

# NEW YORK STATE VETERINARY COLLEGE

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK



CHRISTMAS, 1954

DEAR ALUMNUS:

Early this year the Veterinary College passed its 60th birthday. It was in the spring of 1894 that it was created by an act of the New York State Legislature. Instruction was not begun until two years later and the first class was graduated in 1897. All members of the first and second classes brought advance credits with them from other veterinary schools and thus were able to graduate in less than three years which was the length of the full course in the beginning.

We have now graduated 1616 men and 38 women. Of these, death has claimed 246 men and 2 women; thus there are 1406 living graduates, 1370 being men and 36 women. In the first twenty graduating classes there were 404 persons. In the next twenty there were 530, and in the final 18 years, 720. When the third twenty-year period is complete there will have been graduated during this period nearly as many as were graduated in the first and second periods combined. It is of interest to note that of the 38 women graduates, only one was in the first period, five were in the second, and 32 were in the final one. During the first period all qualified applicants; and many who were not very well qualified, were accepted; during the second period all were accepted until the last three or four classes. In the third period 890 were accepted from a total of 6,575 applicants. Truly the times are changing.

All of you have heard, I am sure, of "Daddy" Milks' death last spring in his 74th year. His passing reduces our list of retired professors to four—Dennie Udall, Earl Sunderville, Ray Birch, and Hadley Stephenson. All of these and their wives continue to make Ithaca their home. Mrs. Milks and Mrs. Frost maintain their homes in Ithaca but spend much of their time with their families elsewhere. Mrs. S. H. Burnett still lives in Ithaca, as does our former librarian, Miss Clifford Williams. Mrs. Henry Asmus lives with a daughter on a farm a few miles north of Ithaca. Mrs. Hayden has sold her Ithaca home and now lives with her daughter in Hamburg, New York. Miss Helena Haight who for many years was financial clerk of the College has her own apartment in Ithaca and continues to enjoy good health. Although he was not a member of the faculty, "Pop" Lueder, '02, who passed away last summer, is missed about as much as a regular. For many years, since he and Mrs. Lueder took up their home in Jacksonville, they have participated in nearly all social affairs of the veterinary faculty.

Of the active employees of the College, Archie Wilson, our general mechanic, holds the endurance record. Archie began working for the College on February 11, 1911 when he was not quite 20 years old. Ira Fowler, our farm manager, is next in line, having first appeared on the payroll as of Oc-



tober 1, 1914. Ira will retire because of the age limit next spring but Archie still has a few years to go.

In last year's letter I referred to Gordon Dank's illness. I am happy to say that Gordon is now almost as good as new. He looks and acts normally but tires easily. I don't think that is surprising considering what he went through. Mac Miller underwent another operation for his trouble late last winter. He has been working regularly for the last six or seven months handicapped only by partial paralysis of his left forearm and hand and some weakness of his left leg. Mac is cheerful and accommodating easily to these handicaps.

Bob Habel and Jim Gillespie are back at their old stints after a year's study in Holland. Hugh Dukes is back after a sabbatic leave spent partly in South America and partly in Iowa. Alice Purington, the College Librarian for the last eight years, resigned last spring to be married. Her place is now occupied by her former assistant, Miss Mia Reinap and we have a new Assistant Librarian in the person of Miss Eleanor M. Mitten. Phil Levine is away this year working on isotopes in the laboratories of the Atomic Energy Commission at Oak Ridge. Steph Roberts is on sabbatic leave this fall but is staying around the College. He is relieved of his routine duties in order that he can devote full time to the writing of a textbook. As of December 15th, Pete Olafson is off for a year in Israel where he is wanted to help out on some animal disease problems. Pete feels pretty good this year because of his success in marrying off two of his daughters. Two down and two to go. Charlie Rickard and his family have just moved into a newly purchased home on the Ellis Hollow Road, in a neighborhood already inhabited by the Whitlocks, the Murphys, the Hodges, and the Habels. John Bentinck-Smith shows no discernible signs of approaching the role of a benedict. I guess we will just have to take away his lab keys so he will have to spend his evenings elsewhere. Dorsey Bruner is still blue about the downfall of his beloved Yanks. He didn't think it could happen.

Apparently Herb Gilman who spent his sabbatic leave last spring visiting research institutions and veterinary schools did some of his research around Hialeah and other southern horse emporiums. A flock of jockeys from southern tracks applied for admission to the College last spring and all gave Herb's name as one of their references. Don Baker is still going strong. He's forgotten to collect his pay check for the last three months running but Lindley Kent just deposits them in the bank to his account and the bank continues to honor his checks. Don, Dave Hughes, who works in Gilman's laboratory, and a fourth-year student last summer spent a few weeks acting as valets to cargoes of monkeys which were being brought by air to this country from India for the Polio Foundation. Ken McEntee and his wife (Janet Fraser, formerly of the College Business Office) are the proud parents of a son who now is about a year old.

A white streak frequently is seen breezing along the hallways: In the better-lighted areas it can be seen to be Don Delahanty in his clinic regalia. I do not know what Don does when he gets where he is going but he certainly doesn't lose any time enroute. Since Gordon Danks has been laid up Don has done much of the heavier work in the large animal surgery. Mike Fincher, as most of you know, was honored at the A.V.M.A. last summer in Seattle by being awarded the Borden prize. I do not know what he has done with the certificate and the gold medal he received but I can guess on the \$1000 check. Francis



Fox stepped out last summer and bought himself a newly built house in a new development in the far reaches of Cayuga Heights. It looks as if he were planning to stay in Ithaca for a while. That is all right with us. We need a little Irish wit to leaven this very serious faculty group.

