The concept of having a local faculty of veterinary science appears to have arisen independently in the minds of several influential people early in the 20th century as it became clear that uniquely African diseases were not being adequately catered for by the existing European facilities to which aspiring veterinarians of necessity had to go for training purposes.

No one promoted the concept of a local faculty of veterinary science more vigorously and determinedly than Sir Arnold Theiler, the first Director of Veterinary Research of the newly created Union of South Africa. His excellent personal relationship with the most eminent politician of the time, Gen. Louis Botha, the first prime minister of the Union, led to the appointment in 1919 of a committee to investigate the advisability of having a school of veterinary science. The decision to create a veterinary faculty at Onderstepoort under the auspices of the Transvaal University College (TUC), in its turn under the aegis of the University of South Africa – Stellenbosch had also been a candidate – had virtually been taken when Botha died from a heart attack on 27 August 1919. Theiler’s relationship with Botha’s successor, Gen. J C Smuts, was more formal, but the latter confirmed the decision of creating the faculty when he offered Theiler the joint appointment as its first Dean as well as the Director of Veterinary Research in 1919.

The TUC’s Onderstepoort Veterinary Faculty came into being on 1 April 1920, as an integral part of the Veterinary Research Institute, served by veterinary researchers who had dual functions to perform, namely research (plus diagnostics) and teaching.

The initial teaching staff included eminent veterinary scientists such as P J du Toit – who eventually succeeded Theiler – and Du Toit’s successor, Gilles de Kock. Other veterinary scientists were H H Green, W H Andrews and C P Neser. P J J Fourie (‘Oom Flippie’), a later Dean, P R Viljoen, who later became Secretary for Agriculture. M W Henning and A O D Mogg joined the ranks in 1922.

Considerable expansion of the infrastructure at Onderstepoort, mainly to accommodate the new students, took place in the early 1920s, for example the biochemistry wing of the main building, the pathology building, the hospital block and a students’ hostel were erected.
It is worth noting that the pioneering 7 students only arrived at the Onderstepoort campus for the specialised courses in veterinary science when the new term opened in 1922. They were then in their 3rd year, having completed the first year in 1920 at a university of their choice providing the required basic courses, and the 2nd year in 1921 at either the TUC or the Johannesburg University College, both of which offered the required courses in veterinary anatomy, physiology and biochemistry at the time. This ruling only changed in 1926 when the 2nd year was moved to Onderstepoort.

G Martinaglia
As can be seen in the accompanying photograph 6 students qualified as veterinarians in 1924. Having started off as 7, it is not clear exactly when the 8th one, Giovanni Martinaglia, joined them. He was apparently an orphan who spent his early years in the Abraham Kriel orphanage in Langlaagte. After winning ‘seven hundred pounds’ in a sweepstake, he proceeded first to the University of Toronto (Canada), where he obtained a BSc in 1919, and then to America’s Cornell University for a MSc degree in 1920. He then returned to South Africa in 1922, presumably joining the 3rd-year class. After qualifying at Onderstepoort he served as veterinary research officer under Sir Arnold Theiler, first at the Allerton Laboratory and then at Onderstepoort.

In 1929 he obtained a DVSc degree from the University of Toronto. He was appointed municipal veterinarian to the Johannesburg abattoir in 1930, ending his pre-retirement career in public health as Director of the abattoir. He died at the age of 79 in 1967.

Perhaps the greatest achiever of the 1924 class was J I Quin, known as ‘Pinky’ to his students, who was the first Onderstepoort BVSc graduate to qualify with honours. He also obtained a DVSc degree (cum laude) in 1928. Like the rest of his classmates, he immediately joined the government service, spending the rest of his career at Onderstepoort. He became Professor of Physiology in 1934 (all faculty posts were part-time appointments in those days) and did excellent research on photosensitivity, especially geeldikkop. In April 1949 he was appointed Director of Veterinary Services and Dean of the Veterinary Faculty at Onderstepoort, but died of a heart attack within a year at the age of only 50 in March 1950. This happened during a train journey while on an official trip.

John Henri Roosegarde Bisschop
Probably even better known was ‘Baas’ (John Henri Roosegaarde) Bisschop. Students encountered this colourful character as teacher (professor from 1936) in Zootechnics from 1930 to 1962 when he retired. He was a specialist in animal breeding, having obtained a BSc (Agric) degree prior to his BVSc studies at Onderstepoort, and was involved in many advisory activities concerning indigenous livestock in particular, both locally and in neighbouring states. Particularly noteworthy was his membership of the well-known ‘Tomlinson Commission’, whose recommendations to make the ‘homelands’ financially viable, had they been followed, could have changed the course of South Africa for the better as early as 1955. He died at the age of 85 in 1984.

P S (Flip) Snyman & J G (Hardy) Williams
Both P S (Flip) Snyman and J G (Hardy) Williams joined the Division of Veterinary Services in 1925, serving as government veterinary officers at various places in South Africa. Snyman also spent several years at Onderstepoort and obtained a DVSc degree for his thesis on rabies research in 1940. Both ended their pre-retirement careers as Director of Field Services, Snyman from 1946 to his retirement in 1959, and Williams from 1959 to 1960 when he retired. Snyman died at the age of 72 in 1971, whereas Williams was destined to outlive all his classmates by several years, dying in 1989 at the ripe old age of 89.

M (‘Mike’) Bergh
M (‘Mike’) Bergh was a brother of the well known Springbok rugby player Ferdi. He spent his entire career in the Division of Veterinary Services, serving, for example, as state veterinarian at various localities such as Piet Retief and Louis Trichardt during the East Coast fever eradication campaign. One of his claims to fame is that he did not hesitate to prosecute a Minister of Agriculture, while at Piet Retief, for failing to dip some heifers. Was the minister concerned perhaps Theiler’s pet aversion, Gen. J C G Kemp? Mike’s last position before he retired from government service was in Johannesburg.

W J B Green
W J B Green was appointed veterinary research officer at Onderstepoort in 1925, and also spent part of his career at the Allerton Laboratory. However, he had a serious heart problem and died at the young age of 35 in 1936, after a few months at Onderstepoort, where he was replaced by Bisschop.

Carl von Eberhardt Maré
Carl von Eberhardt Maré spent virtually his entire career in the Division of Veterinary Services as state veterinarian, especially in Mafeking. Maré died in Mafeking in 1974 at the age of 80.

Suitably capped and gowned, as is clear from the photograph, Sir Arnold Theiler officiated as Dean at the graduation ceremony of his first students. Less well known is that he lectured to them in pathology, although the burden must have been borne to a considerable extent by other staff members, such as Professor Gilles de Kock and
others, because Theiler spent a good deal of the first 4 years of the faculty's existence on various overseas visits. Theiler was to officiate at only one more graduation ceremony, as will be outlined in a further communication.

Acknowledgements

References
Sir Arnold Theiler can rightly be hailed as both the father of veterinary research and of veterinary education in South Africa. His personal involvement in the latter was, however, unfortunately of relatively short duration. The reason was that in 1924, when the first class of Onderstepoort students qualified as veterinarians, Theiler was already 57 years old and rapidly approaching the end of his Onderstepoort career.

Theiler’s age was, however, not the only reason for his departure from Onderstepoort. It was compounded by the unprecedented political developments of the time. The Smuts government lost the parliamentary election held in June 1924 to the Nationalist/Labour pact. Gen. J BM Hertzog became the new Prime Minister and he appointed Gen. J C G Kemp as Minister of Agriculture. Theiler was not impressed, particularly when Kemp began cutting finances and restructuring his department, including the existing 2 veterinary divisions, namely Veterinary Education and Research (Theiler’s) and Veterinary Services (Borthwick’s). Moreover, Kemp apparently made no secret of the fact that he considered Theiler ‘obsolete’.

At the end of January 1925 Theiler tendered his resignation. Strangely enough, Kemp did not accept and asked him to reconsider, whereupon Theiler replied that he was prepared to stay on for another year – in actual fact his retirement was later extended by the Minister until the attainment of his 60th birthday on 26 March 1927. Thus it came about that Theiler officiated at one more graduation ceremony of his beloved Faculty, namely the Class of 1925.

The accompanying photograph of the 1925 graduates, with Theiler as Dean, was obviously taken in conjunction with the graduation ceremony early in 1926, about 1 year before Theiler retired. His successor, P J du Toit, officiated as Dean of the class of 1926. Theiler had clearly left by that time – he had terminated his services on 5 March 1927 by making use of leave still due to him. He still had 10 years to live and made good use of them.

Ten BVSc graduates qualified in 1925, 3 of whom were in absentia, as can be seen in the accompanying photograph. Whereas all the graduates of the Class of 1924 spent their entire

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA
BVSc GRADUATES, 1925

Back row: I P Marais; H Graf; L L Daly; K Schulz.
Front row: J G Bekker; R A Alexander; Sir Arnold Theiler; D Lawrence.
Insets: W B Allchurch; V Cooper; A E Lund.
careers in government service, either at central or municipal level, a new tendency was evident in the Class of 1925. Four of the 10 stalwarts ended their careers in private practice after a shorter or longer period of service to the State. However, it was not until 1935 that Jack Boswell took the valiant step of venturing directly into practice. It is also worthy of note that the class contained its first non-South African, D Lawrence, who hailed from Southern Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe.

Dudley Lawrence

Dudley Lawrence developed into one of Southern Rhodesia’s most respected veterinarians. After a brief spell at Onderstepoort, he joined the Southern Rhodesian government service as veterinary research officer in August 1926. His main tasks were diagnostic work and vaccine production. In 1933 he was appointed Director of Veterinary Research. He developed a particular interest in the theilerial infections occurring in Southern Rhodesia and was first to describe the East Coast fever-related fatal theilerial infection of cattle associated with the presence of African buffalo, later named buffalo or Corridor disease. The aetiological agent of buffalo disease was later named *Theileria lawrencei* in his honour by W O Neitz of Onderstepoort. In 1954 Dudley was appointed Director of Veterinary Services of Southern Rhodesia. However, he relinquished this position in 1959 at the age of 56 and went into private practice. He also officiated as veterinarian to the Mashonaland Turf Club for many years. He was awarded an OBE in 1959. Dr Lawrence died in 1986 aged 83. Six of the remaining 1925 graduandi spent their entire careers in government service in South Africa, namely Alexander, Graf, Schulz, Daly, Cooper and Lund.

R A (Ray) Alexander

R A (Ray) Alexander became one of the veterinary profession’s greatest achievers of his time in South Africa. After a short spell at the Allerton Laboratory, he was transferred to Onderstepoort, where he developed into a world class virologist with his research on African horsesickness (AHS) – the subject matter of his thesis for the DVSc-degree awarded in 1935 – and bluetongue of sheep. He developed the first really effective, safe vaccines against these 2 diseases, namely a polyclonal vaccine containing attenuated, neurotropic strains of horsesickness virus for AHS, and a polyvalent bluetongue vaccine containing embryonated egg-adapted virus strains for the latter. Alexander published more than 60 scientific articles during his career. Alexander was also an outstanding leader, becoming increasingly administratively involved, both locally and internationally. He was appointed Director of Veterinary Services in 1950 and Professor of Infectious Diseases in the Onderstepoort Faculty in 1958. For unknown reasons – probably due to pressure of work – he did not accept the Deanship of the Faculty. He became expert adviser on AHS and/or bluetongue to the USA and other governments in the 1940s and 50s, like one of his successors in virology, Baltus Erasmus, in later years. After his retirement in 1961 he served as adviser to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research until his death in 1965 in Pretoria at the age of almost 66.

Herman Graf

Herman Graf spent his entire career at Onderstepoort. Having obtained a BSc degree at the Transvaal University College in 1922, it is clear that he must have started his BVSc course in 1923 in the 3rd year. He was awarded a DVSc degree in 1932 on the strength of a thesis based on his research on blood chemistry. He took up an appointment at Onderstepoort as veterinary research officer becoming intimately involved with the training of students at the Onderstepoort Faculty from 1927 onwards. Initially he lectured in Biochemistry and from 1929 in Chemical Pathology. He was also an expert on dips and dipping. He was interned from 1941 to 1945 during World War II. In 1954 he was promoted to Deputy Director of Veterinary Research and from 1956 he also took on the task of Dean of the Faculty. The Graf family developed a nursery at the foot of the Magaliesberg in Pretoria North which was well known for its fine supply of indigenous trees, a subject which interested him greatly. Herman died of a heart attack while on duty in 1960 when he was almost 62.

Major L L Daly

Major L L Daly saw military service during World War II in the South African Veterinary Corps in which he rose to the rank of major. He also spent his entire career as state veterinarian in the field, initially at Nylstroom and Louis Trichardt, and then at Barberton. In 1945 he was promoted to Sub-Director in charge of the Natal region, where he replaced Dr A M Diesel. Major Daly was very much involved in liaison with the Natal farmers during the difficult closing years of the East Coast fever eradication campaign in that province, when slaughter out of cattle on infected farms was strictly implemented under his control, thus making a great contribution to its total eradication from that province. He retired in 1960 and died in Pietermaritzburg in 1965 aged almost 65 years.

Kunibert Carl August (Kuni) Schulz

One of the most unforgettable characters of the Class of 1925 was Kunibert Carl August (Kuni) Schulz. He was a German missionary’s son, Grey College matriculant, and holder of a BSc degree of Grey College (partly University of the Free State) when he enrolled for the 2nd year of his veterinary studies in 1922. He initially joined the Division of Veterinary Services and was immediately posted to Otiwarongo in South West Africa. One of his next stations was Kimberley. However, on 13 June 1934 he was severely wounded in the jaw by the son of the owner of a farm near Danielskuil in the Barkly West district when he and a police escort arrived with a court order.
to destroy a dourine-infected horse. Although Kuni’s jaw was surgically rebuilt in London in late 1935, normal speech was never completely regained. What happened to his attacker(s) is a story on its own!

In 1936 Kuni was transferred to the Pathology Department at Onderstepoort, to eventually become Professor and Head of the Faculty’s newly created full time Department of Pathology in 1958. After his retirement in 1963, Kuni spent a further 6 years working for Nature Conversation in the Cape Province. Even after his retirement in 1970, he continued with his beloved histopathological studies at facilities provided by the Mammal Research Institute, virtually until his death in 1984 when he was 84.

Vincent Cooper

Vincent Cooper was an ex-serviceman who joined the South African Artillery after matriculating at Jeppe Boy’s High School in 1916, seeing military service in the East African Campaign during World War I. He was severely afflicted with malaria and took a long time to recuperate on a farm in the Stutterheim district, which influenced his choice of a career. Cooper spent his entire career as state veterinarian in the Division of Veterinary Services. It is recorded that when he arrived at Nongoma in Natal in 1926, his first assignment, he was issued with a mule and Cape cart for his official transport, which was not unusual in those days. He was also to serve in Eshowe and Estcourt in Natal, Johannesburg and Pretoria in Transvaal and finally as Senior Veterinary Officer in the Western Cape Region. He died in office in 1954 at the age of 57.

Arthur E (Steve) Lund

Arthur E (Steve) Lund initially joined the Division of Veterinary Services as state veterinarian, serving at various stations as diverse as Durban, Cape Town, Potchefstroom and Pietersburg. He was also an excellent horseman and sportsman.

In 1938 he proceeded to Onderstepoort to lecture at the Faculty in Animal Management, especially on the husbandry of horses which interested him so much. However, he died unexpectedly in 1940 when he was only 37.

J G (Boet) Bekker

J G (Boet) Bekker can be regarded as the first product of the Onderstepoort Faculty to ‘break the rules’ and exchange government service for private practice. Having initially joined the government service, he was posted to Armoedsvlakte – the lamsiekte experimental farm run by Onderstepoort near Vryburg – where he became intensely interested in the supplementation of phosphorus to especially cattle via their drinking water.

These studies formed the basis for his thesis, on the strength of which he was awarded a DVSc degree in 1933. In 1930 he went to the UK to specialise in wool research and on his return was placed in charge of the newly established, but rather short-lived, wool research unit at Onderstepoort. Bekker ventured into private practice, probably as early as 1935 when he joined the well-remembered Dr G G Kind, a Swiss veterinarian recruited by Theiler, whose contract at Onderstepoort was not renewed in 1922 and who then set up practice in Pretoria. Later Bekker practised in Johannesburg, initially in partnership with Dr H P (Lang) Steyn and (for 5 years only) Dr B C (Ben) Jansen. Bekker also served as external examiner in Medicine at the Faculty for many years. In later years he spent much of his time trying to develop an automated system for the administration of phosphorus to cattle via their drinking water. He died in Johannesburg in 1960 at the age of 60.

