



american
academy
of
gold foil
operators

Gold Leaf

JUNE 1996

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1996 Dr. R. Craig Bridgeman
1997 Dr. Timothy J. Carlson
1998 Dr. Richard D. Tucker

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF GOLD FOIL OPERATORS

Interim Board Meeting

February 21, 1996

WESTIN HOTEL - CHICAGO • REGENT IV ROOM

Meeting was called to order at 1:08 PM by President Barry Evans. Members present were: Drs. Birkitt, Evans, Ramage, C. Bridgeman, Carlson, Warren Johnson, Cochran, Hoard, Lund, Barrett, Dick McCoy, Marty Anderson, and Ron Harris.

The agenda for the meeting was distributed to all present. Minutes of the November 1, 1995 Annual meeting were approved as published in the Gold Leaf in January.

Treasurer's Report:

An interim report was distributed to all present which consisted of the following:

Assets - December 30, 1995		
CD	\$ 14,727.93	
CD	25,000.00	
Checking	<u>21,547.39</u>	\$ 61,275.32
Receipts - 1995	\$ 51,468.12	
Expenditures - 1995	<u>47,842.41</u>	\$ 3,625.71
Assets - January 1, 1995		
CD	15,000.00	
Money Market	25,764.84	
Checking	<u>17,801.94</u>	
Receipts not deposited	+ 1,180.00	\$ 58,566.78
Difference in Assets during 1995	+ 2,708.54	
*Note: Expenses included the publication and distribution of Constitution and Bylaws.		
Dues + Journal Subscriptions	27,575.00	
Journal Subscriptions Paid	<u>13,625.00</u>	
Dues Received - 1995	13,950.00	

Total members 303

Dues paying members - 219 (net down 6 due to transfers to Life, deceased and dropouts).

1995 Annual Meeting - Hilton Head Island, SC.

Expenses	23,344.33
Receipts	<u>19,957.00</u>
Net loss	(3,387.33)

Proposed Budget - 1996.

Projected Income:		
Dues (220 members @ \$60)	\$ 13,200.00	
Interest	2,400.00	
Annual meeting	24,000.00	
Other (applications, pins, keys, etc.)	<u>300.00</u>	
		\$39,900.00
Projected Expenses:		
Gold Leaf	\$ 4,500.00	
Student awards	1,000.00	
Annual meeting	24,000.00	
Distinguished member	1,500.00	
Chicago meeting	300.00	
AFDH and ADA Relief Fund	400.00	
Travel/meeting expenses	2,000.00	
Admin (postage, phone, printing, etc.)	2,000.00	
Roster	1,400.00	
Misc (Pres. plaque, pins, etc.)	<u>500.00</u>	
		\$37,600.00

Treasurer's Report and Budget were accepted.

Journal Report:

The agenda was changed to allow the report by the Journal editor and managing editor. Dick McCoy reported that things are going well with the Journal. Worthwhile manuscripts continue to be received, and Operative Dentistry has been identified as one of the primary journals by the journal Dental Materials. The addition of color illustrations has enhanced the quality, though the cost is significant. Drs. Eichmiller and Latta are planning for a symposium on alternatives to amalgam and late technology for 1997. Advertising is being considered, but we do not want to compromise the quality. He recognized his support staff.

Marty Anderson gave the financial end of things, which shows a loss for the year, but the fund equity is still considerable. Costs continue to rise, so this is not surprising.

Correspondence:

Several letters and phone messages were received from committee chairs.

Baylor University has asked to be removed from our mailing list of Gold Leaf.

Plans for 1996 meeting

November 10-16, San Antonio, Texas. Ted reported that the program is fairly well lined-up with some excellent speakers on various related subjects. There is a real need to increase our attendance in order to avoid extra costs for meeting rooms. Outside activities as a group may be limited due to availability of things to do. There are members in the area that will help with local arrangements.

Amount of the fee for the meeting will probably be similar to that of 1995.

