Distinguished Member Award Goes to Paul Dawson

The second Distinguished Member Award of the American Academy of Gold Foil Operators has been bestowed upon Paul T. Dawson. This annual award honors members of the academy for major contributions to dentistry. The recipient this year is a man who all would agree is most deserving of the honor.

Paul T. Dawson received his DDS degree in 1928 from Loyola University in Chicago and in 1940 gained a BS degree in biology from the same university. He began his academic career at Loyola University immediately upon graduation and, with the exception of six years in private practice, has remained an esteemed member of the academic community. Though most of his teaching has been in operative dentistry, his competence extends over a large scope. He has contributed substantially to other disciplines, including therapeutics, pedodontics, radiology, crown and bridge, diagnosis, endodontics, and physiology. He was chairman of the Department of Operative Dentistry at the University of Loyola during the years 1951-1968 and retired from teaching there in 1970. Since then, he has been a full-time member of the Department of Operative Dentistry at Northwestern University, where he has continued to impart to dental students his prodigious knowledge of dentistry. His skill as an operator and his effectiveness as a teacher are attested to by comments in the Dental School News of Loyola University (Vol. II, No. 1, October 1970): “Few people have such an exquisite touch coupled with the knack of performing the operation so that each step is a clear teaching process.” And again, in regard to Paul’s expertise with gold foil: “In the single field of gold foil, not many men, in our estimation, rank close to him.” Students, too, on many occasions have expressed their appreciation of his efforts by honoring him with gifts and awards.

Paul is a member of the American Dental Association, Illinois State Dental Association, Chicago Dental Society, International Association for Dental Research, American College of Dentists, Omicron Kappa Upsilon, and Delta Sigma Delta. He is an honorary member of the American Academy of Restorative Dentistry and the Alaskan Dental Society and a charter member of the Society of Endodontics and the American Academy of Gold Foil Operators, of which he was elected president in 1969.

Paul’s pleasant, friendly manner makes him a delightful companion and has blessed him with a multitude of friends. He is licensed to practice in the state of Washington in case he wants to go fishing, in Texas in case he needs the sun, and in Illinois in case he wants to stay home. He is forthright, helpful, and always ready with words of kindness and understanding that are so appreciated by those who know him. He is a great asset to dentistry.

(From the address by Melvin R. Lund, October 9, 1980.)
“Epples Go-A-Jogging”
But Restoration a Success

As President-elect Perry Dungey scurried from one cubicle to another, getting operators, assistants, and patients together, he kept passing one empty spot that had a sign for an operator but no activity at the chair. He was assured that the missing Dr. Epple would surely be along any moment. But as ten o’clock approached and the space was still vacant, his concern was evident; and no one had an answer to the whereabouts of our missing colleague.

This was his first time to operate at a national meeting. Had he panicked and fled or had he fallen to foul play on Bourbon Street? At 10:10 a.m., everyone was relieved to know that neither was the case. It seems that Jim and Rosie had gone jogging to work out the butterflies and made a wrong turn, missing the bus by only a few minutes. No worry, we’ll just catch a cab, Dr. Epple assured his wife. “Take me to the Dental School; I’m late,” Dr. Epple instructed the cabbie. “Which one?” came the quick reply. “You mean there are two?”

Finally after L.S.U. was settled on, they were off, but to the Medical School, which it develops is some fifteen or so miles from the Dental School where he should be.

The story has a happy ending. Dr. Epple, ably assisted by his lovely wife Rosie, placed an excellent Class V restoration and finished on time. Even well ahead of some who had a good head start.

Twenty Clinicians Place Restorations at Annual Meeting

Twenty of our members successfully placed restorations at the annual meeting in New Orleans. Dr. Richard Tucker and Raloh Werner acted as evaluators for the meeting. Their report indicates that at least within our organization, direct gold is well and healthy.

We can be proud that our organization is the only one that clinically demonstrates our value to the profession of dentistry.

Those members who have not operated at an annual meeting should plan to as soon as possible; it is a great experience. If you wish to operate at next year’s meeting, get in touch with Vice-president Norm Ferguson.
From the President:

The honor bestowed on me by the nominating committee some two years ago in Hawaii has led to my being President of this organization has to be the highlight of my professional career. It is very humbling; I resolve to do well; I'll need a great deal of help. I am very happy with the activities which transpired in New Orleans. The clinical operations just get better every year, and the lecture program, I felt, was an inspiration. The banquet was very enjoyable, and the presentation of the Distinguished Member Award to such a deserving man as Paul Dawson was a milestone!

Our Academy has a long way to go; it seems we are always going uphill. But I am most encouraged by the response of the schools to Dr. Vernetti's inquiry concerning our helping faculty in the use of Direct Gold by his Special Clinician Committee. May we as a group start to exert an influence on state and regional boards of dentistry to improve the dental product, the new Practicing Dentist.

I am delighted to announce to the membership that our annual meeting in 1981 will be held in Oklahoma City in a setting which will be most receptive to our ideals and principles. Dr. Earl Collard mentioned that at least one Board of Dentistry member will be in attendance to gain credence for his attitude toward Direct Gold and its continued use as an examination vehicle.

I urge you who are not really involved with Academy work who would be interested to contact me. There is so much to be done and too few to do it.

Most sincerely,

Perry Dungey

Oregon Dental Service Accepts Gold Foil

It has been the generally accepted policy of dental insurance and prepaid dental plans that if a less expensive filling could be placed, the company would not pay for a better restoration.

In a recent article in Operative Dentistry, Dr. Gerald Stibbs states, "Many carriers of dental insurance plans do not accept the direct golds, and the non-dental adjudicator thus arbitrarily excludes our superior preventive restorative medium."

In almost no cases was gold foil covered. Unfortunately, the most ardent group to hold this concept was the prepaid plans that the dentists themselves had established.

Now after a number of years of effort, there is finally a breakthrough—Oregon Dental Service, one of the first dental service corporations, has recognized that excellence in dentistry does not represent excess costs over a period of time. Last fall, the Board voted to accept gold foil on the same basis as they accept any other cast restoration.

This can well be a breakthrough for other prepaid programs to follow.

It is gratifying to see insurance executives and actuaries understand what we as dentists have known all along—that the cheapest is not the cheapest, and that everyone benefits when the best in dentistry is expected from us.

Board Meeting, October 8, 1980

American Academy of Gold Foil Operators

New Orleans, LA, Royal Sonesta Hotel

Meeting called to order by President Mel Lund, 1:30 p.m.

Board members present: Drs. Mel Lund, Perry Dungey, Harold Schneppe, Jack Seymour, Chet Gibson, Norm Ferguson, Bill Roberts, Ron Harris, Ian Hamilton, Marty Anderson, Ralph Boelsche, and Hunter Brinker.

Norm Ferguson moved, Ron Harris seconded minutes be accepted as read; passed.

Perry Dungey covered local arrangements. Dinner for board members at Broussards at 7:00 p.m. Bus transportation to school.

Committee reports were read. Membership committee reported 18 new associate members, 7 active. Board moved to accept new members, both active and associate. Two life members, Drs. Brown and Jacobson, also voted to accept.

Mel Lund covered request for vote by membership to vary from Roberts Rules and by-laws to hold meeting for membership in two sections for morning meeting.

Journal report by Drs. Anderson and Hamilton. Discussion on number of pages and volumes to be published and cost. Thirteen articles published in 1980, twelve or thirteen more to be published, will publish old foil articles in each journal. Need names of students who won awards. Received several gifts from members.

Necrology report. Drs. Kenneth Ford and Norwood Lyons passed away during last year.

Study Club report by Dr. Julian Thomas.

Comment on value of Foil award to students and possibility of having them join academy for one year. Dr. Lund wants schools committee to work on this and have Dr. Schnapper to follow through.

Research Committee report to be given at morning meeting.

Audio-visual report, Dr. Gaver. No material available; need to catalogue all materials; will continue to work on this project.

Nominating Committee report. Dr. Medina will give at general meeting.

Comments on Honored Member Award and presentation this year. Dr. Lund will write article for Journal on Paul Dawson. Dr. Lund thanked Drs. Medina and Brinker on work done on award.

Dr. Dungey asked for reimbursement for Dr. Eames' air fare, also for non-members who give essays to have registration fee waived for this meeting.

Treasurer report. Question about dues increase—will have to if we continue the new expenses from the past year, i.e., distinguished member, journal subsidy, new roster, etc.

Special Clinic report, Dr. James Vernetti. Letter sent to all operative departments in U.S. and Canada, 58 schools. Have received 24 replies: 11 yes; 8 yes, want more information; 3 more information; 10 no. 5 of these do not need program. Will expand this committee to Dr. Vernetti, Dr. Seymour, Dr. P. Dawson, Dr. Jose Medina, Dr. Jack Freese. Will develop program depending on needs of school.

Dr. Dungey moved to support American Fund for Dental Health for $100.00.

Discussion of Constitution and by-laws. Question raised: What is a constitution; do we have a constitution and not by-laws? Dr. Schnapper moved that the vice-president be responsible for clinical operations and type of operations, and work with local arrangement committee. Passed.

Moved and seconded that we meet in Oklahoma, October 21, 22, and 23, 1981, at the University of Oklahoma, College of Dentistry. Will contact USC for meeting in 1982, and UCLA in 1983.

Meeting adjourned 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jack Seymour, DDS
Membership Votes New Members

Eighteen new Associate Members were accepted into membership of the Academy at its annual meeting in New Orleans. Eight members were transferred from Associate to Active, and two members received their Life Member certificates.

Associate Members

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Active Members

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Frank L. Mellsa
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Larry J. Schwartz
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Life Members

Frederick Lloyd Jacobson, DMD
2211 N. E. 54th, #30
Seattle, WA 98105

Francis John Brown, DDS
508 Willard Ave.
Genoa, Nebraska 68640

Board of Directors of the American Academy of Gold Foil Operators. Seated: Dr. Ralph Boelsche, Secretary; Dr. Perry Dungey, President; Dr. Harold Schneppe, President-elect; Dr. William J. Roberts, Board member. Standing: Dr. Nelson Rupp, Board member; Dr. Ronald K. Harris, Board member; Dr. Norman C. Ferguson, Vice-president; Dr. Melvin Lund, Immediate Past President.