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Chronology of William S. Rehm, D.C.

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

Once upon a time William S. Rehm was born somewhere, grew up, graduated high school, married to another NCC student (Jean Rehm), but Lord only knows when any of this happened ☺

undated: Bill Rehm studies at Loyola College in Baltimore, major in biology (Rehm, 1995a)

1952-54: Bill Rehm attends Columbia College of Chiropractic with Charles N. Cooper (Cooper, 2002)

1954-55: Rehm and Cooper transfer to National College, and graduate in 1955 (Cooper, 2002; Rehm, 1995a)

c1955: Bill Rehm, D.C. interns at Spears Hospital in Denver (Cooper, 2002)

1957-1995: Bill Rehm, D.C. practices in Baltimore (Rehm, 1995a)

1973 (May/June): **Digest of Chiropractic Economics** [15(6)] includes:

-William S. Rehm, D.C., editor of the **Maryland Chiropractic Association Bulletin**, authors "Maryland" (p. 87)

1975 (Dec): **Mid-Atlantic Journal of Chiropractic** [2(3)], edited by William S. Rehm, D.C., includes:

-Mel Rosenthal, D.C. authors "Chiropractic pioneers in Delaware" (pp. 64-5)

-Russell W. Gibbons authors "Chiropractic history: lost, strayed or stolen" (pp. 75-80, 87), which was a presentation to the Pennsylvania Chiropractic Society on 4 October 1975

1976 (Aug 4): letter from Fern L. Dzaman and William S. Rehm, D.C. to Carl S. Cleveland, Jr., D.C. (CCCKC; in my Rehm file):

Dear Dr. Cleveland,

From past communications, you are already familiar with our efforts to publish WHO'S WHO IN CHIROPRACTIC, INTERNATIONAL – a significant biographical history of the chiropractic profession that is especially relevant during the celebration of America's Bicentennial. It is our pleasure to inform you that actual printing will proceed in November, 1976, with delivery scheduled for February and March, 1977.

It is our intention to include in this historic first edition a full page with pictures highlighting the chiropractic colleges. We will appreciate it if you will allow us to include the Cleveland College. Would you please send us a 600-700 word sketch about CCC and

two appropriate photographs of your own choosing? You may, if you prefer, send us the college catalogue from which we could devise an appropriate article.

Biographical data is still being accepted and prepared for publication. To date, we have received personal data from many of the world's most distinguished Doctors of Chiropractic. It is important that you, Dr. Cleveland, also be included. Please return your personal data as soon as possible. We are also taking the liberty of enclosing a number of biography forms for distribution to those on your college faculty whom you feel deserve this special recognition.

It is not the intention or goal of the editors to indicate, infer or convey status on those individuals whose biographies will appear in this and subsequent editions. The accomplishments of these doctors will speak for himself [sic]. It is important to note also, that inclusion in the book is not contingent upon purchasing a copy at the pre-publication rate. Acceptance in WHO'S WHO IN CHIROPRACTIC, INTERNATIONAL is not for sale. Funds received for the purchase of the book are protected in an escrow account at the South Denver National Bank until publication proceeds.

May we please look forward to hearing from you soon?

Thank you for your outstanding cooperation and interest.

Sincerely yours,...

-attached are biographical questionnaires

1976 (Nov/Dec): **Digest of Chiropractic Economics** [19(3)] includes:

-"FCER and Springwall research meeting in Chicago" (p. 12); two **photos** of group which include Drs. John Allenburg, Carl Cleveland III, Dale Good, Martin Jenness, Arthur Schierholz, Tuan Tran and John Triano; includes:

...Other speakers included Dr. Joseph Janse, president of National College, to which the researchers made a visit to see the college's research facilities; Dr. Arthur M. Schierholz, FCER secretary-treasurer; Walter Hellyer, president of the Columbia Mattress Co. of Chicago, a Springwall associate; and representatives of two publications – William L. Luckey and George M. Davidson of the Digest of Chiropractic Economics, and Dr. William S. Rehm, editor-in-chief of the Mid-Atlantic Journal of Chiropractic.

1979 (June 4): letter from William S. Rehm, D.C. (WSR) to Earl L. Crowder, D.C., VP of Palmer College, re: cataloguing of documents comprising Lyndon E. Lee papers donated to PCC

1980? (Oct 18): "Minutes, Founding Meeting of the Association for the History of Chiropractic; Spears Hospital – Denver, Colo. – October 18, 1981?":

The meeting was called for the purpose of organizing a society to encourage and advance study in chiropractic history. It was called to order at 10 a.m. Chairman was Dr. W. Rehm. (List of attendees attached)

Initial discussion focused on the need for such an organization and the possible scope of its activities. Also considered was the desirability of affiliation with similar organizations so as not to duplicate efforts of mutual interest.

Upon the MOTION of Dr. A.E. Homewood, the Constitution & Bylaws of the Chiropractic Hall of Honor and Museum Corporation were examined.

This motion was not adopted in that most of the delegates agreed that the Chiropractic Hall of Honor and Museum was unique and that its purposed could not be duplicated.

The following general objectives of the proposed new organization were agreed to:

1. Publish a comprehensive and objective literature on chiropractic history;
2. Identify and catalog existing historical resources;
3. Provide means of preserving archival materials;
4. Conduct seminars and workshops to advance research in chiropractic history;
5. Design a standard curriculum or syllabus for teaching chiropractic history in the professional schools;
6. Cooperate with all recognized organizations and institutions that are interested in chiropractic history.

It was duly MOVED and seconded that the name of the organization be "The International Chiropractic Historical Society." An amendment was proposed and seconded that the name be "The Association for the History of Chiropractic."

When the amendment was put to a vote, it was passed.

It was MOVED and seconded that W. Rehm be designate president pro-tem of the Association, to serve in this capacity until the first regular meeting. The motion was carried.

The structure of the Association was then discussed. It was MOVED, seconded and approved that the organization be nonprofit.

After a proper MOTION for each, chairman appointed the following interim committees and chairpersons; Constitution & Bylaws (V. Gielow); Publications (R. Gibbons); Public Relations (E. Busch); Membership (F. Dzaman); 1981 Convention (W. Rehm).

The chairman was authorized to act as an ex-officio member of all interim committees. Chairman advised that each of the named chairpersons would also be designated as an interim Steering Committee.

