

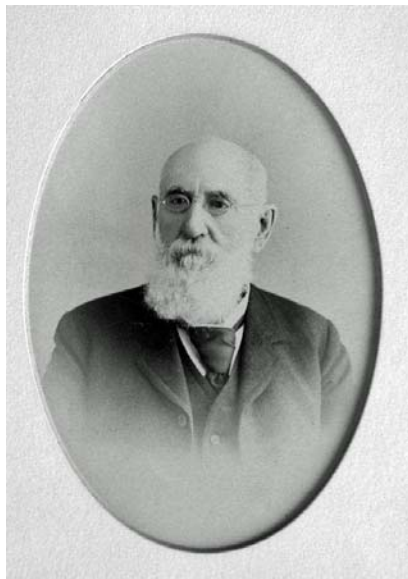
**A Biography of and Interview with
Edward Hagyard Fallon, DVM**
Class of 1956, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University
Accompanied by
Mrs. Priscilla Fallon
William R. McGee, DVM (WSU 1940)
Mrs. Ali McGee Kelly
Walter W. Zent, DVM (Cornell 1963)
Luke Hagyard Fallon, DVM (Cornell 1996)

Author and Interviewer: Dr. Donald F. Smith, *Austin O. Hooey Dean Emeritus*

Service with Integrity, for over 135 Years

The large mural display in the Lexington airport says simply, “*The world’s premier equine practice since 1876*”. And so it is that the Hagyard-Davidson-McGee name—or just Hagyard, for short—symbolizes the clinical practice that provides the world’s most comprehensive, most advanced and best service for advancing and sustaining equine health.

Situated on the outskirts of Lexington, Kentucky, the practice is a sprawling 109-acre medical campus, with over 100,000 square feet of clinical space for patients that come to the clinic for outpatient and treatment, or for inpatient medico-surgical care. In addition to the 20 veterinarians who attend to the horses that arrive at the clinic and hospital, another 40 veterinarians travel to farms in the surrounding area where they attend to the health and reproductive needs of over 20,000 horses annually.



Photograph provided by Dr. Edward Fallon

Edward T. Hagyard

The beginning of the five-generational Hagyard family of veterinarians dates to 1839 when Edward Thomas Hagyard, a Scot, graduated from the Edinburgh Veterinary College. He immigrated to Ontario, Canada, in 1849, and soon become a prominent practitioner as well as a leader in professional veterinary circles. He served as external examiner for his friend, Andrew Smith, the principal of the Ontario Veterinary College located in Toronto. Along with Smith, he joined with other veterinarians in establishing the Ontario Veterinary Association in 1874.

Dr. Hagyard was called to Kentucky in 1875, to consult on a valuable Shorthorn bull named Duke of Geneva who had an intractable gastro-intestinal problem. Hagyard’s expertise so impressed the local cattle and horse men that he was encouraged to move to the Lexington area and set up his veterinary practice. The

practice was primarily devoted to horses and cattle work but, in a manner that was typical of the English veterinarian, small animals were also welcomed.¹

¹ Bryans, John T. “Our Hagyards”. Unpublished manuscript, 2002.

Edward Hagyard's three sons all became veterinarians, graduating from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1875 (John Robert Hagyard), 1878 (Thomas Horsley Hagyard), and 1888 (Edward Weddell Hagyard). All three practiced in the United States, either in Lexington or in Nashville, Tennessee.

Photograph provided by Dr. Edward Fallon



Edward W. Hagyard

Edward Weddell Hagyard worked with his father in Lexington until he answered a call to move to Montana as chief veterinarian for the Bitter Root Stud Farm. An enterprising Irishman named Marcus Daly was operating the world's largest copper company in the Bitter Root Valley as he simultaneously was collecting valuable mares from England and other places and building an impressive horse farm. After Daly died unexpectedly in 1902, it fell upon Dr. Ed, as he was affectionately known, to disperse the herd and close down the operation. Edward eventually returned to Lexington and had two children, a son (Charles Edward Hagyard), who returned to Canada for his veterinary education (O.V.C. 1924), and a daughter, Esther.

