



vaccine production. In 1942 we produced the first live virus Newcastle Disease vaccine (Roakin Strain) and later the LaSota strain products, which are used world wide.

In 1939 my sister/ Dr. Helen Wernicoff and her husband/ Dr. Nathan Wernicoff, joined the partnership of my father and myself. Both were Veterinarians who had graduated from Cornell University, he in 1931 and she in 1933. We introduced numerous other products and methods of application all of which were widely used.

In 1950 I assumed leadership of our partnership as my father built a home in Florida and spent less and less time at our facility. We formed Vineland Laboratories and began an expansion program.

In 1960 we built a vaccine production plant in Mexico and in 1962 we built a vaccine production plant in Israel. Both of these plants operated under the name of Vineland Laboratories, Inc. In 1961 we built a plant to manufacture sulfonamide drugs on St. Croix in the Virgin Islands. That company operated under the name of Vista Laboratories and it produced a variety of sulfonamides most of which were in the soluble form. We also made large animal boluses for a number of veterinary drug companies. In 1965 we opened a small drug manufacturing operation in England. That plant supplied numerous products to Irish and English poultry farmers. We also had operating supervision of several vaccine plants owned by others in South America.

In 1970 we sold all of our partnership and corporate entities to the Damon Corporation. I worked for them as Chief Operating Officer for two years and then continued on with them until 1975 at which time I retired.

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*Tall and handsome, with a quick wit and charming smile, at 92 years of age, Tevis Goldhaft, D.V.M., is still going strong. In his prime, he was a true pioneer of avian vaccines, having led Vineland Labs – one of the first, biggest and best vaccine companies – for more than 35 years.*

*Dr. Goldhaft is a second-generation veterinarian; his father having graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in 1910. In 1921, his father acquired a license to manufacture fowl pox vaccine in New Jersey. Dr. Goldhaft remembers his father taking the scabs off infected birds, drying them in an incubator, grinding them up and using the material in a liquid form to vaccinate young birds using the feather follicle method..*

*The homemade fowl pox vaccine, made in Vineland, NJ, was one of the first poultry vaccines made in the United States. In 1928, his father set up a lab in their home to test for pullorum disease, primarily for Wene Chick Farms which, at the time, produced more than a million chicks a year. Each day, hundreds of blood samples would be brought to the Goldhaft house for testing.*

*In 1928, Dr. Goldhaft and his father received a federal license to sell pullorum disease antigen for doing blood tests in the field and not in the laboratory. It became the base product for what was to become Vineland Labs. In 1932, the company received its first federal license to sell poultry vaccines nationwide. At that time, the original company name, Vineland Poultry Pathological Laboratory, was changed to Vineland Poultry Laboratories.*

*Continuing to build what was to become a thriving poultry vaccine company, his father, who Dr. Goldhaft contends was more a businessman than a veterinarian, entered into an agreement in 1932 with faculty members Fred Beaudette, D.V.M. and C.B. Hudson, M.S. of the New Jersey College of Agriculture at Rutgers University. Dr. Beaudette and Mr. Hudson and the college were paid royalties to allow Vineland Labs to make and sell the infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT) vaccine they had developed. This was one of the first times a USDA-licensed vaccine company had paid other individuals and a college for the rights to manufacture and sell a vaccine they had developed.*

*By the early 1930s, Dr. Goldhaft was an integral part of his father's burgeoning company. He took some time off to attend veterinary school, graduating from Cornell University Veterinary College in 1935.*

*When he returned to Vineland, NJ, after graduating from veterinary school, Dr. Goldhaft and his father formed a partnership to sell vaccines and diagnostic agents. Their company, Vineland Poultry Laboratories, became the largest avian vaccine manufacturing company in the country. The company soon spread worldwide and, along the way, introduced many products and techniques still in use today.*

*Dr. Goldhaft's older sister, Helen, graduated from Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine in 1933. She married another Cornell veterinarian, Dr. Nathan Wernicoff, both of whom joined Vineland Labs in 1939. In 1950, Dr. Goldhaft's father retired and the new generation of veterinarians began an aggressive expansion program that included building plants in Mexico, Israel and the Virgin Islands.*

*From the beginning, Vineland Labs produced their eggs and their own birds on which new vaccines were tested. "Specific pathogen-free eggs that are used now were not an issue in early vaccine production," Dr. Goldhaft says, "We knew the problems, so we tested for pullorum and other common diseases. We didn't know anything about Mycoplasma, but neither did anyone else back then," he laughs.*

*Vineland Labs produced all their own eggs from a flock of 3,000 to 4,000 birds. "We used to make ILT vaccine from live birds and could make maybe 1000 doses per bird. When we began making vaccine from eggs, we really sped up the process," Dr. Goldhaft says. The Vineland operation in the mid-1930s was the forerunner of modern avian vaccine production.*

*In 1961, Vineland Labs build a drug and vaccine production facility in Mexico and a plant on the island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands to manufacture soluble sulfonamide drugs. The St. Croix facility, operated as Vista Laboratories, made large boluses for use in other animals for many of the U.S.-based animal health companies operating at that time. In 1965, they opened a small drug production plant in England. As commercial production of poultry spread worldwide, the England facility allowed Vineland Labs to sell their products in volume to poultry farmers in England and Ireland.*

*Among his most satisfying professional accomplishments was the establishment of a poultry vaccine company in Israel. Dr. Goldhaft's father went to Israel in 1948, not long after the government was established, to look t the possibility of setting up poultry farms. Israel didn't have the land to produce larger animals, so poultry was a natural source of protein for them. "We used our own money to build poultry vaccine plants. For the nine years we owned it, we never took money out, but we sold it for its accumulated value," Dr. Goldhaft recalls. The Israeli operation, originally build by Vineland Labs, is now known as Assia Abic, a subsidiary of the Teva Corporation, and is still in operation today.*

*Throughout his career, Dr. Goldhaft says dealing with government regulations was an ongoing challenge. In the early days, no one knew much about poultry vaccines and after integrated commercial production came into vogue, getting changes in vaccine production was a long, detailed process.*

*“When we developed the first equipment to administer vaccines in drinking water, it was absurd to sell vaccines in 500-dose packages, but the USDA was slow to allow us and others to make those changes,” he adds. In addition to poultry vaccines, Vineland Labs also pioneered many application processes to deliver these vaccines, primarily a water proportioner. “We never took the time to know whether these were patentable; we were just looking for better ways to deliver our products and to build bigger markets,” he notes.*

*In 1970, Dr. Goldhaft, his sister and brother-in-law sold Vineland Labs to the Damon Corporation. Each signed an agreement to work for Damon Corporation for five years, which included a large bonus for meeting certain production and sales criteria. They met those criteria in 18 months and spent the remainder of their contract time as consultants.*

*In 1975, Dr. Tevis Goldhaft retired after a lifetime of work in the poultry health business. When he left, he left for good and has never looked back. Along the way, he and Vineland Labs pioneered many of the production processes that are still commonly used in the industry worldwide. Now 92, living in Haverford, PA, and still active, Dr. Goldhaft says his fondest memories of the early years in the poultry business are of the friendly competitors. “We all shared common problems and we helped each other when we could. Some of those competitors, like Hiram Lasher, became life-long friends and remain so today,” he concludes.*

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*Biography solicited by the Committee on the History of Avian Medicine, American Association of Avian Pathologists.*

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