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BUILT ON THE SHOULDERS OF VETERINARY GIANTS: HERB

BY: DR. STEVE JOSEPH, KCVMA HISTORIAN

There's an old saw that reads: "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree". Dr. Hubert Sebolt's son, Larry, is a good example. In conversations with Larry and his wife they were respectful of his parents and his father's profession. Based on meetings I had with Dr. Sebolt, I got the impression Larry was much like his father. This speaks well of the qualities the senior Sebolt and his wife developed in their son. Fellow practitioner Bud Hertzog described Herb as a "class act".

Dr. Sebolt passed away before Christmas 2012 at age 88. At that time he was the second most senior KCVMA Life Member. He graduated from MU CVM in 1951.

Dr. Sebolt practiced from his home. He appreciated the proximity of the practice but he was always on call. That type of practice, especially in an urban setting, is shrinking today.

Dr. Sebolt practiced in Richmond, MO, from 1951 to 1957. He moved his practice to Buckner, MO, and practiced there until his retirement in 1993. At first he worked with large animals, then moved to a mixed animal practice. Later he focused on small animals, but when he was called on he gladly cared for large animals.

On one occasion he was called to revive two cows suffering from milk fever at the same time. The problem: one animal was several miles north of his practice and the other about the same distance south. Both cows responded to treatment and Dr. Sebolt was treated like a hero by the owners. Once, he greeted a caller on his front porch who had an injured white owl clinging to his arm. Another time he was called to a dairy that had a cow suffering from what appeared to be choke. He didn't believe the situation looked right. Following diagnostic work at the Jefferson City laboratory he was told the animal had tested positive for rabies. Having been exposed, Dr. Sebolt was administered the appropriate treatment.

During World War II Dr. Sebolt served in the Army Signal Corps from 1943 to 1946 in Africa and the Middle East. In recent years he travelled to Washington, DC, as part of an Honor Flight to visit war memorials.

KCVMA's most senior life member is Dr. Richard Buckley, who graduated from Kansas State in 1943.

Both veterinarians reminded me of an article Robert M. Miller wrote in 2010 and published in his monthly column in *Veterinary Medicine*. He called it "Reminiscing". He wrote of a time in the 1950s when monthly veterinary meetings were attended by nearly every member of his local California association, regardless of the distance they had to travel. "If someone was absent you'd hear, 'Hey where's Mackey?' or, 'Why isn't Josh here?'"

Times change an ever-changing profession. It's good to look back and remember where we came from.