Future meetings:

1997 will be in Vancouver, BC with a possible September 11-14 time frame. Details are yet to be worked out with some members doing local arrangements.

1998 is projected to be in Nashville, Tennessee at Meharry Dental College. A proposal will be sent to the school to see if we would be welcome. (ADA Annual Session is Oct. 24-28).

Committee Reports:

Gold Leaf - Allan Osborn was not present. Comment was made that clinical photos might be a little excessive and add too much to the cost of the publication.

Ad hoc European Section - Allan sent word that there is a possibility of Australia in 1998.

Literature and Research - Fred Eichmiller was not present.

Nominating Committee - Ric Hoard said the committee has not decided on the next Board member.

Public Relations - Scott Barrett submitted his report. It included offers from Craig Charters and Mark Ziemkowski (Suter) to assist our meetings financially. He suggested starting a memorial lecture in honor of some member. A committee of Hoard, Johnson and Craig Bridgeman was appointed to look into this. Scott will plan to contact local dental societies about our meeting. It was discussed and strongly urged members plan to offer to sponsor one of the local dental students to a specific session and lunch.

Education and Study Clubs - Warren Johnson's group has nothing new to report, but ongoing courses are encouraged for the northwest and midwest on direct gold technique.

Necrology - No report. Need input from members with information on any who have passed.

Outstanding Clinician - Not yet determined.

Distinguished Member - Lloyd Baum's group has designated a recipient.

Constitution and Bylaws - Nothing new at this time. Copies have been mailed out.

Unfinished Business:

The membership status was given. There are three new membership applications pending at this time.

New Business:

There was a discussion of critiques given at our annual sessions. They might be made more meaningful if written critique is given to clinicians. A form, which was used in the past might be reimplemented. Tim Carlson will see about it. It will be on the meeting agenda for San Antonio.

Letter was read from Vic Williams regarding the lapel pins they made. They have given the entire inventory to the Academy to use as the board will determine. It was most generous of them. Further discussion will take place in San Antonio.

Need to order more gold keys if we wish to continue the tradition. Some more keys will be ordered from Balfour.

Secretary has to add to the computer to allow for more memory. Motion carried to do it.

New roster will be published this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald K. Harris, D.D.S., M.S.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

From the Desk of The President

Dear Allan,

Thank-you for the opportunity to contribute a President's message in the next Gold Leaf. I would like to congratulate you on the outstanding job you have done as its editor. You have done a superb job. I know it must be a time consuming undertaking. You can be sure it is greatly appreciated by the members of the Academy.

Greetings fellow Academy members...

Over the last several years your Executive Council has been attempting to identify the future direction of the Academy. There has been a consistent, unspoken understanding with each board that change is necessary in order to be a viable organization. As with any social organization there is a powerful inertia that keeps the organization moving in the same direction just because that was the way it was done in the past. This inertia has a value as a strong protective mechanism because, if the organization has had a strong existence, it must have been doing something right. This prevents change just for the sake of change. The old adage "if it ain't broke - don't fix it" has a lot of truth to it. But, as you know, our Academy has been shrinking in size for some time now, so it is clear that we are not adequately meeting the needs of our dental constituency. Also, the time is past when we can rely on the dental schools or the state boards to artificially prop-up the popularity of gold foil. It now must stand on its own and prove itself in the marketplace.

