

Chronology of C.R. Johnston, D.C. (and blindness)

word count: 4,985

filename: Johnston/CHRONO 5/31/96

Joseph C. Keating, Jr., Ph.D.
1350 W. Lambert Rd., Apt. 110, La Habra CA 90631 USA
(562) 690-6499; E-mail: JCKeating@aol.com
Messages at LACC: (562) 947-8755, ext. 633

Color Code:
Red & Magenta: questionable or uncertain information
Green: for emphasis

Some unexplored early mentions of C.R. Johnston, D.C. in the Fountain Head News

| Year | Month & Day | A.C. | Volume | Issue | Pages |
|------|-------------|------|--------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 1917 | Aug 25 | 22 | 6 | 50 | CR Johnston/Peekskill (p 5) |
| 1917 | Sept 8 | 22 | 6 | 51-2 | CR Johnston/Peekskill (pp 21-22) |
| 1918 | Dec 7 | 24 | 8 | 12-13 | CR Johnston and disabilities (p 10) |
| 1921 | Apr 23 | 26 | 10 | 32 | CR Johnston/Peekskill (p 13) |

1910 (June): **The Chiropractor** [6(6)]:
-more letters from Charles A. **Cale** (pp. 44-6)
Dr. **M.P. Brown**, Editor *Chiropractor*

Dear Doctor: Enclosed please find a statement which I am using as part of a circular. It is creating a good deal of interest. Respectfully,
DR. CHARLES A. CALE

We, the undersigned students of the University of Southern California, have spent some time making an impartial investigation of the curative value of Chiropractic. We called personally upon a number of persons who have been adjusted by Dr. **Cale**, and the following is a brief report of some of those whom we interviewed."

We first called upon Miss S., on Grand Avenue. We found her a very enthusiastic believer in the Chiropractic system. She declares that she owes her life to Chiropractic. She also had a personal knowledge of a number of others who had been helped by the same method.

We next interviewed Mrs. N., on West 36th Place, and found her very hearty in her praises of Chiropractic.

One of the most remarkable cases investigated was that of Mrs. T., on Trenton Street. She had been almost blind for a number of weeks and was given up by one of the best eye specialists in Los Angeles. At that time she could hardly read the painted signs on the street cars. After taking Chiropractic for about six weeks she gradually began to improve and now, after four months, she can read large type fairly well and her general health is much improved. (Note: Since the above was written Mrs. T. has so far improved that she can now read fine print quite readily. - Dr. **Cale**)...

1918 (Nov 23): **Fountain Head News** [A.C. 24] [8(11)]:
-unattributed reprint of article re C.R. **Johnston** (p. 3):
CHIROPRACTIC AND THE BLIND

On September 1, 1917, a man enrolled at The Palmer School of Chiropractic, who was an exception among our students. Prior to his becoming interested in the profession of Chiropractic, this gentleman had been engaged in the sale of pianos and musical instruments, having conducted a business of this kind very successfully for a number of years.

Realizing at an early age that owing to his handicap, it would be necessary for him to secure the best preparation for life available to one in his class, in addition to his earlier education, he completed a course of training for the blind.

Our first acquaintance with this gentleman was thru correspondence, the letters of which were neatly typewritten, for in addition to his other accomplishments, he had learned the keyboard of the typewriter as our touch system stenographers are taught.

Being of a sunny disposition and with never a pessimistic thought, he fast became a favorite among our students. On account

of an endless fund of humor and a wide experience in business life, he was a pleasing entertainer and one whose company was much sought. In addition to this, he was a thorough student and the technicalities of a Chiropractic course held no terrors for him. Being blind his keen sense of touch was an asset in palpation. His palpation after having learned the technic of this work, was much sought out by other students and at time of his graduation, might be termed as perfect. His skill in adjusting was equal to that of students who could see.

He has hanging on the walls in his office today the result of his examinations, which of necessity were given orally showing that these were passed very creditably and that he was fully entitled to his diploma and degree D.C. (Doctor of Chiropractic). Without any particular acquaintances, who were interested in his welfare, C.R. **Johnston** opened an office in the Flat Iron Bldg., Peekskill, N.Y., where now he, after but six weeks in this location, is giving between twenty and thirty adjustments a day. In a personal letter he places accent on the fact that the results are what give the most pleasure for his interest does not cease with the number of adjustments he can give. He feels his responsibility to the patient and is anxious about results for in his own words, "This is the Glory of Going On."

