# CHIROPRACTIC PARALLAX

## CHIROPRACTIC HISTORY by Merwyn V. Zarbuck, D.C. PART 3

SOLON M. LANGWORTHY

After A.P. Davis failed to replace D.D. Palmer's principles of chiropractic with a medical/osteopathic theory of nerve stimulation, a new Palmer detractor appeared.1

Solon Massey Langworthy attempted to amalgamate osteopathy and natureopathy into chiropractic and also medical orthopedics, including the use of mechanical traction and stimulation devices. This activity made a mockery of D.D. Palmer's term "chiropractic," which means "done by hand."

Solon M. Langworthy enrolled as a student at the Palmer School and Cure, in Davenport, Iowa, on July 1, 1901, and graduated in early September 1901.2 Mrs. Solon Langworthy was adjusted by D.D. Palmer on January 10th and 19th, 1901, for insanity, for which

her husband paid \$15.00.

On September 7, 1901, on his stationery titled the "Cedar Rapids Chiropractic Cure and School," Dr. Langworthy assures D.D. Palmer that he "never solicited business for myself from any of your patients" while a student.3 In a letter to B.J. Palmer dated January 19, 1902, Langworthy stated he had thirty-three regular patients and declared: "I use chiropractic and osteopathy on them, and it is work." D.D. Palmer defined the word "mixer" to one who used other healing art methods with chiropractic and portrayed it as chiropractic. Langworthy's Cedar Rapids Chiropractic Cure and School drew D.D.'s attention, as well as some osteopaths! The letter continues, "Say Bart, would you and your father sell me an interest in the Davenport plan at rock bottom, you (B.J.) to take the active management and I to give you some of my time each week? My idea would be to run the infirmary for all it is worth and then incorporate the Western School of Chiropractic securing as stock holders D.D. Palmer, Thomas Story, Oakley Smith, B.J. Palmer, Dr. Sutton, Dr. Jones, Dr. Stouder, Miss Olcutt, and Solon Langworthy, each to own an equal amount of stock and each (except D.D. Palmer) to send all students to the school, all sharing alike in the profits of the school." A P.S. was added: "I (Langworthy) neglected to tell you that the photos were received okay. Please let me know

how much I owe on them and I will remit. Don't forget to send me a copy of those lectures." The reference here was to a Palmer "gathering," the first week in January, 1902, held in Davenport. Lectures were given by D.D. and photos taken. Included in the photos was the photo on page 882 of D.D.'s 1910 book, The Adjuster. Recent investigation indicates this picture was taken in January, 1902, at the chiropractic gathering and should state that B.J. was the 15th graduate up to 1902. B.J.'s diploma from D.D. is dated January 16, 1902.4 Langworthy, in a letter to D.D. on April 10, 1902, envisioned the course of study at the new Western School to be broadened to include "Hydropathy and the other good things in Nature Cure." Nature cure was synonymous with Naturopathy, Natural Cure, Natural Healing, Physiological Therapeutics, Drugless Healing, etc.5

B.J., on advice of his father, met with Langworthy in Cedar Rapids in April, 1902, to discuss the "school proposition." Evidently, B.J. brought some books from Langworthy on "Nature Cure" to D.D. in Davenport. On May 4, 1902, D.D. wrote to B.J. as follows:

I have no use for those books on "natural cure," as I have been over the whole field and have outgrown them. It is a positive fact that after we Chiropractics have done the right thing, that we should not undo what we have done. I.e. for e.g. Mama has me to treat her Chiro. then I must treat her Magnetic and undo what I have done. By Chiro. I free the nerves and set them in action, by magnetic I soothe them and quiet them, give them ease. Miss Jenks did not do much good here until she quit the magnetic. A chiro. relieves a nerve or nerves and the drug Dr. steps in and gives a deadening dose, the Chiro. sets the nerves in action, the drug deadens action. Chiro. fixes a wrong and a C. Science says there was nothing wrong. So we might go through the list and find two opposites. If Chiro. is right, then its opposite cannot be right. This I am daily being much more thoroughly convinced of. The less our patients use of treatments, the better they succeed with us. This is true

of all "Matural Methods," whether they Homeopathy, "Hypnotism, X-rays, be Electricity, Ozone, Oil. Variations of Diet, Gymnastics, Massage, Magnetism, Bacteria Remedies, Baths, Medical Herbs, or Kneipp's Water Cure (diseases are in the blood and must be washed out) Etc." If Blis had known of one touch of Chiro. he would have had a page or two of Chiro. in his book. Every physician, no matter of what school, says and believes that his means are the "Natural Methods." Chiro., is not benefited by mixing it with any other method, if there is a positive excuse for mixing, it is to fool the patient, belittling Chiro., deceiving the patient and losing confidence in ourselves.6

