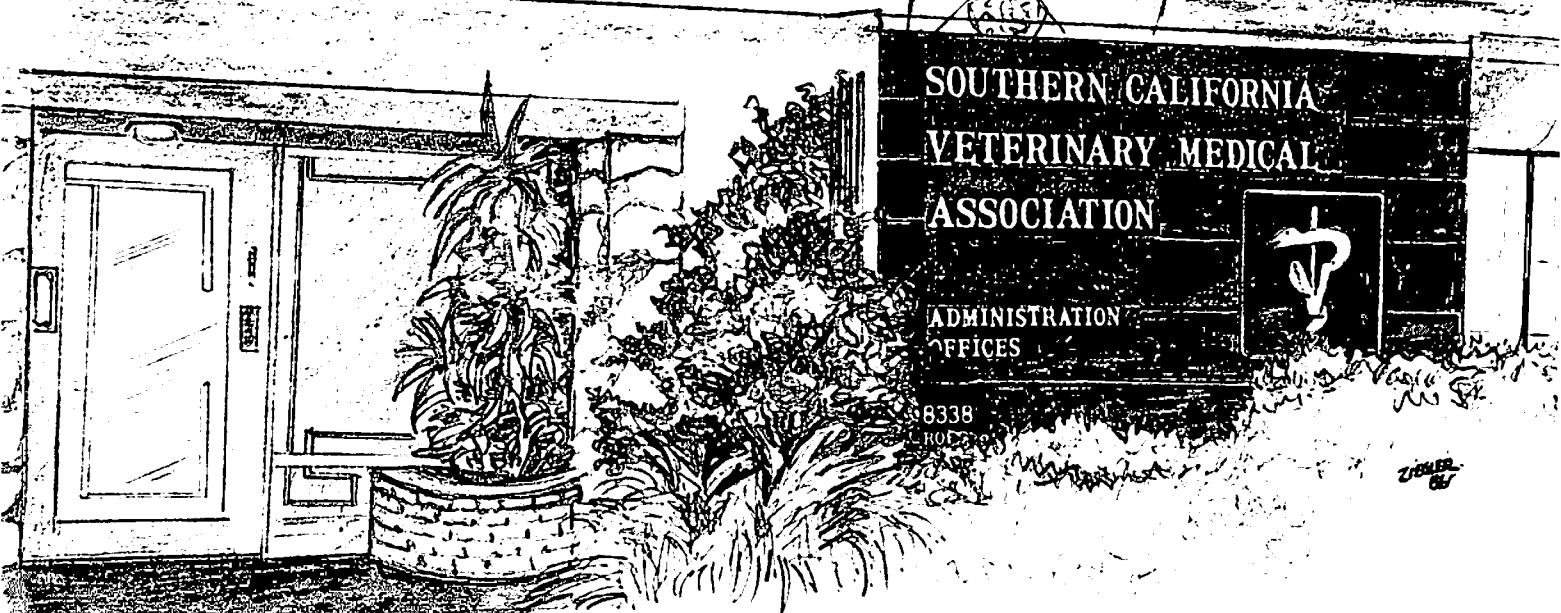




H. Don Mahan

— 1921-1986 —

**TRIBUTE
TO A
GIANT**



In Memory of H. Don Mahan
SCVMA Executive Director
1955-1986



*Dedicated to the world's finest veterinarians — members of the
Southern California Veterinary Medical Association.*

Cover Sketch by Walter E. Ziegler, D.V.M.

TRIBUTE TO A GIANT

"Don Mahan is *Mister Veterinary Medicine*"

"Don has been largely responsible for pulling the SCVMA together as a cohesive, close-knit organization . . ."

"One must be careful in talking about Don Mahan, because those who don't know him wouldn't believe all the superlatives needed to describe his activities."

"We can sincerely say that Don Mahan has no peer."

The above quotes appeared in the March, 1969 issue of *The California Veterinarian*, not quite halfway through Don Mahan's thirty-one year tenure as the first Executive Director of any local VMA. Who was this man who is credited with revolutionizing the entire veterinary profession, whose counsel was sought by veterinarians and colleagues throughout the nation?

H. Don Mahan was born in Missouri in 1921, spent his boyhood in Oklahoma, and completed his education in the midwest. Following service with the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, he spent several years as a golf professional, after which he and his wife, Lois, came west, settling in the Los Angeles area in the early 1950's. Shortly afterward he began marketing dogfood products — first with Victory Packing Company, later Kal Kan Foods, Inc. where he soon became a familiar face to most of the veterinarians in the area.

In the year 1955, 254 reported cases of rabies in Los Angeles County spread fear as well as indignation throughout the southland.

Fed by media reports that the prevailing \$5 vaccination fee in local hospitals and clinics was an "out and out racket", citizens demanded that something be done, many hailing the idea advanced by reporters that the County Public Health Department should vaccinate all dogs at public expense.

Clearly something had to be done, but what?

The SCVMA was 57 years old that year, its total membership approximately 100 active members. Among them were those who believed the Association could do something about the

rabies problem. Not only would it be good for the community, it would give the Association itself a reason for being, a rallying point around which its members could work for a common goal in the public interest, they argued. Surely, no veterinarian deserving of the name could refuse to volunteer a few hours of time for such a project.

But someone had to rally them to the cause.

Recalls Dr. Wes Young, "What we needed was a person who would work, guide, and stimulate members of the profession as members of an association, someone who would enlist every effort to get every member of the profession in Los Angeles and Orange Counties to join us. But, we wondered, where do you get a guy like that?"

The decision to hire Don Mahan was made on a blistering hot summer afternoon in 1955, when five members — Drs. Mack Scott, Brad Crundwell, Phil Olson, Ralph Vierheller, and Bill Putney — met in Putney's backyard. Don was no stranger to them. They'd come to know him well as a Kal Kan man who played a fantastic game of golf, but more importantly as a farsighted go-getter who had worked closely enough with the veterinary profession to understand its problems. "There was no doubt in our minds Don was the man for the job," recalled Dr. Scott recently.

On August 1, 1955, Don Mahan became Executive Secretary of the SCVMA. On leave from Kal Kan to help the SCVMA weather the crisis they faced, he was hired on a weekly basis and at first paid through contributions from SCVMA members. He never returned to Kal Kan. Instead, he threw himself headlong into halting the rabies epidemic that continued to rage.

Having hired their Executive Secretary, the Association was faced with another problem. Where were they going to put him? Dr. Will Ommert came to the rescue by volunteering space for a desk, as well as sharing his secretary-Girl Friday, in his new office alongside his garage on Gardendale Street in South Gate. There was only one drawback. The family clothesline was adjacent to the garage door; consequently, everyone, including Don

Mahan, had to duck under diapers hanging on the line, a procedure which Ommert remembers as being a constant subject of lengthy conversation and merriment.

The next order of business was finding office equipment. This was accomplished by Mahan and Ommert calling on suppliers to beg or borrow furniture and equipment. A file cabinet came from Sharpe & Vejar, and according to Ommert, "It was remarkable how all businesses helped out the newborn infant," adding, "Of course, Don could be most persuasive in a very smooth manner."

In less than two years the Association gained both needed space and prestige by moving to new quarters in the Los Angeles County Medical Building on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles.

Within those two years Don also accomplished what many thought was impossible. In his fight to stamp out rabies among domestic animals, he not only enlisted the cooperation of SCVMA members, he also succeeded in persuading the county authorities to enact legislation which would require compulsory vaccinations to be available to the public through low-cost clinics with SCVMA veterinarians providing the manpower, equipment and materials, including vaccine, and community groups providing volunteers to handle the paperwork.

