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**Chronology of
CHIROPRACTIC IN MEXICO**

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1911 (July 11): George H. **Haynes**, future president of **LACC**, is born in Mexico (Rehm, 1980)

1914 (Apr): U.S. Marines land in Vera Cruz (Alloway & Rankin, 1982)

1916-17: Keating (1994) notes:

...Harry E. Carrick, M.D., D.C., another NSC [National School of Chiropractic] graduate in 1915, volunteered as a medical officer with the Alabama National Guard in 1916. He was stationed in Mexico when America entered the war, but was transferred to France with the regular army soon thereafter (Rehm, 1980, p. 292).

1917-18: according to Keating (1997):

Dossa Dixon Evins was four years younger than BJ. He had trained as an electrical engineer at the University of Arkansas, and served with the U.S. Secret Service's radio department in Mexico during World War I. He was credited with inventing a wireless receiver which had detected a powerful transmitter and resulted in the capture of German spies

1920 (May 15): *Fountain Head News* (9[35]) notes:

-18 DCs in jail: Drs. McCash, Freenor, Mueller, LaBarre, Flewitt, Foster, Thatcher, Howard, Harper, Hinkley, Brown, Hubley, Leiser, **Boswell**, Calvert, Barlow, Neilson and Butler, according to letter from State Chiropractic Society to **BJ Palmer** (pp. 6-7)

-full page ad (p. 8) from **BJ** says:

100 DAYS IN JAIL

Belongs to the
No-Fine, Go-To-Jail Club
LD McCash, D.C.
COUNTY JAIL, OAKLAND, CAL.

1 Postal EVERY Day, 1 Letter EVERY Week

BOMBARD THAT JAIL!

--BJ

1921 (June): *The Chiropractor & Clinical Journal* (PSC) [17(6)] includes:

- "The Chiropractor and Chiropractic in Mexico" by **Clarence W. Weiant**, D.C. (pp. 16, 45, 47, 51):

Mexico is not the wild and barbarous country that many travelers who write from there would have us believe, according to **Clarence W. Weiant**, whose very readable letter is herewith reproduced. While the Mexicans are somewhat slower, and social habits differ, life is found to be much the same there as in the United States. Automobiles dart hither and thither, the latest movie sensation can be as luxuriantly seen as in most cities of the states.

To succeed in Mexico a knowledge of the language is necessary. There is little disposition on the part of the government to interfere with Chiropractors.

The Yaqui Indians of upper Sonora have a Sabadore class who treat the spine somewhat after the fashion in Bohemia years ago.

Read this fine letter. It's good. You'll think he was talking to you.

Chiropractic arrived so recently in Mexico, that the history of its invasion into this new territory would hardly be worth relating, were it not for the fact that in so doing I might convey to those who regard Mexico as a prospective field of practice some idea of the conditions they may expect to encounter.

When I left Davenport and THE PSC, it was with the exalted notion that I was to be the pioneer Chiropractor of the whole Mexican republic, but it was not necessary to go any farther than San Antonio to have that notion dispelled, for there I learned through Dr. **Gurden**, president of the **Texas Chiropractic College**, that three of his graduates had already located in Mexican towns. The first, if I am not mistaken, was Dr. S. Voquero, a native of South America, who, a few months previous had opened an office in Monterey, in the state of Nuevo Leon, northern Mexico, and the report was that he hwas having noteworthy success.

Even in Mexico City, although my office was the first to be opened, I had been preceded in time of arrival by two other members of the profession, Dr. L.M. Driver of the **National School**, and Dr. C.E. **Boswell** of the **Los Angeles College of Chiropractic**.

