Graveside Masonic rites for James K. Baker, 81, of 116 N. Texas Ave. will be at 2:30 p.m. Friday in Fairfax, Okla.

The body will lie in state this afternoon and evening at Memorial Park Funeral Home in Amarillo, and Thursday and Friday morning at Chapman-Black Funeral Home in Cleveland, Okla.

He died at 3:10 p.m. Tuesday in Deaf Smith General Hospital after a heart attack on Jan. 25.


He moved to Hereford in the early 1940s and was owner of J. K. Potato Shed until about 12 years ago.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge of Norwood, Kan., Scottish Rites of Lubbock, and Knights Templer Lodge No. 48, Royal Arch, York Rites, Kiva Shrine Temple and Council No. 134, all of Amarillo.

He was a graduate of Pittsburg, Kan., State College and founder of Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity. He was founder and first president of the fraternity scholarship foundation 50 years ago.

He is survived by one sister, Barbara (Baker) Forgey of Leavenworth, Kan.; a sister-in-law, Willie Margaret (O’Dell) Venable of Pawnee, Okla.; and numerous nieces and nephews.
February 21, 1984

Dr. Ken Bateman, Alumni Director  
Alumni Center  
Pittsburg State University  
Pittsburg, KS 66762  

Re: James K. Baker, BS '24  
Dear Ken:

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of the obituary of James K. Baker.

The data on his affiliation with Sigma Tau Gamma is somewhat muddled. Baker was one of the 15 undergraduate founders of Sigma Tau Gamma at Pittsburg; he was the first initiate of the College's chapter and served as its first president. Baker and his wife, through a $35,000 contribution, established an undergraduate scholarship which carries their name, within the framework of the chapter's Prof. O.F. Grubbs Foundation.

For the record, Baker was a nephew of Barney Baker, an early faculty member who was also a donor of an award administered by the College.

Very truly yours,

Roy S. Bennett, Jr.  
RSB:kb
February 21, 1984

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