Photograph provided by Dr. Edward Fallon



Charles Hagyard

Charles Hagyard (later known as Uncle Charlie), was the third generational member of the family in the practice. About 1940, he was joined by two partners—Arthur Davidson (Iowa State U 1936) and William McGee (Washington State U 1940). By this time, the thriving practice was devoted exclusively to horses and Charles Hagyard became a magnet, associating with some of the leading equine researchers and academicians of the day. He was Man O' War's veterinarian and was an outstanding Thoroughbred breeder in his own right.²



William McGee, 1940

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² *Ibid.*

The family veterinary lineage continued though the marriage of Charles Hagyard's sister, Esther, to John Harold Fallon, who maintained the famous racing stable of H. P. Headley of Beaumont Farms.

Esther and John's second child, Edward Hagyard Fallon, was born on October 10, 1931. A natural horseman like his father, and an aspiring veterinarian from his youth— *I had always intended on working for my uncle, Dr. Charlie Hagyard*³—Ed received his veterinary degree from Cornell University in 1956 and became the fourth generation member of the Hagyard family to join the practice.

Dr. Ed Fallon married Priscilla Beverly Roberts (a painter, sculptor and horse woman) in 1958, and they have four children: Lillian Elliott (an architectural designer), Esther Roberts (a teacher), Alma Hagyard (a molecular biologist) and Luke Hagyard.



©New York State Veterinary College Graduation Photograph

Edward H. Fallon, 1956



©New York State Veterinary College Graduation Photograph

Luke Hagyard, 1996

Following in his father's footsteps, Luke attended Notre Dame University, and then was accepted as a member of Cornell's veterinary class of 1996. From the beginning of his veterinary education, he knew he wanted to return to his family legacy in Lexington where he is now well-established as the fifth-generation veterinarian in the Hagyard legacy.

Through the years, the medical and surgical care of horses has grown in sophistication and quality, often led by veterinarians at the Hagyard practice. Lexington's mayor, Mr. James Newberry, has a long-standing knowledge of the horse business and the important role that the practice has played in sustaining its value.⁴

³ Personal communication, 2010.

⁴ Telephone interview with Mayor James Newberry July 6, 2010.

“The Lexington area is truly the center of the thoroughbred industry as well as an important player in other types of horses. The value of the area’s stallions, mares and foals is truly staggering, and the Hagyard practice—as well as other equine practices in the area—are key to maintaining the health of the equine industry. The owners have great economic interest in making sure that their horses have the finest veterinary care available. The Hagyard practice is equipped to do things that few other practices in the world are able to do. Reproductive physiology is one of the areas of special expertise.”

Hagyard is also a leader in veterinary education, providing instruction to 200 upper class veterinary students who join the practice for two- to four-weeks during their final year of veterinary college, as well as 20 interns who spend one year developing their clinical skills following graduation. Their staff veterinarians and partners/owners come from many countries and have a variety of experiences and clinical specialties.

During the World Equestrian Games held for the first time in Lexington in October 2010, the Hagyard practice was front and center in many of the health activities, from being responsible for the health regulations associated with the horses that come from foreign countries, to providing medical care for the equine athletes while they were in the Lexington area.

Interview:

[Listen to the Interview](#)

Subject: Edward Hagyard Fallon, DVM
Accompanied by: Mrs. Priscilla Fallon
William R. McGee, DVM (WSU 1940)
Ms. Ali McGee
Walter W. Zent, DVM (Cornell 1963)
Luke Hagyard Fallon, DVM (Cornell 1996)
Interviewer: Dr. Donald F. Smith
Interview Date: June 25, 2010
Location: Lexington, Kentucky

Interviewer's Note:

My challenge for this interview was to merge the history of one of the world's most remarkable veterinary legacies with the stories of individual distinguished equine veterinarians who fulfill that legacy. The warmth and enthusiasm that the Hagyard family provided for me during my visit in June 2010, provided energy for a thoughtful and reflective glimpse into the lives of this remarkable family, and also their associates whom they treat as extended family. In addition to Dr. Ed and Mrs. Fallon, I had the privilege to interview 93-year-old Dr. William McGee, the only surviving member of the Hagyard-Davidson-McGee partnership as it was configured during the middle decades of the 20th century. No brief interview can do justice to the scope or magnificence of the Hagyard story, nor to this remarkable veterinary practice that now employs over 60 veterinarians. If the appetite to learn more has been whetted, then I shall feel that this addition to the legacy series is not in vain. (Dr. Donald F. Smith)

