1974

Alumni News

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Alumni News this issue will feature some outstanding contributions and achievements in the field by alumni of Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The next issue will feature the Class of 1964.

21st Annual Meeting of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Assoc.

The 21st Annual Meeting of the Iowa State University Veterinary Medical Alumni Association was held at the Hotel Fort Des Moines on February 25, 1974.

In 1973 the Association membership increased from 803 to 1034.

The following officers were elected for 1974-1975:
President: Gordon R. Esbeck, DVM (1953) Tipton, Iowa
President-elect: Joseph W. Sexton, DVM (1942) Sumner, Iowa
Secretary-Treasurer: William O. Reece, DVM (1954) Ames, Iowa
Board Member: Joseph A. Graham, DVM (1942) Milo, Iowa

Mr. Don Gustofson, Director of the Iowa State University Alumni Association, addressed the group on “Items of Interest at Iowa State University.”

Dr. Chester D. Lee, Professor of Veterinary Pathology and Poultry Science, Cooperative Extension Service, was elected a life member to the board of directors of the Iowa Turkey Federation. Dr. Lee, class of 1927, also received a plaque at the annual Federation meeting which read: “In sincere appreciation to Dr. C. D. ‘Chick’ Lee for many years of unselfish and outstanding service to the Iowa Turkey Producers and to the growth of the turkey industry in the state of Iowa.”

Dr. Lee first entered Iowa State after receiving the B.A. degree from Morningside in 1923. He was an associate editor of the Bomb, active in Veishea and Scabbard and Blade, and participated in football, basketball and baseball. He received the D.V.M. in 1927, became instructor in surgery in 1928 and in pathology in 1928-29. In 1929 he was named director of the diagnostic laboratory, in 1933 assistant professor of veterinary research, and in 1946 associate professor in the Cooperative Extension Service. At that time he was the first extension veterinarian in Iowa. He was promoted to his present status in 1949.

He has been a lifetime member of the AVMA and active in many other professional organizations, as well as the American Legion, his social fraternity (Sigma Alpha Epsilon) and in local civic and social organizations. He holds the ISU Faculty Citation (1964), and Alumni Recognition Medal (1969).

Dr. Lee’s stay at Iowa State spans a half century since he first entered Iowa State, he will retire this May 31. In retirement he plans to remain in Ames but will spend more time fishing in Minnesota.
Dr. George Beran

Iowa State alumnus Dr. George Beran joined the faculty this year after spending 13 years in the Republic of the Phillipines. After graduation in 1954 Dr. Beran spent two years as Epidemic Intelligence Officer with the U.S. Public Health Service in Kansas City. He obtained his PhD at the University of Kansas School of Medicine majoring in Medical Microbiology with emphasis in Epidemiology.

In 1960 he and his family went to the Phillipines. He began working with a private church-sponsored Interdenominational University in the southern part of the Phillipines to help them in the development of their public health outreach thru the Medical Center there. The work there was primarily in the public health laboratory and in disease investigation in close cooperation with the local Provincial Government Health Service.

Ultimately the project became very large, and in 1968 the Provincial Government took over the project, the University cooperating in the operation.

Their first endeavor was to help the Government design a public health laboratory as an operating center. Construction was completed in 1970, the laboratory located in Dumaguete, the capital city of the Province of Negroes. At this time Dr. Beran agreed to spend three years as director of the center and to help in training the Phillipinos to take over the task.

The largest concern the center faced was the endemic rabies problem in the Phillipines. A four-fold program was begun.

A diagnostic lab was set up—the only fluorescent antibody facility in the Phillipines. Until this time anyone who was bitten was vaccinated. The vaccine production laboratory was then started to provide an inexpensive source of vaccine. Research was expanded to study the rabies reservoir in the islands. It was found that the wildlife played no real role in the problem, but that in endemic areas approximately one-fourth of the deaths in dogs was due to rabies.

An education program was begun to stress the importance of the available diagnostic services, and the proper handling of animals and patients. Dog vaccination campaigns were initiated and have now reached five of the sixteen major islands involving over one quarter million dogs. The results have been unbelievable, aided of course by the isolated situation encountered on these islands.

Other concerns of the Health Center have been the high incidence of food born disease, human cholera, and zoonotic enteroviruses.

In the last few years the World Health Organization has become interested in the work being done in the Phillipines. Dr. Beran was appointed consultant to the World Health Organization for Veterinary Public Health Activities and has worked in India, Laos and Malaysia on similar rabies control programs. Dr. Beran has been asked to return this summer to help organize a second vaccine production laboratory in Manila.

There are 450 Phillipine veterinary graduates. The University of the Phillipines has a very strong veterinary school and there are two other newer veterinary schools in the Phillipines.

Veterinary medicine in the Phillipines is a socialized government provided service. There are very few private practices—those limited to small animal.

Over 65% of the people are involved directly in farming. Poultry, swine and water buffalo are the three major food animals in the Phillipines. There are virtually no dairy cattle in this tropical region.

Dr. Beran, his wife and three children found the ocean a year-round source of enjoyment. Dr. Beran and his eldest son spent many hours scuba diving off the coral reefs.

Dr. Beran is presently teaching Public Health through the Dept. of Veterinary Microbiology and Preventive Medicine here at Iowa State.