

# House Call

A publication of the Medical Heritage Center at The Ohio State University

## FROM THE MHC ARCHIVES:



Circa 1890, silver-plated lead base denture, porcelain teeth, worn by a Columbus dentist. 4.5 ounces/128 grams.

## THE MHC MISSION:

The Medical Heritage Center preserves, promotes, teaches and celebrates the health care legacy of central Ohio as the essential foundation from which the future of the health sciences are born.

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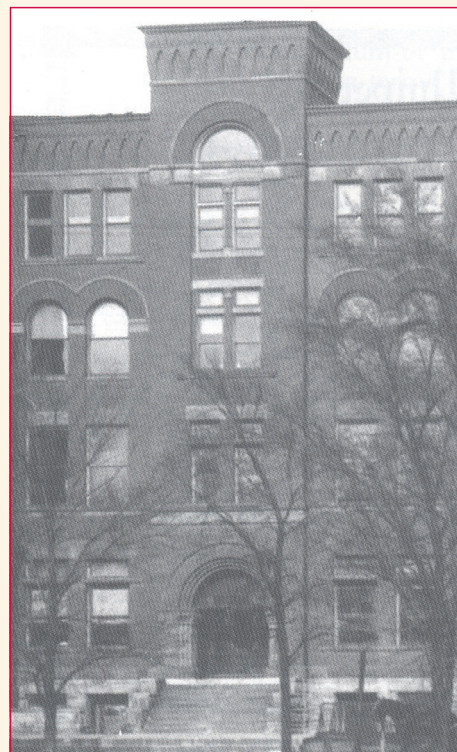
## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Ohio State University College of Dentistry, 1890–2015

*By Robert B. Stevenson, DDS, MS, MA*

In 1890 two important events assured long term prosperity for The Ohio State University, established 1870. Each occurred off-campus. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, eleven warriors from OSU traveled north to meet the Battling Bishops of Ohio Wesleyan University on a measured field. It was the first official football game for both teams, Buckeyes winning 20–14. That fall, Ohio Medical University incorporated, located at 791 N. Park Street, a mile south of OSU's campus. It faced Goodale Park, named for Lincoln Goodale, MD, the first doctor to live in Columbus.

Three schools comprised OMU; medicine, dentistry and pharmacy. It was not Ohio's first dental school, but helped usher a new era in dental education. Earlier schools at Baltimore (1840), Cincinnati (1845), Philadelphia (1852), New York City (1852), and Missouri (1866), were all proprietary trade schools. OMU was university-based, like the dental school at Harvard University, founded in 1867, which was the first.

Until then, the mouth fell between the gaps of academic chairs, literally, between eyes, ears, nose and throat. Hippocrates and Galen wrote extensively about oral maladies, and Pierre Fauchard proposed schools for dentistry in the mid-1600s. However, physicians generally did not feel that oral care belonged in medical school curriculums.



710 North Park Street



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

A 1925 report by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching described dental practice in the early 1800s:

A tooth was 'pulled' or broken off for the relief of toothache, and strength was the only operative requirement. Anyone who could make 'false' teeth was free to fit them in his own way, and under any mutually satisfactory conditions, into the mouth of any one to whom they could be sold.

All but a few physicians refrained from rendering such service; and, consequently, goldsmiths, jewelers, ivory turners, umbrella makers, blacksmiths, mechanics, wig makers, tinkers, engravers, barbers, and itinerant jack-of-all-trades became the most numerous practitioners of dentistry, which remained a simple trade and mechanical subsidiary to medicine until its leading practitioners, men of high ethical standards ... raised it to the status of a profession.

Three dental deans served OMU until 1900: Drs. A.F. Emminger, Albert Ross and Otto Arnold. Just two dentists graduated in 1894, by 1900 42 graduated including two women, Mina Dunlop and Sophia Kimball, and Charles B. Cox, an African American.