Dr. Donald Smith:

This is Donald Smith, visiting the Hagyard practice in Lexington, Kentucky on June 25th, 2010. Several people are around the table, and we shall start with Dr. Ed Fallon who graduated from Cornell University (DVM) in 1956 and has had a distinguished career here in Kentucky.

Dr. Fallon, please start by telling how you grew up and how you became a veterinarian.

Dr. Edward Fallon, Cornell Class of 1956:

I grew up on a 2,400-acre farm. It was a great privilege to have grown up in the transition from the 'horse age' to tractors and hydraulic systems, away from mule-drawn plows and mowing machines and wagons, to the time when the tractors did all those things. My father managed the Beaumont Farm as well as the horses for Mr. Hal Price Headley, who was a local horseman and farmer.

I never knew that I was going to be anything other than a veterinarian because of the family history. [Ed Fallon is a fourth generation veterinarian.]¹ I was always directed that way:

¹ Dr. Ed Fallon is the nephew of Charles Edward Hagyard. See following footnote.

'That's what you're going to do, aren't you?' One thing led to another through high school, then going to college (at Notre Dame).

I had always intended on working for my uncle, Dr. Charlie Hagyard, OVC '24.² Uncle Charlie was not only avuncular in every respect but he was a buddy, just loads of fun and very expert in what he did. His motto was, *'Service and Integrity'*, which hopefully stands well for this place.

I got accepted to Cornell, delightfully, so I went there. Why go elsewhere? I had applied at Auburn because Kentucky³ had a reciprocal agreement with them at that time - they would take so many students from Kentucky each year. But when I got accepted at Cornell, I of course went there. That's been a great experience. There were some Cornellians who were friends of the family who practiced in Kentucky, Dr. Sager⁴ and Dr. Fincher.⁵

Dr. Smith:

Did you enjoy the Cornell experience?

Dr. Edward Fallon:

Absolutely. We were down campus⁶ at that time. They probably didn't like it too well because we were up against the Arts quad and right next to the Hotel School. Our shoes didn't smell the best but that was a nice place to be. I enjoyed the faculty. They were like uncles and fathers. They were stern in the classrooms but otherwise they were very nice people.

Dr. Smith:

Tell me who you remember, like Dr. Olafson⁷, Dr. Fincher, Dr. Fox.⁸

Dr. Edward Fallon:

Dr. Fox, indeed. And Dr. Fincher was largely responsible for my being accepted because he had a connection with the family. He worked here for a couple of years then went back to academia.⁹

Dr. Smith:

Regarding your acceptance at Cornell, did you have an interview?

² Charles Edward Hagyard (1901-1995) graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1924. The O.V.C. was located in Toronto until 1922, then moved to Guelph. Dr. C. E. Hagyard was the third generation veterinarian: his father was Edward Weddall Hagyard (1853-1951), a 1888 graduate for the O.V.C.; his grandfather was Edward Thomas Hagyard (1820-1902), a 1839 graduate for the Edinburgh Veterinary College in Scotland.

³ Kentucky did not (and still does not) have a veterinary college.

⁴ Floyd C. Sager '17, served for most of his career as the veterinarian for Claiborne Farms in Lexington, renowned for expertise in obstetrics and pediatrics.

⁵ Myron G. Fincher '19, MS, professor of veterinary medicine, director of the Ambulatory Clinic.

⁶ At that time, the veterinary complex was in central campus, near the Hotel School. In 1957, the college moved to a new set of buildings at the east end of campus, its current location.

⁷ Peter Olafson '26, MS, professor of veterinary pathology, head of Department of Pathology and Bacteriology.

⁸ Francis H. Fox '45, associate professor of veterinary medicine and obstetrics.

