



## Backer Park History

Henry Backer Sr. was a native of Rhein Pfalz, Bavaria, Germany, who came to this country with his family in 1886. They settled in the Franklin-Bruceville area and Henry helped his father farm 320 acres while attending school.

His father died when Henry was 17, and the teenager continued to farm while hiring out to other farmers to earn enough to buy his own land. He eventually acquired more than 1,900 acres of his own, on which he raised grain and operated a dairy farm.

Backer contributed to the community in many ways, including serving as clerk of the board of trustees of Carroll Elementary School for many years, inspector for the local voting precinct, member of the Franklin Lodge and Modern Woodmen of America, and being instrumental in helping save what is now Elk Grove Regional Park from foreclosure.

He married Louise Mueller and they were the parents of August, Henry, Freida (Fehring), Laura (Wasson), and Margaret (Jillson).

The Backer family has also been active in the community. Henry's uncle, Fred Backer was a farmer on property on Franklin Boulevard. His cousin, Lenny Backer had a successful career in baseball starting with the Sacramento Senators. Henry's son, Henry Jr. (known as "Heinie") also played for the Senators.

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