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# ORTHODONTIC Times

**The Angle Orthodontist  
takes another look at  
orthodontists who have  
made headlines.  
By Norman Wahl, DDS,  
MS**

November 1955

## ANGLE SOCIETY OBSERVES SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Chicago, Nov. 6, 1955 (AO)—When Dr. George W. Hahn accepted an assignment to present a paper on the history of the Angle Society at its 25th Reunion Meeting here at the Drake Hotel, it was with the understanding that it would not be published.

Too off-color? No, explains Program Chairman Wendell L. Wylie. The reason was simply to get "a frank and revealing account of the society's growth.... It avoids the abridgement which routine publication would require, and it preserves the candor which makes this contribution a classic in the archives of the Angle Society," he said.

Hahn, a Berkeley, Calif., orthodontist, is well-qualified for the assignment. He is not only one of the Society's founders, but was a close associate of its namesake, Dr. Edward H. Angle. He explained that, while the Society was formally organized at Chicago's Lake Shore Athletic Club 25 years ago, it had its actual beginnings in 1922 at Pasadena, Calif., when a group of Angle's disciples started meeting monthly to discuss cases.

Then, when Angle died in August, 1930, the society ceased to exist. It took



George W. Hahn

only three months for his followers to reorganize into a national body of four components. From a nucleus of 46 charter members, the society has grown to an enrollment today of 250.

Of these, Hahn pointed out, "Seventy hold teaching appointments. Two are deans of dental schools in state universities, nine hold administrative appointments such as chairmen of departments...." Most noteworthy of the latter, according to Hahn, is Allan G. Brodie, who, since that landmark year of 1930, has headed the orthodontic department at the University of Illinois College of Dentistry here in Chicago where "the discipline, the vision, and the idealism of Dr. Angle have been maintained as nowhere else in the world."

Nineteen thirty also marks the birth of *The Angle Orthodontist*, official organ of the society. For its first 17 years, the "A.O." was the only publication devoted exclusively to orthodontics, Hahn said. This was because today's *American Journal of Orthodontics* was not known as such until 1948. Prior to that, it was called the *American Journal of Orthodontia and Oral Surgery*.

Unlike most dental publications *The Angle Orthodontist* has never accepted advertising. This "has allowed a flexibility of policy by the editors and business manager enjoyed by few other publications," Hahn said.

Hahn made the observation that "wherever Angle conducted a school those who had completed the course more or less spontaneously organized themselves into what... eventually became official societies.... The graduates of Dr. Angle's first school in St. Louis, in 1900, organized the world's first orthodontic society... which has developed into the present American Association of Orthodontists (AAO).

"In 1909 the graduates of the New York and New London schools formed a society and named it the Eastern Association of

Graduates of the Angle School of Orthodontia." They disbanded in 1939.

In like manner, the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists, a component of the AAO, originated in 1913 as the Pacific Coast Society of Graduates of the Angle School after a two-day clinic given by Angle on his pin-and-tube appliance.

"What is the glue, the cementing substance, the bond that brings and holds the members of the society together?" asked Hahn. From a sampling of twelve members who replied to that question, Hahn offered this composite: "...There is in the society a fellowship, not as the word is commonly used, but a fellowship in which there is no selfishness, no jealousy, no deceit, but an honesty of purpose in which every man is held in that esteem which gives him a feeling of pride tempered by humility.... It is the maintenance of the ideal of perfection which in our profession originated with Angle and which is rapidly disappearing in the philosophy of present day living and thinking."

(Source: Hahn, G.W.: The history and philosophy of the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontia, 1955. Privately printed by the Society.)

**INSIDE:**  
**Steel Cos. Bow**  
**to Kennedy**  
**Gary Powers**  
**Freed in Soviet**  
**Trade**

# ORTHODONTIC Times

May 1962

## ABO HISTORY REVIEWED

Los Angeles, May 1, 1962 (AO)—When the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) was established in 1929, it was a concept not readily accepted by the dental profession. This was the keynote of a paper given here yesterday at the Los Angeles Hilton by Dr. B.F. ("Tod") Dewel during the 58th annual meeting of the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO).

In his first major historical review, Dewel, president-elect of the Board, said that the ABO was the first specialty board in dentistry and the third in the whole medico-dental field. As such, it took a great deal of persuasion on the part of its founder, Dr. Albert H. Ketcham, to convince the profession's leaders that it was a necessary step in the setting of standards to which orthodontists could aspire.

The selection of Dr. Dewel for this assignment is more than appropriate. Not only is he the official ABO historian, but he began his practice in Evanston, Ill., the year of the Board's founding, as well as the crash of the stock market.

