

PO Box 12468
Shawnee Mission, KS
66282-2468

Fax: 913.341.4225
www.kcvma.com

Built on the Shoulders of Veterinary Giants: We've Always Had Fun

BY: DR. STEVE JOSEPH, KCVMA HISTORIAN

Social activities have kept our members connected over the decades. Here are a few remembrances.

No one will forget summer barbecues featuring the cooking of chefs Roy Davis and Ken Huggins. Highlights included canoe races around the Davis pond. During one such race, Waybern Yates and Joe Howard tried to corner a snake and jumped into the water only to be met by the slithering varmint. Joe was a little worse for wear when the snake took a bite of him. Joann Burns wouldn't settle for anything less than first place in another annual race. She jumped into the water and swam to shore. Several times KSU and MU deans kept the honor of their respective colleges by racing. Paddles were frequently used to upset the leader. Bending the rules was permitted.

Water always made for fun as evidenced by Steve Smith's written tale of a canoe trip down a southern Missouri river in 1980. Names were changed to protect the identity of the participants. One spouse parked the couple's jeep in the river, reportedly following a "discussion". There were more events that will be saved for a later article. Steve ended his review by writing, "It's a good thing we don't do things like this anymore. Someone could be injured or worse... humiliated in front of his or her colleagues. Still the memories remain... PRICELESS!"

In the 1980s Executive Secretary Linda Joseph organized several yearly Christmas parties. One event was held at the Agriculture Hall of Fame. A catered dinner was followed by a quartet concert. Two gatherings were held at Longview Farms. They were spectacular. R.C. Ebert gave a memorable blessing. Another time, a cowboy poet entertained a large crowd. We honored Jerry and Judy Johnson for their service to veterinary medicine. These events were followed by a tour of Christmas decorations in the mansion and barns. Another year we partied at Lake Quivira where the late accordionist Don Lipovac (Polka King of Kansas City, KS) brought down the house with renditions of KSU and MU fight songs.

At one time meetings were held at the Ramada Inn in east Kansas City. Veterinarians held continuing education and business meetings while spouses met for auxiliary meetings. During one of these meetings an announcement was made for George Gates to handle a minor emergency. He was nowhere to be found. Seems he was playing hooky in the lobby, sharpening his gambling skills for a later Association casino night.

In recent years we've gone to the Swope Park Zoo, toured Shatto Dairy, attended dinner theater plays and sporting events and more.

These are a few KCVMA social nights that will long be recalled.

