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Administered by the  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
Foundation

## **INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE AAGP/AAFP TAKEN FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE CENTER FOR THE HISTORY OF FAMILY MEDICINE**

- Other names considered for the Academy: American College of Physicians and Surgeons, American Academy of Medicine and Surgery.
- Hotel costs for the 1st Scientific Assembly in 1949 in Cincinnati ranged from \$3.00 for a single room at the Metropole to \$50.00 for a suite at the Netherland Plaza.
- Banquet attendees at the 1949 Assembly received a specially designed vase of Rookwood Pottery, bearing the Academy seal. These vases were sold for \$1.75 plus tax to individuals who did not attend the banquet. The Center has original vases in all three colors (light green, yellow, and maroon) in its collections.
- In 1950, the Academy Board of Directors approved the establishment of a Building Fund to provide a vehicle by which money could be contributed toward the building of a permanent headquarters building in Kansas City. This fund received donations from Academy members, chapters, and corporations, as well as transfers from various Academy funds. As part of this building fund, a drive for donations called "The Century Club" was started in 1952. A person became a member of the Century Club by donating \$100 or more toward the Building Fund. (The Center has an original Century Club button and Certificate in its collections.) The mortgage for the \$650,000 building, completed in 1956, was burned in 1961. The Academy occupied the building, located at Volker Boulevard and Brookside in Kansas City, until 1973.
- The August 1950 issue of *GP* (the journal which is now *American Family Physician*) contained a section entitled "Atomic Warfare." General practitioners in suburbs were warned that in the event of an atomic bomb it would be prudent for them to know how to operate a bulldozer (if not own one), since "most of the physicians in the city would be killed or incapacitated. It would then be up to the general practitioners in the suburbs and surrounding country to come in and help."
- A sign of how things change: The R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company hosted the evening entertainment which included country singers Red Foley and Minnie Pearl at the 1951 Assembly in San Francisco.

- When the AAGP held its Annual Scientific Assembly in San Francisco in 1951, 1959, and 1965, the city of San Francisco planted a floral display in Golden Gate Park which depicted the Academy's seal.
- Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin, attended the 1954 Scientific Assembly in Cleveland. Dr. U.R. Bryner, 6th President of the Academy, was a personal acquaintance of his. There is a print of a penicillin mold which was autographed by Sir Alexander and is now preserved in the Center's collections.
- A hotel strike which occurred on the third day of the 1969 Assembly in Philadelphia paralyzed the city and wreaked havoc for Assembly attendees.
- Efforts to change the name of the Academy from "American Academy of General Practice" to "American Academy of Family Physicians" took almost twenty years. It was first suggested in 1953. The first formal resolution was introduced to the Congress of Delegates in 1961, but was not adopted. After several more years of resolutions being introduced but failing, the vote to approve an amendment to change the name was finally triumphant in 1971 (with 3 negative votes).
- In 1972, Academy representatives presented a plaque to officials with the Claridge Hotel in Atlantic City to commemorate the birthplace of the Academy. The meeting to establish the organization took place on June 10, 1947. Interested physicians were attending the AMA Meeting in Atlantic City. This plaque is still visible at the Claridge Hotel.