The school proposition was evidently negatively deciced and the lines drawn between the naturopathic chiropractor (MIXER) and the pure chiropractor (later called straight). Langworthy had included ostcopathy and naturopathy (ALL drugless methods) into chiropractic, and was in rapport with Benedict Lust, the "father" of naturopathy. Solon Massey also attempted to involve Dr. Stouder of Des Moines and Dr. Storey of Minneapolis, early graduate of D.D. Palmer, in the formation of a new school, but did not succeed. The first declared naturopathic chiropractor continued correspondence with B.J. Palmer, then practicing in Lake City, Iowa, and obtained from his drawings and dimensions of B.J.'s adjusting table, which he described as a "beauty." Langworthy very shortly thereafter invented and patented a "chiropractic treating table" and described tables such as B.J.'s as an "unpadded washbench on which to put the poor patient." This did not exactly improve the relations between the Palmers and Langworthy.7

"Foxy Grandpa" as D.D. called himself, was wary and stated in March 1902: "I think that I can see a wood check in the wood pile. Dr. Stouder and among them (Langworthy and Storey) think of starting a school and they don't know how to get rid of us." The Palmers were soon to find out!

## THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CHIROPRACTIC AND NATURE CURE

The scion of the Langworthy family continued to operate the Cedar Rapids School of Chiro-

practic and Nature Cure for the remainder of 1902. In early 1903, the name was changed to the American School of Chiropractic and Nature Cure. The April 1903 full page advertisement appeared in Medical Talk, a liberal medical home journal. The ad showed Dr. S.M. Langworthy holding a spinal column and states, "This Spine Needs Fixing and So Does Yours." At the bottom, the following statement appears: "Our school is not a 'Diploma Mill' with a cheap mail course. We teach men and women to cure disease, charge a reasonable sum for doing so, and require their personal attendance at the school during the last term.\*" \*Emphasis added.

In other words, the first terms were taught by mail, and sometime during the last term, the student had to appear. Langworthy's advertising experience as a mercantile executive was utilized. A June 1904 announcement stated that The American School of Chiropractic and Nature Cure, Inc., had been recently reorganized and would reopen September 6, 1904. The length of the course was to be 2 years; 4 terms of 5 months each.

An editorial in their June 1904 osteopathic journal (The Cosmopolitan Osteopath)<sup>10</sup> stated:

A Mr. S.M. Langworthy, formerly of Dubuque, for several years an insurance agent for the Penn Mutual, subsequently became a boot and shoe traveling salesman. He had and has excellent ideas of advertising and grafting... Now he runs a school and has just issued a circular enclosing a foe simile of a \$500 check which "Murphy" has paid him for a "mail course."

Reference is made to a Langworthy \$100 chiropractic mail course on June 19, 1905, letter from a Dr. Herman Dickel of Oak Lane, Pennsylvania.

I received from Cedar Rapids, Morris Physiology, Anatomy, Manning's abridged Gould's Dictionary, Bales and Tabor's Chart, lesson papers and quizzes from time to time on Anatomy, Physiology, Symptomatology, Distatics. I received on chiropractic principles or practice, except what was continued in "Chiropractic Pacts." This was sent to me

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because I asked for it, not because it was part of the tuition. 11

LANGWORTHY'S CHIROPRACTIC FACTS

This 15-page publication by Langworthy shows a standing, pointing Dr. S.M. Langworthy on the cover which states: "Chiropractic Facts-A Book Full of New Ideas" "Chiropractic Adjustment Makes It Possible For Nature To Cure All Disease." This appeared in 1904 as the 7th edition. 12 The appearance and contents were very similar to B.J. Palmer's "Chiropractic Proofs," published in 1903, while B.J. was in charge of the Palmer School at Davenport, although D.D. was still president of the school. 13 "Chiropractic Facts" defines Chiropractic

Chiropractic is from two Greek words: xeip, hand; nepaktos, to be done. Chiropractic is a drugless system founded upon the principle that luxations of osseous or other compact structures, by interfering with the normal action of nerves and vessels are the CAUSE of disease, and that adjustment of these displaced parts to their normal position, by giving freedom of action to all nerves and vescels results in the CURE of disease.