Dewel's description of conditions in the profession at that time brought nostalgic smiles to many of the doctors in the audience. He told how the AAO membership in



B.F. "Tod" Dewel

1929 grew from 320 to the nearly 3,000 of today. Gold was the metal of choice in appliance construction, while "extraction was not mentioned in polite circles."

The Angle School had just closed, the Dewey and the International Schools were at their height, and five university orthodontic departments were taking their first faltering steps. It was a time for men of vision.

Such a man was Albert Ketcham, who conceived of the board idea from his close association with two physicians who were involved with the first medical boards: Thomas Carmody, M.D., D.D.S., director of the certifying board in otolaryngology, and Edward Jackson, M.D., of the American Board of Ophthalmology. Orthodontists Martin Dewey and Oren A. Oliver were also supportive of the board concept.

At Ketcham's death in 1935, his name was memorialized by the establishment of the Albert H. Ketcham Memorial Award, first granted in 1937. Dewel, 59, calls the award "the most coveted honor that can be bestowed by the specialty."

In the Board's early years, its directors occasionally found it necessary to dig into their own pockets in order to keep it going, and in 1934 only two men applied for certification.

In time, other dental specialties took their cues from the ABO. Periodontics established its board in 1940, pedodontics in 1942, oral surgery and prosthodontics in 1946, oral pathology in 1948, and public health in 1950.

For many years there was disagreement between the Board and the Council on Dental Education of the American Dental Association (ADA), Dewel said. The principle bone of contention was in the concept of orthodontic preceptorship. An agreement was eventually reached whereby preceptorship training will be accepted until January 1, 1967, in lieu of a university program, for Board candidates. This signals the end of the preceptorship program as of January 1, 1970.

As with most innova-

tions, Dewel continued, "certain well-meaning men seriously doubted the need for such an agency. They questioned the authority, the ability, and perhaps the audacity of selected men to set themselves apart in judgment of other men. Yet this principle had been accepted for state examining boards."

Moreover, said Dewel, the academic establishment characterized as presumptuous the Board's 1929 announcement that one of its functions was to "investigate the fitness of dental schools and private instructors to give proper training in orthodontia." Fortunately, this belief has mellowed through the years to where it now simply examines the results of such education.

Dewel closed by saying that "the work and worth of the present Board will have to be left to the gentle mercies of future historians." Surely its worth has stood the test of time, say most orthodontic leaders.

Other significant ABO histories have been written by Martinek (1954) and Oliver (1957). Wylie (1960) also wrote on the American Board, but it was not a history.

(Source: Dewel, B.F.: The American Board of Orthodontics: past, present and future. Am. J. Orthod., 48:568-578, 1962.)

**"In the Heat of the Night"  
Named Best Picture of 1967**

**"Cabaret"  
Receives N.Y. Drama Critics' Award**

# ORTHODONTIC Times

1967

## ROCKY MTN. REVIEW TOPS ORTHO HISTORIES

Denver, Colo. — A 103-page book recently published by the Rocky Mountain Society of Orthodontists dispels once and for all the notion that everything important in orthodontics in the early part of the century took place around Chicago, St. Louis, and New York City.

In *A Historical Review of Orthodontics in the Rocky Mountain Area*, compiled by the Orthodontic History of the Rocky Mountain Society of Orthodontists (RMSO), and edited by general dentist Lynch F. Gronert, the Denver-Colorado Springs area lays claim to many dental — and particularly orthodontic — firsts. To wit:

1. First use of photography and radiography in an orthodontic office west of the Mississippi.
2. First orthodontic practice of national standing between the two coasts.
3. Idea for the establishment of the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO).
4. First comprehensive American study of root resorption.
5. First orthodontic preceptorship program.
6. First office to install a Broadbent cephalometer.



**Albert H. Ketcham**

7. Development of stainless steel appliances.
8. First orthodontic supply house.
9. Discovery of mottled enamel.

What's more, the first five of these can be attributed to one man: Dr. Albert H. Ketcham. As a 1902 graduate of the Angle School, it was Ketcham who brought Angle's teachings to the West; he was by no means a slave to them, however. He and three other orthodontic notables — Frederick S. McKay, Henry F. Hoffman and H.C. Pollock, Sr. — are profiled in what constitutes Part One of the book.

In the other six parts, the society's history, the ABO, the Denver Summer Meeting, the Child Research Council, the development of chrome alloy, and incidents and stories are covered. Throughout this infor-

mative, spiral-bound volume, we are told how orthodontics was established in a land of unsurpassed beauty and ruggedness by men who were themselves rugged individualists who loved the beauty which surrounded them.