It was suggested that a study group be named to report at a later date on the practicality and design of a syllabus for teaching chiropractic history. Inasmuch as such a syllabus would have to be substantially referenced, this would be a long-term objective of the Association. (J. Maynard was later named.)

Discussion concerning the initial funding of the Association resulted in a MOTION that each Founding Member contribute \$50 to the president pro-tem for expenses, that this be considered a loan to be repaid from membership dues.

The above motion was carried and the sum of \$650.00 was collected.

A MOTION was proposed and seconded that the Founding Members shall consider and adopt the Constitution & Bylaws; said Founding Members being those persons advancing the organizational funds at the conclave of Oct. 18, 1980. An amendment to the motion stipulated that a copy of the proposed Constitution & Bylaws be mailed to each Founding Member prior to the 1981 meeting. The motion was carried.

The chairman announced that preliminary discussions had been held with officials of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., as the possible site for the 1981 Conference. An announcement of the spring conference would be made to the profession early in 1981.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes were recorded by H.K. Lee, rewritten by W. Rehm.

FOUNDING MEETING OF THE
ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF CHIROPRACTIC
OCTOBER 18, 1981?

List of Attendees

- *Cheri D. Alexander, DC – California Chiropractic Association
- *Eleonore B. Busch
- *William E. Cameron, DC – International Chiropractors Association
- *Fern L. Dzaman – Spears Chiropractic Hospital, Who's Who in Chiropractic
- *Leonard E. Fay, DC – National College of Chiropractic
- *Russell W. Gibbons
- *Vern Gielow – Palmer College of Chiropractic
- *A. Earl Homewood, DC – Western States Chiropractic College
- *Herbert K. Lee, DC – Canadian Chiropractic Association, Canadian College
- Joseph E. Maynard, DC – Life Chiropractic College
- *Ernest G. Napolitano, DC – New York College, Council on Chiro. Education
- *Arthur L. Nickson, DC – Logan College of Chiropractic
- Vivian M. Nickson, DC
- *James F. Ransom, DC – American Chiropractic Association
- William S. Rehm, DC
- James M. Russell, DC – Texas Chiropractic College, Texas Chiro. Foundation
- *Richard C. Schafer, DC – Associated Chiropractic Academic Press
- * Contributor of \$50 advance

PHOTOGRAPH



Founders of the AHC, 1980; from the first issue of *Chiropractic History*, 1981

1980 (Nov/Dec): **Digest of Chiropractic Economics** [23(3)] includes:

–“Chiropractic Historical Society formed in Denver” (p. 4):

Chiropractors, educators and writers from a dozen states and Canada formed the Association for the History of Chiropractic (AHC) on Oct. 18, 1980 at an all-day organizing meeting at Spears Hospital in Denver, Colo.

The new group, organized to “encourage and advance study in chiropractic history,” set a tentative spring 1981 time for its first annual symposium in Washington, D.C.

Among other priorities discussed at the Denver conference were the need for a chiropractic history journal of literary quality, the outline of a standardized course in history for possible utilization by the professional schools, and close liaison with colleges, foundations and other groups interested in preserving chiropractic historical resources.

Discussion also focused on the Smithsonian chiropractic history exhibit and ways the new organization might help in its expansion and perpetuation. The exhibit opened last April at the national Museum of History and Technology.

Representatives or official observers were present from the American Chiropractic Association, International Chiropractors Association, Canadian Chiropractic Association, eight colleges, the Council on Chiropractic Education, and some state associations. The colleges represented were Palmer, Western States, National, Logan, Texas, New York, Life and Canadian Memorial.

Dr. William Rehm of Baltimore, Md., one of the conveners, was elected president pro-tem of the AHC and named committees to report on constitution and by-laws, a professional journal, public relations and the 1981 conference.

Reflecting on the success of the inaugural meeting, Dr. Rehm said, “The formation of this historical society is another milestone

for our profession. Understanding our history has assumed an importance all its own, not only for chiropractors but for social historians, scientists, lawmakers and others who do and will recognize the growing stature of chiropractic. So often in the past, it was prejudice coming from misunderstanding that served as the basis for professional and public policy. That’s the lesson for us.”

Membership in the new society is expected to become available to everyone – professionals, scholars and students – interested in the history of chiropractic.

Publicity director for the association is Eleonore Blaurock-Busch of Boulder, Colo.

1981 (Jan/Feb): **DCE** [23(4)] includes:

–“First annual conference on the history of chiropractic – a call for papers” (pp. 7, 9):

Doctors of chiropractic, students, laypersons and professionals in the fields of medical and social history are invited to submit papers to be read before the first annual Conference on the History of Chiropractic, to be held at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., on June 6, 1981.

The Conference is being co-sponsored by the Association for the History of Chiropractic and the Medical Sciences Division of the national Museum of American History (formerly Museum of History and Technology) of the Smithsonian. Details of the Conference sessions will be announced in early 1981.

Those presenting papers should submit an abstract of their research in an area relevant to the history of chiropractic, with original conclusions based upon other published work or oral history interviews, with appropriate documentation and footnotes.

There is no recommended length for papers, which will be reviewed by the publications committee of the Association, but a maximum of 30 pages is suggested. The formal program of the Conference will allow time for discussion. The papers will be published in the first number of the **Journal** of the Association.

Titles and abstracts should be sent to the chairman of the publications committee: Mr. Russell W. **Gibbons**, 207 Grandview Drive South, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15241 (412-782-0171). These should be received by February 15, 1981. The final manuscript form in two copies should be received by the committee chairman no later than May 1, 1981.

The AHC was formed in Denver, Colorado, October 18, 1980, to “encourage and advance study in chiropractic history.” The meeting was attended by chiropractors, educators and writers from a dozen states and Canada. William S. Rehm, D.C., Baltimore, Maryland, was elected president pro-tem.

PHOTOGRAPH



William S. Rehm, D.C., 1981

1981 (May/June): *DCE* [23(6)] includes:

-Eleonore Blaurock-Busch interviews Rehm in "William S. Rehm, D.C., founder and president of the newly formed Association for the History of Chiropractic" (p. 30, 33, 132):

He is a writer at heart, a self-made historian who, somehow, always finds the time to study and research chiropractic's past. Dr. William S. Rehm of Baltimore, Maryland, former editor of the *Mid-Atlantic Journal*, has significantly contributed to both editions of *Who's Who in Chiropractic, International* and to his profession in general by compiling chiropractic's first necrology. By paying this tribute to chiropractic's gone pioneers, "the early history," Dr. Rehm pointed out, "has become better understood."

