

# A. O. H. S. BULLETIN

American Osteopathic Historical Society



Dr. E. S. Detwiler, impersonating Dr. Andrew T. Still in 1931  
(see article in this issue)

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AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sherwood R. Mercer, LL.D.

An affiliated organization  
of the American Osteopathic  
Association

At no time in its history has the osteopathic profession needed a greater consciousness of its history than it does right now. By the same token, never has the profession had greater need of its historical society. Whatever strengths which will be developed to help the profession through its present crisis, must be developed on those already latent in the profession, a heritage from those who founded and developed it.

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The American Osteopathic Historical Society has a clear duty to serve as the agent which will bring these strengths into focus in the consciousness of the profession. It is my sincere hope that our membership will do four things: (1) talk with their professional colleagues about the importance of historical understanding by everyone in the profession; (2) encourage osteopathic physicians to join our Society; (3) write papers for the Society's publication; (4) encourage financial support for the Society's activities.

Editor

Josephine Seyl  
212 E. Ohio St.  
Chicago 11, Ill.

We are not advocating an all-out campaign. We are encouraging a steady day in and day out activity.

Officers

President

Sherwood R. Mercer, LL.D.  
Philadelphia College of  
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48th and Spruce St.  
Philadelphia 39, Pa.

The 1962 meeting of the A.O.H.S. will be held in January at Las Vegas, Nev., in conjunction with the Annual Convention of the American Osteopathic Association. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Chester D. Swope, Washington, D. C., has agreed to be our speaker on the program.

Vice President

Munish Feinberg, D.O.  
5225 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles 36, Calif.

Until his resignation last September, Dr. Swope served as Chairman of the A.O.A. Council on Federal Health Programs (formerly the Department of Public Relations) for 31 years. We are honored to claim him as a member of the American Osteopathic Historical Society and we are doubly honored to have him appear on our 1962 program. No one, by experience, insight, philosophical orientation and professional conviction and performance, has understood more clearly the destiny, the dynamics and the root strength of this profession than Dr. Swope. No one is better equipped to give these expression in an address. We are fortunate, indeed, in having him as our speaker.

Secretary-Treasurer

Josephine Seyl  
212 E. Ohio St.  
Chicago 11, Ill.

I hope every A.O.H.S. member at the convention in Las Vegas, will bring at least one nonmember to hear Dr. Swope's presentation.

E. S. Detwiler, D.O.  
London, Ont., Canada

We are grateful to Dr. Detwiler (ASO '11), of London, Ont., Canada, for writing up some of his experiences in impersonating Dr. Andrew T. Still and, in that character, giving a number of his talks before osteopathic conventions, including divisional societies and the A.O.A. Of one of Dr. Detwiler's performances, The Forum of Osteopathy for January, 1932, said: "Dr. Detwiler is a skillful impersonator, and except for lacking a little in height, his characterization was so realistic that those who knew Dr. Still well gave him highest praise and many were moved to tears." The picture on the cover of this issue of the A.O.H.S. Bulletin shows the striking resemblance between Dr. Still and his impersonator, Dr. Detwiler.

The American School of Osteopathy, Kirksville, Mo., accepted me as a freshman in October, 1906. The course was then three years of ten months each. Osteopathic hospitals were few and opportunities for internships scarce; hence such seniors as could find "assistantships" left school in December of the last year. I spent six months with Dr. John F. Spaunhurst in Indianapolis, Ind. My aunt, Dr. Sara Detwiler, was an earlier graduate and with her I completed two very beneficial years. In January, 1911, I returned to Kirksville, joined the senior class and graduated with them in June.

During my three years in Kirksville, Dr. Still and William Smith, M.D., D.O., who together, in 1892, opened the first school for the teaching of osteopathy, were still active in and about the school. Dr. Still was a tall, stately figure, though seventy-eight years of age, familiar to all, carrying an old rough stick as a cane. He was to be seen almost daily in the school, in treatment room or lecture hall; on the large cement walk in front of the Infirmary, the site of many technic demonstrations, or in or

about his house or the large lawn that surrounded it. Rarely would he be seen alone; students or friends were about and his visits to the classroom were always welcomed by the students. He entered without warning, proceeded directly to the platform, delivered his message and departed, still talking as he passed through the door. No more farewell than greeting.

I should like to mention some of the other notables that taught us: Drs. Charles Still, George Laughlin, George Still, L. Van H. Gerdine, John Deason, Frank P. Pratt, R. E. Hamilton, E. R. Lydia, A. D. Becker, R. N. Waggoner, E. H. Henry and Frank Bigsby. These are but a few of those that stand most prominently in my memory and to whom I owe much of my fundamental understanding of osteopathy.

