Mr. Barry Haines: Of Buildings and Sheep
Dr. James Buchanan
The Participant’s Participant

Dr. Buchanan traveled extensively in Europe and in the United States, examining veterinary hospitals to be abreast of the latest in technical advances.

Being midwife to a $16.5 million project required a great measure of patience and a highly developed sense of listening to the anticipated needs of those who would work in the hospital. As Dr. Buchanan put it, “They all had input into the construction of this building, and the limits of structure and budget had to be reviewed with each one.”

As Professor of Medicine in the Department of Clinical Studies, Dr. Buchanan is an impresario of veterinary medicine, organizing a series of scientific meetings. He is a person who is curious about every little branch in blueprints. In preparation for the new building, Dr. Buchanan has traveled extensively in Europe and in the United States, examining veterinary hospitals to be abreast of the latest in technical advances.

Buchanan also loves music, and in keeping with his personality this love is demonstrated as a participant. His music took him to the Rose Bowl as a percussionist in the Michigan State University Marching Band. Now music-making is at home with his wife and four children (who each play an instrument), or in church, where he sings in a choir. He loves the outdoors and is scoutmaster in his son’s Boy Scout troop. During winter, the Buchanans take to the ski slopes of Pennsylvania, or to Colorado if time permits.

Buchanan is also an accomplished photographer as the pictures on his wall will attest, and this hobby has led him to devising and preparing new teaching aids in veterinary medicine, such as 16 mm films on heart surgery in dogs. He has a darkroom at home but has used it infrequently during the last few years because of his preoccupation with the new hospital.

Dr. Buchanan, who now speaks from hand-written notes, has some advice for those who are contemplating building a new hospital. “Do research; analyze plans; ask questions; spend some time traveling; inform yourself about materials and finishes. If you hire an architect, look for a local one, and preferably one who has done veterinary hospitals. Also, attend the Veterinary Design Conference, which is held annually in Cleveland, and take the architect along.”

From a D.V.M. degree at Michigan State University to a professorship and specialty in cardiology at the University of Pennsylvania, to the creation of an outstanding facility for animal care, Dr. James Buchanan moves forward, consistently reinforcing the merits of being a participant and helping the field of veterinary medicine and this school realize its dreams.

Mr. Barry Haines
Of Buildings and Sheep

It would not be at all surprising to encounter Barry Haines rushing about New Bolton Center with a pipe wrench in one hand and a sheep crook in the other. Barry’s primary job at the center is maintenance of the physical plant, but his heart is with the woolly creatures. The mention of sheep ignites an immediate gleam in his eyes.

As building administrator for New Bolton Center, Barry is responsible for the maintenance of seventy structures ranging from the historical Allam House to the newly-dedicated George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals. This involves all routine maintenance, including operating efficiency and the eternal housekeeper plagues such as leaky faucets and clogged drains. His expertise in this type of work comes naturally.

The senior Mr. Haines, Barry’s father, was a builder for forty years. We imagine that it was from him that Barry acquired his appreciation for working with well-built structures, and especially farm buildings. Barry has what he terms “a five-year program” for New Bolton Center, designed to bring all buildings up to a simple maintenance level, which will require considerable repair to some structures. With the cost of construction material caught in the inflationary spiral, estimates for this work total close to $800,000. At this time $650,000 has been received from the University. Thus far two barns have been renovated as part of the program to improve patient care. This included converting wooden stall partitions to cinder block and covering them with an epoxy paint for easy maintenance and disease control. The asphalt floors have been replaced with cement and a new drain system has been installed. These barns are over fifteen years old and, like other buildings of this vintage, have arrived at a point where some major improvements are needed. This includes the pole barns used in the leukemia research program which are now undergoing repair. While supervising these major projects, Barry’s phone seems to ring continuously with requests for immediate service on minor problems involving plumbing, faulty electrical sockets, or bulky air conditioners. Mr. Haines
has assembled an excellent group of craftsmen to take care of these various tasks, but is still understaffed.

Now about the sheep crook. Even though Barry was raised in a Philadelphia suburb (Yeadon) he always had a yen for agricultural activities. This led him to Penn State University where he graduated in 1974 with a B.S. degree in Animal Science. Following graduation, he became Assistant Herdsman of Sheep Facilities at Penn State in 1978, and was responsible for managing three purebred flocks and one commercial flock. The work included research studies, feed mixing, supervision of technical services and student employees, operation of machineries, and general maintenance.

