

Donald Dee Delahanty

August 4, 1923 — July 8, 1975

With the passing of Donald Delahanty, the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine and Cornell University have lost an able alumnus and dedicated teacher. A graduate of our own veterinary college and a member of this faculty since 1952, his death at the age of fifty-one ended a life of unusual activity.

Donald Delahanty returned from military service in 1947 a mature, serious, dedicated individual who mystified those companions of his student days by his seriousness of purpose, drive, zeal, and dedication. In spite of serious health handicaps dating back to precollege days, he became an excellent surgeon and a good teacher, always interested in the welfare of his patients and the progress of his students. He was most concerned for the little man, be he student or client. He had tremendous enthusiasm and physical vigor. He worked from early until late and was intolerant of colleagues or students who were less dedicated. To complement his teaching, he became an accomplished artist and photographer. When he needed another language, he learned one. He traveled widely: to South America, Mozambique, China, and Japan. He did not aspire to great riches or to fame, but simply to be a better teacher. Though it would jeopardize his personal advancement and comfort, he often rejected sophisticated procedures and techniques because many of his students would not have the facilities to duplicate them. Throughout his twenty-three years at Cornell he took just three sabbatical leaves. Typical of the man, rather than attending a foremost institution where he could advance his skills and knowledge he chose Lima, Peru; Asunción, Paraguay; and Mozambique, where he could help to improve the clinical training of the students in these countries.

Donald Delahanty had many interests: scouting, public schools, gardening, racing pigeons, and his family are but a few of his many and varied interests. He was proud of his family, spoke often of their accomplishments, and looked forward to their return to the family circle at the holidays. Unfortunately, he seldom relaxed. If he were to race pigeons, he would raise and train them in such a manner that they would win—not usually but always. His home and garden bore evidence to the attention he gave them over the years. He gave freely of his time to horse shows, trail rides, and rodeos. While he gave unlimited time and effort to the honest, the deserving, and the unfortunate, the chiselers found him to be uncompromising.

Donald Delahanty spoke and demonstrated at many scientific programs in this and many other states. However, he declined many invitations because he did not wish to leave his classes and clinics in the charge of an associate. Here was a man who truly loved students, who gave to his students far more than he received in return. He made a

lasting imprint on those with whom he was in contact. Horsemen considered him to be a most reliable consultant in solving their problems. He was truly a gifted surgeon whose techniques embraced both art and skill.

Dr. Delahanty is survived by his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Delahanty of Dryden; two sons, Michael J. Delahanty of Salem, West Virginia, and Timothy C. Delahanty of Dryden, a student at Tompkins Cortland Community College; three daughters, Mrs. Mary Lou Zielinski of Maiden, Massachusetts, Sara Delahanty of Dryden, a student at Cornell University, and Alice P. Delahanty of Dryden, a student in the local high school; two grandchildren; his mother, Mrs. Louise Delahanty of Stony Brook, Long Island; a brother, James Delahanty of Stony Brook, Long Island; and a sister, Mrs. Alfred Jayne of Bridgewater, Connecticut.

John Bentinck-Smith, Dorsey W. Bruner, Bud C. Tennant, A. Gordon Danks