



Baker Family Biography

In his own special way, Clarence Frank Baker changed the way that children with special needs are recognized and regarded by the Elk Grove community. Clarence Frank Baker was born in Elk Grove on August 20th, 1943 to his parents Jessie and Lester Baker. The youngest of three boys, Clarence Frank was born with Down Syndrome. Roughly twenty years younger than his siblings, Conrad and Royal Baker, he was raised by his parents from the Baker homestead located on Elk Grove Boulevard.

Clarence Frank's birth inspired Jessie to become an outspoken advocate for retarded children and their families. Intent on improving the level and quality of life services available to Clarence Frank and other "special children," Jessie helped to organize and later served as President of the Sacramento Association for Retarded Children. Through these and other efforts, Jessie acted as an informal adviser to scholarly, medical and political professionals until her death in 1989. Jessie's contributions were recognized in 1964 by the Elk Grove Unified School District with the dedication of Jessie Baker School - a school committed to providing a quality education to children with special needs.

The information within this document was created at the time of park dedication and may not be current.