A DAY'S WORK

Your article in the August 2005 issue about Richard L. Day filled me with joy, because he made pediatrics so attractive to me that I spent more than three decades of my life in it and am very pleased by that choice. Dr. Day and his fellow faculty showed me, as a med student, that pediatrics had large challenges and really nice people with whom to work. So I interned under his guidance and he challenged me and embarrassed me many times in the most positive of ways. He called upon me to speak at the first grand rounds that I ever attended as an intern, when I was trying to hide, listen, sleep, etc.



The great picture on p. 12 shows Dr. Day with, I believe, "Briney," his seafaring dog. Why is the great man carrying Briney? (And why is the picture cropped in such a way that it is impossible to see if the beautiful moored sailboat is a sloop, a yawl, or a ketch?) I believe that Briney was named for a saturated solution of salt in water, which would mean that he was both pickled and preserved at the same time.

Richard Day gave me faith in myself when I had very little of that. He opened me to the world of pediatrics where the emphasis was on children and scientific help for them. He deserves all the good things said about him in your article.

Richard W. Dodds (MD '64, Intern '65)
Boston, Mass.

Richard L. Day's daughter Betsy (Day) Darlington writes that the sailboat in the photo she lent us (already cropped) was a yawl. The dog was Susie, old and unable to take "real" walks. Briney came later.

I was fortunate to have been a pediatric resident from 1960 to 1963 at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in Richard L. Day's program. He was certainly an expert clinician, tireless researcher, and exemplary teacher. Personally, I found him to be, first and foremost, the quintessential Gentleman, and that's with a capital "G."

Charles P. Ashe (MD '59, Res '63)
Lower Burrell, Pa.



SOUTHBOUND

Pitt wants to reconnect with far-flung alumni and friends, so we're on the road again—this time to sunny Florida in February. We've lined up programs to show you the best in science and medicine at Pitt.

WINTER ACADEMY, SCHOOLS OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES
Feb. 17, in Naples, Fla.

For an invitation: Contact Pat Carver
412-624-5307 or cpat@pitt.edu

YOU CAN GO BACK

The following letter is in response to our February 2005 "A&Q," in which former Peace Corps volunteers who are now Pitt med students asked the question, "For others who've had this type of experience [in the developing world], did they ever do it again?"

I am a Pitt med graduate (graduated in the terrific class of 1970) who enrolled in 1966 as a returned Peace Corps volunteer. I think I may have been the first Peace Corps volunteer to become a Pitt med student; I was, at least, an early one. And, yes [in response to the question], such persons do pursue international work again!

I served in Malawi as a secondary teacher and TB control volunteer, had a wonderful experience (mostly), and then was fortunate enough to be chosen by Pitt med. My training is in internal medicine and infectious disease. I worked with the CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service and in international health. During that time, I was involved with a number of international tasks, including smallpox eradication.

So yes, the combination of Peace Corps experience and primary care medicine is extremely powerful, and one can do all kinds of international development work with it.

Do continue to think of working overseas. The current tasks include remarkable new opportunities to begin controlling HIV/AIDS, be in on the eradication of polio, and control TB. Who would want to miss these things? I'll be glad to talk with any interested Pitt med students.

James Jerry Gibson (MD '70)
State Epidemiologist
Director, Bureau of Disease Control
State of South Carolina

We gladly receive letters (which we may edit for length, style, and clarity).

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