Dr. Louis Bethel, an 1885 University of Michigan School of Dentistry graduate, became dean in 1901. He was active in organized dentistry and studied at the Angle School of Orthodontics, which he practiced full-time from 1906 to 1929. Dr. Harvey Van Doren Cottrell, '00 was appointed Professor and Chair of Prosthodontics in 1903 and continued until retiring in 1938. Complete denture prosthodontics was the leading section within the College under his direction and later his protégé, Dr. Carl O. Boucher;<sup>27</sup>

Gillette Hayden, '02, founded the American Academy of Periodontology. Her great-grandfather was Dr. Horace Hayden, first president of the American Society of Dental Surgeons. He had delivered lectures on dental pathology to medical students at the University of Maryland in 1834. One student was A. Willis Baxley.

In 1827, Dr. John Harris first offered medical and dental education at his cottage in Bainbridge, Ohio. His younger brother Chapin A. Harris was an early graduate. Bainbridge is still considered the "Cradle of Dental Education."

In 1839, Drs. C. Harris and Baxley convinced Maryland legislators to pass an Act of Incorporation of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, the world's first school of dentistry. Five students enrolled in the D.D.S. class beginning 1840. Dr. J. Harris assisted in presenting diplomas to the first graduates in 1846.

Dean Harry Semans followed Dean Bethel in 1906, and OMU was renamed Starling-Ohio Medical College in 1907. Little else changed, like fees or requirements. An OSU faculty report recommended establishment of a medical school, but President William Oxley Thompson said the "time was not right."

In 1914, World War One broke out and Thompson decided OSU would merge with the medical and dental schools. Earlier graduates of these schools all received OSU diplomas with prior graduation dates. The War brought nearly 600 dentist commissions into military reserve corps by July 1914. Congress passed the Dentists Bill giving dental students the same exemptions previously granted to medical students.



OSU College of Dentistry at Hamilton Hall, 1925-1950, 11th & Neil Aves.

Heroic persistence from Dean Semans led to construction of Hamilton Hall in 1925, located at the southwest corner of 11<sup>th</sup> and Neil Avenues. The new facilities were "state of the art" for the 1920s.

The basement included storage space and operative dentistry laboratory, also known as 'The Pits,' for 'Preclinical Intensive Training Section.' Later a dental hygiene laboratory was added. The first floor housed the dean's office, faculty room, a class room, prosthodontic laboratory, student locker space and a medical/dental laboratory supply store.

The second floor held the prosthodontic clinic, general clinic laboratories and class rooms. The third floor housed the main clinic or operatorium. This area extended upward to include the fourth floor area and vaulted ceiling with huge skylights on the north side. The clinic's north wall was entirely covered with windows. The clinic area was completely open, without partitions between individual chairs or units, like dental clinics at other colleges.

Diagnosis, oral radiography, oral surgery, orthodontic clinics, patient waiting room and student lounge were also on the third floor, but located in side rooms with standard ceiling height. The south side of the fourth floor contained research laboratories and classrooms. Basic sciences were taught by departments of the College of Medicine in other areas of Hamilton Hall. After the Colleges of Dentistry and Medicine moved to their new locations, Hamilton Hall became the Medical Basic Sciences Building. Dental students still have their anatomy laboratories in that building.

The Class of 1926 began at Park Street and finished at Hamilton Hall. It was the smallest class (18) since the early years at OMU. The 1921 decision to require a year of liberal arts education for admittance had a negative impact on application numbers.

Dr. Dick P. Snyder, '13, replaced John W. Means, '06, as chief of oral surgery that year. Dr. Charles W. Strosnider, '12, taught from 1913 to 1954. He created large plaster teeth models used for decades. He was multi-talented; an artist, musician, magician and actor. His Saturday morning dental anatomy class was required to sing Buckeye Battle Cry on game days, accompanied by him on trumpet.

