

# A Trustee's Perspective

By Charles C. Haffner III

I was a member of the committee appointed to select Clarence Godshalk's successor as Director of the Morton Arboretum. When I first met Marion Hall, there was little doubt in my mind that he was our man. And the other members of the committee agreed with enthusiasm. Twenty years of outstanding progress confirms that decision made so long ago.

In 1966, the Morton Arboretum was at a crossroads. It was world famous for its collections, gardens and landscapes. But it was also apparent that its many niches were not being fully exploited. The Arboretum had developed to a size where it needed more structure and a vision of its long-range potential. Particularly, the Trustees focused on research—basic and applied research in all areas relating to woody plants and the environments required for them to survive. It was these two talents—management skills and knowing how to organize and develop a sound research program that “Truf” Hall brought to us.

Slowly, steadily, and with a strong but gentle hand, Truf has set and steered a course towards these goals. His first job was to update the Arboretum's management machinery, pay schedules, personnel policies, accounting practices and the like. His second job was to develop and implement a long-range plan. The 1982 opening of the Morton Arboretum Research Center marked the fulfillment of one phase of Truf's long-range plan. As I said at the dedication of that magnificent facility, it was his vision, his persistence, his per-



*Dr. George Ware, Mrs. Eugene Davidson, Charles C. Haffner III, and Dr. Marion T. Hall at the Research Center dedication, July 1982.*

suasion and drive that have made it a reality. He has accomplished both of these major goals, all the while displaying an uncommon sensitivity to the needs of all around him, whether people, wildlife or plants.

The way has not been simple or easy. There have been many diversions, not the least of which has been having to cope with modern super-highways and other extreme forms of development. Throughout them all, Truf has emerged as the “Ecological Conscience” of DuPage County, and is highly regarded by his many friends and peers.

It has been my privilege over the years to work with many institutions and even more of their directors. I can truthfully say that of all the latter, not one has been as much fun to work with, as professional, as competent or as successful as Truf Hall. All who are devoted to the Morton Arboretum owe him great thanks for his building of one of our country's most human and scientific institutions.







