

BUILT ON THE SHOULDERS OF VETERINARY GIANTS

Veterinary Leaders in Kansas City (Part Three of Six)

Father of Pet Animal Practice

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This year's historical articles consider six veterinary leaders who made their marks in Kansas City and nationally. All were AVMA Presidents.

Dr. Joseph Charles Flynn (1878 – 1954) earned the title of Father of the Pet Animal Practice for several reasons. Among them was his establishment of what is considered to be the first practice in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to pets. The year was 1910 and it happened here in Kansas City.

Dr. Flynn was born in York, NE. He graduated from the Kansas City Veterinary College (KCVC) and opened a practice on Spring Street in the West Bottoms. Within a few years he moved to 3038 Main Street.

Dr. Flynn was recognized as an authority in small animal medicine and surgery who gave freely of his time to speak whenever he was called on throughout the country. Feeling that the interests of practitioners were not receiving enough attention, he organized the American Society of Veterinary Therapy that attracted a large membership and held annual meetings. He was also an associate editor of the *North American Veterinarian* and contributed articles on small animal topics.

He is mentioned in a local article featuring a crony of President Harry Truman. In the piece, Dr. Flynn is described as a very popular veterinarian who was well-liked by the citizenry of our community.

Dr. Flynn served as AVMA President in 1935 to 1936.

He continued to practice until 1940 when he retired, only to resume active work a year later when his successor was called to military service in the wake of Pearl Harbor.

In addition to his dog and cat hospital, Dr. Flynn had a pet ambulance manufactured by the Holcker Company at 10th and Grand in Kansas City. He wrote a paper regarding this essential part of his practice. We'll consider this predecessor to today's mobile practice in a future issue of *News and Notes*.