It is clear that this quiet, gentle man has a continuing love affair with chiropractic history, and if you and I might have nightmares about our economy, gun control or National Health Insurance, Dr. Rehm is bothered by the thought that somewhere someone unfamiliar with chiropractic's rich history is tossing out irreplaceable letters, journals, or other old documents. So it goes without saying that no one can do Dr. Rehm a greater favor than to donate material from the days of the Carvers, Langworthys, Harimans, and certainly the Palmers. Dr. Rehm will read it all, and quite possibly, spend all his free time cataloguing the documents.

And no, he is not single. He and his wife Jean reside at 4920 Frankford Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21206.

A. You are founder and president pro-tem of the newly formed Association for the History of Chiropractic. You have been instrumental in creating an interest and need for such a historical society. When did you actually start thinking about this project?

Dr. Rehm: I've had an interest in the profession's history since my student days. I interned at Spears Hospital, a historical site itself, and since then I have collected newspaper clippings from all the newspapers and magazines. I have quite a file of clippings, a couple of thousands, I am sure. Of course, the file on Lyndon Lee contained about 15,000 clippings at one time. Dr. Lee is one of our living pioneers and quite a resource. After I went into

practice, I had to put everything on the back burner for a long time. Then, a number of years ago, I was asked by the Maryland State Society to do a journal and I started the *Mid-Atlantic Journal*. It got me going around the country, just in pursuit of finding original ideas, and I eventually met Fern Dzaman at the Editor's Guild meeting at Spears Hospital. That was a little over five years ago.

Q. And Fern Dzaman got you back on the track?

Dr. Rehm: Precisely. Historical research is a lonely task. It needs encouragement as well as a vehicle. The vehicle didn't suggest itself until about 5 years ago when Fern produced her first edition of *Who's Who in Chiropractic*. "An on-going historical record of chiropractic" is how she characterized the purpose of her unique publication...Fern, you see, always knew precisely what she had in mind. In the books there had to be an acknowledgment of the profession's past and I guess, I was solicitous enough about her idea that she allowed me to participate. The necrology section was published in the second edition this year (1980). So, you see, *Who's Who* was both the encouragement and vehicle that got me started in this. You might say that Fern Dzaman was the real inspiration for what is now known as the *Association for the History of Chiropractic*, and she truly deserves the principal credit for our early success. Without the work she did, we couldn't have convened an organizing meeting as successfully as it happened...But I've got to acknowledge the tremendous contributions of two other people: Russell Gibbons and Vern Gielow of the Palmer College. The four of us – I'll take the smallest measure of credit – were the conceptual pioneers of chiropractic's own historical society. Now with input from all the founders (the group who formalized the organization in Denver, Oct. 18, 1980), we see endless possibilities.

Q: To my knowledge, *Who's Who in Chiropractic*, which you say was instrumental to AHC, is the only *Who's Who* featuring a necrology section and incidentally, this tribute to chiropractic's dead pioneers takes up nearly a third of the book. I know how much time you've spent on this project. Why did, and does it seem so important to you?

Dr. Rehm: When the pioneers who meant something to the profession are gone, valuable information is lost. We have to preserve as much as we can while we can. We also should acknowledge them. If we don't collect material now, we won't have anything left 50 years from now.

Q: You mentioned Dr. Lyndon Lee before. Weren't you instrumental in collecting and cataloguing his records?

Dr. Rehm: I've interviewed Dr. Lee as best as I could. Fern told me about Dr. Lee and suggested that we work together. Dr. Lee had much important material. It has been put in order by certain topics and is at Palmer. I spent much time with Dr. Lee, before and after he retired, and we went through a very large collection of information dating back 50 years or more. I made 13 trips to New York to go over these files and I think I looked at over 8000 letters, counted and handled every one of them. I read everything in detail, and I believe you are not going to find another collection like that. Well, I catalogued it all, and Palmer received an organized mess.

Q: The chiropractic exhibit at the Smithsonian Institute is another one of chiropractic's stepping stones. Did you or the ACH [sic] have anything to do with it?

Dr. Rehm: The ICA is completely responsible for the exhibit. Soon after it opened, my wife Jean and I went over to see it. It's nice, but it's hardly something that can be titled "The History of Chiropractic." It's an all-Palmer exhibit. It's Palmer before WWI, early Palmer era. I do not consider that a chiropractic

history exhibit. It's just a part. It's fine as a start, but I knew immediately that something could be done. A couple of days later, I took another trip to Washington, and I talked with Bruce Nordstrom, ICA executive vice president, and told him what was on my mind regarding the exhibit and presented ideas that I felt would be an improvement.

Q: What ideas did you have in mind then?

Dr. Rehm: I wanted to bring it up to modern days like adding the history of Spears Hospital. He said it was fine, and I arranged to meet the curator of the museum. I had an appointment with Dr. Edward Jackson a couple of hours later. He listened to me and thought I was right. We agreed, the exhibit needed something else. Dr. Jackson then said, "Does your profession have a historical society?" and I quickly said, "Yes. It's being organized right now." And that is how it happened. The organizing process happened Oct. 18 at Spears Hospital in Denver.

Q: Will the Spears display be added?

Dr. Rehm: Yes, and so will **Who's Who in Chiropractic**.

Q: Let me go back to your meeting with Dr. Jackson. If I understand correctly, ACH was really conceived there. What happened after that?

Dr. Rehm: I spent a summer organizing everything and getting people to come to our founders' meeting. I mailed 130 letters using the mailing list of the state journal editors. So all state editors received the notice. The response was not instant. We had 60 replies to the first letter, almost half, and over twenty indicated that they would attend the proposed meeting. Seventeen finally showed up and I consider this successful, because of the caliber of the people there. We had college representatives from Palmer, Western States, National, Logan, Texas, Life and Canadian Memorial; the ACA, ICA and the Canadian Chiropractic Association were represented. We had writers there. I consider our founders' meeting successful. You might think I am overly optimistic. I am not. I am very realistic. When I talked with Dr. Jackson of the Smithsonian, he pointed out that the Academy of the History of Dentistry, which was organized 27 years ago, had seven people in attendance at their founders' meeting. We did much better than that.

