

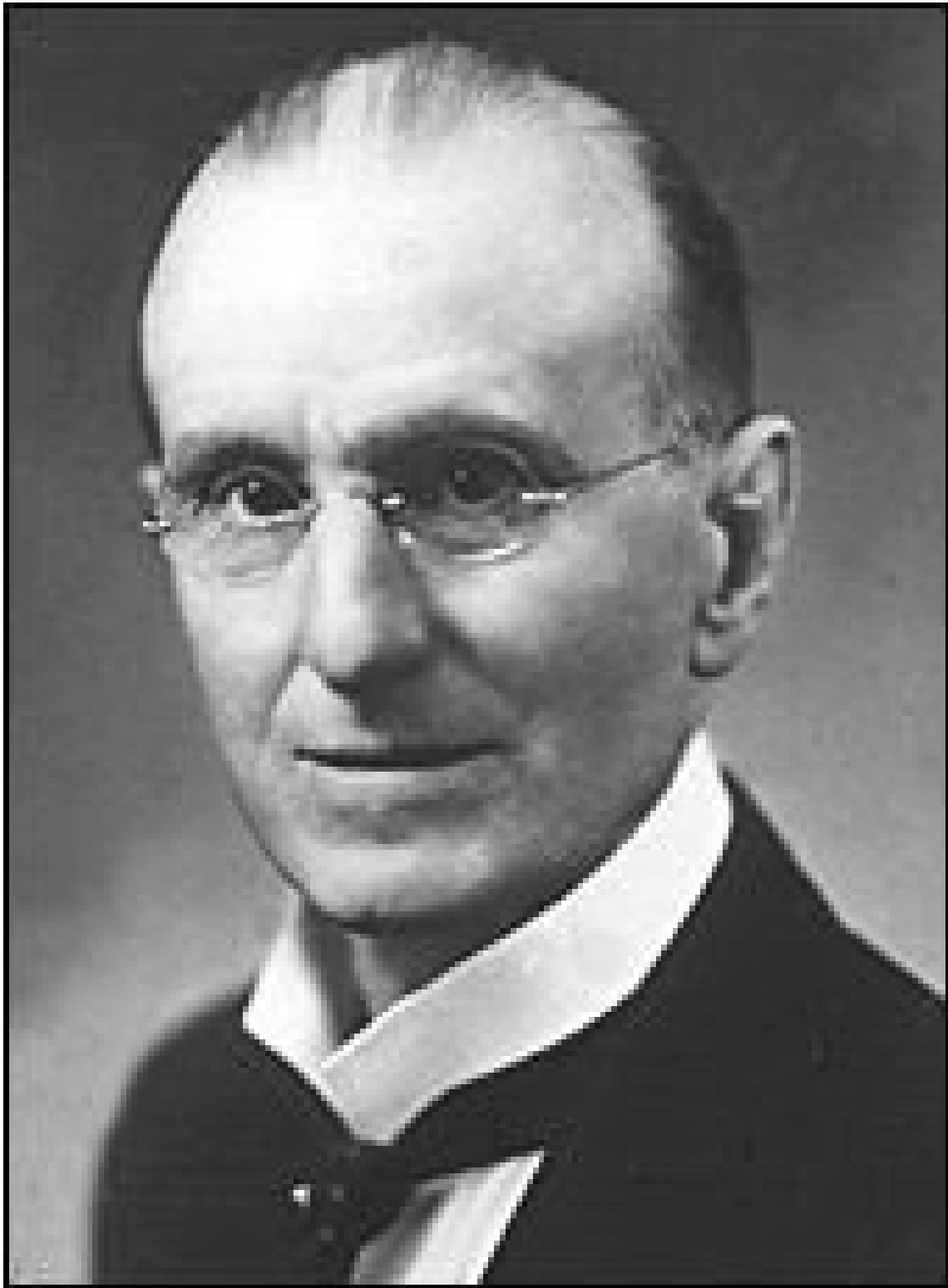
EDUCATION & SEMINARS

Carver College: An Oklahoma Contribution to Chiropractic (Part 2 of 2)

Joseph Keating Jr., PhD

Editor's note: Part 1 of this article appeared in the Nov. 18, 2004 issue.

Like many early chiropractic schools, Carver College was a family affair, and many of Willard's relatives served as faculty members and administrators. Most prominent among these was 1909 alumnus Fred J. Carver, DC, Willard's younger brother. However, following a dispute with Willard, Fred relocated to Wichita, where he developed a thriving practice and became noted for his "Postural Technique." Dr. Fred Carver passed away in 1947.