Was the program a success? In its first year between 30-35,000 dogs were vaccinated in SCVMA clinics, and probably because of the wide media coverage Don Mahan obtained, an additional 100,000 were vaccinated at private hospitals with the result that by the year 1958 *not one single case of rabies was reported in Los Angeles County during the entire year.*

Clearly, Don Mahan had accomplished what he set out to do. But that was only the beginning. In the next thirty years he made the SCVMA a model for veterinary associations throughout the nation.

He felt strongly that it was foolish for the Association to rent office space, that we should buy our own property even though no other local association had ever done so. Pico Rivera was the place to go, he decided. Asked why

Pico Rivera, he replied with firm conviction, "Because it's halfway between North LA County and South Orange County, the two extremes of our Chapter locations. Besides, if it's good enough for corporations like Ford and Northrop, that's where we should be." On June 1, 1962, the SCVMA moved to its present location on Rosemead Boulevard.

Recognizing the importance of close communication among the membership, he began publishing a newsletter which, beginning with the March, 1959 issue, became our PULSE Magazine. Two of the advertisers appearing on its pages that first year were Sharpe & Vejar and Cal Pet Crematory, both of which are still with us today as regular PULSE advertisers.

Don also noted the lack of continuing education programs available in southern California and that same year launched the SCVMA CE program with first one, then two annual symposia, one in the spring, the other in the fall. They featured the best speakers available on subjects which would help members practice the highest quality veterinary medicine. For many years these programs, which have increased to a minimum of four and as many as eight per year, were presented at no cost to SCVMA members, and as late as 1979 the Spring and Fall Symposia were offered free of charge. Although rising costs have necessitated the charging of modest fees in recent years, at Don Mahan's insistence, the SCVMA has continued to offer the best in continuing education for a nominal fee, and CE has become one of the Association's most popular programs.

In later years Don Mahan turned his attention to the problem of pet population control, his speeches and articles on spaying and neutering earning him nationwide respect for his views on the subject.

He was constantly on the alert to foresee problems facing the veterinary profession, the need for marketing veterinary services and the threat posed by mobile clinics only two of those which he addressed in recent years.

Never one to rest on his laurels, in the last few years of his life he worked diligently to solve yet another problem, that of providing pet

insurance to owners. A member of the Board of Directors of California Veterinary Services, Inc., the parent company of Veterinary Pet Insurance Company, one of the highlights of his life was watching VPI become the first successful such plan ever offered and knowing that third party payment was enabling veterinarians to fully utilize their knowledge and training in more sophisticated ways. As a result, countless animals whose owners would not otherwise have been able to afford treatment were alive and healthy.

While Don Mahan accepted numerous awards on behalf of the SCVMA, he received only a few personally — a scroll from his own SCVMA, the AAHA Award of Merit, one honoring him for his work in setting up the Veterinary Security Trust program for the

DVM/VPI Insurance Group, and a posthumous scroll from the City of Los Angeles for his tireless work on behalf of the veterinary profession.

The reason he received so few awards personally was, of course, because he sincerely believed it was the veterinary profession, *not Don Mahan*, who deserved to be honored. And it was undoubtedly this same trait that placed him only a phone call away from any SCVMA member in need of counsel.

Actually, the real proof of what Don Mahan meant to not only the SCVMA but to the entire veterinary profession comes from those who worked with him, whose lives were touched by the man who will always be remembered as "Mr. Veterinary Medicine".

My first meeting with Don was at a Council meeting in which I was seated at the back of the room. Since this was my first Council meeting, I was more a listener than a contributor. After a number of items were discussed, voted upon and the meeting over, I headed for the door thinking I had survived my first Council meeting pretty well unnoticed when I heard a strong, warm voice from the front of the room say, "Good night, Dick. Thanks for coming."

Since that night four years ago, I have come to know that voice more closely; and whether at a national convention presenting a paper or at a luncheon one to one, there was no one who could better express the needs and the shortcomings of our profession. After leaving him on many occasions, it became obvious that it was his profession too. We have lost one of the best spokespersons and one of the best friends that the profession could have.

Dick Sullivan
President, SCVMA

A true gentleman of the old school, Don Mahan was more than a mere professional or business acquaintance, he was a true friend to both myself and my late husband, Chandler "Chan" Meloy.

In his quiet, efficient manner, Don always found time to assist with a problem, share his ideas and expertise, or quietly laud your successes.

His passing leaves a void that can never be truly filled by another.

Patricia Meloy
Meloy & Associates
Former Administrative Assistant, CVMA

I had known Don Mahan before we interviewed him for the position of Executive Secretary of the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association. He had caddied for Walter Hagan, an outstanding professional golfer, for several years. His ability on the golf course was a parallel to his ability to meet and work with people in a positive manner, and that was Don Mahan.

When attending the American Animal Hospital Association meetings across the country, people always asked about Don and expressed their appreciation of having met him, heard him, or read his published articles on Association activities and public relations outlook in veterinary medicine. It made me proud to know I was his friend, and I watched with pride as his success spread from Southern California to other veterinarians all over the United States.

Mack Scott
Past President, SCVMA
Past President, CVMA

Don Mahan was respected and admired by all who knew him or who were aware of his accomplishments. Our organization recognized Don with the AAHA Award of Merit in 1984.

Our profession has lost a quality leader, and we at AAHA share your sorrow.

John W. Albers, D.V.M.
President, AAHA

I was so sorry to hear of the passing of Don Mahan. He was a good person, conscientious and sincere.

Kenneth Hahn
Supervisor, Second District
Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County

For we veterinarians, Don Mahan was the right man at the right place at the right time. Hired at a time of crisis, he served us well and faithfully for 30 years.

The SCVMA operated out of the officers' briefcases and a file box in 1956. We had major problems to solve and realized a permanent office was an important tool in addressing this and other problems. Don was our man to establish and manage the office.

Very few veterinary organizations had full time staffs and fewer still had non-veterinarians on board as executives. He truly became a role model for both veterinarians and non-veterinarians who followed as executives.

His skills were plentiful. His demeanor and appearance when representing us to the public were impeccable. He chided us when he felt we were errant in our ways. People he employed reflected his disciplined courteousness.

As he grew in stature over the years, he gained national recognition for his services and abilities. He was a leader. He made us proud to be veterinarians and SCVMA members.

I knew Don from many avenues. My dad, Floyd, was "permanent treasurer" of the SCVMA — when Don joined us, they really developed strong ties in the short time Dad had left. Losing Dad, I know, affected Don in a way like he'd lost a dad too.

As an officer in three other veterinary associations, I often needed SCVMA's assistance and Don's counsel. He went the "whole nine yards" in his support and help. He never let me down.

*Ken Wilcox
Past President, SCVMA*

Don Mahan is Veterinary Medicine in Southern California. His enthusiasm was contagious as he guided the leaders of the Association with such style and expertise as to continually advance the profession. A call to excellence was rooted in the Lord, from where his insight, far ahead of the time, permeated everything he did. We do not need to extol his many accomplishments, for each day we can look around us and see the "HAND OF MAHAN" influencing our practices. Though this legacy lives on, how we will miss him! Instructor, counselor, leader, salesman, writer, and friend, Don Mahan always had the time to listen and discuss. In my classroom of life, Mahan is my "Top Gun." Veterinary Medicine is so much richer because he cared and believed in us, the Practitioner.

*Chas Hendricks
Past President, SCVMA*

Don Mahan was one of the most progressive and forward looking individuals within the veterinary world with whom I had the pleasure of working. From the first time I met him in 1980, he spoke of little but the future of veterinary medicine, of practitioners.

He was truly in the forefront in terms of thinking and vision for what was needed to help the veterinary profession grow in stature, in service to companion animals, in the eyes and self-esteem of practitioners and most importantly in the attitude and respect of the pet-owning public.

His leadership will be missed.