I P Marais

I P Marais had a fairly checkered career. Initially he became a state veterinarian in the Division of Veterinary Services, working mainly at the Allerton Laboratory of which he was in charge from 1930 to 1931. He also spent some time at Onderstepoort, serving as senior lecturer in Surgery and Gynaecology in the Faculty. However, in 1938 he was appointed veterinary superintendent of the Pretoria municipal abattoir. During World War II in 1940 he joined the SA Veterinary Corps with the rank of major. I P ended his abattoir service in 1953 to enter private practice in Alberton. He died about 11 years later when he was 64 years old.

W B Allchurch

W B Allchurch was a state veterinarian for the first 19 years of his career, being posted straight to Transkei (Umtata, Butterworth, Port St Johns and Ixopo) where East Coast fever was rife. He then spent a few years in the Vryburg and Mafeking districts. It was while managing a campaign at Vryburg aimed at keeping FMD from entering his area from the Bechuanaland Protectorate, that he had to supervise the destruction of 130 head of cattle that had crossed the Molopo River, an experience from which he apparently never recovered. He was posted to Port Elizabeth in 1942 where he resigned from the service in 1944 to go into private practice until 1973 when he retired. He died in Port Elizabeth in 1979 aged almost 77.

Thus the Class of 1925, _inter alia_, produced 2 Directors of Veterinary Services, 1 Dean of the Onderstepoort Faculty and one of the first of the local faculty’s graduates to become a private practitioner.

Acknowledgements

References


Veterinary education in South Africa: The Class of 1926
R D Bigalke*

Abstract
Both Sir Arnold Theiler, appointed as Dean in 1920 when the Onderstepoort Veterinary Faculty was established, and Dr P J du Toit, who succeeded him in 1927, appear in the compound photograph of the class of 1926, constituting the 3rd group of graduates. The probable reason for having 2 deans on the photograph, which was obviously composed from shots taken individually of the outgoing and incoming deans of the faculty as well as of each of the 7 graduates, is initially analysed in this paper. This is followed by short descriptions of the life histories of the graduates. The class of 1926 was probably unique in that 2 of its members, who were employees of the Onderstepoort Research Institute, were granted special permission to study veterinary science at the Faculty. After graduating, most of the class members spent the greater part of their careers as civil servants at Onderstepoort as researchers and part-time teachers in the Faculty, as was customary for many years, or as state veterinarians in the field. Private practice did not feature strongly with them. Noteworthy is that the class produced 3 outstanding scientists, i.e. a world class parasitologist, a very eminent pathologist and Onderstepoort’s 1st poultry specialist.

Hermann Mönnig
Hermann Mönnig had already obtained a DPhil (Zoology) degree in Zürich in 1921 (note that he is identified as Dr Mönnig in the photograph, and, for unknown reasons, does not wear graduation regalia like the other graduandi!) when he was appointed at Onderstepoort as a research officer in 1922. After qualifying as veterinary surgeon, he re-occupied his post and became one of Onderstepoort’s most eminent, internationally acclaimed parasitologists.

He was head of the section of Parasitology from 1928–1945 and Professor of Parasitology in the Faculty from 1929–1945. On account of his membership of the Broederbond, (a secret, pro-Afrikaner organisation) he was forced to retire from government service in 1945 near the end of Wold War II. He then went into the pharmaceutical industry, being the 1st veterinarian to establish a successful, purely South African enterprise which he named Agricura Laboratory Ltd. He became its 1st Managing Director and later the Chairman of the Board of Noristan Ltd.

In 1934 the 1st edition of his classic book ‘Veterinary Helminthology and Entomology’ was published, which subsequently became the international standard textbook for tuition of these subjects to veterinary students. Much appreciated by farmers, even today, was the book he wrote with F J Veldman (‘Vellie’) entitled ‘Handboek oor Veesiektes’. Moreover, by 1947 he had published 67 scientific articles.

Mönnig received numerous homages and distinctions such as both the Havenga and MT Steyn prizes of the Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, the Senior
Captain Scott Medal of the S A Biological Society, and was awarded 2 honorary doctorates. He also served in the following prestigious positions, amongst others: Chairman of the Board of the University of Pretoria; Chairman of the National Parks Board of Trustees; Chief Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister; Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He died in Pretoria in 1978 at the age of 82.

A D Thomas

A D Thomas was born in Switzerland and came to South Africa with his parents as a small boy. At the time when he started his veterinary studies he worked as a laboratory assistant under Theiler, having obtained a matriculation certificate by private studies while at Onderstepoort. Apparently on account of his future promise, he was allowed to enroll at the Faculty, to qualify as a veterinarian in 1926. In 1927 he transferred to the research staff at Onderstepoort, also acting as a part-time lecturer and later as renowned Professor of Pathology in the Faculty. In 1929, only 2 years after qualifying, he was awarded a DVSc degree in pathology. He served as editor of the Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association – now the Journal of the South African Veterinary Association – for about 8 years.

In 1946 Thomas resigned from Onderstepoort to establish a private practice in Pretoria. He continued to serve as astute and feared (by students!) external examiner for Pathology at the Faculty for several years. In 1955 he joined the Division of Veterinary Services to initiate a diagnostic laboratory in Louis Trichardt where he was the first to discover, with WO Neitz, the toxicosis of cattle caused by severe infestation with brown ticks, named brown tick toxicosis. Thomas finally retired in 1966 and took up farming, later moving to George where he died in 1991 at the ripe old age of 92.

Neville Starke

Neville Starke – ‘Starkey’ to his students – hailed from a farm in the vicinity of Stellenbosch where so many of the well known Starke family have their roots. Having seen active military service in East Africa during World War I, he came back to matriculate at SACS (South African College). The next step was to do the veterinary preparatory courses at the Johannesburg University College (later University of the Witwatersrand) before proceeding to the Onderstepoort Faculty. After qualifying he was appointed government veterinary officer in 1927 and spent the next 14 years of his career in the field, serving at places like Bloemfontein, Pietersburg, Duiwelskloof, Dundee and Durban.

Whilst at Potchefstroom he was sent to Ramathlabama in Bechuanaland (now Botswana) to assist with the control of the 1932/33 outbreak of FMD. This experience stood him in good stead while stationed at Dundee where he diagnosed the 1937 outbreak of FMD in Zululand. The disease had been introduced into Zululand by cattle that had been illegally moved all the way from Bechuanaland, where an extensive outbreak had been discovered at Palapye Station. Neville

Fig. 1: The Class of 1926.
transferred to Onderstepoort in 1941 as lecturer in Animal Management and General Hygiene. In 1948 he joined the department of Surgery, succeeding Prof. S W J van Rensburg as Professor of Surgery, Gynaecology and Obstetrics in 1953, when the latter resigned unexpectedly. Prof. Starke retired in 1959 and thereafter farmed for 23 years on a smallholding near Stellenbosch. He finally moved to Pretoria where he died in 1988 aged 89 years.

J D W A (‘Dougie’) Coles
J D W A (‘Dougie’) Coles was Onderstepoort’s 1st poultry specialist. Having initially experienced East Coast fever control measures at Allerton Laboratory in Natal as newly appointed veterinary research officer, he became the 1st lecturer in Avian Pathology at Onderstepoort in 1931. He was awarded a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship which he utilised for study purposes at the Medical School of the Washington University, St Louis, USA during 1934 and 1935. Back at Onderstepoort, he was instructed to also lecture in Dietetics for 3 years. This stimulated a particular interest in the discipline that led to his appointment to the National Nutrition Council and to the local development of balanced poultry rations, South Africa being a leader in the field.

Dougie developed into a scientist of considerable repute. His achievements were not limited to poultry. He was, for example, the discoverer of a rickettsia named *Rickettsia (Colesiota) conjunctivae* in cases of infectious ophthalmia in sheep, and similar organisms have been demonstrated in cattle, goats and poultry. Their significance in ophthalmia is, however, currently unclear. He became internationally renowned in the nomenclature of rickettsias. He was very highly regarded as expert diagnostician and nutritionist in the poultry industry. He was first to discover psittacosis in pigeons; first to discover paralysis due to *Argas persicus* in ducks and geese; first to observe the vertical transmission of osteopetrosis in poultry. In 1957, on invitation, he advised the Nyasaland (now Malawi) government on the establishment of a poultry industry commensurate with the capacities of the existing small farmers.

In 1959 Professor Coles resigned from Onderstepoort to establish a poultry farm in Natal. In his later years he also made a considerable contribution to the promotion of nature conservation in that province as an active and enthusiastic member of the Natal Parks Board. He died in 1987 at the age of 82 years.

J L Dickson & C A Flight
J L Dickson and C A Flight both joined the Division of Veterinary Services as government veterinary officers immediately after they qualified and were to a great extent cart horses in respect of their careers. John Dickson, better known as Captain Dickson, saw service at Dundee, Nongoma, Louis Trichardt and Piet Retief. He enlisted in World War II, serving with the rank of captain in Madagascar. After his return he was posted to Bedford and Bloemfontein where he was promoted to Sub-Director (later this title was changed to Assistant Director) of the Orange Free State and Northern Cape Region, to be finally transferred to the Western Cape Region. After his retirement from state service in 1961, he served as officer in charge of the Predator Control Research Station, Vrolijkheid at Robertson, whence he finally retired in 1966. Captain Dickson died in 1973 after prolonged ill health at the age of 73.

Cyril Flight served at Komga, Butterworth, Port Shepstone, Oudtshoorn and Bloemfontein. He was promoted to Sub-Director in 1947, serving in this capacity in the Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Orange Free and Northern Cape Regions. He retired in 1964 to settle in East London and died in 1985 aged 82 years.

James Reid
James Reid obtained a BSc (Agric) degree prior to enrolling for the veterinary course at Onderstepoort. Shortly after qualifying as a veterinary surgeon, he joined the Division of Veterinary Services as government veterinary officer and served at stations as diverse as Louis Trichardt, Pietersburg, Cape Town and Allerton Laboratory over a period of only 3 years. Like Boet Bekker, he then also ‘broke the rules’ by resigning from the service and going into private practice in 1930. However, he moved to the Standerton district in 1933 where he is reported to have farmed and practised.

Although James Reid was therefore the 1st Onderstepoort graduate to venture into private practice, there is no convincing evidence that he managed to make a living out of that vocation. He died, apparently by his own hand, on his father’s farm in the Standerton district in 1951.

Acknowledgements

References
Veterinary education in South Africa: The Class of 1927

R D Bigalke*

Abstract

Joan Morice, a member of the class of 1927, broke the tradition of male student domination at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Faculty, but it took almost 20 years before other young ladies started following her courageous example. The accompanying photograph is unusual in the sense that the students appear in their then customary white coats instead of graduation regalia and that their dean is absent. Concise descriptions are given of the life histories of the 8 graduates. Their careers show more variation than in previous years. Only 1 of them spent his entire career at the Onderstepoort Research Institute and its Faculty, whereas another left the Institute after several years for a well-known pharmaceutical company in the United Kingdom. Although 1 entered private practice shortly after qualifying, she did not make it her permanent career and sadly died at the early age of 44. Another made the move from the field into private practice fairly late in his productive life. One left South Africa to spend most of his career in the Colonial Service in Tanganyika (now Tanzania) and later even joined the FAO in Rome. Two spent their entire careers in the field as state veterinarians – 1 died at the age of only 43 – and a third moved from the field to a locally-based pharmaceutical company.

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The class of 1927 broke the tradition of male student domination at the Onderstepoort Faculty by having a member of the fairer sex in the person of Joan Morice in its midst. Almost 20 years were to elapse before a 2nd woman, Maud Bales, was prepared to follow in her footsteps. Most unusual is the fact that the only available photograph of this class was not taken with the students garbed in their grand graduation regalia as in the previous years, but with their customary – in those good old days – white lab coats on (see fig). Also of interest is the dog being held by René du Toit, obviously the predecessor of the many hostel mascots that followed in the years to come. No dean or any other lecturer, however, is anywhere in sight! Note that 2 of the 8 names have been misspelt in the photograph, errors that will be corrected in this article.

Joan Morice

Joan Morice, although born in Barberton in South Africa, had her school education in England but returned to South Africa in 1922. She then made history by enrolling for the veterinary course at Onderstepoort. Although she qualified in 1927, she apparently only took up her 1st appointment in September 1928 as a temporary veterinary officer in the Allerton Laboratory for a few months. Her services were terminated, probably by herself, on 31 December of the same year. She immediately started a practice in Johannesburg and after her marriage in 1930 to Maurice Robinson, who qualified in 1928, she and her husband practised together. Private
Max Sterne

Max Sterne – spelled incorrectly in the legend to the photograph – gained undying recognition for the development of his famous anthrax spore vaccine. He was born in Trieste of Austrian parents who emigrated to South Africa in 1909 when he was 4 years old. He grew up in Durban and excelled in sports such as boxing, swimming and athletics, both at school and university. After qualifying at Onderstepoort he spent 2 years in the Belgian Congo (now Democratic Republic of Congo) managing a cattle ranch. Back in South Africa, he joined the government service and was posted to the Allerton Laboratory in Natal to assist with the East Coast fever eradication campaign, as was the fate of many young government veterinarians in those days. In 1934 he was transferred to Onderstepoort where he worked as assistant to Prof. E M Robinson as veterinary researcher in bacteriology and developed the above-mentioned live vaccine against anthrax which is still internationally used and acclaimed today, 61 years after its discovery. He served as editor of the *Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association* from 1937 to 1942. In 1947 Sterne obtained the highly rated Diploma in Bacteriology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and left South Africa in 1951 to join the Wellcome Research Laboratories in London. He died in 1997 in Hampshire, England, at the ripe old age of 92.

Heinrich (Heinie) Franz

Heinrich (Heinie) Franz was born at a German mission station (Leibzig Mission) near Pietersburg (now Polokwane). He was appointed as state veterinarian for Pretoria early in 1928, but was transferred to the Allerton Laboratory in Pietermaritzburg shortly afterwards and then in quick succession to Umtata, Rustenburg and Estcourt. From 1930 to 1944 he was state veterinarian for southern Zululand and was stationed at Eshowe. From there he was transferred to Greytown only to die tragically in 1947 at the age of only 43 years from reputed sunstroke probably suffered while doing field work. After his death his widow worked for many years as a smear examiner for the Division of Veterinary Services in Greytown and Pietermaritzburg.

Leslie (Pat) Stonier

Leslie (Pat) Stonier – note that his name is also misspelt in the legend to the photograph – was born in Cape Town, matriculated at Pretoria Boys High School and was a teacher for a short period before he started studying at Onderstepoort. His entire career was spent as a state veterinarian, first at Vryburg from 1928, then at Allerton Laboratory from 1933 to 1935 and finally at Kimberley where he remained until he retired in 1964. Pat served in the South African Defence Force during World War II. After retirement he was re-appointed on a temporary basis for a year. Thereafter he worked for the Kimberley City Council doing meat hygiene control. He was one of the first veterinarians to contract Rift Valley fever, presumably during the 1st epidemic that occurred in South Africa from 1950 to 1951. This permanently impaired his vision due to retinal detachment. Pat was devoted to his church and sang in its choir for many years. He was also a member of the Kimberley Rotary Club. He died from an attack of coronary thrombosis in 1970 a week before his 69th birthday.

Wilhelmus Rijksen

Wilhelmus Rijksen was born in Sumatra in 1903 and came to South Africa in 1921 to write the matriculation examination after preparing himself for 6 weeks at Grey College, Bloemfontein. After qualifying at Onderstepoort he served as state veterinarian in Umtata, Potgietersrus (now Makopane), the Allerton Laboratory, Beaufort West, Windhoek and Bethlehem during the first 2 decades of his career. In 1951 Dr Rijksen established a very successful private practice in Bethlehem. He served as Secretary of the South African Veterinary Medical Association and as editor of its Journal in 1966 and 1967, but left for personal reasons at the end of that year. In 1972 he finally returned to Bloemfontein to start a practice in the city where he had matriculated. Dr Rijksen received a special award (‘oorkonde’) from the South African Veterinary Association in 1986 for his dedicated services to the veterinary profession. He died in Bloemfontein in 1994 at the ripe old age of 91.

