

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 to the history and movement of the AAE and endodontics as a specialty as we approach the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the AAE.



Henry J. Van Hassel, DDS, MSD, PhD
Past President, 1981-82



Noah Chivlian, DDS
Past President, 1982-83

We are charged in this brief column to reflect on significant events during our presidential year. I confess to difficulty in recalling events of 1992 much less of 1982, so my contribution is necessarily restricted. Indeed when attempting such reminiscences I have a feeling of kinship with Wordsworth's *Solitary Reaper* who was described as musing on "old, forgotten (sic), far-off things and battles long ago."

Nevertheless, it seems to me that there have always been two types of issues in our organization: the recurring and those that are unique to the times. Recurring problems are sort of like keeping your dog off the sofa. Passioned remonstrances and brandishing of folded newspapers work marvels... for awhile. But inevitably the sly hound is back and confrontation must begin anew. Examples of such recurring problems in our specialty might be the N-2 issue, generalist-specialist relations, government interference in private practice, etc. They were there in 1982 and no doubt will still be in 2082. The trick seems to be to keep calm and keep at them - don't let 'em wear you down.

There are, however, issues which are/were specific to the times. In our organization, the late 70's and early 80's might be thought of as a period of transition from a sort of club-like atmosphere of well-acquainted friends supported by a part-time staff to one of a modern, expanding, professional society with a need to establish its presence in organized dentistry. In any such transition, the hope is to preserve the good of the old while encouraging healthy growth. An objective evaluation of the present state of the AAE and of its fine central support staff would seem to indicate that our organization survived its adolescence and has achieved its maturity.



Drs. F. Darl Ostrander and Maynard K. Hine were co-recipients of the AAE's Edgar D. Coolidge Award at the 1983 AAE Annual Session in Hollywood, Florida. Pictured, from left, are Dr. Noah Chivlian, AAE president; Dr. Jacob Freedland, Dr. Ostrander, Dr. Burton Press, ADA president; and Dr. Maynard K. Hine.

Reflecting on my presidential term, I find it difficult to believe that I took office ten years ago. It seems like the proverbial yesterday. I have a vivid recollection of the hectic pace of those twelve months, filled with numerous trips to Chicago, endless amounts of correspondence and telephone calls throughout the day and night. Lacking only were sufficient hours in which to accomplish everything.

Having joined the AAE in 1961, I had the opportunity to meet, listen to and study with many of the founders and pioneers of endodontics. I feel fortunate to have heard the history and the early battles for acknowledgment from these living legends. Additionally fortuitous was having the honor to preside during the 40th anniversary year and the 20th anniversary of our recognition as a specialty.

The year started on a somber note, however, when I arrived in Phoenix for our Annual Session and learned of the death of Warren Wakai, who was to be installed as president-elect at that meeting. Although Warren's illness had precluded his active participation in the Association's affairs for some time, he had lived with the dream of recovering in time to assume his position of leadership. Unfortunately, this was not meant to be.

As the shock wore off, it became apparent that the Board of Directors must take action to establish an orderly transition of officers, since this eventuality was not identified in our constitution and by-laws. The Board, under the firm but Solomon-like direction of Henry Van Hassel, acted as the Nominating Committee and selected Donald Arens for president-elect and Stephen Schwartz for vice-president. My initial concerns at the loss of a devoted colleague were replaced with a renewed sense of anticipation at the prospect of working side by side with accomplished leaders who were also personal friends. The rest of the management team roster read like the Who's Who of Endodontics: Michael Heuer, secretary; Charles Cunningham, treasurer; and Irving Naidorf, editor of the *Journal of Endodontics*.

The year's major task was directed toward responding to the American Dental Association's call for information on the future of dentistry. This committee, chaired by past president and this year's Coolidge Award recipient Edward Osetek, functioned with military-like precision and efficiency. They identified four areas of special interest, prepared position papers and responses, and held a two-day conference in Chicago in July 1982. At the time, the ADA hierarchy had not granted us favored organization status, and it took consider-

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Presidential Profile

George C. Sharp
Past-President, 1951-52

Dr. George C. Sharp took an early interest in endodontics at the New York College of Dentistry, where he graduated in 1897, and became an accomplished student and teacher on the specialty.