⁹ Dr. Fincher worked at the Elmendorf Farm in Lexington.

Dr. Edward Fallon:

I did. I was a student at Notre Dame, then came back to Kentucky for a year to get some courses in animal husbandry in case I went to Auburn. I rode the train to Ithaca from Cincinnati. I have forgotten who was there, but Dean Hagan,¹⁰ Dr. Bruner¹¹ and I think, Dr. Olafson. You are a bit stunned when you go into those interviews. Perhaps Dr. Fincher was there, too.

Everybody was dressed with coats and ties and it was very formal. I waited until I was asked to come in and the interview didn't last more than 10-15 minutes. Then I got on the train and came home.

Dr. Smith:

Did you feel the respect that they would have had for your legacy?

Dr. Edward Fallon:

I didn't feel that in that room but I knew that Dr. Fincher and Dr. Bruner were there, and I'm sure that they helped me.

Dr. Smith:

Did you enjoy your classmates?

Dr. Edward Fallon:

Absolutely! Of course, we always felt that we were one of the better classes. We have always kept in communication and are always so glad to see each other—also the classes before us and behind us.

Dr. Smith:

So you came back here to Kentucky?

Dr. Edward Fallon:

Yes, and I was number five: Hagyard,¹² Davidson,¹³ McGee¹⁴ and George Bishop from Canada (Prince Edward Island). Dr. Bishop went back up to Canada in the early 70s. He had some cattle and he was trying to deliver a calf in a barn, and had a heart attack.

Dr. Smith:

Did Dr. Dimock's role here in Kentucky have an influence on you?¹⁵

Dr. Edward Fallon:

I knew Dr. Dimock in his later years, but I was very well acquainted with the famous trio, Dimock, Edwards¹⁶ and Bruner.¹⁷ Dr. Edwards was a great friend of the family and a great

¹⁰ William A. Hagan, DVM, MS, DSc, professor of veterinary bacteriology and dean of the college (1932-59).

¹¹ Dorsey W. Bruner '33, PhD, professor of veterinary bacteriology.

¹² Charles Hagyard (Ont 1924).

¹³ Arthur Davidson (Iowa State U '36).

¹⁴ William McGee (Washington State U 1940).

¹⁵ William W. Dimock '05, equine pathologist and reproductive expert at the University of Kentucky, appointed head of Department of Veterinary Science in 1919.

barrel of fun. Dr. Bruner was a terribly nice man who had more fun in him out of the classroom than you might have guessed.

Dr. Smith:
Colonel Sager?

Dr. Edward Fallon:
Colonel Sager, the resident veterinarian at Claiborne Farm, was a great fellow and was like a godfather to a lot of us, especially the Cornellians. We used to get the local Cornell veterinarians together whenever another Cornellian came to town and he would always be there and enjoyed every minute of it.

I used to go down to Claiborne Farm when I was just out of high school and I would also stay up at nights in the spring when he was foaling mares (not every night, but a few times).

Dr. Smith:
You have four children, and Luke¹⁸ is the youngest. How did the two of you interact in the practice as he grew up?

Dr. Edward Fallon:
I think it was about like Uncle Charlie and me.

Dr. Smith:
Luke, describe how you grew up and your introduction to veterinary medicine.

Dr. Luke Fallon, Cornell Class of 1996:

We lived in town until I was five, and then moved to a farm. We didn't have a commercial equine operation, but on the weekends I would go out and ride with Dad—I was probably six, seven, eight. It was a great time to spend with your father. We'd drive along on a Saturday listening to the Metropolitan Opera and I'd fall asleep on the country roads.

My father always advertised well for the profession because he enjoyed it. His farm managers were very gracious, very nice to me. It was always interesting for me to see what you did, Dad. Coming around the practice, I got to know a lot of the partners—some of them are my partners now.

I remember sitting on a bar stool once watching you and Dr. Thorpe¹⁹ do colic surgery on a horse at our old clinic on Newtown Pike, and there was a mare hemorrhaging in a recovery stall behind me. Dr. Thorpe leaned over and said, '*Do you hear that sound?*' I said, '*Yes*'.

