

## **BUILT ON THE SHOULDERS OF VETERINARY GIANTS MAXINE (1919 – 2011)**

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Maxine was as important to veterinary medicine as other notable individuals are to their professions. She was more than Secretary and later President of the AVMA Auxiliary – she was the essence of our profession. She died at age 91 in Manhattan last June.

She was one of few women of her age we called by her first name. At first, we called her Mrs. Caley. She brushed us aside with a flick of her wrist and a wry smile. After that she was always “Maxine”.

Maxine was clear and definite in her conversation. You always knew where you stood with her. As an example, one would never say “vet” in her presence. She strongly objected to the abbreviated word. It had to be “veterinarian” or it got no response.

A couple of years ago Maxine spoke at the Annual Conference for Veterinarians at KSU. She had been invited to speak during a day-long series of historical presentations hosted by Dr. Howard Erickson, who at the time was President of the American Veterinary Medical History Society. She talked about the history of the AVMA Auxiliary. Her remarks went beyond her time limit. No one cared. She was poignant and skilled in her well-organized remarks.

She told the attendees the AVMA Auxiliary was the first and the last auxiliary of the healing arts. She said when the Auxiliary was first established during a meeting in Kansas City in 1917 it didn’t go well. The profession was male-dominated by large animal practitioners. They didn’t want interference from spouses. The face of veterinary medicine has changed dramatically.

During her leadership a scholarship fund was developed to help students with their academic and personal expenses. National Pet Week was another event she helped to establish.

Maxine was an administrative aide to Deans Ralph Dykstra and Elden Leasure -- both veterinary icons. This is when she met Homer. He was a student. Later, Homer was a KSU extension veterinarian and Executive Director of the KCVMA. They were a remarkable couple who worked together and accomplished much on behalf of veterinarians in Kansas and beyond.

The AVMA Auxiliary remains strong and plans for the future will be unveiled during the 2012 Conference in San Diego. However, only eight state auxiliaries exist. The Kansas Auxiliary will disband in June. Missouri has not had an auxiliary for several years.

A friend who preceded Maxine at the AVMA Auxiliary may have said it best: “I know that the ever-efficient, knowledgeable and congenial Maxine was certainly not only an asset to the Auxiliary from the time she was elected as Secretary, but throughout the years of her Presidency.”

