

Dr. John Earl Baker, Famed for His Work in China, Dies

Dr. John Earl Baker, 76, distinguished University of Wisconsin graduate of 1906, whose efforts in building public works in old China and later in directing famine and flood relief operations in stricken areas gained for him world fame, died Friday at his home in Mill Valley, Calif.

He was a native of Eagle, Waukesha county.

He is survived by his wife, the former Willie Smith, of Thomasville, Ga.; a son, John, Sebastopol, Calif., a graduate of the University of Wisconsin; two daughters, Mrs. Howard Ross, Silver Springs, Md.; and Mrs. George Loudon, Philadelphia, Pa.; and three sisters, Alice Baker (1911 university graduate) and Mrs. Harold Pardee, Eagle; and Mrs. Ray Hulce, Whitewater. Mrs. R. R. Crosby, 2207 Keyes



DR. BAKER

ave., and Milo K. Swanton, Rt. 4, Madison, are cousins.

Funeral services for Dr. Baker will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Methodist Church at Eagle and burial will be at the nearby Little Prairie cemetery.

Upon his graduation from the university Baker spent some years in the offices of the Southern Pacific Railway in San Francisco. He went to China in 1916, where he directed the building of roads, railways, and public works for the Chinese government.

Drafted for relief work during the disastrous floods in 1931, he flew over the stricken regions with Col. and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh. Parts of seven big provinces were buried under water and aviators could see

neither bank—only tops of trees and roofs of what had been homes. Corpses by the hundreds went swirling downstream.

He directed transportation, moved supplies up swollen rivers, across mountains, through bandit country, and past river pirates to hungry men, women, and children.

One of the contributions of the relief commission which Baker headed was a demonstration of the value and practicability of work relief without encouraging pauperism. Out of it also came a vast expansion of the cooperative movement in China.

The Chinese government awarded Baker the famous Order of the Bountiful Harvest, a decoration seldom bestowed upon foreigners, and the Order of the Brilliant Jade.

In recognition of his services to

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