The first thing to have settled was just how Mexican law would regard the practice of Chiropractic. Now, aside from generals, all important people in Mexico fall into three classes; namely, lawyers, engineers and doctors, and of the three, I believe the last mentioned class is most numerous. I know of some who pride themselves on the score of their medical education and the fact that they have never practiced it. Many of their number are in high government offices. It was not to be expected, therefore, that we should be received with open arms. It happens, however, that the Rector of the National University, in whom is vested the power of "re-validating" credentials from foreign institutions of learning, is a man of wide experience and liberal mind, and when the proposition of re-certifying the diplomas of Chiropractors and authorizing them to practice was presented to him, he consulted an eminent lawyer for advice. He was advised that, while the law recognizes the diplomas of physicians and dentists who have practiced their profession for three years in the United States, there is absolutely no regulation concerning Chiropractors and osteopaths, and he did not hesitate to give a written statement to that effect. "Go ahead and practice; I do not think you will be interfered with," were the words he used as he did so.

Rumor has it that an American physician ranking high in the Mexican Medical Association got into touch with the Senior Rector, as soon as the presence of Chiropractors in the city became known, and urged that we be scared away immediately. To his disappointment, however, the written statement of the Rector had already been given, assuring us that there was nothing to prevent us from going to work.

Of course, there is no telling at what moment there may be conveniently created some law which will "regulate" Chiropractors and osteopaths and so make up this deficiency.

The next problem which confronts the Chiropractor locating in the city of Mexico is that of an office. Buildings sufficiently modern to have elevators are comparatively few and all are occupied. Consequently, unless one selects an office at the top of two or three flights of stairs (which is rather hard on crippled patients), he will probably have to be content with utilizing some high-priced living rooms.

Not only is the matter of selection a difficult one, but the business of renting is itself a more complicated business than in the United States. During the recent revolution, when there was a

great scarcity of money, a moratorium was issued by the terms of which no tenants could be put out of a building for failure to pay the rent. This order has never been repealed. For this reason, renting from a landlord is almost equivalent to borrowing money from him, and unless you are already a property owner, you must have what is known as a fiador who can be called upon to pay the rent in case you fail to do so.

Oddly enough my own office was opened up right under the enemy's nose, - in the very same building where the Mexican Medical Association had its headquarters. Into the office of the president of that association sauntered one day a newspaper man from New York, Mr. John Vavasour-Noel, of the Noel News Service. He was looking for me, before I was quite ready for patients. Finding, instead, the distinguished medico, he proceeded to endeavor to impress upon the latter the merits of "La Quiropractica." The doctor wanted to know if the English word was "Osteopathy," to which my newspaper friend replied in the negative, stating that it was something far superior. At about that time I arrived and, following the advice of my forerunner in the argument, let it be understood provisionally that Chiropractic is a kind of glorified massage. The doctor thereupon proceeded to give us a display of knowledge about the spine, and after a short lecture of scolioses, kyphoses, and lordoses, asked what our system could do in correcting them. When we left him, he said he would look up the word "Chiropractic" in the Encyclopedia Americana, and as he hasn't asked for further information, I conclude that that article must have been enough for him.

On one other occasion since then we had a meeting. A priest who had been run over, or knocked down, by an automobile had been taken to the Red Cross Hospital. It was reported that his spine was injured and one of his friends was eager that I should see him. The doctor to whom I have referred is also the head of the Mexican Red Cross and the matter was accordingly taken up with him. He assured us, however, that the patient was getting along very well indeed, and that it would be what is called in Mexico *inmoralidad* for any practitioner other than a regular member of the hospital staff to examine the case. I cite this incident merely to show that medical autocracy is quite the same in Mexico as it is the world over.

I am glad to be able to report that there has as yet been no indication of interference with the practice of Chiropractic. Moreover, if any organized opposition should be undertaken, there are, among the small group of Chiropractic boosters who have learned its merits by experience, a few men of high authority in the government whose influence would do much to turn the tables in our favor. Probably the biggest problem which we have at present is that of publicity. All friends of the movement here have urged that we work with as little noise as possible, until a sufficient number of cases have been handled successfully to gain public favor and back up our claims, for the Mexican people have many times been fooled by unscrupulous advertisers from the States. It must be expected, therefore, that progress, dependent as it is upon mouth to ear advertising, will be slow compared with that in new territories of the United States. I may add, however, that some of the literature has been translated into Spanish and with the cooperation of THE PSC will soon be available for distribution.