The experience of Mr. Johnston would indicate that Chiropractic opens a new field for men and women with sightless eyes. It is not our intention to overestimate this opportunity for those thus afflicted, but where one shows attitude for this work, Chiropractors can recommend it to them as a means of entering professional life.

1920 (Feb): **The Messenger of the NYS Chiropractic Society** [3(5)]:
-**photo** and essay re: Charles R. **Johnston** DC of Peekskill (p. 3):

In the Peekskill Evening News of September 20, 1919, appeared an article by Ella Housefield Lowe, entitled "The Woman of It" which would interest any chiropractor. We will not give away the "point" of the story here, contenting ourselves with the statement that the "hero" was Dr. C.R. **Johnston**, of Peekskill, that it is possible that you may be able to get a copy of the story from him, or from the News.

The subject of this sketch made a few remarks at the 1919 banquet closing the convention for that year, and made a distinct impression. He is well known to many chiropractors in this state, and deserves to be as well known to all.

Dr. **Johnston** is blind. Yet this fact does not call for any particular remarks. Many sightless men and women have made conspicuous successes in almost every walk of life, and there is little, if any justification in dwelling on this affliction, sad as it is.

C.R. **Johnston** is not the only blind chiropractor practicing successfully in this state. But he has the distinction of being the

first one to be graduated from the P.S.C. and opening the way for a dozen or more others who have since matriculated there.

Perhaps the first deep impression you will have upon meeting Dr. **Johnston** will be his unassumed cheerfulness. He thinks nothing of it himself. It is simply just one of his admirable qualities and is as much a part of him as his gentle manner.

But he is also possessed of unusual intelligence, thoroughness and determination. You cannot long know him without realizing his resourcefulness. Would it be paradoxical to say that he is the kind that would have made his mark without any affliction!

Charles **Johnston** was born in Pioche, Nevada, how many years ago you will be able to guess from the accompanying faithful protrait. Leaving home at the age of thirteen, he first learned the printing business and then the hotel business, in both of which he was successful.

Following a severe fall, his eyes failed and then came the usual search for restoration through doctors and specialists, the best in the land, but without avail. Undaunted, he educated himself again in the blind system, in reading, writing, shorthand, typewriting, and piano tuning.

He took up the piano business seriously, and soon convinced people that he could do anything with a piano that a man with eyes could do, and finally built up a business into a successful and profitable retail piano store owned by himself.

In chiropractic, Dr. **Johnston** maintains a six-room suite and, in addition to taking care of a large practice, keeps all his own records, writes all his own letters and takes care of himself and his business affairs with a precision and thoroughness that might well be emulated by most people who can see.

He has "seen" his senator and assemblyman and they will vote right. He has also had successful influence with legislators from other districts than his own. He is a consistent and persistent booster for legislation for this organization, and for this paper, through which you may hear from him further.

But it is quite impossible to do justice to him in these few sticks of type. To appreciate him you must know him and we recommend that you embrace the earliest opportunity to make his acquaintance.

1920 (Oct 16): *Fountain Head News* [A.C. 26] [10(5)]:

-letter to BJ from C.R. **Johnston** DC (p. 5):

Peekskill, N.Y., Sept. 18th, 1920

Dear BJ:

As you no doubt know, I have returned from my trip, and while home I found out one of my old pals is now editor of the Los Angeles Herald. California's fight for Chiropractic is mine, so I am writing Ned Collins, asking him to give our Fight to the People. Perhaps his position will not allow him to come out openly for us, but if he cannot help us, I am asking that he won't do anything to harm us.

I am enclosing copy of my letter to him, which if you like to show or read to California Alumni, do so. If you can suggest anything for me to do thru Mr. Collins, SHOOT. Should I receive a reply, I will forward to you.

With all good wishes to all, believe me,
Boosting THE PSC,

C.R. Johnston

Peekskill, N.Y., Sept. 18, 1920

Mr. Ned Collins, Editor
Los Angeles Herald
Los Angeles, Calif.
Dear Friend Ned:

As the enclosed clipping will show you, I have just returned from the west. While there, looking up the old boys of company of which you were a member, I asked for you and was told where you are now located.

