

An Enduring Veterinary Legacy: Interviews with Pioneering Veterinarians

Introduction, Overview and Credits

“Bringing History to Life”

Introduction

An Enduring Veterinary Legacy is a collection of oral interviews conducted primarily by Dr. Donald F. Smith (1949-2016), dean emeritus of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, between 2007 and 2010.

Included are audio recordings, transcripts, and biographical sketches with and about 31 Cornell alumni, their closest surviving family members, and other notable veterinarians.

Some of the information gained through these interviews was utilized in composing many of the short stories that are available in the separate *Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine* collection.

Overview

The interviews included in *An Enduring Veterinary Legacy* can be grouped into two sections:

Part I: The Great Depression and WW II (1920 - 1949)

The first wave of land grant colleges that emerged in rural America between 1868 and 1907 survived and expanded. However, the proprietary veterinary schools that had appeared in the major cities of North America during the last four decades of the 19th century ceased operation by the end of the 1920s. The working horse, the dominant species for veterinary care, was replaced by the automobile and tractor.

During the Great Depression, veterinarians started to treat companion animals in greater numbers, and small animal practices emerged in New York and other major cities. Many veterinarians were called into service during World War II, either in food inspection, regulatory practice, or in combat areas.

Biographies and Interviews:

Ayres, John P., CU '39
Bent, Clarence F., CU '39
Camuti, Louis, NYU '20
Crandall, Mark R., CU '39
Draper, Andrew M., CU '39
Fallon, Harry J., CU '38

Ferber, Robert, CU '39
Goldhaft, Trevis M., CU '35
Grossman, Henry E., CU '38
Gumaer, Kenneth I., CU '43
Hoppenstedt, Clifford H., CU '35
Hoppenstedt, Gilbert F., Penn '40
Merenda, Joseph J., CU '34
Murray, John D., CU '39
Olson, Marie Koenig, CU '37
Pontick, Albert P., CU '39
Potter, Carlton W., CU '40
Povar, Morris L., CU '44
Proctor, Delano L., Jr., CU '42
Raker, Charles W., Penn '42
Roberts, Clarence R., CU '22
Skelton, Daniel, CU '39
Sprecher, Isidor I., CU '39
Waitz, Lawrence T., CU '31

Part II: The Growth of Clinical Medicine, Specialties, Research and Roles for Women (1950-1999)

The golden age of veterinary medicine spawned rapid growth in veterinary practice. Veterinary public health emerged as an important discipline in response to heightened awareness of zoonotic diseases.

Returning veterans flooded American colleges during the second half of the 1940s and pursued a wide range of professional activities.

Small animal practices grew rapidly despite the fact that the curricula of veterinary still emphasized instruction relating to large animal species. Private practices ranged from one-two doctor clinics and hospitals to large, comprehensive medical centers with board-certified veterinarians covering many clinical specialties. The range of species of companion animals grew to include pet birds, reptiles, small rodents and amphibians.

Veterinary research yielded major progress in diagnostics, vaccine development, and clinical medicine. Veterinary specialties began to develop.

The number of female students increased from ten percent or fewer in 1970 to over 50% by 1980.

Alternative therapies, such as acupuncture, became commonplace. Veterinarians

became ~~is~~ greater in demand in corporate, public health and regulatory work, as well as environmental and wildlife management.

Biographies and Interviews:

Comans, Carolyn Foster, CU '60
Fallon, Edward Hagyard, CU '56
Kornet, Mitchell E., CU '79
Lynk, Robert E., CU '61
Reeve, Linda Dixon (Peddie), CU '65
Ross, George E., Jr., KSU '60
Thomson, Patricia Herr, CU '60
Walther, Jack O., UC-Davis '63

Credits

Acknowledgement is given to Terry L. Kristensen, former Associate Director of the Cornell University Veterinary Library who designed and implemented the original collection and supervised production on a daily basis. Susanne Whitaker, former Reference Librarian of the Cornell University Veterinary Library, uploaded this collection in Cornell University's eCommons institutional repository, under the auspices of the College of Veterinary Medicine's Office of Marketing and Communications.

For further information about these interviews, contact the Office of Marketing and Communications, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine.

March 21, 2017