and was soon recognized as a regional expert in the field, often receiving referral cases from veterinarians in New York City. His practice thrived.

After a series of deep personal tragedies and disappointments in 1968-69, including the loss of his wife and father, Draper again found happiness. He fell in love with Betty Gilyard, the widow of a former colleague, Dr. Richard Gilyard '35, and then retired from practice and moved to Ocala, Fla. He and Betty raised horses and trained dogs in obedience, tracking, and agility. They also took up ballroom dancing, traveling all over the country in their new pursuits. These were happy days for the couple, and they made the most of them.

Now in his 97th year, Draper lives independently with his wife in a charming house in the horse country of rural Ocala. The immaculate residence is replete with photos, scores of championship ribbons, and other memorabilia of a lifetime of activities with his beloved horses and dogs. Looking back on his life and commenting on his respect for Cornell, he opined with a soft tone of serenity:

I was extremely happy about becoming a veterinarian. I had a wonderful, interesting life, full of opportunities... I just feel it was a wonderful way to spend a lifetime. I realize now I've lived a long time, and I'm glad that I was able to do it.³

³ Personal interview, March 6, 2009

Interview

[Listen to the Interview](#)

Subject: Andrew M. Draper, DVM
Interviewer: Donald F. Smith, DVM
Interview Date: March 6, 2009
Location: Ocala, Florida



Photographs by Donald F. Smith



Dr. Andrew Draper (and Jill), March 2009

Interviewer's Note:

Responding as have the other marvelous people whom I have approached to assist with this legacy project, Dr. Draper graciously invited me to his home for this interview. His lovely wife, Betty Draper, though now confined to her bed because of chronic medical problems, warmly greeted my wife and me as we proceeded to tour their lovely country home in Ocala's pristine horse country. In our informal discussion prior to the taping, Andy, with grace and equanimity, recounted how he overcame devastating disappointments at critical junctures in his life, and emerged a stronger, fulfilled person. It is my hope that veterinarians like Andy and others may recognize the positive impact they have on us as we embrace their stories. (Dr. Donald F. Smith)

Dr. Smith:

This is an interview with Dr. Andrew Draper, Class of 1938. We're in Ocala, Florida. Dr. Draper, it is very good to meet you. I'll call you Andy as you asked, and you call me Don.

Dr. Draper:

Thank you, Don.

Dr. Smith:

We're here to talk about your life growing up and how you got to Cornell, and your life as a veterinarian. You were born in New Jersey, you told me.

Dr. Draper:

West New York,¹ New Jersey, which doesn't exist now; it's part of Jersey City.² I used to go to Canada quite a bit, and it always confused the officers at the border when I would say "West New York." They didn't know whether I was talking about New York state or New Jersey.

Dr. Smith:

Your parents grew up in New Jersey?

Dr. Draper:

My father grew up in Southport, England;³ my mother in Edinburgh, Scotland. They moved to this country in, I think, the 1880s. They settled in Yonkers, New York, then Dad took an engineering course in some school in New Jersey, and that's why they moved. His father moved to New Jersey, too. His father was a stair-builder. I well recall his home with the stable downstairs and the horse—no such thing as a car.

Dr. Smith:

But you grew up in Connecticut.

Dr. Draper:

Yes, Fairfield, Connecticut.

Dr. Smith:

How did you develop an interest in animals?

Dr. Draper:

I lived close to a farm. It was a big estate, actually, and they had a lot of cows and horses—draft horses—and that's where I got my first job, mucking out stalls [*laughing*]. Eventually I was milking cows. I kept that job until I was in about my first year at Cornell.

Dr. Smith:

How old were you when you started working with the cattle? These were dairy cattle, were they?

Dr. Draper:

Dairy cattle, mostly Guernseys, if I remember right. I was probably eleven or twelve when I started working there.

¹ A town in Hudson County, N.J., part of the New York metropolitan area.

² The second-largest city in New Jersey, in Hudson County adjacent to the Hudson River; also part of the New York metropolitan area.

³ On the Irish Sea coast, north of Liverpool, England.

Dr. Smith:

Do you recall where the milk was sent? Was it sent to one of the big dairies in New York City⁴?

Dr. Draper:

No, it was delivered. All the milk was bottled and it was delivered by car. I can't remember what kind of a car; it must have been a Maxwell⁵ or something like that. This was before pasteurization. It was delivered locally.