This was the first phase in the background from which sprang my desire to emphasize the Old Doctor's fundamental ideas and to link with that a little more of the personality and the grandeur of the man. The second phase was my rather brief association with the

amateur theatre and some skilled members of the profession. So it was to my avocation joining my vocation that I owe the very rewarding experiences that I have been asked to recount.

My first requirement was to communicate with all members of the Still family available, tell them of my plans and objectives, and get their reactions. They were all most gracious, helpful and encouraging. Next, I approached a number of outstanding members of the profession and a few lay people closely connected with the Still family and the profession. Without exception, they gave me approval, encouragement and, in several instances, great aid in building a mental picture of the Old Doctor, in appearance, apparel, movement, habits, voice production and minor impressions that often are so important in portraying character. So, to freshen my own memories about him, I went back to his own printed words and also to descriptions by some of the gifted writers whose works were available. I intended to use only the Old Doctor's words. The next two years passed with these tasks and practicing make-up and impersonation in private.

The first impersonation was given in October, 1931, at a joint meeting of the New York Osteopathic Society, the Ontario Osteopathic Association and the Ontario Academy of Osteopathy, in Buffalo, N.Y. Since, as far as we knew, this was to be the first impersonation of the Old Doctor, we were anxious to make full use of the surprise element. To this end, the item on the program was entitled, "A Characterization of A. T. Still." Dr. R. B. Henderson, Toronto, Ont., gave the introduction. He described the scene as the North Hall of the A.S.O. Infirmary, where a group of friends and builders were gathered for the opening of the Infirmary in 1895. He closed his remarks with, "But where is the Old Doctor? Has he forgotten as he sometimes does? Ah, no. Here he is!"

At that moment, the Old Doctor entered the hall. He was a straight, tall, gray bearded, stately man in a Prince Albert coat, old felt hat and

wearing steel-rimmed spectacles, a vest buttoned at the top from which hung a gold watch chain, looping down to the lower left vest pocket. He carried a long rough staff as he continued up the aisle, paying little heed to the standing, clapping audience. On the platform, he turned to face the audience and looked them over.

They soon quieted down and, without any reference to their boisterous welcome, he proceeded with his talk. He walked about some while talking, but often stood motionless for emphasis. He directed his remarks to one section or one person after the other so that it seemed that he talked individually to almost each one present. As he approached the end of his message, he started down the aisle, still talking and letting his message gradually die away as he passed through the door. The closest attention was needed to hear the closing portions of his talk. This voice was about the only feature that suggested his age--or was it perhaps to demand close attention? As I tried to follow his usual technique, the standing ovation compelled me to shout my exit line, "D.O. means DIG ON!" (This was the only time I took any liberty with the Old Doctor's words. He would never shout and the above favored and familiar sentence, "D.O. means Dig On," as far as I know, was not spoken until much later.)

I was asked to give an impersonation on the banquet program at the A.O.A. convention in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1935. The Cleveland committee had exceeded my expectations for the program. The delegates were taken by special trains to a summer resort, Cedar Point. The banquet was held in a large pavilion with a stage immediately back of the head table. A large "Family Album" type of framework was built and placed on end. The cover was swung open like a door and the person standing in the frame made a good portrait. Curtains concealed the "Album" until the close of the banquet when the entertainment was to commence.

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NOTES ON MEMBERS OF THE

FIRST GRADUATING CLASS

The cover of the December issue of the A.O.H.S. Bulletin showed a picture of the first class at the American School of Osteopathy. Dr. Hugh Fraser of Oakland, Calif., is the source of this picture. He also gave me a copy. Dr. Fraser treated Dr. Arthur A. Bird (of the first graduating class) and his wife, who gave it to him with the names attached. They were keeping some sort of a rest home in, or near, Oakland. After graduating from the A.S.O., Dr. Bird did not want anyone to know he was an osteopathic physician, nor did Dr. J. D. Hill and Drs. A. and M. Peters (also of the first graduating class). In due time, Dr. Hill studied medicine and I believe the Drs. Peters did also. During my years in San Francisco, I never saw any one of the four.

