

THE L.A.C.C. STORY FIFTY YEARS IN CHIROPRACTIC

In the Fall of 1935 I spent several weeks in Denver, Colorado lecturing for my brother, Miles Martin, who was holding classes in the Brown Palace Hotel on Position Technic. As the work progressed, I realized more and more that I needed professional education. Having time on my hands, I began attending classes at the University of Natural Healing Arts, just a block down the street on Glenarm. I found that I liked very much what I heard there, and this was the beginning of my commitment to chiropractic.

I returned to Los Angeles in December, and investigated the Chiropractic Colleges here, and enrolled in the Southern California College of Chiropractic Physicians in September of 1936, and was licensed to practice in California in February 12 of 1939.

In 1942 the C.M.A. launched an initiative bill to put D.C.s out of business by requiring all health licentiates to take the same Basic Science Board. It was a good idea, but the bill was written in such a way that the examiners could know which profession the applicants for examination are expected to practice in. This made it possible to find ways to flunk all chiropractic applicants. This infuriated all D.C.s throughout the whole state, and a statewide organization was formed to fight the measure. Dr. Dan Nash was appointed State Campaign Director, and it soon became obvious that he was having difficulties.

Dr. Henry Higley and I met with him, and worked out a plan for him to leave Southern California to us while he covered the rest of the state. We had full support of all the schools of the state, and I put half a dozen telephones in my office, and had women students from the schools staff them and call the doctors of the South soliciting funds to support the campaign. As soon as a doctor would agree to make a donation, the girls would tell them that a student would be right out to their office to pick it up. We mailed out blazers of information about the importance of the campaign and news of progress. The support was wonderful, and after four weeks the campaign was red-hot. The election in November was a smashing victory for chiropractic, and we won by the greatest majority ever logged in a Primary Election up to that time in California. From that time on for over a decade chiropractic clout in Sacramento was a historic phenomena, and the following year the D.C.s on a wave of enthusiasm formed the new C.C.A. I was a charter member, and our 1922 Initiative Law was our banner of unity. Dr. Duane Smith was the first president of the C.C.A.

About a year later when Dr. Sam Wiggins was C.C.A. president, he suggested to me, as L.A. Metropolitan Society president, to revive the L.A. County Chiropractic Society, which had been suspended due to the war. This I did, and it has coordinated County activities ever since.

It was about the same time that Dr. Lyle Holland, president of the So. College of Chiropractic Physicians, was having some coronary problems, and asked me to take over his position as president of the college. I agreed to do so, and the next day I found out why Dr. Holland was not feeling well when the sheriff came to my office to close the school for outstanding debts. I was, to say the least, surprised, but I paid the \$1,000 required, and also had to assure the students that they need not worry, that they would be graduated and licensed as promised. The school survived and prospered.

It was at about the time of the end of World War II that the LA Metropolitan District of the C.C.A. had the Initiation Banquet, and Dr. John J. Nugent, Director of Education for the National Chiropractic Association, was present, and announced to the doctors present that he had come to California to

amalgamate the Chiropractic Colleges of the state into one professionally owned non-profit college. I had a long talk with him after the meeting, and assured him that, as president of the Southern California College and of the Metropolitan District, he could count on my full cooperation.

Dr. Nugent immediately began negotiations with Dr. Wilma Churchill, owner of L.A.C.C., and it soon developed that she refused to sell to the So. California College, so we began setting up a new holding non-profit corporation, the California Chiropractic Educational Foundation. During the latter half of 1946 I spent a great deal of time with attorney C.P. Von Herzen and Dr. Nugent putting this corporation into functioning condition with myself as chairman of the new Board of Regents. As we went into the new year of 1947 all was ready, and funds for the purchase had been raised from the profession through the C.R.F. (Chiropractic Research Foundation), and we put \$25,000 into escrow for a total purchase price of \$225,000 for L.A.C.C. The escrow closed on May 7, 1947 after a stormy session with Dr. Churchill the day before, as she now had misgivings about selling her school which had nearly 1,000 students enrolled.

She refused to negotiate with Dr. Nugent, knowing he was a very persuasive negotiator. He assured her that this was no problem, that I, Dr. Martin, Dr. John Koer, and Dr. Sidney Milbank would meet with her in his place. This we did, and after a couple of stormy hours we came out with the school, and the next day took possession. It has operated ever since under the ownership of the California Chiropractic Educational Foundation.

The school was moved to 920 E Broadway in Glendale in 1950, which was the former Harrower Laboratory property. I had put in a tremendous amount of effort to secure non-profit status for the Foundation and the school, and as elected President of the L.A.C.C., I no longer had a vote on the Board of Regents of the Foundation. When the regents agreed in the purchase of the property, to pay Cecil DeMille's taxes, I resigned as president in protest. I was immediately thereafter appointed to the Committee on Accreditation of the Council on Chiropractic Education of the National Chiropractic Association, in which capacity I served for nine years until 1960. This position involved meeting twice a year with the Council on Education, and evaluating the schools we had visited, and providing accreditation recognition as our standards were met.

