

'Hoover Of China,' Dr. John Baker Of Mill Valley, Dies

Dr. John Earl Baker of Mill Valley, noted Far Eastern expert and onetime economic adviser to the Chinese Nationalist government, is dead at 76.

Known as the "Hoover of China" for his Chinese famine relief work, Dr. Baker succumbed Saturday in his home at 516 Throckmorton avenue, Mill Valley.

Born in Wisconsin, he was graduated from the University of Wisconsin, where he was a Phi Beta Kappa. He obtained a law degree from George Washington University, later returning to the University of Wisconsin to earn a doctorate in economics.

Dr. Baker taught economics and transportation at George Washington, served as a government statistician and, from 1911 to 1916, was chief statistician for the Southern Pacific Railroad.

He first went to China in 1916 as adviser to the Chinese Republic's Ministry of Communications. During the years immediately following World War I, when former President Herbert Hoover was helping Europe's hungry millions, Dr. Baker became known for his



JOHN EARL BAKER
He was China's friend

service in Chinese famine relief.

He directed the Red Cross in China during the 1920's. At other times he served as chief adviser to the Chinese Ministry of Railways, directing the consolidation of 16 railroads; manager of the Chinese-American Wheat Syndicate, and inspector-general of the Burma Road.

In 1948, former President Harry S. Truman named Dr. Baker to the Joint Commission on Rural Reconstruction in Formosa. It was his last service to the Chinese government.

Dr. Baker was a member of the Commonwealth Club of California. He made frequent speaking appearances before that group.

Although a key figure for 34 years in Chinese industrial and relief programs, he maintained his home in Mill Valley for 46 years. He was a member of the Methodist Church of Mill Valley.

Dr. Baker is survived by his wife, Willie; two daughters, Mrs. Frances Baker Ross of See **DR. BAKER**, page 7

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Maryland and Mrs. Barbara Loudon of Pennsylvania; a son, John Jr. of Sebastopol; three sisters, Mrs. Ray Hulce, Mrs. Harold Pardee and Miss S. Alice Baker, all of Wisconsin, and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were to be held at 2 p.m. today in the funeral home of Russell and Gooch, Mill Valley. Interment will be in Eagle, Wis.