The question naturally arises in the mind of the Chiropractor who may think of coming to Mexico: "Must I be able to speak Spanish?" To this I would say that any one who comes without a knowledge of Spanish will suffer considerable disadvantage and much inconvenience. I do not believe, however, that this is absolutely essential for building a successful practice, at least in the Federal District. The number of English speaking people who reside here is several thousand and increases daily, and English is used extensively in business by the Mexicans themselves. Outside

the capital district, the need of Spanish would, of course, be felt more keenly.

The Mexican people are a most amiable sort to get along with, although somewhat slow in business and lacking in punctuality. One must learn to observe their little courtesies, such as raising the hat to gentlemen acquaintances quite as well as to ladies, and never failing to shake hands on parting, even though that be a daily occurrence. The population of Mexico is about 15,000,000, of whom 9,000,000 are purely Indian. Only about twenty per cent of the whole population can read and write. Naturally, it is this minority to whom the Chiropractic message must first be made known.

Mexico City is almost an ideal place to live. Because of its great elevation, the air is bracing and there are no extremes of temperature. The warmest summer temperature is about 85 degrees, while the coldest winter temperature is about 60 degrees. A delightful variety of fresh fruits and vegetables can be had the year around. There is an excellent water supply and a sanitary sewage disposal system.

In spite of these things, the Chiropractor need have no fear of abundant material for practice. No ample means have been resorted to in checking the growth of venereal disease. The double standard of morals is marked, and consequently it is estimated that more than 75 per cent of the people are tainted with syphilis. As might be expected, there is thus a prevalence of diseases of the spinal cord. In a majority of these cases one finds the effects of serum therapy, which seems to be at its height now in Mexico. Even cases of arthritis deformans have been inoculated with salvarsan. One may also expect to find in Mexico the sequelae of typhus fever and diseases of a similar type, especially among people who have lived for a period in the lowlands. But even more frequent are incoordinations of the digestive tract, and to know Mexican habits of eating makes one wonder why they are not still more plentiful. Two hours are set aside each day for dinner, and those dinners are almost interminable. Chile and sauces of red pepper are characteristic. Every Mexican dinner includes two meat dishes, besides eggs. Beans are also an unfailing dish. Do you wonder, then, at the effects of excessive protein eating? Alcoholic beverages add their contribution to innate's job of elimination, and so the poison cycle has full swing.

There is one bit of information about Mexico that is more interesting to me **Chiropractically** than anything else I have learned in my short stay in the country. Up in the state of Sonora there lives a tribe of Indians called Yaquis. They have resisted the white man's domination more fiercely than any of the other aborigines of this nation. Among them is a particular class called **sabadores**, and these persons have for centuries practiced a form of spinal manipulation to get people well which is as truly Chiropractic in a crude form as that practiced in Bohemia and other parts of the world. Here we have one more chapter in the story of primitive Chiropractic, which some day should be told in full.

In closing, I would say that Chiropractic is in Mexico to stay. The problem is one of endurance for the pioneers and there is no question but that they will endure. Mexico needs more Chiropractors, and when I say Mexico, I mean not merely Mexico City, but the whole republic. Vera Cruz, Tampico, Guadalajara and a host of other cities need to be invaded. Particularly would I lay stress on Guadalajara as a location for the next pioneer to Mexico. A short time ago a prominent citizen of that city begged me to establish myself there. It has a population of 125,000, is beautifully situated on a lake in the mountains, and has a climate equal to that of Mexico City.

Above all, do not imagine that in coming to Mexico you are leaving behind every vestige of civilization to enter a land of barbarism. Here you will see as many automobiles in five minutes

as you would see in almost any city of the United States. You will find public parks of unusual beauty and in them you can hear music of the finest type. Public libraries and museums abound, and if they do not appeal, you can go to see your favorite screen star quite as conveniently as you can at home.