**Dr. Willard Carver, circa 1938
(courtesy of Texas Chiropractic
College library)**



**Dr. Ronald Carver, assistant
clinic director at Carver
College, 1922 (courtesy of
Texas Chiropractic College
library).**



Dr. Fred J. Carver (courtesy of Logan College archives).

Tom Lawrence, DC, a 1938 graduate of the Oklahoma City school, recalls his experiences at Carver College when he arrived in 1936:

When we arrived at 521 W. 9th St. in Oklahoma City, Okla., we received a mild shock. It was unlike any college campus we had ever seen. Three buildings made up the campus. A two-story brick building, which was previously a church, had an auditorium on the second floor and Dr. Carver's office and other administrative offices on the first floor. A two-story frame building, adjacent to the brick building and also facing 9th St., had classrooms on the second floor and the ground floor served as the clinic. A third building at the back of the lot had half a dozen dormitory rooms.

I consider the faculty to have been competent and capable. Dr. Clora Norris, a recent graduate, was an anatomy instructor. She was quite knowledgeable and an excellent teacher. Dr. Willard Carver's son, Dr. Ronald Carver, was Technique Instructor and Clinic Director. Other faculty members were Dr. Frank Brooks, Dr. Bera Smith, Dr. Sturdivant and Dr. Sowell. There were many others whose names I cannot recall. Oftentimes, a doctor in private practice or a visiting dignitary from the field of education would lecture to us.

I remember several lectures were presented by John Hubbard, MD, DC, who owned and operated Hubbard Hospital, located a few blocks from the college. Drs. Hubbard and Carver were friends and respected each other. Dr. Carver many times recommended circumcision for patients, both male and female. Those patients were referred to Dr. Hubbard for the surgery.

Dr. Carver lectured frequently, always in the auditorium and to the student body. He was a great public speaker. He had a strong, resonant, deep toned voice with meticulous enunciation and a convincing demeanor. I followed his every word. I am not sure now if it was because I felt that I should pay attention or if it was because I was afraid not to. He spent a lot of time delineating the problems of the profession, and outlining his recommendations for what should be done to alter the flow of events and to correct the flaws in the philosophy, art and practice, of chiropractic. His favorite target for criticism and invective was Dr. B.J. Palmer.⁹



Big Chief B.J. Palmer in full regalia.

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Big Chief Sogoth

In my opinion, he is the greatest chief who ever lived. He was the first to see the light of the sun. He was the first to see the light of the sun. He was the first to see the light of the sun.

NOW that we are again in the midst of a "Science Week" it is natural to ask: "What is the difference between a 'Science Week' and a 'Science Week'?" The answer is: "There is no difference between a 'Science Week' and a 'Science Week'." The difference is in the way we look at it. We look at it as a week of science, not as a week of "Science Week." The difference is in the way we look at it. We look at it as a week of science, not as a week of "Science Week." The difference is in the way we look at it. We look at it as a week of science, not as a week of "Science Week."

Big Chief Willard Carver, from the 1917 issue of his college magazine.

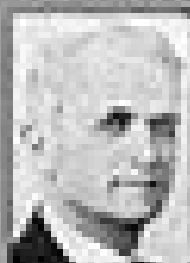
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"HELP US, HELP YOU"



