

Dec.22, 1990

Leon Baker brought his family from Philadelphia in 1947 to serve as Chief Engineer at George School. His predecessor, George Griscom had started to work for George School as a boy of eighteen and served the school for forty-eight years. He knew every underground pipe and wire but all blue-prints were in his head. Leon had the task of solving this underground puzzle as he met the problems inherent in an aging and growing plant. With skills acquired at Drexel University he made permanent drawings and records so necessary for proper maintenance.

While dormitory personnel and administrators were responsible for students in their care, Leon had the overall responsibility for the safety and comfort of the entire campus of some five hundred persons.

When Hallowell was completed he cleverly adapted the vacated Arts Department building of Westwood into a comfortable home for his family, locating him close to the Power House, the nerve center of the physical plant. Power and boiler failure was continually possible and Leon and his well-trained staff were equal to any emergency.

In time the Baker family joined Newtown Meeting and Leon served on Trustees Committee for several years, lending his knowledge and expertise to the upkeep of the Meeting House.

His contribution to the wider community was his being a leading figure in the establishment of the Neshaminy Valley Youth Center. He, together with other local citizens concerned with how few recreational opportunities Newtown offered its young people provided various programs for youngsters of all ages at the facility on State Street. . He served as chairman of the board for several years.

Leon retired from George School in 1975 and went to Florida to live, where he enjoyed the warmer climate. Poor health pursued him most of his retirement years and there is solace in the fact that he is now at peace. . His family and friends will always remember him as a loving and caring person.

(Nancy W. McFeely)