Donald Wyckoff Baker died at his winter home in Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico, on Sunday, May 14, 1978. Although he was born in Navarino, Onondaga County, New York, he spent his early years (from two to seventeen) in southwestern Virginia and graduated from Damascus High School, Damascus, Virginia.

In 1924 Rutgers University awarded him a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture and appointed him university herdsman. It was while working with the university dairy herd that he became acquainted with Dr. Theobald Smith of the Rockefeller Institute at Princeton, New Jersey, and Dr. R. N. Gordon Darby of Somerville, New Jersey. They urged Don to get a veterinary degree and suggested that he apply to Cornell. He entered the New York State Veterinary College in the fall of 1925 and was granted the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1929 as well as a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1933.

While still a student, he was placed in charge of the Diagnostic Laboratory. He held the title of director from 1928 to 1933. His first appointment was as instructor of diagnosis. In 1933 he was appointed assistant professor of parasitology and became the first professor of Parasitology at the New York State Veterinary College. He was appointed associate professor in 1940 and professor in 1947.

Dr. Baker served as consulting veterinarian to the Institute of Interamerican Affairs in Central and South America from July 1950 to February 1952. His principal station was in Paraguay, but his work also took him to Peru, Haiti, Costa Rica, Bolivia, and Brazil. While in Brazil, he was consulted by the president of that country, who operated a large livestock establishment and wanted to learn more about disease control. In 1958 and 1959 he was called upon by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis to serve as a consulting and research veterinarian. He traveled to the Philippines and to India to study the problems connected with shipping monkeys from these countries to the United States for testing the Salk vaccine.

Always active in organized veterinary medicine, Dr. Baker was a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and had been an honor roll member since 1973. He belonged to the New York State Veterinary Medical Society and served as its president in 1964. The Southern Tier Veterinary Medical Association claimed his services for seventeen years as secretary-treasurer. He also held membership in the American Veterinary Association of Parasitology, the Livestock Sanitary Association, the Council of Official Research Workers of America, the
Albuquerque Veterinary Medical Association, and the Intermountain Veterinary Medical Association. For fifteen years he gave devoted service to the Veterinary College Alumni Association as its secretary.

Among his fraternal affiliations were Chi Phi and Alpha Psi. His membership in honorary societies included Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, the Rutgers chapter of Alpha Zeta, and Phi Zeta, of which he was national secretary from 1941 to 1943.

Don Baker was devoted to people, the Veterinary College, and Cornell University. This dedication was exemplified by his frequent trips to various Parts of the Northeast to assist graduates with their problems. It might be said that he was the unofficial public relations officer or the extension veterinarian for the Veterinary College. His warmth and friendliness brought him a multitude of friends. To these friends and colleagues as well as his two alma maters he showed a great loyalty for which he was loved and respected. He was generous to a fault and had great empathy with students, young associates, and visitors to the college. Professional meetings held a special attraction for Donald, and he often made a presentation, promoted a cause, or participated in some other way. He added much to the professional knowledge through published papers and talks at hundreds of meetings.

As a teacher, he had a practical turn of mind. While he realized the importance of taxonomy, he chose to emphasize the problem that parasitism presented to the clinician. His examination often consisted of confronting students with a specimen or a parasitized patient.

His chief hobby was photography, and the files and archives of the Flower Veterinary Library contain many of his fine portrayals of his countless friends. This hobby began with the specimen photographs he made for teaching purposes. He also had a consuming interest in railroads and was extremely knowledgeable about the entire national network. His collection of timetables was amazing.

In 1965 the trustees of Cornell University appointed him professor of parasitology emeritus, and he retired after thirty-seven years of meritorious service to the Veterinary College. He was still not ready to rest on his laurels. Moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico, he joined the Agricultural Research Service and there continued his work in parasitology until 1970.

Surviving him are his wife of forty-eight years, Ruth Thompson Baker; two sons, Bruce Wyckoff Baker and Neil Darby Baker; and a daughter, Jean Boynton Baker.

Ellis P. Leonard, A. Gordon Danks