*Lynn Douglas Howell
former Professional Services Mgr.
Kal Kan Foods, Inc.*

Aside from our dedicated members, Don Mahan joining our veterinary Association was a godsend. Don had a characteristic ability of staying in the background, listening to all viewpoints, then with encouraging suggestions, bringing the subject in question to a conclusion.

Through his years of leadership, the SCVMA became a "Model Association" recognized, envied, and respected by veterinarians throughout the nation.

Thank you, Don, for an outstanding contribution to the veterinary profession.

He is gone, he will be missed, but he will never be forgotten.

*Charles H. Ozanian
Past President, SCVMA
Past President, CVMA*

Don Mahan had a very positive impact on veterinary medicine. When asked for his opinion, he would firmly state it, but he also wanted to know what you thought. Don took the time to listen and understand various perspectives on veterinary medicine.

Don's ability to listen and seek out various perspectives allowed him to see the overall view. He knew our weak points and our strong points. Through his grasp of various perspectives, he was able to anticipate and plan for the future. He suggested ways to act rather than react to predictable situations.

*Pat Ryan
Director, Los Angeles Department
of Health Services, Comparative
Medical & Veterinary Services*

Don Mahan's SCVMA had many leaders in the veterinary profession — Charles Reid, Charles Ozanian, Will Putney, Bill Riddell, Richard Fink, and many others. Behind them was their most staunch supporter — H. Don Mahan. Their ability was developed through his guidance and caring.

The SCVMA has the finest public relations and rabies programs in veterinary medicine, all through the guidance and direction of H. Don Mahan.

There is one word to describe Don ("Tex", as I always called him), and that is *CLASS*. The veterinary profession has lost a great contributor.

Ken Humphreys
Former Executive Director, CVMA

I was honored to be a part of Don's last "day". It was a lovely expression of the esteem we all held for Don and the SCVMA staff.

Wes Young
Retired Director, Los Angeles Zoo
Treasurer "Emeritus", SCVMA
Distinguished Life Member, SCVMA

In a few paragraphs how can I express my feeling about a man I have known for over 30 years and unequivocally was the most influential person in my veterinary career.

Having been involved in organized veterinary medicine my entire professional career, I have had the opportunity to meet a great number of executive officers throughout this country. I can assure you that Don Mahan was the "King". He was always a step ahead of the membership in evaluating the socio-economic status of our profession. But he was patient, and indeed the officers and membership recognized his wisdom and moved forward with his advice.

Mr. Mahan was "Mr. Veterinary Medicine" to the press, television, the movie industry, and the humane organization. Why? Because he was a "classy guy" with a class act. Polite to a fault, etiquette to the nth degree, always with the correct words, dressed properly, and never did he lose his "cool", either with veterinarians or the public.

How can one forget the day he was hired, he found a beat-up old typewriter, and with his brilliance for words, the "Pulse" was born. He took a small group of disorganized veterinarians in 1955 and molded together the strongest veterinary constituency in the world. Why such strength? Because of Don Mahan's leadership, his ability to guide the officers to do the things that had to be done for the good of the profession. You always thought you were your own Man when President of the SCVMA; but in looking back, you realized Don had bent you here and there and, in so doing, had made you a better President.

Don went First Class all his life. As he so often said, "the best costs only 10% more." With this attitude he convinced all those around him to "Walk proud, veterinarians, you are members of a great profession." The bottom line for me was the fact that with his tutelage, he

The passing of Mr. Don Mahan has left a void in the veterinary profession and all of us who have been fortunate to have known and worked with him. Don's joining the SCVMA as Executive Secretary marked the beginning of our contemporary professional organization — a local association larger than a number of statewide associations. His accomplishments, as he represented the SCVMA and the veterinary profession, were outstanding. He was recognized and respected nationally for his wisdom, organizational innovations and leadership.

Don was always pleasant. He was a man of integrity. His personality was appreciated by all whom he contacted, whether they be members of the profession, political bodies, the public or members of his peers.

Yes, Don Mahan was a great among men. His passing is felt most deeply by all who knew him.

Dick Macy
Past President, SCVMA

took an uncouth farm boy, with bad language, incapable of handling the King's English, sloppy, too quick with his mouth, and yet he guided me into the position of President-Elect of our national organization.

After 30 years of friendship, I thought I knew Don, but I really got to know the man when I became seriously ill with a heart attack and surgery. Because he had gone through a similar experience, he was aware of all the problems of a heart patient. His compassion and empathy for my return to good health were overwhelming. It was at this time of my life I had to decide whether I should give up any further activity on behalf of my professional organization or continue. Only because of Don's encouragement am I presently President-Elect of the AVMA. A year and a half before the election we had many meetings, a number at night and some in my home, where Don outlined how we should run my campaign. He put together the best brochure ever produced by a candidate. Even when extremely ill and confined to intensive care at UCLA, he was concerned that he was unable to attend my election at the AVMA in Atlanta last year.

Even though very sick just before his death, he was still very positive in his attitude. He spoke to me of things he would be doing when completely recovered. To the very end his concern for his dog "Cochise" was of paramount importance.

I, like a number of my colleagues, lost a very personal friend. Veterinary medicine lost a giant. His efforts and accomplishments on behalf of our profession will become history. If veterinary medicine had a Hall of Fame, Don Mahan would be included immediately.

Don may not be with us today; but somewhere he is running a first class show, and I know someday I will be part of that show.

Dick Fink
President-Elect, AVMA
Past President, CVMA, SCVMA

As a newly licensed veterinarian, I first met Don Mahan 31 years ago. He had just accepted the position of Executive Director of the newly reorganized SCVMA with all of about 200 members.

I had volunteered to serve at a Rabies Clinic as part of our Association program to honor a state mandate that all dogs be vaccinated before licensing, or have government agencies do the job and receive the credit for an important public health program. As darkness set in, I felt a chill across my back and realized my feet hurt after a full day at the hospital, and I began to question whether the rabies control program was all that important. Certainly most of these people with their excited, noisy dogs would never be clients bringing in money to my hospital.

In a few minutes Don, after also putting in a full day at the office, arrived alone in his own car with the vaccines and syringes. He introduced himself to me with a smile like the Grand Canyon, and there was a twinkle in his Irish blue eyes. With transformed enthusiasm, I began vaccinating about 200 dogs within the next hour and a half, despite the confusion, noise, dog fights, dirt, and dust. What began in my mind as a program of questionable value eventually became the financial cornerstone to provide growth for our Association. For years we paid the ridiculously low fee of \$16 annually to belong to the largest local Association, one of the greatest veterinary associations of the world. Money received at SCVMA sponsored rabies clinics has paid for 90% of our Association expenses in recent years.

More important for me, however, was that on the night of my first Rabies Clinic I had met the giant. He kindled in me a flame that still burns brightly to promote the image of my profession before the public from one of "Horse Doctor" to that of a sympathetic, knowledgeable practitioner in the area of diagnosis, surgery, and medicine.

We hear much of education these days, but not of dedication. This is within the individual before education funnels us into our specialties. This is also the quality that makes us go beyond the normal confines of practice to areas of greatness important to ourselves, our practice, our country, and our families.

Don Mahan had that greatness, and he, more than any other individual in the last 30 years, is responsible for the professional image we enjoy today as veterinarians and members of the SCVMA.

I was frightened by the giant in Jack and the Beanstalk. I was amazed at the giant in David and Goliath. And now I have been privileged to actually know a giant in real life for over 30 years. Oh, how blessed I am.

I know Don is watching to see how we continue to run our profession and our Association. I feel we will all see him again someday. My only problem is, do I have enough greatness within me to reach up to him? Surely with his leadership and direction, I can do that. Hey, Don, gimme some room — you're gonna hear from me.

