

# Chronology of Ernest J. Smith, D.C. and the Metropolitan College of Chiropractic in Cleveland, Ohio

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Joseph C. Keating, Jr., Ph.D.  
1350 W. Lambert Road #110, La Habra CA 90631 USA  
(562) 690-6499; e-mail: JCKeating@aol.com

## Color Code:

Red & Magenta: questionable or uncertain information

Green: to be used?

## CHRONOLOGY

1923 (Feb 9): **BJ Palmer**, Sec'y of **UCA**, writes on stationery of **UCA** to urge contribution to the **UCA Jail Fund** for DCs in Ohio; fund will pay DCs \$100/month while in jail (Cleveland papers, CCC/KC); but see opinion reprinted from the **UCC Bulletin** of May, 1924 in the **Bulletin of the ACA** [1924 (July); 1(2):8] which suggests that "**The go-to-jail policy is a failure**"

1923 (Apr 3): printed letter (**intended for wide circulation?**) to **BJ Palmer** from Ben L Miles DC, Director of Publicity of the **Ohio Branch of the UCA**; letterhead indicates **CE Schillig** DC is trustee and financial sec'y; letter discusses bitter struggle against medical efforts to incarcerate DCs throughout OH; notes recent bitter campaign in California (Cleveland papers, CCC/KC)

1925 (Apr/May): **Bulletin of the ACA** [2(3-4)] notes:  
-**photo** of Paul H Strand DC, **ACA** Director (inside front cover)  
-**Officers of the ACA, 1924-25 include:** (inside front cover)  
-Paul H **Strand** DC, Director, Youngstown OH

1928 (Jan): **Bulletin of the ACA** [5(1)] notes:  
-**CE Schillig** DC of Willard OH, president of the **UCA**, writes to the **Bulletin**: "On behalf of the committee and all Ohio chiropractors we extend our sincere appreciation for the co-operation given us to make the referendum campaign in Ohio a success." (p. 7)  
-**FR Margetts** LLB, DC's Ohio itinerary in recent legislative campaign and speaking tour, Oct 17 thru Nov 7 (p. 15)  
-A **Budden** DC, dean of the **National College of Chiropractic** notes approval of **ACA's** new "Council of Deans," but will not be able to attend **ACA's** Yellowstone Park convention (p. 28)  
-**JR Drain** DC, dean of the **Texas Chiropractic College** notes approval of **ACA's** new "Association of Chiropractic Schools", and will attend **ACA's** Yellowstone Park convention if possible (p. 28)  
-**Dr. S Gershanek**, dean of the **American School of Chiropractic** in NYC (**Benedict Lust**, president), notes approval of **ACA's** new "Counsellors of Deans"; was dean at **NY School of Chiropractic**, then dean of **Metropolitan Institute of Chiropractic**, no dean of the **American School of Naturopathy** and the **American School of Chiropractic** (p. 28)  
-WH Jobe, Dean of **Akron College of Chiropractic**, approves of **ACA's** educational initiatives (p. 28)

1929 (Apr 1): **Bulletin of the ACA** [6(2)] notes:  
-"Last Minute Legislative News: (p. 4)  
Ohio lost its Chiropractic bill by an unfavorable vote in the house. A petition to the people is being again considered.

1929 (June 1): **Bulletin of the ACA** [6(3)] notes:  
-(p. 3):

*Eight Now Affiliated*

Ohio becomes one more link in a strong chain, all welded together as the nucleus for the strongest organization the Chiropractic profession has ever known. This links the **PCA of California**, the CCA of Colorado, the MCA of Montana, the NYSCS of New York, the OSCS of Ohio, the OCS of Oregon, the NDCA of North Dakota, the IUCS of Iowa and the ACA all into one gigantic organization of the profession. Other state affiliations will be announced at an early date.

1929 (Aug 1): **Bulletin of the ACA** [6(4)] notes:  
-Cincinnati selected for 1930 **ACA** convention (p. 5)

1930 (Apr 1): **Bulletin of the ACA** [7(2)] notes:  
-Hotel Sinton will be headquarters for **ACA's** convention in Cincinnati on July 14-18, 1930 (cover, p. 1)  
-14 state associations now affiliated with **ACA**, including: (inside front cover); (**?Iowa association has apparently withdrawn affiliation?**)  
-Ohio State Chiropractic Society  
-**officers of the ACA include:** (inside front cover)  
-Paul H Strand DC of Youngstown OH, Chairman, Board of Directors

1932 (Sept 29): Dr. **Ernest J Smith**, President of the **Metropolitan Chiropractic College, Inc.**, 3400 Euclid Ave, Cleveland OH (Registrar is Dr. Mary C. Hibbard) writes to CS at 3724 Troost Ave, KC re: his inability to attend upcoming **NCA/ICC** convention; suggests that **NCA** and **ICC** should merge so as to avoid "reduplication of effort and expense", for example, **ICC** should handle school matters and **NCA** should handle "all Chiropractic field problems" at the conventions; inquires of CS "what stand should schools take in regard to the pressure brought to bear in regard to **radionics?**" (Cleveland papers-CCC/KC)

circa 1934-36: Budden (1951) recalls that:

