

## **The Edward L. Baker Collection**

**Papers, 1923-1982  
(Predominantly, 1946-1976)**

**3 linear feet**

Accession #1625  
DALNET #  
OCLC #

The papers of Edward L. Baker were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in July of 1995 by his son, Edward M. Baker, and were opened for research in May of 2000.

Edward L. Baker was born in Georgetown, Indiana on February 1, 1906 and graduated from the University of Louisville in 1931. In 1932 he married Elios Giuliano. He continued his educational activities by attending the Detroit College of Law from 1932 to 1936 and rounded his academic experience taking engineering courses at Wayne University in Detroit from 1942 to 1945.

Mr. Baker's business experience was varied and broad. He was an adjustor for the American Mutual Liability Insurance Company (1931-1935), investigator for the Wayne County Bureau of Investigation (1935-1942), supervisor in the industrial x-ray laboratories of the Fisher Body Corporation (1942-1945) and sales manager for Michigan X-ray Sales (1945-1948) before he took a job as an application engineer for Westinghouse Electric Corporation (1948-1953).

On October 1, 1953, Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield appointed him acting Postmaster of Detroit. He served until February 28, 1976, the second longest tenure as postmaster in Detroit history.

His other activities included co-organizing the Detroit Junior Board of Commerce in 1936 and service in the Coast Guard Temporary Reserve from 1942 to 1945. In addition, he served as representative in the Michigan state Legislature from 1947 to 1948. He did not seek re-election. He held the office of president of the Michigan Society for Mental Health for three terms from 1950 to 1952 and was an active member of the National Association of Postmasters in the United States (NAPUS), where he acted as president for one term in 1957/58. He also served as Deputy Chairman of Michigan Week.

He was named Federal Administrator of the Year in Detroit in 1955, received the Post Office Department's Meritorious Service Award in 1960 and was named National Postmaster of the Year in 1964. He died in March, 1987 in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

The papers of Edward L. Baker reflect his work as Postmaster of Detroit for over 22 years and his involvement in the National Association of Postmasters (NAPUS), especially during his term as president of the organization. To a lesser degree, the material also covers his activities as a Michigan state Representative and member of several health organizations in Michigan.

**Important subjects covered in the collection are:**

Detroit Postal Service  
Michigan Republican Party

National Association of Postmasters  
of the United States (NAPUS)

**Among the important correspondents are:**

Homer Ferguson  
Patrick McNamara  
Roy North

Charles E. Puskar  
Kim Sigler  
Arthur E. Summerfield

**An index to subjects and correspondence will be found on page 7.**

**Contents**

**3 storage boxes**

**Series I, Detroit Postal Service, 1932-1978, Box 1:**

Material regarding Mr. Baker's tenure as Detroit Postmaster.

**Series II, NAPUS Files, 1954-1978, Box 2:**

Correspondence and files covering Mr. Baker's presidency of NAPUS and as chairman of the Transportation Committee.

**Series III, Other Activities, 1923-1982, Box 2-3:**

Files regarding Mr. Baker's activities outside the postal service.

**Non-manuscript Material:**

One manuscript box with approximately 50 photographs and five negatives related to Mr. Baker and one button have been placed in the Archives Audio Visual Collection.

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**Series I**  
**Detroit Postal Service, 1932-1978**  
**Box 1**

Correspondence, clippings, reports and other items concerning the Detroit Postal Service and Mr. Baker's role in it from 1932 to 1978. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

**Box 1**

- 1-4. Clippings, 1946-76
- 5-8. Correspondence, 1952-76
- 9. Correspondence Appointment, 1953
- 10. Dedications, 1959-60, n.d.
- 11-14. Detroit Post Office Building, 1959-61
- 15. Ethical Conduct, 1966-69, n.d.
- 16. Health Service, 1961
- 17-21. Mixed Material, 1953-76
- 22-24. Newsletters, 1932-78, n.d.
- 25. Press Releases, 1963-76, n.d.
- 26. Retirement Baker, 1975-76
- 27-28. Stamp Announcements, 1958-65
- 29-33. Summerfield, Arthur, 1953-72
- 34-41. Speeches, 1958-73, n.d.
- 42-46. Washington, D.C., 1953-74

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**Series II**  
**National Association of Postmasters of the United States (NAPUS),**  
**1930-78**  
**Box 2**

Correspondence, clippings, reports and other items regarding Mr. Baker's membership in NAPUS, especially during his term as president of the organization from 1957 to 1958. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

**Box 2**

1. Committee Meetings, 1959-61
- 2-4. Committees Washington D.C., 1957-59
- 5-7. Conventions General, 1958-76
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- 18-20. Insurance Program, 1958-59
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- 22-24. Mixed Material, 1953-75
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- 27-29. National Conventions General, 1930-1977
30. Newsletters, 1957-78
- 31-32. Puskar, Charles, Reelection, 1961
33. Speeches, 1956-58
- 34-35. Transportation Committee, 1958-64
- 36-37. Yearly Reports, 1960-63

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**Series III**  
**Other Activities, 1923-1982**  
**Boxes 2-3**

Correspondence, reports, and other materials describing Mr. Baker's activities outside the postal service. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

**Box 2**

- 38. American Lung Association, 1973-78
- 39. Coast Guard, 1940-46
- 40-42. Greater Michigan Foundation, 1963-78
- 43. Health Issues, 1958-77
- 44-47. Lodges, 1963-1982

**Box 3**

- 1-4. Michigan Society for Mental Health, 1944-79
- 5. Orchard Lake, 1974-77
- 6. Other Activities, 1942-77
- 7. Private Correspondence, 1923-77, n.d.
- 8-13. Republican Party, 1940-69
- 14. Rotary Club, 1957-76
- 15. Salvation Army, 1974-82, n.d.
- 16. Short Stories, n.d.
- 17. Scrapbook

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