To some extent the ebb in popularity of Gold Foil in the United States may reflect the current attitudes of American culture. For example the current emphasis on youth as the dominant value - growing old is bad. This attitude is also reflected in the current popularity of cosmetic dentistry. What would the attitude toward Gold Foil be if the dominant value of our culture was maturity, wisdom, and advanced old age? Gold Foil is also fighting the trend toward a quick, cheap fix promoted by the television culture of the 30 minute solution to every problem. Eventually the pendulum will swing back and this "new treatment" will be rediscovered because Gold Foil is a highly useful dental restorative material. It deserves to be in the armamentarium of every dentist. Gold foil is not the dental analogy to the horse and buggy. It is interesting to observe the growing amount of interest in Europe in Gold Foil compared to here in the U.S. In some ways this interest may reflect some of the cultural differences between our societies. This having been said, it is still important to remember that the Foil Academy has never had a mass attraction and it never will. There will always be only a small percentage of dentists who will be interested in what gold foil represents, and who will be willing to pay the price to achieve the excellence that Gold Foil operations require. But I believe the fact that not everyone is willing to pay the price to achieve excellence, is what gives the Academy the prestige that we enjoy within the dental community. The fact that Gold Foil represents excellence in dentistry more than any other procedure is the

horse that we need to ride as we attempt to plot our future course into the 21st century.

The challenge for the future leadership of the Academy will be to continue to identify and evolve the purpose of the Academy. In order to achieve this goal we must identify the needs of our membership and to fill those needs. At the same time we must avoid pandering to the superficial desires that are so attractive to all of us. We certainly have some assets that we can draw on as we move into the future. We are in excellent shape financially, thanks to the stewardship of our current and past two Secretary-Treasurers, Dr. Ron Harris, Dr. Woody Rupp, and Dr. Ralph Boelsche. We have a strong camaraderie and friendship among our members brought about by a common interest and a shared heritage.

As you know, some changes in format have already been enacted. The meeting format now allows for more flexibility in our meeting date to avoid conflicts with other meetings and to give us the ability to operate at Dental Schools which show an interest in hosting our operations. Our new format gives us the ability to seek out new venue that will be attractive to our membership and to take advantage of less expensive air fares. We have expanded the scope of our operations to include gold castings whenever it is practical. Our scientific session has been expanded to include all aspects of dentistry that would be of interest to our membership. We are now inviting the most outstanding speakers on the circuit today, regardless of whether or not they may be members of the Academy. We understand that our program must also represent the excellence that the Academy represents.

Additional changes to the Academy will be presented in Texas. At the board meeting in San Antonio we will consider having an annual Memorial lecture that would be financially sponsored by an outside organization. Recognizing that our membership is now the only source for learning Gold Foil techniques, we will consider a proposal by Dr. Richard D. Tucker to begin a mentoring program in which experienced operators would act as mentors to individual operators at the annual meeting. In this way the meeting will not only provide stimulating scientific sessions and outstanding foil operations, but will become an avenue for learning Gold Foil techniques.

The future of the Academy is bright. I am looking forward to the day when there is a resurgence of interest in Gold Foil. I predict that this will occur. I just hope we don't have to wait as long as we've had to wait for the second coming. But in the meantime we will have a great time doing our Gold Foils.

I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio in November. Dr. Ted Ramage has planned what appears to be one of the most outstanding scientific sessions that we have ever had. So *Remember the Alamo*.

Barry O. Evans, D.M.D.

President

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF GOLD FOIL OPERATORS

From the Desk of the Secretary, since it's too wet to play golf:

Hard to believe that it's about midway between the last Annual Meeting and the next. Those of you who attended the meeting at Hilton Head, with the new format of professional speakers, will probably agree that it was a pretty decent session. Barry Evans (now referred to as "Prez" or "Your Grace") did the work to set that whole thing in motion. We'll be trying the same thing in San Antonio, November 6-10. If members have any worthwhile suggestions to offer in the way of additional changes, please contact the Secretary (me).

Something we would like to try this year is to have members sponsor a dental student and take them to lunch and a scientific session, probably following the clinical session. On the registration forms that will be sent out later this summer, there will be a box to indicate willingness to carry this out. The only cost will be that of the meal, so that ain't too bad.

For the future, it looks like we will return to Vancouver in 1997 and go to Minnesota in 1998. Both of those will probably be in September to avoid difficult weather. Speaking of weather - it appears that everyone has had a time of bad weather and natural disasters during the past year. My sympathy to any of you who suffered damage to home or

office because of the elements. Indiana had a cold winter, and a whole lot of rain during the "alleged" spring.