That the private ownership of the institutions in a measure militated against a generous and wholesale upsurge to finance this idea is true and must be taken into account in appraising the situation prevailing at that time. Only an optimist, however, and one quite unfamiliar with the economics of chiropractic schools and colleges would suggest that, by advancing scholastic requirements, more money could be made. The facts being quite the contrary, as we have intimated, the "school men" as a group hesitated. Some suggested that while the idea was a good one, the time was not yet. Nevertheless, Dr. **E.J. Smith**, young graduate of the **National College** and of Western Reserve University in 1921, gave the first real impetus toward what is now so far developed by establishing a four- year school in Cleveland, Ohio. The **Metropolitan College of Chiropractic** opened its doors to the **first four-year** students and the new era had begun. Shortly after this pioneer effort, the **National College** proclaimed that it would issue certificates of graduation "cum laude" to those who successfully negotiated its thirty-two months course. The writer of this article initiated this action and signed as "Dean" the first diplomas. It should be stated here, and with no sense of derogation of those who took a leading part in this advance, in the case of the **N.C.C.** certainly, the fact that a medical board of

examiners held sway over chiropractic activities in Illinois, and to some extent in Ohio, tended powerfully to fertilize the soil in which the actual four-year course took root.

Almost simultaneously with these events, the new idea appeared in Colorado. The late **Homer Beatty**, head of the college in Denver and author of the well-known text, "Anatomical Adjustive Technique," now began to raise his voice calling for thirty-six months training. A vigorous advocate of any cause he espoused, the impact of his personality and propaganda soon began to make itself felt. Dr. **Beatty**, however, was not alone. Associated with him in this crusade were several of the teachers of the school, notably Dr. Niel Bishop, as well as a number of men "in the field." Behind them all, however, and adding powerfully to the growth of the movement, loomed the figure of **Professor Jones, dean emeritus of Northwestern University, School of Psychology, and doctor of chiropractic of National College.**

Now another voice from the far west was added to the growing debate. The pages of the *National Journal* began to reflect the views of **C.O. Watkins** of Montana. Logical, incisive persistent "C.O." hammered away at the bulwarks of the short-course school of thought. There can be no doubt that his rapid rise to a leading place in the councils of the **NCA** brought powerful aid and comfort to the four-year idea.

It was, however, to Dr. **R.D. Ketchum**, of Bend, Oregon, that credit must go for giving final impulse toward definite action by the **NCA**. The doctor was at that time state delegate for Oregon, and was generally admitted to be one of the most influential and respected members of the then **House of Counselors**. It was as such that he issued his call to arms. Said he at the close of a short but powerful exhortation, "We have talked a lot about the four-year course, let us get busy and do something about it."

Some time previous to this event, however, a committee appointed by the **NCA** had been at work attempting to evaluate the status of the schools. The outline of an accreditation system already had emerged. The groundwork was being laid for what was to come. The challenge from the West then was caught up and echoed by this committee and the wheels began to turn. At this point there strode into the forefront of the picture a stalwart figure. Already a leading member of the committee, he now took a commanding position. From that moment on, the incisive logic, the mordant sarcasm, the merciless dialectic, coupled with a calm, rock-like resistance to criticism and opposition that is J.J. Nugent, served as a rallying point in the conflict which surged and eddied around the four-year idea.

Powerful aid now also came from members of the Executive Committee. The secretary, Dr. **L.M. Rogers**, as an executive, long a silent sympathizer, became effectively articulate on the affirmative side. Drs. Gordon M. **Goodfellow**, of California, Downs, of Montana, Harriman, of North Dakota; men from Iowa, from Illinois, from Minnesota, from Wisconsin, stood up to be counted for the new day in education. Thus ended phase one. (Budden, 1951).

1935 (Aug): Homer G. **Beatty** DC, president of the **NCA** "Schools Council" develops standards for chiropractic colleges, and presents these at the **NCA's** convention in LA at the Roosevelt Hotel:

...was adopted in principle, specific details and minor changes to be considered later. The final draft by mutual consent to be approved by a joint Committee of State Examining Boards and School heads.

The joint committee is composed as follows: Drs. **HG Beatty**, **A. Budden** and **Jas. Drain** for the Schools and Drs. **WF Crider** of Maryland, **CO Hunt** of California and **FO Logic** of Michigan for the State Boards. The recommendations as to inclusions, rejections and modifications were incorporated.

