

Chronology of NELSON CLEWELL OAKLEY, D.C. & THE CLEWELL CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE

Color Code: **Green:** for emphasis

Red & Magenta: questionable or uncertain information

1913 (Jan 29): Articles of Incorporation are filed for the **Federated Chiropractors of California (FCC)**; incorporators are **Nelson C. Oakley** DC, Edward H Chamberlain, Sidney Lee Groves, Elizabeth V **Helfrich** DC (author of poems in **DD Palmer's** 1910 *Adjuster*), and Harry St. **Celae?**, President (Ratledge papers, SFCR Archives); **Nelson C Oakley** will found **Clewell Chiropractic College** in San Diego later in 1913

1913: **Nelson Oakley** DC founds **Clewell Chiropractic College** in San Diego; name is changed in 1935 to Western University (SRI, 1961, p. 215); see also letters from Oakley to RA **Ratledge** (1/5/16) and to **TF Ratledge** (1/31/16)

1915 (Sept 11): **TF Ratledge** writes to "DR. JB Vermillion" of San Diego re: **Nelson Oakley** DC (future president of **Clewell Chiropractic College**); Oakley has some sort of alliance with **Richardson** of **CCC** [may be operating a branch of the **CCC**]; Ratledge requests that Vermillion write to **Richardson** of **CCC** as a prospective student to determine whether attendance is required and who **Richardson's** faculty are (Ratledge papers, SFCR Archives)

1915 (Dec 30): Nelson Clewell **Oakley** DC, president of the **Clewell Chiropractic College** at 229-234 Granger Bldg, San Diego, writes to RA **Ratledge** DC (TF's brother); mentions prior discussion to merge the **Ratledge** and **Clewell** Colleges; notes that "I attended the **Cal. Chiropractic College** quiz course last summer..." [see 6/15/14] (Ratledge papers-SFCR)

1916 (Jan 5): RA **Ratledge** responds to NC **Oakley** DC's letter of 12/30/15 (Ratledge papers-SFCR):

The matter of amalgamation has had my very serious and careful thought....The thought that prompted me originally to suggest the coalition of your forces and ours was from a desire to kill out petty competition by so-called drugless therapy flying Chiropractic colors, schools in California that operate as Chiropractic institutions of learning when in fact such schools are the rankest of frauds; and I still feel that such an arrangement is possible, and would result in incalculable value both politically and educationally to Chiropractic on the Pacific Coast

1916 (Jan 31): NC **Oakley** DC of **Clewell College** in San Diego writes to TF **Ratledge** in reply to letter from TF of 1/29/16; notes he had attended **Ratledge College**; mentions his inquiry of Charles B **Pinckham** MD re: application to take exam for Drugless Practitioner license; notes also that" (Ratledge papers-SFCR):

I heard today that **Richardson** has gone to South America because of the pressure that has come upon him in his acts. This is no surprise to me for he has reached as far as his arm will extend, and he has hauled in what his hand will grasp so what more in Los Angeles or California is there for him?

1916 (May 6): "People vs. Oakley (Cr.433), District Court of Appeal, Second District, California" (p. 505):

Appeal from Superior Court, San Diego County; T.L. Lewis, Judge.

N.C. Oakley was convicted of having practiced a system and mode of treating the sick and afflicted without possessing a certificate issued by the state board of medical examiners, entitling him to do so.

From the judgment and an order denying his motion for new trial, he appeals. Affirmed.

1931 (June): **Chirogram** (Vol. 7, No. 4):

-Dr. Paul **Stretch**, president of the **National Progressive Chiropractic Association**, Dr. Otis M **McMurtrey**, president of the **Progressive Chiropractic Association of California** and CH **Wood**, president of the **LACC**, announce joint "Convention and Lyceum" at **LACC** on July 24-Aug 2, 1931; speakers will include **Charles A. Cale**, president of the **Cale College of Chiropractic**, who will speak on "New Chiropractic Standards of Education", Dr. Ruth B. **Drown** DC [of future **Drown College of Radio Therapy?**-see 1948 and **Drown College of Radio Therapy** in LA-see July, 1935] who will speak on "X-Atomic Vibrations - A New Therapy", Nelson C **Oakley**, president of **Clewell College** of Chiropractic, **Lee W. Edwards** MD, DC, **Lee Norcross**, Leo W **Hosford** DC, president of **SFCC** who will speak on "Electro-Coagulation of Tonsils (Clinic)" (pp. 9-12)

1932 (Jan); **CCA Bulletin** (1[4]) reports:

-San Diego Branch of CCA includes NC **Oakley**, George **Parchen** and MH **Disney** DC (p. 6)

1932 (Oct): **CCA Bulletin** of the **California Chiropractic Association** [1(10):10] includes **photo** of Nelson Clewell Oakley, DC under heading "Scholarships donated by Clewell School":

Dr. **Nelson Clewell Oakley**, president of the **Clewell Chiropractic School** of San Diego, is the donor of two scholarships which will be under direction of the same Trust Fund created to handle the scholarships donated last year by Dr. **TF Ratledge** to provide for legal services for all members of the **CCA**.

The **Clewell Chiropractic College** was incorporated in 1913 and its staff embraces, besides Dr. **Oakley**, president, the following: Drs. RV Jones, AR Richards, RJ McBride, BF Healy, JB Zahn, Louis Lavine, TF Patton and Grace L. Hutson, secretary.

The staff is planning on augmenting the facilities of the college, and branching out into a broader field, including X-Ray and all the latest in advanced Chiropractic teachings. The school heads will concentrate on whatever will be best for advancement of the student, in development along Chiropractic lines, that the student will be equipped to give the ultimate Chiropractic service to his or her patients.