As the clipping and my letter head will tell the story, I am writing in the hope you may, thru your paper, help our cause.

California pay \$25,000, is the heading of the item, Aug. 13th, L.A. Record. I wish you to look up if you have not seen same. This is but an instance where Chiropractic pays because Chiropractic is not recognized.

Ned, you are protecting the Public Health by advocating the yes vote on your ballot this fall. By a law in your state, the Public is assured that only qualified chiropractors can practice. If Chiropractic adjustments make you healthy and keep you so, why should some dictate you, saying you must go to another. Is that just?

I have been blind 12 years now, the best medical specialists in the country let me get from bad to worse and told me I could not live but a few years longer, this was in 1908. In 1912 I lost the use of my left arm, 4 years M.D.'s tried to restore. Nothing doing. Became acquainted with chiropractor, soon saw improvements and sold out my music business and studied Chiropractic. **I regained the use of my arm and sight is slowly coming back.** I have been practicing here two years and can send you sworn statements from people who have regained their sight, hearing, use of arms and limbs. There in particular coming after all other methods had failed. Any competent chiropractor is doing the same all over the country; it's the natural law of health and same people should have the right to choose their own way of doctoring, without interference from the medical men.

Here, they are absolutely blind, with the Science of Chiropractic taking the failures of the School of Medicine and bringing them back to health.

Chiropractors are in the field for Humanity's sake and not the dollars; if we cannot help patients, we tell them so and advise accordingly.

Now listen, Ned, I want to ask this favor for the people of California. Perhaps your position will not allow you to come out strong for Chiropractic, but do all you can for the cause. Please do not publish things that will hurt, ask them to vote YES. Surely some of their friends have been helped; if not themselves, the passage of the law will not compel anyone to take adjustments, but give those who want them to have same without hindrance or fear of their Doctor being thrown into jail, because he helped some poor sufferer.

If you want some good inside talks, call up Parsons and Parsons or Ben Bolt, both A-1 chiropractors from the same school I'm from. Mention my name to them and show the articles; they will help you in any way you need.

Trusting you will favor me in this, with all good wishes for your success, believe me,

Very truly,

C.R. Johnston, D.C.

1920 (Dec 11): *Fountain Head News* [A.C. 26] [10(13)]:

-letter to BJ from C.R. **Johnston** DC (p. 5):

Peekskill, N.Y., Oct. 16, 1920

Dear B.J.:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of the oil picture of yourself, sent me as an appreciation of a student sent for September class. It sure is nice. Now I must have one of the same kind with a different face, so why not have your 98% (Mabel) done up and give her's out next year? Any man who will advertise as you did, to sell his wife's anatomy for \$10.00, surely could afford to give her picture away for a new student. Think it over and I'll see you at the 1921 Lyceum.

With all good wishes, believe me,

Yours for greater success,

C.R. Johnston, D.C.

1921 (Apr 16): *Fountain Head News* [A.C. 26] [10(31)]:

-letter to BJ from C.R. **Johnston** DC (pp. 17-8):

Peekskill, N.Y., Feb. 20, 1921

Dr. B.J. Palmer, Davenport, Iowa

Dear B.J.:

Yours regarding the jail situation in California received yesterday, and am very glad to reply and enclose you \$15.00 for the three chiropractors you say are now serving time.

I have already written each a personal letter forwarding them "Sleeping Sickness" clippings. I also sent same to a great many all over California, with the hope they might have it reprinted and some of them get a sleeping case and prove our work right at home.

I enclose interesting matter in separate envelope on sleeping cases with photo of Alonza. In a few days I will forward you two photos of Alonza, showing the results of one adjustment.

With all good wishes to all, I am, STILL SMILING,
(THE MAN WHO MADE PEEKSKILL FAMOUS)

C.R. Johnston, D.C.

1921 (Apr 23): *FHN* [A.C. 26] [10(32)]:

-many reports of cure of "sleeping sickness" (pp. 13-4); one of these:

BLIND CHIROPRACTOR CURES SLEEPING SICKNESS

A healing was performed in Peekskill last Wednesday, which was called a miracle by all who saw it. Alonzo Smith, the five year old son of a Mahopac Falls farmer, was brought into the office of Dr. C.R. Johnston, chiropractor in the Flatiron building, with sleeping sickness from which the child had offered for eleven days.

