

Welcome to California

Charles Ozanian, D.V.M.
Bellflower, California 90706

I do want to welcome all of you to the meeting. This city is unique because of its beautiful sights. If you go up to about the fortieth or fiftieth floor and look around, you can see Berkeley Hill, etc. The Golden State is a beautiful area to be in. I always enjoy it. I was married in San Francisco and I always look forward to coming back from L.A. Many people from Los Angeles just fly up here to have dinner and fly back, so that's how good the food is here! I imagine you people have seen this the last few nights.

It is unfortunate that Dr. Stiern is not here. He certainly would have an interesting message to give us. He's a very popular senator. He practiced large animal medicine at Bakersfield. He's been a real help to the veterinary profession in California. Aside from that, he's been very interested in public education so, as I say, he is a very popular man and maybe we'll meet him some other time.

Again, San Francisco is very intriguing and you people ought to take the cable car and go down to Fisherman's Wharf and enjoy the remarks that these people, the conductors and motormen on the cable cars, have to tell you. It's really something to remember for a long time. And by the way, if you're a senior citizen, you can go for a nickel! I experienced that—he asked me how old I was and I told him and he said he only wanted a nickel from me. Now, the other place you ought to go to if you have time—I know you easterners have thawed out by now so you can take your longies off and enjoy California weather—is across the Golden Gate into Marin County and go into the redwoods there. It's just beautiful. If this is your first trip, you must spend some extra days. By the way, I'm not from the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, I'm from L.A., so I have nothing to gain.

I've been reminiscing about this meeting and it has come a long way. We have around 2,200 members. I remember a few of us that met in Chicago in July 1964 and talked about organizing. I never dreamed of a thing like this occurring where we are 2,200 members. We organized in 1964-65, we had a constitution and by-laws, which is only 10-11-12 years back, and look what we have now. Under the editorship of Dr. Eric Williams we have this beautiful bovine publication, *The Bovine Practitioner*, and a

newsletter that we send out. Whoever dreamed of anything like that? I think it is second to none in veterinary publications.

California, you know, is the largest dairy state in the world. Of course, we have our big dairies down in Southern California and I understand the dairies you visited down around Turlock are outstanding, too. We have some beautiful purebreds and we do have a certified raw milk dairy in Southern California which is unique.

The feedlots are outstanding. I was driving down Highway 5 towards Modesto where there's a huge feedlot—miles and miles and miles of feedlot. And down near the Imperial Valley there are quite a few feedlots, too, so you ought to visit those.

I think everything has been said that could be said. I hope you have a very pleasant trip, not only back home, but traveling around the state; needless to say, this program is outstanding and you will take a lot of information back.

Thank you very much.