The **Bulletin** hereby expresses to Dr. **Oakley** in the name of the filed most hearty appreciation and gratitude for his generosity in thus assisting in furthering the cause to which we are all devoted.

Information as to scholarships may be had from the Board of Trustees: Dr. Selma M. Giese, 6304 So. Broadway, LA; Dr. Wm. G. Zahn, 2539 E. 7th St., Long Beach; Dr. Arthur Stern, Brack Shops, LA."

1939 (Nov 19): attached to a notice (5/15/40) from the CA BCE is the following "Resolution" from 14 CA chiropractic college presidents (Ratledge papers, SFCR):

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the accredited representatives of the Chiropractic Educational Institutions of California assembled in the city of Fresno, California, on November 18th and 19th, 1939, did unanimously adopt the following motion:

Quote, "Motion made by Dr. **Churchill** and seconded by Mr. **Schuman**, that the **Chiropractic Educational Institutions of California** adopt a

Twenty-four months course of Thirty-six hundred academic hours of Fifty minutes each, and show satisfactory proof of student attendance of not less than Ninety percent of said Thirty-six hundred Fifty minute hours, effective as to all enrollments on and after March first, 1940."

AND WHEREAS: on motion duly seconded, a committee was appointed by Dr. Stacy to adopt an agreement putting into effect the preceding motion, and WHEREAS: it is the intent of the accredited representatives of the Chiropractic Educational Institutions of California to cooperate for the further advance of Chiropractic Educational requirements, and WHEREAS: the accredited representatives of the Chiropractic Educational Institutions of California have unanimously agreed hereto, and WHEREAS: the afore mentioned resolution be submitted to each authorized representative of the Chiropractic Educational Institutions of California for their consideration and formal approval, and WHEREAS: to make this agreement effective we believe it necessary to have the cooperation of the California Chiropractic Board of Examiners, we request that this said Board furnish each Chiropractic College operating in the State of California with a copy of this Resolution and record of signatures and to further inform all Chiropractic Colleges subscribing hereto of any application for examination to said Board not conforming to the policies of the Resolution.

WHEREAS: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we the UNDERSIGNED and authorized representatives of the Chiropractic Educational Institutes of California do hereby give evidence of our agreement, one with the other, concerning the motions herein quoted by affixing hereto our signatures and the corporate names of our Institutions.

Done in the City of Fresno, California, this 19th day of November 1939.

Los Angeles College of Chiropractic, Wilma Churchill
Southern California College of Chiropractic, Otis M. McMurtrey
California Chiropractic College, Oakland, R.O. McClintock
California Chiropractic College, San Jose, LA. Waters D.C.
California College of Natural Healing Arts, Hugh M. Tiez?? D.C.
Standard Chiropractic College, San Francisco, Flora F. Hill DC
Continental Chiropractic College, J.L. Sugar D.C.
Ratledge Chiropractic College, T.F. Ratledge, D.C.
College of Drugless Healing, George ?Floden?, D.C., Ph.D.
Pasadena College of Chiropractic, Walter J. Mitchell DC PhC
Sierra States University, Raymond L. Peters D.C., Pres.
Columbia Chiropractic College, Herbert B. Clarke D.C.
Western University, San Diego, Nelson C. Oakley, D.C.
Calif. Chiropractic College, Long Beach, A.W. Richardson DC, PhC

1940 (May 15): notice from CA BCE, and attached Resolution (11/19/39) from 14 CA chirocollege presidents (Ratledge papers, SFCR):

STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

404-406 Forum Building

Sacramento, California

TO: ALL CHIROPRACTIC SCHOOLS

FROM: THE SECRETARY, STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Gentlemen:

You are hereby notified of the next school meeting, to be held in the Hotel Whitcomb, Market Street at Eighth, in the city of San Francisco, on June 15th and 16th, 1940, the first of the two meetings to be called at 3:00 P.M., Saturday the 15th.

This date has been set to comply with the wishes expressed at our last meeting, that we hold the session in San Francisco, thereby giving those from the South an opportunity to visit the Exposition. I trust this date meets with the approval of all concerned.

I have been in a quandry tryint to comply with the request and still arrange dates for the Student Body meetings, therefore if the dates I am going to set are satisfactory, the following will be our schedule:

June 8- The Board Members from the South and myself will address the joint Student Body meeting at Los Angeles, the time and place to be set by Dr. Hugh Teetzel.

June 15- On the evening of this date, the Board Members from the North will address the Student Body meeting in the city of Oakland, the time and place to be arranged by Dr. R.O. McClintock.

June 15- The heads of the Schools will meet in session, at 3:00 P.M., at the Hotel Whitcomb, San Francisco.

SCHOOL CHARTERS

As a reminder, if you have not already done so, kindly give some attention to sending in a copy of your Charter. It is very important that you do so at this time, in order that we may bring our records up to date.

I trust it will not cause you much inconvenience, and your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

STUDENT RECORDS

Inasmuch as the date of Examinations is fast approaching, we will further appreciate your cooperation by bringing these records up to date, which will in turn facilitate the work in this office preparatory to and following the examinations.

With best wishes, and looking forward to our meeting on the above dates, if not sooner, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Joseph T. Stacy, D.C., Secretary

- "Resolution," dated 11/19/39 is attached:

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CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS [adapted and corrected from: Ferguson
A, Wiese G. Chiropractic schools of record, 1897-1985.
Chiropractic History 1988 (July); 8(1):32-6]:
Western University of Chiropractic, San Diego 1935-[1943]
Formerly Clewell Chiropractic College [1911-1938]

References:

Eclectograph. Yearbook of the amalgamated Los Angeles College of
Chiropractic and the Eclectic College of Chiropractic. Los Angeles:
the College, 1924
