

# When the livestock came, veterinarians followed

By KENDACE BERRY  
MANHEIM — Have you ever wondered who the first veterinarian was to practice in Lancaster County? Or how different veterinary practices within the county were started? Within the boundaries of the "Garden Spot of the World" there is a unique history of the men who have made it their life

work to attend to the miseries of animals. Now there is a new book out, *The History of Veterinary Medicine in Lancaster County*, that was written by Loy Cuyler Awkerman, V.M.D. and inspired by the Conestoga Veterinary Medical Association, that tells the history of both past and

present animal doctors in Lancaster County. Covering a wealth of subjects, the book starts with the historical background of the subject. Awkerman tells of the start of the colony of Pennsylvania, and mentions the first animals to arrive on Lancaster County soil—horses and oxen. The first animals brought in the county for food were pigs. They were followed by chickens, then sheep, and finally cows. Then there were no trained

veterinarians, just neighbors who were "handy" with animals. The first trained veterinarian to enter the area was the "horse doctor", a man who would usually live in the cities and took care of the riding and carriage horses. According to the book, it was Dr. Benjamin Rush who convinced the University of Pennsylvania that it should adopt a program in training veterinarians. One of the first veterinarians on record in

Lancaster County was Dr. John Breneman (1813-1877) of Mount Joy. He was the great grandfather of the late Dr. J. Nelson Newcomer. Dr. Breneman rode horse back around to area farms where he cared for the needs of horses and cows. Written in a smooth, easy-to-read style, Awkerman traces with both words and pictures the flow of history that brings him to tell about the present day vets serving the Lancaster County area. He includes a special section on the

Conestoga Veterinary Medical Association, and covers changes in the veterinary situations both before and after the World Wars as well as other related subjects. Dr. Awkerman stated that his book is really about the veterinarians who "worked day and night for years with little or no time off, and whose dedication and integrity were such that people still refer to them in revered and nostalgic tones." These men "built a strong and (Turn to Page 37)



Dr. Loy Awkerman, a veterinarian in Lancaster County, has recently finished writing a book delving into the history of Lancaster County veterinarians. The book is now available to anyone interested in reading more about the men who travel from farm to farm treating animals.

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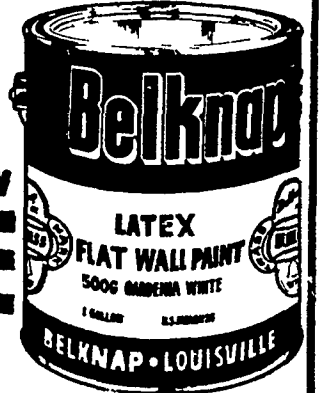
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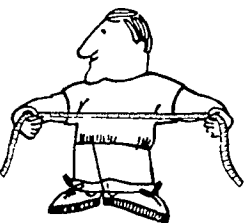
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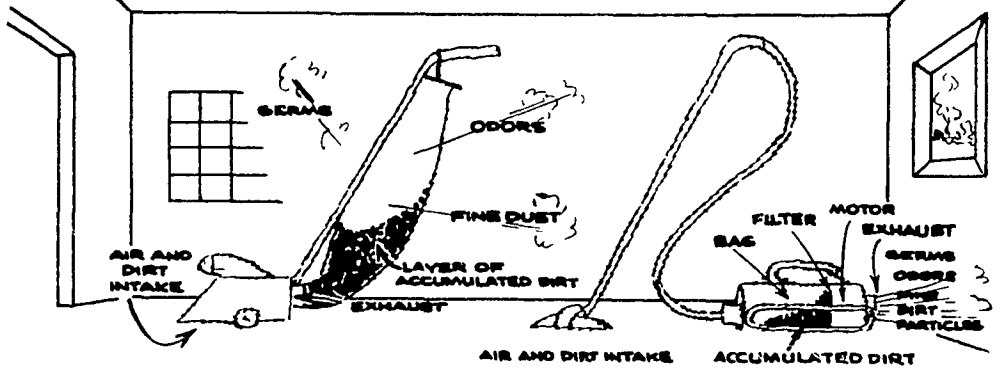
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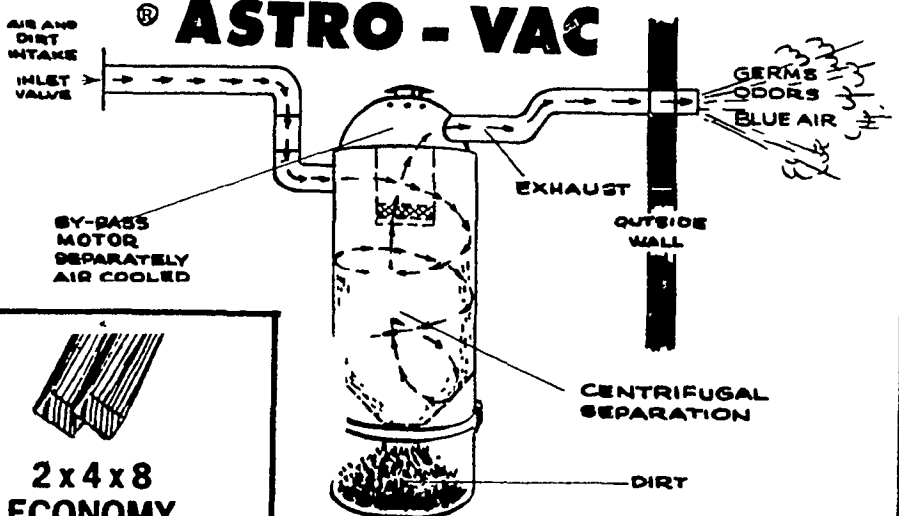
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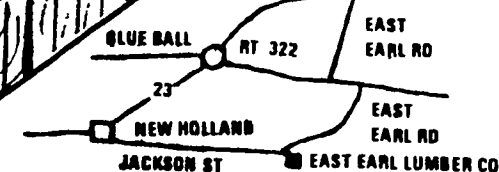
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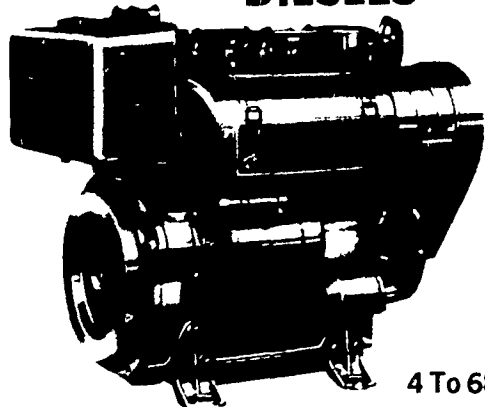
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