

1998

# How the East Met the West

Leah Braas

*Iowa State University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate\\_veterinarian](https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian)



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [Veterinary Medicine Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Braas, Leah (1998) "How the East Met the West," *Iowa State University Veterinarian*: Vol. 60 : Iss. 2 , Article 7.

Available at: [https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate\\_veterinarian/vol60/iss2/7](https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian/vol60/iss2/7)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iowa State University Veterinarian by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [digirep@iastate.edu](mailto:digirep@iastate.edu).

# How the East Met the West

*Leah Braas*<sup>†</sup>

Recently, in August to be exact, I moved away from everything that I knew and loved and came to Iowa. At first I didn't really understand the transition that would take place in the two-day, 1100 mile trek across the United States. After all, I wasn't leaving the country, just moving to Iowa. Just moving to Iowa. What a statement, I left the land of concrete highways and moved to the land of large, silver belt buckles, and "just moving to Iowa" began to have a whole new meaning.

Language is a barrier even in these United States. First of all, I must tell you this, and I hope that you understand: all people from New Jersey do not have accents. As soon as I tell someone from Iowa that I am from New Jersey it seems that they are obligated to say "Oh, New Joysee!" and laugh like they had made some sort of new and hilarious joke. I must say that it is getting quite old considering that ninety-five percent of us do not pronounce it that way. On the other hand, it seems that all people from Iowa do have a speech impediment. For example, the word "root" should not be pronounced as "rut," but with a double 'o' sound as it is written. The same goes for the word "roof." I know that we are all veterinary students, but please, don't pronounce it as if your last patient had taught you how to speak.

I must say, I was quite impressed with the Midwestern way of accessorizing. Never before have I seen such obligate and profuse use of the metal silver. If ever there was a shortage of this precious metal, and some scientific need for it arose, all the government would need to do would be to con-

fiscated the belt buckles that you people wear. I have to admit that the thought of wearing my high school trophies around my waist never occurred to me. For some reason I assumed that you place plaques on the wall where they occasionally get dusted, but now I know that the belt is a whole new and unexplored place to show off the ego. Silly me.

Dance. Music. Clubs. These three words conjure up images of a Saturday night on the town, the heavy beat of the bass pounding away in my chest and a sore throat the next morning from screaming conversations with my friends. Upon arrival in Iowa, the first "club" that I was introduced to made me wonder if I was on the same planet let alone in the same country. The club's name is *Hunky Dory's*. I believe that the name says it all. There is nothing more stimulating than seeing fifty people in a line, with their fingers hooked in their silver belt buckles, jamming to the ripping chords of a steel guitar. If I hadn't paid my hard-earned five bucks at the door I would have run scared.

Big belt buckles, big hats, big farms, big families, big line dances, and big pigs: all the essentials of Iowa. Although I have started to adjust to the largeness of it all, it will always seem a little strange, but I have to admit that the Midwest is growing on me rather quickly. Besides the speech differences and the lack of hills; besides the slow traffic and too much corn, Iowa is also the place of polite shoppers, fun-loving friends, friendly faces, and big hearts. Yes, I think I will like it out here in Iowa, even though I will always miss home. ♦

---

<sup>†</sup>Leah Braas is a first-year veterinary student at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine.