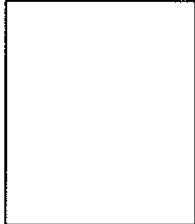
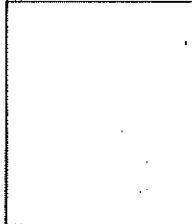


Historical Perspective

Through April, 1993, the *Journal of Endodontics* will continue to feature addresses and/or profiles of all 49 AAE past presidents. Begun in 1991, this feature is intended to give members insight into the history and movement of the AAE and endodontics as a specialty, as we approach the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the AAE.



Robert A. Uchin
President, 1975-76



James C. McGraw
President, 1990-91

The year 1975-76 was one of maturation both for myself and the AAE. Having joined in 1960, I watched our Association grow from 200-300 members to an organization of almost 1500. The original small "fraternity," a study club atmosphere where you knew almost everyone, had emerged into a large Association of practitioners who were now responsible for sponsoring the American Board of Endodontics, the Endowment and Memorial Foundation (now the Research and Education Foundation) and, yes, an independent *Journal of Endodontics*.

Fortunately, I was prepared for the responsibility of the office and had had a hand in the evolution process.

When I joined the Association, Ned Van Valey and his wife, Ruth, served as secretary and assistant from their New York office. Several years later Jack Bucher assumed the secretarial responsibilities and with the help of his wife, Kitty, ran the AAE from their home in Gainesville, Florida

In 1968, the Nominating Committee asked me to serve as secretary of the Association. I asked for and was granted one request: the authority to hire a part-time assistant to assist with the increased paper work. Mrs. Elenore Baker was hired as a part-timer, while also working as a part-time assistant for the Florida Swimming Pool Association. Our work load increased, as did our membership, our budget, our recognition and our responsibilities.

Mrs. Baker's job evolved into a full-time one and moved with her to Atlanta, when Julian Baker became our secretary. In 1976, our bank accounts moved from Fort Lauderdale to Atlanta as well. Both, of course, eventually moved to our present Headquarters

"Endodontists Bite the Dust!"

CHICAGO--On April 1, 1999, in a sudden, shocking development, the ADA Council on Dental Education, after exhaustive review, denied recertification for the specialty of endodontics. Citing a pattern of quality diminution in the character of endodontic research by the ex-specialty, and mounting evidence that the static scope of endodontics could easily be assumed by the new specialties of Oral Neurology and Implantasia, as well as the failure of the former specialty to demonstrate unique public need under the sweeping Universal Health Care Reform Act, endodontics as a specialty ceased to exist.

Outgoing terminal president, Dr. J. M. Complacent, noted the primal causes of the specialty's demise in an emotional requiem:

1. Failure by endodontists to seek and serve avidly in local, state and national ADA leadership positions.

2. Failure to recruit, develop and fund capable endodontic education-researchers.
3. Timidity by endodontists in shaping new directions for the specialty into the next century.

Reflecting on the central theme of the long past 50th Anniversary in 1993 (*Historical Reflections - Future Directions*), Dr. Complacent responded, resoundingly, "WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!"

A look into the future can be frightening. By the year 2000 the water could be boiling and endodontists, just like the poor frog that didn't feel the pot heating up, could be poached.

The only way to endow our future is to GET INVOLVED. Climb out of the pot and into the swamp to volunteer your services and talents in our chosen profession.

Office in the ADA building in Chicago.

With the expert legal guidance of Mr. Harvey Sarner (former attorney for the American Dental Association), we had worked through the growing pains and necessities required to be the sponsoring agency of the American Board of Endodontics and the Endowment and Memorial Foundation, both of whom shared a portion of our office expenses.

By 1976, our office had seen the addition of both a full-time and part-time secretarial position. Additionally, our annual budget was now in excess

of \$125,000, with our dues at \$65, a \$15 increase over the previous year.

Our 1976 Annual Session saw Gerald Cathey as Program Chairman, coping with simultaneous translations between English and Spanish.

A strong expanding interest in endodontics around the world resulted in increased foreign membership and requests for professional information exchange. These were the seeds for the eventual formation several years later of the International Federation of Endodontic Associations (IFEA).

See Uchin, next page