Dr. Smith:

Your parents must have been interested in higher education for you and your sister, because both of you got a university education.

Dr. Draper:

Yes, they were. And as Dad always said, "I'm going to leave everything to Mary, because I can't give her the education I've given you." She went to the Presbyterian Hospital in New York City for four years and became a registered nurse. She's four years younger than I am. She lives still in Connecticut. She is 92 now [*laughing*].

Dr. Smith:

Could you tell me about your high school, and the other school you went to before you went to Cornell?

Dr. Draper:

I went to Roger Ludlowe High School in Fairfield. There wasn't any such thing as a school bus then. We walked about a mile to the trolley and the trolley took us to the center of Fairfield. Then we had about another half-mile to walk to school. We moved, when I was a sophomore, a little closer to the school, and I used to walk to school, about a mile and a half. High school was from 9:00 in the morning 'til 2:30 in the afternoon. My father insisted that I take a science course, which I did, and I graduated in '31. Then I went to the junior college of Connecticut, in Bridgeport, which is right next to Fairfield—just a short bus ride.⁶ I graduated in '32 from junior college and I went back in '33 to get some courses that would allow me to enter veterinary school.

Dr. Smith:

You had an interview.⁷ Could you tell me about that, please?

Dr. Draper:

I wrote to Cornell to ask about veterinary school, and they told me I didn't have enough credits for the class of '37 and they sent me back to junior college. I took another year of

⁴ Sheffield Farms and Borden's were the two large dairies in New York City, also serving parts of Connecticut. See interviews with Lawrence T. Waitz '31 and Robert Ferber '39.

⁵ An early motor car known for racing; the Maxwell name phased out in 1925, becoming Chrysler-Plymouth.

⁶ Approximately five miles northeast of Fairfield, like Fairfield, on Long Island Sound.

⁷ Starting with the 1934-35 academic year, Cornell's *Announcement of the New York State Veterinary College* stated that the Committee on Admissions required a personal interview, whenever feasible. This was conducted usually at the college.

study: chemistry and botany were two of the subjects they wanted⁸. That spring, they wrote me again after I sent them my marks. They had me go to Waterbury, Conn., which is 30 or 40 miles away, and meet Dr. A. T. Gilyard⁹, which I did. We had a very nice interview, or meeting, and I think, probably thanks to him, that I gained entrance to vet school.

Dr. Smith:

You got to know him, later in your career, very well.

Dr. Draper:

I knew him most of my career because we only lived 30 or 40 miles apart. Once I came back to Fairfield in 1940, I saw him quite frequently.

Dr. Smith:

And he had a son?

Dr. Draper:

He had a son, Richard;¹⁰ I knew Dick very well. He graduated in '35. I used to go in the summertime, work with him quite a bit—vaccinating hogs, I remember, in the garbage fields [*laughing*].

Dr. Smith:

This was before you graduated.

Dr. Draper:

Before I graduated. So I had a good idea what I was getting into. I was interested in all of that, especially cattle.

Dr. Smith:

What would you have done if you had not become a veterinarian?

Dr. Draper:

Well, I was on my way to becoming a structural engineer—that's what I was studying. I don't know whether I would have made it or not. I didn't like being *indoors* all the time. I didn't like sitting in an office. Little did I know I would, eventually [*laughing*].

Dr. Smith:

But you met a physician along the way.

Dr. Draper:

Yes, a family doctor was the one who said to me, "Why don't you look into veterinary medicine? You've been working on Lasher's farm all these years, and you like cows—you know quite a bit about cows. And that's how it started.

⁸ One year of college education (30 semester hours, including six hours of inorganic chemistry), in a registered college of arts and sciences, was required for admission.

⁹ A. T. Gilyard '07, originally from Seymour, Conn.

¹⁰ Richard Taylor Gilyard '35, originally from Waterbury, Conn.

Dr. Smith:
You entered in the fall of 1934.

Dr. Draper:
Yes.

Dr. Smith:
If my records are correct, there were 43 of you in that class who started together. Of the 43, only 29 of you graduated at the end of the four years.

Dr. Draper:
I remember 28 [who graduated].

Dr. Smith:
I may be wrong, but still there were quite a number of people who did not carry forward. Did they talk to you about what your chance of success would be when you started?

