

Thomas King Barber 1923–2008

It is with great sadness that the *Journal of Dentistry for Children* notes the death of Thomas K. Barber, educator, author, teacher, investigator, highly respected pediatric dentist and outstanding communicator. Dr. Barber died on July 24, 2008 after complications following open heart surgery.

Dr. Barber grew up in Detroit and attended Michigan State University. He came to Illinois to study veterinary science but later switched to dentistry and earned his DDS and MS degrees in Pediatric Dentistry from the University of Illinois College of Dentistry in 1949. He joined the faculty in 1951 and became department head in Pediatric Dentistry (at the time, Pedodontics) in 1965. He left the University of Illinois in 1969 for the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), where he became in charge of the post graduate program and Chairman of the Division of Pediatric Dentistry. Later he became Associate Dean as well as serving as Acting Dean in 1963. Although based in California, he frequently came to Chicago for educational events particular in graduate courses for pediatric dentists offered by the University of Illinois College of Dentistry.

Dr. Barber was a caring, hands-on pediatric dentist and for several years worked at a Pediatric Dental practice with Dr. Anthony Malone in Oak Park, Ill. He became a mentor of a generation of pediatric dentists in many parts of the world since he was often invited to present lectures and seminars about children and their health problems. He taught how to best solve problems and communicate about them.

"Dr. Barber touched all of our lives in a special way" said Dr. Ned Savide, Past-President of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and former student at UCLA (Class of '77). "He truly did it all, he practiced, taught, lectured worldwide, wrote and was a dental school administrator. Those of us that were his students, have our own memories." As stated by Dr. Savide "What I remember most were the weekly seminars with the clinical topics. It was not until much later, when talking to a parent, Tom's exact words suddenly would spring from my mouth to explain a clinical situation to a parent. He had the ability to slip those words in your back pocket where they would be ready when needed. What a teacher!". Dr. John G. Crawford, a former student of the University of Illinois (DDS, '70, MS in Pediatric Dentistry '74) and former President of the Illinois Society of Pediatric Dentistry said "If it weren't for Tom Barber, not only would I not be a pediatric dentist, I

probably wouldn't be a dentist at all. As a freshman dental student, Tom's encouragement kept me going, and his manner of teaching attracted me to Pediatric Dentistry".

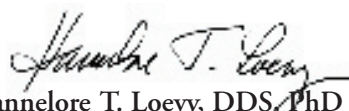
As a former student (Class of '59) I Hannelore Loevy have my own memories. Dr. Barber had many hobbies including photography. As a friend, he volunteered to film my wedding, so that my in-laws could see it, since they were not able to come all the way from Italy. To do a perfect film (and everything for Dr. Barber better be perfect) he and his wife, Margot, came to the church early so that everything was recorded. The film shows the arrival of the flowers, the groom, and, of course, the arrival of all the guests and the bride. It was a very cold winter day, but he was able to do a complete documentary; one which was very important to our family.

Dr. Barber was an active member in organized dentistry as a Fellow of the American College of Dentists, member of the International Association of Dental Research, American Dental Association (chairman of the Pedodontics Scientific Section 1973-74), California Society of Pediatric Dentistry (Executive Board 1974-80, President 1979-80, Executive Director 1990), Illinois Society of Dentistry for Children (President 1950-51), Southern California Society of Dentistry for Children, Sociedad Peruana de Odontopediatria, and Soci  t   Fran  aise de Odontop  diatrie among others.

He was an active member of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and served at many different levels including the Editorial Board from 1974-85, (Chairman 1977-79, and Associate Editor 1978-81). Besides his many papers, primarily on growth and development of the child and interceptive orthodontics, and he was also one of the editors of the *Pediatric Dentistry* wrote several chapters of this major book.

A memorial service for Dr. Barber was held in Elmhurst Illinois, on August 25 in the chapel of Mt. Emblem Cemetery. It was attended by many former students, former neighbors from Bensenville, and UIC colleagues.

As Dr. Savide said, "He will be missed, thanks Tom for everything", and this editor agrees.


Hannelore T. Loevy, DDS, PhD
Editor