¹⁶ Philip R. Edwards, (PhD in bacteriology from Yale, 1925), specialist in infectious agents affecting horses and other species, appointment at the University of Kentucky where he established National Salmonella Center; moved to CDC in 1948 where he became chief of Bacteriology Section in 1962.

¹⁷ Dr. Bruner, a faculty member at Cornell, worked with Drs. Dimock and Edwards on equine infectious diseases.

¹⁸ Dr. Luke H. Fallon '96.

¹⁹ Paul E. Thorpe, DVM (UC-Davis '74), equine surgeon at Hagyard-Davidson-McGee.

She was giving a haunting whinny and he said, ‘*You remember that sound; that’s the sound of a horse that is dying.*’

It’s a wonder I become a veterinarian after that but I was impressed that these two guys were working on one horse and there was another horse that was being triaged. It was just an interesting way seeing that these people were enjoying what they were doing. It was a positive influence on me and it made it very appealing as a profession.

Dr. Smith:

Talk about your introduction to Cornell.

Dr. Luke Fallon:

I went to Notre Dame, graduated in 1992. I applied to Cornell and U. Penn. I was fortunate enough to get into both. I got into U. Penn first. There’s a friendly rivalry between Penn and Cornell, but I was fortunate to get into Cornell as well. My parents said to go to college and get an education, then learn a trade. There was never any pressure to become a veterinarian. It was just the fact that I enjoyed it and saw what a nice career it was for my father and how much he enjoyed it.

Also, we had another member of the family, an uncle, Jack Bryans.²⁰ He and my father had met at Cornell and they had a very nice relationship throughout their professional careers as far as the advancement of disease control in horses through the University of Kentucky. Those were all very positive influences on me and so I logically wanted to go to vet school and Cornell was my number one choice.

Dr. Smith:

This is a question for both of you. If you look back in your family to the children of the original Dr. Hagyard, two of them went out of state to ‘make their mistakes’ before they came back to Lexington (I am reporting that from some of the historical writings of the family). That often happens with children of veterinarians. They go elsewhere and then they finally come back to the home practice.

Was there any interest on the part of either of you to go elsewhere and then come back to the home practice?

Dr. Edward Fallon:

No, I had to get home to help Uncle Charlie, so I came home.

Dr. Luke Fallon:

I don’t know if my father needed much help, but I always wanted to come back here because this is where the family roots were and where I intended on being. I did do externships, one in Newmarket with Greenwood-Ellis (a sister practice in England) to get some race track

²⁰ John T. Bryans, PhD ’54; appointed head of Department of Veterinary Science at University of Kentucky in 1973; deceased 2004.

experience, and then I went to Dubai in January of my senior year to get more race track experience. Then I came back here and did an internship.

Dr. Smith:

Mrs. Fallon, could you describe your mother-in-law? I am trying to picture this woman—Charlie's sister, Esther—who must have had a big influence on you. What was she like?

Mrs. Priscilla Fallon:

She was a very lovely, loving woman. You were just always in awe when you were around her. She was a family woman. She loved her family and loved to have everybody around her.

Dr. Smith:

What is your impression of this legacy that goes back to the middle part of the 19th century?

Mrs. Fallon:

I think it is fantastic, wonderful, that they have chosen this. I am all for it. My family was all into horses, so I understood which way these careers were going from the beginning and I tried not to interfere; I encouraged it.

Dr. Smith:

Do horse people in general—I am thinking of your father, your family—do they generally respect veterinarians in this area?

Mrs. Fallon:

Respect them! Oh definitely, of course.

Dr. Smith to Dr. Ed Fallon:

Why were the second and third generations of the Hagyard family so committed to going back to Ontario to get an education?

Dr. Edward Fallon:

Great grandfather [Edward Thomas Hagyard] immigrated to Canada. He had been an instructor at the Ontario Veterinary College. They had a great connection with Canada and had lots of relatives up there.

Dr. Smith:

Now we shall transition to the Washington State connection.

Dr. William McGee, WSU Class of 1940:

My grandfather homesteaded in Montana and raised a family there. My family all stayed in Montana; I was the first one to leave the State. We were along the Idaho border, in the Bitter Root Valley. There were a lot of cattle and horses there.

