

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

### **Historical Veterinary Hospital**

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If you're planning a day trip to central Missouri in the future you'll find an historical veterinary site worth visiting. It's the G&G Veterinary Hospital at 711 West Main Street in Sedalia. There's a lot of veterinary history packed within the walls of the art deco building.

The current owner and KCVMA member is Dr. Robert Neal Gouge, a 1973 graduate of MU CVM. Dr. Gouge represents the third successive generation of Gouge family members that have practiced in the building since it was built in 1937.

Dr. Gouge believes this is the oldest practice offering continuous veterinary service from the same family and location west of the Mississippi.

The practice was opened by Robert's grandfather Dr. Mord Elmer Gouge, a 1910 graduate of the Kansas City Veterinary College (KCVC). Earlier, he established the M.E. Gouge Serum Company at the same location.

M.E. Gouge was joined in the practice by his son, Dr. Robert Elmer Gouge (KSU 1936). Later, the current Robert entered the practice completing three generations. But, there's more. One of Robert's uncles practiced in the hospital too. He was Dr. Hardin Gouge (Texas A&M 1937). Later, Hardin was Director of Veterinary Research for Philips Roxane (now Boehringer Ingelheim) in St. Joseph. Hardin's granddaughter is in the Oklahoma State CVM Class of 2012.

Improvements have been made to the building over the years, but its appearance is much like it was when Dr. Gouge's grandfather started the practice. Even by today's standards, the hospital possesses state of the art design for a general practice. Additionally, the brick and stucco veneer art deco building has original terrazzo flooring, windows, doors and hardware. The building has survived two tornados.

The famous Jim the Wonder Dog was treated several times and died in the hospital in 1937. Jim was said to have a sixth sense that you'll learn more about later this summer.

The hospital has been accepted by the American Veterinary Medical History Society as a Heritage Practice and application has been made with The National Registry of Historical Places.

This is a practice that is steeped in veterinary history and you should visit.

