



4-1-1998

# Commentary

Charles W. Raker  
*University of Pennsylvania*

## *To Shelly and Mary Jane,*

If Mark were standing here right now and we were discussing an event or solving a problem he would smile and say, "this will happen God willing and the creeks don't rise."

Well, the creeks have risen, and God has taken our Lila and Mark. I thank God that I have known and loved them.

When I think of Lila and Mark I think of two words Devotion and Dedication. For 65 years they understood and practiced these words, "for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health till Death do us part."

The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine has been the recipient of their joint love and labor. I think back to the days of the active use of the Goldman Carriage Collection, and our driving events and picnics with May and Queen to the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup and the Devon Horse Show. The welcome mat was always at the door of the Allam House. There were marvelous cocktail receptions and dinner parties with lovely conversations. Mark didn't miss a beat always keeping New Bolton Center and its growing possibilities number one in his mind. We always enjoyed our early morning phone chats, Mark keeping me up to date on the news of the Veterinary School.

Mark, as you know, was an expert cabinetmaker in his semi-retirement. He generously made me a miniature tall clock, and an early American dresser, both treasures in my home. These will someday return to the Allam House.

Wonderful times, wonderful memories.

Dear God, take them to you and bless them.

Mrs. Elizabeth Moran

Let me join the many others who will mourn Mark Allam. He was instrumental in initiating our collaborative studies on the treadmill and had a wonderful vision of the future of research in veterinary medicine. We shall miss him.

Britton Chance  
*Professor Emeritus of  
Biochemistry and Biophysics  
and Physical Biochemistry,  
and Radiologic Physics*



*Carriage Ride.*

Mark Allam was the most productive and loved Dean of the Veterinary School during my tenure. He was a great leader with uncanny vision, who was certain that nothing was impossible despite the odds of success, if one tried hard enough to succeed. He was sincere, honest, and always very dependable. Along with his beloved wife, Lila, they planted, nurtured, and cultivated New Bolton Center which will (I hope) always remain as a reminder of their loving kindness to everyone who came into contact with them.

The present state-of-the-art of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine is, for the most part, the result of Mark Allam's vision and determination to make it the best veterinary school in the world. His contributions to the advancement of veterinary medicine are endless. He pioneered aseptic surgery, one medicine, veterinary specialties, and established the American College of Veterinary Surgery, to name but a few of his many achievements.

He will be missed by the many who loved him and whose lives were in one way or another influenced by his charm and caring for his fellow man. But his accomplishments will live on as a legend to the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School and to the veterinary profession as a whole.

Charles W. Raker, V.M.D., '42  
*Lawrence Baker Sheppard Professor  
Emeritus of Surgery*

Mark Allam, in addition to being a terrific dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, never lost the ability to teach. He would practice it somewhat regularly in Harrisburg when he would get a body of the legislature before him and would instruct us on how the field of agriculture was the number one industry in Pennsylvania.

And then he'd go the next step, and he'd say that the Vet School is tremendously important to agriculture, then he'd tie these things together and say that if the field of agriculture is so important to Pennsylvania and the School of Veterinary Medicine is so important to agriculture, then it stands to reason the Pennsylvania's economy is tied with the good of the Veterinary School.

Therefore, Gentlemen, Ladies of the General Assembly, you must support the Veterinary School. And in his charming way he would dip his hand into our pockets and take out the votes he needed to get an increased appropriation for his favorite school. And it was something we did most willingly.

Matthew Ryan  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*