My family was very close to the family physician and the family veterinarian. I was kind of undecided about becoming a physician or a veterinarian, then I thought that maybe the veterinary career would be the best route because I had been riding extensively the last

couple years of high school with the veterinarian in the small town. There was quite a bit of horse and cattle work.

I graduated from high school and applied to Washington State and was accepted. It was the first year that some of the schools converted from a four-year to a five-year course.²¹ We started with 150 students in the freshman class in 1935. The second year, they cut that in half and the third year they cut that 75 in half. Of the 150 who started, only 35 of us graduated on schedule.

The reason why I got here in the first place, it goes back a ways. A guy by the name of Marcus Bailey went in this area in Montana in the Bitter Root Valley. He was interested in building up a horse farm and needed a veterinarian and wound up with Dr. Hagyard. He bought horses from all over the world and all over the United States, and Dr. Ed had a good part in building it up. But unfortunately, I think in 1902, he died. He left the whole business in ragged ends and Dr. Ed was responsible for organizing the disposal of the whole thing at the time. But anyway, that brought Dr. Ed to the Bitter Root Valley. And Dr. Charlie. And because of a copper mine in Butte, I wound up in Kentucky.

A mutual friend of our family was also a friend of Charlie Hagyard's. It was customary for Charlie to go back to Montana almost every summer for vacation. His dad, Dr. Ed, did that before him. The summer before my senior year in college, I met Dr. Charlie when he came on vacation. This mutual friend had been promoting me, so I talked to Uncle Charlie and asked him if there was any opportunity to come down to Lexington and learn the ropes. He said, '*Yeah, you can come down. Come down for a year and you can decide then which direction you want to jump.*' I graduated from school, took the Washington State boards, got married, went to California and took the state boards there, then came to Lexington—all in three weeks time.

We were pretty well broke, but from the very first, the Hagyard family adopted me. I can't explain it and there is no reason for it, but perhaps it was the connection that Dr. Charlie had with Montana and the friends out there.

The thing that means so much to me is that when I came down here right out of school, and never having known any Hagyard's before, I was immediately taken into the family. For years, my wife and I would go to Dr. Ed's house four or five nights a week for dinner and, after dinner, we would play cards. His sister-in-law and her daughter were also there and they were always glad to have us for dinner and then they would have us to play cards. Since I left home at 23 and just got back for a few weeks in the summertime, I just felt more in the Hagyard family.

When I first started, I rode around on calls with Dr. Ed for a while. I would drive and he would be in the back seat (he was unable to get around very well). That experience with Dr. Ed Hagyard was rather unique in itself.

²¹ The veterinary curriculum was increased to five years in 1935 (reference *Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, A Centennial History*, by P. Harriman and G. D. Pettit), 1998.

When work picked up, I started going with Dr. Charlie. That went on for a year before I really started doing any individual work at all. I met everybody and had a lot of friends but it was not my responsibility. About the second year, I started picking up on some calls and gradually worked into the practice. At that time, when a young guy came into the business and started in to work on their horses, the managers of the horse farms around here would look down their noses. *'I don't know whether you can do this, or not!'* But I didn't push it and Uncle Charlie didn't push it, and I soon started picking up the routine work. The horse department in most veterinary schools wasn't the crowning glory of the school at that time. I probably learned more horse medicine in the first two years here than I had at school.

Nothing was said after my one-year internship, and after the second year, and the third year, and the fourth year. I kept my license in California just in case. One day after about my sixth year, I went to Dr. Charlie, *'Doctor, that one-year internship is getting kind of thin and I expect you want to get me out of here and out of the way.'* He said, *'Well, no. When you're ready to go, you can make it anywhere you want to. We'll give you the best recommendations. It's up to you. Of course, on the other hand, if you like it here and you'd like to stay, you're in for a third of the partnership.'*

So that made up my mind, why I was staying in Kentucky with the Hagyard firm. Actually, I've always felt that Dr. Charlie and Dr. Davidson²² were two of the finest fellows that I ever knew.