Tom Snortum
Past President, SCVMA

Don Mahan was a person who made our lives richer for having known him. His unflagging dedication to the betterment of humane animal treatment involved all those who associated with him. In our many years of association, his determination to implement an effective, badly needed rabies control program in the City of Los Angeles resulted in a landmark success we all share today. Also, working with his Association and with this Department, he instigated a program of free shelter pet examination after adoption. And we are still enjoying the program of community located rabies clinics which he developed for the convenience of pet owners in protecting their pet's health, not only in the City, but the entire southland area.

I know I miss him, as will we all. But he has left us with a better and more enlightened community than we had before.

Bob Rush
General Mgr., Dept. of Animal Regulation
City of Los Angeles

Don Mahan was a special friend, and when I review in my mind this friendship I remember first being introduced to Don by Frank Ryan, the manager of Kal Kan, for whom Don had been employed as public relations consultant. A short time later, when he was proposed for secretary, I was elated, thinking he was overqualified for the job, but we would benefit from this as long as we could keep him. His enthusiastic ideals and projection seemed too far-reaching to be achieved but were goals for which to aim.

The rabies clinics were the lifeblood of SCVMA. As one of the first rabies chairmen, I saw him personally delivering supplies for the clinics and then returning after each clinic to pick up the unused vaccine, balance the accounts, and return home sometimes after midnight. This was above and beyond his expected employment duties.

When we were searching for a permanent office space, he suggested that it be in the south of L.A. County or north in Orange County to orient chapters into a viable SCVMA. When the Pico Rivera property was found, he backed me against much opposition in the purchase of the adjoining house and lot at the same time.

His freedom from prejudices, ability to communicate his ideas and continuation of his original enthusiasm all contributed to our growth to meet his qualification. From the dinky one-desk office in the Los Angeles Medical Association building where we started, to our present position, all was under his guidance.

Yes, I knew him well and loved him. God rest his soul.

John Hensley
Past President, SCVMA

My association with Don Mahan was continuous throughout my presidency in 1958 and sporadically for all these years after. Don was always helpful, informative, and a true gentleman.

*Will Ommert
Past President, SCVMA*

It has been thirty years since I graduated from veterinary school. One of my first decisions after entering practice was to join the local association. Don Mahan had just been appointed as Executive Secretary of the SCVMA, and I can still remember being counseled by him at our small office in the L.A. County Medical Association building on Wilshire Blvd.

During the subsequent years I have always thought of the SCVMA as an organization of strong leadership dedicated to the progressive development of an association responsive to and always serving of the profession and its members. And, of course, while there was a continuous stream of outstanding veterinary leaders, always at the center was the continuous influence of Don Mahan. He was always full of ideas, his enthusiasm contagious to those around him. Veterinarians, being the uniquely independent creatures they are, would sometimes disagree with his ideas or methods. But no one who knew him would ever question his loyalty and love for veterinarians. A great part of the credit for the SCVMA becoming the outstanding local organization in the nation belongs to Don Mahan.

We think of Don Mahan as belonging to us in southern California, and that is true; however, he also belonged to the nationwide veterinary profession and was considered a unique expert in his field by many people throughout the country and was often called upon for consultation. Through this he created a very favorable impression of southern California veterinarians and our Association. It is hard to think of the SCVMA without Don Mahan. But like all things, we will go on and continue to be one of the guiding lights in our profession. And we will remember and continue to be influenced by Don for a long time to come.

*Ray Weitkamp
CE Chairman Emeritus*

A man with vision, strength, courage, patience, compassion, wisdom, and an undying love for the veterinary profession he so competently served for 30 years.

He was the cornerstone and a pillar of strength for the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association.

I could always pick up the telephone and call Don for advice and counsel. He was never too busy to talk — how I miss that now!

The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on. H. Don Mahan was a genius of a leader.

*Bill Grant
Past President, SCVMA*

Fifteen years ago VPI was but a kernel of an idea in the mind of a silver haired, blue eyed ex-marine sitting in the chair of the Executive Director of the SCVMA.

Don — to everyone who knew him — could see third party payment as a reality for pets long before most of us even entered veterinary school. In 1979 he brought the Veterinary Association's attention to pet insurance and nurtured the birth of VPI. As a founding Director, as a professional, as a concerned parent, he stood behind the company during our slow, sometimes trying, sometimes agonizing development. Don was always there to help with problems and consider new ideas. He gave 100% all the time without question or hesitation.

Never boasting of his or the company's success as it expanded, he quietly continued his easy manner of day to day getting the job done well.

Today an empty chair stands in the board room. A vacancy that will never be filled. But we will go on. We will go on to the outstanding success which Don foresaw. How proud Don would have been to know that VPI has "turned the corner" and how disappointed we are not to be able to share the moment with him. But his influence lives on . . . the legacy he leaves is unquestionably profound.

VPI will continue the legacy which Don has set forth, and will go with his spirit, his confidence, and his integrity to provide the two things closest to Don's heart: leadership and spirit.

Those of us fortunate to know him as a friend, confidant, and fellow director, will miss him more than words can describe. Those of you in the veterinary community, the pet-owning public, as well as the pets themselves have lost a friend to whom we owe more than we may ever comprehend. We join with you in mourning his loss. But we retain his confidence and pride in this bright gleaming legacy, one which he — and he alone — foresaw so many years ago.

Thank you, Don. God bless you.

*Bruce Bauersfeld
Past President, SCVMA*

A very important part of my life died with Don Mahan. More than any other person, Don encouraged and supported my professional growth and development. I am saddened at my loss but thrilled that he is now at peace.

As a lover of animals, Don was unique in that he always championed the practitioner that was having a problem in practice. Don's vision for our future and his energy gave us a clear path to successful growth.

He always cared for others long before he cared for himself. How many of us can claim this creed? Don was truly an unselfish servant. In a world often devoid of substance and character, Don's passing shows us what we really had, but often failed to recognize. This "Role Model" of living for others will always be in our hearts.

Larry Lippincott

DON ALWAYS TACKLED HIS JOB WITH



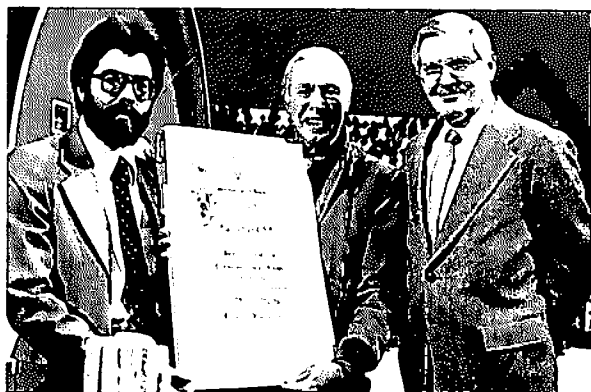
"I'm here to serve you." Because he believed communication is what welds a membership together, Don's door was always open to any member who needed him.



Time out for the next hole-in-one for golfing buddies, Don Mahan, Pete Peterson, President, Ft. Dodge Laboratories, Dr. Fred Walker, and Ken Humphreys, CVMA Executive Director.



"Some dogs'll do anything for a little publicity," quips Don to Wally Jamie, PR representative for Carnation Co.



John Stearns looks pleased with the scroll commending him for his efforts on behalf of veterinary medicine. Looking on are Dr. Bruce Bauersfeld and Don Mahan.



"Here's one we brought back to show you," Dr. Harry Sucher, (l.) Don, and Dr. Herb Snow with Clemmy, one of the hundreds of goats rescued from San Clemente Island with the help of SCVMA volunteers.

VIM, VIGOR, AND HIGH VISABILITY.



