

BELONJE, CHARLES WILLEM ALBERT (October 4, 1914. Buitenzorg, Java – 23 November 1995, East London, South Africa). *Veterinarian*. Son of Bartholomeus Belonje and Emmelie (née Stemmerik) Belonje. Married Audrey Eileen Holdridge, 1939.

EDUCATION: University of Pretoria, 1936: BVSc; University of Pretoria, 1958: DVSc.

CAREER: 1937 – 1966 State Veterinary Field Services at various centres in the Eastern Cape; 1966 – 1973 Pretoria Head Office; 1973 – 1979 East London, Regional Director Veterinary Field Services, Eastern Cape.

CONTRIBUTIONS: As State Veterinarian he controlled notifiable diseases in the vast areas of the Eastern Cape; also became involved in the stud breeding of sheep, cattle and horses and published various articles on veterinary subjects; from 1945 – 1963 in addition to his normal duties, he was appointed as a lecturer in Veterinary Science to the Two-year Diploma students at the Grootfontein Agricultural College. He was of the firm opinion that these learner-farmers should have a good grounding in the basics of veterinary science and an appreciation of the value of preventative herd management. This, in fact, occurred and in his lifetime he saw the rise of the health and the quality of the livestock and it was very pleasing for him to also note the development of private practice as a result of this improvement. For many years he served as external examiner of final year Veterinary students in Genesiology and Meat Hygiene. During 1966-1973 he was chiefly responsible for the drafting of “The Animal Slaughter, Meat and Animal Products Hygiene Act No 87 of 1967” which was promulgated by Parliament, and the Standing Regulations subsequently announced by the Minister of Agriculture in 1969.

HOMAGES AND DISTINCTIONS: Was granted a Scholarship by the Jockey Club and Thoroughbred Breeders Association and in 1950 proceeded for further studies at the Equine Research Station of the Animal Health Trust at Newmarket and Cambridge University; this led directly to further research in South Africa and the completion of a thesis titled “Fertility and Infertility in Thoroughbred Mares under the Environmental Conditions prevailing in the Karoo Midlands” for which he was granted a Doctorate in 1958 – one of the first from a State Veterinarian in the field services. In 1968 he was granted an overseas tour to study Meat Hygiene and its legislation at various ministries in France, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Holland and England.

WRITINGS: No published comprehensive list of references available; Observations on reproduction in the thoroughbred mare. *Journal of the South African veterinary medical Association* (1949), 20, 21-30 & 31-33; The influence of running a stallion with non-pregnant Thoroughbred mares. *Journal of the South African veterinary medical Association* (1956), 27, 57-60; Fertility and infertility in Thoroughbred mares under the environmental conditions prevailing in the Karoo Midlands, DVSc thesis (1958); Field observations on Wesselsbron disease. *Journal of the South African veterinary medical Association* (1958), 29, 1-12; The physiology of reproduction in the mare with special reference to the Thoroughbred. *Journal of the South African veterinary medical Association* (1960), 31, 115-128.

OBITUARY: *VetNews* February 1996 p.9.

P C BELONJE