Dr. Smith:

Talk about Dr. Davidson. How much older than you would he have been?

Dr. McGee:

He just came here two years before I did from Iowa State. He worked more with horses in training and the race track work which I wasn't particularly suited for, so I wound up more with Dr. Charlie than I did with Dr. Davidson.

I think Art was not into horses at all when he came. He worked for a veterinarian in Iowa who was primarily in the hog business. Art was pretty new to everything when he first came but it didn't take him long to find a niche. We were good friends. He was like myself, pumped up and ready to go when he came to Lexington.

Dr. Edward Fallon:

I think Dr. Davidson was working for an Ontario graduate who was a classmate of Uncle Charlie's. He called Uncle Charlie and said he had a boy working for him who was too good to be doing what he was doing in Iowa and he asked if he had a place for him. I think at that time Frazer Smith had departed and Art came down to take his place, and he stayed. They were a fine family.

In 1958 or 1959, Dr. Davidson set up a surgery in a little place behind his house on Van Meter Road which runs behind the Keeneland Racecourse.

²² Arthur Davidson, the third partner of the practice at that time.

Dr. McGee:

Surgery didn't take a big hold until inhalation anesthesia became available. When chloral hydrate was the only anesthetic there wasn't much success with surgery. Art got started on the joint surgery, first knees and ankles.

Dr. Edward Fallon:

I think that the first joint chip we took out was from a horse owned by Mr. Hal Price Headley. I took the standard set of x-rays for that era (AP and lateral) and just accidentally saw the chip. I asked Dr. Davidson if he'd take it out. He said he didn't want to, '*Send it to U Penn*', where Jacques Jenny²³ was doing surgery. Mr. Levy said he wouldn't do it—he'd put the horse to sleep—so Art shrugged his shoulders and said, 'Okay'. We anesthetized him in the paddock with chloral hydrate and tied him up with ropes. He cut in and the chip popped right out. It isn't that easy [usually], but that encouraged everybody. That was about 1958 or so. We started doing more of that, but under chloral hydrate anesthesia, the instruments would fly off. [We got our first inhalation machine about 1964].

Dr. Luke Fallon:

Eventually, Dr. Davidson was on the Keeneland Sales Committee, cataloguing horses and putting them in the right order for the Keeneland sales. He would travel around and look at the stock that people had for sale.

Dr. Smith:

When you came here, was Dr. Ed Hagyard still doing some work?

Dr. McGee:

Token work. Everybody trusted him and people would believe what he said. He was a very natural veterinarian—naturopathic. He had a car, an old Pontiac, and in the back of it he had two boxes that were just full of little four-ounce bottles and drugs.

He would get his little chair out and sit down beside the stall. He would get the horse out and look at him. We would take his temperature and pulse and listen to the internal organs. Then he'd tell me what to do: give him oil, or whatever, and that would be it. It was uncanny that he really understood what was wrong with the horse. You might not think that looking at him or listening to him. He was always joking with the help. But he was very seldom wrong and he knew what was going on all the time.

As Dr. Charlie wanted less work, I picked up some of the farms that he was going to. By the time six years was up, I was carrying a good load.

Dr. Smith:

Dr. McGee, you grew up during the Great Depression. What was its impact?

²³ Jacques Jenny, Dr. Med. Vet. (Zurich), professor of orthopedic surgeon at the University of Pennsylvania (1959-71).

Dr. McGee:

Well, I was fortunate enough to live in a small town in Montana, and the Depression wasn't felt. I guess there wasn't any Depression in those small western towns. There were just 5,000 souls there and we got along pretty well, and I don't think Lexington felt the Depression like most other places. So I missed that one!

Dr. Smith to Ms. McGee:

Ali, do you have any comments about your grandfather?

Ms. Ali McGee:

I probably admire him more than anyone in the world. Every day I come in and see his picture on the wall, I'm very proud and very humble that I was blessed to be part of this family. I was actually adopted into this family as an infant so it is just totally by chance that this is where I ended up. It's a wonderful legacy to have and I want to live up the name. It's a lot to live up to. He has very big shoes to fill—literally and figuratively.