I am at the service of any who may decide to assist in opening up this enormous field and may be addressed at Avenida Juarez 18, Mexico, D.F., Mexico.



Clarence Weiant, D.C., circa 1922, from Texas Chiropractic College catalogue

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

-"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 Laffin 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 (Dec): Chirogram [6(10)]: includes:

-Charles H. Wood DC, ND's column, "The Open Forum" replies to inquiry (p. 10):

Yes; there is a college of Chiropractic located in Mexico City known as the Mexican College of Chiropractic.

1933: "'The Radio Waves Are Calling!' proclaimed the **Radio Corporation of America** in a promotional map of the United States it published in the darkest year of the depression, 1933....The four-color map of the continent showed the location, call letters, and power of all broadcasting stations in the United States (605), Mexico (39), Cuba (7), Puerto Rico (1), Hawaii (2), Alaska (3), Canada (36), and Newfoundland (8). Among the states, New York had the most stations with 48, while Wyoming still had just one. Alabama had ten stations...The brochure listed state-by-state some of the programs available. **In Iowa, where there were more automobiles per capita than in any other state, Cheerful Stan, the Standard Oil Service Man, broadcast "Hitting the Highways" every Wednesday evening over WOC-WHO in Des Moines...**" (Lewis, 1991, pp. 229-30)

PHOTOGRAPH



Clarence W. Weiant, D.C., Ph.D., 1949

1940s: Bruno Oetteking PhD, Clarence Weiant's mentor at Columbia University, works with Weiant at the Chiropractic Research Foundation's New York City laboratory; as a result (notes Keating et al. in press):

...a special issue of *Revista Mexicana de Estudios Antropologicos* was devoted to the German scientist's work at the CRF's New York facility (Rehm, 1980, p. 333).

1954 (Feb): **ICA Review** [8(8)] includes:

-"Chiropractic in the land of manana" indicates that Americans must practice under medical supervision; Mexicans can list themselves in directories as "Medicos-Quiropracticos" and little if any training is required (pp. 14-5, 31-2)

1956 (June): **JNCA** [26(6): 20, 83] includes:

-"The chiropractic situation in Mexico is outlined in detail" by **CW Weiant** DC, PhD (pp. 20, 83)

As **announced last fall in the Journals of both the NCA and ICA**, chiropractors are now licensed in Mexico. Despite what sounded like the nearhe man who made the announcement has been so besieged with inquiries that he has been obligated to ignore them. This man was Dr. **Francisco Montano Luna**, the first chiropractor to establish a permanent chiropractic practice in the city of Mexico.

Enactment of the law under which chiropractors may obtain a license marks the culmination of a thirty-three year old struggle waged almost single-handedly by this persevering graduate of the Palmer School.

A letter which I received recent from his son, Dr. F. Montano Pizarro, clarifies the present situation and answers most of the questions which would occur to any chiropractor sufficiently interested to make inquiries. In the first place, as I had suspected, the license fee referred to above, is quoted in pesos, not dollars. (It is customary in Mexico to designate pesos by the dollar sign.) Since the current exchange rate gives the peso a value of eight cents in American currency, this means that the license fee expressed in our money is \$11.44 - and not \$143.00 as previously stated.

The new law is unique in that chiropractic is nowhere specifically mentioned. The law simply provides that a person practicing a profession for which there is no corresponding school in Mexico and holding a diploma from a foreign school acceptable to the authorities concerned (in this case a bureau known as the General Direction of Professions), may, upon presentation of evidence that his school is a legally established and recognized professional school, have his diploma validated and thereby acquire the legal right to practice in Mexico.

