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Commentary

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I had been on the faculty 10 years when Mark Allam was appointed dean in 1952. During my student days (1938-1942) most of the aging faculty that had survived the Great Depression were in their later years of service. Few were interested in research and most took the entire summer months as vacation days because the University paid salaries only nine months of the year at that time. During the early 1940's groups in medicine, called the "Young Turks" were insisting their faculties should introduce more basic science into medical practice. One of these men in a major medical school said of the elderly but distinguished head of medicine, "He always makes the correct diagnosis but for all the wrong reasons!" My younger associates on the veterinary faculty welcomed this attitude and we demonstrated our determination by working through the summer months on research projects despite lack of grants or the financial support. This failed to stimulate the aging faculty. At faculty meetings those who headed the departments could not seem to agree or focus on the obvious problems while the younger enthusiasts became more and more frustrated.

The first thing Mark did upon becoming dean was to select five of us "Young Turks" for a dinner at his home with himself and wife Lila. He listened attentively to our complaints and frustrations. His last remarks to us were that we were all trying hard, needed funding and he would see that we got it one way or another.

At this stage the veterinary faculty was considered inferior by the rest of the University faculty, especially the Medical School. Early in Mark's administration a vice-president of the University tried to have the Veterinary School closed. The next trial was when a president of the University would not allow us to further develop New Bolton Center because he thought we had not located it close enough to major express-ways! I was always at the meetings with Mark when these matters were discussed with University officials. These attitudes depressed me severely, but Mark was just the opposite, full of confidence, optimism, and enthusiasm he always said, "Don't worry David, these things won't happen. We are on the right track and I will see to it that we forge ahead." And he certainly "saw to it", as you all know.



Dr. Allam.

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*Dr. Mark Allam, University President
Gaylord Harnwell, Mrs. Georgia Hofmann
and Mr. Philip Hofmann at the unveiling of
the plaque for the Georgia and Philip
Hofmann Research Center for Animal
Reproduction at New Bolton Center.*



*Mrs. Avie Walker and Dr. Allam
in Allam House in the 1960's.*