After several years of practice in the East, Dr. Sharp settled in Pasadena, California in 1914. He was a member of the California State Dental Association, a Fellow of the International College of Dentists and a member of the Southern California Academy of Endodontists.

One of the original 19 organizers of the Association, Dr. Sharp was a member of the committee to select a name for our organization, and records show that it was his motion to accept the recommendation of American Association of Endodontists.

Edwin C. Van Valey
Past-President, 1967-68

Dr. Edwin Van Valey received his dental degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1950. An endodontic instructor at the Polyclinic Hospital from 1952-56, Dr. Van Valey served as a captain in the U.S. Army from 1958-62.

The son of a founder, charter member and past president of the AAE (Dr. Edwin G. Van Valey, 1946-47), Dr. Van Valey served as chairman of several committees, as secretary and vice president before becoming the Association's youngest president in 1967.

A member of the New York Academy of Dentistry, Dr. Van Valey is also a Diplomat of the American Board of Endodontics.

Chivian (continued from previous page)

able persuasion at a face-to-face meeting with ADA President Robert Griffith to have him attend the Opening Session of that conference.

A writing conference was held two months later with participation by Drs. Arens, Chivian, Heuer, Osetek and Schilder. After two more days of brainstorming and head-knocking we arrived at a clear sense of purpose. The AAE had accepted the challenge. We spent a significant portion of our annual budget and countless man hours in preparation of a remarkably explicit and in-depth document. The final instrument, edited by Mike Heuer, was presented to the ADA and received glowing reviews. For the first time, the leadership of the ADA stood up and took notice of the "new kids on the block." And for the first time the AAE had ventured into a thoroughly introspective look at our identity and direction. This successful effort proved to be the impetus in our ongoing pro-active stand with regard to long range planning.

From my dental school days at Pennsylvania under the tutelage of Dr. Louis I. Grossman, I was fascinated with replantation. After 20 years of practice, coupled with consultations with fellow endodontists, I realized that we in endodontics had developed techniques for prolonging the "second life" of an avulsed tooth. However, it was apparent that the vast majority of the dental community was unaware of the latest treatment modalities. To answer this problem, I appointed a committee to devise a systematic treatment approach for the avulsed tooth. Joe Camp chaired the blue ribbon panel, which created "Guidelines for the Treatment of the Avulsed Tooth." The Guidelines were accepted by the AAE and published in the ADA News, and the general public continues to benefit from this organizational effort. In July, 1982, I had the privilege of representing the AAE at the Third Annual Session of the Japan Endodontic Association. The Congress, held in Tokyo, was a spectacular event highlighted by numerous scientific sessions and elegant social functions. At the meeting, they bestowed upon me the honor of leading

a memorial service for Warren Wakai, who is revered in Japan for his endodontic teachings throughout the country. The warmth and friendship engendered during my trip to the Land of the Rising Sun still fills me today. Very little was lost in the translation.

The highlight of my presidential year was the 40th Annual Session in Hollywood, Florida. Over two years of planning, directed by Joseph Maggio and Irma Kudo, ably assisted by Bernard Grothaus, Gregory Galland, Samuel Dorn and James Satovsky, culminated in a glorious five-day international meeting that carried the theme, "Endodontics: Then and Now." The new ADA president, Burton Press, spent his mid-term sabbatical with us and was the keynote speaker at our Opening Session. Jacob Freedland, our gifted observer of all things endodontic, chaired the Coolidge Memorial Luncheon, which was dedicated to our charter members, and directed the compilation of a commemorative brochure filled with the observations of our founders. It depicts the atmosphere that prevailed in medicine and dentistry in the years preceding and immediately following the formation of the AAE. According to Dr. Freedland, it serves as an important historical resource for our archives. Fascinating reading, a copy is available from our Headquarters Office. At the luncheon, past AAE and ADA presidents Maynard K. Hine and F. Darl Ostrander were co-recipients of the Edgar D. Coolidge Award, recognized for their exemplary allegiance to dentistry, endodontics and the AAE. Both men were instrumental in guiding our application through the ADA maze, which led to endodontics achieving specialty status.

The past decade has indeed been a wonderful one, affording me opportunity to observe, without the rigors of day-to-day responsibility, the continued growth, development and maturation of the AAE. Today our organization is respected worldwide for its dedication to excellence in endodontics. I am proud to be a member.