Dr. Draper:
No. No, I don't recall.

Dr. Smith:
How did you travel to Ithaca? By train; by car?

Dr. Draper:
By train and car. Lehigh Valley train to Hoboken, N.J.; we took the tunnel across to Grand Central Station, and then to Fairfield, Conn. It was several hour's ride.

Dr. Smith:
Had you ever been as far west as Ithaca, as far north, previously? [*Dr. Draper:* No.] What was your impression as a young man going away to college?

Dr. Draper:
I loved it! I thought it was great. I remember staying on Linden Avenue. I had a room in a house. I couldn't afford to go live in one of the dormitories.

Dr. Smith:
Did you work as you were going through college?

Dr. Draper:
Not at Cornell. During the summers I worked.

Dr. Smith:

You, along with other people who were not from New York state, would have had to pay tuition.¹¹

Dr. Draper:

Yes, I think it was around \$240 a semester. I'm not sure.

Dr. Smith:

Did you ever consider applying to the University of Pennsylvania?

Dr. Draper:

No, I did not.

Dr. Smith:

And you lived in that room all those four years?

Dr. Draper:

No, I moved in with Bill Williams¹² when Dick Gilyard graduated in '35, and I stayed in an apartment with him for one year. Then I moved up to *OTS*¹³ my third year, and Norm Siebert¹⁴ and I roomed together for two years. Norm had a German shepherd dog named Frau, and I was the only one she would let in that room [*laughing*].

Dr. Smith:

You had a woman in your class, Marion Leighton.¹⁵ [Dr. Draper: Marion Leighton.] According to the records that I found, she started in your class during your second year. I don't know where she was in the first year, or if my records are not correct. Do you know?

Dr. Draper:

I thought she was with us in the first year.

Dr. Smith:

I may be incorrect. She was from New York City? [Dr. Draper: Yes]. What was it like having a woman at that time, because there were very few women prior to her? After her, there were more.

Dr. Draper:

There was quite a bit of competition for her [*laughing*]; I remember that. I can't say as we thought anything about it. It was just like high school, so to speak.

Dr. Smith:

¹¹ Students from New York state received tuition scholarships (i.e. free tuition) as part of the land-grant commitment.

¹² Walter Johnson Williams '36, originally from White Plains, N.Y.

¹³ A veterinary fraternity.

¹⁴ Norman Edward Seibert '38, originally from Hummelstown, Pa.

¹⁵ Marion Lucile Leighton '38, originally from New York City; the eighth woman to graduate with a Cornell DVM.

The number of students from New York City in your class was quite high.¹⁶ Did you have any response to that? Did that affect you in any way because they were from the city and you were from the country?

Dr. Draper:

No. No. There was animosity about them, yes. [Dr. Smith: In what respect?] Racial animosity. Most of them were Jewish. I remember there being quite a bit of animosity about that.

Dr. Smith:

From the students, or from the professors?

Dr. Draper:

No, from the students. That was back in the days [before] we were Christianized, or whatever you would call it.

Dr. Smith:

Were there some whom you knew well—for example, the Morris brothers?

Dr. Draper:

I knew the Morris brothers well, yes, and they were a wonderful pair of guys.

Dr. Smith:

Alexander and Robert.

Dr. Draper:

Twins. And Henry Grossman¹⁷ I knew very well. We all got along well, but there was always that undercurrent of animosity, I thought. I don't think they were invited to join the fraternities, *Alpha Psi* or *OTS*.¹⁸

Dr. Smith:

The faculty. I'm going to look over some of the different courses you took and ask you about the different faculty, if I may. Before I do that, though, there were three men who were original faculty when the college was formed in 1896, who were still alive when you were a student. They were Dr. Hopkins,¹⁹ Dr. Gage,²⁰ and Dr. Williams.²¹ Dr. Gage taught

¹⁶The *Announcement for the New York State Veterinary College for 1935-36* lists the members of the freshman class of 1938. It identifies nine students from New York City: W. Chilvers (NYC), H. Feldman (NYC), A. Morris (Jamaica), R. Morris (Jamaica), J. Reisman (Brooklyn), J. Sasmor (NYC), A. Schwab (Staten Is.), and I. Sprecher (Brooklyn).

¹⁷ Henry Grossman '38, originally from New York City. Freshman and sophomore 1931-33, left Cornell and returned later to graduate with the Class of 1938.

