

## Silas J. Kloehn 1902-1985

**T**he *Angle Orthodontist* and the Specialty of Orthodontics have lost a great benefactor and a very special person in the death of Silas J. Kloehn on February 20, 1985. As Business Manager from the fledgeling years of the Great Depression to the Eighties, his watchful eye and careful nurturing brought this publication from a struggling dependence on annual contributions from the members of the Angle Society to a self-supporting major orthodontic journal.

As a clinician, his interest was captivated in the late '30s by the concept of extraoral anchorage. His early applications of this therapy began with an appliance which would now be considered a high-pull type of traction. As he worked with it, he eventually concluded that properly-controlled cervical traction was more efficient in the treatment of Class II malocclusions. Careful control and balance between force magnitude, direction and daily cycle were always stressed. While he used cervical traction in many applications, he always perceived it to be of greatest value in the treatment of Class II malocclusions in the mixed dentition.

Si was born November 7, 1902 on a farm near Forest Junction, Wisconsin. His early life was typical of a farm boy in that era, with hard work and a close family life. He entered first grade at 4 years of age to keep his older brother company, and graduated from high school at the age of 16. After a year on the farm, he entered Marquette University, where he received his D.D.S. in 1924.

He practiced general dentistry in Appleton for 11 years, building a large and successful practice and developing a strong interest in community affairs. He was very active in numerous local organizations throughout his lifetime.

His interest in orthodontics also developed during this period in general practice, and he took numerous short courses in the hope that he would be able to provide orthodontic treatment for his patients. This approach failed to satisfy his demands for excellence, so in 1935 he applied for the postgraduate course in Orthodontics at the University of Illinois. On his acceptance, he sold his practice and the family moved to Chicago.

His thesis, "Root form as determined by occlusal stress," was published in the *Angle Orthodontist* in 1936. Si enjoyed university life, and remained in Chicago for another year-and-a-half after finishing the required course, teaching part-time and practicing in the loop.

The powerful lure of life in a smaller city eventually brought him back to Appleton, where he maintained his office until his death, proud of the fact that he had personally completed the active treatment for all of his patients.

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Si was elected to membership in the Midwest Component of the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontia early in his career, and in 1938 he was appointed the second business manager of the *Angle Orthodontist*. He considered his membership in the Angle Society one of the most important relationships of his professional life, and enjoyed serving as business manager for more than forty years.

Teaching was always an enjoyable challenge, and he lectured frequently throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and the Orient. His home and office were always open to students and practitioners, and he was always pleased to welcome visitors from all over the world for a stay of several days or even longer.

In 1968, he presented the George W. Grieve Memorial Lecture at the Canadian Society of Orthodontists, and in 1970 he was a recipient of the Albert H. Ketcham Memorial Award of the American Board of Orthodontics. Other honors include the St. Louis University Distinguished Service Award, Fellow of the International College of Dentists, Fellow of the American College of Dentists, and member of the Editorial Board of the American Association of Orthodontists.

Si had few hobbies, but those that he enjoyed were pursued with the same vigor that he displayed in all aspects of his life. He was an avid reader and there was always an open book in his study. He golfed regularly throughout the summer months until arthritis finally prevented him from making a good turn.

The old adage that “you can take the boy from the farm, but you can’t take the farm from the boy” was most fitting as he eagerly looked forward to spring, when he could again be tending the flowers and vegetables in his garden. He loved his trees most of all, and had at least 15 different varieties growing around his home. He would nurture and prune them, guiding their growth and development to his concept of beauty. If a tree became diseased or was damaged by a storm, it was nothing more than an opportunity to plant a new one.

Si will be greatly missed and always remembered by his patients, friends, colleagues and most of all by his family whom he dearly loved. ■