

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

**BY: STEVE JOSEPH, DVM**

Dr. Frederick Cleveland Cater graduated from the Kansas City Veterinary College (KCVC) in 1904. Recently, his granddaughter, Meg Berrian of Webb City, MO, shared historical documents with the KCVMA, including a composite picture of his graduating class, his veterinary license and his diploma.

These papers link today's Association with the beginnings of organized veterinary medicine in Kansas City.

One of his early positions was Inspector with the Bureau of Animal Industry in 1910. He lived with his wife Alma at 3120 Woodland Avenue in Kansas City, MO.

Papers indicate Dr. Cater served during WWI in the Philippines where he may have acquired a lifelong disease that may have claimed his life in 1939.

Dr. Cater was the Deputy State Veterinarian with the Missouri State Board of Agriculture in 1919 and 1920. He had practices in Sedalia and Neosho.

Records indicate Dr. Cater presented a paper titled "The Revision of Ethics to Meet the Needs of the Modern Veterinarian" in 1921 to the Missouri Valley Medical Association. This organization may have been larger than the AVMA at that time.

Meg Berrian has requested that her grandfather's historical documents be placed with other documents from the KCVC archived at the Kansas State University CVM. When the College closed its doors in 1918, all available papers and documents were sent to the CVM.

His papers were hand delivered to Dr. Howard Erickson, KSU CVM professor and President – elect of the American Veterinary Medical History Society. Dr. Erickson is planning a day long series of lectures on veterinary history during the Annual Conference for Veterinarians at K-State in June. Dr. Erickson will make a presentation about the KCVC.

Dr. Erickson has said of Dr. Cater that his granddaughter "...should be proud of her grandfather in that he was...one of the early pioneers in Veterinary Medicine." Indeed we are built on the shoulders of veterinary giants. I'll share more information with you regarding the KCVC and two other veterinary colleges that existed in Kansas City until the early 1900's in the next issue of *News and Notes*.

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93-year-old Dr. "Mac" McCann was granted Life Membership in the KCVMA recently. Dr. McCann practiced in California, MO and now resides in Leawood.

He is a 1947 graduate of Iowa State University and is the oldest of three living graduates from that class. He is a veteran of WWII serving in the Pacific Theatre. Mac, as he likes to be called, is proud of his written memories about his life and Veterinary Medicine.

KCVMA now has one 1943 graduate, one 1945 graduate and one 1947 graduate among our Life Members. They are our most senior veterinarians in the Association.

Dr. McCann looks forward to visiting with KCVMA colleagues when he attends future CE meetings.