AND

Chiropractic is a method of hand adjustment by which the cause of disease is removed. In not the elightest particular does it resemble Massage, Magnetic, or Hypnotic treatment and must not be confounded with any of them. Neither is it Osteopathy, nor does a Chiropractic adjustment resemble an Osteopathic treatment in the least. Chiropractic reaches many diseases upon which Osteopathy has failed.

Chiropractic is defined as "to be done by hand" and chiropractic is not osteopathy, and chiropractic adjustments and osteopathic treatments are distinguished. 14 These statements are difficult to reconcile with the statement: "I use Chiropractic and Ostcopathy" in his letter to B.J. in January, 1902.15 The Human Being is referred to as "A Human Machine," an analogy used in 1899 and carlier by D.D.16 The chiropractor is referred to as "A Master Mechanic of the Human Machine" by B.J. on the cover of his "Chiropractic Proofs."17

According to Russell Gibbons of the National Association for Chiropractic History, Dr. Langworthy received a diploma in 1902 from an institution called the American College of Manual Therapeutics in Kansas City, Missouri. 18 This diploma and/or course must have included osteopathy, as Dr. Langworthy states in a "Chiropractic Facts" article which illustrated the difference between osteopathy and chiropractic: "I make this statement from positive knowledge for I know both systems . . . n19

#### THE SCENARIO

Dr. Langworthy had incorporated osteopathy into chiropractic from the beginning of his practice, ignoring the differences between the two. Osteopathy and all other medical healing arts claimed "supremacy of the blood," as opposed to the chiropractic claim of "supremacy of the nerves." The osteopathic manipulation, requiring as long as two hours, was not distinguished from the chiropractic adjustment, requiring less than a minute. D.D. said:

There are many to claim to practice chiropractic who know little or nothing of it . . . It is therefore the purpose the chiropractor and the parent school to teach this modern science unmixed. Those who desire to practice it with other methods have a right to do so, but if they call the mixture chiropractic, we will call them down. 20

The labeling of osteopathy as chiropractic raised the ire of the osteopathic profession and contributed to a political war between chiropractors and osteopaths. Langworthy did not only keep a flame, he started conflagration. Osteopaths became eligible for licensure in lowe in 1902.

#### BACKBONE

chiropractic journal, "Backbone," appeared in October, 1903, published by Solon Langworthy. In the very first issue, the impression was conveyed that Chiropractic was originated and developed at the American School of Chiropractic and Nature Cure at Cedar Rapids, lowa by Solon Langworthy. Cyrus Lerner, an investigative attorney hired in the early 1950's by a New York Chiropractic group commented:

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For reasons which you will see, Langworthy selected a unique and descriptive title for the magazine. The word "Chiropractic" was not included in the name. The magazine was called "Backbone" -- and on the outside cover there appeared a drawing of the human spine. Volume 1, Number 1, of "Backbone" was published in October 1903. In the inside pages of "Backbone" the reader is introduced to the subject of "Chiropractic." Let me quote for you part of this introduction: "Chiropractic -- the science of 'hand-fixing'--io an original Iowa idea -- and in the American School of Chiropractic and Hature Cure at Cedar Rapide, Iowa, U.S.A., the science of Chiropractic has been developed until the skilled practitioner knows he can find the immediate cause of disease, and with almost never an exception he can remove it and see his patient restored to health. . . " Reading this introduction, the ordinary person could not learn who it was that had founded the new science of Chiropractic. By careful wording of the introduction the reader is left with the impression that the science of Chiropractic was naturally a product of "The American School of Chiropractic and Nature Cure." But even more significant than the omission of the name of the founder is the title of the magazine which Langworthy chose. In selecting this title I will show you how Langworthy intended to narrow down in scope the "Science of Chiropractic" and confining it to limitations not intended in the original concept of Palmer. 21

Volume 1, Number 1 of "Backbone" or the American School 1903-04 announcement <sup>22</sup> made no mention of the Palmer School of Chiropractic in Davenport or of D.D. Palmer. D.D. was conducting a Chiropractic school in Santa Barbara, California when these publications appeared, and B.J. was in charge of the Davenport facility, although "rolling around the country" practicing chiropractic

in various localities.

