

Overdentures

Still smiling after fourteen years

Ralph Carlson is a farmer, banker, and Senior Olympic Tennis champion. At 78 years old, you would insist he was years younger. Mr. Carlson inherited the family farm at eighteen. He ran that farm until just a few years ago when his son began to take over. Mr. Carlson knows the value and importance of a dollar. He is a partner in Fidelity National Bank in Marion. He knows it is critical to make good investments that will last and become more valuable with time. Fourteen years ago Mr. Ralph Carlson made an appointment at our office at the suggestion of a friend. He was missing some teeth and had difficulty chewing and speaking. He wanted to increase his quality

of life with teeth that were not removable. Dr. Jirik recommended root form implants with fixed bridgework. Mr. Carlson has been able to maintain his quality of life for fourteen years thanks to his decision to use Dr. Jirik for dental implants.

If you're missing one tooth or more, you may find that there are other things you miss. You may miss your natural smile and when was the last time you crunched into an apple or sank your teeth into a mouth-watering steak? Maybe you feel self-conscious about eating or speaking in public. Do you miss the comfort you once experienced in familiar situations at work, home or with friends? Naturally, the effects of tooth loss vary from person to person and depend on what has been lost. If you've lost a crown, you have lost the visible part of your tooth. If you have lost the root as well, you have lost the unseen part of your tooth and indeed the most important part. The root anchors the tooth to your jawbone, providing support for the crown. Without the root, the bone around the missing tooth will change and chewing will become more difficult with time. For those who have lost all of their teeth in an upper or lower jaw, the long-term problems are even greater. Because bone shrinks after tooth loss, nerves become exposed and dentures can compound problems leading to sore gum tissue and discomfort.

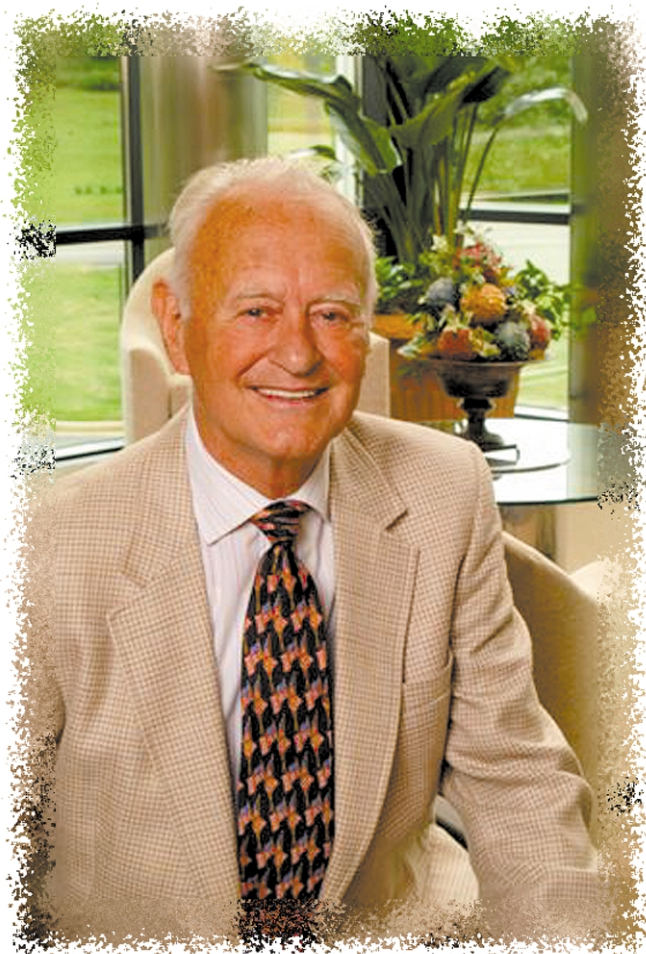
After choosing a dentist with experience in the placement and restoration of dental implants sit down and talk with him. As part of a thorough evaluation, your dentist will check the condition of your mouth, the supporting bone in your jaws and the way

your upper and lower teeth fit together. The dentist will gather additional information by taking dental x-rays or making models of your teeth. This information will help determine what type of dental implant is best for you. The right implant produces lasting results and decades of use.

There are two kinds of implants: endosteal and subperiosteal. An endosteal implant extends into the jawbone like tooth roots. A sufficient amount of bone is required to support this type of implant. The root form implant can support fixed or removable teeth. The subperiosteal implant can be used if there is not enough bone present to support an endosteal implant. The subperiosteal implant is a metal frame that fits on the jawbone beneath the gums. This implant can be placed and restored in as little as three visits. Artificial teeth are attached to the posts on either implant to complete your smile.

Many patients are told they are not a candidate for dental implants due to bone loss or inadequate bone structure. In many cases this is not true. Today's dentist with experience in implants can utilize bone-grafting techniques to regenerate bone and allow implant placement to replace missing teeth. Complications from bone loss, like loose dentures and partials, may diminish a person's ability to chew and speak. Bone spurs develop under the gums, which irritate tissue. The advantages of creating additional bone allow for improved implant predictability and results in a more natural outcome for the patient.

Today's technology has improved all aspects of our lives. People, like Mr. Carlson, are living longer and expect a better quality of life into their 80's and 90's. Dental implantology allows for the replacement of one or all teeth with attached crowns and bridges or removable overdentures. This area of dentistry not only replaces function, increasing overall ability to eat and speak, but can dramatically improve our physical and emotional well-being. "Investing in my teeth was money well spent. I've enjoyed the benefits for the last fourteen years."



Mr. Ralph Carlson of Marion, Arkansas

Samuel F. Jirik, D.D.S.

Dr. Samuel F. Jirik is an Arkansas native and long time Cabot resident. He and his wife, Kim, have two children, William, 10, and Annalise, 6. Dr. Jirik has been practicing dentistry since 1986 and has placed and restored more than 3,000 dental implants since 1989.

Dr. Jirik received a

bachelor of science degree in Health science from the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. His dental degree was obtained from the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences in 1986.

Dr. Jirik recently spoke after former Arkansas Razorback Football Coach, Lou Holtz, at a dental conference in Kansas City.

He holds positions such as:

- Diplomate, American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry
- Fellow, American Academy of Implant Dentistry
- President, American Academy of Implant Dentistry, Southern District
- Fellow, American Academy of General Dentistry
- Past President, Society for the Preservation of Oral Health
- American Dental Association
- Arkansas State Dental Association

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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