Although Dr. William Smith appears in the picture of the first graduating class in 1894, he received his diploma in 1893. This was the first osteopathic diploma to be issued and I have been privileged to see it. Dr. Smith was the first M.D. to become interested in osteopathy. He was the first teacher after Dr. Andrew T. Still to teach in an osteopathic school. He taught at the A.S.O. three different times and as the faculty grew he introduced the three Littlejohn brothers into the staff. When the Littlejohn brothers left the school in 1899-1900, Dr. Smith went into private practice in Kansas City and the Littlejohns went to Chicago and organized the American College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, later known as the Littlejohn College and Hospital.

William Horace Ivie, D.O., M.D.  
Berkeley, Calif.

M. Machin organized the Keokuk (Iowa) College of Osteopathy, from which one or two classes were graduated.

F. Polmeteer located in Kirksville and remained there in practice until his death. He carried on a very successful practice. As a result of Dr. Polmeteer's remaining in Kirksville, the A.S.O. instituted a requirement that before admittance to the college a student must sign a statement promising not to practice in Kirksville following graduation.

Jenette H. Bolles took over the anatomy class work at the A.S.O. after Dr. William Smith left the school. She also became the first editor of the college's publication, The Journal of Osteopathy. She was the first D.O. to locate in Colorado, arriving there in 1895, and founded the Colorado College of Osteopathy in 1897.

Dr. Arthur G. Hildreth, Dr. Charles E. Still and Dr. Harry M. Still founded the Still-Hildreth Sanatorium at Macon, Mo. Dr. Hildreth was elected President of the American Osteopathic Association in 1899, but resigned to become an instructor at the A.S.O., where he served as Dean for a while. In 1910 he was again elected A.O.A. President and served the full year. He authored the book "The Lengthening Shadow of Dr. Andrew Taylor Still."

Dr. Charles E. Still lived for many years and carried on his father's work. He did much for the A.S.O. and the profession. He was the first D.O. to

practice in the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Dr. Harry Still did practically no teaching, although he did much work in the early days with his father on his trips around the state--later he was a Kirksville banker.

Dr. Blanche Still did a great deal of work on The Journal of Osteopathy. She married George Laughlin, D.O., noted surgeon and educator and founder of the Laughlin Hospital and the Andrew T. Still College of Osteopathy and Surgery, Kirksville.

Fred Still died a few months after graduation. His death was described in the June, 1894, issue of The Journal of Osteopathy. The article stated that he had been crushed between a horse and the wall of a barn, causing a displacement of the heart. He was sick for some time and while on his sickbed "...a little girl with a broken wrist was brought to him. While his uncle held the arm, Fred set it and sent the little one away happy..."

Herman Still went around the country practicing in one large city after another, milking all of them of easy cases. He did this advertising himself as "The son of Dr. A. T. Still, Founder of Osteopathy." Many of the profession criticized him severely for this method. He was the first D.O. to practice in the states of Illinois and Ohio.

The Old Doctor's elder brother, Edward C. Still, M.D., D.O., practiced medicine and surgery and osteopathy for many years at Macon, Mo., twenty miles south of Kirksville on the Wabash R.R. He had broken his neck and was left with a permanent badly crooked one.

M. L. Ward, suffering from a very severe attack of asthma, was brought on a stretcher to see Dr. Still. My recollection is that this occurred on one of Dr. Still's trips through southwestern Missouri. He was cured and became a student at the A.S.O. Dr. Still told me that he was an excellent

operator, but a very poor student. Following his graduation, Dr. Ward fell out with Dr. Still and went to St. Louis to attend the Barnes Medical College. He then returned to Kirksville and opened an osteopathic college in the Becky Harris flats until a building could be erected. The school was incorporated in 1897 as The Great Columbian School of Osteopathy (later became the Columbian School of Osteopathy). The building was completed, but due to finances, Dr. Ward could not make a go of it and in 1900 the school was closed, with some of its students going to the A.S.O. and others to the Dr. S. S. Still College of Osteopathy at Des Moines.

Andrew P. Davis, who was an M.D. and a homeopath prior to graduating from the A.S.O., authored "Osteopathy Illustrated" in 1899, at which time he was conducting a school at Quincy, Ill.--the Quincy Osteopathic Institute.

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#### OSTEO-QUOTE

By Ben C. Scharf, D.O.

Below is an outstanding quotation from some leader, spokesman or writer in osteopathy. Do you know who made this statement? Select one of the three possible choices. For the correct answer, see page 6.

"The real problem in this profession is not our minority status but the quality of the individual physician who graduates from an osteopathic institution. If more of our physicians truly believed and practiced the principles of this profession, we might not be faced with a problem such as exists in California... This profession has always said that it is better than, and not just the same as, the medical profession. We fought so hard for recognition that we have almost recognized ourselves out of existence."