I have recently had several requests to locate Electromallets. If you know of any that are available, please let me know. I complained about the mass I received from Loyola, but was able to distribute them around the country without too much effort. Now they are once again in demand.

There will be a new roster put out this year, and I will probably include some bits about the San Antonio meeting. Try to attend. A lot of members have seldom, if ever, even gone to an Annual Meeting. It's odd to maintain membership and not attend the only real meet of the organization. I still don't have the 1996 dues of a number of our members. It generally is the same ones who seem to lose their dues notices every year. It is a bit of a hassle for the Secretary-Treasurer to have to keep reminding folks. This job takes quite a bit of time and effort, without having to duplicate things. Some of you think this is not a volunteer effort, but I assure you it is. Please try to help me on this.

Ron

Fiesta Time

IN SAN ANTONIO

November 6-10, 1996

ANNUAL MEETING

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF GOLD FOIL OPERATORS

These are the words of the Convention and Visitors Bureau:

"San Antonio. It's really something to remember. We're the tenth largest city in the United States, but our people are as warm and welcoming as the climate. We're gracious and historic and hopelessly romantic. However, we were born to party... a blend of many cultures. We're Old South and Wild West."

There is a wealth of history in this area. In 1718, Mission San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo) was established. The Texas Revolution began and the Battle of the Alamo took place in 1836. Come see the Alamo and the other Missions. Explore El Mercado, the Mexican Market, where Margaritas and Fajitas are the order of the day.

Just a flight below downtown streets is another world - The River Walk with its sidewalk cafes and dinner boats. If Tex-Mex cuisine is your thing, you've come to the right place. But that isn't all. There is a wealth of dining experiences in this city, and nightlife of all varieties.

For entertainment, there is Sea World, Fiesta Texas, La Villita, Museums of all sorts, theatres and cultural exhibits. You can even take a trail ride with the horses in Breckenridge Park. Visit the Botanical Gardens and Conservatory.

If none of that appeals to you, just get on one of the several streetcars for 10¢ a ride, or hit the Rivercenter Mall, with its three-plus floors of shops and an IMAX theatre. There is really something for everybody, so plan to attend the meeting in November.

Registration forms will be mailed out in August. The hotel will be the Hilton Palacio del Rio, and the clinical session will be the University of Texas Health Sciences Center, with the assistance of the General Dentistry Residents from the Air Force at Wilford Hall.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY - November 6

- 2:00 pm Board Meeting - Conference Room
- 6-8:00 pm Socializing in the Rincon Alegre Lobby
Piano Bar. Nothing very structured.
Cash bar. On your own! A chance to
renew acquaintances.

THURSDAY - November 7

- 6-8:00 am Continental Breakfast
- 7:00 am Buses depart for Dental Clinic at
Health Sciences Center.
- Noon Buses return to hotel.
- 12:30 pm Luncheon buffet.
*(Spouses are included in both breakfast
and luncheon)*
- 2-3:30 pm Lecture - Dr. Edward S. Duke "An
Update on the Continued Evolution of
Direct Restorative Materials".
(Spouses can shop or whatever)
- 3:30-5:00 pm Lecture - Dr. J. William Robbins "Intra-
oral Repair of the Fractured Porcelain
Restoration".
- Evening Dinner on your own.

FRIDAY - November 8

- 7:30 am Buffet breakfast for members. Spouses
can sleep-in and do their own thing.
- 8:30 am Business meeting.
- 9:00 am Lecture - Dr. Norman C. Ferguson
"Who Is In Charge?".
- 11:00 am Break

- 11:15 am Lecture - Dr. Mark A. Cruz "The
Cementation Error: A Prescription for
Failure".
- Noon Luncheon for members and
professional guests.
- 1:30 pm If there is enough interest, golf tee
times will be arranged at a local
course. Information will be available to
tour the area, i.e. the Alamo, Mexican
Marketplace, etc.
- Evening Dinner on a River Barge. Details to
follow. Pre-registered event.

