



Following graduation from High School in 1940, Stanley enrolled in the pre-veterinary curriculum at Texas A & M. This was a year-round study program consisting of one year's equivalent of pre-veterinary studies and 4 yearly equivalents of the veterinary curriculum. Stanley graduated from the veterinary school at the ripe old age of 21 in 1944. Both Stanley and one other 21 year-old classmate set the record as the youngest veterinary graduates in Texas A & M history! Immediately following graduation, young Dr. Vezey enlisted in the Army Infantry, serving at Ft. Hood, Texas, Fort Ord, California, and several transient assignments until May 1946.

Following his Army assignment, Dr. Vezey worked for the United Nations transporting livestock to war devastated countries. In early 1947, upon returning from his 6<sup>th</sup> U.N. European trip, Dr. Vezey became re-acquainted with Eleanor Gilmore, whom he had been introduced to about 4 years previously by her boyfriend in college. First impressions must have been very important to Eleanor, since she and Stanley had not kept in touch during his Army career nor during his early U.N. career. And it was not an accidental re-acquaintance either, since she contacted Stanley's parents in early 1947 to learn of his whereabouts, since he didn't maintain a permanent address at the time. Alas, second impressions must have been as important to Stanley as first impressions were to Eleanor, as they were married about half a year later, on August 2, 1947!

The new Dr. and Mrs. Vezey began their lives together in Shreveport, Louisiana, and entered a period of numerous changes in their new lives together. Initially Dr. Vezey was employed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Industry, performing Brucellosis and Tuberculosis testing in Texas. Quickly tiring of the routine, Dr. Vezey joined a mixed animal practice in Shreveport in early 1948. Most noteworthy of the changes was the change of the Vezey "couple" to the Vezey "family" with the arrival of Stanley Alien Vezey, Jr. in June 1949 and Dale Gilmore Vezey, in December 1951. Also, after several years in the practice Dr. Vezey accepted a position as technical service veterinarian for Lederle Laboratories (part of American Cyanamid) in January 1951. This change of career also resulted in a change of location, moving the Vezeys to St. Louis, Missouri.

As a technical service veterinarian, Dr. Vezey was involved in conducting the clinical trials required in the licensing of Rovac®, a modified live hog cholera vaccine. He also gained technical service and clinical development experience with cattle feed additive medications. Finally in 1953 Dr. Vezey became acquainted with poultry, as his work responsibilities were expanded to include 50% of his time with poultry products. He also became acquainted with gamebirds by volunteering his services when gamebird producers called for help. In this new assignment he worked with modified live vaccines against Newcastle Disease, Infectious Bronchitis, and Laryngotracheitis. With the price at about \$5.00/1000 doses of LT vaccine, it is speculated that Dr. Vezey is one of the key individuals responsible for spreading Infectious Laryngotracheitis in the United States during the late 1950's! But by the end of the decade the price had eroded about 80%, and American Cyanamid quit the biologicals business.

In 1961 Dr. Vezey joined the staff of Sterwin, and the Vezeys moved to Russellville, Arkansas. Dr. Vezey added a few new feathers to his cap in this new position, since he was not only providing Product Development and Technical Service expertise, but also running the Diagnostic Laboratory. And since the lab averaged 150 - 200 cases per month, his new responsibility as head of the lab kept him plenty busy. He also gained a keen insight and understanding into hatchery sanitation, as his technical service hat provided him tickets for hundreds of visits into hatcheries. In 1962, after two years of exclusively poultry work, Dr. Vezey became a member of the fledgling American Association of Avian Pathologists. In 1965 Dr. Vezey's efforts were rewarded by moving him to Gainesville, Georgia, where he reported directly to the Vice President of Poultry Product Marketing at Sterwin. Without Dr. Vezey to run the lab in Arkansas, Sterwin closed their diagnostic lab.

In 1969 Dr. Stanley Vezey again shifted careers, this time to the one he for which he is most known today, that of Poultry Extension Veterinarian at the University of Georgia. During his 18 years as Poultry Extension Veterinarian, and all the years as Emeritus Poultry Extension Vet since retirement in 1987, Dr. Vezey has touched the lives of many aspiring poultry veterinarians. When Jack Tumlin founded the Master of Avian Medicine program, Dr. Vezey served in an advisory role. Dr. Vezey also worked under the supervision of Dr. Dave Anderson, who came from Wisconsin to become the first head of the Avian Medicine Department at the University of Georgia. Ever since its inception, the Avian Medicine Department has been vital to the poultry industry of the Southeast and to the education of numerous MAM graduates. Thinking about his career at the University of Georgia, Dr. Vezey stated "I've enjoyed every minute of it," and the "grad students have been the best part."

During his tenure with the University of Georgia, Dr. Vezey rekindled his love of working with gamebirds. He conducted research with Quail Bronchitis virus and Quail Pox virus. His efforts on tin's latter virus resulted in the development of a commercially successful vaccine. All his experience and success with gamebirds and gamebird diseases have earned Dr. Vezey the reputation as one of the most knowledgeable gamebird veterinarians in the world. But his skills and success don't end there, for he also enjoys gamebird hunting and trap shooting as hobbies, and was crowned the Georgia State Champion trap shooter in 1981, Senior State Champion in 1987, and Veteran State Champion in 1991.

Now that Dr. Vezey is in the "Professor Emeritus" phase of his long and illustrious career, he has been enjoying watching his three grandchildren, Russell, Josephine and Sarah grow into successful adults. But Dr. Vezey doesn't just spend his time at family gatherings, as he is still active at the Poultry Disease and Research Center and regional and national poultry meetings. Like his father who was a Professor at Texas A & M for over 50 years, Dr. Vezey's veterinary career has spanned over 50 years as well. However, since Dr. Vezey's professorial career at the University of Georgia is only into its 4<sup>th</sup> decade at present, don't expect to see him slow-down anytime soon!

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

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*Special Collections Dept. & University Archives*

*403 Parks Library*

*Iowa State University*

*Ames, IA 50011-2140*

*Phone: (515) 294-6648*

*Fax: (515) 294-5525*

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