The boy's parents, several friends, and the Rev. F.S. Cook, pastor of the Baptist Church of Mahopac Falls, brought the boy into Dr. Johnston's office. He was their last hope after consulting seven physicians who held a conference in Carmel last Saturday to discuss the case. Within 15 minutes after the boy was carried into the office he was brought out of the coma and was talking with his parents and friends for the first time in nearly two weeks.

Dr. Johnston, a totally blind man, was naturally very much pleased with the relief he gave the boy and the joy he gave the parents. It is the first case of sleeping sickness he has treated and is the first case of that peculiar disease to be brought to Peekskill for help.

The boy was taken sick a week ago Sunday. He woke up as usual for breakfast, but after breakfast he fell into a state of coma, from which he could not be awakened. The family doctor was called, but he was unable to account for the boy's condition. The boy continued in this condition all that day and he could not be stirred to take food. Food was administered by artificial means and after the second day a specialist was called in, who diagnosed the case as sleeping sickness.

Nothing could be done and last Saturday a consultation was held. Fluid was taken from the boy's spine for examination. Meanwhile, the Rev. Cook, who knew Dr. Johnston and had great faith in his ability as a chiropractor, suggested that the family try him, and Wednesday little Alonzo was bundled into an automobile and brought to Peekskill.

Dr. Johnston could not see the little fellow and he listened carefully to the story of the boy's father, John Smith, a farmer. He decided instantly to adjust the vertebrae at the top of the spinal column, and as he did so the boy opened his eyes. Mrs. Smith was astonished at this quick result and she made an exclamation, which the doctor heard and he spoke to the little fellow, asking his name.

"Alonzo Smith," came the answer.

Dr. Johnston questioned him further to see if his mind had been affected by the long sickness, but it had not, and he asked the boy to stand up. After lying still for eleven days the boy was naturally weak, but he got to his feet and walked across the room to his parents and climbed into his mother's lap.

Yesterday afternoon he rode to Peekskill and walked up the stairs to the doctor's office, for another adjustment. The doctor predicts his entire recovery and attributes his trouble to a fall the little fellow had several weeks ago which disturbed coordination between the two working bodies of the brain. - (The Evening News, Peekskill, N.Y., February 5, 1921.)

1921 (May 28): *Fountain Head News* [A.C. 26] [10(37)]:

-two letters to BJ from C.R. Johnston DC plus other reports of sleeping sickness (pp. 4-5); including:

Peekskill, N.Y., February 8th, 1921

Dear B.J.:

No doubt you have my letter about the Sleeping case. I mailed you copy of newspaper and I sent copies to all leading papers in New York City at once, then I thot I'd send them all over the United States to big papers, which I did in the hope the papers would copy and let the world know that Chiropractic could do where others failed. I also sent copies to leading chiropractors asking them to get it reprinted in their papers.

My little boy is coming fine, and on Sunday I was called to Brooklyn on another Sleeping case, Fred Fausel, age 24, at 400 Jefferson St., Ridgeway, Brooklyn, N.Y. Found patient unable to speak, very rigid and just breathing, very rapid and shallow. Bowels had not moved in five days and very little urine passed. I gave two adjustments, four hours apart and after the last one, I had him breathing fine, very deep in chest, nails restored to normal color. I called in Maud A. Hanson, an old classmate, and instructed her as to case and she will handle it this week. She reported last evening that when she went Monday a.m. Mr. Fausel was 100 per cent better. Respiration fine, pulse 78, all drawn expression of face gone and very easily awakened. Gee, BJ, if we can keep up the good work, look what it means to Chiropractic. I am wondering if you have heard of any other cases handled by chiropractors.

Goodbye and good luck, will write you later,

Sincerely,

C.R. Johnston, D.C.

Peekskill, N.Y., Feb. 11, 1921

Dear B.J.:

Just a line to tell you a good article appeared this a.m. in the New York World about my two cases of Sleeping Sickness, and it mentioned that it was a chiropractor, and all I did was working on the spine. The Brooklyn Eagle sent for a story and address of Fausel, and it will go to his home for story. I expect to meet both World and Eagle men on Sunday, and will send you all papers.