Q: Do you have any recent statistics about the dental historical society, and would you know of any achievements that have made it all worthwhile?

Dr. Rehm: Dr. Jackson tells me that the Academy of the History of Dentistry has over 7000 dues paying members out of about 90,000 dentists. That's not bad, and, as far as I know, after their first meeting, the founders were not hopeful that there would be another one. They just went along for some time, establishing and eventually meeting goals, and incidentally, their goals were quite similar to ours. They designed a course for teaching dental history in the colleges, and thought the colleges resisted all that in the beginning, little by little they gave in, and now history is a required course at all dental colleges.

Q: Would you consider the establishment of a chiropractic history course one of your top goals?

Dr. Rehm: It is a long range goal. We have immediate and long range goals. A history course is among our long range goals. You know, I was talking to a lady this summer who started her junior year, her clinical year, and the extent of her orientation in chiropractic history is one hour. There is a lack of reliable information and a historical society benefits the profession in more than just one way.

Q: You mean besides designing a history course?

Dr. Rehm: Yes. We have to think about people in need of reliable information, documentations. People like social historians, scientists, lawmakers who need to make judgements.

We don't want them to depend on hearsay material. We need to educate them, present documented facts rather than myths. The job of a historian is to present accurate information without bias. The problem with chiropractic was that because of our internal problems we created rhetoric in the profession, which, in part, we had to, because we were fighting for our professional lives, having an almost century-long war with the medical profession. But as our own rhetoric got hotter, the external prejudice became more severe, and laws were made on that basis. Now, here we are having survived a battle with organized medicine, and it seems as if we are winning. People are beginning to recognize that we belong, and we are assuming more responsibility in health care. But for the most part, people don't understand the chiropractic philosophy and why it is as divergent as it is, what's important about it and what all the internal arguments are about. All of this has to be clarified. We do have philosophical boundaries, but they have to be clarified so that all sectors of society can understand it.

Q: Will you eventually cooperate and have meetings with medical or dental historians, and will AHC be in touch with other historical societies?

Dr. Rehm: Definitely. We need access to other historical societies, etc. If you want to do research, cooperation is a must. Besides, a recognized chartered historical society is eligible for membership in the American Historical Society, the umbrella group of all historical societies, and it is this membership that gives status to an individual society. It also makes you eligible for foundation grants.

Q: You mentioned before that Palmer has catalogued its archives, something few other chiropractic colleges are beginning to do. Supposedly, most material simply sits there waiting to be archived. Do you think members of AHC will eventually assume this responsibility and actually catalogue existing material?

Dr. Rehm: If I had an opportunity, I would volunteer, but there are professionals that do this much better. To catalogue archive material, you really need an experienced person who knows what to look for. But we hope that all colleges eventually take care of existing material and hopefully the material that will be donated by people. I would imagine that there are families who have worthwhile collections, and if they could be assured that such material would be properly archived, they might donate it before someone unfamiliar with it destroys it.

Q: You are going to have your next meeting at the Smithsonian. Can you give us specifics?

Dr. Rehm: Certainly. June 6, 1981, is the date of the first annual Conference on the History of Chiropractic. This is going to be a symposium open to everyone, and a call for papers has been mailed to every chiropractic periodical of record in the world, as well as to selected individuals. We also hope each founder might have something to contribute. These papers will be read and discussed, and Russ Gibbons is coordinating this project.

Q: Will the Smithsonian charge you for using its facilities?

Dr. Rehm: Since the symposium is co-sponsored by the museum's Medical Sciences Division, there will be no charge to us. We also have made arrangements with Hotel Washington for guest and meeting rooms. Special rates are available to members of our group.

Q: What about membership?

Dr. Rehm: We are still not officially chartered, which means we are not yet open to membership. We have some unfinished business to discuss and we will do that the night before the symposium. Part of the unfinished business is that we will have

to establish procedures for accepting members, dues, and what the privileges of membership will be.

Q: Do you believe that all colleges will be joining AHC?

Dr. Rehm: I see no reason why they wouldn't. We have already had seven colleges represented at our founders' meeting. I think that is a pretty good indication.

Q: One last question. Would it be possible for the AHC to get a commemorative stamp even before chiropractic's 100th birthday?

Dr. Rehm: About 4 years ago, the ACA discussed the project and I don't know whether anybody is working on it, but, yes, we plan to pursue it.

Thank you, Dr. Rehm. We wish you and AHC much success.

Dr. Rehm: See you in Washington.

1981 (June 5-6): summary of events at first AHC Conference on chiropractic history, recorded by Herbert K. Lee DC:

ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF CHIROPRACTIC

The first annual conference on chiropractic history was held on June 5th and 6th, 1981 in the Smithsonian Institute in Wellington, D.C. [sic]

The conference opened with remarks by the Chairman, Dr. Wm. S. Rehm, then a warm welcome by Dr. Everitt A. Jackson, Curator of the Medical Sciences Division of the Smithsonian Institute.

Seven papers were read during the day, ranging from a "Biography of Solon M. Langworthy," "The Structural Approach to Chiropractic – From Willard Carver to present practice," "History of Manipulation of the Spine in Germany" to "The Establishment and Early Years of C.M.C.C."

At the business meeting held the day before, election of officers was held. The following were elected:

President – Dr. Wm. S. Rehm, Baltimore, Md.

Vice-President – Mr. Russell W. Gibbons, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Secretary – Dr. Herbert K. Lee, Toronto, Ont.

Treasurer – Ms. Fern L. Dzaman, Denver, Col.

The site of the 1982 conference will be the Logan College, to be held in the latter part of May or in June.

I represented C.M.C.C. and C.C.A. at the conference.

It has been suggested that in 1983 C.M.C.C. and C.C.A. might like to host the conference.

On November 7, 1981, a special meeting and workshop will be held in Denver to further define objectives of the AHC, study a proposed constitution and design new programmes to advance study in Chiropractic History.

