

**Don Baxter, Inc., Records of, 1930-1962**

**Series 55/28/6**

**Box 1**

**History**

The impetus behind the founding of the Don Baxter, Inc. pharmaceutical company was the experience of Dr. Donald E. Baxter in a Chinese village in 1924. Dr. Baxter, then a medical missionary, was shaken by his involvement in a devastating cholera epidemic in which many thousands of people died. For the most part, they succumbed from a massive loss of body fluids.

Dr. Baxter never forgot that experience, and later when he returned to his California home, he reflected on the baneful effect on patients that resulted when physicians tried to replace their lost fluids with injections of sugar and water solutions. Utilizing technology that he developed in a small facility in Glendale, California, Don Baxter introduced the world's first commercially safe glass containers for the delivery of sterile IV solutions in 1929.

Although Baxter revolutionized the medical world with the development of safe IV solutions, his company, Don Baxter, Inc., struggled, losing \$12,900 in 1932. That same year, the company's fortunes changed when the American Hospital Supply Corporation (AHSC), headed by Foster G. McGaw, became the sole distributor of Baxter's IV solutions. The relationship was immediately successful, and in 1933 Don Baxter, Inc. was able to show a profit for the first time.

By 1950, AHSC decided that it wanted control over Don Baxter's source of supply, and moved to take over the company. On August 1, 1950, AHSC acquired 53,280 shares of Don Baxter common stock, all of the company's outstanding shares, making Don Baxter Inc. a subsidiary of AHSC.

Additional information on the American Hospital Supply Corporation and the career of Foster G. McGaw may be found in Frederick D. Sturdivant's study, *Growth Through Service: The Story of American Hospital Supply Corporation* (Northwestern University Press, Evanston, 1970). Related materials concerning Foster McGaw and the American Hospital Supply Corporation have been arranged and described as separate series: The Foster G. McGaw Papers, Series 55/28/5, document his personal life and philanthropic activities; corporate records of AHSC, 1923-1963, make up Series 55/28/2; his personal papers relating to the American Hospital Supply Corporation--corporate records oriented more specifically to his personal concerns--form Series 55/28/3; and multi-volume scrapbooks presented by business associates to McGaw constitute Series 55/28/4.

**Description of the Series**

The Don Baxter, Inc. records consist of a small amount of correspondence and related administrative records, and two scrapbooks. Materials are organized in folders by topical headings, and chronologically within folders. One scrapbook has materials relating to the Army-Navy "E" Award for excellence in wartime production, and the second one relating to materials about the "vacoliter" and other Don Baxter products.

**Provenance:** The Don Baxter, Inc. records were separated from the American Hospital Supply

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Corporation records (Accession #88-52) as Accession #91-128.

**Restrictions**: None.

**Separations**: Some files concerning the American Hospital Supply Corporation were separated and incorporated into Series 55/28/3.

**Processor**: Alex Strauss, March 1998.

**Container List**

<b><u>Box</u></b>	<b><u>Folder</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Dates</u></b>
1	1	Articles of incorporation and bylaws	1930-1961
	2	Board of Directors, meeting minutes, memos	1944-59, n.d.
	3	Clippings	1955, n.d.
	4	Correspondence: general	1931-1962
	5	Correspondence: Mackay, McGregor, Reynolds, and Bennion	1948-62
	6	Correspondence, memos	1949-62
	7	Legal documents	1951
	8	Officers and director, Rosters of	1959, 1962
	9	Permit applications	1950, n.d.
	10	Publication, "Specialists in Safety"	n.d.
	11	Resolution of plant expansion program	1947
	12	Scrapbook, "E" award	1943-45
	13	Scrapbook, Vacoliter	1943
	14	Scrapbook, Vacoliter (continued)	1943
	15	Speech: Harry M. Berner	1954
	16	Stock certificates	1930-42, 1951
	17	Stockholders, List of	1947, 1950
	18	World trademark rights	1959