Since the passage of the law, Dr. Montano Luna has solicited from schools throughout the U.S. documents indicating that they are deserving of recognition and has worked unceasingly to secure their formal recognition by governmental authorities. Negotiations with Mexican government bureaus, however, move at an incredibly slow pace. Up to now only the Palmer School has been recognized. A friendly tip from some one inside the bureaucracy suggested that the best way to facilitate matters would be to form a **Mexican Chiropractors Association** and to establish a Mexican school of chiropractic. Such a school, properly organized, would have the right, as do other professional schools in Mexico, to pass upon the credentials of foreign graduates, and, if these prove satisfactory, to issue its own diploma, which would immediately guarantee a license and thus obviate the awkwardness of the present situation.

To this end, there has now been formed an **Asociación de Quiroprácticos Mexicanos**, for the avowed purpose of securing the licensure of as many qualified chiropractors as possible, establishing a school and a hospital in Mexico City, and providing for its membership, low-priced vacation facilities at Mexico's world-famous resort Acapulco. The association already owns property in Acapulco which it proposes to develop for that purpose.

These are worthy objectives, and it is hoped that a great many American chiropractors will apply for membership. Even for those who have no immediate desire to practice in Mexico, the prospect of a delightful vacation in Mexico with fellow chiropractors as your hosts, and the eventual possibility of going into semi-retirement in that ever-fascinating country where it costs so little to live well, should attract a wide response. There is an initial fee of \$10, after which the dues amount to \$3.00 a month, or \$30 for the entire year if paid in advance. If interested, write to **Asociación Mexicana de Quiroprácticos**, Apartado Postal No. 23627, Mexico 10, D.F., requesting an application blank.

1957 (Jan 5-8): Minutes of the **NCA** Council on Education meeting in Miami Beach:

Matter No. 18: Discussions pertaining to the professional situation in Mexico.

The Council was advised by Drs. Peterson and Haynes that Dr. Luna, Chiropractor of Mexico City, is seeking to establish a college of chiropractic in Mexico. It seems that Dr. Luna has obtained from the Mexican Government the authority to be the certifying agent for chiropractic in that country. It appears to be

the intention of the doctor to establish an understanding with one or more of the chiropractic colleges in the states and have them train students for chiropractic practice in Mexico but he would certify their credits and diplomas from his office in Mexico City.

To this end Dr. Luna has been in contact with several of the professional segments in the United States. It appears that some of these contacts are of an unfavorable disposition involving personalities that cannot be depended upon to maintain an integrity in behalf of the profession. For these reasons the Director of Education recommended that the Council seek to carefully investigate the matter and determine whether it, the Council, might not contact the Mexican Government as well as Dr. Luna and determine just what might be done constructively in relation to the matter of chiropractic in Mexico.

To accomplish this, two recommendations were concluded by the Council.

(1) That Drs. Weiant, Haynes and Troilo who have had the closest contact with the situation seek to probe it further and obtain as much information as possible, and probably before the next meeting one of the latter two, because of geographical advantage, make a trip into Mexico and seek to evaluate the matter.

(2) If possible the Council should seek to hold its next mid-year meeting in Mexico City, thus permitting the entire Council membership to get a first hand picture of the situation and also enable the Council representative to possibly have some conferences with the Mexican Government officials with the intent of getting them to recognize the Council and its directing position in the entire educational picture of the profession.

PHOTOGRAPH



Clarence W. Weiant, D.C., Ph.D.

1995: Veal et al. report (p. 485):

The first chiropractor in Mexico was Palmer school graduate Dr. Francisco Montano, who established a practice in 1922. Registration was initially provided for in 1955, but lasted only 1 year. The registry was again opened in 1975, then closed again in 1982, and reopened in 1988. Mexico was the site of the **Daniel David Palmer Spanish-American School of Chiropractic**, which operated from 1927 until 1933.

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Dintenfass, Julius DC; 64 Meadow Drive, Woodmere NY 11598 (516-295-1163) [was a colleague of Weiant's at Eastern Chiropractic Institute and later the Chiropractic Institute of New York]

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