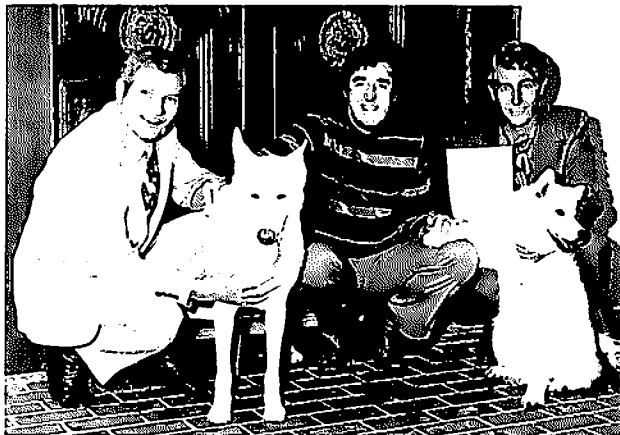
"Don's at his best when he's got an audience in the palm of his hand," was always the comment heard when he spoke at meetings around the country.



Walt Disney obviously appreciates the scroll received from the SCVMA in recognition of his artistic portrayal of the veterinary profession on a high level. (L-R) Dr. Wes Young, Disney, Dr. Dick Fink, Don Mahan.



Pat-on-the-back time. Dr. Alan Edmondson receives scroll presented by Los Angeles County to honor the SCVMA's 20th year. Looking on are (L-R) Supervisor Pete Schabarum, Don Mahan, and George Baca, Chief Deputy Director, Los Angeles County Dept. of Animal Care and Control.



Protected Pets. Even television star Jim Nabors' dogs look delighted as Don and Dr. Bill Huntley present their master with the first policies written on a new pet insurance program.



Dr. Jack Hensley and Don pause to chat during Open House festivities marking the move into new Association offices in Pico Rivera.



Always ready to lend an ear, Don listens intently during a discussion with an SCVMA member.



"Looks good." Don obviously giving his stamp of approval to a PR Display.

Life's race well run
Life's victory won
Now cometh rest.
Death is a road
That must be trod
If man is to pass
On to God.

No one better epitomized these words than Don Mahan, the man, the professional, and my dear friend.

Don was truly a giant among men. His sense of loyalty and uncompromising morality reflected the values instilled in him as a youth and marine. He had a penchant for storytelling that enabled him to entertain and capture the listener. His sense of humor, evidenced by the ever-present twinkle in his eye and warm smile, was a Mahan trademark.

Don loved and was totally devoted to the SCVMA and the veterinary profession. His brilliance, diverse talent, creative ability, and incredible vision brought the SCVMA into the vanguard of professional associations. His only motivation in any action taken or recommendations made was to do what was in the best interest of the SCVMA and its members.

I am so very fortunate to have my life touched by Don Mahan and to have enjoyed such a special friendship and professional relationship with him. He was, as they say in Missouri and Oklahoma, "a good ol' boy."

I love you, Don, and will miss you tremendously. Fond memories of you will be everlasting.

Ted Jamson
Business Associate and Personal Friend

His was a special friendship, almost fatherly. Don always had the time when I needed counsel. He was always encouraging when I was discouraged, thoughtful when I was saddened, and uplifting when I was burdened. I always left Don's presence full of optimism and with a drive to succeed.

Never did Don speak ill of anyone; that was not his style. His was one of a love and eagerness for life with all it might have to bring. No one could tell a story with such embellishments and captivate an audience like Don. His love of life would shine while relating the simplest of yarns like "Raunchy Red", his brother's barnyard rooster.

After laughing 'til tears flowed and gaining everyone's attention within earshot, Don would remain the elder statesman, seeming so natural.

In all my travels and numerous encounters with my colleagues, I have never met anyone who so truly loved and unselfishly promoted our profession as much as H. Don Mahan.

Jack Stephens
President, DVM Insurance Agency
Past President, SCVMA

When I started to jot down my memories of Don, I thought the words would quickly flow onto the paper. So many memory flashes have surfaced I do not know how I can put on paper, in a few words, what Don Mahan meant to me. But I will try.

I recall the first time I met Don, and how his stately appearance left me in awe of this man with the silver tongue. Then we worked on committees together, and I found he was a very warm and caring person, one who did his homework and held very high standards. He judged people by their credibility and their commitment to a goal. His professionalism quickly earned my respect.

I recall how he came to my aid when my association needed help, and it was his personal support that influenced many others who followed his lead.

To many people, Don Mahan was "Mr. Veterinary Medicine". He was THE LEADER who pushed people up to his high standards of excellence. Many times we played "devil's advocate" to each other's ideas and projects. He was never afraid to try new ideas. He had an uncanny sense of the right timing to change from the "way things have always been done" to another way to keep up with the present time. If it were possible, Don would probably say, "It is now time for a change in leadership."

Don Mahan was my peer and my mentor. But of more importance, I was privileged to know that he was also my good friend. Although I admired his professional abilities, I liked Don as a person. His friendship I will always cherish.

If only a few words can be used . . . To Don, I would say, "THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES, DON", from your friend,

Irene Neal
Retired Executive Director
San Diego VMA

I read with deep sadness of Don Mahan's death. While it did not come as a surprise under the circumstances, it leaves me with a hollow sense of loss.

I was one of those involved in the hiring of Don 30 years ago — now it seems like only yesterday! During my active Association years, I had a close working relationship with him. He was a most valued source of information and advice.

Bob Schroeder
Past President, AVMA
Past President, SCVMA
Retired Deputy Director
Medical and Veterinary Services,
Los Angeles County

I have often thought of Don since leaving California 13 years ago. He is one of my most positive memories. I really appreciate what he did for veterinary medicine and mankind.

Marv Samuelson
Past President, SCVMA
Associate Professor
Small Animal Medicine
Kansas State University,
College of Veterinary Medicine

DO I KNOW DON? I was asked at a Chapter meeting shortly before he died.

Yes, I knew Don. He became my friend during 1960-61, when I called and asked for his help. Wanting to build a modern veterinary hospital in a better zone, I faced a zoning wall of solid granite. Ana-Brook did not belong in areas for manufacturing, slaughter houses, body and paint shops or dog kennels. Don was the person who caused our modern hospitals to be allowed their proper location. He helped me when I needed him, and in turn it helped the profession. I would like all members to know and remember Don Mahan was the person who was responsible for the change in zoning regulation. My question is: Did you know Don? He has benefited this entire profession.

I knew Don as a dedicated person who was our Executive Secretary, who stood at the wheel of this ship and held its true course through many storms and violent seas. Though, at times, there may have been controversy, he still kept a steady head. There were times this ship may have floundered upon the rocks. However, due to his determination, dedication, expertise, and love for this profession, the ship kept its intended course.

Don was articulate, had command of our language, was a gentleman, scholar, and a dedicated servant of this Association and the profession. A man of firm religious convictions, a student of the Bible, he was our friend, our brother. Don stood and walked tall, a true professional. Compassionate, with a keen mind, he was a beacon for those who, at times, have felt lost. It is only fitting for us to pay tribute to and compliment this man. He served us well. Yes, I knew Don Mahan.

E.T. Metz

Don Mahan was a gentleman. I have never known anyone outside the veterinary profession more dedicated to the profession. Don was a fierce competitor. He accomplished his many goals with gentle and carefully calculated actions. He loved veterinarians and was unequivocally dedicated to their needs.

His goal for the profession was excellence. His every activity was directed toward elevating it. An innovative thinker, Don suggested and/or initiated programs far ahead of the times. Two of particular import were SCVMA's exemplary rabies clinics, which were copied across the country and in South America, and his suggested marketing program. Facsimiles of it are now springing up everywhere.

Don and I worked together many times. I feel so deeply appreciative that I had the opportunity to be one of his friends.

*"R.L." Collinson
Immediate Past President, AAHA
Past President, CVMA*

My relationship with Don Mahan goes back over 20 years. I wanted to do a live program on Caeserean Section — there was no taping in those days — and we couldn't afford to do it anywhere else except on the Burbank Studio set.