Dr. J. C. Moore

President, Associated Chiropractic Colleges



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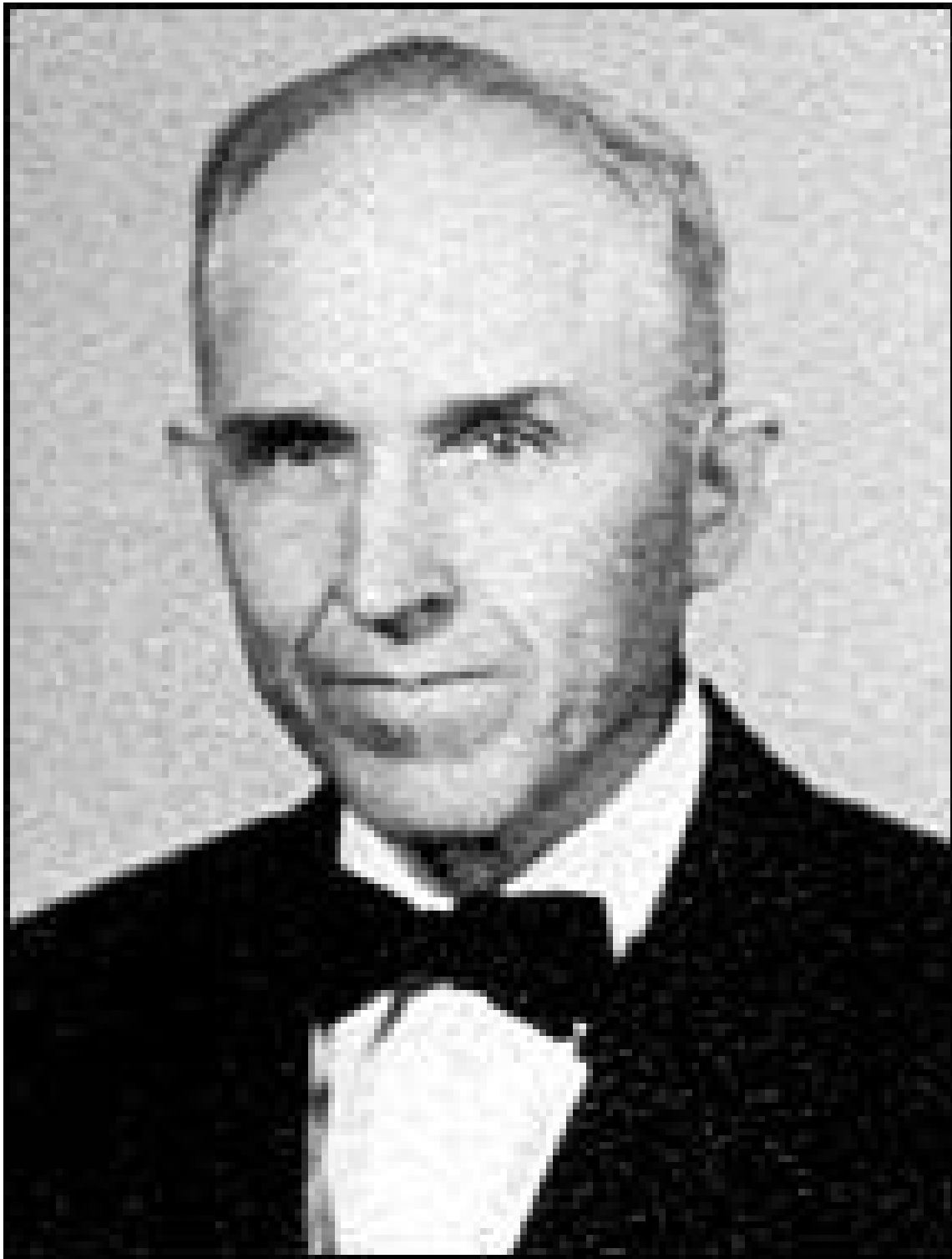
President, Associated Chiropractic Colleges