A legal distinction existed that allowed a person to teach chiropractic but not practice chiropractic. B.J. taught chiropractic along with other assistants he hired in Davenport, but practice in other locations. The distinction was drawn when D.D. was prosecuted in April of 1906 for practicing chiropractic and B.J. was not prosecuted for teaching chiropractic. D.D. conducted his branch schools of chiropractic by the authority granted by the lowa corporate charter of the Palmer School of Magnetic Cure in June, 1896<sup>23</sup> and by the corporate laws of lowa as The Chiropractic School and Infirmary on July 10, 1896.<sup>24</sup>

The Palmers were not publishing a chiropractic journal at this time and did not until December, 1904, when D.D. and B.J. joined in Davenport. The Palmer journal, named "The Chiropractor" was edited by D.D. and managed by B.J.

The first issue of "Backbone" also contained

the following article:

#### ARE YOU TOO PAT?

If you are too fat, send us fifty cents for a year's subscription to "Backbone" and Dr. Langworthy will send you infallible instructions for reducing your weight; no medicine, no hard work and eat all you want while doing it. 25

Dr. Langworthy and his "Nature Cure" were in the "fatty" business in 1903.

Benedict Lust, Naturopath, also had an ad to progressive men and women in regard to our NATURAL CURE TREATMENT which was guaranteed to CURE ALL DISEASES.

Chiropractic was not listed. 26

Three articles on "THE NEW THOUGHT" by Arba Joseph were also included. The believers in New Thought declared that BY THE MIND DISEASE CAN BE CONTROLLED, poverty cured and ideals realized. This accounted for Langworthy to claim that "Backbone" was a book on brain building—a nature cure. This was known as "THE MIND CURE" in 1903.

The naturopath's natural cure treatment, the mind cure and the fat control programs were part of Langworthy's "NATURE CURE," amalgamated with the American School of Chiropractic.

Benedict Lust, Naturopath, wrote the following letter to the Palmer School of Chiroprostic on March 21, 1995:

Chiropractic on March 31, 1905:

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### LEGISLATIVE SESSION ENDS Robert Brinkmeier, IPSCA Lobbyist

The Illinois General Assembly adjourned on July 2, 1988, without taking any action on the major issues confronting them i.e., a tax increase for education and human services.

The General Assembly did not pass the controversial tax increase which many people believed to be essential to the state's future social and economic health. State support for both higher and lower education has been declining as a percentage of state spending for the past ten years.

Many other states have been pouring money into education and have enacted a series of education improvement plans. Illinois has enacted school reforms but has not followed up with the necessary financial support.

Now that the Illinois General Assembly has adjourned, it is time for our members to analyze the performance of their respective legislators and take appropriate action during the Fall political campaign.

Your Legislative Committee has already started to analyze the voting records of all representatives and senators and will soon have a report ready for the Board of Directors.

#### continued from page 8 Homecoming

The annual Homecoming banquet on Saturday evening will feature stand-up comedian Stan White as after-dinner entertainment.

Delta Sigma Chi, the oldest chiropractic fraternity in the world, will mark its seventyfifth anniversary on July 18.

The actual celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary for the brothers of all chapters will be at Homecoming.

An estimated 3,000 Palmer College alumni, spouses, and guests are expected to attend Homecoming 1988.

### CHRISTIAN CHIROPRACTORS ASSOCIATION AWARDS MRS. MARGUERITE SMITH THE "CHRISTIAN CHIROPRACTOR SPOUSE OF THE YEAR" AWARD

The Christian Chiropractors Association awards the "Christian Chiropractic Spouse of the Year" plaque each year to a spouse who has shown his or herself to be a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This year the past recipient, Mrs. Lois Kalsbeek of Castro Valley, California, made the presentation at the annual convention banquet in Union, Washington. Mrs. Marguerite Smith was unable to attend due to illness.

Mrs. Smith has been an Auxiliary member of CCA since 1970. She is the wife of Willard Smith, D.C., who is in private practice in Rock Island, Illinois, and also an instructor at Palmer College of Chiropractic, Davenport, lows.

Mrs. Smith has been the Office Manager of Doctor's Clinic. Dr. Smith is fortunate to have a life partner who is his business consultant, advisor, companion, and friend.

The CCA recognizes Mrs. Smith's faithful financial support, but more importantly her faithfulness as a prayer warrior. She regularly prays for the CCA Home Office and the CCA ministries.

The Christian Chiropractors Association welcomed the opportunity to recognize Mrs. Marguerite Smith for her faithfulness to her Lord through this Association. The vote was unanimously that she truly is the "Christian Chiropractic Spouse of the Year."

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