



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CROWN AND BRIDGE PRESIDENTIAL BIOGRAPHY



CLAUDE R. BAKER, DDS

PRESIDENT, AACB 1952-1953

Dr. Claude R. Baker was the first president and a founding member of The American Academy of Crown and Bridge Prosthodontics. Dr. Baker was a graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry in 1937. Dr. Baker was awarded the first master's degree (M.S.D.) by the UMSD in June of 1939 with a major in dentistry and a minor in anatomy. Dr. Baker is reported to have practiced dentistry in Hibbing, MN in 1939 before joining the faculty of Indiana University SD in 1940 (as reported in a book by Dr. M. Holland titled "A History of Dentistry of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry: 1888-1988."

The next bit of information for his biography was submitted by Dr. Pat Moulton as excerpted from an undated history from the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry.-----"The history of the Crown and Bridge Department at the School of Dentistry at the University of North Carolina begins on June 1, 1950, with the arrival of Dr. Claude R. Baker, the first professor and head of that Department. Baker was the second faculty member appointed. It was he and the Sturdevants and John Brauer who provided instruction to North Carolina's first home-educated dental students in the Quonset hut in the fall of 1950. He is remembered as much for his love for automobiles as for his teaching exploits. Occasional bouts with narcolepsy sometimes impaired his effectiveness in both endeavors."

"In 1958 Baker left the Department in an administrative reorganization which had the Department as a section of the Department of Prosthodontics for a brief period". His next reported appointment was said to have been at the University of Washington but archival evidence of his tenure are lacking.

*By 1967 he was teaching at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry retiring in 1969. He moved to his home town of Briton, SD for two years then planning to move to Gulfport, Mississippi but, due to a hurricane that struck there, he decided to move to Las Cruces, NM where he wrote a book called *Coin in the Air*. (A philosophical essay copyright 1974 Carlton Press). Dr. Claude R. Baker lived to be 73 years old. He died in October 1984 in Las Cruces, NM.*

His granddaughter Ms. Charlie Baker reports one of his many hobbies was racing cars and motorcycles and that her Grandpa always had a bowl of rock candy. She thought that was odd for a dentist.