



10-1-1983

## British Veterinarians Honor Dr. Allam

## 99 DOWN AND 1 TO GO

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Allam. "So six of us, Dr. David Detweiler, Dr. Charles Roker, Dr. John McGrath, Dr. John Martin, Dr. Donald Lee, and myself, banded together and decided we would stay with the School and make it work. We as a group felt responsible to build the School to acceptable academic heights. This was accomplished. Of the six faculty meeting in 1953, Dr. Lee has retired and I am partially retired. The remaining four are still active.

In the fall of 1952 I was invited to appear before the trustee's committee on hospital and medical affairs to talk about the Veterinary School. Not being aware of what I was expected to report, and since President Stassen had said the new farm in Chester County had infertile soil, I opened a brown bag and exhibited large ears of corn—then presented a blue ribbon for first prize corn raising contest in Chester County. Chairman Orville Bullitt was sufficiently impressed to become a staunch supporter of the rural campus and the School."

The Center continues to grow and thrive through contributions from philanthropic organizations and from animal loving people. The very active and dedicated alumni financed the purchase of three parcels of land and the construction of Alumni House on the campus, Dr. Allam noted.

Another proud accomplishment as dean was the establishment of the core curriculum, which allows students today to choose from a number of elective studies after completing a year and a half of core subjects.

Dr. Allam's list of professional honors and distinctions is long. His awards include: Veterinarian of the Year from both the American Animal Hospital Association and the Pennsylvania Medical Association, 1957 and 1964, respectively; American Veterinary Medical Association Award, 1969; Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association's Distinguished Veterinarian Award, 1977; and the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Alumni Society Citation, 1982.

Since 1977, Dr. Allam has been a consultant on Veterinary School matters. He and Mrs. Allam continue to play an important role in the School's development and public relations activities. While they share an interest in preserving the history of the Allam House, Mrs. Allam has made it clear that Dr. Allam is the horse lover in the family.

Dr. Allam summed up his career accomplishments with a tribute to his wife. "When you're involved in a practice and in administrative life, it takes a strong life partner to make it work."



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On Tuesday, June 7, 1983, Dr. Mark W. Allam, former dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine was inducted as an Honorary Associate of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons at the annual general meeting of the College in the Hyde Park Hotel, London, England.

Dr. Allam, accompanied by his wife, Lila, spent twelve very busy days in England and Scotland. Dr. Colin Johnstone, assistant professor of parasitology in the Veterinary School, and a native of England, arranged much of the itinerary for the visit and drove the Allams to various sites. Included in their trip were visits to Sir William Weipers, former dean of the Glasgow Veterinary School (Dr. Johnstone is a graduate of this school), and Dr. E. J. Lawson Soulsby at Cambridge University. Dr. Soulsby is former professor of parasitology in the Veterinary School. While in the Cambridge region the group visited the British Racing Museum and the National Stud at Newmarket.

Dr. Johnstone drove the Allams through beautiful Yorkshire country, a region familiar to

many of our readers who are fans of the long-running television series, *All Creatures Great and Small*. A highlight of the trip was a dinner with Dr. Alfred Wight (James Herriot), his wife Joan (Helen Herriot), and members of the cast of the TV series. These included Drs. Donald Sinclair (Siegfried Farnon) and Brian Sinclair (Tristan Farnon). Also attending was Dr. James Wight, a veterinarian who is engaged in practice with his father, Dr. Alfred Wight. Dinner was held at the Three Tuns Hotel in Thirsk, Yorkshire. Following the dinner Dr. Wight and the others autographed a copy of his newest book, *The Best of James Herriot*. On the following day Dr. Brian Sinclair and the Allams visited some of the other sites depicted in the TV series and eloquently described in Dr. Wight's books.

Lest we forget, Lila Allam had a full day set aside for shopping in London and Dr. Allam bought two hats, a part of his attire for which he is famous!



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