

OBITUARY

Dr. Benjamin Pomeroy



Dr. Benjamin Pomeroy, 92, died on January 16, 2004. Dr. Pomeroy had retired about 20 years ago from the University of Minnesota, where he was a professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology of the College of Veterinary Medicine. At the time of his death, he was serving as a lobbyist for the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association and was preparing for a new legislative session.

Dr. Pomeroy's father opened a veterinary practice in downtown St. Paul in 1892. Ben followed his father into the profession, earning a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Iowa State University and an M.S. from Cornell University. In 1934, he was hired as a veterinary diagnostician at the University of Minnesota Extension Division. This work led him to focus on diseases of turkeys and chickens. He went on to earn a doctorate at the University of Minnesota and helped to establish Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine. Ben was well known not only in Minnesota but also throughout the world for his many breakthroughs in avian medicine. In 1988, the poultry industry established the first endowed chair at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in Dr. Pomeroy's name. In 1999, he won the University of Minnesota's Siehl Prize for Excellence in Agriculture. It was noted that Ben's work enabled poultry producers "today to speak of once devastating poultry diseases . . . in the past tense."

Dr. Pomeroy received numerous honors during his career. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Minnesota and was inducted into the American Poultry Hall of Fame. He was also named the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association's Veterinarian of the Year and the Veterinarian of the Century Award.

Ben married Margaret L. Lyon, a librarian at the St. Paul campus, in 1938. She died in 1991. They had four children: Benjamin, of St. Paul; Sherwood, of Dellwood; Catherine, of Vadnais Heights, all in Minnesota; and Margaret Hewitt, of Orlando, Florida. He enjoyed travelling and frequently took his family along to conferences. He served as chairman of the Ramsey County Republican Party in the 1960s and as an elder in his church.

Dr. Ben Pomeroy's academic legacy and lifetime work for the advancement of the poultry profession and industry are deeply honored and respected.