

# Louis Lindo Nangeroni

*September 13, 1918 — December 12, 1989*

Dr. Nangeroni, or “Lou” as he was known to most of us, entered Rutgers University in the fall of 1938 and was a familiar figure on campus as a wrestler and owner of a scarlet colored Model A Ford with a black “R” on the rumble seat and doors of his car. His Rutgers education was interrupted by World War II when he enrolled in the Army Air Corps Officer Training Program. Lou completed flight training and was soon on his way to Africa ferrying a B-24 Liberator bomber to Tunisia. After the usual pre-combat training, the squadron moved into Italy with the invasion forces, and Lou began flying missions over Europe, ultimately completing 100 of those missions.

Dr. Nangeroni returned to Rutgers and graduated in 1947. He then entered the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University and received the D.V.M. degree in 1951, the M.S. degree in physiology in 1952, and was appointed to the faculty in 1952. During the next 25 years he taught animal physiology, advanced experimental physiology, and conducted research in electroanesthesia and bioassay methodology.

Dr. Nangeroni’s thesis research was concerned with ruminant physiology, specifically the factors that influenced the temperature of the rumen. This work was subsequently published in the *Cornell Veterinarian*. Over the years, Dr. Nangeroni published various reports on pharmacology and gastroenterology in farm animals. He made the important observation that one drug, chlorpromazine, decreased the dose of pentobarbital required to attain surgical anaesthesia, which was important in advising clinical veterinarians about the proper use of commonly administered drugs.

During the 1960s, Dr. Nangeroni collaborated with the Nobel laureate, Dr. Vincent du Vigneaud, then of the Department of Chemistry at Cornell. This work was concerned with syntheses of analogs of oxytocin, a peptide hormone involved in the control of milk secretion and in parturition. Dr. Nangeroni’s role in this collaboration was the quantitation of the biological activity of the oxytocin analogs. Two bioassays were used, one based on vasodepressor activity in birds, and the other on the degree of uterine contraction in mammals. These papers with Dr. du Vigneaud were published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Experimental surgery was Dr. Nangeroni’s most effective medium. He gave a generation of animal scientists, nutritionists and physiologists the tools of the experimental surgeon. Working with groups of graduate students he carefully developed their skills. He demonstrated the knowledge of a large number of procedures. He was always sensitive both to the animals and students and displayed calmness and confidence, often in the face of great

uncertainty on the part of the beginning student. These qualities of confidence and quiet expectation that each one of them would succeed was, perhaps, his most powerful and endearing attribute.

After Dr. Nangeroni's retirement from the veterinary faculty in 1977, he moved to the Food and Drug Administration in Rockville, Maryland, as a veterinary medical officer with the Center for Veterinary Medicine. He served in this capacity until his death.

Lou was a devoted family man and an inveterate quantity food buyer. He loved to cook and bake and act as host for huge picnic-style feedings. When the tomatoes ripened in his garden, huge pots of tomato sauce were always cooking in the kitchen. It was obviously a page out of his father's restaurant background.

When the East Hill Flying Club held their Fly-In Breakfasts, it was Lou who made certain they had enough fresh food and condiments ("real maple syrup—none of that imitation stuff!"). Even his move to Maryland didn't dissuade him from his regular return trips to the Ithaca area for his New Hope Mills flour. He didn't believe in using the small five- or ten-pound packages—nothing short of one-hundred-pound bags of wheat, oat and rye flour would satisfy him. However, he would buy the smaller unit packages for his wide circle of friends after he had convinced them that New Hope Mills flour was the best.

Lou owned and flew his own airplane for many years and, as an avid Cornell hockey booster (they always had several hockey players living with them), never missed an ECAC tournament. Those flights to Boston were memorable for their gustatory adventures—"once the landing gear was retracted it was snack time for the entire flight."

Hunting, handball, bicycling, sail planes, real estate and stock investing were also important facets of Lou's life. In each of these pursuits he maintained his strong inner sense of values and honesty. But, above all it was his quiet commitment to his family and circle of friends that continued as his strong suit. He brought four wonderful daughters through their formative years and guided them from "roller skate-hall rats" (on weekends in the Veterinary College) to "Comfort Patrol" for the horses being treated at the College. Family involvement was a paramount part of Lou's life whether it involved bringing a beef heart home so he could help the girls with their school projects, or convincing them that a "camp out" under an old Army tent in King Ferry was a vacation.

Lou leaves behind a legacy of quiet inner strength for life and living that will serve as guidelines for his family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Carrie; his four daughters, Cheryl Nangeroni, Linda N. Scorsone, Jill Nangeroni and her husband, Mark Reader, and Diane Nangeroni and her husband, David Parkins.

*Edgar L. Gasteiger, Daniel N. Tapper, Robert H. Wasserman, John C. Thompson*