SATURDAY - November 9

- 7:30-9:00 am Breakfast Buffet for members and
spouses.
- 9:00 am Lecture - Dr. Barbara D. Boyan
"Tissue Engineering: Twenty-First
Century Solutions for Musculoskeletal
Disorders".
- 11:00 am Break
- 11:15 am Dr. Tim Carlson - Back by popular
demand - "Slide Review of Clinical
Procedures on Thursday".
- Afternoon Luncheon and see San Antonio on
your own.
- 6:00 pm Social hour (courtesy of the exhibitors).
- 7:00 pm Banquet in the Corte Real (top floor),
followed by presentations and
installation of officers.

ASSOCIATED FERRIER STUDY CLUBS

Annual Meeting



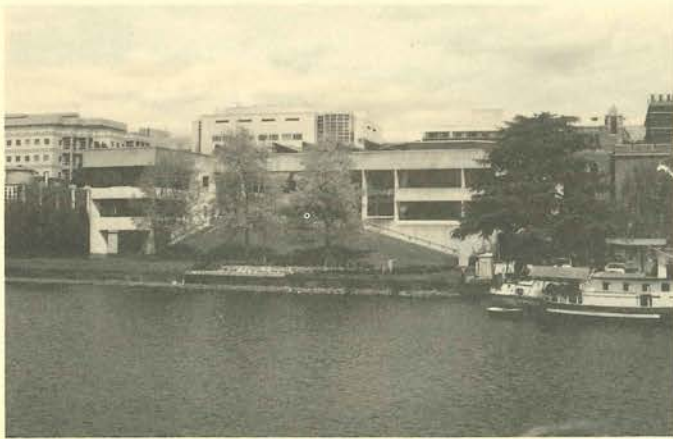
New Board: (from left to right) Bruce Walter, Secretary-Treasurer; Bob Murray, President; Jim Haberman, President-Elect; John Sechena, Past-President.



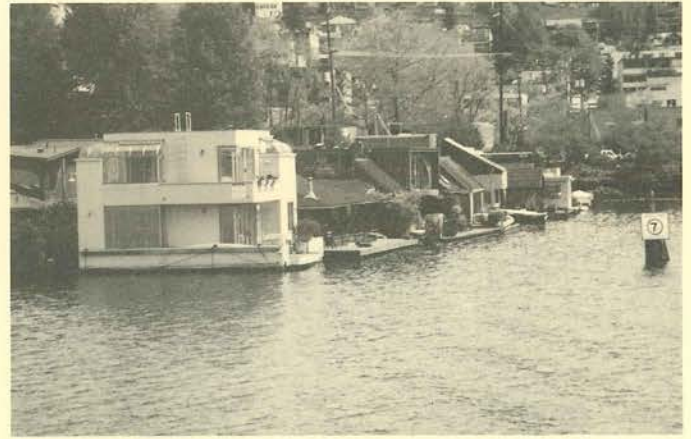
President Sechena introducing speaker.

