

Distinguished Alumni

Distinguished Alumnus Award - 1995

George Barker Barrett '45

You came to Cate in 1940 as a "Jimmie" at the invitation of Mr. Cate, your godfather. Mrs. Cate taught you the firm handshake, a look-them-in-the-eye directness, and a call-them-by-name approach to people, that have always been your style. You were an eager student—lauded for your love of learning—and graduated with distinction. You performed on the stage, rode in gymkhana, won the public speaking award and the poetry prize, and gave one of the senior addresses at your commencement in 1945. You wrote for *El Batidor*, were a senior prefect, played catcher on the baseball team and right wing on the soccer team, ran track, and helped coach the younger boys. You graduated from the Cate and Vosburg School and went on to Yale University from which you graduated in 1951, after intervening military service.

Your education and background enabled you to follow your dreams, to explore, to create, and to make a difference. Your love of planes and horses, and fascination with boats and mechanics, nurtured at Cate, played major roles in your life. After commissioned service in the Air Force during the Korean conflict, you worked for Lockheed, Lockheed International, Meteorology Research and Pacific Airmotive. You became a commercial pilot and flew many thousands of hours. You then managed TA Manufacturing Corporation and ran your own construction equipment companies. In between, you were president and CEO of the Los Angeles Turf Club, as Santa Anita was becoming the premier thoroughbred race track in the country. You and your bride even rode off the Mesa on horseback after being married in the Katherine Thayer Cate Memorial Chapel. You still ride the Santa Barbara back country with Rancheros Visitadores. You are an accomplished sailor, cruising the Mediterranean, Caribbean, and South Pacific and you skippered your sailboat across the Atlantic in 1989. You have maintained your love of the outdoors. Mr. Cate's "perfect little gentleman" has grown into a man who has time and enthusiasm for most everything.

However, your story is much more one of service and adherence to the school motto, Servons. You took Mr. Cate's words to heart; you planted victory gardens, picked walnuts for local famers, and learned to slaughter pigs to support the war effort during World War II. You served your country twice: as an infantryman in the occupation of Japan and later as an Air Force officer.

Your service to Cate has been long-standing and significant. You have been class agent, and served on Cate's Board of Trustees, the Cate 75th Anniversary Committee, and the Executive and Activities Committee of the Alumni Council. Your belief in volunteer work is legendary. You have encouraged Cate seniors and young graduates to become active and productive alumni, and most recently, you were the hands-on-driving-force that made Camp Cate a reality. As activities co-chair of the Alumni Council, you were active in phonathons, receptions, and Santa Barbara School reunions.

For your steadfast belief that Cate is a growing and evolving institution, made stronger every day by the efforts of its alumni volunteers, and for your countless efforts on behalf of the School, you George Barker Barrett, on the occasion of your 50th reunion at Cate, are the Distinguished Alumnus for 1995.