4-1-2001

Groundbreaking for the Scott Equine Sports Medicine Building
Hard hats and shovels, decorated in Penn red and blue, were the order of the day on March 31 at New Bolton Center. It was groundbreaking day for the Scott Equine Sports Medicine Building.

Scott family members Roy and Gretchen Jackson led a group of major donors in turning the earth. These included Allaire duPont, who four decades after leading the groundbreaking for the Widener Hospital, again put a shovel to good use. The teaching and research wing in the new building will be named in Mrs. duPont’s honor. Betty Moran, representing her family, for which the clinical services wing will be named, dug in, too. Herbert and Ellen Moelis also wielded shovels. Herb, a member of the School’s Board of Overseers and chair of the Equine Committee, has been instrumental in leading the fund raising drive for the Scott Equine Sports Medicine Building. Two groups which have raised substantial funds in recent years for the building were also represented in the groundbreaking party. Irene Landan, for The Evening at Old Saratoga Committee, and Leonard and Pat King representing the American Gold Cup, completed the earth-turning group.

The Scott Equine Sports Medicine Building will be the address of the Allam Center for Sports Medicine. It will be built next to the Jeffords Treadmill and together these two buildings will become the heart of equine sports medicine service, teaching and research at New Bolton. The Scott building will house the section of cardiology and imaging under the direction of Dr. Virginia Reef. Here clinical patients will be examined and sophisticated ultrasound imaging techniques will be used, often in conjunction with a treadmill work-up.

Dr. Eric Birks will use the physiology laboratory in the research wing to expand his work on exercise physiology of the equine athlete and his studies of equine pulmonary hemorrhage.

The ceremonies prior to the groundbreaking included a “heralding” by Ringmaster Bill Venditta who used his coach horn to summon the participants and the audience. Christine Connelly, chair of the School’s Board of Overseers, welcomed everyone and “MCed” the proceedings. Speeches were brief as everyone was eager to watch the digging. Dean Kelly praised the advent of the new building and outlined briefly what it means to the School. State Representative Chris Ross spoke about New Bolton’s importance to the equine industry and agriculture. East Marlborough Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Buzz Hanum, told of the pride the community takes in New Bolton Center. Dr. Virginia Reef talked about the impact the new building will have on her and Dr. Birks’ work and on equine sports medicine in general. Herb Moelis thanked all the donors for contributing to the building and reminded everyone that while construction is ready to begin, funds are now needed to equip this state-of-the-art facility.

The Scott Equine Sports Medicine Building, funded mainly by private individual and foundation support, now is more than the dream of New Bolton Center faculty dedicated to the health and welfare of the equine athlete. It will be a real building in 2002 thanks to the generosity of Almira and Hardy Scott, Roy and Gretchen Jackson, Allaire duPont, Betty Moran, Herb and Ellen Moelis, The Evening at Old Saratoga, the American Gold Cup and many other donors who responded to the call for support.
1. Pat King, Leonard King, Herbert Moelis, Allaire duPont, Betty Moran, Ellen Moelis, Irene Landan, Roy Jackson, Gretchen Jackson;
2. Dr. Virginia Reef;
3. Dr. Eric Birks explains building plans to Mrs. Elizabeth Moran;
4. Dr. Charles Raker, Allaire duPont, Ellen Moelis;
5. Gretchen and Roy Jackson;
6. Herbert Moelis, Betty Moran, Christine Connelly;
7. Dean Alan Kelly.