The years from 1951 to 1962 were "lean years," but high recognition is due Dr. George Haynes and his capable and loyal faculty for not only survival of L.A.C.C., but also for progress in both education and research. I kept pretty closely in touch during those years with both Dr. Haynes and the faculty. When, in 1962 Dr. Haynes requested me to activate the Alumni for a fund raising campaign, I called Dr. Joseph Berg, Dr. Fred Bullard, and Dr. Wayne Brown to join me in a Capital Funds Committee. In 1960 I had acted as chairman of a similar committee for the Southern California and Southwest of the Congregational Church Conference. The territory included southern California, southern Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and El Paso, Texas. The goal was to raise \$2,000,000., and this was 80% achieved by 1960 due largely to the expertise of Richard Augustine, a professional fund raiser for churches. Our L.A.C.C. 1,100 mile long state of California was larger than the usual church parish, but we managed to produce enough funds to pay off the mortgage to Cecil B. DeMille, and thereby eliminate the unfortunate burden of the DeMille taxes on the school property, and thereafter enjoy the benefits of our tax-free status. This fact gave Dr. Haynes more freedom to pursue his objective as president of the A.C.A. Council on Chiropractic Education, of Federal Accreditation of the Council. This was achieved in 1974, and it was a colossal achievement and a great personal victory for Dr. Haynes. Without his personal dedication and expertise it may not have come about.

In 1963 when the A.C.A. delegate for Southern California vacated his position, and the N.C.A. requested candidates for a special election, I ran for the position and won. At this time there was a lot

of talk about amalgamation of the “straight” I.C.A. and the N.C.A. “liberal” into one new organization, the A.C.A. Delegates Dr. Asa Brown in Virginia and Dr. Ruth Mandell in Maryland got wind of the fact that it was a sell-out to the I.C.A., and contacted me by phone. As soon as this information was confirmed I contacted all the Western states delegates by phone, and we set up a meeting in Reno, Nevada, the most central point for all of us. Flying to Reno I jotted down notes for an agenda for the meeting. As soon as we all got together at the designated hotel in the evening, we set to work on the agenda, and continued in session all night, and broke up at 6:30 the next morning. We met in Denver a few days later with nearly all the delegates, and hammered out strategy for the House of Delegates' official meeting the next morning.

When the House of Delegates meeting convened, a motion was made and passed to go into a session of a Committee of the Whole. This was done, and the House of Delegates remained in the Committee of the Whole for nearly four days while we completely rewrote the new by-laws which had been prepared by the I.C.A.-N.C.A. negotiators. During this time, when we were not in official meetings, we kept all the delegates in closed caucus sessions. As a result, the actions of the Committee of the Whole were passed officially by a resounding majority, and the sell-out had been thwarted. I served in the House of Delegates from before the 1964 Denver Convention until I was elected in 1968 to the A.C.A. Board of Governors for the 7th District, composed of California, Nevada, and Hawaii. During my term of services with the N.C.A./A.C.A. I also served concurrently as a trustee of the F.C.E.R. (Foundation for Chiropractic Education and Research), which is the funding arm of the A.C.A. for all activities of the A.C.A. requiring special funding support.

As I completed my services with the American Chiropractic Association in 1972, I was invited to return to L.A.C.C. as chairman of the Board of Regents of the California Chiropractic Educational Foundation, where I served until February of 1977, when the Board was taken over by a combination of “straights” and “orthopedists” with restrictive concepts of chiropractic, including “straight” philosophy and orthopedics. I could not feel at home in that environment, especially since it had permeated across the country and in the A.C.A.

The mainstream in chiropractic today, leaders and all, have been seduced by the hucksters, and adhere to a cowardly restrictive concept of practice as a technic rather than an alternate science of healing of the entire human body and responsibility in both diagnoses and therapeutics. The pioneer founders of L.A.C.C. were all liberal exponents of a broad scope of practice provided in the original 1922 Initiative Chiropractic Law dedicated to utilizing every facet provided within the law. I have sincerely followed in their footsteps, encouraging all L.A.C.C. graduates in practicing within the law, including the Laura Floreases.

I sold my office in 1982 and tried to retire to write two books, “Dynamics of Correction of Abnormal Functions” and the “Practice of Correction of Abnormal Functions.” Since 1970 Dr. Wm. A. Nelson and I have taught what is contained in those books.

My message is that I have found such great potentials in chiropractic through the principles of D.D. Palmer, and updated and articulated by T.J. Bennett. Results are even more profound, scientific, and beneficial, than even D.D. Palmer had foreseen.

As rapidly as these advanced concepts can be introduced throughout the profession, chiropractic will burst from its present shell of self-restrictive and reactionary practices, to provide the public with a measure of public service never before realized. People want honest health services at reasonable prices, and that is what they will get from doctors practicing chiropractic science.

To be read without alteration or deletion at L.A.C.C. Alumni meeting in October, 1986.

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