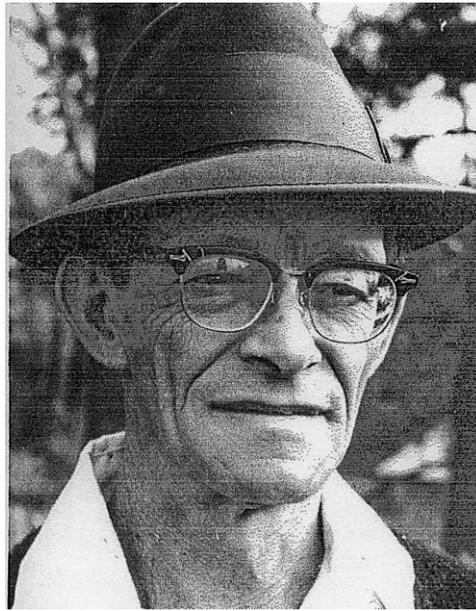


Obituary



James Albert Bivins (1920–2010)

James Albert Bivins, known as “Jim” to his friends, was born in Cumberland County, New Jersey, on December 28, 1920. He enrolled in Rutgers University and received a B.A. degree in 1942. He then continued his education at Michigan State College where he received a D.V.M. degree in 1944. Later the same year, on his birthday, he married Jean Blaire DuFrain. As this was wartime, his entire graduating class was inducted into the army, but Jim was disqualified for medical reasons. He continued studies at Michigan State in bacteriology and received his M.S. degree in 1947. His thesis was on characterization of Michigan isolates of *Salmonella Pullorum*. He moved to Rutgers University in 1946 where he started his career in the laboratory of Fred Beaudette, a pioneering researcher on infectious diseases of poultry. He assisted Beaudette with his research projects, which were considered world-class at the time. During his years at Rutgers, Beaudette and he contributed articles to at least 9 publications dealing with fowl pox, Newcastle disease, and infectious bronchitis. He was the senior author of a paper on the possibility of egg transmission of Newcastle disease virus. Much of the early work was focused on vaccines.

He left Rutgers in 1951 to take a position at United Laboratories in Vineland, NJ. In 1957 United was renamed Melini Laboratories, and Jim continued on as Director until 1962. Under his direction, United and Melini developed a number of poultry vaccines and secured federal licenses. During this period, Jim’s unique abilities in research, development, and production of poultry vaccines became evident.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, as a representative of the Poultry Subcommittee of the Veterinary Biological Licensees Association, he worked with Hiram N. Lasher of Delaware Poultry Laboratories and with Luke R. Sinclair of the USDA (Biological Products Section of the Animal Inspection and Quarantine Branch of ARS) to establish the first standard requirements for several veterinary biologics. Between 1962 and 1970 this effort resulted in the standards for vaccines against Newcastle disease, laryngotracheitis, bronchitis, fowl pox, and avian encephalomyelitis. The publication of official standards for poultry vaccines was a landmark event for the poultry industry.

He joined the American Association of Avian Pathologists in its inaugural year (1957–1958), and is listed with the founding members of this organization.

In 1962 he left Melini Laboratories and accepted a position with Amerlab, a producer of canine and poultry vaccines in Gainesville, GA. In 1963 he purchased a property in Carrollton, GA with a home for the family and an adjacent commercial building where he could do some laboratory work. Jim continued to work part-time at the Gainesville laboratory, which was sold in 1970 and became part of the newly-formed Maag and Easterbrooks, Inc., which also had facilities in Raleigh, NC. In 1973, Jim was assigned to another Maag and Easterbrook laboratory in Anniston, AL where he was production manager for the ME-3 Marek’s disease vaccine, based on the TJ strain of turkey herpesvirus. He later was a member of a task force for the development of a bag diluent and custom formulation for Marek’s disease vaccine. Jim continued to work in Anniston following Ted Maag’s untimely death in 1976 and the purchase of the business by Bob Keenum. During all his Anniston years, Jim daily made the 50-mile commute from his home in Carrollton. Jim retired from Keenum, Inc. in 1980, the same year that the company was renamed Keevet.

After retirement he continued to live in Carrollton and worked in his home laboratory. He contributed service to the Bowdon and Carroll County School Boards, volunteered with the Bowdon Senior Citizens Center, and in Bowdon Area United Christian Ministries. He was a member of Bowden First United Methodist Church where he contributed outstanding service. He died in Carrollton on March 23, 2010 at the age of 89.