John (Jack) Thorburn

John (Jack) Thorburn was apparently a ‘super’ who had to repeat his final year. Although he was a member of the class of 1927 he qualified in 1928 and his 1st appointment in the Division of Veterinary Services as state veterinarian dates from January 1929. After initially being stationed at Onderstepoort, he was transferred to the field and served in the Northern Cape, Zululand, Transkei (Peddie), Grahamstown and East London, in the latter town from 1942 to 1945. Jack played a major role in the East Coast fever eradication campaign in the Peddie area. In 1945 he resigned from the government service to join the well-known company Cooper & Nephews, probably the 1st Onderstepoort graduate to enter the pharmaceutical field. He formed the Cooper’s Veterinary Research team in East London and guided its early years. In 1949 he moved
NR (Neil) Reid

NR (Neil, or is it Niel, as spelled in 2 of 3 obituaries) Reid matriculated at Michaelhouse in 1922, studied at the Witwatersrand University College from 1923–1924 and at the Onderstepoort Faculty from 1925. After qualifying, he proceeded to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, London, in 1928 where he was admitted as MRCVS. It is not clear when exactly he joined the Colonial Veterinary Service – he married Gwendolyn du Toit in 1932, apparently a South African – but we know, from the publications by Thomas & Reid, and Kolbe’s unpublished mimeograph on the activities of the Zoological Survey, that Reid was already in Tanganyika (now Tanzania) in 1941 where he is identified as a local state veterinarian. We also know that he was Director of Veterinary Services of Tanganyika from about 1946 to 1953 and that he was very much involved in the control of rinderpest and, to a lesser extent, bovine pleuropneumonia. He was awarded the MBE on his resignation from the British Colonial Service. In 1953 Reid entered the service of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in Rome where he became intensely involved in the development of field programmes to increase animal production in developing countries in Africa (an expanded research and field programme on the control of ticks and tick-borne diseases, especially East Coast fever) and the Near East (the strengthening of laboratory services). He retired from the FAO in 1963 but returned as a consultant 10 years later. Reid died in Reading, Berkshire, on 19 December 1994.

René du Toit

René du Toit will always be associated with the successful anti-tsetse fly campaign in Zululand of which he was the chief architect. The son of a State Artillery officer who fought in the Anglo-Boer War and later a senior policeman, he was born in Cape Town, but matriculated in Ermelo in 1922. After qualifying he immediately joined the government service and was posted at the Allerton Laboratory as a veterinary research officer. In 1929 he was transferred to the Section of Entomology. He remained at Onderstepoort as a veterinary entomologist for most of his career, temporarily being transferred to the experimental farm Armoedsvlakte close to Vryburg as officer in charge from 1930 to 1931, and studying at the University of Minnesota as a Commonwealth Foundation Fellow in 1936 and 1937. Back at Onderstepoort, Du Toit conducted pioneering research on the use of DDT for the control of various ectoparasites from 1939 to 1945.

During this period he planned the successful application of DDT, which was administered mainly by aerial spraying, to rid an area of more than 18 000 km^2 of bushveld expanse in Zululand, an area about as big as the Kruger National Park, from the most important species of tsetse fly, Glossina pallidipes, occurring in that portion of Natal. Du Toit was awarded a DVSc degree by the University of Pretoria in 1953 for a thesis based on his research on the control of tsetse flies. He also made the pioneering discoveries in 1944 that African horse sickness and bluetongue of sheep were transmitted biologically by Culicoides spp. and that cattle may serve as reservoirs of bluetongue virus. Du Toit filled the positions of Sub-Director of the Veterinary Research Institute, part-time Professor of Parasitology at the Onderstepoort Faculty and fulltime Professor of Parasitology at the Faculty during his career. He also served as Dean of the Onderstepoort Faculty from 1960 to 1963. Other prestigious positions held by him were: President of the South African Biological Society (on 2 occasions) and President of the South African Entomological Society. He died in Cape Town in 1988 aged 84 years. He always told his students that as dog owners resembled their pets, so professors tended to resemble their subject and he felt that as an entomologist he resembled a tick – a well-engorged tick. The name of the dog in the photograph could not be traced!

Acknowledgements

Gratitude is due to Pam Greening, Senior Library Assistant of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, London, UK, for references to obituaries of N R Reid, and to Mr D Swanepoel, Librarian of the library of the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute for supplying photocopies for reference purposes.


References

6. Obituaries of some deceased veterinarians published in the Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical

The photographs of the classes of 1928 and 1929 present an enigma because they both bear the same date, i.e. 1929. How does one then determine which is which? In addition, both photographs are composed of individual shots of the graduates rather than the customary group photograph, which means that mistakes in producing them could have slipped in, thereby causing further confusion.

However, a superficial examination of the photographs soon provided an answer to the riddle. J A (Jack) Thorburn also features in the photograph of the Class of 1927 and it has already been established that he was a ‘super’ who qualified in 1928, a year later than his classmates. We also already know that M C Robinson, who qualified in 1928, married Joan Morice, the first girl to study at the Onderstepoort Faculty, who qualified in 1927. From this reasoning it was deduced that the photograph dated 1929, on which four graduates and the Dean, Prof. Dr P J du Toit, appear, is that of the Class of 1928 (Fig. 1). The other photograph dated 1929 in which the Dean is absent is therefore dated correctly. Concise descriptions are given of the life histories of the nine graduates. Their careers show considerable variation. Only one of them spent his entire career at the Onderstepoort Research Institute as a very eminent research scientist and professor, and two became well-known professors at the Onderstepoort Faculty. Two were in municipal service for most of their careers and a third ended up working for a municipal authority after spending some time in England and at the Onderstepoort Research Institute. Two spent virtually their entire careers in the field as state veterinarians and a third farmed for most of his career, although he also dabbled in private practice and managed one of the provincial game parks in Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal) for some time. Four served in the South African Veterinary Corps during World War II.

**Fig. 1:** The Class of 1928.

**L C Blomefield**

L C Blomefield was born on 26 March 1905 in Durban. He was the only member of the class who spent his entire pre-retirement career with the Division of Veterinary Field Services.
as field veterinarian. He was appointed on 14 January 1929 as government veterinary officer and was posted to Umtata in the Transkei where East Coast fever was rife. Transfers to Port St Johns, Flagstaff, Greytown and East London (in 1944) followed. While in East London he spent several years doing fulltime research on the control of ticks by dipping. He was subsequently invited by the Rhodesian government to advise their veterinary authorities on dipping matters. He succeeded Cyril Flight as Assistant Director of the Cape East and Transkei region in 1955 on the latter's transfer to Cape Town. In 1960 Dr Blomefield was transferred to Pietermaritzburg to take over the Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal) region upon the retirement of Major L L Daly. He retired at the age of 60 in 1965 but continued to carry out meat inspection for several years at the whaling station in Durban, presumably for the municipal authority. He died in Pietermaritzburg on 25 July 1971 at the age of 66.

R C (Richard) Clark

R C (Richard) Clark was born in Johannesburg on 13 February 1906 where he – and his three brothers, Marshall (later General Manager of the South African Railways), Bernard (later Secretary of Health) and David (later an architect) – attended the King Edward High School, matriculating in 1923. He then enrolled for the veterinary course and qualified at Onderstepoort in 1928. He joined the government service on 10 January 1929 and was stationed as government veterinary officer at various places such as Allerton Laboratory (1929), Nongoma (1930–1932), Ermelo, Bethlehem and Komatipoort. In 1938, however, he was transferred to the Veterinary Research Institute at Onderstepoort, first to the Pathology Department and in 1942 to the Physiology Department. In 1944 he was awarded a DVSc degree on the strength of his research on rumen physiology. When his senior, Prof. J I Quin, was promoted to the position of Director of Veterinary Services in 1941, Clark took over as part-time professor of physiology in the Onderstepoort Faculty and head of the Physiology Department. Prof. Clark became editor of the *Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association* in 1942, a position which he initially held for 4 years. Reappointments lasting for shorter periods of time followed in 1953 and 1968. He retired from Onderstepoort in 1968 at the age of 62 years and died on 16 July 1977 at the age of 71.

M C (Mike) Robinson

M C (Mike) Robinson was born on 14 May 1903 in Johannesburg and, like Clark, attended King Edward High School and qualified as a veterinarian at the Onderstepoort Faculty in 1928. He also joined the government service as a government veterinary officer and saw service in Umtata and Nongoma. In 1930 he married Joan Morice, as mentioned above, and joined her in private practice in Johannesburg. However, their practice was short-lived because they closed it in 1935 when Mike joined the Municipal Service in Johannesburg. He served as a Captain in the South African Veterinary Corps in World War II. It is of interest to record that he was due to sail on the mule ship SS Nirpura to India, but the night before it departed he was replaced by Major A M Howie MRCVS. The ship was torpedoed on 3 March 1943 and Howie was one of many casualties. Dr Robinson’s wife Joan (a member of the Class of 1927) died on 24 November 1944. He retired from the Johannesburg Municipal Service in 1960 and settled in Umkomaas, Natal, where he died on 23 March 1978 at the age of almost 75.
THE CLASS OF 1929

C (Cecil) Jackson was born in London on 10 May 1905. He initially studied veterinary anatomy and physiology at the Johannesburg University College, the predecessor of the University of the Witwatersrand, and obtained a BSc degree in 1924. After working as registrar to the Hon. Mr Justice RA Tindall, he enrolled at the Onderstepoort Faculty to qualify as a veterinarian at the end of 1929. Jackson started his veterinary career as a research officer at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Laboratory and part-time lecturer in Anatomy in 1930. In 1936, at the age of 31, he was not only awarded a DVSc degree for his classic thesis entitled ‘The incidence and pathology of tumours of domesticated animals in South Africa’ but was also appointed part-time professor of Anatomy in the faculty. [In those days all faculty posts were part-time positions.] He also took on the responsibility of an editor of the Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association at the end of the year, a position that he held for one year, but he was a member of the editorial committee from 1931 to 1948. He was a great lover of classical music and regularly gave small orchestral performances at his home to which interested students were invited.

Prof. Jackson remained professor of Anatomy at the Onderstepoort Faculty until he resigned in September 1955 at the age of 50. Thereafter he was variously employed, first at the Medical School of the University of Witwatersrand and then as senior fellow of the National Cancer Association of South Africa. He left South Africa for the United Kingdom in 1957 but returned to Africa the next year to head the pre-clinical veterinary school at Makerere College in Kampala, Uganda, where he also served as professor of Anatomy. In 1961 he accepted a post as principal research officer at the Biological Research Institute at Achimota in Ghana and became acting director the following year. He died in Ghana on 5 January 1965 at the age of 60.

W O (Wilhelm) Neitz

B M (Bertie) Horwitz was born in East London on 17 October 1907 and matriculated at Selborne College in 1924 where he played for its first rugby team, as indicated by the only photograph of him which could be traced (Fig. 2). Like most of his predecessors, he also joined the government service shortly after qualifying in 1929 and was stationed at Allerton Laboratory as government veterinary officer until July 1931. He then tried his hand in practice in Port Elizabeth while also doing duty as a part-time municipal veterinarian. From 1937 to 1940 he was employed by the municipality on a fulltime basis. He then served in the South African Veterinary Corps in World War II. From 1944 to 1953 he was municipal veterinary officer in control of milk supply in Cape Town and was promoted to Director of the Municipal Abattoir in 1953 in which capacity he officiated until his retirement in 1968. Dr Horwitz then rejoined the government service and was inter alia involved with the drafting of the Animal Slaughter, Meat and Animal Products Act. In April 1973 he took up employment with the Department of Medical Microbiology at Tygerberg Hospital as infection control officer and died in office at Tygerberg Hospital on 1 April 1982 aged 74.

C (Cecil) Jackson was not only awarded a DVSc degree for his classic thesis entitled ‘The incidence and pathology of tumours of domesticated animals in South Africa’ but was also appointed part-time professor of Anatomy in the faculty.

W O (Willi, or Willem – his first name was Wilhelm) Neitz was one of the greatest research scientists ever produced by Onderstepoort. Born in Potgietersrus (now Makopane) on 17 November 1906, he was the youngest child of a German missionary from the Berlin Mission, which was situated in a semi-rural environment in the bushveld. As a child he often had to look on helplessly when livestock owned by his parents and local farmers died from especially tick-borne diseases. To quote from his own curriculum vitae, written in the third person, ‘These scenes, and the ruination of many a hopeful farmer in the bushveld, created a lasting impression and caused him to study veterinary science’. He received his schooling in Potgietersrus and matriculated in 1924. He then proceeded to study veterinary science and qualified at Onderstepoort in 1929. He was appointed research officer at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Laboratory under Prof. P J du Toit early in 1930. He never married and research became ‘his passion’. He was awarded a DVSc degree in 1945 for the research work in which he demonstrated the multiplicity of immunogenically distinct bluetongue strains and the absolute necessity of producing a polyvalent vaccine.

His scientific productivity is legendary. It spanned several veterinary disciplines, Neitz inter alia publishing 133 scientific articles up to 1971 of which several were monographs consisting of more than 100 pages. He shunned the

THE CLASS OF 1929

The first thing that strikes one about the current photograph of the Class of 1929 (Fig. 2) is the obvious youthfulness of one of the graduates, BM Horwitz. His position on the original photograph was indicated by a neatly tied scroll, which means that it was not possible to obtain a suitable photograph of him at the time that the compound picture (obviously composed of shots taken individually of the six graduates) was prepared. However, a school photograph of Dr Horwitz was recently obtained from his son through the initiative of Prof. Peter Belonje, which enabled Prof. Ken Pettey to complete the original picture. In fact, it is very likely that the latter was composed almost as an afterthought because most of the photographs were clearly taken several years after the graduation ceremony when the graduates were considerably older. Only one of them (W O Neitz) appears in graduation regalia.

B M (Bertie) Horwitz was born in London on 10 May 1905. He initially studied veterinary anatomy and physiology at the Johannesburg University College, the predecessor of the University of the Witwatersrand, and obtained a BSc degree in 1924. After working as registrar to the Hon. Mr Justice RA Tindall, he enrolled at the Onderstepoort Faculty to qualify as a veterinarian at the end of 1929. Jackson started his veterinary career as a research officer at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Laboratory and part-time lecturer in Anatomy in 1930. In 1936, at the age of 31, he was not only awarded a DVSc degree for his classic thesis entitled ‘The incidence and pathology of tumours of domesticated animals in South Africa’ but was also appointed part-time professor of Anatomy in the faculty. [In those days all faculty posts were part-time positions.] He also took on the responsibility of an editor of the Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association at the end of the year, a position that he held for one year, but he was a member of the editorial committee from 1931 to 1948. He was a great lover of classical music and regularly gave small orchestral performances at his home to which interested students were invited.

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His scientific productivity is legendary. It spanned several veterinary disciplines, Neitz inter alia publishing 133 scientific articles up to 1971 of which several were monographs consisting of more than 100 pages. He shunned the
European custom of adding his name to publications of his subordinates, as was done by some of his predecessors and earlier contemporaries at Onderstepoort. He held the positions of part-time professor of Protozoology and Virology from 1948–1957 at the Onderstepoort Faculty, part-time professor of Protozoology at same faculty from 1958–1968 and visiting professor at the Universidade Federale do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 1972–1979. Prof. Neitz died in his 73rd year in Pretoria on 18 August 1979 while on leave from Brazil. Prof. Neitz served on many national and international scientific bodies such as the Expert Panel on Tick-borne Diseases of the OIE. He received several awards and other accolades, including the Senior Captain Scott Medal of the South African Biological Society in 1954; the ‘Havengaprys vir Geneeskunde’ of the ‘Suid Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns’ in 1957; the South Africa Medal for 1970 of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science; the Gold Medal of the South African Veterinary Association in 1971; and the degree DrMedVet honoris causa awarded by the Tierärztliche Hochschule, Hannover, Germany in 1963.

E J Pullinger

E J Pullinger was born on 14 February 1906 in Johannesburg and completed his schooling at Oundle School in England in 1924. He graduated as veterinarian at the Onderstepoort Faculty in 1929 and then proceeded to England to register with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as MRCVS. He was awarded the Clement Stephenson Research Scholarship in 1931 which enabled him to take a postgraduate Diploma in Bacteriology (Dip Bac), awarded in 1933, at the London University. Dr Pullinger spent the next 4 years of his career at the Royal Veterinary College as lecturer in Bacteriology and as a research assistant. On his return to South Africa he worked at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Laboratory as research officer until 1939 when he joined the Johannesburg Municipal Service. From 1940–1946 he saw active service as a major in the South African Veterinary Corps during World War II, when the photograph appearing in the compound picture of the class was obviously taken. After the war he was appointed Assistant Director of the Johannesburg Municipal Abattoir. He died on 10 November 1959 in Johannesburg aged 53. One of his sons, ‘Pat’, was to follow in his father’s footsteps by qualifying as a veterinarian in 1963.

F B (Bob) Wright

After qualifying in 1929, Felix Wright worked briefly as a government veterinary surgeon in Estcourt and later as a private practitioner based on a farm south of Estcourt. A serious accident, which left his arms badly burnt, made him give up practice and he accepted a job with the Natal Parks Board, managing the Kamberg Nature Reserve and its visitors’ rest camp. He also managed a small pack of hounds with which he hunted jackals on behalf of the Kamberg and Underberg farmers’ associations. A fine horseman, his hunt was for some years the most successful killer of jackals in the whole of South Africa. There is no information as to how he acquired the nickname ‘Bob’, but he was known by this name throughout the Natal Midlands, even by the Zulus of the area who called him ‘Ubobrite’. Several classes of students may recall him as a meticulous but fair examiner in Animal Management for the Faculty, a chore which he looked upon as a privilege. He retired to a farm near Nottingham Road where he lived with his wife ‘Winnie’ until his death. The dates of his birth and death could not be traced.

