

FRIENDS of the Veterinary Foundation

Missouri Veterinary Medical Foundation
Veterinary Museum
2500 Country Club Drive
Jefferson City, Missouri 65109

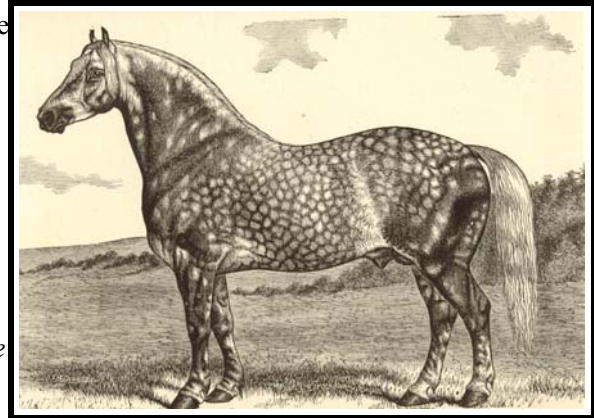
Oct/Nov/Dec - 2003

Volume 4

No Pain, No Gain

The method of “firing” or cautery to attend to equine lameness is rarely used in today’s veterinary practice. Or, is it? As with many diseases, tools, methods, etc., it’s possible that we have just given it another name (thermocautery). Let’s review this “old time” therapeutic method.

You will find that as far back as the mid-eighteen hundreds, and possibly before, that the method of “firing” had its proponents and those who opposed it. As stated in “Modern Practical Farriery”, circa 1880, (a complete guide to all that relates to the horse, complete system of the veterinary art), by W. J. Miles, M.R.C.V.S.L., “There is not in the records of blacksmith brutality - though for that matter our older professors of the veterinary art were fully their equals,



if not their masters, a more humiliating record than that of the application of red-hot iron to the uncomplaining and tortured horse. They seared his palate for lampas; the end of his tail after docking; the under vertebrae of the same appendage in nicking; his legs (with more reason) in the special operation of “firing;” and frizzled and fried his skin for wounds, cuts, ulcers, and farcy buds; in short, for anything - when the red-hot iron was handy.” With this statement, the author scolds his forefathers and colleagues on the right and wrong uses of firing. The statement also gives us an idea of the types of problems for which “firing” was to be a beneficial use. Dr. J. V. LaCroix, (1916), tells us that it is also used in the ailments of inflammation of the bicipital bursa, contraction of carpal flexors (knee spring or over in the knees), carpalitis, thecitis, bursitis, ringbone and sesamoiditis, in “Lameness Of The Horse.” It has also been said that “the absence of the hot iron from the hand of the veterinary surgeon—is proof of his judgment and skill, as well as of his humanity.” However the “Illustrated American Stock Book”, 1891 outlines the procedure very simply in six small paragraphs. These include the ‘Benefits If Properly Applied’, ‘Proper Use Of Firing Iron’, ‘What It Does And How Used’, ‘Objects Intended By Firing’, ‘Part Applied To And How To Heat The Iron’, ‘Directions For Preparation Of Spot’, and ‘Diseases Benefitted By Firing.’

There were many fine points to “pin” firing and surely much scrutinizing by peers. Some particular methods as to cast or not to cast, firing light or deep, blister before firing as well as many other considerations were taken into account. As “firing” will surely leave a blemish, some surgeons would attempt fancy patterns while scoring the leg, although said, “legs should always be scored in perpendicular lines.”

Today “pin firing”, named possibly for the fine point at the end of the iron, is used more often in racehorses than in other performance horses on ailments like splint, curb or chronic bowed tendons. The procedure is done under sedation and local anesthesia and the pain inflicted is fairly short-lived and well tolerated by the patient. (Clyde Johnson, VMD, 2000) Cautery is still used in many other aspects of veterinary medicine and on many other species. You may also find this procedure, or similarity, by other names like ‘counter irritation’, ‘electro surgery’, ‘heat therapy’, ‘electronic stimulation’, or ‘thermocautery’.

Any therapy applied to your animal should be done by a veterinarian or qualified individual under a veterinarian’s supervision, however, some countries and organizations would like to see this therapy completely prohibited.

Celebrate Veterinary Technician Week
October 12 - 18, 2003

Inside this issue:

Foundation News & Notes	2
National & Veterinary History News	3
Missouri Veterinary Firsts	3
Annual Drawing	Back

Foundation News and Notes & History News

The Missouri Veterinary Medical Foundation Board of Directors will meet on October 17, 2003, 4:30 p.m. at the UMCCVM.

The Foundation and Museum have had some great help through the Summer. George Suwalski of Jefferson City has so graciously given of his time and talent to volunteer for the Foundation by making the Animal Archives program full by entering past memorials into the computer. He will also be helping out by scanning photographs as well.

The MVMF has several opportunities for you to help out in the upcoming year. These opportunities are open to the public also. We have restocked our T-shirts. We now have them in sizes to fit the child and adult. The cost will be \$15.00 for color and \$12.00 for black/white. A 2004 calendar of Veterinary First will be available also

for under \$10.00. In the near future, commemorative post-cards of Veterinary Firsts will be available. These will be useful for mail or to add to your collections.

