

He married Anna-Marie Edith Talbot on October 14, 1940. Anna-Marie was a great homemaker, a charming hostess, a writer, a top-notch secretary, and maintained their world-wide family and social relations. She died September 12, 1994. She accompanied Bernie on many of his international travels.

Bernie worked successively for industry and government in animal health, food hygiene, pharmaceuticals and biologics production, control, inspection and licensing. From Hull, LaSalle moved on to the position of licensed producer of about 40 bacterins and antiserums at Accurate Laboratories in London, Ontario (1941-1945). Employment in Toronto, Moose Jaw, and Prince Albert followed in succession. Ultimately, he arrived in Ottawa as a veterinary consultant and director of operations for procurement and research use of laboratory animals at the Department of Public Health and Welfare, Laboratory of Hygiene (1947-52). He then traveled to the United States to direct research and manage production of veterinary drugs at Arnold Laboratories, a private veterinary pharmaceutical laboratory in New Castle, Indiana and helped it back to prosperity (1952-1958).

He joined USDA-APHIS in 1958, first working in Indiana, then North Dakota in animal disease eradication. In 1960 he joined the USDA Veterinary Biologics, Inspection and Control, in Indiana and Ames, IA. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1958. He was, from 1966 to his retirement in 1986, a Staff Veterinarian, Veterinary Biologics Licensing and Standards for APHIS located first at Ames, IA and later at Hyattsville, MD.

He has written numerous technical papers. He has held memberships in professional societies including World Association of Veterinary Microbiologists, Immunologists and Specialists in Infectious Diseases, International Association of Biological Standardization, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Veterinary Medical Association, National Association of Federal Veterinarians, United States Animal Health Association, American Association of Avian Pathologists and others.

He served for several years as USDA-APHIS representative on the U.S. National Committee for the International Institute of Refrigeration, very actively participating in the organization of successful roundtable conferences on various subjects dealing with the integrity of biological substances at low temperatures, cryogenic preservation of cell cultures, and the integrity of frozen spermatozoa.

He has participated in the organization of an international symposium on freeze-drying of biological products for which he has written and presented a paper on Problems of Contamination Exposure and Pollution in Freeze-Dried Biological Products, published in Biological Standardization 16:201-205 (1977).

After retirement from APHIS in 1986, Dr. LaSalle established a consulting business where he advised clients on licensing of biological products, and other aspects of the biological manufacturing business.

Dr. LaSalle was a careful and often feared reviewer of biologics licensing protocols submitted by manufacturers. However, he was respected as one who really understood the licensing process, and had the knowledge to assist in the licensing of helpful products for the poultry and animal industry. He was a visible force at scientific meetings, usually sitting the first row and quick to interrogate the speaker. He had strong ideas and no reservations about expressing them. He brimmed over with philosophical topics, which he shared with any and all who would listen. This is documented, in part, by the following quote from papers submitted to AAAP in 1997.

“The outstanding conclusion of my 60 consecutive years of study and work in immunology are: (1) only one disease has been eliminated by vaccination, (2) it appears impossible to immunize all animals (man included) against all known and unknown, existing, emerging and future pathogens, and (3) our most promising and only possibility to eliminate all known and unknown infectious and parasitic diseases, like was done for pox, is the potential development and use of all the most effective immunostimulants, in slow or periodic release microcapsules to stimulate all the immune systems of all animals (including man) to the maximum levels possible without significant adverse effects, against all pathogens, without any vaccine. This will raise a lot of negative thinking and adverse reactions which will be replaced by the effectively combined actions of the positive thinkers, with benefits far beyond any imagination and dreams currently possible with out limited knowledge in immunology. Perhaps the needs and rewards lie in poultry diseases, beginning with Marek’s disease.”

Having been imprinted with the work of Pasteur and Jenner, and having worked for the Canadian Department of Agriculture in the production and testing of Mallein, Tuberculin and Johonin, in 1937, and having worked as licensed manufacturer of some 45 bacterins, antiserums and diagnostics in the 1940’s, I have been impressed for many years by the development and progress of the human and animal (veterinary) biologicals. I wish to give credit to all those who deserve it.

This is vintage Bernie LaSalle (in this author’s opinion). Bernard LaSalle died on January 15, 2001.

Biography solicited by the Committee on the History of Avian Medicine, American Association of Avian Pathologists.

Photo reproduced by permission from Iowa State University Library/Special Collections Department.

Additional biographical materials may be available from the AAAP Historical Archives located at Iowa State University. Contact information is as follows:

Special Collections Dept. & University Archives
403 Parks Library
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011-2140
Phone: (515) 294-6648
Fax: (515) 294-5525
WWW: <http://www.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/index.html>