J J (Swarie) Zwarenstein

J J (Swarie) Zwarenstein was born in Lydenburg on 20 January 1905 and graduated as veterinarian from the Onderstepoort Faculty in 1929. He then joined the state service as government veterinary officer and was stationed at the Allerton Laboratory, Onderstepoort, Nongoma and Eshowe during his career, most of which was spent in the Division of Veterinary Field Services in which he rose to the rank of Sub Director, later known as Assistant Director. He served as an officer in the South African Veterinary Corps during World War II. Dr Zwarenstein retired in 1965 at the age of 60, but was immediately reappointed as poultry pathologist at the Allerton Laboratory. In 1972 he was invited to join Rainbow Chicken Farms with which he was associated until the time of his death in Johannesburg on 2 February 1974, after a short illness, at the age of 69.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Prof. Sandy Littlejohn of Newmarket, UK, for supplying biographical information on F B Wright and Prof. Peter Belonje for the photograph of B M Horwitz, which was kindly supplied to him by his son, Peter Horwitz.


References

THE CLASS OF 1930

The Class of 1930 of the Onderstepoort Faculty was the 2nd smallest in its history (Fig. 1). It boasted 2 students and is only surpassed by the Class of 1933, which had a single one for much of the BVSc course. Despite the fact that the 2 students must have enjoyed considerable attention by their teachers, it is worthy of note that, as stated by Posthumus⁵, ‘it is on record that no veterinary students qualified from Onderstepoort in 1930’. This must be borne in mind when considering the caption of the photograph.

The photograph is once again composed of individual shots of the 2 graduates rather than the customary, comprehensive class photograph, and it is apparent that Nilsen’s photograph was taken several years after he qualified, evidently at one of the General Meetings of the South African Veterinary Medical Association. The Dean of the Faculty, Prof. P J du Toit, does not feature. This is peculiar because the photograph was clearly compiled many years after graduation and there is no reason why his photograph could not have been added.

Leslie Thomas (Ted) Edwards

Leslie Thomas (Ted) Edwards was born in Cathcart on 14 July 1908 and matriculated at the Victoria High School, Grahamstown in 1925. He was the only student in the 2nd year and was joined by Nilsen, who had to repeat a year, in his 3rd year. Both received supplementary examinations at the end of their final year and therefore qualified in the middle of 1931 instead of 1930. Ted’s wife’s name was Kay. Edwards spent his entire career in the government service. He was first sent to Allerton Laboratory for East Coast fever smear examination duties for about 6 months and then to Umtata for a similar task. In 1933 he had his first taste of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) control in the Koedoesrand area of the Potgietersrus district, which ‘hardened’ him for ‘future life as a state veterinarian’⁵. In 1963 he was transferred to...
Pietersburg where he had to manage the slaughter-out policy for East Coast fever, which terminated the occurrence of the disease in that district. Thereafter he was involved in the control of outbreaks of FMD in the following locations: Pilgrimsrest area, which is adjacent to the Kruger National Park (1938–1939), Pilgrimsrest area and Letaba district (1944–1945 & 1950–1951), Bechuanaland Protectorate – now Botswana – (1950), Mafeking and Marico districts (1957) and Hectorspruit and Komatiipoort areas (1959). In 1959 he was transferred to Pretoria as Assistant Director of the Transvaal region and was promoted to the position of Deputy Director of Veterinary Services in 1961. Dr Edwards retired from the South African government service in 1968 at the age of 60. He then took up an appointment with the Swaziland government where he once again had to control an outbreak of FMD, which he achieved within 2 months. He finally retired in 1971 and settled at Umkomaas where he died in 1985 at the age of 77.

Christian Tunnacliffe Nilsen

Christian Tunnacliffe Nilsen was born on 25 July 1905 and matriculated at Kingswood College, Grahamstown, in 1923. After qualifying as a veterinarian in the middle of 1931, he farmed and practised for a while before joining the Veterinary Department as government veterinary officer at Fort Jameson in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia). He married his cousin, Sheila Nilsen, in 1937. Dr Nilsen represented Northern Rhodesia on the rinderpest control team in Tanganyika (now Tanzania), probably in the 1940s (see Rossiter below). The Union of South Africa was primarily responsible for vaccinating livestock in Tanganyika and the latter for the implementation of a ‘cordon sanitaire’ by the erection of a game-proof fence and the elimination of all susceptible domestic stock and wildlife from a 6–40 km wide corridor between Lake Tanganyika and Lake Malawi. Thereafter Nilsen transferred to the Swaziland Veterinary Department but once again decided to go farming, whilst he also operated a hotel. In 1963 he eventually joined the Directorate of Veterinary Services in South Africa, serving as state veterinarian in Umtata until his retirement in 1971. He died in 1980 at the age of 75.

THE CLASS OF 1931

The official photograph of the Class of 1931 is the more customary composite one (Fig. 2), probably taken shortly after the last examination in the final (5th) year of the 6 students concerned. However, the Dean, Prof. P J du Toit, does not feature. Was he perhaps on one of his many overseas trips? This class boasts the youngest veterinarian to ever qualify at the Onderstepoort Faculty, M H V Brown.

Major Henry Victor Brown

Major Henry Victor Brown was born in Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) on 2 May 1912. Major was only 14 years old when he started with the BVSc course in 1927, and he qualified in 1931 aged 19. He is said to have been the youngest veterinarian in the British Empire, at the time3. Small wonder that he seems to be asleep in the photograph! According to one of his classmates, C C Wessels – told by the latter’s
son Brian, who is also a veterinary surgeon – Major Brown's brilliance was phenomenal. ‘He hardly ever made notes during lectures. When it came to swotting he would go to the others, one at a time, find out what they were studying, and then asked the person to tell him everything about that particular subject’. He always had cigarettes at hand, which he kept in a tin.

Dr Brown first spent the period 1931 to 1936 as a research officer at the Onderstepoort Research Institute. He then resigned to take on a position in the British Colonial Service in Burma at the Insein Veterinary Laboratory as pathologist and bacteriologist, where he *inter alia* had to work with Asian elephants. This included euthanasing a rogue elephant, which he managed to do, not with a rifle but by intravenous administration of a pound of Epsom salts dissolved in a gallon of water. When the Japanese invaded Burma in 1942 during the World War II, Major returned to South Africa and joined the practice of Dr Jack Boswell of which he became a partner. He eventually concentrated on small animal surgery in the practice to become 'one of the finest surgeons I have ever seen', according to Boswell. He died in office on 7 March 1955 at the age of only 43.

William George Barnard

William George Barnard was born in Lydenburg on 14 September 1907 and qualified as a veterinarian in June 1932, having been obliged to complete a supplementary examination in Surgery. He then joined the Division of Veterinary Services and served as state veterinarian for 7 years and was stationed mainly in East Griqualand. He married Marie Pringle in 1939. The couple was childless. In the same year he transferred to Swaziland where he served as Principal Veterinary Officer until 1953. He then went to Tanganyika where he succeeded Dr N R Reid – who qualified in 1927 – as Director of Veterinary Services. In 1958 he returned to South Africa to practise at Ballitoville on the Natal North Coast until his death on 27 September 1980 at the age of 73 years. He was awarded the OBE in 1951 for his services to the Swazi nation.

William Stratford Beverley Clapham

Born in Pretoria on 14 June 1904 and also failing to qualify in 1931 because of a supplementary examination in Surgery, Clapham joined the Division of Veterinary Services in mid-1932, but soon transferred to the Department of Defence as a veterinary officer and from there to the Aircraft Depot. The reason for this move was probably because Clapham had qualified as a pilot while he was a student at Onderstepoort. By September 1933 he was receiving military training in England. Back in South Africa in 1934 he was placed in the S.A. Artillery Corps and became a battery commander. However, he resigned from the Defence Force before World War II to join the Basutoland (now Lesotho) Veterinary Department. He married Ms PB Luscombe of Maseru while in Basutoland. Clapham took up gliding, but was unfortunately badly injured in a flying accident at Quaggapopoort. Despite this severe setback to his health, Clapham saw military service in World War II as Commanding Officer of the Waterkloof Air Station with the rank of major. He subsequently became Commanding Officer of the 6th Regiment, South African Artillery. He then served as lieutenant colonel on the northern front with the 6th South African Armoured Division, but was recalled to South Africa because of failing health. He died soon thereafter on 15 November 1943 at the age of only 39. His cremation service at Braamfontein cemetery was conducted with full military honours.

Lancelot William Rossiter

Lancelot William Rossiter was born on 18 November 1907. Like Barnard and Clapham he also failed Surgery – truly amazing that half the class failed this subject – in his final examination and qualified in June 1932. He also joined the Division of Veterinary Services and was first stationed at the Allerton Laboratory in Pietermaritzburg and thereafter served in Ladysmith (Natal) and Nongoma (1937). From November 1939 to September 1940 he found himself on secondment in Tanganyika in the campaign to control rinderpest that was spreading southwards in that country, thereby threatening southern Africa, which had been free of the disease since the early 1900s. Rossiter was in the South African Veterinary Corps during World War II and was involved in the transportation of mules to India for the British Army as well as in the capture of Madagascar by the South African Forces. He was awarded the MBE for these services. Dr Rossiter was involved in several FMD campaigns at Bushbuckridge while stationed as government veterinary officer at Barberton and Ermelo, where he lived for 10 years. He also spent 5 years in Grahamstown. In 1965 he was promoted to Assistant Director and placed in charge of the Natal region where he remained until he retired in 1972. He then took up a temporary appointment with the Division of Veterinary Services as meat inspector at the Pietermaritzburg abattoir. He was a keen cricketer and rugby player in his younger days, as well as bowls player in later years, and an excellent horseman. He was also an active Rotarian and member of old soldiers' organisations. He died on 1 February 1981 at the age of 73.

Nicolas Theart van der Linde

Nicolas Theart van der Linde was born in Griquatown in 1909 and was one of the 3 final year students who managed to pass Surgery, therefore graduating in 1931. He then joined the Division of Veterinary Services as state veterinarian for which he worked for the first 28 years of his career. After being stationed at Allerton for about 6 months, he was transferred to Armoedsvlakte (a farm near Vryburg) where research was being conducted with full military honours.
done on lamsiekte (botulism). We also know that Dr Van der Linde served as government veterinary officer in Bloemfontein in 1954. However, in 1960 he resigned from government service and went into private practice in Bloemfontein, but died the next year on 29 April 1961 at the age of only 52.

Cornelius Cloete (CC) Wessels

Cornelius Cloete (CC) Wessels was born on 31 August 1908 and matriculated at Bethulie in the Orange Free State. He was also one of the 3 students in his class who passed Surgery in his final year and therefore qualified in 1931. Like 4 of his classmates (Van der Linde, Rossiter, Clapham and Barnard), Dr Wessels initially joined the Division of Veterinary Services as government veterinary officer and was posted in Kuruman. Dourine was rife in the Northern Cape and he was apparently involved in the episode in which Kuni Schultz was severely wounded in the jaw by the son of the owner of a farm near Danielskuil in the Barkly West district, when Schultz and a police escort arrived with a court order to destroy a dourine-infected horse (see Bigalke: Veterinary education in South Africa: The Class of 1925. Journal of the South African Veterinary Association (2004) 75, pp. 4–6). CC married Enid Marguerite Maud Thomas in 1934 and the couple had 6 children, including Brian, a future veterinarian. In 1938 CC was sent to the Pennsylvania State University, USA, for 2 years to conduct research on bovine tuberculosis and was awarded a DVM-degree. Wessels also served in Worcester in the early 1940s, where Brian was born in 1941. He was posted to the Onderstepoort Research Institute as research officer shortly thereafter. In the mid-1940s CC set up a private practice in Krugersdorp. However, in 1946 he changed his vocation by accepting a position as Director of the Municipal Abattoir in Durban, a task which included the customary other public health duties. His achievements in this discipline (such as enforcing local pasteurisation of fresh milk) resulted in him being elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Public Health. In mid-1957 he joined the Australian pharmaceutical company, Nicholas Products, set up their local veterinary department and established a market for the ‘cobalt bullet’ for the prevention of deficiency in sheep and cattle farmed extensively in cobalt deficient areas. He rejoined Veterinary Services in 1961 and was stationed at Mossel Bay. After suffering a severe leg fracture while conducting TB tests, he was transferred to Cape Town as state veterinarian in charge of the quarantine station. He then spent a few months in Pretoria before being transferred to the Allerton Laboratory in Pietermaritzburg. Finally he went to Durban to supervise the public health aspects of the exportation of meat by the Orchid Company. CC retired in 1973 and spent his retirement on the South Coast, just south of Amanzimtoti. He died in December 1988 at the age of 80 after a very full and varied career.

Acknowledgements

Gratitude is due to Dr Brian Wessels of Connecticut, USA, and Mr George Wessels of Durban for supplying comprehensive biographical information on their father, Dr C C Wessels.


References

The composition of the class photographs of the graduates of 1932 and 1933 differs from that of their more recent predecessors in respect of 3 staff members also being present. Apart from the Dean of the Faculty, Dr (Prof.) P J du Toit, Dr (Prof.) G de Kock – presumably the Acting Dean – and the head of the students’ hostel, Mr W O Neitz, also feature. It is not clear why Du Toit and De Kock are identified as doctors rather than professors in the photographs. It was probably to distinguish them from Neitz who, in contrast to the other 2, had not yet obtained a doctorate. It must be kept in mind that it was only in 1945 that South African veterinarians decided in favour of using the courtesy title of ‘doctor’ for veterinarians with a BVSc or an equivalent degree.

THE CLASS OF 1932

T F (Tom) Adelaar

T F (Tom) Adelaar was born in Pretoria on 26 March 1909 and matriculated at its Oost Eind Hoër Skool in 1926. After qualifying in veterinary science in 1932 he was appointed as a state veterinarian in the National Veterinary Service. After a most impressive start to his career, a 4th graduate died at the age of only 30 shortly after leaving Onderstepoort for municipal (public health) service. A 5th spent most of his career in private practice while also serving the veterinary profession for 8 years in the high office of president of its association. One spent the greater part of his career in municipal (public health) service and another went into private practice, eventually also farming with citrus.
fying in 1932, he joined the Division of Veterinary Services as a state veterinarian, serving in Potgietersrus until 1938 and at the research station on the farm Armoedsvlakte near Vryburg (probably doing research on lambsiekte) until 1942. He was then transferred to the Virology Section at Onderstepoort, but succeeded Prof. D G Steyn as head of the Toxicology Section in 1947, also serving as part-time senior lecturer in Toxicology. He alone was responsible for educating students in Toxicology for 26 years until 1973 when the Faculty became entirely independent from the Institute and he opted to stay with the latter. Tom served as head of the Toxicology section until he retired in 1974. He was an impressive, tall man with an outgoing personality and was a popular teacher with a wealth of practical experience. He was probably the best diagnostician the Institute had in those early days and anecdotes of his many correct field diagnoses, when everyone else was stumped, are legion. He died on 4 December 1980, aged 71.

J H L Cloete

J H L Cloete was born in 1910 and received the Reyersbach Memorial Prize for the best matriculation science pass in the Union of South Africa in 1927. After qualifying in 1932 he initially served as state veterinarian for the Division of Veterinary Services at Rustenburg and Ermelo, where he succeeded Richard Clark (a 1928 graduate) in 1936. He then transferred to Onderstepoort where he lectured in Comparative Anatomy and Embryology. He was awarded a DVSc degree in 1939 for a thesis entitled ‘The estimation of the age of Merino foetuses’. This earned him the prestigious Junior Gold Medal of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Early in 1940 he resigned his post to take up a part-time appointment as veterinary officer to the municipalities of Springs and Brakpan and to run a private practice in Springs. However, within a few months he moved back to Pretoria as acting municipal veterinary officer, an office he was supposed to have filled for the duration of World War II. This promising young man had also just assumed the editorship of the *Journal of the South African Veterinary Medical Association*, and been elected to the Council of the Association, when he died prematurely on 7 November 1940 after a short illness at the age of only 30.

WD Malherbe

WD Malherbe, ‘Klein Jackie’ or ‘Texas’, as he was later nicknamed, was born in Pretoria on 20 April 1910. On graduating in 1932 he immediately joined the Division of Veterinary Services. As state veterinarian he was stationed at Middelburg (Cape), Wellington and Potchefstroom. In 1942 he was transferred to Onderstepoort where he lectured in Medicine under Prof. B S Parkin, replacing him as Professor and Head of the Department of Medicine when Parkin died suddenly from a coronary thrombosis in 1950. Prof. Kaizer van der Walt replaced Malherbe in 1958 when the Faculty was restructured to accommodate its 1st full-time departments, of which Medicine was one. Malherbe was then placed in charge of the Clinical Pathology component of Medicine, but transferred to the Onderstepoort Research Institute’s Toxicology Section in 1973 when the Faculty became fully independent from the former. He retired 2 years later when he was 65 and died at the age of 78 on 24 January 1989.