Don came to my rescue by collecting the equipment to set it up as a surgery, contacted veterinarians to volunteer, and then lined up a dog. Actually, he had seven or eight lined up, but they all whelped prior to the show, so at the last minute he had to go out and find another one.

A closeup of a pup being born makes an appealing picture. The show was so successful that we had to bring the pup back a month later to show how well it was doing. It was good PR for the Association.

Since that first program we have done at least 12-15 additional programs calling for veterinarians to participate. We've been able to do them through our contact with Don.

*John Stearns
Producer-Host of the nationally
syndicated AG-USA program.*

Don I will remember as a good friend and a person who always had time to say hello and shake your hand even though he might be talking to someone else.

When I had my first by-pass surgery, Don called the hospital and told me not to worry, that everything would be ok. I did the same to him when he had his by-pass surgery.

*Al Carveth
Cal Pet Crematory*

On behalf of the officers, Executive Board, and AVMA members all across the U.S., I send our sincerest expression of sympathy to those many California veterinarians who were so close to Don Mahan and respected him so highly. His commitments to the success and the obligations of the veterinary profession are legendary. His death will serve to remind us of the contributions that come from leadership combined with congeniality.

Good friends like Don will be cherished and remembered. They helped make life better for all of us.

*Arthur Freeman, D.V.M.
Executive Vice President, AVMA*

I find it difficult to write just a paragraph or two about Don Mahan. There was simply just too much substance to this man, who achieved so much success and recognition.

He gave the greater part of his life to the needs of veterinarians in the greater Los Angeles Basin. He also gave freely of his knowledge to veterinarians throughout the U.S. whenever he was called on.

The SCVMA came into being for basically two reasons. One, to weld the increasing veterinary population in the L.A. Basin into an efficient well organized group of veterinarians.

This newly formed organization was to be the "hub" where veterinarians could both obtain and render advice to themselves and their increasing professional problems, both within themselves and their communities.

The SCVMA was forced into early being because of the veterinarians' increasing responsibilities in their community. The public was beginning to ask serious questions, i.e., in public health problems at the practitioner level. The public wanted serious answers. The veterinarian's professional reputation as a useful source of information about basic medical problems involving the community's public health problems was on the line.

Probably the earliest example of the practitioner's serious contact with the community was the proposed statewide rabies control law through immunization of dogs.

Our reputation as a knowledgeable profession was used by politicians, etc. favoring the rabies law.

"Anti-Rabies" forces stated that DVM's only wanted the law for the revenue that it would produce. They were a large force and quite influential community-wise. Older SCVMA members will recall those chaotic times. They were bitter times. The veterinarians' reputation suffered. The situation certainly pointed up the fact that we sorely needed an executive secretary for the SCVMA who could deal with the public at all levels. The elected officers of the SCVMA were, early on, wise enough to realize this. They knew that we needed a very special type of executive secretary to operate our newly formed SCVMA.

The proposed executive secretary had to possess definite qualifications. He had to be an efficient, stable executive with a deep sense of loyalty to the membership. He most definitely had to possess special expertise in public relations in many areas in dealing with the general non-pet-owning public, community officials, and community leaders, allied professions, and the pet-owning public. In short, he was to be the "clearing house" in the SCVMA's relationship with the millions of people living in Los Angeles and rapidly growing urban areas.

In those days, public respect for the practitioners was in the embryonal stage. At that point who would want such a job? Where was there a person trained in public relations, etc. who would want to work for a relatively small, newly formed local association? What layperson would want to make a career of Executive Secretary to our Association with all its attendant headaches? This person would certainly be subject to criticism from SCVMA members he would be representing, as well as the public. This person would have to have the ability to bounce back

from adversity like a rubber ball. This person would have to be a bear for work. He'd have to give more than he got. He'd literally be on call seven days a week, day and night. If that person wasn't supervising supplies at a night rabies clinic, he would be present at an evening meeting of the elected SCVMA officers. He would have to live the long hours demanded of a DVM in those days of no emergency hospitals. There would have to be more love of the job than money.

Somehow or other, we found all of these qualities in the person of Don Mahan, and for all the ensuing years that I can remember, "Don" gave the SCVMA members all the loyalty and caring that he could.

Not only that, it seemed to me that when he could do no more, he would search deep within himself and give even more.

As human beings, we veterinarians have our dreams. Our professional dreams are normally personal in nature, involving our professional image. We dream of being known as "the best". We dream of having respect and admiration from members of our profession. We also dream that we can have the same respect from our public at large.

Don Mahan's dreams were different. His dreams were not for him. Although he did gain respect both nationally and internationally as a pioneer executive secretary of a veterinary medical association, it came about as a result of his long years of ceaseless championing of the veterinary profession. He would do this anywhere, anytime at the drop of a hat!

No lay person ever fought harder than he to educate our allied professions, corporations allied to veterinary medicine, public officials, the non-pet-owning public and the pet-owning public about the professional ability of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

No, Don's dreams were not for him but for the veterinary profession and his beloved SCVMA members. The many long hours of the many long days and years were gladly given. He gave unselfishly to all of us to the very end of his life. In so doing he made the SCVMA known worldwide.

In essence, Don Mahan was a unique strongly positive, moral person, possessing complete integrity, who spent his life enhancing the veterinarian's image, at the same time encouraging the veterinarian to ever higher standards for a greater respect from the community.

We SCVMA members were extremely fortunate to have had his friendship, loyalty, and caring. We will not see anyone quite like him again. His pioneering is over, and we have all benefited from it.

I cannot recall any layperson who, although not being of the profession, was still considered to be part of the profession.

He knew more of our problems in many ways than we did. I cannot recall any layperson who believed more in the veterinarian than Don Mahan.

We owe his memory a great deal. The only way I can visualize payment of our debt is by all of us continuing to uphold the values he firmly believed in and that he saw in us. The values he helped us attain.

*Lew McBride
Distinguished Life Member, SCVMA
Coordinator, Continuing Veterinary Medical Education
California College of Medicine, UC Irvine
Consultant in Veterinary Medicine to
Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation*

Don Mahan has left a variety of memories with me. I guess the single most impressive characteristic I will remember was his continued enthusiasm for his job after thirty years of continual exposure to the daily trials and tribulations of the veterinarian. To me, it is hard to imagine not succumbing to complacency or cynicism after such a prolonged period. Not so with Don. In fact, this must have been a fundamental characteristic of his personality, and I believe was reflected in a code of conduct that was exemplary in today's hard-driving, special interest society. Don was able to keep the big picture in focus and act accordingly.

I often wonder if Don's legendary uncle was, in fact, a real figure. He certainly came in handy any time Don wanted to make a point. In fact, listening to his analogous anecdotes over the last several years was like having your own built-in Lake Wobegone Days, Oklahoma style.

I now have Don's dog, Cochise, as a final memento. I have reason to believe that Don was not as strict a disciplinarian as he would have led us to believe. He has a good home, though.

*Michael Buffum
Immediate Past President, SCVMA*

DON MAHAN — a dear friend, a patient teacher, a trusted confidant, he was all of these things and much more to me!! I was fortunate to have been elected to the presidency of a truly fledgling SCVMA in 1954, and then when Don became our Executive Secretary the following year, his help and guidance to me as Immediate Past President shall never be forgotten! "Tex's" (as his wife, Lois, and I called him then), slow, deliberate manner of speech was an indication of a man who made sound decisions based on an unhurried judgment of the situation. He worked diligently and untiringly to help make the veterinary profession of southern California the highly respected group it is today. We are all deeply indebted to him for this!

I was indeed lucky to know another side of Don in addition to the professional one. You see, Don had been a professional golfer before he became our Executive Secretary and eventually had his amateur status reinstated. He helped me choose and buy my first set of golf clubs and then gave me my first ever golf lesson. He was directly responsible for my buying, in 1957, a membership in Lakeside of Hollywood Golf Club, which became a very important part of my life.