• "Where the Philosophy, Science and Art Reign Supreme" •

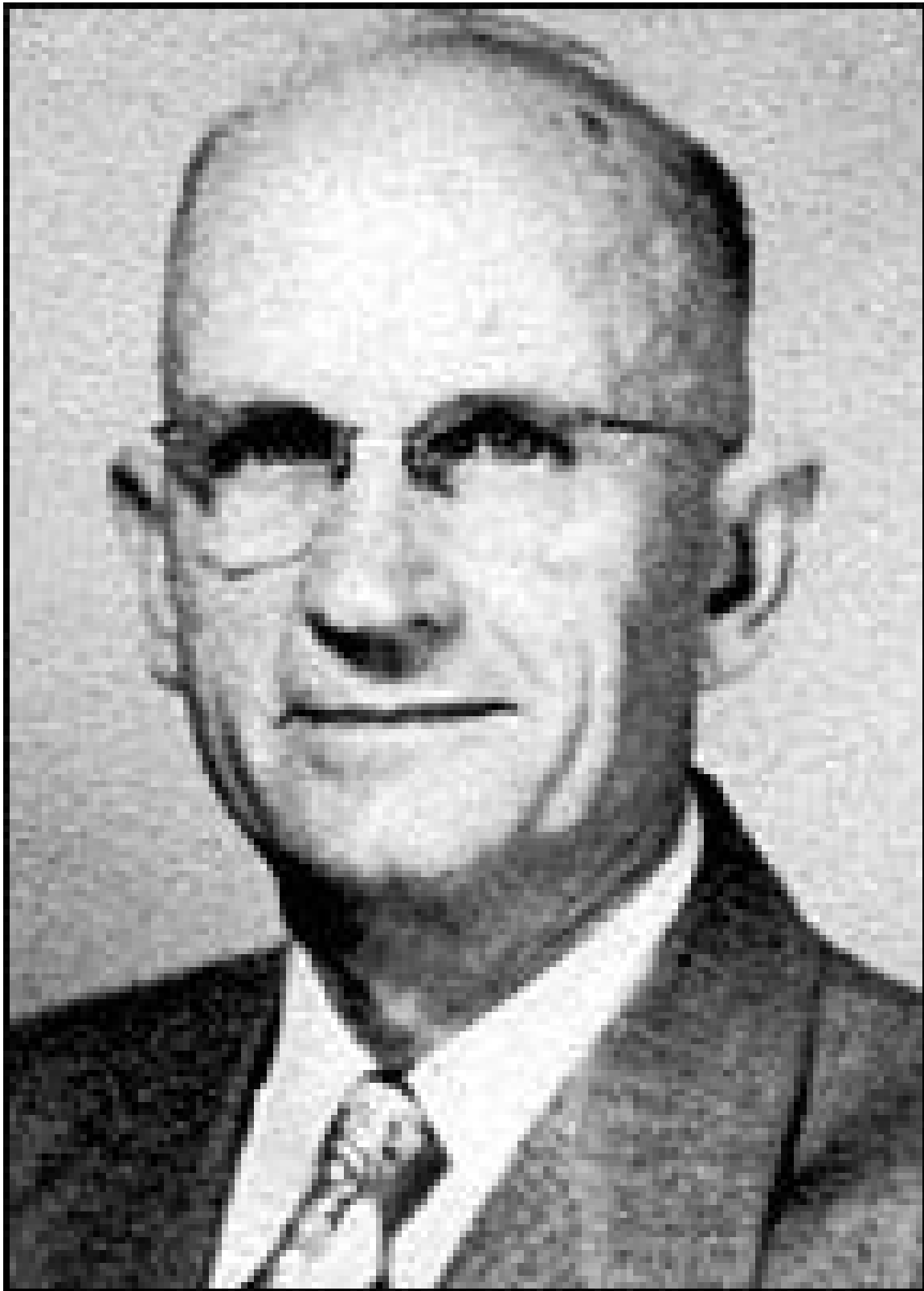
Leaders of the opposition to the NCA's educational reforms of the 1930s organized the ACCA (later the ACEI).
Courtesy of Cleveland Chiropractic College archives



**Paul O. Parr, DC, president of
Carver College, 1944-1952.**



**Bera A. Smith, DC,
president of Carver College,
1929-1933 and 1952-1956.**



**H.J. Lynch, DC, president
of Carver College, 1956-57.**

Dr. Willard Carver was an early supporter of the American Chiropractic Association (ACA) of the 1920s and its successor, the National Chiropractic Association (NCA).⁵ As well, he was a decades-long opponent of B.J. Palmer, DC, with whom he feuded in the pages of their college periodicals. Carver inspired the formation of the ACA's council for college leaders circa 1928, and supported similar efforts by the International Chiropractic Congress of the late 1920s and early 1930s. However, following the NCA's formation of its Committee on Education in 1935, and the committee's collaboration with the Council on State Chiropractic Examining Boards (today's FCLB) to upgrade chiropractic education, Carver had second thoughts. He prompted the 1939 formation of the Allied Chiropractic Educational Institutions (ACEI), a successor to the Associated Chiropractic Colleges of America (ACCA).

Like the ACCA, the ACEI was comprised of straight chiropractic schools (Cleveland, Eastern Palmer, Ratledge, Texas) whose leaders saw the NCA initiatives as an effort to "medicalize" chiropractic.⁷ With the nation in the midst of the Great Depression, these "schoolmen" (and some from the broad-scope side of the profession) also strenuously objected to what they viewed as unjustified interference with their businesses (unique among the ACEI schools, the Cleveland College of Kansas City was a nonprofit corporation). Carver and Palmer apparently found sufficient ground here to set aside their long feud and work together against the NCA. Their plight would be further aggravated by the onset of World War II, with its resulting depletion of student bodies.

After Willard's death in 1943, the Carver Chiropractic College would wander in and out of alliance with the NCA's Council on Education (today's CCE). However, with declining enrollments in the mid-1950s, the 52-year-old Oklahoma City institution was forced to close its doors in 1958, when it merged with the Logan Basic College of Chiropractic in St. Louis. But that is a story for another day.

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