This background explains Barry's ecstatic reaction when a new flock of sheep recently arrived at New Bolton Center as part of the program to expand teaching in small ruminant medicine. A new sheep shed was built and a flock of yearlings was purchased from Penn State University. To complete the flock, a high-quality Dorset ram was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Herr of Nis Besser Farm in Narvon, Pennsylvania. The sheep project is under the professional supervision of Dr. Colin Johnstone, Assistant Professor of Parasitology, who is assisted by Dr. Susan Donohue, a faculty member of the Section of Nutrition. A natural consequence of events was the designation of Barry Haines as shepherd.

Mr. Haines is married and has a son, Matthew. As might be expected, Barry's interests run to outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, archery, boating, gardening and ammunition reloading. And, of course, to sheep.

Would you like to know how many students graduated in 1902, or how many matriculated ten years later? You may think that a lot of searching would be involved to get this information. Wrong. Just ask Helen Linwood and she'll provide the answers in less than a minute.

Helen Linwood, known to many alumni as Helen Jarrett, is the Assistant for Admissions and Academic Affairs at the School of Veterinary Medicine, and she keeps these and other vital statistics at her fingertips.

Helen's duties are anything but routine. Any given day may bring requests for information on a new graduate student member. Her office, located since 1964 in the Rosenthal Building, is a beehive of activity as Helen dispatches her many duties. One of the most important, particularly from a student point of view, is managing admissions and insuring that all letters, transcripts, and forms arrive promptly for submission to the admissions committee. Imagine the organization and attention to detail required to keep track of the more than 700 files assembled by Helen from November to May each year. Once that process is completed, Helen still continues to work since she is often called upon to arrange counseling meetings for rejected applicants to explore alternate admittance possibilities.

On top of all of that, Helen keeps two very special historical records. The Matriculation Book, a thick, old-fashioned journal reminiscent of another era, and the Graduate Book. When classes were smaller, each student would come to the office to sign the Matriculation Book. "Obviously," Helen explains, "with a class of 109 the line would be too long, and this tradition is no longer followed." Instead, Helen enters the name of each student. The Graduate Book is a 152-page volume, begun in 1887 when the chief clerk entered the names of the first graduating class. "It's the history of the school in a nutshell," Helen proudly stated as she pointed out the old-fashioned penmanship of one of her predecessors. The class of 1982 will begin Volume II and Helen had to search for a suitable book.

Helen loves her work and has a special affection for the University because of her undergraduate days here. "I had so much fun when I went to school on this campus," she reminisced. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree from the School of Education, she taught for a few years, and during summer vacations, worked in the Zoology department. When Helen learned of the job opening for the admissions clerk at the veterinary school she returned to Penn.

The school has played an important part in her personal life for it was here that she met her husband, Norman, while she was working at the front desk. At that time, he was a detective lieutenant with the Philadelphia Police Department, on leave of absence to do investigative work at the University.

Helen and Norman live in Norristown, and until last June operated an antique shop in their spare time. "We loved it, but we did not have the time to go to the auction and sale to scout for new pieces," she said. "It has become very hard to find quality pieces. You have to spend many hours at auctions and may come away with only one item."

Antiques are still an important part of their lives, although in a different form. Norman has a great collection of newspapers, dating back to colonial times and spanning the history and development of this country. "One of the papers we have has a story in which Mrs. O'Leary claims that it was not her cow which started the Chicago fire by kicking over the kerosene lamp," Helen chuckled. "I start reading the stories and history comes alive, it's so much more interesting than reading a history book." Helen has plenty of opportunity to relive the past as they index the entire collection. Helen explained that the old papers have to be handled carefully, especially those after 1830 because they were printed on cellulose-based paper rather than rag paper. They have to be stored flat and in the dark to prevent deterioration.

Helen likes to get to work early, to have a quiet hour away from the ringing phones, to get a good start on her daily work. But even at eight o'clock the phones are ringing. "People think we are here at all hours," she laughed. Her good spirits help her keep calm in a demanding, hectic job. Right now it's time to complete the admissions for the next class. Soon their names will be entered in the Matriculation Book, and Volume II of the Graduate Book will be started. A set of historical school records, which have been part of Helen Linwood's life for more than thirty years, will be continued.