

## **BUILT ON THE SHOULDERS OF VETERINARY GIANTS**

### **Veterinary Leaders in Kansas City (Part Five of Six)**

#### **Family of Veterinarians**

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This year's historical articles consider veterinary leaders who have made their marks both in Kansas City and nationally. These leaders were successful in private practice, academia, government, military service and/or industry and veterinary associations. All were AVMA Presidents.

The fifth President in our series is Dr. Joseph F. Knappenberger (1912-1992), a 1935 graduate of Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. He was born during the mid summer of 1912 in Penasola, located in the south central part of Kansas. It is said the area is covered by red sand and a rich growth of grassland.

During his years at KSU Dr. Knappenberger was active in student government, serving as student body president and in other campus organizations. He was also a member of the varsity track squad.

Following graduation he practiced briefly in Ohio, then returned to his alma mater to join the CVM faculty for one year. Another move took the Knappenberger family from Manhattan to Hutchinson where he reentered private practice for over a decade. He is described by friends and clients as a "loved and revered man".

When industry called, Dr. Knappenberger became a vice president with Ashe Lockhart, a pharmaceutical company in the Kansas City area. As the company grew and merged with others he was named President of Haver-Lockhart (today Bayer Animal Health). He held that position until 1968.

During his life Dr. Knappenberger received many honors, including the KSU Distinguished Service Award in 1961. Later he was named Kansas Veterinarian of the Year in 1967. He was one of 18 veterinarians invited by President Lyndon Johnson to participate in the 1965 White House Conference on Health.

Dr. Knappenberger's son Tom (a 1962 KSU CVM graduate) and grandson Todd (a 1999 KSU CVM graduate) are veterinarians at the Knappenberger Veterinary Clinic in Olathe. Additionally, four other Knappenbergers are veterinarians, including Joseph's brother Jack, a 1939 KSU CVM graduate. Jack was a President of Norden Laboratories in Lincoln, NE. Several other Knappenbergers have graduated in various disciplines from KSU.

Prior to serving as the AVMA's 89th President (1968 – 1969), Joseph was President of the KVMA and the KCVMA. He was the first KCVMA President to serve as leader of our national organization. Additionally, he was selected for the AVMA Board of Governors and he served in the House of Delegates.

It's easy to see that KSU and veterinary practice are long-standing traditions for the Knappenberger family. The family received the Alumni Recognition Award during the KVMA Annual Conference in 2004.