In short, my life has been a happier, more abundant one for having shared it with a friend — DON MAHAN — and I shall surely miss him!!

*Brad Crundwell
Past President, SCVMA*

I knew Don and Lois Mahan for more years than Don served as our esteemed Executive Director of the SCVMA. When I first met them, Don was the public relations director for the Kal Kan Pet Food Company, and I had the pleasure of administering veterinary services to their two dogs.

It was always a pleasure to see them and be exposed to Don's quick wit and fantastic ability to spin a yarn. I can't think of Don without remembering his infectious laughter and his unique ability as a raconteur. The personality of the teller is what makes a story come to life. Don's stories were always side-splitting.

I was a member of the SCVMA Committee that hired Don as our Executive Secretary. Don arrived, nattily dressed, at that meeting in Bill Putney's backyard and presented himself with his customary charm and aplomb. When the meeting ended, there wasn't a committeeman present who had any doubt Don was exactly the man we were looking for. Finis, no need to look further for our Executive Secretary.

I'm convinced the SCVMA will always be a "role model" for veterinary associations because of the start Don gave it, but it can never be quite the same without gentleman Don Mahan. God love him and keep him.

*Ralph Vierheller
Past President, SCVMA
Past President, CVMA*

What do you say in a few short paragraphs to express your thoughts about the man, Don Mahan. He has more than just touched the lives of so many veterinarians in southern California. I feel fortunate to be one of those who was an active member of the SCVMA when Don came aboard as our Executive Secretary.

We all know that Don was instrumental in either initiating or seeing to the success of many programs that developed during his long tenure. He shepherded us through our huge increase of membership from a hundred or so to what it is now.

Don had a unique ability to find the best in everyone. This trait will not only cause Don to be missed within our profession, but by many outsiders with whom he carried on a liaison on our behalf.

We have lost a treasure. We shall all miss him.

Phil McClave

I am so sorry about Don. They threw away the mold when they made him. He will be sorely missed by everyone. His memory will shine.

*Bill Ginsburg
SCVMA Legal Counsel*

Don Mahan came to the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association through the courtesy of the Kal Kan Co., Inc.

To understand the meaning of this statement, we must recall the status of the SCVMA in the 1950's. The membership met monthly en bloc at a location deemed central to the membership. These were trying times for the SCVMA. A group of lay persons known as Pet Health, Inc. planned the building of a number of central veterinary hospitals throughout the southern California area and the utilization of private clinics and hospitals as satellite units to shunt medical and surgical cases to the central hospital. Pet Health, Inc. used all forms of media, including billboards, to advertise its program.

This resulted in bitter disagreement among the SCVMA members. Some believed that they could not compete with such a plan. Others felt that in no way would they allow a take-over of the veterinary profession by a lay group.

At the same time, the Rabies Committee, chaired by Dr. William Putney, was attempting to introduce legislation for mandatory rabies vaccination prior to the licensing of dogs.

It became evident that the SCVMA needed an Executive Director to represent the Association with the guidance of its members and to provide a thread of continuity between one group of SCVMA officers and the next. A committee was appointed to hire such a person. The members included William Putney, J. Bradley Crundwell, Mack Scott, and Carroll Hare.

Don Mahan was interviewed and all committee members agreed that he was the right person for the job. There was a major problem, however. We didn't have the money for his salary! Don was working for Kal Kan at the time and would need to take a cut in pay in order to work for the SCVMA. Don had great respect for the veterinary profession and truly wanted to be part of its future. He went "on leave" from Kal Kan to accept the job. In the beginning we had to solicit funds from individual veterinarians to pay him a salary of roughly \$100/week.

In time, interest in Pet Health, Inc. waned, and it became history.

As for the rabies vaccination program, Don Mahan, William Putney, and others were instrumental in the passage of this issue into law. It was a rocky road with many hearings and a considerable amount of opposition.

Through the rabies clinics and private practices, some 70,000 dogs were vaccinated initially and the number of confirmed rabies cases dropped drastically the following year.

The rabies program proved to be the salvation of the SCVMA, as it enabled us to keep Don Mahan on as Executive Director. Through his 31 years of service, our Association has grown from 250 to 900 members and is second to none in such areas as continuing education, improved animal care, and the promotion of public health and welfare through veterinary medicine.

Carroll Hare

The Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control will miss the guidance that Don regularly gave to the many areas where we were mutually involved. It was always comforting when pushing a legislative issue to look over and know that Don was there for support. It was also important to know that if there was a conflict of any kind, Don, as a gentleman, would call to discuss the problem and possible solutions. He was a unique person.

*Brian Berger
Director, Dept. Animal Care and Control
Los Angeles County*

Once in a person's lifetime, if one is lucky, someone is blessed with the friendship of a man who personifies all of the good and what's moral of mankind, and very little or any of the opposite. Such a friend was Don Mahan.

Don and I had the good fortune of being ex-marines. The stamp of "Esprit de Corps" is applied to all men entering that service. Sgt. Major H. Don Mahan exemplified that training and discipline throughout his life.

Don was working for Kal Kan Company in 1954. Frank Ryan agreed to give Don a leave of absence to help SCVMA during a time of crisis.

Don represented SCVMA before legislative bodies, humane groups, medical research groups, veterinary medical groups, and all kinds of citizen's groups. During those thirty years we were never faced with embarrassment from broken promises, credibility gaps, or any other reprehensible conduct that seems to plague most organizations.

Don earned the respect and confidence of members and others with whom he came in contact by holding to his own exemplary conduct. Yet he could be firm, positive, opinionated, and persuasive when the need arose.

Don was indeed a credit to himself, his dear wife, and to us. Rest in peace, dear friend. The world is a better place because you were here.

*Bill Putney
Past President, CVMA
Past President, SCVMA*

We have always valued our relationship with Don Mahan. Don served the Southern California veterinary community well. I recall the old days when our company served as a clearing house for veterinarians. Don's little newsletter (later the PULSE) relieved us of that role with its classified ads. We struck a deal with Don, which we still honor, to be his first and originally only advertiser to keep his "PULSE" going. This was our way of supporting the SCVMA under Don. His friendship was a trust with Sharpe & Vejar.

*Bob Sanders
President
Sharpe & Vejar Co.*

In 1976 the rapid growth of the SCVMA from our days as a small animal association made up of a handful of veterinarians meeting monthly in various animal hospitals to 700 members was cause for complete change in professionalism in practices and our Association.

My year as President with Don was gratifying because of his expert guidance. The year started with the annual Installation Banquet, when Don said, "How can we get members to attend and enjoy this important event?"

I said, "Let's have a fun program with audience participation."

Don, with his PR agent-abilities, secured a top-notch magician who included the removal of Charles Ozanian's tux shirt without disturbing his coat, tie or pants! (the serious ceremonies were done by Bob — Dr. Robert — Schroeder, our AVMA President.)

Don, in keeping with his desire for close contact with his president and confidant, often called me in to meet with him and Marge.

Much of our duties was involved in meetings with Government officials, especially concerning Government operation of "free" veterinary clinics. Don, in his eloquent way, presented the Council's stand on them.

Don and I visited each Chapter. Several times we were invited to install chapter officers and attend social functions. Don was very adept in calling members by first name, even after meeting them only once. He encouraged me to golf with him at the Hackers — fun for me — fun for Don watching me.

These person-to-person informal meetings were good for taking the pulse of SCVMA and for material for the PULSE. (The PULSE had grown over the years from a 2 page mimeo to a "read me first" magazine.)

We formulated a standard for advertising and telephone listings, which was soon adopted by many veterinary organizations, state and local.

Our efficient grievance system was adopted and carried out by loyal committee members.

Don's charitable personality was instrumental in the Council's sponsoring the animal-human bond project called the Animal Health Foundation.