Respectfully submitted,

Herb. K. Lee

October 5, 1981

undated: "First Annual Conference of the Association for the History of Chiropractic":

The first annual conference was held in Room 1048, Medical Science Division, Smithsonian Institute, National Museum of History, Washington, D.C.

The conference opened at 10:00 A.M. with Dr. W. Rehm, President, in the chair. After some brief introductory remarks he introduced Dr. Jackson, D.D.S., curator of the Medical Science Division. He welcomed the members on behalf of the Museum and stated that he hoped their visit would be pleasurable and profitable. He said that he would like the Association to arrange another meeting here some time in the future.

Just prior to the opening of the meeting he had conducted the members through the Medical Section of the Museum. The members were particularly interested in the Chiropractic Exhibit.

Some expressed the hope that when funds were available the exhibit might be enlarged and improved.

The president then called the first speaker to read her paper. Gari-Anne Patzwald, Head Librarian, Sardoni-Burich Library, National College of Chiropractic. Her subject was, "Discovering and Recording Chiropractic History; For a Systematic Program in the Profession."

The next speaker was Russell W. Gibbons, author and editor. His subject was, "Solon Massey Langworthy: Keeper of the Flame During the Lost Years of Chiropractic."

Dr. Ernest G. Napolitano, President of New York Chiropractic College and President of Council on Chiropractic Education. His paper was entitled, "The Struggle for Accreditation: A Unique History of Educational Bootstrapping."

Dr. Melvin J. Rosenthal was the next speaker. His subject was entitled, "The Structural Approach to Chiropractic: From Willard Carver to Present Practice."

"The Roots of Cranial Manipulation: Nephi Cottam and Craniopathy" was the next paper and was read by Dr. Calvin Cottam.

The next paper was entitled, "Manipulative Therapy of the Spine: The Development of Manual Medicine in Germany and Europe." It was authored by A.H. Sollmann, M.D. and read by Eleonore Blaurock-Busch.

The final paper was delivered by Herbert K. Lee, D.C. and his subject was, "Honoring the Founder in His Country: Conception and Struggle for Canada's Memorial College.

LYNDON E. LEE, D.C. HONORED

Dr. Wm. Rehm read a biography on the life of Lyndon E. Lee, a truly great pioneer in the Chiropractic profession. He then read the resolution passed at the business meeting the day before in which an Honorary Membership was conferred upon Lyndon Lee. A plaque was then presented completing the ceremony.

Dr. W. Rehm then declared the conference adjourned.

1981-1989: Bill Rehm, D.C. serves is editor of the AHC Bulletin (Rehm, 1995a)

1981 (Sept/Oct): **DCE** [24(2)] includes:

- "Time to preserve chiropractic's history" (p. 4):

Participants and observers came from 17 states, the District of Columbia, and Ontario, Canada. It was the first annual Conference on Chiropractic History, June 5-6 in Washington, D.C.

Sponsored jointly by the Association for the History of Chiropractic and the Medical Sciences Division of the Smithsonian Institution, eight professional papers were read and the objectives of the Association discussed. "In chiropractic's 86th year – time to preserve its history," was the theme. The proceedings will be published later this year in the Association's official journal.

The principal events took place in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, where the new chiropractic exhibit is on display. Dr. Everett D. Jackson of the Medical Sciences Division welcomed the attendees and also conducted a tour of the various exhibits in the section. Chairman of the conference was Dr. William S. Rehm.

A highlight of the symposium was presentation of AHC's first honorary membership to Dr. Lyndon E. Lee of Mt. Vernon, N.Y. This was at once sentimental and symbolic. The honoree has practiced the profession for 64 years, and was characterized as one of chiropractic's legendary figures. The 94-year-old Dr. Lee accepted a framed citation.

The ICA hosted a cocktail reception and buffet at the historic Hotel Washington following adjournment of the conference.

It was also disclosed that AHC had received a \$500 grant from FACTS. These funds are earmarked for the journal.

Dr. Rehm, who had served as president pro-tem since its founding last fall, was elected president of AHC. Other officers elected for 1981-82 are: Russell Gibbons, vice-president; Dr. Herbert K. Lee, secretary, and Fern L. Dzaman, treasurer. Directors are to be named later. In addition, various standing and special committees were approved; these include: public relations, membership, archives, publications, and an advisory committee to the Smithsonian. Logan College, Chesterfield, Mo., was selected as the site for the 1982 conference, with Drs. Arthur and Vivian Nickson in charge of local arrangements.

Anyone who is interested in chiropractic history is encouraged to become a member of AHC. Dues are nominal. For information, write: Association for the History of Chiropractic, 4920 Frankford Avenue, Baltimore, Md. 21206.

1982 (Apr 12): letter on AHC stationery from AHC President Bill Rehm, D.C. to Carl S. Cleveland, Sr., D.C. in Los Angeles (CCCKC archives; in my Rehm folder):

Dear Dr. Cleveland,

Separately, we have mailed you fifty of the Association's new informational brochures. We hope that you can make these available to interested students and faculty members. If you can use more, please let us know.

As a suggestion, you might display these with the commemorative cover of Chiropractic History, enclosed here.

We are now making the premiere edition of our journal generally available. The price to non-members is \$16.00 per copy. Chiropractic colleges may order additional copies as follows: up to three copies at \$8.00 each (our unit cost); \$10.00 each for more than three copies.

It would be a privilege to welcome Cleveland College as an institutional member in 1982. As we had written before, dues are \$100.00 annually.

Thank you again for your interest in the Association.

Sincerely yours,...

1982: Bill Rehm, D.C. makes presentation at "Symposium on Health Career Opportunitis for Minorities"; Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. (Rehm, 1995a)

1982-1986: Bill Rehm, D.C. serves as chairman of the Panel on Chiropractic History of the Council on Chiropractic Education (Rehm, 1995a)

1985 (Fall): Bill Rehm, D.C. makes presentation at the Maryland Chiropractic Association convention in Baltimore (Rehm, 1995a)

1987: Bill Rehm, D.C. makes presentation at Logan College of Chiropractic in Chesterfield MO (Rehm, 1995a)

1987: Bill Rehm, D.C. makes presentation at Renaissance International convention in San Francisco (Rehm, 1995a)

1987 (July): **Chiropractic History** [7(1)] includes:

-Leonard E. Fay, D.C. authors "Seventh annual honorary membership of the A.H.C., the Lee-Homewood award to William N. Coggins, D.C., LL.D." (pp. 42-3); notes award on

June 6, 1987 at NWCC during AHC Conference on Chiropractic History; photographs:

Dr. Coggins, third president of Logan College for 18 years, guided the college during the years it moved from Normandy to Chesterfield to a new multi-million dollar campus. Below: Dr. and Mrs. Coggins with AHC Executive Director William S. Rehm after the presentation.