P J (Pat) Meara

P J (Pat) Meara was born on 17 March 1912 and matriculated...
1st class from Dale College, King William’s Town, in 1927 at the age of only 15. He qualified at Onderstepoort at the age of 20 and started his career as state veterinarian in the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services at Umtata in 1933. However, in 1937 he was transferred to East London where he was placed in charge of meat inspection for the export of beef and mutton to the United Kingdom. This appointment diverted his career into the field of public health and shaped his future. After doing postgraduate studies at Cambridge University in 1938 and 1939, he was transferred to Onderstepoort in 1939 as veterinary research officer. In 1946 he was awarded a DVSc degree for his thesis entitled ‘Postnatal growth and development of muscle, as exemplified by the gastrocnemius and psoas muscles of the rabbit’. In the same year Pat took up an appointment with the City Council of Johannesburg, 1st as assistant veterinarian at the abattoir until 1948, then as supervisor of abattoir operations and veterinarian in charge of the milk laboratory from 1949 to 1958. In 1958 he was promoted to assistant director of the City Health Department and in 1960 to Director, Abattoir and Livestock Market Department. After 14 years in this post he took on the position of chief veterinarian of the City Health Department of Johannesburg.

He retired from service with the City Health Department of Johannesburg on 17 March 1974, aged 66. He was 79 years old when he died on 17 March 1991 after a long illness.

J H Schoeman

J H Schoeman was born on the farm Schoemanshoek, Oudtshoorn, on 19 June 1907 and obtained a BSc degree at Stellenbosch University before enrolling for the BVSc degree at Onderstepoort. He first joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services and served as state veterinarian at Umtata, the Armoedsvlakte Research Station, near Vryburg, and at Vryheid, in the heart of the East Coast fever campaign in Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal). He then went into private practice, first in Johannesburg, thereafter in Springs for 18 years, followed by Potgietersrus and Letsitele soon after that for 7 years, where he also farmed with citrus. His great hobbies were fishing and boating. He died from a heart attack on 9 March 1967, at the age of almost 60 years, while travelling by car between Gravelotte and Letsitele.

H P (‘Lang’) Steyn

H P (‘Lang’) Steyn was born in Upington on 1 March 1909 and matriculated with 1st class honours in the first matriculation class of the Upington High School. After qualifying he joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services as state veterinarian for North Waterberg in 1933. He was transferred to Kimberley in 1934 and then to the Armoedsvlakte Research Station near Vryburg where he worked – probably on lamsiekte – from 1935 to 1937. In 1937 he was appointed as a lecturer in the Faculty’s Department of Surgery and Obstetrics at the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute where he also studied, and published on, reproductive problems in horses and sheep. In 1945 he resigned to start a private practice in Johannesburg. Steyn was elected as President of the South African Veterinary Medical Association (now the South African Veterinary Association) in 1958. He eventually served in this influential position for 8 successive years until 1966, which is close to the record 9 years established by S T Amos, who was in office from 1936 to 1945. Steyn was also a member of the Veterinary Board (now the South African Veterinary Council) from 1958 to 1971 when he resigned because of the ‘autocratic’ behaviour of its chairman. He was also the founder and 1st chairman of the South African Veterinary Foundation and the Equine Practitioners Group. He retired from practice in 1965 to devote himself to his farming interests, which comprised mainly poultry farming and stud Dohne-Merino breeding, to a lesser interest, on the outskirts of Johannesburg. Dr Steyn was awarded the prestigious President’s Award of the South African Veterinary Association in 1993. He died in Johannesburg in 1995 at the age of 86.

THE CLASS OF 1933

The Class of 1933 of the Onderstepoort Faculty was the smallest in its history. It even surpassed the 2-man Class of 1932 by having only 1 student for much of the BVSc course. The customary class photograph consists of only 4 people. Mr G C van Drimmelen, sitting on the left, is specifically identified as ‘graduate’ while the Dean, Dr (Prof.) P J duToit, is the only person standing. The other 2 staff members are Dr (Prof.) G de Kock, who was apparently the Acting Dean, and the head of the students’ hostel, Mr W O Neitz, who qualified in 1929.

GC (Govert) van Drimmelen

GC (Govert) van Drimmelen was born in Zeerust on 27 September 1911 as a 2nd child (his father was a minister in the Dutch Reformed Church, who had emigrated to South Africa from the Netherlands). When his father died in 1919 from Spanish flu, his mother temporarily returned to her homeland with her family. However, she came back a few years later with the result that Govert matriculated at the Oost Eind Hoër Skool in Pretoria in 1928. When he enrolled for his 1st year at the Transvaal University College (TUC), he was one of 27 students, but for the greater part of the rest of the 5-year veterinary course his was a 1-person class. His 1st appointment was as a state veterinarian at Allerton Laboratory in Pietermaritzburg where he was mainly occupied with the dreary task of examining ±36 000 East Coast fever (ECF) smears, which were in arrears. He was then transferred to Umtata in the Transkei, an ECF hotspot, and then to Carolina where the disease was also still present. In 1938 he landed up in Bloemfontein.
where he conducted research on artificial insemination in chickens in his spare time, keeping the experimental animals in his backyard because there were no facilities at the state veterinarian’s office. His thesis on the subject earned him a DVSc degree in 1947. The next phase in his career started in 1948 when he was posted to Onderstepoort and placed in the Bacteriology instead of the Poultry Section, which he preferred. His main tasks were general diagnostic bacteriology and research on brucellosis of cattle and sheep. He was also involved in teaching Bacteriology and Bacterial Diseases on a part-time basis – all teaching posts were part-time in those days – 1st as lecturer and from 1958 as associate professor in the Faculty’s part-time Department of Infectious Diseases. He published more than 40 scientific articles in his career. In 1966 a completely new phase dawned when Govert was appointed as South Africa’s agricultural attaché in Washington DC in the USA. From 1972, when he returned to South Africa, until his retirement the following year at the age of 63, he was a special adviser to the recently established regional laboratories of the Division of Veterinary Services. He was awarded the prestigious South Africa Medal (Gold) by the South African Association for the Advancement of Science in 1965 and the equally sought after Senior Captain Scott Medal of the South African Biological Society in 1969. Govert’s interest in science never waned in his later years: it included palaeontology, archaeology, dendrology, herpetology and bird watching. He died on 17 June 2003 at the ripe old age of almost 92.

Acknowledgements

References
THE CLASS OF 1934

The Class of 1934 consisted of 6 students (Fig. 1) The available photograph is once again composed of individual images of the graduates rather than the customary, comprehensive class photograph. Four are wearing graduation regalia, the photographs clearly having been taken when they graduated. The other 2 were obviously photographed later. J J van der Westhuizen’s empty position on the original photograph is indicated by a neatly tied scroll, which means that it was not possible to obtain a suitable photograph at the time when the compound picture was compiled. His photograph was kindly provided by his son – see Acknowledgements. This class boasts having the first South African graduate who went straight into private practice after qualifying at Onderstepoort, namely Jack Boswell.

N (Ninian) Barrie

N (Ninian) Barrie was born in George, Cape Province, on 7 October 1910. He was the son of George Barrie, a businessman who hailed from Scotland, and Viola Henriëtte Barrie (née Swemmer). His early schooling took place in George and he matriculated in Lindley in the Orange Free State. He qualified as a veterinarian in 1935, apparently after having completed a supplementary examination. Ninian married Emily Wessels in October 1935 and the couple had 4 children. After qualifying he joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services and was initially posted to Middelburg (Cape) as a state veterinarian. He was also stationed at Standerton.

Fig. 1: The Class of 1934.
J G Boswell, known to all as Jack, was born on 11 September 1912 in Pietermaritzburg. He was the eldest son of J H Boswell, who, with his 3 brothers, emigrated from England in 1911 and established the well-known Boswell’s circus. Jack matriculated in 1929 at the King Edward VII High School in Johannesburg. At Onderstepoort he failed Pathology in the final year and therefore only qualified as veterinarian early in 1935. On the advice of his father, who gave him £50, he immediately left for England ‘to get experience before I started to practise in Johannesburg’. With a letter of reference from Prof. J Quinlan, the professor of Surgery at Onderstepoort, to Sir Frederick Hobday, Principal of the Royal Veterinary College in London, Jack got a job with Trevor Spencer, a veterinarian in North Hampton with a farm animal practice, at 2 guineas a week. He gained ‘wonderful experience’ and finally went to the Royal Veterinary College for 3 months to read for the MRCVS while working with Sir Frederick Hobday and J G Wright. Back in South Africa in January 1936 the pioneering Jack’s first practice was in Saxonwold in Johannesburg where his classmate, Arthur Thiel, joined him in 1937 and soon became a partner in the growing concern. They then set up the well-known practice in Oxford Road. Thus Jack became the first Onderstepoort graduate to spend his entire career in private practice without ever entering the government service. He was later joined by the well-known Campbell Dickson, an Edinburgh graduate who specialised in small animals (now known as companion animals). In 1940, when the Oxford Road Surgery grew out of its boots, Jack and his partners (now also including Major Brown, as Thiel had volunteered for duty in World War II) built the Sandown Veterinary Hospital to house their increasing number of patients. In December 1953 Jack’s partners were Major Brown and Eric Hempstead. The practice then comprised 12 veterinarians.

There was an equine specialist (Hempstead), several vets who did mainly cattle work (AI included), 2 small animal surgeons (Brown and Margaret Hearn) and several small animal practitioners. The latest vet (the houseman) to join the practice almost invariably had to run the after-hours emergency clinic at the Hospital, which also served the 4 – eventually there were up to 9 – branch clinics, for a period of 6 months to a year. It has recently been estimated (J Welton, pers. comm., 2007) that ‘about 80 vets worked in Sandown over the years’, including those in the Sandown Veterinary Clinic, which replaced the Sandown Veterinary Hospital in 1971. Jack served on the Federal Council of the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) for 12 years. The prestigious Boswell Award, which is awarded for eminent service to the SAVA, was named after him because it was his brainchild and he supplied the initial funds for the verdite-mounted ivory elephant and rhinoceros statuettes of which the first recipients in 1977 were R B (Ossie) Osrin and L W (Louw) van den Heever. Jack, rightfully hailed as the father of private veterinary practice in SA, was awarded the Gold Medal of the SAVA in 1974, the only veterinary practitioner to have achieved this distinction. Jack married Joan Hardy Philip and the couple had 5 children – 3 daughters and 2 sons. Jack retired from the practice in 1981 to a farm near Alexandria in the Eastern Cape to run the Timbadola Stud that Eric Hempstead had helped him to establish. Jack was a dedicated Rotarian for many years, serving in senior positions such as District Governor, and did much travelling even before he retired. He and Jane loved going abroad and they continued with this favourite pastime after his retirement. Jack later sold the farm and finally moved to a retirement home in Nelspruit where he died on 20 March 2000 at the age of 87.

Arthur Rolf Thiel
Arthur Rolf Thiel was born on 22 October 1910 in Rosebank, Cape Town and matriculated in 1928 at Diocesan College, also known as Bishops. After interviews with Dr P J du Toit, the Director of Onderstepoort, and Genl J C G Kemp, the Minister of Agriculture, he was awarded a bursary to study veterinary science at Onderstepoort where he qualified in 1934. Like most newly graduated veterinarians who joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services in those days, Arthur started his career at Allerton Laboratory (Pietermaritzburg, Natal) where thousands of slides had to be examined for East Coast fever. He was then successively transferred to Port Elizabeth, Cape Town and Port Shepstone where he met his future wife Cynthia Stott and became engaged. After visiting Jack Boswell on invitation in Johannesburg in 1937, and seeing how busy the practice was, he decided to join him and soon became a
Jan George van der Wath

Jan George van der Wath was born on 25 August 1907 at Ladybrand in the Orange Free State and matriculated at Ficksburg High School. He qualified at the Onderstepoort School. He qualified at the Onderstepoort Veterinary (Field) Services in 1935 to be posted to the Allerton Laboratory in Pietermaritzburg, Natal. In 1936 he was transferred to the Physiology Department at Onderstepoort. He was awarded a DVSc degree in 1942 for a thesis entitled: ‘Studies on the alimentary tract of the Merino sheep with special reference to the role of the micro-fauna and -flora’. Shortly thereafter he resigned his post and went farming on the farm Welgelegen in the Ermelo district. Apart from farming with Merino sheep, he also bred the well-known Steenkamp line of Boerperde from 1948, having married in 1939 into the Steenkamp family – his wife was Magaretha Steenkamp. He was a very successful farmer and eventually also owned the Tati Ranch in Botswana on which the remnants are to be found of what are probably the earliest gold mines in southern Africa.

George, however, never lost his interest in academic life and research. He was selected to serve on the Council of the University of Pretoria. As a sheep farmer, he also became intimately involved in organised agriculture, particularly the wool industry. He was made Chairman of the South African Wool Board in 1960, and served as Chairman of the International Wool Secretariat for a year. He was appointed Chair-

William James (Bill) Wheeler

William James (Bill) Wheeler was born on 13 June 1909 in Middelburg, Transvaal (now Mpumalanga) and qualified at Onderstepoort in December 1934. He then joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services as state veterinarian and was stationed in Umtata (1935), Louis Trichardt (1936) and Piet Retief (1940). He is wearing a military uniform in the photograph, but there is no evidence that he saw service in World War II. It is, however, possible that he was a member of the South African Veterinary Corps before the commencement of World War II. He resigned from government service and joined the Municipality of Pretoria in 1949, becoming Director of the Municipal Abattoir in 1953. Bill continued in this capacity until he retired in 1974. Before retiring he had a bad accident when he fell into a hole while trying to retrieve a golf ball from a storm water drain, suffering some brain damage. He died in Somerset West on 12 May 1987 at the age of almost 78.
THE CLASS OF 1935

The class photograph was obviously taken at the end of the final year because the 8 students were not wearing graduation regalia (Fig. 2). The Dean, Dr (Prof.) P J du Toit, and Dr (Prof.) G van de Wall de Kock (apparently the Acting Dean) were in attendance.

Nevill Hayes Boardman

Nevill Hayes Boardman was born in Pretoria on 9 November 1910 and qualified at Onderstepoort in 1935. He worked for the South African Division of Veterinary (Field) Services as state veterinarian from 1936 to 1939 and then resigned to join the Bechuanaland Protectorate Veterinary Department as veterinary officer. Except for serving briefly in Swaziland in 1954, he was in the Bechuanaland Protectorate (now Botswana) until 1965 where he was stationed at places like Palapye, Lobatse and Ramatlabama. He was promoted to senior veterinary officer in 1950 and to Director of Veterinary Services, Swaziland in 1954. However, due to poor health he had to return to Bechuanaland after a few months’ on demotion to ‘veterinary officer’. After his return, Nevill withdrew from field duties and was responsible for the training of lay African inspectors at the Veterinary Training School at Ramatlabama, ‘a task at which he excelled’. When he retired in 1965, when Bechuanaland obtained internal self-government, he was Principal of the Veterinary Training School. He then rejoined Veterinary (Field) Services in South Africa, to be stationed at the old Johannesburg Municipal Abattoir. He died in Johannesburg on 5 May 1972 at the age of 61.

C J Erasmus

The only information that could be traced on the life of Christoffel Johannes is that he obtained a BVSc degree in 1935. For unknown reasons he did not register as a veterinarian before 23 May 1938 and his registration expired on 1 January 1983, presumably because he had died the previous year. Further information on Dr C J Erasmus would be much appreciated.

Joset Markus Fourie

Joset Markus Fourie was born on 20 February 1908 in Philips- town and first studied agriculture at Stellenbosch University, where he obtained a BSc (Agric) degree (cum laude) in 1930, before proceeding to Onderstepoort. He must have picked up a supplementary examination in his final year because he qualified in 1936. Dr Fourie initially served as state veterinarian at Pietermaritzburg (probably at the Allerton Laboratory), Hoopstad and Vryburg. He resigned in 1947 to set up a private practice in Malmesbury. He was still actively practicing when he died from a heart attack in December 1976 at the age of almost 68. Veterinarians seem to run in the Fourie family. His youngest son, J F Fourie, qualified in 1977 and 2 of his 4 daughters married vets, i.e. L F Naude in 1958 and JWS Liebenberg in 1967. A third daughter was married to D Scholtz, a final-year student at Onderstepoort, who died in an air crash in 1978.