But it wasn't the panorama that brought Ketcham to Colorado. It was the clean, rarified air he hoped would cure his tuberculosis. Fortunately for orthodontics, it did, and Ketcham rose from his stretcher to become the foremost orthodontic leader in the West.

"In the early days of orthodontia," says Pollock, one of his protégés, "when Angle... was leading orthodontic thought, it was Ketcham who offered a harbor to which the storm-tossed orthodontic neophyte could come for encouragement and calm advice." Pollock (in 1936) considered Ketcham, along with Angle, Case, and Dewey, to be one of the four outstanding men in orthodontic history.

"A number of young men in beginning their practice were associated with him in his office, and these men refer to those days as the most inspirational and formative period of their lives," according to Pollock. At the time

of Ketcham's death in 1935, eight of the 13 men practicing in Denver had been Ketcham disciples. By this time, William R. Humphrey, as his first associate, had been in Ketcham's office for 16 years. Still active at 75, Dr. Humphrey and two associates continue the practice started by Albert Ketcham 65 years ago.

Pollock was one of the founders of the *American Journal of Orthodontics* (AJO) and has been its editor-in-chief since 1930. In 1958 he received the Ketcham Memorial Award, established in 1935 in the name of his former mentor. Orthodontists in the Rocky Mountain Society have always thought of "Polly" as "one of their boys" and named him, along with three others, as an honorary member.

Recently Pollock wrote the History Committee chairman, "Very few folks know that the most important thing ever discovered in dentistry originated at the foot of Pike's Peak.... I attended the first meeting at the old Antler's Hotel in 1909 where Dr. [G.V.] Black and Dr. McKay talked about Colorado brown stained teeth."

This is how Frederick McKay (1874-1959) is introduced to the reader. Although he, too, was an Angle graduate, many of McKay's achievements

*Continued on next page*

## Rocky Mountain Review

*Continued from previous page*

were outside the field of orthodontics, such as the discovery of what came to be known as "mottled enamel." Dentist, orthodontist, oral surgeon, teacher, editor, and musician, he spent the last 19 years of his life in the practice of periodontics.

It was eight to 10 years after McKay's observation of brown stain that water was recognized as the cause, and it wasn't until 1931 that chemists implicated fluorine as the culprit element. Still later, the profession learned that fluoride ions, in proper concentration, have the property of inhibiting tooth decay.

Henry Hoffman (1870-1962), the fourth orthodontic pioneer to be profiled, was a founding member of the RMSO and served as its presi-

dent for three terms. He was one of the first diplomates of the ABO and served as associate editor of the AJO from 1941 to 1961.

His long life span permitted him to practice for almost 50 years. He recalls the Society's first meeting in Dr. Ketcham's office in the winter of 1920-21, when only nine men constituted the membership. In those shaky years, when they were frequently asked to join with the Southwestern Society, the RMSO was jokingly referred to as the "Rocky Society of Mountain Orthodontists."

From this humble beginning grew a robust organization whose many accomplishments include the development of stainless steel appliances. Part Six of the book deals with

this topic.

Credit for the impetus to use this material goes to Dr. J. Lyndon Carman, then an associate of Dr. Archie B. Brusse. It was Carman who, in 1930, heard about stainless steel ligature wire while attending a labiolingual course in Nashville, obtained samples from Paul Simon in Germany, and coordinated the development of suitable solder and flux.

He and Brusse fabricated hundreds of appliances from this new material but many of them failed when the solder joints broke. Only by the addition of titanium to the alloy was this problem surmounted. Carman designed the first molar band dies, while Brusse worked out the anatomical incisors.

In 1933 Brusse founded the Rocky Mountain Metal Products Com-

pany, the first orthodontic supply house. Interestingly, edgewise brackets were not among its products until 1935, when the patent rights held by S.S. White expired. In the meantime, various bracket designs were used, including the universal bracket of Spencer Atkinson.

*Historical Review* is the first AAO component history to be published in book form. While it is admittedly an anthology of reprints and reminiscences, it nevertheless paints a vivid picture of orthodontics' early mecca in the West.

(Sources: Gronert, L.F. (ed.): *A Historical Review of Orthodontics in the Rocky Mountain Area*, Denver, Rocky Mountain Society of Orthodontists, 1967; and Pollock, H.C., Sr.: *Albert H. Ketcham (obit.)*. *Int. J. Orthod. & Oral Surg.*, 22:86-89, 1936.)

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