¹⁸ Jewish students were typically not allowed to join veterinary fraternities at that time.

¹⁹ Grant Sherman Hopkins, DSc, DVM '00, professor of veterinary anatomy, emeritus.

²⁰ Simon Henry Gage, BS, professor of histology, emeritus.

²¹ Walter Long Williams, professor of obstetrics and research and professor in the diseases of breeding cattle, emeritus.

histology, Dr. Williams was a large animal clinician, and Dr. Hopkins was an anatomist. Do you ever remember interacting with any of them?

Dr. Draper:

I don't remember anything. The names ring a bell but I don't remember ever seeing any of them.

Dr. Smith:

Anatomy. You were taught by Dr. Sunderville,²² of course. What was he like?

Dr. Draper:

He was a very matter-of-fact person. He wanted you to study your lesson and be prepared for it. He was an awfully nice man to study under. We all thought the world of him.

Dr. Smith:

Did you know Mac Miller?²³ He was in the class [before] you, but he was an instructor of anatomy for your class.

Dr. Draper:

Yes, I did know that. Mac went on and became a professor of anatomy and, I think, wrote a textbook to replace Scisson's anatomy.

Dr. Smith:

Physiology? You were taught by Dr. Dukes.²⁴ People tell me he was a great teacher.

Dr. Draper:

He was, a wonderful man.

Dr. Smith:

Do you remember a man named Hayden,²⁵ not Dean Hagan, but Hayden?

Dr. Draper:

Yes I do; he taught physiology. He was older than Dr. Dukes. But I well remember he was an awfully nice person.

Dr. Smith:

And a young man named Dr. Batt, Henry Thomas Batt.²⁶

Dr. Draper:

I remember him being there. I don't recall much about him.

²² Earl Sunderville '08, professor of veterinary anatomy.

²³ Malcolm Eugene Miller '34, instructor in anatomy.

²⁴ Henry Hugh Dukes, DVM, MS, professor of veterinary physiology.

²⁵ Charles Earnest Hayden '14, professor of veterinary physiology.

²⁶ Henry Thomas Batt, VS, MVSc, instructor in veterinary physiology; later professor at the Ontario Veterinary College (Canada).

Dr. Smith:

You certainly remember Dr. Olafson, Peter Olafson.²⁷

Dr. Draper:

Peter Olafson was [laughing]—he was a great guy. We had a lot of fun about the way he marked us. We all thought we were so smart in the beginning [the first prelim], but when we got our results on the second prelim, we only got half a mark, which none of us realized what it was. I thought it was a 40, but actually it was an 80. But he didn't tell us that [laughing].

Dr. Smith:

He expected a lot from you.

Dr. Draper:

As he said, "In this course, 100% is the only thing we accept. You're taking pathology, you have to know what you see."

Dr. Smith:

As you look back, do you regard him as one of your finest professors?

Dr. Draper:

Yes, I think I would. [*then, with emphasis*] Yes, I definitely would.

Dr. Smith:

What about Dean Hagan?²⁸ Was he a good teacher?

Dr. Draper:

Oh, wonderful! Dean Hagan was just another wonderful person in my life. He was the reason for one of the biggest changes in my life. When the war came along, he was put in the Bureau of Animal Industry²⁹ as assistant to the chief.³⁰ When I was assigned to the Bureau of Animal Industry, he insisted that I be sent to Connecticut because I was the only one who knew how to get around there [laughing]. So I spent the war in Connecticut, and very close to home most of the time.

Dr. Smith:

In large animal, you had Dr. Frost.³¹ [*Dr. Draper: Yes.*] Do you remember Dr. Danks?³²

Dr. Draper:

²⁷ Peter Olafson '26, MS '27, professor of pathology.

²⁸ William Arthur Hagan, DVM, MS, professor of bacteriology and dean of the college (1932-1959).

²⁹ BAI was established in the Department of Agriculture in 1884 and replaced by the Agricultural Research Service in 1953.

³⁰ Hagan was appointed as special consultant to the chief of the BAI, effective December 15, 1943. He returned to Cornell after almost one year of service.

³¹ James Nathan Frost '07, professor of veterinary surgery and director of the surgical clinic.

³² Arthur Gordon Danks '33, PhD, instructor in surgery.