*Clint Baxter
Past President, SCVMA*

Don Mahan was an inspiration to the veterinary profession in his dedication to enhance the rights, services, interests, and the needs of the Association. He had great rapport with our allied professions and the animal service groups.

The younger generation, as in my family, were positively influenced by his courteous friendly interest in them. He loved the veterinary profession and encouraged and spurred all associations and their officers to get involved and to give it their best.

His interest in my hobby of golf, he being a professional, was always second to his care in serving our veterinary profession.

*Rollin Smith
Past President, SCVMA*

Having been an active member of SCVMA for 39 years, I had the privilege of associating with Don during many of those years. We had many close and personal experiences, in most of which we were in accord. Yet, on occasion when we didn't agree, there was always a warm, sincere friendly feeling between the two of us. As with many, I feel the loss of a true friend, a fine and honorable gentleman, and a champion of the cause for the necessary changes and advancements not only with individual veterinarians but in veterinary medicine as a whole. Another outstanding contribution from Don is the image he gave the general public of veterinarians and their involvement and importance in the community. Many, many times I have heard both men and women comment on Don after having talked with him, saying, "Isn't he a fine man!"

One of the times I was impressed with Don and so proud I knew him was during 1969, when the State Board of Examiners was progressing through a change of administrative staff following the changes Governor Reagan was making. Our Board was actively seeking a new Executive Secretary, and due to my past association with Don, I called him and asked if he would grant us an interview regarding the position. He agreed to do so. The Committee from the Board met with Don in a Los Angeles hotel, and unlike the meetings with previous candidates we had interviewed, this meeting continued on and on. It soon became obvious to the committee members that we were interviewing an outstanding man. One filled with knowledge, understanding, and definite plans for the profession of veterinary medicine. The Committee not only enjoyed talking with Don, but it was obvious that they were "picking his brains". Along with his expertise, his outstanding personality was greatly appreciated and thoroughly received. As the meeting finally ended and Don left the room, one of the Board members, with a look of total admiration, remarked, "I can't believe that there is such a well informed and knowledgeable person in this field — is he truly real?"

Incidentally, Don preferred to remain with SCVMA. And believe me — there was such a person, and he was truly REAL.

Victor H. Austin

Don Mahan was a very special friend to all veterinarians who had the pleasure of meeting him.

We veterinarians are very grateful to him for helping to solve the multitude of problems that beset us concerning veterinary medicine, especially in southern California.

He was a magnanimous person, a true and loyal friend — we shall miss him very much.

DEFINITION OF MAGNANIMOUS*

Forgiving	Free of Vindictiveness	Generous
Large Hearted	Liberal	Charitable
Beneficent	Philanthropic	Altruistic
	Unselfish	Princely

It took the word "Magnanimous" to describe my mental picture of my friend, Don.

Jesse Jones

*According to Reader's Digest Family Word Finder

Don Mahan was a friend of the Los Angeles SPCA even before he assumed his duties as SCVMA Executive Director. We first knew Don when he was a Sales Representative for a pet food company. This was back in the early '50's. He was the type of person with outstanding personality that you looked forward to seeing.

Needless to say, we were extremely pleased when he was chosen to serve the SCVMA.

During the years that he was with the SCVMA, the friendship that had developed continued. Don had a deep feeling for and understanding of us in the humane movement and, it goes without saying, a strong feeling for the welfare of the animals. It was through his efforts that a program was developed so that all animals placed from our shelters would be allowed a free physical examination by a member of the Association. I know this aided in our pet placement program and introduced new patients to the veterinarians.

When the rabies vaccinations became mandatory and a prerequisite to licensing, Don's efforts in setting up the low-cost clinics were a tremendous help to Animal Control Agencies such as ours, to the cities we serve, and to the dog-owning public.

So many pets and people were served by Don's efforts. He will be missed.

*Don Anderson
Operations Manager
Los Angeles SPCA*

Flora and I were deeply moved upon hearing of the untimely death of our mutual friend, Don Mahan.

Throughout the twenty years we knew Don, he had the respect and admiration of everyone who came into contact with him.

We will remember Don as a true gentleman who was always willing to help. His recommendations on matters pertaining to our business were always sound and clear. We knew by taking his advice we could not go wrong.

Don's passing is a great loss to us, but after so many years of dedicated service, the greater loss is to the Association.

*Flora and George Dunaian
Western Medical Supply, Inc.*

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MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO

H. Don Mahan

APRIL 9, 1921 - SEPTEMBER 10, 1986

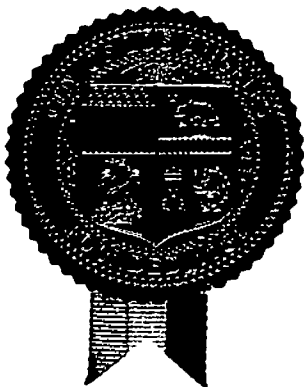
WHEREAS, H. DON MAHAN SERVED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR THIRTY-ONE YEARS. HE EARNED A NATIONAL REPUTATION FOR LEADERSHIP AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF VISIONARY PROGRAMS TO SERVE THE VETERINARY PROFESSION, THE ANIMALS FOR WHICH VETERINARIANS CARE, AND THE PET-OWNING PUBLIC, AND

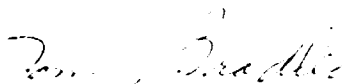
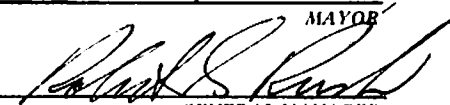
WHEREAS, WORKING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL REGULATION AND MEMBERS OF THE LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL, MR. MAHAN FORMULATED A PLAN DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE DOG RABIES IN LOS ANGELES THROUGH A PUBLIC ANTI-RABIES DOG VACCINATION PROGRAM. MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION WERE CONVINCED TO VOLUNTEER THEIR SERVICES AT PUBLIC CLINICS, AND, FOLLOWING PASSAGE OF LOCAL LAWS REQUIRING THE VACCINATION OF ALL DOGS FOUR MONTHS OR OLDER, A MASSIVE VACCINATION PROGRAM WAS LAUNCHED. WITHIN TWO YEARS OF THE PROGRAM'S INAUGURATION THE DISEASE OF RABIES WAS VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED IN THE DOMESTIC DOG POPULATION IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES. THIS SAME PROGRAM CONTINUES TO PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES TODAY AND HAS BECOME THE MODEL FOR RABIES CONTROL PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD; AND

WHEREAS, A PUBLIC RELATIONS GESTURE, MR. MAHAN ENCOURAGED MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION TO OFFER A FREE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION TO ALL ANIMALS ADOPTED FROM ANY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES ANIMAL SHELTERS, AND MOST RECENTLY, HE WORKED WITH THE CITY'S DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL REGULATION IN THE CREATION OF ITS ANNUAL "HAVE A HEART" CAT SPAY AND NEUTER PROGRAM. THIS IMAGINATIVE PROGRAM IS FUNDED BY THE CITY AND VETERINARIANS PROVIDE THEIR SERVICES AT LESS THAN COST. EACH YEAR THOUSANDS OF CATS ARE SPAYED AND NEUTERED THROUGH THE "HAVE A HEART" PROGRAM AND THE BIRTH OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF UNWANTED KITTENS IS PREVENTED;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOM BRADLEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES, DO HEREBY PAY TRIBUTE TO THE LATE H. DON MAHAN FOR HIS DEDICATED EFFORTS AND MANY OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

NOVEMBER, 1986




MAYOR

GENERAL MANAGER
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL REGULATION

I believe the first test of a truly great man is his humility.

John Ruskin

Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to
become a man of value.

Albert Einstein

Walk proud, veterinarians. You are members of a great
profession.

Don Mahan