Visits were made to Chicago and Indianapolis, following the convention, consulting Drs. **Schulze**, Bader and Golden of the **National**, and Drs. **Vedder**, **Firth** and associates of the **Lincoln**, thus ironing out more of the scales' faults, and obtaining the general reaction after these groups had time to study copies of the scale. It has not been heretofore mentioned that similar tactics were practiced on the journey to the meeting. **Universal** of Pittsburgh and **Metropolitan** of Cleveland were given copies and they forwarded their approval, in principle, of the proposal. Dr. **BJ Palmer** was also contacted with similar intent. However, the astute qualities usually ascribed to him were evidently lacking upon this occasion as he was unwilling to even listen 'to anything that smacked of **NCA**' - in spite of repeated declarations that the **Council of State Examining Boards** on the contrary was separate and distinct from any and all other organizations....

The revised draft was completed and forwarded to members of the joint committee. Other incorporations and modifications were listed. However, it was not possible to incorporate all suggestions.

It is interesting to note that the schools' opinions were still sharply defined and divergent - while the State Boards were unanimously in favor of higher standards.

A synopsis of the Joint Committee's findings is as follows:

1. - **It will be necessary to rate schools teaching the orthodox methods and those teaching the more liberal methods in separate categories as regards list of class hours and equipment.**

2. - All authorities agree, two thousand sixty-minute hours is the maximum that can be taught in three years of six months. This basis, although somewhat less intent, is used in compiling the scale and setting it as regards to curriculum.

3. - It must be comparable with other professions' standards.

4. - The Schools being commercial in character (with very few exceptions) it is necessary to give due consideration to financial stability of the Institutions.

5. - In accordance with the tendency of all state laws, wherever amended, the trend being upward from the three years of six months level, it became obvious the scale minimum for grade A probationary rating must be twenty-four months for the fundamental course and four years of eight months for the liberal course.

6. - In order that all schools may have an opportunity to meet the final requirements of fundamental (three years of nine months) and the liberal (four years of nine), one calendar year - until Jan 1, 1937, is given for probationary ratings of all Chiropractic Schools and colleges.

7. - The scale must be so constructed as to include from the minimum of set requirements to the maximum as taught by an Chiropractic school of today.

The Council of State Boards will not enter into a discussion of the definition of chiropractic. Suffice it to say that each type of thought is recognized and given opportunities to develop. We, therefore, have divided the schools into two groups - the Basic or Fundamental Schools (teaching only Chiropractic) and the Liberal or Physical Therapy Schools (teaching Chiropractic and Physical Therapy)... (Crider, 1936)

1935 (Dec): **Chiro J (NCA)** [4(12)] notes:

-advertisement for "The Affiliated Universities of Natural Healing," which include **WSSC, Metropolitan Chiropractic College** in Cleveland OH, **University of the Healing Arts** in Hartford CT and **University of Natural healing Arts** in Denver:

We wish to encourage the profession in efforts toward reasonable, higher and broader standards; and wish to help blaze the way to greater progress and development in conformity with the great merits of Chiropractic.

A regular standard, four years of nine months each, course in Chiropractic and allied subjects is warranted by our profession and offered by the following school members of this affiliation: (Membership open to qualifying schools) [schools listed above] (p. 41)



Metropolitan College of Chiropractic, 3400 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, circa 1938

**Phone call from Fritz F. Smith MD**, son of Ernest J. Smith, DC, on 7/21/92; Dr. Smith will be on vacation until October...he will call me...he has photos of Dr. EJ Smith, who died in November, 1991, but worked as chiropractor up until a few days before his death; **home address?** is 2621 Willowbrook Lane #104, Aptos CA 95003 (408-462-2063); office address is 135 Monte Vista Ave, Watsonville CA 95076 (408-724-1164); Mary Margaret is Trustee of Ernest J Smith estate

#### Articles by E.J. Smith DC

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- Smith EJ. Industrial health. *National Chiropractic Journal* 1943 (Mar); 12(3): 19-??
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- Smith EJ. Industrial health. *National Chiropractic Journal* 1943 (May); 12(5): 15-??
- Smith EJ. Industrial health. *National Chiropractic Journal* 1943 (July); 12(7): 10-??
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- Budden WA. An analysis of recent chiropractic history and its meaning. *Journal of the National Chiropractic Association* 1951 (June); 21(6): 9-10
- Dzaman F et al. (Eds.): *Who's who in chiropractic*. 1980, Second Edition. Who's Who in Chiropractic International Publishing Co., Littleton CO:
- "SMITH, ERNEST J., pioneer, D.C., A.B., N.D., educator; married Margaret Smith; 3 children; A.B. degree, **Western Reserve University**, Cleveland OH (1920); Doctor of Chiropractic degree, **National College of Chiropractic**, Chicago (1922); N.D. degree, **Metropolitan College of Chiropractic**, Cleveland, Ohio; private practice (1923-1976) retired March 1, 1976; licensed in Ohio by medical board (1923), in California and Florida; dean of **Metropolitan College of Chiropractic** (1925-50), **MCC** president; Monterey Bay Chiropractic Society; MCBS Doctor of the Year" (pp. 223-4)



Metropolitan College of Chiropractic, 3400 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, circa 1938