He was, as I recall, a short man. He was a very intelligent instructor... He was a nice guy to work for. And Dr. Frost, a wonderful horseman. I always envied his ability to handle horses.

Dr. Smith:

Henry Asmus,³³ the farrier. Did he work with Dr. Frost as well?

Dr. Draper:

I remember him well. We had a course in horse-shoeing in our first year. I can't recall whether it was just one semester or two, but it was important.

Dr. Smith:

In ambulatory you had Dr. ... [*Dr. Draper:* ... Fincher,³⁴ Dr. Gibbons.³⁵] Dr. Gibbons was only at Cornell a short time,³⁶ so you were one of the few who had him. What was he like?

Dr. Draper:

Very happy, friendly person. It used to be a joy to have a day on ambulatory with him, because he was always telling jokes and he was a great guy. He went on to another university, I think.

Dr. Smith:

I believe it was Auburn, but I'm not sure.

Dr. Draper:

I think so.

Dr. Smith:

And Dr. Udall?³⁷

Dr. Draper:

Of yes, medicine. Very staid. I was going to say severe, but it wasn't severe. You didn't get any humor with Dr. Udall. He was all business.

Dr. Smith:

Did you happen to know his son, who graduated three years after you?³⁸

Dr. Draper:

I met him, but I didn't know him well.

Dr. Smith:

Did you have any interaction with the men in poultry: Dr. Brunett,³⁹ Dr. Levine?⁴⁰

³³ Henry Asmus, assistant professor of farriery.

³⁴ Myron Gustin Fincher '19, MS, assistant professor of medicine and obstetrics.

³⁵ Walter Joseph Gibbons '25, MS, instructor in medicine and obstetrics.

³⁶ Gibbons left Cornell in 1947 to become professor and director of clinics at Auburn.

³⁷ Dennie Hammond Udall '01, professor of veterinary medicine and director of the ambulatory clinic.

³⁸ Robert H. Udall '41, PhD '52, deceased June 5, 2001; formerly a faculty member at Colorado State University.

Dr. Draper:

No, Dr. Levine came after me, I think. I remember I was offered a fellowship out at the University of Illinois to study poultry in 1938. I think the pay was \$650. [*Dr. Smith:* But you decided not to go.] I didn't like chickens that much. I once had a job killing chickens.

Dr. Smith:

When you graduated in '38, you went to a small animal job first.

Dr. Draper:

Yes, I did, to Rowley Memorial Hospital⁴¹ in Springfield, Massachusetts, for a month. It was a great experience in small animals because I had the hospital pretty much to myself. I lived there. I spent 24 hours a day in small animal medicine, and it was wonderful.

Dr. Smith:

Who had taught you small animal medicine and surgery at Cornell?

Dr. Draper:

Dr. Milks⁴² and Dr. Stephenson.⁴³ They both ran the small animal clinic.

Dr. Smith:

You told me earlier that you saw a caesarian on a bitch back in 1933. Could you describe that?

Dr. Draper:

I recall it was with Dr. A. T. Gilyard. A Boston bull terrier came into the office in the evening and it was having trouble giving birth. His son⁴⁴ administered ether in an ether cone, and he did a midline incision. I don't remember how many puppies but everything worked out fine. The bitch was awake shortly after we took the ether away from her.⁴⁵

Dr. Smith:

How did you get from small animal work at Rowley down to New Jersey?

Dr. Draper:

³⁹ Earl Louis Brunett '23, PhD, assistant professor of poultry diseases; one of the first veterinarians to deal entirely with diseases of poultry.

⁴⁰ Philip Pincus Levine '32, MS '32, research instructor in poultry diseases.

⁴¹ Springfield, Mass.; affiliated with the renowned Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston, Mass. Many of the senior veterinarians in this hospital took vacation during this period, and Draper was responsible for the care of the animals.

⁴² Howard Jay Milks '04, professor of therapeutics and director of the small animal clinic.

⁴³ Hadley Carruthers Stephenson '20, assistant professor of materia medica and small animal diseases.

⁴⁴ Richard Gilyard '35 (at the time, a veterinary student)

⁴⁵ See also interview with Lawrence T. Waitz '31 for his description of anesthesia for canine caesarian sections circa 1931.