Social Events





University of Washington

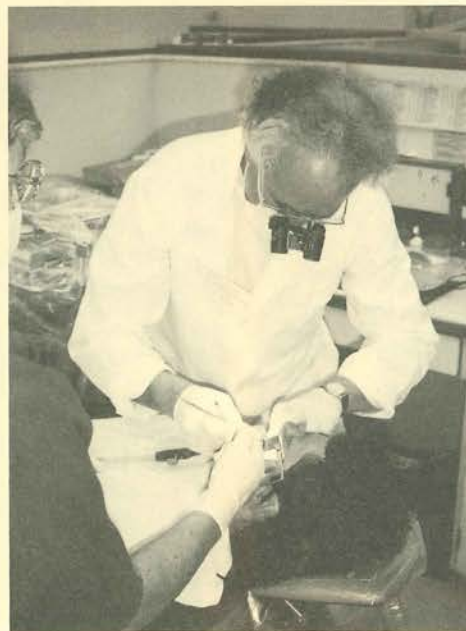


Million Dollar Floating Homes

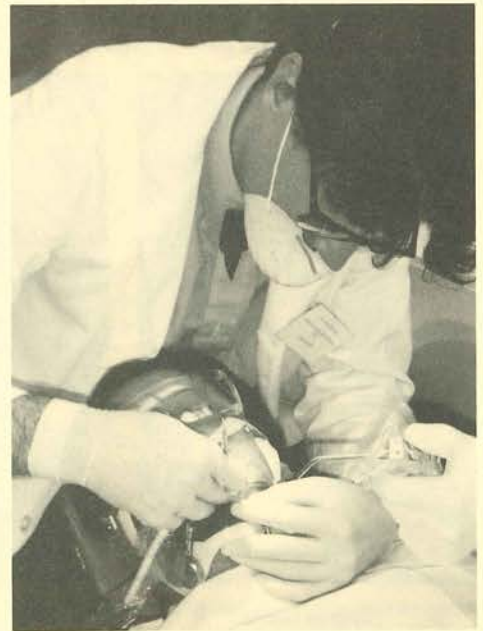
Clinic Session



Debby Zokol



Matt Panar



David Thorburn



Warren Johnson



Drs. Stenberg, Olin Loomis, Gordon Raisler, Floyd Hamstrom, and Bruce Smith.



Olin Loomis, Ken Hasagawa, Ralph Stenberg, Dick Tucker, and Floyd Hamstrom.



George Ghosn



Phil Madden



Homer Alyer



ASSOCIATED FERRIER STUDY CLUBS



Dr. Ludlow Beamish

What has been their contribution to Gold Foil, and to Dentistry in General? G. V. Black, in his treatise on Operative Dentistry gave a very significant start to cavity outline form, and the necessity for precise interior cavity design. It was not until the beginning of the 20th century however that groups of men came together to refine and to systematize specifically gold foil procedures.

In 1898 in St. Paul a new venture was started with the formation of the G. V. Black Study Club.

Seven years later, Dr. Woodbury organized a second club to be named after his father. These two study clubs were innovative and gave dentistry a fresh idea of continuing education. They stimulated a new and select group of professionals to seek refinement and excellence.

In 1907 on the West Coast, the concept of a Study Club took root in Seattle. Members of the St. Paul experiment made the trek out west and on the 26th of October 1907, a half dozen enthusiastic dentists gathered to organize the Odontological Study Club of Seattle. Their intention was to follow the G. V. Black pattern of study club activity.

In the early years the Club met every two weeks, later every three weeks. They had no recognized leader – only their enthusiasm to seek improvement in their service. The initiation fee was \$5.00 and the annual dues were \$1.00. They commenced (as we do today) by cutting cavities in plaster models, and then in extracted teeth. Everything was subjected to critical scrutiny.

The club received recognition from the profession, and in 1909 was asked to present a clinic before a larger gathering of the profession. This was done in March, and may well represent the first Gold Foil Clinic to have ever been presented. The operator was Dr. Reynolds.

The club functioned without a recognized leader and after four years of enthusiastic, if casual organization, made the decision in 1912 to seek formal instruction from Drs. Waedelstadt and Searle of St. Paul who were achieving a remarkable reputation in their ability to master gold foil. They were invited to venture west to Seattle. The plan was to have the two men present an intensive "hands-on" clinical course of two weeks duration. The group saw a standard of dentistry that truly shook them. They did not realize that such standards of clinical excellence could be achieved!



Walden I. Ferrier

Amongst this group was a certain young man by the name of Walden I. Ferrier. The group was so impressed that a further course was arranged for the following September.

At this time the original club underwent reorganization, and was renamed The Seattle Dental Study Club. Other aspects of dentistry were studied, but it soon became apparent that gold foil presented the major challenge.

