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BUILT ON THE SHOULDERS OF VETERINARY GIANTS KCVMA's Senior Life Member

BY: STEVE JOSEPH, DVM

Graduating from KSU CVM in 1943, Dr. Richard I. Buchli is our Senior Life Member. He graduated at the age of 21 and is believed to be the youngest veterinary graduate from the CVM.

A proud accomplishment is his PhD in the field of acupuncture at a time when the discipline was considered at best controversial. He appeared at a veterinary meeting regarding acupuncture conducted by a large animal veterinarian from Purdue. The speaker deferred to Dr. Buchli as the local expert and encouraged attendees to contact him with questions or cases.

Dr. Buchli graduated in the first class of the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society. In 1975, he addressed the World Acupuncture Congress in Grenada.

Dr. Buchli established the Ace Veterinary Hospital (now Animal Medical Center) at Wyandotte and 75th

streets in Kansas City, MO in January 1947. He and his wife Dorothy retired from practice in 1982. Dorothy was a huge part of his veterinary career working beside him daily and attending CE meetings with him.

Over the years, Dr. Buchli has been a supporter of veterinary history donating items to the Missouri Veterinary Museum including a microscope over 100 years old, various books, articles and pictures related to KCVMA.

Dr. Buchli was a leader in organized veterinary medicine in Kansas City as evidenced by his picture in a 1948 article about the Association featured in *Town Pictorial Kansas City* (See the article at kcvma.com. Click on "About" and *Town Pictorial Kansas City*.)

In May, Dr. Buchli and Dorothy celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary. Over those years, they have been apart only 21 days.

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During mid March, Dr. Don Dinges and I went on a search for historic veterinary buildings in Kansas City. In the wake of St. Patrick's Day we started our journey at Brownes Irish Market Store and Deli on Pennsylvania. Green beer was only considered.

Armed with little more than obscure addresses and a map we made our way across the city. Along the way we stopped by the address of Dr. Fred and Alma Cater on Woodland discussed in the first article in this series.

During our adventure we didn't find much other than an empty building that might have housed the Kansas City Veterinary College (KCVC), the bottom of the intercity viaduct where the College was once located and empty lots one of which was home to a lonely portapotty.

The KCVC buildings and those of University and Western Veterinary Colleges may be gone, but the dedication of the veterinary giants who studied there and helped to build our Profession in Kansas City lives on.