Dr. Fincher called me and said he had an opportunity he thought I should look into, which was to start the artificial insemination program in Sussex County, New Jersey.⁴⁶ So I went back to Cornell. Dr. Fincher showed me the methodology of getting semen and injecting it into the uterus. I went right on from there to Sussex, New Jersey and went to work from the Rutgers Experimental Farm.⁴⁷ We collected most of our semen there. They had Jerseys, Holsteins, Guernseys, as I recall. We processed the semen there and then I went out on the road every day and injected whatever cows that the farmers called [about, indicating] they were in heat.

Dr. Smith:

You were in New Jersey for two years. Then what happened?

Dr. Draper:

Then I was offered an office in Fairfield, Connecticut, by an old friend. So I went to Fairfield. It was something I couldn't refuse, and I started practice right away. I had a lot of cattle practice. I didn't do hardly any horse practice. Evenings, we did some small animal practice.

That lasted until the war started. Then I was drafted by procurement, assignment, into the Bureau of Animal Industry. I spent the war in the Bureau of Animal Industry testing cattle for Bang's⁴⁸ and TB [tuberculosis].

Dr. Smith:

What happened to your practice when you were with the BAI [Bureau of Animal Industry]?

Dr. Draper:

The man who rented me the little store that I started in for \$35 a month said, "I'm sorry, but I have to be paid the \$35 a month." The BAI was only giving me \$37.50 a week and I couldn't practice, so I had to give up the store. I had a very good friend who offered me a home about a mile away in Greenfield Hill. We moved everything up there. He had a tremendous farm, a place where I could put all my equipment in his barn. My wife ran a boarding kennel of sorts on the place during the war while I was involved with the Bureau.

Dr. Smith:

You were married soon after you graduated?

Dr. Draper:

Yes, I was married in '39, May 6th of 1939. We spent our honeymoon in Ithaca, New York that weekend.

Dr. Smith:

⁴⁶ In northwestern New Jersey.

⁴⁷ Currently the New Jersey Agricultural Experimental Station, a component of Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.

⁴⁸ Brucellosis, or Bang's disease, is a bacterial disease of cattle cause by *Brucella abortus*; the organism causes undulant fever in people through ingestion of infected (unpasteurized) milk or meat.

Your two children came along when?

Dr. Draper:

One was born in '41; and [the other in] '46.

Dr. Smith:

After the war you went back to practice?

Dr. Draper:

Not immediately. I was asked by the State of Connecticut to help them get their testing caught up. So I did nothing but TB and Bang's disease testing until I was hurt. June 14, 1946—walking through a field with a farmer, and suddenly a big Ayrshire cow attacked me. I don't recall anything after that except ending up in the hospital with a broken neck, and other injuries. That was the end of my large animal practice [*laughing*].

Dr. Smith:

You eventually ended up in small animal practice after that, but it took you a while to recover from your injuries.

Dr. Draper:

I was completely incapacitated, I remember, until Thanksgiving of '46. Then, after Thanksgiving, they took the cast off and I was allowed to move around. I helped with our boarding kennel. My father built an office for me in the barn, and so I started seeing small animals. I couldn't do much surgery. Mostly vaccinating, treating a sick dog; that was it. Boarding dogs. I remember even learning how to strip a wirehaired fox terrier⁴⁹ for show, how to clip poodles, things like that.

I recovered from the accident by 1949. I looked at myself and I had gained about 40 pounds more than I was before it all started. I had to do something, so I went back to riding. I rode every day right after office hours at 1:00 in the afternoon. I went up to the Fairfield Hunt Club. I had a horse there, rode it for an hour, got myself back into condition. Practice improved and increased, and we did very well.

Dr. Smith:

You met somebody in dermatology.

Dr. Draper:

Yes, I read about Dr. Kral,⁵⁰ who had come from Czechoslovakia to the University of Pennsylvania as the world's only veterinary dermatologist. I had a very difficult case with a golden retriever, and I called him up and asked him if he would look at it. He gave me the

⁴⁹ Technique for grooming the wirehaired fox terrier

⁵⁰ Dr. Frantisek Kral, DVM, former professor and dean of the school of veterinary medicine in Brno, Czechoslovakia; published *Vetrinari Dermatologie*, the second textbook in veterinary dermatology, in 1931; he was confined to a Nazi concentration camp; in 1948 he was forced to flee Czechoslovakia; and became a faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania (1948-63). (Source: *A Legacy and A Promise*, 1984.)

date to come. That's how I met Dr. Kral, and I became very interested in his dermatology and took some classes, continuing education, from him.