1990-1995: Bill Rehm, D.C. serves on Chiropractic Centennial Foundation (Rehm, 1995a)

1991 (July 29): letter from Ed Kimmel, D.C. to William S. Rehm, D.C., executive director of AHC (in my Kimmel files):

Dear Doctor Rehm:

Enclosed please find some item which may be of significant historical value for chiropractic.

I especially draw your attention to the autographed picture of Daniel David Palmer, which is autographed. I have had this picture in my personal autograph collection for over forty years. I think that the autographed signature is authentic.

In any event, I feel that the material may have some significant historical value.

Very truly yours,...

Copy to Russell W. Gibbons

1991 (Aug 2): letter from Bill Rehm, D.C. to Ed Kimmel, D.C. (in my Kimmel files):

Dear Dr. Kimmel:

What a rare find! I agree that D.D.'s signature certainly appears to be authentic.

On behalf of the Association for the History of Chiropractic, many thanks to you for your thoughtfulness in donating the photos of D.D. and Dave Palmer.

At its next meeting, the board will consider how to best utilize the D.D. portrait. In the meantime, I will have it matted and framed in the interest of preservation.

Thank you again. Sincerely yours,...

1992 (Sept 9): letter to Sally Ann Carr, Ph.D. of the American Chiropractic Association from William S. Rehm, D.C.:

Dear Dr. Carr:

This is in reaction to your letter of August 26 to Dr. Hug.

You stated that "all the items of significance (NCA historical materials) were forwarded to the Association for the History of Chiropractic and to the Palmer College Archives many years ago." This is not quite accurate, however.

In the spring of 1982, I personally received from Eric Baizer for the custody of AHC several boxes of photographs from the files of the NCA Journal. All photos pre-dated 1942. Only these items were approved for the transaction by the ACA board of governors and were all that we received. I was president of the AHC at that time and the transaction was made at the then Washington office of Clayton-Davis.

I cannot speak for the Palmer College Archives.

I trust that this information will be helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,
William S. Rehm

cc: Dr. R. Hug
Dr. J. Keating
Dr. H. Vear
Ms. G. Wiese
Ms. A. Ferguson
Mr. R. Gibbons

1994 (Feb 20): draft of article submitted to *Pro Football Digest* by WSR (my files):

GIVE US OUR FIX, PLEASE

THIS IS INSANE!

It was back in November, while plowing through yet another front-page spread in *The Sun*, or watching another smiley evening-news tap dance, or driving by another one of those desperately imperative banners that sprouted from downtown office towers in late autumn. GIVE US THE BALL! They all said. PLEASE, GOD! THE BALL! WE NEED THE BALL!

Oh, yeah. The Ball. Did we get it yet or what? Then, as now, I thought, the hell with this. If the NFL had decided to anoint Baltimore with a franchise, great. I'd even had bought a hat. But there was a question of dignity, a question that became increasingly obvious when the city was screwed once, then twice, in the expansion farce. And in the bars and the sports pages and the streets after the last deadline, everyone silently mouthed the impossible word Jacksonville and realized, too late, that we'd been fools all along.

So this Valentine's Day was supposedly the last, final, we-promise-not-to-bring-it-up-again deadline for bringing some real All-American blood-'n-guts pro football to this crazed, weary town. Our options, in case you somehow have avoided this sideshow, are many and complex. At one time we deliciously feasted on the fantasy that five teams were itching to move here. There are still perhaps three NFL franchises that are feeling mobile: the Raiders and Rams, of Los Angeles, and maybe the Tampa Bay Bucs. Two – the Rams and the Bucs – are only nominally functioning teams; the remaining Raiders come with Al Davis, a genuine gargyle of an NFL owner.

Meanwhile, Redskins' owner Jack Kent Cooke, Baltimore's reason for this love-hate thing with the NFL, continues to push for moving his club with its ethnically insensitive moniker to a new stadium in Laurel, a scant 15 miles away, which would almost certainly spell defeat for any NFL action here in the all but distant future. Over in old Memorial Stadium they're sweeping up for the return of the colts – Canadian League version, that is, due to hit town this summer. And all that funding set aside for the NFL that never came sits untouched while we wait. And wait.

The state legislature has given Governor Schafer a few more weeks to land the NFL, keeping this tired and terrible opera going. Will Schafer give up his quest for redemption and let those villainous Redskins creep ever closer? Or will one of the quake-ravaged L.A. clubs make a last-second dash to the moving vans? Or do we just make up another deadline and hold on to al that stadium dough, hoping against hope that if we just keep

waving our wallet someone will come by and snatch it? And does anyone pretend to care anymore?

It is, as they say, only a game. But professional football, the most ugly and American of sports, has dangerous powers. Baseball is, after all, just a pastime played in knickers. Basketball players wear short pants. Hockey is fast and brutal enough, but it's just hockey. Football, however, is serious stuff. Otherwise sane and sensible adults paint their bodies, wear embarrassing hats, spend or gamble away fortunes, beat up strangers, and sell their souls just to watch the damned thing. Players stake their chemically enhanced bodies against a few seasons of fame and fortune then hobble off to a lifetime of obscurity and infirmity. Cities spend hundreds of millions in desperately needed public dollars to attract and support franchises that will only lose more money, even as their predatory owners threaten and intimidate and blackmail and reap yet more millions.

Pro football is the perfect game to dominate these last days of this American century, colorful and violent and completely out of control. But as Baltimore has proven, its absence leaves a maddening, aching, completely irrational void. So we all beg, still, pleading like desperate junkies or baby robins. GIVE US THE BALL!

Pathetic!

Only a couple of months ago Baltimore would have laughed at the prospect of playing swampy summer football against hosers [sic] like the Eskimos, Argonauts, Rough Riders and Roughriders, or getting the ol' 13th man riled up cheering the rouge. If this makes no sense, Baltimoreans can wait a few more weeks or grab the CFL rule book.