Marthinus Christoffel (Lampie) Lambrechts

Marthinus Christoffel (Lampie) Lambrechts was born on
12 March 1912 on the farm Oersonskraal, Makwassie, in the western Transvaal (now in North West Province) and matriculated at Schweizer Reinecke High School. He qualified at Onderstepoort in 1935. He joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services in 1936 as state veterinarian, spent 1 year at the Allerton Laboratory and was then stationed at Umtata, Port Shepstone and Ixopo (1939). He went out of his way to be of assistance on farms whose owners were serving in the forces during World War II. In 1944 Tarr resigned from the government service and went into private practice in Johannesburg with Jack Boswell. From there he moved to Pietermaritzburg where he spent the rest of his career. He was actively involved in matters of the South African Veterinary Medical Association (now South African Veterinary Association), serving as its President for 3 years from 1966 to 1969. Ashton also held many prestigious non-veterinary offices such as Mayor of Pietermaritzburg, from 1977 to 1979, member of the Natal University Council, member of the Natal Museum Council, Life Member and Steward of the Pietermaritzburg Turf Club and Trustee of the National Botanic Society. He died in Pietermaritzburg on 11 September 1981, after a protracted illness, at the age of 70.

Willem Gerhardus van Aswegen

Willem Gerhardus van Aswegen was born in 1909 in Germiston. He first completed a BSc degree at the University of Pretoria before enrolling for the BVSc degree at the Onderstepoort Faculty, qualifying in 1936 after a supplementary examination. He then joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services and saw service as state veterinarian at Umtata, Nooitgedacht and Ermelo. Van Aswegen resigned from the state service in 1941 to join the Municipality of Pretoria as veterinary officer, but died on 27 February 1952 at the age of only 42.

George Frederik (Okkie) van der Merwe

George Frederik (Okkie) van der Merwe was born on 14 April 1909 in South West Africa (now Namibia). While at the Agricultural School at Gamman near Windhoek he was awarded a bursary by the administration of South West Africa to study veterinary science and he qualified at Onderstepoort in 1935. He married Aletta Pyper on 1 January 1937 and the couple had a son and a daughter. After being appointed as a state veterinarian on 6 January 1936, Okkie was placed in Windhoek. He subsequently also served in Gobabis – where he was involved in the bovine pleuropneumonia campaign in the Kaokoveld – and Walvis Bay, being responsible for inspection of meat to be exported. Okkie’s health was never robust and he asked to be transferred to the Union of South Africa to be posted to Grahamstown in 1956 where he conducted useful practical research on the immunisation of

Ashton Forrester Tarr

Ashton Forrester Tarr was born in Senekal in the Orange Free State on 1 July 1911. He was educated at Dale College, King William’s Town and graduated at Onderstepoort in 1935. He joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services in 1936 as state veterinarian, spent 1 year at the Allerton Laboratory and was then stationed at Umtata, Port Shepstone and Ixopo (1939). He went out of his way to be of assistance on farms whose owners were serving in the forces during World War II. In 1944 Tarr resigned from the government service and went into private practice in Johannesburg with Jack Boswell. From there he moved to Pietermaritzburg where he spent the rest of his career. He was actively involved in matters of the South African Veterinary Medical Association (now South African Veterinary Association), serving as its President for 3 years from 1966 to 1969. Ashton also held many prestigious non-veterinary offices such as Mayor of Pietermaritzburg, from 1977 to 1979, member of the Natal University Council, member of the Natal Museum Council, Life Member and Steward of the Pietermaritzburg Turf Club and Trustee of the National Botanic Society. He died in Pietermaritzburg on 11 September 1981, after a protracted illness, at the age of 70.
small stock against heartwater. He was promoted to Sub-Director of Veterinary (Field) Services of the Northern Cape Region, headquarters Vryburg, in 1959. Some 19 months later he was transferred to Pretoria where he was responsible for coordination of a number of functions such as animal health schemes, diagnostic services, artificial insemination and pig and poultry diseases. He was appointed a Deputy Director of Veterinary Services in 1967, but died in office shortly thereafter on 16 January 1968 aged 58.

Johann Heinrich Buxmann (Ike) Viljoen

Johann Heinrich Buxmann (Ike) Viljoen has the rare distinction of having been born, on 7 December 1911, in the dining saloon of a train while his mother was travelling between Brakpoort and Wellington in the Cape. On obtaining his degree in 1935 he immediately joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services, on 2 January 1936, and served as state veterinarian in the following places: Dundee (1936); Ladysmith (1937–1940); Vryheid (1940–1944); Ixopo (1944–1947); Durban (1947–1948); Johannesburg and Cape Town (1948); Estcourt (1950–1953) and Vryburg (1953–1956). Ike subsequently served as Assistant Director of Veterinary Services for South West Africa from 1956–1968. On 1 August 1968 he was appointed Deputy Director of Veterinary Services and transferred to the head office in Pretoria. He retired on 31 December 1975, but was retained for another year to rewrite the Meat Hygiene Regulations of the relevant Act. Dr Viljoen died in Pretoria in 1981 at the age of 70.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr Arthur Thiel kindly furnished virtually all the information on his career. Gratitude is also due to Dr Raoul van der Westhuizen for the photograph of, and other information on, his father, Dr J J van der Westhuizen. The information on Dr Ninian Barrie was kindly supplied by his daughter, Mrs A de Clercq.


REFERENCES

THE CLASS OF 1936

The class of 1936 was the largest of the pre-war classes of the Onderstepoort Faculty, consisting of the hitherto unheard of number of 14 students. The photograph on which they appear is the customary comprehensive one with the Dean of the Faculty, Dr (Prof.) P J du Toit, presiding. It is noteworthy that 3 of the students who feature in the photograph only qualified at the end of the following year, their names also appearing on the composite photograph of the 1937 graduates. Apparently the photograph was taken before the results of the final examinations were known.

Jacobus Albertus Badenhorst

The information on Badenhorst is scanty. The dates of his birth and death, for example, could not be traced. Although he features in the photograph of the class of 1936, Badenhorst obviously failed his final year because he only qualified as a veterinarian at the end of the following year. He immediately joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services and saw duty as state veterinarian at Umtata and Flagstaff in the Transkei, and then in Keetmanshoop, South West Africa (now Namibia), De Aar and Standerton. He resigned in 1960 and proceeded to Bulawayo, but apparently returned to South Africa shortly thereafter to practice as a private veterinarian in De Aar, from where he moved to the Western Cape and finally to Swaziland. After 1969 his name no longer appears in the list of registered veterinarians.

Charles Willem Albert Belonje

Charles was born on 4 October 1914 of Dutch parents who emigrated from Buitenzorg, Java, to South Africa. Charles matriculated from Grey High School, Port Elizabeth in 1931 and obtained his BVSc degree in 1936. He then joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services as state veterinarian and was stationed at various localities in the Eastern Cape Veterinary Region from 1937 to 1966. From 1945 to 1963 he also taught the diploma students in sheep and wool at the Grootfontein Agricultural College the basic principles of prophylactic herd management. He was stationed in Pretoria from 1966 to 1973 and then transferred back to East London as regional director (title: Assistant-Director) of the Eastern Cape Veterinary Region from 1973 to 1979 when he retired at the age of 65.

The Jockey Club and Thoroughbred Breeders Association of SA awarded Dr Belonje a scholarship in 1950. This enabled him to conduct research at the Equine Research Station of the Animal Health Trust at Newmarket and at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. After further research locally in the Karoo midlands, he completed a thesis on fertility in Thoroughbred mares for which he was awarded a DVSc degree by the Onderstepoort Faculty in 1958. He was also very knowledgeable in the meat hygiene (public health) discipline and was responsible for drafting the Animal Slaughter, Meat and Animal Products Hygiene Act (Act No. 87 of 1967). For these reasons he served for many years as external examiner in both Genesiology and Meat Hygiene at the Onderstepoort Faculty.

Abstract

Concise descriptions are given of the varied life histories of the students of the classes of 1936 and 1937. Consisting of 14 students, the class of 1936 was the largest of the pre-war classes of the Onderstepoort Faculty. Three of the 6 students in the 1937 class were actually repeating their final year, therefore the total number described below is 17 rather than 20. The detailed analysis of their careers reveals the presence of a remarkable degree of variation. Although all except Brookes, who apparently went directly into the newly established practice of Jack Boswell, initially joined the local government service, most of them became specialists in their disciplines. Four soon established very successful private practices. Five of the 6 who spent their entire careers in the South African Veterinary (Field) Services, finally occupied very senior positions in that division. One of them (Kluge) made a major contribution to the control of tsetse flies in this country and another (Belonje) became a specialist in equine infertility. Four of the graduates opted for a research career, 3 of them also teaching at the Faculty. Of all of these, only De Boom (Anatomy & Embryology), who was a consummate teacher, took on a fulltime position as Professor and Head of the Department when the Faculty became independent from the Onderstepoort Research Institute in 1973. De Lange (Surgery & Gynaecology), however, relinquished his professorship to become a deputy director of the Institute. Sutton became a household name to the many students who passed through his hands in Animal Management. Haig (Virology) became one of the most famous of the many researchers produced by Onderstepoort. Van der Walt showed much promise as a researcher but died at the age of only 45. Two more died before they were 35 years old. Two had sons who also became veterinarians while one’s grandson followed in his grandfather’s and father’s footsteps.
Charles married Audrey Holdridge in 1939. Their son, Professor Peter Belonje, qualified as a veterinarian in 1960 and their grandson, Grant Charles, in 1996, thereby establishing a fairly unique record (the same, for example, also applies to the Bisschop family) of 3 successive generations of veterinarians qualifying at the Onderstepoort Faculty. Charles died in East London on 23 November 1995 aged 81.

J W A (Tony/Joe) Brookes

Tony qualified in 1936 and, as far as can be determined, did not join the government service like the rest of his classmates but went directly into private practice in Johannesburg, joining the pioneering Jack Boswell and Arthur Thiel, 1st as an assistant and later as a partner. Like the latter, he was called up for duty in World War II and rejoined the firm when he was demobilised with the rank of captain. He later set up a practice in Germiston where he spent the rest of his career. He was unmarried and his sister was his housekeeper. He was awarded a military medal for his wartime services. The date of his death could not be determined but his registration with the SA Veterinary Board (now SA Veterinary Council) was terminated in 1983.

Henri Pieter Albert (Boompie) de Boom

Boompie was one of the most colourful personalities to be associated with Onderstepoort, particularly the Faculty. He was born on 16 October 1914, son of Hendricus Petrus who emigrated from the Netherlands to the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek in 1896 as an accountant in the 'Nederlandsche Zuid-Afrikaansche Spooreweg-Maatschappij'. Boompie attended the Laer Oosteind-school and Hoër Oosteindschool in Meintjies Street, Pretoria, matriculating as head boy in 1931. He enrolled as 1st-year student at the University of Pretoria (its status had been changed from the Transvaal University College (TUC) to that of a full-blown University in 1930) in 1932 and graduated as top student at Onderstepoort in 1936. That was shortly before the days of the Theiler medal! Early the next year Boompie was appointed a veterinary research officer in Pathology at the Onderstepoort

![Fig. 1: The Class of 1936.](image)
Institute and in 1940 also as part-time lecturer in Anatomy, a vocation and subject in which he excelled to an extent that few have managed to emulate.

Boompie initially taught Embryology and Comparative Pathology under Prof Cecil Jackson who was head of Anatomy. When Jackson resigned in 1955, De Boom succeeded him as Professor and Head of Anatomy which became a full-time department when the Faculty was restructured in 1957. Boompie was in his element because he could now devote himself entirely to his main vocation, which was teaching students. When the Faculty became completely independent from the Institute and Department of Agricultural Technical Services on 1 April 1973, and thereby a fully-fledged faculty of the University of Pretoria, he naturally opted to stay put. He retired from the Faculty as professor emeritus at the age of 60 at the end of the following year.

However, that was not the end of his teaching career. He served as guest professor at Cornell University in the USA for a year in 1975/76, having been there previously for more than a year in 1961/62. On request of the Portuguese government he had also served as Professor and Head of the Anatomy Department of the fledgling Veterinary Faculty of the University of Lourenço Marques from 1968–1970, i.e. before he retired from Onderstepoort. He also taught Anatomy and Embryology at the Medical Faculty of Medunsa during 1979 and 1980, as well Embryology to Zoology students at the University of Pretoria in the 2nd semester of 1980 and the 1st quarter of 1981. Back at Medunsa, this time at the Veterinary Faculty, he was appointed as temporary head of the Department of Anatomy in 1981, a position that he held until 1985.

De Boom was a man of many parts. In 1937, for example, he enrolled as trainee pilot in a course offered by the South African Air Force, obtaining his wings in 1939. Due to a manpower shortage at the Institute he was recalled to Onderstepoort and did not participate in World War II, but was placed on the Reserve for Flight Officers as a second lieutenant. He was an excellent linguist and was probably – there is some uncertainty whether it was for 10, 11 or 12 years – the longest serving editor of the Journal of the South African Veterinary Association. He served for 3 terms as editor of the journal. It was during his 2nd term, in 1972, that the Association changed its name from the South African Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) to that of the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA), the journal naturally following suit.

He received several awards for his services to the profession and veterinary science such as: Honorary Life Vice-President of the SAVA in 1977; Gold Medal of the SAVA in 1982; Life Honorary Member of the Anatomical Society of SA in 1978; Certificate of Merit of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science in 1980; DVSc (honoris causa) of the University of Pretoria in 1986. Boompie married Susara Alettha van Rooyen on 2 November 1940. They had a son (adopted) and 2 daughters who both married veterinarians. One of his granddaughters, Ilse van Staden, followed in his footsteps, qualifying from Onderstepoort in 1995. Boompie died on 3 August 1998 at the age of 83.

Michiel (Mike) de Lange

Mike de Lange was born in Pretoria on 26 December 1913. Like Boompie his parents were of Dutch origin. His schooling followed exactly the same path as Boompie’s, as they were classmates from beginning to end. Another school classmate was Mike’s future wife Anna Ruysenaars. After qualifying as a veterinarian in 1936, Mike joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services as state veterinarian Dundee where he was involved in the control of East Coast fever (ECF), inter alia examining ca 6800 spleen and blood smears during the 7 months that he spent there. His next post was in Potgietersrus where the control of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in the Lowveld became his most important task.

Late in 1938 Mike was transferred to the experimental farm Nooitgedacht at Ermelo, serving as research officer in control of the laboratory. ECF was still rife in the Badplaas valley – there were still 18 infected farms – and he had to deal with some very hostile farmers who had had more than enough of the quarantine measures they had been subjected to by veterinarians for many years. However, when he left Nooitgedacht in 1944, ECF had been successfully controlled in that area. It was at Nooitgedacht where Mike conducted the research on delayed breeding in beef heifers for which he was awarded a DVSc degree cum laude in 1947.

It came as no surprise when Dr De Lange was transferred to the Onderstepoort institute as research officer in the Pathology section in 1944. In 1947 he also became part-time senior lecturer at the Faculty responsible for teaching Pharmacology and for handling the Ambulatory Clinic that served the farms in the vicinity of Onderstepoort. In 1952 he was transferred to the Department of Surgery and Gynaecology and in 1956 he was promoted to Professor and Head of the Department. With the radical restructuring of the Faculty in 1957, when the clinical and basic sciences departments of the Faculty became full-time, Mike moved back to the Research Institute as Assistant-Director, becoming a Deputy-Director in 1961. He retired in December 1973 at 60 and died on 3 October 2000 at the age of almost 87 years.

Dr De Lange served the SAVMA as Honorary Secretary for 5 years and as elected member of its Federal Council for 14 years. The SAVMA bestowed an Honorary Life Vice-Presidency on him in 1968. He was a great lover of nature and served...
Jimmie de Wet was born on 15 October 1908 and matriculated at Grey College.

He obtained a BSc (Agric) degree before proceeding to Onderstepoort to study veterinary science. Like Badenhorst, he failed his final year only to qualify a year later in 1937. He joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services and served as state veterinarian, inter alia, at the Allerton Laboratory, where he had to examine the customary ECF smears, and Nongoma in Natal. From there he was transferred to Umtata in the Transkei where he married Isme Hemming in 1940. De Villiers was therefore a member of the informal ‘Umtata Club’ consisting of veterinarians who had married Umtata girls. Shortly after their marriage they were transferred to King William’s Town. The couple had 2 daughters.

In May 1946 Dr De Villiers resigned from the government service to open a private practice in Klerksdorp, the 1st to be established in that area. Potch was also active in matters affecting the veterinary profession, launching the Western Transvaal Branch of the SAVMA, of which he was the 1st chairman, in Klerksdorp in 1964. He served the Klerksdorp community with equal dedication. He was a founder member of the Lions Club in Klerksdorp, chairman of SANTA for 20 years and a member of Milner High School’s governing body for 23 years.

Dr De Villiers retired from private practice due to ill health after 38 years in 1984 and passed away on 27 April 1991 at the age of 76.

