

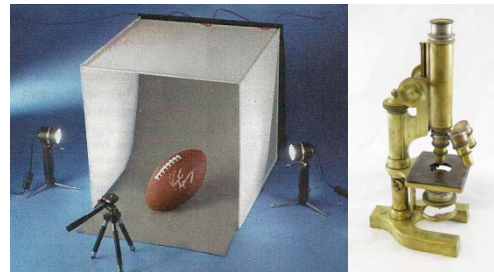
The Minnesota Veterinary Historical Museum

By Peter E. Poss, President



The Minnesota Veterinary Historical Museum recently partnered with the College of Veterinary Medicine and funded a set of large video monitors now operating in the lobby of the University's Small Animal Clinic which inform waiting clients of activities in the College and at the museum. We are hard at work on a large exhibit now nearing completion in the corridor between AS/VM and the Veterinary Hospital, a

searchable database of our 2,000 artifacts with pictures taken using a photo studio cube, and an assessable library plan for our 600 books. We continue to maintain and improve the displays and exhibits located throughout the College.



Over the years, more than 2,000 artifacts have been donated to the Museum, cataloged, researched, cleaned, and exhibited or stored. The Museum has been incorporated and has been granted non-profit tax-exempt status; the collection has been shuffled from room to room in the College; a logo has been created; operating funds have been solicited; a history book has been published; exhibits set up; and so on.

The Museum began in the early 1970s when professors Dr. John Arnold and Dr. Henry Griffith collected items of historical interest within the College of Veterinary Medicine and displayed them in a hallway case. Unfortunately, another individual given permission to use the display case had no interest in them, and discarded the items.

Dr. Arnold and Dr. Clifford, both surgery professors at the College began collecting items of historical interest in 1972 and placed them in a

display case in the "old" anatomy building. They continued to collect items of interest and stored them in the basement of the Veterinary Hospital. However, a workman assigned to a remodeling project labeled the items "junk" and discarded them.

In August of 1985, Dr. Walt Mackey (then President of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association), and Dr. John Arnold (then Chairman of MVMA Memorial and Historical Committee) explored ideas to preserve the history of veterinary medicine in Minnesota. A month later Dr. Arnold and his committee initiated discussions with the College of Veterinary Medicine, alumni, the Veterinary Council, and the Minnesota Historical Society, and created a plan to collect and exhibit historic veterinary memorabilia. A Table of Organization and Bylaws were developed and adopted. The full history of the museum can be found on the Museum website: <http://hist.cvm.umn.edu>) in a piece entitled: 'In Memoriam Walter J. Mackey 1924-2008' by Dr. Carl Osborne, Past President of MVHM.

The veterinarians who started the Museum in 1985 were: Dr.'s John Arnold, Walt Mackey, Paul Cox, Glen Nelson, Henry Griffiths, Jay Sautter,



Bee Hanlon, Ron Werdin and Les Jacobson. Four

veterinarians bore the major work of setting up the Museum (pictured left to right): Dr.'s Jay Sautter, John Arnold, Bee Hanlon, and Walt Mackey. The leadership of Dr. John Arnold was taken up by Dr. Walt Mackey, who became the Museum president in 1985. Dr. Carl Osborne was elected

president in 1999 and was followed by Dr. Peter Poss in 2010. Dr. Bee Hanlon was Secretary early on, replaced by Dr. Elizabeth Boynton, then Dr. Barbara O'Leary and now Mary Lisa Berg. Dr. Bee Hanlon was also Treasurer early on, which was later taken up by Dr. Walt Mackey and then Dr. Carl Jessen in 2005. The Vice President was Dr. Ken Johnson in 1989 and currently is Dr. Don Sime. Our longtime Webmaster is Dr. Tom Fletcher.

However, a more important story for the members of MVMA is the volunteers involved and the current progress and state of the Museum. In addition to the officers, many volunteers have been involved with the curatorial work of the museum, including Dr. Jay Sautter, Wendell DeBoer, Dr. Glen Nelson, Dr. Don Johnson and others who we are indebted to. Currently the curator duties are performed by Dr. Rollie Olson and Dr. Dale Sorensen, with part time employee Paul Maravelas. Paul is the husband of Dr. Joni Scheftel, our Minnesota Public Health veterinarian. Paul has a graduate degree in Museology and is an important figure in our current planning and progress.

The Museum is a stand-alone entity, not part of MVMA or the College, and solicits its financial support from interested donors. The support of MVMA has been very important, and the College is a partner providing space, heat, lights, phone and maintenance. With the support of Dean Ames, the staff of the College provides valuable expertise and assistance in much of the daily needs of the Museum. The College looks to the Museum for historical information on people and events, pictures, and display materials.

We are working hard to establish a foundation fund, managed by the University of Minnesota Foundation, which will provide ongoing funding of a part time professional curator to complement the work of our volunteers and fulfill the goals of our Board of Directors. Dedicated, motivated, responsible volunteer workers come and go, but continuity is essential. The endowment foundation goal has been set at \$750,000. We are 43% funded now with \$343,000 in cash and pledges. Recent donations from a large donor now total more than \$30,000. We thank all of our supporters, and ask past and prospective donors to consider a donation, pledge, or bequest to help us achieve our endowment goal and support of our projects.

The Museum belongs to all Minnesota veterinarians. We invite you to come to Room 143 in AS/VM on Wednesdays between noon and 3PM and join us with your input and help in our work with the Museum. Our adopted motto is: "Honor the Past, Support the Future, Preserve the Museum." With your support, we will have a museum in Minnesota that we are all be proud of.