When they appear in July, these ghostly new Colts won't be playing the same game that their legendary NFL ancestors played in Memorial Stadium, but that's fine. Nothing warms the bitter heart more than seeing those "The NFL Sucks" signs posted all over town, or hearing that sentiment repeated endlessly in bars and on talk radio. It does, and the sooner we drop any remaining illusions about it the better. And the sooner you accept that life itself is not fair, the better you will get along in the long run. Hard work and honesty and humility will get you nowhere, just as you suspected. Get behind a sure winner, play sleazy, and jeer at the wounded along the way. These are the lessons in life this game has to offer. Baltimore, and humanity in general, deserves better, even if better in this case means football in July. I'm ready to buy a hat.

Or perhaps it just seems like the NFL appeals only to the darker angels in our collective national psyche these days. Baltimoreans can hold on to that conviction all summer. Maybe even part of the fall. But sometime around November this year – right about when the CFL season wraps up, come to think of it – we will probably huddle against the cold somewhere on a Sunday afternoon and sip a frozen beer and begin again to believe that maybe, finally, this time it will be different.

Maybe.

--William S. Rehm

The writer free-lances from Baltimore.

1994 (Sept 28): letter from Bill Rehm, D.C. to Alana Callender M.S. re: suggested changes in AHC bylaws (my files)

1995 (Jan 1): National Institute of Chiropractic Research (NICR) grants \$520 from its History Fund to William S. Rehm, D.C. for his study, "Trial of Dr. Irving B. Hall and its importance to the chiropractic profession"; grant results in Rehm's (1995) paper, "Kansas coconuts: legalizing chiropractic in Kansas"

1995 (June 17): letter from William S. Rehm, D.C. to JCK:

Dear Joe,

The commentary by Theodore Bryson about Emmett Murphy's ignominious dismissal is quite a find. A little more dope like this and the Murphy story could rate a follow-up. Murphy's firing was a shameful action. I have my own ideas about who was behind it.

My only insider source on Emmett Murphy (other than his wife) was Dr. Ruth Mandl, a longtime NCA delegate from Maryland and one of his closest friends. Ruth is long-retired and was living with her son in Overland Park, Kan. I called her when AHC was in KC back in '91. She was quite ill then (old age) and not able to talk too much. She could be deceased. (Frances Murphy is deceased.)

Ruth told me part of the story in confidence years ago (in '79.) She was the "Confidential" reference in the article.

The ACA owed both Murphy and Nugent plenty, but in the end they didn't matter. The "new breed" should have been ashamed of themselves.

Thanks for sending the "new" info. See you in a couple of weeks.

Best regards,...B

1995 (Aug 30): letter from Charles N. Cooper DC to Bill Rehm, D.C. (my files)

1995 (Sept 20): letter from Bill Rehm, D.C. to Charles N. Cooper DC at 807 W. 36th Street, Baltimore MD 21211-2596 (my files)

1995 (Dec 14): letter from Bill Rehm, D.C. to JCK re: Lyndon E. Lee papers and Kightlinger paper; notes preparation of paper on Dr. Lee for *ACA Journal* (my files)

1987: Bill Rehm, D.C. makes presentation at American Association for the History of Medicine in Pittsburgh (Rehm, 1995a)

1998 (July 2): letter from Bill Rehm DC to AHC Board re: Spears Book Project:
Greetings to All:

As I told some of you in a previous letter, not unexpectedly Dr. Howard Spears has objected to the concept of publishing a historical treatise on Spears Hospital. I will not comment further except to say that it is not a fatal setback.

My recent efforts at the Denver Public Library allowed me to retrieve from microfilm 276 newspaper articles published between 1927 and 1951. Despite working for five days (about 35 hours), the task there is far from finished. Another trip will be necessary in the near future.

I did drive around the old hospital campus now called Mayfair Park. It's unrecognizable – a decidedly upscale condominium community with shade trees and cul-de-sac streets. The massive structure sold years ago but once planned as the Chiropractic Pioneers Building has had yet another reincarnation, called The Towers at Eighth Avenue. And the old clinic at 13th and Gaylord has been replaced by a 10-story apartment tower.

My motel was 10.5 miles from downtown – a 25-minute drive twice a day. Parking was very expensive at first (\$14 a day), but a librarian told me of a much cheaper lot four blocks away. One day, while walking to the library, it was struck by a bicyclist riding on the sidewalk. The same evening I was struck again, by

a skateboarder. That one cut my left shin. All in the name of research, I guess.

Each of my five full days in Denver was sunny, breezy, in the mid-80s, and with humidity 5-15%. I understand the rest of the country sweltered. If AHC is planning a fall board meeting in Denver I'll probably attend.

Sincerely,...B

2001 (Jan 31): e-mail from James Winterstein DC, DACBR (jwinterstein@nuhs.edu) to JCK:

Dear Joe,

Thanks for letting me know. I have not been in touch with Bill lately and am so sorry to hear about his situation. Do you know if he is at home?

Yes, I agree with you regarding a paper on him and I believe we will find precious little information that is easily accessible. I know Bill reasonably well from teaching him postgrad radiology for 3 years in Baltimore during the mid 70s. We had many opportunities to talk, but the person who really knew him best was Frank Roberts, and unfortunately, he died on June 16, 1996. I can try to find out about others who might have known him. He was a rather withdrawn man and not one to run for office etc. He did know Fern L. Dzaman very well. She was from Colorado, I believe.

I suspect our other best resource would be his wife who also attended NCC with Bill. He and she were dance instructors in those days with Arthur Murray studios.

I will check on pictures, but don't expect to find much. I will also work with you on a paper if I can fit it in (and I will try, Joe). So sorry to hear about Bill.

Jim

2001 (Jan 31): e-mail from Russ Gibbons (gibbons@cookpolar.org) to JCK:

I am delighted that you would like to do a paper/profile on Bill Rehm, always unassuming and yet a "doer" over the years. I will try and help in any way I can.

It is frightening to look over the Founders of the AHC and realize that 8 of the 16 are gone. Of them I think Fern Dzaman is the best resource--Littelton, CO was the last address but that was literally 15 years ago.

