

AWARD PRESENTATION

Arthur Heisdorf, President,  
Heisdorf and Nelson Farms, Inc.  
Redmond, Washington

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We are honoring Dr. Jay L. Lush this evening because he is truly a remarkable man! It has been a privilege for me to have had the opportunity to know Dr. Lush. This was possible because of the one summer I spent in Graduate School at Iowa State, but more so because of the contact I had with Dr. Lush during the several summers when he came out to Kimber Farms in California in the early 1940's as a consultant, and where I was then employed.

Dr. Lush's life to date has been interesting and his accomplishments have been great. He told me once that the blank spots on the map of the world fascinated him as a boy. This may account in part for the vast amount of traveling he has done.

The records show that Dr. Lush was born on a farm near Shambough, Iowa, the second of six children. He spent his childhood on an Iowa farm, and his 'teen years on a Kansas farm. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees at Kansas State. He taught agriculture in two high schools in Kansas. During 1918-19 he was in the U. S. Air Force. In 1922 he received his Ph. D. in Genetics from the University of Wisconsin under Dr. Leon J. Cole, after which he was in charge of breeding investigations at Texas Agricultural Experiment Station until 1929. He took post doctoral studies at the University of Chicago under Dr. Sewall Wright and in Denmark. From 1930 on he was Professor of Animal Breeding at Iowa State. He has retired as head of the Department of Animal Breeding, but currently is listed as, "Distinguished Professor" in the Iowa State Catalog. He still maintains his office there.

Dr. Lush has received honorary doctors degrees at four universities. These were from the Agricultural Colleges of Sweden, Denmark, Giessen in Germany, and Michigan State.

Dr. Lush has lectured and surveyed research in Brazil, Britain, Australia, India, Argentina, New Zealand, Paraguay, Poland, Germany, Norway, Rhodesia, and South Africa. He has traveled extensively in practically all parts of Europe and in South America.

He has had innumerable papers published in scientific journals. His book "Animal Breeding Plans" has made his name a by-word to every undergraduate and graduate student studying animal breeding throughout the world. His mimeographed notes, "The Genetics of Populations" is a handbook for most workers in the animal breeding field.

Dr. Lush is a member of some ten scientific societies in the United States. He is most active in the American Society of Animal Science and in the Genetics Society of America. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and is a member of several scientific academies and societies in foreign countries.

Dr. Lush has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards. He has received the Morrison Award, the Borden Award in Dairy Production, the Armour Award in Animal Breeding and Genetics, the Hermann von Nathusius medal from Germany, and the Order of Merit in Science from Italy. His most recent award was receiving the National Medal of Science. This is a Presidential medal. It is the highest award bestowed by the Federal Government for achievement in science, mathematics, and engineering. President Johnson presented this award to Dr. Lush in the East Room of the White House on January 17, 1969.

What an impressive list of accomplishments! But I think the stature of such a man is best measured by the calibre of the graduate students which that man has influenced. Here I think Dr. Lush is almost without parallel. There is scarcely a college or university in this, or any foreign country, which does not have on its staff one or more men who were students of Dr. Lush, and who are making worthwhile and outstanding contributions to human betterment. In this room there are many distinguished men who belong in this category.

But Dr. Lush is not just a stern, well disciplined scientist. He is a warm, generous human being. The personal help and assistance he has given his graduate students in time of emotional need has occurred on numerous occasions. These are well-kept secrets and known only to the persons involved.

I've asked myself, "Is there a secret to what Dr. Lush has accomplished?" Certainly he is endowed with great intelligence. But, there are other gifted men who haven't accomplished nearly as much as has Dr. Lush. I think there is a secret. And I think I know what it is!

Dr. Lush is married. He married Adaline Lincoln, a remote cousin of Abraham Lincoln, in 1923. They have two children, Mary Elizabeth and David, and eight grandchildren. Mary Elizabeth and David are doing well. David has both a law and an engineering degree.

But I want to talk about Adaline Lush because I think she is the person who has been the secret catalyst which has sparked Dr. Lush on to the accomplishments he has made.

Adaline Lush graduated from high school when she was 13, from the University of Arkansas when she was 16, and completed work for her Masters Degree at the

University of Chicago when she was 17. She is a member and officer of many women's club organizations and has been asked to attend several White House conferences in regard to children and youth. In 1963 she was named Iowa Mother of the Year. She loves languages and teaches French, Spanish, German, and Latin to private pupils. Even now she teaches 40-50 children. She has conducted 12 European tours for tourists visiting 14 countries. Her daughter won a National Cherry Pie Making Contest in 1942.

I can remember one of the summers when she came out to California with Dr. Lush. Because of her love for people, and to gain experience, she took a job in an apricot cutting shed with one of the apricot orchardists near Niles, California. Most of her fellow workers were Portuguese women. In no time at all she started a Spanish class teaching them Spanish while they taught her Portuguese. She also found time during that war year to spend four hours a week with my wife in a tower spotting airplanes.

Adaline Lush is one of the most remarkable women I have ever met. She has more energy than half a dozen average people. Dr. Lush's secret? I think Dr. Lush has done what he has because he was only trying to keep pace with Mrs. Lush.

Dr. Lush, on behalf of Poultry Breeders of America, it is my great honor to present you with this plaque which reads:

"TO DR. JAY L. LUSH WHO THROUGH HIS TEACHING, RESEARCH AND CONSULTATIONS BROUGHT THE SCIENCE OF GENETICS TO BEAR UPON ANIMAL BREEDING RESULTING IN IMPROVED DIETS FOR THE WORLD'S MILLIONS OF PEOPLE. THE POULTRY BREEDERS OF AMERICA, COLLECTIVELY AND INDIVIDUALLY, A SMALL SEGMENT WHO HAVE BENEFITED FROM HIS TEACHINGS AND ADVICE, APPLAUD HIS MONUMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRATEFULLY APPRECIATE HIS INTEREST AND GUIDANCE THROUGH THE YEARS."