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DR. CHARLES FREDERICK HELMBOLDT

About the cover

DR. CHARLES FREDERICK HELMBOLDT (1914–2011)

Charley was born in 1914 in Norwich, CT, to George and Clara (Kaempffe) Helmboldt. He received his BS degree from Connecticut State College in 1935 and his DVM degree from Michigan State University in 1938. While studying for his DVM degree he met and married Marie Gremel, his partner, and mother of their two children, Lisa and Derek. Charley served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and he was stationed at different bases as the Meat and Dairy Products Inspector, attaining the rank of Major. After the war, he continued to serve in the Army Reserve, where he became a Lieutenant Colonel. After the war, he earned his MS and PhD degrees at the University of Connecticut (UConn) in 1949 and 1951, respectively. Before the war, Helmboldt owned a practice in Unionville, MI, and worked for the Department of Agriculture in tuberculosis eradication, and became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in 1959. After receiving his PhD, he embarked upon a highly successful and respected career at UConn as Professor of Avian Pathology and served as Head of the Department of Animal Diseases from 1959 to 1969. He retired as Professor Emeritus in 1971. He served on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Avian Pathologists (AAAP) as Director-at-Large from 1964 to 1966. Charley published widely not only on diseases of poultry but also on diseases in mink, cattle, and even one article on death's head cockroaches to determine if these critters could transmit pathogens. He received numerous professional honors and distinctions, including his election as a life-time member of the AAAP in 1983. Charley travelled the world as an expert on avian diseases. He served as a Diplomat for the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, working in Germany, Switzerland, and Yugoslavia. He was a Special Post-doctoral Fellow in the Department of Pathology at Yale Medical Center and was a visiting Professor at Oregon State University and in Belo Horizonte Brazil. His scientific intellect was complemented by hard work, pragmatism, high standards and principles, and a love for nature, birds, poetry, classical music, and languages. In retirement, he moved to the coast of Maine, where he found a passion for sailing and learned and taught celestial navigation as a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. He served on the Rockport Harbor Committee and was active in the Camden-Rockport Historical Society. Avian Diseases acknowledges his daughter Lisa Schleelein Helmboldt for providing some of the information. Photograph courtesy of University Photograph Collection, Archives & Special Collections, University of Connecticut Library.