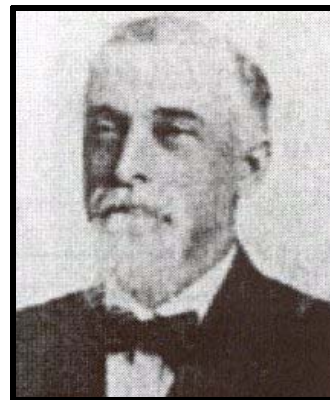
**Thank you to Dr. R. C. Ebert
for his donation of a
Cameron Cauteradio!
On display now in your
Veterinary Museum.**

A few changes have taken place in the museum. We have added animal puzzles, tools in a vet bag, and veterinary garments to the interactive area. There are also a couple of new display stands that will show some paper archives.

Museum visitors

Day Care Day at the
JC Cole County Fair
500 visitors

Arkansas
New York
Missouri
Maryland
Illinois



Who is this man? See page 3 !!

Animal Archives of Missouri

A lasting memorial to those animals who have dedicated their lives to making our lives a joy! For a \$10 donation to the Missouri Veterinary Medical Foundation you can honor your client's beloved animal. The memorialized member will be honored with a letter of condolence and certificate to the owner as well as having their personal information placed on the Animal Archives of Missouri Kiosk along with a photo and any words in memory that the owner submits. Just fill in the information below and send in. You will be billed at the end of the month.

NAME OF PET: _____

BREED/SEX: _____

COLOR/CHARACTERISTICS: _____

BIRTH/DEATH: _____

CLIENT'S NAME/ADDRESS: _____

VETERINARIAN/NOMINATOR NAME/ADDRESS: _____

National Veterinary and History News

EXPLORATION, ENCOUNTER AND EXCHANGE IN HISTORY will be the 2003-2004 theme for National History Day. The 2003-2004 NHD national contest will be held June 13-17th at the University of Maryland. Show your creativity by making history come alive in an exhibit, documentary, paper, or performance. By producing one of these projects, you have opportunities to win awards and scholarships, as well as learn about your history. If you are in grades 6-12, you may enter the contest in either the junior (grades 6-8) or senior (grades 9-12) divisions. You may participate individually, or as part of a group of up to five students. Public, Private & Home Schools are welcome to participate. For more information, contact www.nationalhistoryday.org.

SUPPORT OF STATE AND LOCAL HISTORICAL AGENCIES IN AMERICA: A STATEMENT OF CONCERN - -

Preservation of, public access to, and free and open debate over the content and interpretation of the past are essential to the health of American constitutional democracy. Enlightened discourse over critical issues, public policy, and the very nature of our democracy, requires continuous reference to the historical context.

That is why the American Association for State and Local History is deeply concerned over the draconian reductions in public funding of historical organizations and activities that currently are being made across the country, most egregiously at the state level. Read more about these

THE AVMF, (American Veterinary Medical Foundation) will begin the largest single fundraising effort ever in its history to make every state disaster ready by the end of the decade. During the AVMA's annual convention in Denver, the Foundation launched a 3 year, \$6.5 million plan. Goals include assisting at least 18 states before 2007.

Missouri Veterinary Firsts

The FIRST calendar of "Missouri Veterinary Firsts" is now available from the MVMF. The 2004 calendar stems from the idea of Mrs. Ann White, MVMF Board Member, along with the help and coordination of Schellie Blochberger and Kim Ralston. The calendar will highlight historical firsts in the MVMA and MVMF history. These will make great gifts, stocking stuffers or be practical for the veterinary or technician's office. They will have all major holidays listed on them as well as important MVMA, MVMF, UMC-CVM, and district dates and information. And even more, the proceeds from the sale of the calendar will help further promote veterinary medicine and the human/animal bond. The calendars will be available through the MVMA and MVMF offices or during the MVMA Annual Convention. For more information or to obtain copies, please call 573-636-8737.



Who's that man? Well, it's Dr. Ed Lee! A Chillicothe resident in 1880, Dr. Ed Lee was probably the first veterinarian in town and a close friend of two small boys he came to admire. Retelling his experiences and stories is Mr. John Irvin of Chillicothe. Mr. Irvin and his brother were those two boys who spent their childhood with Dr. Lee learning and listening.

Dr. Lee attended the Kansas City Veterinary College, traveled in Kansas, Missouri and Illinois, made his veterinary calls by horse and buggy as well as encountering other experiences in life. His practice in Chillicothe ended around 1940 and he passed away in 1941.

A 15 year work by Mr. Irvin can be purchased for \$12.00 locally or you may write to him at 1717 Polk Street, Chillicothe, MO, 64601.



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Friends of the Missouri
Veterinary Medical Foundation

We have e-mail
Contact us at:
Foundation@mvma.us

"To educate the public about the history, practice, and utility of veterinary medicine in Missouri."

MVMF + MVMA

"Making Strides Together"

*Missouri Veterinary Medical
Foundation & Veterinary Museum*

2004 Annual \$10,000 Drawing

Yes! I would like to purchase a ticket for the MVMF Annual \$10,000 drawing. January 16, 2004. Enclosed is my payment of \$100.00.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ Check or MC/Visa#: _____ Ex. _____

Mail to: MVMF, 2500 Country Club Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65109. We will send you a receipt.