It was not until 1923 that the Club recognized that to be truly effective in promoting knowledge and excellence a leader would have to be selected. This caused great concern – who among them would be sufficiently respected to accept this challenge? Upon Dr. Frank Hergert's recommendation, and persuasion, the young Dr. Ferrier was given the appointment. Ferrier's skill, his leadership qualities and general knowledge quickly became generally recognized, and he became the unquestioned authority for the group. He inaugurated his own gold foil courses, under his leadership and with the support of the Seattle Dental Study Club, new clubs were brought into existence. Who then was this extraordinary individual – Dr. Walden I. Ferrier?

In 1886, in the little Washington town of Kander there was born to a modest family, a baby boy who would be named Walden I. Ferrier. He was an average boy, upon graduating from high school he found his way to North Pacific College in Portland, and from this institution received his D.M.D. in 1908. As a dental student, Ferrier displayed special operative skills. After leaving Portland he found temporary accommodation for an office in a hotel in Burlington. He remained in Burlington until 1919 when he moved to Seattle. Ferrier was the type of individual to whom talented men gravitated. Soon he befriended two very gifted men – Waedelstadt and Hollenback. He was stimulated by them and they encouraged him to conduct research into cavity design and instrumentation.

In 1930 whilst Ferrier was in Los Angeles visiting Hollenback, he met (through the latter) a certain Otto Suter, an itinerant instrument maker. Ferrier was so impressed by Otto Suter that he invited him to visit Seattle and to spend some time with him there. Along with Otto's son, Bo Suter, the three men put their talents together and commenced what was to be a long and at times stormy relationship. This association lasted throughout Ferrier's life. They had a mutual interest in refining instruments and this in turn led to the development of the 212 retractor, and then to the Ferrier separators. Today we accept, so very casually, these various devices – but if we reflect for a moment, we begin to appreciate just how complex it must have been to actually lay down on paper the design for separators. In the correspondence between Dr. Ferrier and Dr. Stibbs, there are many references to the difficulties encountered in trying to persuade the S. S. White Company to produce what Ferrier was demanding. It is however, through his desire for precision and excellence that we now have instruments, retractors and separators that have never been equalled anywhere else in the world.

Ferrier's interest in instruments lead him to consider the possibility of cavity refinement. As an instructor he demonstrated how outline form could be made vastly more aesthetic, and how precise internal form would make the filling of the cavity easier and contribute to a more permanent restoration. Meticulously planned walls, and sharp line and point angles were the hallmark of the man who was himself such a singular operator.

In 1923 Ferrier was appointed "Master of Clinics" of the reorganized and renamed Seattle Dental Study Club. The following year, 1924 in September, he presented his first two-week course of instruction. This was his course, and with it he established himself as the unquestioned leader of all gold foil endeavors in the West. Having established himself, it was only a matter of a short time before new clubs would be started. These were established as Ferrier and his select group decreed – anyone could organize a study club, but to be a member of the select Ferrier group was quite a different matter. To be taught by Walden Ferrier and his exclusive group (unofficially referred to by some as 'Jesus Christ and the Twelve Apostles') meant that any new group must adhere to the rules of

Presentation by Dr. Ludlow Beamish – continued.

membership. An instructor would be appointed and the Seattle Club would lay down the obligations of membership. These were clear and well-defined: regular attendance at meetings must be a member's priority, willingness to operate and submit one's clinical work to criticism of both the mentor and the membership. Each group as it came into existence would be an exclusive group committed to the highest standards, and very aware that they had been admitted to a new band of operators where membership was a distinct privilege. Ferrier Clubs were not organized to become mutual admiration societies!