- (1) Dr. Charles L. Naylor
- (2) Dr. George W. Northup
- (3) Dr. Roy J. Harvey

Dr. Andrew Taylor Still  
(continued from page 3)

Dr. Thomas R. Thorburn, then A.O.A. President, turned the meeting over to the Executive Secretary, Dr. Russell C. McCaughan. A group of about twenty prominent osteopathic physicians had been selected for introduction. On signal from Dr. McCaughan, the Old Doctor's granddaughter, a lovely little girl, swung open the "Album" door revealing the first V.I.P., whose identity and accomplishments were then announced to the audience. So, similarly in turn, each of the introductions was made.

This was a very interesting offering to the approximately eleven hundred guests and an ideal lead-up to the "Old Doctor," who appeared on the "last page" of the "Album." He paused a moment in the frame, then stepped through the opening to the front of the stage. From there he gave the short address he had chosen. With the last few lines he backed up through the open "Album" and disappeared, as the lights dimmed and the curtains slowly closed. So passed into history another American Osteopathic Association banquet, perhaps an unusual one.

The next morning one of my friends told me that Mrs. George Laughlin, the Old Doctor's daughter, had seemed quite disturbed on the appearance of the Old Doctor. This distressed me not a little, for I thought I had done everything possible to avoid displeasing any member of the family or other close friend. I spoke to Dr. George Laughlin about it and he assured me that "Blanche" was not displeased but said, "Go upstairs and speak to her about it." This I did at once and she received me graciously and reassured me that the strong

ANSWER TO OSTEO-QUOTE (Page 5)

Dr. George W. Northup speaking at the President's Conference called by Dr. Roy J. Harvey on May 25, 1961. Issued as a special report to the members of the A.O.A.

lights and her nearness to the stage startled her and the resemblance did stir her memories for a moment. But she added, "I wish you would make this presentation each year for the students of all the colleges." We talked further for a short time on that note. I thanked her again and retired. That experience is a very dear memory to me.

A complete report of my experiences in impersonating Dr. Still on other occasions has been placed on file with the secretary of the American Osteopathic Historical Society. My last performance at the 1949 convention of the Ontario Osteopathic Association in Kitchener, Ontario, was the closing of the chapter which was so rewarding to me and which was offered as a small tribute to that very unusual and very great man--Dr. Andrew Taylor Still.

The impersonation of a great man is an accomplishment; a greater work is the actual following of his teaching and his efforts to befriend mankind. Dr. Still would have us prove this.

"By his deeds we have known him."

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ARCHIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

Our thanks to:

Dr. William Horace Ivie, Berkeley, Calif., for a copy of a tin type of Dr. Andrew T. Still, taken in 1885 at Millard, Mo., seven miles south of Kirksville. Of this picture, Dr. Ivie says: "I sent the original to Dr. Charlie's daughter, care of the A.S.O. It is probably the earliest picture of Dr. Still. My mother and father were living at Millard and were given the original by Dr. Still."

Dr. E. S. Detwiler, London, Ont., Canada, for the following pictures, including identification of many of those persons appearing in them: Dissection class at A.S.O. 1907 or 1908; British Empire Club at A.S.O. 1907 or 1909; 1909 A. S.O. class pictured in front of Dr. Still's home.

THE FIRST WOMAN D. O. IN

THE A. O. A. CENTRAL OFFICE

Eva W. Magoon Somerville, D.O.  
St. Johnsbury, Vt.

Many of my friends in the profession had told me of the days long gone, so that I was well prepared for my part in the life of our national association (A.O.A.) in the 1920's and following. By the time I graduated from the Chicago College of Osteopathy in 1922, there was a large contingent of student members in the A.O.A. When my father and mother gave me a hundred dollars as a graduation gift, they suggested that I use it for a trip to Los Angeles to attend the A.O.A. Convention. It more than paid my fare there and back to my home in Providence, R. I. This trip to the convention changed the course of my life for the next year.

With my portable typewriter I transcribed a speech of one of the doctors on the special train which carried its load of convention goers West. With my shorthand I "covered" the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat specialty convention, following the A.O.A. meeting, and so missed out on a trip that had been scheduled to the Sunny Slope Laboratory of the A. T. Still Research Institute.

Being independent, I took the electric interurban train the following day to see the research work at the laboratory for myself. I had been told that another group was going by auto, but I was too reticent to ask to join them.

