

following high school graduation and spent the following year working on the Hereford ranch of my mother's brother, W. J. Brown, in Fall River.

In the fall of 1941, I enrolled at Kansas State as a freshman in agriculture. I had aspirations of graduating in animal husbandry and raising purebred Hereford cattle on the Brown ranch.

World War II interrupted my education, and I enlisted in the Army Air Corps on June 24, 1942. I was called on active duty in February of 1943 and spent the next three years, - training in the U.S. and serving as a crew chief and flight engineer on C-54 cargo planes in North Africa, the Middle East and India.

While I was in the service, the Army Corps of Engineers initiated plans to build a flood control dam on the Fall River. This project was to later inundate the Brown and Hall holdings on the Fall River. As a result, I shifted career goals - now to veterinary medicine with plans to raise cattle on the side.

I re-entered Kansas State in January of 1946 and was admitted to the College of Veterinary Medicine that fall as a member of the class of 1950, I maintained a dual curriculum status and received my degree in Animal Husbandry in 1949.

Shortly thereafter, in the summer of 1949, I was hospitalized with pulmonary tuberculosis. I was to spend three of the next four years as a patient at the State Sanatorium in Norton, Kansas. I was well enough to return to Kansas State in the fall of 1950 and to graduate with a veterinary degree in 1951. However, shortly after graduation, I had a relapse and was re-hospitalized until September, 1953.

During my initial stay at Norton, I had met Alice Markley, - we were married on May 9, 1951, and our daughter, Eleanor, was born on September 23, 1952.

Now, you may ask, how did a background like this lead to a career in avian medicine?? With my medical history, I felt that traditional practice was out of the question - that I would need a position that would not be so physically demanding. With this in mind, while still a patient at the sanatorium, I had written to Dean Leasure at Kansas State for his counsel. He sent me a list of several job opportunities, - primarily institutional in character. The one that interested me most was at the University of Arkansas; but they wanted an individual with advanced degrees in poultry science or diseases - an individual to initiate a poultry disease research program, to teach courses in animal hygiene and poultry diseases, and to do farm service work. And they wanted the person to be on board by September 1; - and it was already past that date.

Undaunted I wrote to Dr. Warren Gifford, Head of the Department of Animal and Veterinary Science. I explained by situation, told him that my only experience with poultry had been at the barnyard level and in two collegiate courses - a 2 hour course in poultry husbandry taught by Dr. Loyal Payne and a 2 hour course in poultry diseases taught by Dr. Red Irwin. But I said, if the position is still open, I would like to be considered.

Imagine my surprise when 48 hours later Dr. Gifford called, - asking me to come to Fayetteville to interview for the position which would pay a salary of \$4,800.00, more money than I knew existed at the time.

To make a long story short, in 1953 the Halls moved to Arkansas and joined a veterinary group that included - Dr. Joe Beasley, poultry diagnostician, and Dr. Clifton Douglass, veterinarian at the Dairy Stud Farm. Alice, Eleanor and I arrived on a Friday evening; and I met my first classes on Monday morning and afternoon. In the interim, we had rented a house, bought furniture and prepared my first lecture.

What a door had been opened!!! Within six weeks, I was in Blacksburg, Virginia participating in a S-6 Regional meeting on Newcastle disease - and the neophyte meets the likes of Drs. E. P. Johnson, Bernie Gross, Bill Boney, Ossie Osteen, Al Kleckner, Cliff Barber. And a few months later at an industry meeting in Fayetteville, the neophyte meets Drs. John Delaplane, Steve Hitchner and Ben Pomeroy. And each of these individuals offered me nothing but encouragement. Thus started my relationship with what I consider to be the finest group of professionals in the world. And the circle grew with contacts made at regional meetings, the Cyanamid Conferences, the AVMA and the AAAP. I only hope that I have been as supportive to the young people that I have related to over the years as the "establishment" was to me.

When Dr. Joe Beasley left Arkansas to pursue graduate work at Texas A & M, I felt quite "alone". I had enjoyed my teaching assignments tremendously, but I felt quite inadequate in the research realm. I needed advanced training if I were to continue in the field. This led me to Michigan State University in 1957 where I was to study with Drs. Sam Schmittle and Bill Mathey. Unfortunately, both Sam and Bill were to leave before I was to complete my degree program -Sam to the Poultry Disease Research Center in Athens and Bill to Cornell University. Essentially I was back where I started - the lead person in avian medicine - teaching courses in poultry diseases and heading a diagnostic laboratory, but without the contacts and advanced training for which I had moved to Michigan. One of the joys of my Michigan State experience was getting to know the Witters - Dr. Frank, the father, and Head of the Veterinary Science Department at the University of Maine, and Dick, the son, who was a student in my poultry disease class. Dick was later to head up the Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory at East Lansing and to be honored by being elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

In 1959, after receiving a Masters degree in Veterinary Pathology, I moved to Texas A & M and joined the poultry disease team headed by Dr. L. C. Grumbles and composed of Drs. Archie Flowers, Richard Moore, John Watkins and Raymond Cook. My initial assignments related to research on respiratory diseases - mycoplasmosis in particular - and assisting the team in the overall program. I was also to rotate through the diagnostic laboratory and to assist in the teaching programs of the department.

Although I had opportunities to move elsewhere, Alice and I decided - early on - to be at Texas A & M for the long haul. This was a decision that we have never regretted, for the

university and the Bryan/College Station community have offered us a very rewarding career and life.

I have always been active in organized veterinary medicine - at the local, state, regional and national levels. This has been particularly true within the field of avian medicine.

What do I consider to be my contributions to the field? - certainly not in research; for though I have a good mind and a good set of "hands", I was never much of a "dreamer" or "idea" person. Collaborator, yes!!! As a teacher, I was perhaps more successful, and certainly my hours in the classroom and with students were among my happiest. Of course, my activities within the AAAP rank very high as a source of satisfaction.

Who are my heroes?? - The people who have had the most influence on my professional life. In a day when heroes are scarce, I have many - most within the AAAP - but will name just two: Dr. Leland Grumbles who brought me to Texas and who has been a longtime co-worker, advisor and friend; Dr. Glenn Snoeyenbos, longtime friend, role model - and who more than anyone else gave me the opportunity to serve the AAAP.

In retrospect - "Tuberculosis", a disease which closed the door to large animal practice and ranching, but a disease that opened the door to a marriage of some 50 years and a lifetime of association with avian medicine. My life has been blessed.

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

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

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