

## Message From Our Distinguished Past-President Dr. John I. Ingle, 1966-67

Through April 1992, the *Journal of Endodontics* will print a message from a Past President of the American Association of Endodontists alternately with those of our current President, Dr. Joseph I. Tenca. This new feature of the *Journal* is intended to give members insight to the history and movement of the AAE and endodontics as a specialty as we approach the 50th Anniversary of the organization.



Three historical events in the life of the AAE stand out in my mind; one reflecting the growth of our organization and another the social growth of our nation. I can't be decisive about the dates, but I'm sure they happened in the mid '50's and early '60's.

When the meetings were being held annually in Chicago, I was appointed program chairman for the next year's meeting. As I recall, I was allotted the munificent sum of \$200 to put on the two day program, and this included having to pay a speaker or entertainer for the banquet as well.

In these early years the programs were made up of AAE members speaking to each other, (I'll never forget the beating I took for speaking about failures), or Chicago based faculty speaking on basic sciences.

I was determined to break the pattern, so I approached Dr. Russell Cecil of Cornell University in New York, author of his famous textbook *Cecil's Medicine*, to speak on focal infection--a hot topic at the time. He agreed, but his \$100 honorarium, train fare and hotel bill would blow my entire \$200 budget. So I had to petition the Executive Committee for an additional \$200 to pay for the meeting space and hire a musician for the banquet.

Well, a real brouhaha developed by mail and telephone. There were those who were cautiously guarding our reserves, demanding that we must maintain at least two or three years income in reserve. And then there were those of us who felt it was better to invest in our education rather than government bonds. Well, we won, Dr. Cecil spoke, and from then on the meetings took on a more sophisticated and less provincial tenor.

The second incident developed into a national "scandal," important enough that Arthur Hailey used the incident as the central theme of his book, *Hotel*. Once again, a group of us "rebels," tired of freezing each February in Chicago, led a revolt to move the date and location of the meetings to more favorable climes.

The vote to move came before the Executive Committee, and although the voice vote sounded strongly of "nays," Hookey Brooks (God rest his soul) ruled that the "ayes" had it, and we were to move. That must have been in 1961.

I was appointed Chairman of the new site selection committee. We met immediately and selected New Orleans. Arrangements were made for the hotel, and then all hell broke loose. Early in 1962 I received a call from the NAACP asking if I was aware of the racial restrictions in Louisiana. I was not. I called the hotel and was told that our "negro" members could attend meetings in the hotel but they could not stay nor be served a meal there. When I protested he said I should call the state to protest, which I did, and again to no avail.

So we cancelled New Orleans and decided on Miami Beach. The first hotel with which we contracted went broke, but we were finally able to move to the Fountainbleu. The whole meeting was a disaster, but I think the AAE grew up considerably from the incident.

The third event concerns our logo. I believe it was in the early '60's when we decided we should have a logo. Again I was appointed Chairman of the committee. Living in Seattle at the time, I had always admired the Boeing Co. logo so I went to the local design studio that had developed their symbol. For \$200 (I believe) they drew up three or four possible combinations of A, A, & E. As I recall, the one chosen by the Executive Committee had our incorporation year in place.

In any event, our logo has served us well as we have "grown in wisdom and stature" over the years.

John I. Ingle, DDS  
Past President

*Dr. Ingle served 16 years on the University of Washington faculty and eight years as Dean of the University of Southern California School of Dentistry before joining the staff of the Institute of Medicine at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., where he remained for six years. Best known as senior author of Endodontics, he retired from the Institute in 1978 to form Palm Springs Seminars, one of the nation's leading continuing education centers, where he is president and still active today. An officer in the U.S. Army Air Force Dental Corps during World War II, Dr. Ingle received the AAE's Ralph F. Sommer Award in 1987.*