Johannes Marthinus (Jimmie) de Wet

Jimmie de Wet was born on 15 October 1908 and matriculated at Grey College.

He obtained a BSc (Agric) degree before proceeding to Onderstepoort to study veterinary science. Like Badenhorst, he failed his final year only to qualify a year later in 1937. He joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services as state veterinarian in Natal in 1938 and spent his entire career in the government service. Dr De Wet served as state veterinarian in Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal), Pretoria, Kokstad and East London and was eventually promoted to regional director (title: Assistant-Director) of the Eastern Cape Region, where he retired. While in the Eastern Cape, where ECF had been so rife, he became very knowledgeable in, and published on, the control of ticks of cattle by dipping. He retired in 1973.

He married Magdalena Johanna (Joey) Eloff and the couple had 3 children. Joey died in 1971 and Jimmie married Vesta Helena Truter in 1972. He died on 24 May 2004 at the ripe old age of almost 96 years and is survived by his 2nd wife.

David (Dave) Arthur Haig

David (Dave) Arthur Haig was born in Johannesburg on 20 March 1913. He contracted poliomyelitis, which was complicated by osteomyelitis, as a child and therefore had a permanent limp. He obtained his BVSc degree in December 1936, joined the government service and was posted to the Allerton Laboratory where he worked particularly on bacterial diseases of cattle and poultry. In 1945 he was transferred to the Onderstepoort Laboratory where he conducted virological research, in the then Section of Protozoology and Virus Diseases, to become one of Onderstepoort’s finest virologists. He was awarded a DVS degree by the Onderstepoort Faculty in 1953.

Haig’s 1st major achievement was in 1953 when he developed an excellent vaccine against canine distemper by adapting the ferret-adapted virus to growth in embryonated eggs, selecting the 200th serial passage level as candidate. This completely safe and very effective vaccine, which became the gold standard throughout the world, is still being manufactured by all major vaccine factories today. Haig was also the 1st Onderstepoort scientist to use cell culture technology for the cultivation of viruses when he and his coworkers grew bluetongue virus in lamb kidney cell cultures in 1956, which soon led to the development of a sophisticated quantitative neutralisation test for bluetongue. Another milestone was added to his impressive career when he succeeded in growing the virus responsible for causing lumpy skin disease in embryonated eggs in 1957. The route to vaccine development had been breached.

Unhappy about his unsuccessful 1957 application for the newly advertised post of lecturer in Virology in the reorganised Onderstepoort Faculty, Haig asked to be transferred back to Allerton where he worked for a short spell. However, he left South Africa in 1959 for the Kabete Veterinary Laboratory in Kenya where he stayed until 1961 before moving to the Agricultural Research Council’s Compton Field Station in the United Kingdom. He became the 1st head of its Virology Department, conducting some innovative research on scrapie, a sheep disease of which the aetiological agent is related to, and therefore serves a model for, the human kuru and Creutzfeld-Jacob diseases. He was 1st to suggest that the agent does not contain nucleic acid, which later led to the current prion hypothesis. He also published widely on other viruses, mycoplasmas and rickettsias. In 1967 he was appointed head of Compton’s bacteriology laboratory as well. Although he officially retired in 1977, Dave continued with his
research in a part-time capacity for several years. Dr Haig died at Whitechurch, Reading, Berkshire, in England on 21 February 1987 at the age of almost 74, a few days after returning from a short visit to South Africa. He was survived by his wife, Patricia, and a son and a daughter. He was honoured by being made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE).

H F T (Papa) Hellberg

H F T (Papa) Hellberg was born on 3 March 1913 in the Glencoe district and matriculated at the Dundee High School. He qualified as a veterinarian early in 1937, rather than 1936, clearly on account of a supplementary examination, which he passed, because he does not feature in the composite photograph of the class of 1937 (see below). He joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services and spent the rest of his career in the government service, amongst others serving as state veterinarian in Pietermaritzburg (Allerton Laboratory), Upington, Vryburg, Aliwal North, Potchefstroom, Gobabis in South West Africa (now Namibia) and Ladysmith in Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal), where he retired in 1973 as a senior state veterinarian. He was involved in the control of the 1957/58 outbreak of FMD at Standerton in which dairy cows as well as pigs contracted the disease.

Dr Hellberg married Johanna Catherina Bester on 20 July 1940 and the couple had 2 sons, losing the youngest in a motorcar accident in 1958 when he was only 13 years old. Dr Hellberg died in Pretoria on 5 May 2006 at the age of 93.

John Leonard Mainprize

John Mainprize was born on 1 June 1914 and obtained his BVSc degree in December 1936. He initially served as state veterinarian in the South African Division of Veterinary (Field) Services for 18 months, but in June 1938 he proceeded to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) where he was appointed as veterinary research officer in Salisbury (now Harare). On 1 May 1940 at the age of not quite 26, whilst on a shooting trip at Sinoia, he was fatally injured when a loaded gun placed against a tree next to him fell over and went off accidentally. He was buried in Johannesburg on 17 May 1940.

Johannes Nicolaas Meeser

Johannes Nicolaas Meeser was born in Roodepoort on 16 October 1912 and qualified in 1936. He immediately joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services as state veterinarian and was successively stationed at Eshowe, Worcester, Upington, Oudsthoorn, Calvinia (1944), Lydenburg (1949) and Pietersburg. He married Miss Johanna Badenhorst, a primary school teacher at the Worcester Boys Junior School, in 1939. Dr Meeser was promoted to senior state veterinarian in 1954 and to regional director (title: Assistant-Director) of the Northern and Eastern Transvaal Veterinary Region, station Pietersburg (now Polokwane), in 1961. He died from a heart attack on 30 January 1971 at the age of 58 years while attending a church function.

Theodor Heinrich Sandrock

Theodor Heinrich Sandrock was born in Sumatra on 9 October 1908, went to school in the Netherlands and initially studied medicine in that country. However, in 1933 he switched to studying veterinary science at Onderstepoort. It is not clear why or how the transition from the Netherlands to South Africa took place. He was clearly in his final year in 1936 because he appears on the class photograph, but failed and had to repeat the year, graduating at the end of 1937. He immediately joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services as state veterinarian and his 1st station was Dundee. From there he was transferred to Vryburg, marrying in 1938. He developed appendicitis in 1939 and underwent an appendectomy, but complications developed that led to his death the following year on 27 September 1940 when he was only 32 years of age.

Gerard (Jerry) Duncan Sutton

Jerry Sutton was born on 14 December 1910 in Wynberg, Cape Town, where his father was Judge President of the Cape provincial branch of the judiciary. He matriculated at the Rondebosch Boys High School in 1927. After working on a Karoo sheep farm for 2 years he proceeded to a farm in England to also gain experience in cattle husbandry. He then went to Grootfontein Agricultural College (near Middelburg, Cape) where he completed a diploma course in ‘sheep and wool’ in 1931. Only then did he enrol at the Pretoria University and Onderstepoort, where he graduated in 1936. He joined the government service as state veterinarian and was posted to Allerton Laboratory in Pietermaritzburg. In 1938 he was transferred to Middelburg, the health of Grootfontein College’s animals now being one of his responsibilities. While at Grootfontein, World War II erupted and he volunteered for military service but was retained because of the paucity of state veterinarians.

Gerard married ‘Sally’ (Eleanor) Rhodes in 1941, whilst he was at Middelburg, and the couple had 2 daughters and a son.

In 1944 Jerry was transferred to the Onderstepoort Institute where he spent the rest of his career, a period spanning an incredible 43 years. Initially he was mainly involved in bacteriological research. His part-time Faculty appointment as senior lecturer in Animal Management resulted in a change in his career path because he became increasingly involved in the management of the Institute’s very large number of livestock.

“In 1944 Gerard (Jerry)
Duncan Sutton was transferred to the Onderstepoort Institute where he spent the rest of his career, a period spanning an incredible 43 years. Initially he was mainly involved in bacteriological research. His part-time Faculty appointment as senior lecturer in Animal Management resulted in a change in his career path because he became increasingly involved in the management of the Institute’s very large number of livestock and laboratory animals.”
and laboratory animals. This included the Institute’s 2500 ha research farm Kaalplaas with its livestock and fodder-producing lands.

Dr Sutton filled his faculty post with great dedication for 25 years. Thus the name ‘Jerry Sutton’ became a household word in the vocabulary of the many students who passed through his hands in their 2nd and 3rd years at Onderstepoort. His teaching career ended in 1973 when the faculty became completely independent from the research institute and he opted to stay with the latter. In 1968 he was appointed as liaison officer of the Institute. This task and the centralised management of laboratory specimens sent in from the field for diagnostic purposes occupied most of his time during the latter years of his career. His sojourn as liaison officer eventually lasted for almost 20 years, as he was reappointed after being pensioned in 1978, finally retiring from Onderstepoort in 1987 at the age of 77, a truly unprecedented 50 years in the civil service! He also served the veterinary profession voluntarily as, for example, honorary treasurer of the South African Veterinary Medical Association for more than 10 years. For this and other services rendered to the profession he was honoured by being elected an Honorary Life Vice-President of the South African Veterinary Association. Dr Sutton died on 2 June 2001 at the age of more than 90 years after a short illness.

Sarel Jacobus van der Walt
Sarel was born on 24 January 1914 and qualified as a veterinarian in December 1936. He immediately took on a job as research veterinarian in the Toxicology section at the Onderstepoort institute. He was awarded a DVSc degree by the Faculty on 9 October 1943. From 1939 to 1946 he published a series of 3 papers under the title of ‘Recent investigations into the known and unknown poisonous plants of South Africa’ in the Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Industry. He also authored or co-authored some papers dealing with anatomy.

For reasons unknown, since he was clearly opting for a career in toxicology research, he transferred to the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services as state veterinarian in 1945 with locality Lydenburg. He was transferred to Pretoria the following year, but died prematurely on 12 March 1949 at the age of only 45.

Dr Van der Walt’s son Sarel, who adopted his stepfather’s surname of Van Amstel, qualified at the Onderstepoort Faculty in 1966 and was Professor of Medicine and Head of the Department at the Faculty from 1989–1996 when he moved to the University of Tennessee in the USA. He is now Professor of Farm Animal Medicine and Surgery at the College of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Tennessee.

THE CLASS OF 1937
Although the class of 1937 consisted of 6 students – according to the photograph – 3 (J A Badenhorst, J M De Wet and T H Sandrock) also featured in the photograph of the class of 1936 and were therefore clearly ‘supers’ who were repeating the final year. Their careers have already been dealt with. The available photograph is once again of the composite type rather than the customary, comprehensive class photograph and actually contains only 1 picture, i.e. that of E B Kluge. The positions of all the other graduates on the original photograph are indicated by neatly tied scrolls. This means that it was not possible to obtain suitable photographs at the time when the compound picture was compiled. We already know what Badenhorst, De Wet and Sandrock looked like in those days, but J L Doré’s and L J F von Maltitz’s photographs had to be traced and were taken much later at a meeting of the South African Veterinary Medical Association in 1955.

James Lewis (Jim) Doré
James Doré was born on 25 June 1913 in Koffiefontein. From there his family moved to Robertson where he received his early education. He matriculated at Bishops, Cape Town, in 1931 and then went to the University of Cape Town to study industrial chemistry. Switching to a veterinary career in 1934, he graduated at the end of 1937. Doré joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services in January 1938 as state veterinarian and saw service as follows: Allerton Laboratory; Tanganyika (now Tanzania) from May to October 1938 on secondment for rinderpest control purposes; Nongoma and Dundee from 1939 to 1944. Resigning from the government service, he entered private practice in Durban in January 1945 for a career lasting 33 years. He retired in 1978 and settled down in Margate to grow anthiriums. Dr Doré died there from a heart attack on 26 May 1989 at the age of almost 76.

Ernest Bruno Kluge
Ernest, the son of German immigrant parents, was born in Uitenhage on 9 October 1912. He received his high school education at Grey College, Bloemfontein where he matriculated in 1930. His sisters were the main financiers of his studies and money was not easy to come by. He was an excellent athlete
and was a member of the team representing the University of Pretoria in 1936. He qualified as veterinarian at the end of 1937, was appointed a state veterinarian and immediately sent to Zululand (now KwaZulu-Natal) where he ran the Nagana Research Station at Msimba in the Umfolozi Game Reserve for many years, doing research on the bionomics of the tsetse flies occurring in the area. When it dawned on the Directorate of Veterinary Services in 1941 that the eradication of game and the use of R H T P Harris’ flytraps were not going to solve the nagana problem, Kluge took over Harris’ research. By 1949 he had mapped the breeding sites of the tsetse flies which led to the successful aerial spraying campaign with DDT and BHC resulting in the complete elimination of *Glossina pallidipes*, the most important vector of nagana in Zululand.

He was subsequently stationed at Nongoma with much wider responsibilities that included the control of ECF and Corridor (or buffalo) disease. In later years he also organised South Africa’s involvement in the control of tsetse flies in neighbouring countries such as Mozambique and Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). In 1961 he was appointed a Sub-director of the Division of Veterinary Services, and in 1966 he was transferred to Pretoria. His title was changed to Assistant-Director in 1970. Dr Kluge served as external examiner for the subject Protozoan Diseases at the Faculty for several years in the late 1960s.

Ernest married Jaqueline Susanna Nel at Nongoma and the couple had 2 sons and a daughter. He died in Pretoria on 7 September 1986 at the age of almost 74.

Ludwig Johann Frederick von Maltitz

Ludwig Johann Frederick von Maltitz was born on 18 December 1913 and matriculated at Grey College Bloemfontein. He joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services as state veterinarian after qualifying at the end of 1937 and was immediately sent to South West Africa (now Namibia). Here he was first stationed in Windhoek and then successively in Keetmanshoop, Otjiwarongo, Okahandja, and Mariental. He finally served as Assistant-Director of Veterinary Services of the South West Africa Administration, Windhoek. After retiring in 1976, he was appointed by the Division of Veterinary Services as meat hygiene officer in the Western Cape Veterinary Region.

Dr Von Maltitz also served the veterinary profession with dedication, inter alia as chairman of the South West Africa branch of the SAVA for several years. He furthermore owned the farm Schlettwein in the Otjiwarongo district where he farmed with beef cattle. He died on 7 December 1987 aged 74 years.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Dr R van der Veen went to great lengths to provide information on the relatives of Drs De Wet, De Villiers and Hellberg, More specifically, Mr James de Wet kindly supplied much of the information on his father. The same applies to Dr De Villiers’ niece, Margaret Hair, and Dr Hellberg’s son Bernard.

Previously published in the *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association*, 81, 2-7.

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VETERINARY EDUCATION IN SOUTH AFRICA: 
THE CLASSES OF 1938 AND 1939

R D Bigalke*

Abstract

Concise descriptions are given of the life histories of the 10 members of the classes of 1938 and 1939. All of them initially joined the government service, Hugo, Steenekamp and Schatz spending their entire careers in the South African Veterinary (Field) Services. Mansvelt, the first recipient of the much-coveted Theiler medal, was the 2nd veterinarian to be appointed Director of Veterinary Services, a position specially created for the ‘Field’ in 1962. Having first established a successful private practice, Hofmeyr was appointed as the 1st full-time Professor of Surgery of the Onderstepoort Faculty in 1958 and its 1st full-time Dean in 1976. Albertyn opted for a career in public health, becoming director of one of the largest local municipal abattoirs. Turner spent virtually his entire career in private practice and was eventually joined by Brown who had served in the British Colonial Veterinary Service for many years. Fick was a government veterinarian for his entire career, first in South Africa, then in the British Colonial Service (for 13 years) and finally returning to South Africa. Like Hugo, Muller filled a senior position in Veterinary (Field) Services before he opted for a farming career.

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THE CLASS OF 1938

Fig. 1: Seated (left to right): S G Turner, Prof. G de Kock, H P A de Boom (head of hostel). Standing (left to right): P R Mansvelt, G L Muller, C F B Hofmeyr, N C F Steenekamp.

Johannes Fuch Fick

Johannes Fuch Fick (Fig. 2) was born on 10 September 1914 in Christiana and obtained his BVSc degree in 1938. He subsequently spent his entire career in the civil service, first with the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services, doing duty as state veterinarian at East London and Umtata. However, in 1949 he decided to join the British Colonial Veterinary Service and was posted to Swaziland as government veterinarian officer. In 1958 he was transferred to Bechuanaland (now Botswana) where he was promoted to divisional veterinary officer and placed in charge of the Western Division, stationed at Maun and Lobatsi. He retired from the Colonial Service in 1962 to rejoin Field Services stationed at Kokstad, but was transferred to Umtata in 1963 where he served until 1965. From there he was transferred to East London where he had started. He died in service on 26 June 1972 at the age of almost 58.