4 p.m. The Smith child just left office, doing fine, and I am very proud. Gee, BJ, isn't this "The Glory of Going On?" Jimmy Elliott was right, I never doubted it. Will write again.

Sincerely,

C.R. Johnston, D.C.

-letter to BJ from C.R. Johnston DC (p. 23):

Peekskill, N.Y., March 25, 1921

Dear BJ:

It gives me pleasure to again respond to your call for the boys in jail in California. Herewith is another check of \$15.00. If we had a few more B.J. Palmers, what a country this would be. With good wishes to all, believe me, answering the call.

C.R. Johnston, D.C.

c1924: catalogue of **TCC** (undated; Cleveland papers) gives **photos** and the following mini-biographies for the faculty:

Clarence W. Weiant, D.C., Ph.C., Professor of Chemistry and Gynecology

A brief review of Dr. Weiant's career will satisfy any one that he is pre-eminently fitted for the post which he fills. In 1915 he was awarded one of the scholarships of the State of New York and

received a second scholarship from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the oldest and one of the most noted scientific schools in America. Here he remained for over three years specializing in chemistry, and having the advantage of close contact with such men as A.T. Lincoln, distinguished physical chemist, and W.P. Mason, international authority on sanitary subjects. His thesis won the Laflin Prize for 1918.

Shortly afterwards, he transferred to Cornell University to pursue work preparatory to the Chemical Warfare Service. This work was brought to a close rather abruptly by the demobilization that occurred in 1918, and he went next to **Peekskill**, N.Y., where for more than a year he was instructor in science at the Westchester Military Academy.

Becoming interested in Chiropractic, especially in its scientific aspects, he resolved to study it. He graduated from the Palmer School early in 1921, and then proceeded to Mexico City as the pioneer Chiropractor. After building a practice against tremendous odds and others had been induced to carry on the work begun by him, he came to the real work of his choice as member of the T.C.C. faculty, in September, 1921.

He is the author of "*Guide to Nerve Tracing*" and "*Outlines of Gynecology*" and is a prolific contributor to Chiropractic periodicals.

1929 (Dec 1): **Bulletin of the ACA** [6(6)]:

-"New Research Chairman: Dr. **CW Weiant** Succeeds the Late Dr. JN Monroe to Head Important Bureau"; notes Weiant (p. 5):

....studied chemical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, 1915-18, as holder of Rensselaer and New York State Scholarships. Thesis awarded the Laflin Prize for highest literary merit in 1918. In the fall of 1918 Dr. Weiant was a member of the **Chemical Warfare Division** of Students' Army Training Corps, stationed at Cornell University, at that time taking special work in physical and organic chemistry and in chemical microscopy. In 1919 he was Science teacher at Westchester Military Academy, **Peekskill**, New York. Graduated in 1921 from the **Palmer School of Chiropractic**, and received his Ph.C. degree from the **Texas Chiropractic College** in 1922. He was professor of Chemistry and Gynecology in the **Texas Chiropractic College** for several years up to 1925. Dr. **Weiant** practiced Chiropractic in Mexico in 1925 and 1926, during which time he adjusted President Calles. He lectured at the Mexican School of Chiropractic, Mexico City, during the summer of 1925, and attended physiology lectures of Gley (discoverer of parathyroid glands) given at the University of Mexico.

Dr. **Weiant** has since January, 1927, been Professor of Chemistry and Physiology at the **Eastern Chiropractic Institute**. He has had one year's practical experience in spinography at the Eastern X-ray Laboratory, Newark, NJ. He is Chemist and co-founder of the Eastern Chemical Laboratory, which, since 1927, has made over 4,000 urine analyses with Chiropractic interpretation. Dr. Weiant is co-inventor with Philip O. Gravelle, fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society, of the **Analyte**, an apparatus for the study of hyperemia associated with subluxations. He is the author of a number of scientific Chiropractic articles, including the 'Verdict of Science.' He was formerly editor of **The Chiropractic Digest**. He is a contributor to **The Mexican Magazine**; a member of the New York Microscopical Society, a charter member of the American Spinographic Society, an official lecturer for the New York State Chiropractic Society in its winter education program... (p. 5); **The Chiropractic Digest** is published by **TCC**

1930 (Nov): first issue of the **Journal of the NCA** [1(1)]:

-letter to the editor from George N. Adelman DC, PhC of Brockton MA announces "Chiropractic at Harvard" (p. 27):

Dear Dr. Sauer:

August 16, 1930

I am enclosing a copy of the first paper ever read before Harvard University on Chiropractic.