I began what promised to be a long walk from the train and as I stopped at a fork in the road to consider which way

I should go, I heard a hail. Sweeping around the bend behind me and pausing for the same reason was the carload of osteopathic celebrities, who had been delayed because they had lost their way outside of Los Angeles. They invited me to join the group. After our visit at the laboratory, I was urged to return to Los Angeles with them.

This gave me a chance to get better acquainted with the doctors in the group. They were A.O.A. President, Sam L. Scothorn; President-Elect, George W. Goode; Incoming Secretary, Cyrus J. Gaddis; past President, C. D. Swope; and F. M. Nicholson. Dr. Nicholson had been my chief in the laboratory department and head of the Department of Histology and Pathology at the Chicago College all through my years as a student. Because I had made good as his assistant, he was nice enough to praise my work, and to tell the other men about my background, because he knew that they were looking for an assistant for the new A.O.A. office to be set up in Chicago that summer. Because of this interview, Dr. Gaddis asked me to consider the position and after he was formally instated as Secretary by a post-convention meeting of the A.O.A. Trustees, he called me and practically bound the bargain as far as he could do so at that time.

On what a small incident can a change in plans hinge! I went home to take my Rhode Island and neighboring state board examinations and these were behind me before I heard from Dr. Gaddis again.  
(continued on next page)



Eventually I received a wire stating that he was on his way from California to Chicago, that I was chosen as his assistant, and asking if I would come out as soon as possible to help him and the other very small staff get settled and started. After receiving President Goode's O.K., I returned to Chicago as the first woman D.O. to work in our A.O.A. Central Office.

The office at 623 South Wabash Avenue was dingy, dusty, and noisy, but a lot was accomplished there. Dr. Harry L. Chiles,\* the pioneer Secretary, had persuaded his assistant to come to Chicago from Orange, N. J., where she had worked with him, and help us keep the "ropes" straight, as he had them laid out. Her name was Madeline Rosche and, after a year or two, she returned to New Jersey to marry Marty Rogers, a traffic officer in Orange. I kept in touch with them for many years until their deaths, not too long ago.

Mr. R. H. McClure was hired as Business Manager and he used Miss Rosche as part-time assistant, as well as Miss Rose Mary Moser, who did a great deal of the financial work, collecting dues and doing the bookkeeping. In 1934, after proving her capabilities, Miss Moser became Treasurer of the Association. In 1957 she retired and became the wife of Dr. Wayne Dooley, of Los Angeles. We are still close friends and meet occasionally to reminisce on the old days when we three women and the two men ran the A.O.A. office in its Chicago beginning--a considerable advancement over the small room in Dr. Chiles office-home in the East.

That year of being general assistant to Dr. Gaddis involved taking his lengthy dictation, filing his mail, soliciting and arranging material for The Journal of the A.O.A. and Osteopathic Magazine, sending copy to the printer, reading proof, making up the dummies for the two publications, and sometimes writing editorials and articles. There was also reviewing of books and arranging and cataloguing the small library that was accumulating in the headquarters office.

Not the least of my duties, was the meeting of the many visitors, members of the profession and others, and sometimes meeting their trains and guiding them to the office if they were strangers to Chicago. I have counted among my best friends many of those contacted in this way and kept in touch with them over the years. More than one urged me to take Dr. Gaddis' place; even after Dr. C. N. Clark came in as Business Manager, taking over Mr. McClure's post following his death. After much prayerful consideration, I decided that, since I had been educated for the practice of osteopathy, it was about time I got at it. So I left Wabash Avenue late in 1923, feeling grateful for all I had gained and glad that I could have given a year of my career to the work of the national headquarters.

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\* Editor's Note: Dr. Chiles served as Secretary of the A.O.A. for 15 years, first being elected in 1904.

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#### Notes on Members of First Class (continued from page 5)

J. (John L.) Porter, who is my uncle, and W. (W.T.) Porter, his son, never studied osteopathy. I asked my Uncle John about this picture. He told me that he and his son were walking around the public square and Dr. Still and the others asked them to join the group which was to have its picture taken. This they did. Uncle John Porter's sister was the wife of Mr. Robert Harris, of whom Dr. Still speaks so highly on page 27 and other pages of his autobiography. His son, W. T. Porter, wrote up the first A.S.O. incorporation papers, of which Dr. Still always strongly disapproved. The second incorporation was built upon the basis of the laws governing teaching institutions and was much better all around.

Of the others in the photograph I know nothing at this time. Dr. Still and Dr. Laughlin had copies of the picture. Dr. Still's copy was lost and Dr. Laughlin's was put in the Smithsonian Institute.