Dr. Smith to Dr. Zent:

Dr. Zent, how did you end up here?

Dr. Walter Zent, Cornell Class of 1963:

I had been through here several times when I was in veterinary school. I spent time with Col. Sager at Claiborne and knew of the Hagyards. I graduated in 1963 and went to Purdue for a year as an intern (that's what you call it now, but then you just went to work). I decided I wasn't going to stay there—I had already decided I was going to come to this area—and by happenstance, I got a position at the Veterinary Science Department doing field work for Jack Bryans. Ed, of course, is Jack's brother-in-law, so I'd ride with him three days a week in the spring time, and it went on from there.



©New York State Veterinary College Graduation Photograph

Walter Zent, 1963

Dr. Smith:

What is your impression of the legacy of the practice?

Dr. Zent:

Jack had such deep respect for the Hagyard family that I was steeped in it before I ever got over here. I was fascinated.

Dr. Smith:

Dr. Fallon, you and Jack Bryans were pretty close. Where did you meet him?

Dr. Edward Fallon:

In Dr. Bruner's bacteriology class at Cornell. Jack was getting his PhD, and he and Ernie Biberstein²⁴ were lab instructors. And you talk about fun. Those two guys! It was an all-star cast of instructors. Then Jack came down here. We ran around together and he married my sister.

Dr. Zent:

When I came, Drs. Hagyard, Davidson and McGee were all active and running the place. Ed [Fallon] was my direct mentor and one of the big things that struck me about the practice was that if you had an idea and wanted to try something, nobody ever told you not to do it.

Dr. Smith:

You all are real horsemen, as well as veterinarians. Could you talk about that?

Dr. Edward Fallon:

Those of us who worked in the barns and did the ambulatory, you'd better be a decent horseman. If you aren't, you won't survive.

Dr. Luke Fallon:

Some of the specialists may not have as much hands-on horse experience, but in general that is one of the first things to get you through the door. You have to have some sort of horse background.

Dr. Zent:

We spend a lot of time with the young people (interns). And I talk to them showing them where to stand when you're putting the twitch on, where to stand when you're palpating a mare. They wouldn't necessarily be thoroughbred, brood mare horsemen and they don't know these nuances. They're used to working on horses in stocks in school, so it's something we're always going to do just like Ed did it with me.

Dr. Smith:

Luke, you are the fifth member of this legacy. What is your impression of the legacy and what the practice is now.

Dr. Luke Fallon:

Ali and I are both legacies here, and my father was also part of that legacy. Dad always alluded to this practice as a great experiment because there is not an equine practice this big in the world. The group has been innovators. All the current advances in the practice—developing a white board system in medicine, implementing digital radiography, and archiving information on the web (providing real time information on patients even any hour of the night)—it's been a great experiment so far.

Who knows where the practice is going to go? Hopefully, people will always be interested in racing horses or the sport of it. We're lucky to have had the means to continue to innovate,

²⁴ Ernst Ludwig Biberstein '51, PhD, originally from Brooklyn, NY. Served for many years on the faculty of University of California-Davis.

everything from the technology like the MRI to back in the horse-and-buggy days when my great, great grandfather would go out—sometimes a two-day trip—to Claiborne to look at a sick horse, spend the night and then come back. There have been many changes in veterinary medicine over 134 years, but the horses are the same.

The practice has changed from when my father entered into it in 1956 and when I started in 1996. When I came on board, there were about 28-30 veterinarians, and now we are over 60 veterinarians. Two hundred employees.

It's not so much a family business anymore, it's more like a campus. It's almost like its own university. There are some universities that do not have as many veterinarians on staff as we do.

The horse business has changed; there aren't as many local owners. There is more international ownership. The practice has evolved as the horse business has evolved; it's not as home town or local in atmosphere. We have also evolved as far as our technologies I alluded to earlier and we try to provide the best talent. But we also can't lose sight of what the primary mission which my father alluded to earlier, which is *service with integrity*. I think that we are still recognized for that in the community, in the horse world, and in the veterinary community, too.

Dr. Smith:

Thank you very much. It has been a wonderful interview and I appreciate the contributions of all of you.