Harry Hodges, Jim Murphy, Dutch Baker, and Seth Johnson—the mastitis musketeers—have an accession to their group in the person of Guy E. Morse, '42, who gave up his practice at Windsor, New York, to take the place vacated by Brud Tucker who left a year ago to go back into practice in Massachusetts. The motto of this group is the one adopted some years ago by the originator of bovine mastitis, Dennie Udall—"All I am I owe to udders."

Ellis Leonard, assisted by Bob Kirk and some younger helpers, are doing a fine job in an ever expanding small animal clinic. Drew Baker, who has acquired a new soubriquet of "Jim" from some of the younger men who never knew him under his original one, is still working himself and a number of others in the Virus Laboratory at top speed on a lot of interesting problems. Between times he and Steph Stephenson, who is supposed to be retired but actually isn't although he holds the emeritus title, work on the endowment for the Dog Disease Laboratory and are making fine progress. George Poppensiek and Jim Gillespie are project leaders on the virus research program and are doing good work. Ed Sunderville, who now is a lieutenant colonel, is in his third year as the officer in charge of the Veterinary Unit of the Cornell R.O.T.C. Howie Evans in anatomy, Julius Fabricant, Malcolm Peckham, Clyde Boyer and Martin Sevoian in poultry diseases, Joseph Dye, Bob Dougherty, Morley Kare and Lou Nangeroni in physiology, and Jack Geary in the diagnostic laboratory are all doing good jobs of their assignments. This is true also of Fran Reed, Ed Hoff, John Cheney, Harry Temple, Harold Parker, Ken Hilbert, Clem Angstrom, Saul Narotsky, Walter Packer, and Ellsworth Dougherty, the men who are responsible for running the diagnostic laboratories outside of Ithaca. It takes a lot of competent, conscientious men, each trying to do his job as well as he knows how to make an institution click. To whatever extent this institution is clicking, the credit goes to all of these people about whom I have written above, and to a lot of others whom I haven't space to mention.

At no time since I first saw the campus, which will be forty years ago next spring, has there been as much building activity going on as there has been during the past year. Teagle Hall, the new physical education building, and six dormitory units for men, each housing 200 students, have been completed and are in use. Major changes have been made in Willard Straight Hall which greatly enlarge the dining facilities. The Grumman Squash Courts building is nearly if not wholly complete. Only partially finished are Phillips Hall for electrical engineering, the Agricultural Engineering Building, and the new Veterinary College Buildings. The new veterinary plant is by far the largest of these projects. I have been told, in fact, that this is the largest single building project ever undertaken in Ithaca.

The new veterinary buildings are well ahead of the construction schedule. As of the time this letter is written, which is more than a month before Christmas, the construction contract is estimated to be about 38 percent complete. The skeleton work of practically all buildings is complete, the roof slabs of most of them are in place, and much of the brick work is finished. A temporary steam line is in place so that work can go on in some of the buildings



during the winter months. The job should be finished a year from next spring, and we are planning to move during the summer of 1956. We should be open for business at the new address in the fall of that year.

Last June a class of 47 was graduated and this fall a new class of 51 students was admitted. The number of applicants for admission to all veterinary schools has been declining slowly, year by year, since the peak of 1947. This year we reviewed the records of 218 applicants. The newer boys are younger than those of a few years ago. Only a few have had military experience and the married men are in the minority again. Since the "Doctor's Draft Act" will expire next July and it is believed now that it will not be renewed, veterinary students and graduates in the future probably will be handled by Selective Service as ordinary registrants. Since there will be far more young veterinarians graduating than will be needed by the veterinary services of our military machine, it seems to me to be more than probable that many of them will have to serve in other capacities. Until world tensions slacken, and I am beginning to despair of living long enough to see that day, it is my opinion that young men who are planning for a professional career would be well advised to discharge their military obligations before they begin their professional training.

We are deep in plans for the 47th Annual Conference for Veterinarians which will be held in Statler Hall on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of January. The program is complete and now in press. Most of you probably will have seen it before you behold this letter. Ellis Leonard, who is chairman of the program committee this year, is responsible for the innovation of a closed circuit television program in color. The program will originate in the Veterinary College but will be seen by the audience in the Statler Auditorium where it will be carried by co-axial cable. We hope to see many of you here for this meeting.

And now I must record those of our alumni who have ceased their labors and passed to the "Great Beyond." So far as we have learned there were ten of these in 1954. I am also listing three others who died in 1953 but about whom we did not know at the time last year's letter was written. Listed in the chronological order of their deaths, these men are:

Wilson, Floyd, '14, Jan. 26, 1953	Van Orman, Ray, '08, May 22, 1954
Barnes, Clarence, '00, Apr. 3, 1953	Backus, N. D., '05, June 7, 1954
Webber, Orrin B., '12, Nov. 9, 1953	Lueder, Chas. A., '02, Aug. 14, 1954
Baezler, Alfred T., '15, Feb. 5, 1954	Derrick, Geo. W., '17, Aug. 19, 1954
Bacon, John, '26, Mar. 8, 1954	Gannett, Ray W., '05, Aug. 22, 1954
Milks, Howard J., '04, Mar. 30, 1954	Spaulding, R. H., '15, Oct. 20, 1954
Kelley, Wayne A., '28, Apr. 27, 1954	

These men served their profession an average of slightly less than 42 years. They repaid the debt they owed the public for their educations. May they rest in peace.

I send you the greetings and best wishes of your Alma Mater. We of the faculty wish you well. We hope you have reason to feel grateful this holiday season for a year of happiness, contentment, and prosperity. May your Christmas be merry and the New Year the best ever.

Sincerely yours,

