

About Sam Baker

As a youngster of 10, Sam Baker used to take the large green worms he found crawling on the dill plants in his families backyard and feed them until they entered the Pupa stage and watched them become beautiful butterflies. Later he told stories to his children that evolved into the book "The Silly Adventures of Petunia and Herman the Worm."

Sam Baker was born in Clarksdale, Mississippi, now the home of the blues, where he fell in love with nature and Scouting, becoming an Eagle Scout in 1939. After obtaining his engineering degree from Mississippi State, he joined the Marine Corps and was sent to the South Pacific during World War II. After the war, he became an Ensign in The Coast and Geodetic Survey (now The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA). His adventures included flying over the North Pole in 1951 and being stationed in Cape Canaveral Florida during the early days of the space program when America sent its first astronauts, starting with John Glen, into space.

It was during this time that his children, Sally and Mike asked him to tell them bedtime stories. He has always been quite the storyteller! Those nightly tales evolved into "The Silly Adventures of Petunia and Herman the Worm."

Sam's career has taken him across the country many times, and out of the country for precise surveying talks. His final move with NOAA was to Washington DC as the Director of the National Geodetic Survey where he created many new programs including an educational program for the staff and surveyors throughout the United States and their counterparts in Europe. Retiring with 30 years of service, Sam worked for Brookhaven National Laboratories, on a fusion project, retiring from that project to become the world's first GPS salesman. After retiring to Scottsdale AZ, Sam, at 95 is on his fifth career as an author of children's books.