By 1930 the small number of gold foil clubs in Washington organized a rather loose association to be called the Associated Gold Foil Study Clubs. It was made up of a board of trustees comprising two executive members from each club and a Mentors Council. The latter group was directed by Ferrier's appointed instructors and made the necessary arrangements for new courses. The Association organized an annual gathering and clinical session; the time being devoted to matters pertinent to gold foil. For many years, Walden Ferrier was the principal speaker. It was not until Ferrier's retirement in 1949, that the Association became known as the Associated Ferrier Study Clubs, in honour of its founder.

During the time in which Ferrier enjoyed good health (until about 1950) he dominated gold foil study. He was skilled, brilliant, demanding and certainly behaved as a "prima donna".

Walden Ferrier was not a man who took kindly to having his concepts questioned, and when Dr. Alex Jeffrey presented his excellent lingual approach design, Dr. Ferrier resented it and in no uncertain terms apprised Dr. Jeffrey of his disapproval. Not long thereafter, a group asked Dr. Jeffrey to become their mentor, would Ferrier accept this? A resounding NO! To participate in a Ferrier Club required adherence to Ferrier's designs and principles. Thereafter Ferrier and Jeffrey parted company upon rather strained terms. A confrontation with Gerry Stibbs over the use of anaesthetic by undergraduate students had a happier outcome – one in which Ferrier bowed to Stibbs' determination to teach to the highest and most modern standards.

In Ferrier's presence one was immediately aware that here was a man apart from others. He befriended only a few, but among his closest friends were to be found such luminaries as George Ellsperman, Walter Sproule, Floyd Hamstrom, Bruce Smith, and of course Gerry Stibbs. This coterie of highly gifted and exceptionally intelligent men had boundless unstinted admiration for Walden Ferrier. In this intensely 'democratic' age where all men (persons) are supposedly equal we find it difficult to appreciate the adulation and the incredible respect these men accorded Dr. Ferrier.

From the correspondence that passed between Walden Ferrier and Gerry Stibbs it is clear that both men had the very greatest respect for each other, but it is evident that even Gerry (whose reputation was and is unas-



Dr. Gerry Stibbs

sailable) usually addressed the great man as 'Dr. Ferrier' while the latter usually opened his letters with 'Dear Gerry'. We are fortunate indeed to have had Gerry as the bridge between the exclusive and elitist philosophy of the Ferrier days and the current all-pervasive democratization which has had such a profound effect upon study clubs. Today, clubs make their objectives and purpose known, and openly welcome new members. The formation of new clubs is encouraged while the concept of elitism is being less emphasized.

Today the concept of continuing education is encouraged and the benefits are there for us to see. The standards of practice have advanced remarkably over the course of the last fifty years. Meeting with our confrères allows for the exchange of ideas, and as man is basically a social animal, to be mutually stimulated by coming together to explore new horizons, or to iron out problems in older ones. Listening to papers and viewing slides stimulates our critical faculties and slowly but surely broadens both our professional horizon and our knowledge base. In renewing the bonds of friendship, we return home with a warmth and a sense of well-being that stimulates us to renew our efforts in daily practice.

Dr. Ferrier and Dr. Stibbs were not responsible for inventing the concept of study club activity. Both were remarkable men who made significant contributions to the effectiveness of the study club movement. Unfortunately none of us live forever and now that they are no longer with us it is fitting that we remember them with respect and affection.

Ludlow W. Beamish, DMD., FRCD.(HON.), FICD., FADI.

Computer Use Potentials Detailed –

Presentation by Dr. Heid



Dr. David Heid

Dave Heid discussed the use of computers in the University of Washington School of Dentistry. He gave a very good presentation on the new computerized charting system the school is beginning to use. He covered the educational uses and the value the computer will have in the exchange of information between students, educators, and fellow professionals.

His discussion included the Internet and its possibilities for dentistry. He gave a good introduction to the scope of the Internet. He made good use of a direct computer screen, so the demonstration was real-time. This made for a very good look at what the computer and related software has to offer.

Due to the very large topic and the limited amount of time we had available for Dave to present his material, we hope to have him expand on this subject at future meetings.

John R. Sechena, DDS.