Christiaan Frederick Beyers (Hoffie) Hofmeyr

Christiaan Frederick Beyers (Hoffie) Hofmeyr was born on 15 August 1916 in Pietersburg (now Polokwane) where his father farmed in the district. He matriculated at the Pietersburg High School and completed his 1st university year at Stellenbosch University. Qualifying as a veterinarian in 1938, he joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services as state veterinarian and was posted to Umtata in the Transkei where he met his
future wife Brenda (née Munro). She was a great supporter of Hoffie’s career as veterinarian and very dedicated to their family consisting of 3 sons and a daughter. After a transfer to Rustenburg, Hoffie opened a private practice in Pretoria in Malan Street, Riviera. He obtained some financial assistance for this, in those days, dramatic step from Dr Jack Boswell, who had qualified in 1934. Hofmeyr later moved his practice to his home in Hilda Street in Hatfield and finally to Pretorius Street. Over the next 15 years he developed his practice into one of the finest in this country. Even as practitioner he specialised in surgery, raising the discipline to a professional level not reached by any of his predecessors or contemporaries. His professionalism was legendary. While still practising, he ran the ambulatory clinic of the Onderstepoort faculty on a part-time basis. He was also contracted as veterinarian to the National Zoological Gardens in Pretoria.

Hoffie was appointed professor and Head of Surgery at the Faculty in 1958 – the faculty having just been restructured to accommodate so-called full-time appointments – and built up his department to one that could compete with the best in the world. In 1969 he became part-time Dean of the Faculty and in 1976 he was appointed as its 1st full-time Dean. He was instrumental in introducing postgraduate, specialist, mainly clinical MMedVet and BVSc (Hons), degrees in a large number of disciplines as well as a very successful diploma course in veterinary nursing. Prof. Hofmeyr was a great and active protagonist of the Faculty’s incorporation into the University of Pretoria, which, to his great delight, realised in 1973 when the Faculty became independent from the Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute and the Department of Agriculture. A building programme for new lecture halls and administrative facilities, for example the new main building known as the Theiler building, as well as other essential teaching facilities plus supplying the equipment required, could now begin in earnest. It culminated in the state of the art new hospital, all of which materialised, as well as other essential teaching facilities plus supplying the equipment required, could now begin in earnest. It culminated in the state of the art new hospital, all of which materialised.

His postgraduate qualifications included an MMedVet (Chir) in 1965 and a DVSc-degree (cum laude) in 1967. He was also awarded a DVSc degree (honoris causa) by the University of Pretoria in 1990 and an honorary doctorate by the University of Asuncion, Paraguay, in 1980. He was author or co-author of more than 100 publications and also wrote a popular book on the life of a veterinary surgeon. Other forms of recognition of excellence were the awarding of its Gold Medal by the South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) in 1981 and the Gold Medal of the South African Academy of Science and Art in 1993. He served the veterinary profession as Vice President of the SAVA from 1971–1975 and as member of its Federal Council.

Prof. Hofmeyr was in considerable demand internationally, for example being invited to deliver the Peter Wilson lecture at the University of Edinburgh and chairing sessions at the congress of the World Veterinary Association in Mexico City and the congress of the World Association for Cattle Diseases in Israel. He paid no less than 16 visits to overseas countries for scientific purposes. After retiring, the Hofmeyr couple moved to George in the Western Cape. However, after a few years they returned to Pretoria where Prof. Hofmeyr died, 4 years after Brenda, on 14 January 2004 aged 88.

Pieter Rabe Mansvelt

Pieter Rabe Mansvelt was born on 27 August 1916 in Parys and matriculated with honours at the Ermelo High School in 1933. He qualified as veterinarian at Onderstepoort in 1938, being the 1st recipient of the much-coveted Theiler medal as top student in his class. He was an excellent rugby player, for example as hooker for the University of Pretoria’s 1st team. His first appointment was at the Onderstepoort Research Institute, and soon he was sent to East Africa to help run a vaccination campaign against a serious epidemic of rinderpest. On returning to Onderstepoort he experienced a personality clash with one of the senior officials, which resulted in his transfer to the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services as state veterinarian at the Louis Trichardt office, where he stayed for 18 years. Here Pieter married Marion (Maise) McGregor and the couple had 3 children, a daughter and 2 sons, the youngest son dying in infancy. In 1958 he was promoted to regional director (title: Assistant-Director) of the Transvaal Veterinary Region, transferring to Pretoria. He was finally promoted to Director of Veterinary Services of South Africa in 1972 and retired in 1976 at the age of 60.

Dr Mansvelt wrote several articles on aspects of his work, for example on the East African rinderpest outbreak in the late 1930s and early ‘40s and the foot and mouth disease campaign in the Eastern Caprivi in 1956. He was known among his field colleagues for his lucid style of writing official reports, which he enjoyed doing, much to their amazement. He showed a great interest in Nguni cattle, working closely with local animal scientists such as Manie Eloff, Jan Bonsma and John Skinner on the Mara experimental farm where the Bonsmara breed of beef cattle was developed. He also had an expert knowledge of the indigenous trees of the bushveld and was very well informed on the history of the Soutpansberg area. His hobby was carpentry.

Shortly after retiring, the Mansvelts moved to East London where Pieter played golf with much dedication, but opted for bowls in his last years when his health deteriorated. He died on 7 February 1988 aged 72.
G L (Laurie) Muller

G L (Laurie) Muller was born on 27 January 1917 and matriculated at Grey College, Bloemfontein, in 1933. Although he was a member of the 1938 class at Onderstepoort, he apparently had to write a supplementary examination because he only registered as a veterinarian with the South African Veterinary Board [now SA Veterinary Council (SAVC)] on 31 August 1939. He married Hester Aletta Morgenthal on 31 August 1939. He retired at the customary age of retirement in 1984 at the age of 69, having been appointed as veterinary surgeon to the Western Cape of South Africa, Matara (from 1939), Grahamstown (from 1943), Hout Bay (from 1945), Gobabis, South West Africa (SWA) – now Namibia – (from 1950), Oudtshoorn, SWA (from 1958), Oshakati in South West Africa/Namibia (now Namibia) and thereafter to Keetmanshoop. Having finally retired, he moved to Hanover in 1996 to run an ostrich farm until 2001 when he and his wife Hester moved to a retirement village.

Laurie was also involved in the activities of his profession, serving as chairperson of the Western Cape branch of the South African Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) in 1965, his predecessor being Dr Albertyn (see below).

Dr Muller died on 16 June 2008 at the ripe old age of 91, his wife having passed away 5 years previously.

NCF (Buffel) Steenekamp

NCF (Buffel) Steenekamp was born on 23 February 1915 and matriculated at the Barkly East High School. After qualifying as a veterinarian in 1938 he joined the government service for his entire career. He served as state veterinarian in Kokstad (from 1939), Gobabis (from 1943), Hout Bay (from 1945), Gobabis, South West Africa (SWA) – now Namibia – (from 1950), Otjiwarongo, SWA (from 1958), Oshakati in South West Africa/Namibia (now Namibia) and thereafter to Keetmanshoop. Having finally retired in 1984 at the age of 69, having been reappointed after reaching the customary age of retirement and receiving a special award for long-term government service. He died on 27 September 1995 at the age of 80.

He served in community activities such as school boards, the Dutch Reformed Church, ‘Rapportyerskorps’ and the ‘Federaasie van Afrikaanse Kultuurverenigings (FAK)’. His sporting activities included initially tennis and later bowls.

Dr Steenekamp married Dora (Theodora Susanna Ferreira) on 1 November 1941 and the couple had 4 children, a son followed by a daughter and finally twins – a son and a daughter.

Everyone who knew Dr Steenekamp referred to him by his nickname ‘Buffel’, but no one knows where it came from.

Sidney George Turner

Sidney George Turner was born on 29 December 1911 in Port St Johns, educated at Dale College and qualified at the Onderstepoort Faculty at the end of 1939, having had to repeat 1 of his final year subjects. During his student years he was chairman of the house committee and captain of Pretoria University’s (TUKS’) athletics team, representing both TUKS and the South African Universities in long-distance running.

George was 28 years old when he qualified, having initially spent 2 years studying agriculture at Pretoria University, but interrupting this to work for a couple of years in the Standard Bank at Port St Johns to earn money to pay for his brother’s schooling. After he qualified, Dr Turner joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services as state veterinarian and was initially stationed at Dundee and then at Port Shepstone. However, in 1944 he decided to go into private practice, joining Dr Jack Boswell in Johannesburg. Later he moved to Pietermaritzburg as a partner to Dr A F Tarr, soon to be joined by Dr B T Paine. George then started a satellite practice in Howick for the Pietermaritzburg consortium before moving to Port Shepstone in 1953 to set up a very large, one-man mixed practice. Already suffering ill health, he was joined at the end of 1967 by his son G V S (Vincent) Turner who had just qualified as a veterinarian at the Onderstepoort Faculty.

Dr Turner was an active Rotarian, serving as Club President in Port Shepstone for several years. In his spare time he was a very keen and competent angler, representing Natal in the ‘light tackle’ division. He was selected to represent South Africa in this category, but was unfortunately unable to honour this due to pressure of work.

George married Natalie Moorhouse, who came from a well-known Pietermaritzburg family. Dr Turner died in harness, 2 years after his son joined the practice, on 12 November 1969 at the age of 58.

THE CLASS OF 1939

There is no official photograph of the Class of 1939, which consisted of 4 students. Is it a mere coincidence that 1939 was also the year that World War II broke out?
Andries Adriaan Louw (Pierre, Albert or Boks)

Albertyn

Andries Adriaan Louw (Pierre, Albert or Boks) Albertyn (Fig. 3) was born in Aliwal North on 16 December 1917 and matriculated in Phillippeton in 1934. After qualifying at Onderstepoort in 1939 he joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services as state veterinarian and was stationed at Nongoma, Barberton, Pilgrims Rest, Rustenburg and Lydenburg where he was in charge of districts in which he had to deal with one or more of the then rampant important scheduled stock diseases such as East Coast fever, nagana, foot and mouth disease, tuberculosis and anthrax. In 1947, after a 9-year stint as state veterinarian, he was transferred to the Pathology Department at the Veterinary Research Institute, Onderstepoort as a research officer.

At the end of 1948, however, after only 2 years at the Institute, Dr Albertyn decided to devote himself to public health work, eventually serving this discipline of the veterinary profession with distinction for the greater part of his career, i.e. almost 30 years. He first joined the municipal service of Johannesburg. His main duties involved the health and hygienic aspects of the ~500 dairy farms supplying milk to the City, and safety and quality control of the final product in the laboratory. He also supervised the breeding of beef cattle on the City’s sewerage farms and provided a veterinary service to its zoological gardens. In 1953 he moved to Cape Town as head of the City’s milk control branch, his duties being similar to those in Johannesburg.

However, the new technology of bulk storage of milk and compulsory pasteurisation (introduced in 1953) required innovative adaptation of surveillance systems and laboratory tests. In 1968 he was promoted to Director of the Cape Town Municipal Abattoir in Maitland, succeeding Dr B M Horwitz (a 1929 graduate) who had just retired. Maitland was one of the largest and most productive abattoirs in South Africa and Dr Albertyn was director until 1977 when he retired from municipal service at the age of 60. He was very strict and meticulous in applying the Animal Slaughter Act and its regulations, thus running a well-managed abattoir to the advantage of the local population. His contribution to public health was suitably awarded when he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Health in 1965.

A completely new phase in his career followed in 1977 when he was appointed head of the Provincial Animal Centre, also known as the Delft Animal Centre, in Kuils River. This was a new experimental animal breeding facility that had previously been designed and managed by Prof. D G Steyn, who qualified at Onderstepoort in 1948. Its function was to supply the medical faculties of Cape Town and Stellenbosch with laboratory animals for research purposes and Dr Albertyn’s task was to get it up and running, which he did very effectively in the 10 years that he spent there. Boks retired from ‘Delft’ in 1987 aged 70.

Dr Albertyn took an active interest in SAVMA matters. He was honorary secretary of the Cape Western Branch of the SAVMA from 1958–1960. In 1961 he was elected chairman, serving until 1965 when he was replaced by Dr G L Muller, Boks taking on the position of vice chairman, which he filled until 1968 when he became an additional member. However, 1969 and 1970 saw him back as vice chairman. In his spare time Pierre was actively involved in the SA National Defence Force, rising to the rank of Colonel and serving as commanding officer of a Commando Group in the Western Cape. In 1976 he was awarded the De Wet decoration for long and efficient service. He was also a keen rifleman and bird hunter. His involvement, with a few colleagues, in the Western Province Horse Endurance Riding Club as veterinary judge led to his election onto its executive committee.

Boks married Esme Harvey in 1948 and the couple had 3 daughters. He died in Cape Town on 20 October 2000 at the age of 83.

Paul Hornidge Brown

Paul Hornidge Brown (Fig. 4) was born at Trail in Canada on 1 November 1916. In 1924 his parents emigrated to South Africa where Paul attended St John’s College in Johannesburg. He was good at sport, playing first team cricket and hockey for the University of Pretoria in 1936 and 1938 while at Onderstepoort. After qualifying early in December 1939, he immediately joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services as state veterinarian and was stationed at the following places: Port Shepstone from 1939 to 1940; Umtata from 1941 to 1942; Bedford, 1943; Flagstaff from 1943 to 1945; Aliwal North from 1946 to 1948; Port Elizabeth from 1948 to 1951.

He married Lindrea Swift Shone of Bedford, Cape in 1943 and the couple had 2 daughters, Pauline and Verrall.

In March 1952 Paul transferred to the British Colonial Veterinary Service as government veterinary officer to the Basutoland Government and was stationed at Maseru. Part of his duties was to improve the livestock in that area, taking a particular interest in the local horses. He was presented with
an Arab stallion, Silver Eagle, by the Basutoland Government for his services in improving the Basuto Pony. He left Lesotho in 1963 to practice until 1967 on a part-time basis with his erstwhile 1939 classmate Sidney Turner (see above) in Port Shepstone. He died on 8 August 1978 at the age of 62.

P P (Piet) Hugo

P P (Piet) Hugo (Fig. 5) was born on 15 September 1916 in Pietersburg (now Polokwane). He matriculated at the Pietersburg High School. He then enlisted in the South African Defence Force but left after a year to study veterinary science. After qualifying at the Onderstepoort Faculty in 1939 he joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services as state veterinarian and was initially stationed at Allerton Laboratory near Pietermaritzburg. His next post was Upington from where he was transferred to Worcester.

Here he developed a keen interest in horses, doing stud work in the vicinity of Rawsonville. In 1950 he was transferred to Eshowe where he worked for 6 years. He was then transferred on promotion to Vryheid where he was involved in the winding-up phase of the seemingly endless East Coast fever eradication campaign in Natal (now KwaZulu-Natal). His last position as state veterinarian was at Vryburg. Here he was inter alia involved in the erection of the veterinary fence between South Africa and Botswana in the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park.

In 1964 he was transferred to Potchefstroom on being promoted to regional director (title: Assistant-Director) of the Highveld Veterinary Region. Here he was involved in the planning and finalisation of the erection of the local regional veterinary laboratory. Dr Hugo was known as a tough supervisor and strict disciplinarian.

Piet met his future wife, Geesje Marie Jansen van Rensburg, while working at Allerton Laboratory and they married on 5 January 1943 at Babanango. The couple had 2 sons – one dying in infancy – and 2 daughters. He retired in 1976 at the age of 60 to farm with cattle in the northern Transvaal (now Limpopo). Dr Hugo died in Potchefstroom on 25 July 1994 aged 78.

Walter Heinz Gerhard Schatz

Walter Heinz Gerhard Schatz (Fig. 6) was born in Usakos on 4 March 1914 and was educated in Germany, but returned to South West Africa (now Namibia) and matriculated in Swakopmund in 1934. After qualifying from Onderstepoort in 1939, he joined the Division of Veterinary (Field) Services in 1940 and was first stationed at the Allerton Laboratory at Pietermaritzburg from March 1940 to September 1943 when he was transferred to Windhoek in South West Africa. In 1947 he was transferred to Omaruru but returned to Windhoek in 1956. During 1959 he developed a serious illness, which was treated in Germany and later again in Pretoria. However, due to persisting ill health he was transferred to Cape Town where he died on 16 September 1962 at the age of only 48. Dr Schatz married Liselotte Scherer in 1944 and the couple had 3 daughters and 1 son.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank the following for information kindly supplied on their fathers by: Dr Mansvelt’s son Peter; Dr Muller’s daughter Marieta and son-in-law Dr J H van der Poel; Dr Steenekamp’s daughter Ms Thea Steenekamp; Dr Turner’s son Dr Vincent Turner; Dr Albertyn’s daughter Mrs Helen Starke; and Dr Hugo’s daughter Prof. Annarie Hugo. Drs Wally van Heerden, Hugo van Niekerk, Roy van der Veen and Koos Erasmus were very helpful in tracing the abovementioned siblings.


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