I was in Washington in mid-January and had plans to take the train to Baltimore but Bill's chemo gave him a bad day--but I sent his proofs on and he checked them out. He talks with a whisper but can communicate well. The book should be out in late Spring and will be a highlight for him. Again would love to do a review for NUHC/NCC Alumni mag as well as JMPT (will contact Dana on this).

Best wishes and let me know if I can do anything.

Russ Gibbons

2001 (Jan 31): e-mail from Richard Schafer DC (7RCSX@email.msn.com) to JCK:

The idea for a chiropractic historical society was solely Bill Rehm's. He first discussed his idea with Gibbons and then proceeded to set up the founders meeting. Representatives from all chiro colleges were invited plus several notables such as Lee. I was called early, but only god knows why. Had many telephone conversations with Bill in the early years --became good friends.

Fern Dzamen is the public relations director for Spears. She was working on the first "Who's Who in Chiropractic" at the time of the founders meeting.

R. C. Schafer, DC acapress.com

2001 (Jan 31): e-mail from Alana Callender MS (CALLENDER_A@palmer.edu) to JCK:

According to the AHC records, Fern Dzaman is at 7945 Conventry Drive, Castle Rock, CO 80104

Bill is at home and talking on the phone is not painful for him, but it is tiring. He and Jean are in the process of moving and he has a new phone number 410-488-8617. We've talked a lot during the publication process of his book.

I do not have Eleanore Busch's address - I believe she came back "not forwardable" on our last mailing.

2001 (Feb 9): letter from Bill Rehm, D.C. to JCK (in my Rehm file):

Dear Joe:

It's been years since anyone has heard from Fern Dzaman. The address which the AHC Directory for some reason still carries is no good, and there is no forwarding address. I know that she and her husband owned property in Florida.

Eleanore Busch and her husband (Bernd Busch, DC) lived in Boulder, CO.

Joe, I cannot express too forcefully my displeasure at your attempt to research a biography of me. I request that you immediately cease any such effort...B.

2002 (Mar 11; Monday): Bill Rehm dies

2002 (Apr 11): e-mail from Jim Winterstein, D.C. (jwinterstein@nuhs.edu):

Thanks Joe,

I knew Bill for 30 years. He was a "good man" who always put others ahead of himself. There are many stories and often Bill was the butt of the joke. He once asked his friend and classmate Frank Roberts (now deceased also, but a real character) to help him get an old adjusting table. Bill had borrowed another friend's new truck for the event. On the way to pick up Frank, he managed to run over his favorite cat - mashed it flat - took it to the vet, spent \$300 (twice as much as he would spend on the used table because he did not have enough to buy a better one) before the cat was pronounced dead. Finally picked Frank up and went and got the table. On the way home, Bill, who was perpetually nervous was not paying attention and had to make a panic stop at which point the table (all 800 pounds worth) came flying forward into the rear of the pickup cab doing some \$1500 damage to the truck. We had some great belly laughs and Bill always laughed along with the rest of us.

Jim

2002 (May 20): **Dynamic Chiropractic** [20(11)] includes:

-Russell W. Gibbons authors "A moment of silence for Dr. William Rehm" (p. 12); includes photo of Bill Rehm:

The founder of the Association for the History of Chiropractic, William Rehm, D.C., 71, died in his native Baltimore, Maryland on March 11. A chiropractor in the city for 43 years, he was nationally recognized as one of the first premier historians of the profession. Services were held March 15 in Baltimore.

Last year, following several years of research and documentation and several trips throughout the Midwest, Dr. Rehm published his seminal work, *Prairie Thunder: Dr. Leo L. Spears and His Hospital* (AHC Books, 2001). This was a reconstruction of the life and times of the controversial Denver chiropractor who built the largest hospital in the profession and influenced a generation of practitioners.

William Rehm, the son of a Baltimore attorney, entered the former Columbia College of Chiropractic in that city in 1951, and two years later transferred to the National College of Chiropractic, graduating from the old Chicago campus in 1955. In 1956, he went to Denver, interned at Spears Hospital and married Jean. The couple returned to Baltimore the next year, where Dr. Rehm would practice through the end of 1999.

Entering a parallel career of research and documentation of his profession, he founded a quarterly, the *Mid-Atlantic Journal of Chiropractic*, and began one of the most extensive biographical projects ever undertaken in chiropractic, the compilation of hundreds of profiles of contemporary chiropractic leaders. Bill and Jean Rehm also compiled an extensive necrology of the profession. These were published in 1978 as *Who's Who in Chiropractic International*. An expanded 400-page second volume was published in 1980, which had the necrology, and a special history and educational profile of the colleges. It became one of the first serious source reference books on the profession, and found its way to many reference and medical libraries.

In October 1980, Bill Rehm's activism led to the foundation of the Association for the History of Chiropractic at an organizational meeting hosted by Spears Hospital. The next year, the first annual scholarly conference was held at the National Museum for American History, and after that at every chiropractic college campus in North America through the end of the century. The professional papers which were delivered at these conferences were published in the annual journal, *Chiropractic History*, which became a biannual in 1987.

Bill was elected the first president of the AHC and later served for several years as its unpaid executive director, eventually becoming a director emeritus. In the first years of the association, Bill made contact with the medical history section of the National Museum, and was able to secure the first chiropractic exhibit at a federal museum. Later he was instrumental in eliminating the chiropractic designation as a sub-section under "Fads and Quackery," to achieve its own status as an alternative healing profession.

The 15 years of scholarship at AHC constituted the basis for the historical research that existed at the Chiropractic Centennial, held in Washington, D.C., and Davenport, Iowa in 1995. Dr. Rehm wrote the "Chiropractic Pathfinders: Images and Legacies" chapter for *Chiropractic: An Illustrated History* (Mosby, 1995), and was invited to be on a panel on chiropractic at that year's conference of the American Association for the History of Medicine.

Palmer College awarded Dr. Rehm an honorary Doctor of Chiropractic Humanities in 1996. In addition to several papers in *Chiropractic History* and other journals, he was also a contributor to four books.

Dr. Walter Wardwell, emeritus professor of medical sociology at the University of Connecticut, who served on the AHC Board with Dr. Rehm for several years, summarized his contribution to the profession: "Little was known and recorded with any objectivity before Bill published his work. He became the bedrock for serious chiropractic historical research in the second century of the profession."

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