I found my practice changed very much to mostly dermatology. I got referrals from all over after that; it was most interesting. I even had a call from an M.D. in New York City about a lady he had with sarcoptic mange⁵¹ all over her neck and her chest. She had brought a little puppy from England back to New York by plane and the puppy had slept on her chest on the way back and she had acquired sarcoptic mange. This doctor in New York called me up and said, "How do you treat sarcoptic mange in a human?" As I told him, you treat the symptoms, but you don't have to treat the mange, because it's self-limiting and will disappear. That was interesting, because she happened to be a rather famous person and she did an awful lot of advertising for me from New York City [*laughing*]. I used to get a lot of cases from New York City after that.

Dr. Smith:

When did you retire from practice?

Dr. Draper:

I retired in April of 1972 after a surgeon (after taking a tumor out of my parotid salivary gland) suggested to me that, if I could, it would be a good time to retire. And it was, for more reasons than that, too, because my wife had died at Christmas of '68 and my father was sick with cancer. He died in March of '69.

I met Betty⁵² and married Betty in October of '69. We'd been friends for years. We'd both been into horses and horse shows; both been masters of foxhounds. It just came suddenly. She just came up to Connecticut from Florida, where she was living, for her daughter's wedding. [She had] heard that Ruth had died, so she drove down from Waterbury to see me. That was the beginning of a fine romance [*laughing*].

Dr. Smith:

And she is still with you. [*Dr. Draper:* She is still with me.] So she has had the privilege of being married to two veterinarians. [*Dr. Draper:* Yes, she has.] While you've been here in Florida, could you finish up by talking a few minutes about your life here? Both with horses and during your final retirement.

Dr. Draper:

We decided that we had too many ghosts in Connecticut, Betty and I. We decided, after they took my tumor out, to come to Florida, which we did. We each bought 40 acres of adjoining land. So we came to Ocala,⁵³ bought a bulldozer, and cleared a lot of the land, and we fenced it. We did most of the work ourselves, which was a lot of fun. Twelve years later, we sold the farm to a neighbor.

⁵¹ Zoonotic skin disease caused by *Sarcoptes scabiei*.

⁵² Betty was the widow of Dr. Richard Gilyard '35, who had died in 1962.

⁵³ City in north-central Florida, the "Horse Capital of Florida" and one of the prime Thoroughbred areas in the world.

Then I really retired, and I've had a great time in Florida riding horses, raising horses, ponies, training dogs—obedience, tracking, agility—and we've lived just a terrific life down here. We also became dancers and did a lot of dancing, ending up dancing at the silver level, traveled around the country dancing in different places. It was just great.

Now I'm old and I can't do much [*laughing*].

Dr. Smith:

You knew Steve Roberts,⁵⁴ speaking about horses. He was a classmate?

Dr. Draper:

I knew Steve very well, rode with him most every day. We used to leave the veterinary school at four o'clock, go over to the riding hall. He'd practice his polo ponies. I'd usually ride some of the officers' polo ponies to exercise them. There was a hunter/jumper over there that I rode, to exercise him. I spent at least a couple of hours over there every day.

Dr. Smith:

Looking back at your life, you didn't become an engineer, you became a veterinarian. You were happy about that, ultimately?

Dr. Draper:

I was extremely happy about becoming a veterinarian. I had a wonderful, interesting life, full of opportunities. No matter what problem came along, something better always answered it. I just feel it was a wonderful way to spend a lifetime.

I realize now I've lived a long time, and I'm glad that I was able to do it.

Dr. Smith:

Did you feel Cornell prepared you well for this life?

Dr. Draper:

I couldn't say more for Cornell. Cornell prepared me completely for everything I've done.

Dr. Smith:

Well, Dr. Draper—Andy—I thank you for the interview. It's been a pleasure to have this opportunity and we'll record this in a way that I hope will be helpful to others.

Dr. Draper:

Thank you, it's been a pleasure. Wonderful to meet you.

⁵⁴ Stephen James Roberts '38, originally from Hamburg, N.Y., deceased Jan. 12, 2005. A former faculty member at Cornell University, he was an avid polo player and legendary coach who was inducted into the Cornell Athletic Hall of Fame.