

Eulogy

Bill Jones-Davies

26 Feb 1930 – 7 Feb 2021

Bill was born in Cwmllynfell, Carmarthenshire and attended Amman Valley Grammar school. He did his national service (RAF) 1948-50 and attended Bristol University from 1950 – he was part of the class of 1954, Bristol's first veterinary graduates.

He started his career as veterinarian in large animal practice in West Wales 1954-1957, where after he joined the British Colonial service in Nigeria, where he worked in various provinces in Northern Nigeria from 1957 - 1967, with significant attention to the research and treatment of trypanosomiasis in the Nigerian 'herd'.

During this time received his Diploma for Tropical Veterinary medicine from Edinburgh University and also received the Greig medal as an exceptional student.

From 1968 – 1973 he worked for Coopers in the then Rhodesia, and moved to South Africa in 1973, where he was appointed by the late Dr Graham Thompson to lead the Scientific Services Division with distinction within the Wellcome Group under Coopers SA. He was responsible for the development of all Scientific Services for the Animal Health, the Consumer and Industrial Hygiene Divisions of Coopers SA.

Under his superb leadership he coordinated all new product developments from the active ingredient to the final product. The most notable being Amitraz for tick control. Amongst his responsibilities was working with the Manager of Coopers Kwanyanga Veterinary Research Station being managed by Mr Jimmy Baker (Mr Baker received Honorary Membership from SAVA in 1983 to develop these new compounds.

Dr Bill was also responsible for the coordination of all production through AECl and included all Coopers operations in Africa.

He retired and went back to the UK in 1995, where he lived in Ashtead in a home he and his wife loved very much.

Bill is survived by his wife Jean and son Robert (married to Caroline) and two grandsons Ross and Andrew.

Bill was a life member of the SAVA.

(Eulogy by Bill's son Bob, with input from Pat and Ginny Pullinger)

Bob added this postscript, addressed to Pat and Ginny: "Dad wrote an autobiography about his and Jean's life, and called it "Doors Will Open", typical really. He worked as hard as he could to get out of Wales and achieve a better life, and I believe he really did do that with wonderful colleagues and friends like yourself).

He Is Gone

You can shed tears that Bill has gone
Or you can smile because he has lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that he'll come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all he's left.

Your heart can empty because you can't see him
Or you can be full of love you shared.
You can turn back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember Bill and only that he's gone
Or you can cherish his memory and let him live on.
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what Bill would want: smile, open your eyes love and go on.

(David Harkins)