I have been a student and just completed my third year at the school of Physical Education. On Tuesday, August 12, 1930, in the class of Prescription of Exercises given to us by Mr. Norman Fradd, Director of Hemenway, I delivered the first lecture that was ever given on Chiropractic at Harvard University or, to my knowledge, any recognized University in America.

I gave a history of spinal treatment all over the world, for which I owe you thanks; the discovery of Chiropractic in America; I mentioned the twenty-seven cases of **blindness cured** by Dr. Butler of San Bernadino, California, and I read the enclosed paper which I am sending to you as the first paper on Chiropractic ever read before any University in America.

The article on the sunburn was discussed with one of the professors at Harvard and later on I will get the works of an authority who received the Nobel Prize for his work on capillaries and in it he had a description similar to mine, only minus the Chiropractic end of it. I would sometime in the future like to write an article using his experiment, mine, and correlate between the Chiropractic end of it and the uncompleted medical viewpoint.

Before I finish I must take my hat off to Mr. Fradd. He is the recognized authority in America on posture and the lecture was received, in fact, recognized by him, with such open-mindedness and with such fairness that it elated me. I take my hat off to him and thank him for the opportunity to allow me to present this subject.

The real scientific men have no prejudice against progress. They are open-minded and willing to investigate.

The class, composed of about fifty students from all parts of America, received the lecture with much applause and very favorable comment.

While I feel proud that I was the first to deliver a lecture on Chiropractic at Harvard University, it was more refreshing to realize that the attitude of the world is becoming open-minded towards our theories. There is no more ridicule as in the past, but rather, discussion.

Very truly yours,

George N. Adelman, D.C., Ph.C.

1931 (Sept 2): clipping from **Kansas City Journal Post** includes photos of C.S. Cleveland tying blindfold on "sightless vision" driver, Hayward Thompson before a 15 mile drive through KC ("Scrapbook," Cleveland papers, CCC/KC)

1938 (Apr 14): letter to CS Cleveland from HE Weiser DC of the TCC (Cleveland papers, CCC/KC):

Dear Dr. Cleveland:

Enclosed is some late news for the Journal if you have time and space to get it in.

The Fraternity will pay for the cut if you can get the picture in. Sincerely yours,...

Delta Sigma Chi News

March 31, 1938 -- The monthly banquet of the Gamma Chapter of the Delta Sigma Chi Fraternity at the Texas Chiropractic College was held at the milam Cafeteria. Dr. H.E. Turley and Dr. W.H. Drain gave lectures. Drs. V.W. Peterson, C.U. Baize, and C.A. Magee gave farewell talks.

It is a customary act of the Fraternity to give each member a dipping in San Pedro pool on his final day at college.

April 2, 1938 -- Dr. V.W. Peterson, of Detroit, Michigan, as he was thrown in San Pedro Pool on his final day at the Texas Chiropractic College. Dr. Peterson is planning on practicing in Michigan.

Blind Chiropractor and 5 Sons Give 42 Years to Boy Scouts

Corpus Christi, Texas, April 11 (AP). -- Dr. Irving M. Dietz, **blind chiropractor**, who helped organize the first Boy Scout Troop here in 1921, estimates he and his five sons have given a combined service of 42 years to Corpus Christi Scouting. Irving Jr., 23, and Robert and Henry, 18-year-old twins, have reached the highest rank, Eagle Scout, and John, 13, is scribe in Troop 2, organized by his father in 1924. Since last November, Bernard, 12, a tenderfoot, has been a Scout, too.

NOTE: Dr. Dietz is a graduate of the Texas Chiropractic College.

1943 (Feb 19): letter to **John J. Nugent** DC from **Clarence Weiant** DC, PhD on the private practice stationery of CR **Johnston** DC (blind DC), whose practice **Weiant** apparently took over in **Peekskill** NY (from CCE Archives; in my **CINY** file)