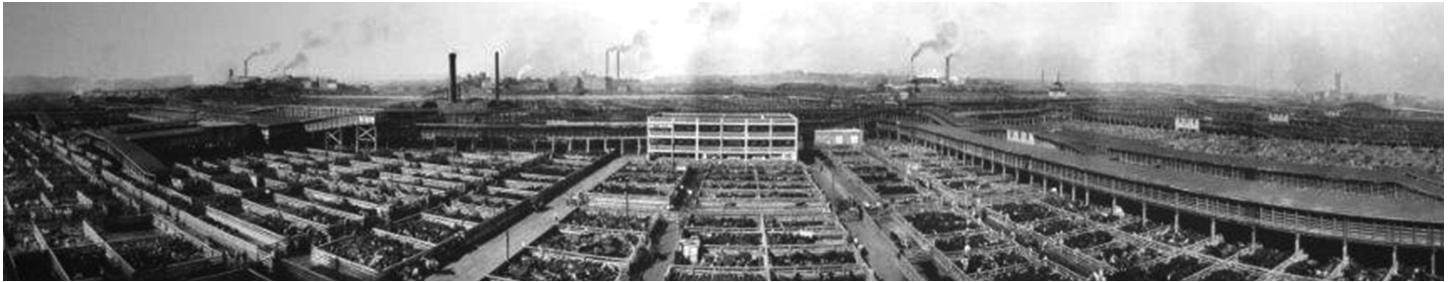


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BUILT ON THE SHOULDERS OF VETERINARY GIANTS: STOCKYARDS AND THE GROWTH OF ANIMAL HEALTH

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The history of veterinary medicine in Kansas City and St. Joseph must include the importance of our stockyards. They were a driving force in the evolution of these cities as centers for today's animal health and nutrition.

In St. Joseph there was a thriving livestock economy in the mid-1850s. Swift and Armour were the largest companies and employed 6,000 workers. Railroads crossed the nation and provided connections to the rest of the country. However, there was no bridge over the Missouri River and animals had to be ferried across-- a slow and labor-intensive process.

In the late 1860s Kansas City built a bridge and the Stockyards opened in 1871.

The city became the second largest livestock market behind Chicago, handling millions of animals. Hundreds of diverse interests created a tremendous demand for veterinary products and services to keep animals healthy.

A key factor in the growth of animal health was the proximity of three private veterinary colleges in Kansas City, one in St. Joseph, and public colleges at Kansas State, Iowa State, and later, the University of Missouri. The private colleges closed as WWI shrank the number of available students and the public colleges received government funding.

Agricultural science boosted Kansas City's place for animal health with the formation of the Midwest Research Institute in 1944.

Kansas City was a magnet for countless companies that manufactured and distributed veterinary products for veterinarians and producers.

The largest was Jensen Salsbery Laboratories (Jen-Sal), located between Washington and Pennsylvania Streets on West Pennway. Today the structure stands empty. However, it is one of only 50 veterinary buildings and practices listed by the Register of Historic Places.

American Veterinary Supplies opened after the closing of the Kansas City Veterinary College (KCVC) in 1918 and was the first company to provide products exclusively to our profession.

1904 KCVC graduate Albert Kinsley founded Kinsley Laboratories in the early 1920s. He was president of KCVC in 1913 and later the second Kansas Citian to serve as president of the AVMA, his term running from 1921-1922.

Haver-Glover merged with Ashe Lockhart Laboratories and became Haver-Lockhart (a distant relative that grew into Bayer Animal Health). In 1929 Haver-Glover had 20 employees and annual revenue of \$250,000.

Today nearly one-third of the world's animal health business is conducted in the corridor between KSU and MU. We owe our veterinary heritage to the Stockyards that started it all, evidence that "...being a cow town in the past isn't a bad thing now."