After 32 years as dean and forty years faculty service, Dean Semans retired in 1938. He grappled with the OSU merger and lobbied for a new dentistry building. Dr. Donald Bowers wrote in the 2002 Historical Remembrance book, "Dentistry was often treated as a poor sister by the major players in (these) mergers, acquisitions and construction of new facilities. Medicine held the role of the star in these matters." Faculty member William Walton described Semans, "He had a way of presenting dentistry's case in a manner that not only captured the attention of decision makers but managed to sell dentistry's point."

Dr. Wendell D. Postle, '23, held the rank of instructor when appointed interim dean 1938, and named dean in 1940. He brought several innovations to the College.

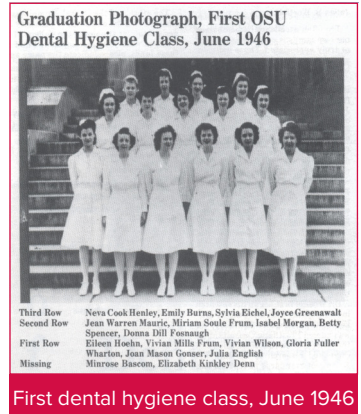
- Post graduate degrees. Under supervision of the Graduate School, a program of graduate education in dentistry began in 1941, awarding the degree Master of Science in Dental Surgery.
- Continuing education. Post College Assembly was first held April, 1939, and is still a yearly educational event for College alumni. Beginning 1941, post-grad courses

of one or two weeks were offered in oral surgery, periodontology, radiology, and prosthodontics. Drs. Earl Jones and Robert Wade taught a one-year, one day-per week orthodontic course.

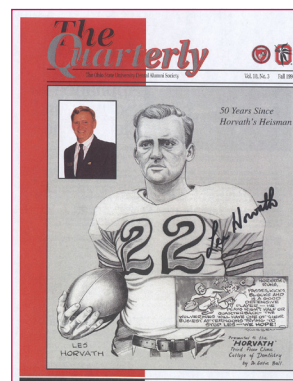
- Initiated a pair of two-year dental auxiliary programs; dental hygiene, led by Dr. Consuelo Wise, and dental laboratory technology, later supported by a Kellogg Foundation grant.

- Vice Dean. Dr. Postle maintained a private practice, as did most faculty. He hired Edith Leuthi as assistant to the Dean. She helped students sort out special problems, and was Postle's 'Gal Friday' to some and 'The Boss' to others.

The first graduate to enroll in a one-year postgrad "internship" was William C. Dew, '41, in fixed and removable prosthodontics. Dr. Dew went on to serve three deans in various capacities, and was the College's first historian.



First dental hygiene class, June 1946



Les Horvath, 1945 Heisman Winner, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

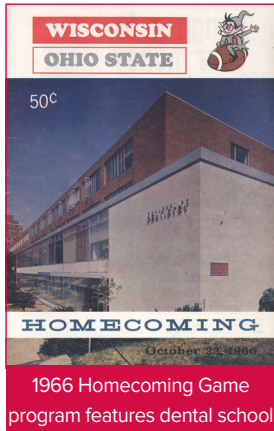
In 1942 Ohio State's football team won its first ever national championship with senior All America halfback Les Horvath, who then enrolled in dental school. He played again in 1944 as a dental student, winning the Heisman Trophy while leading OSU to its first perfect season since 1916. Other OSU All America athletes who graduated from OSU dental school include Jimmy Hull, basketball; Steve Arlin and Mike Repasky, baseball; Ray Von Pryor, football; Beth Sheridan and Susan Mallory, long distance runners; John Lorms, golf; and Olympic medalists Pete and Jim George, weightlifting.

During WWII the dental curriculum condensed to three calendar years, fulltime. Total attendance at Ohio State shrank to 6,000 during the War years, with about 1,000 male students on campus.





Dean Postle crusaded for a new dental building, a dream realized in January 1951, 305 West Twelfth Avenue. The long, narrow building is five stories tall including the basement, and runs east-west. Most clinics face north, for better light.

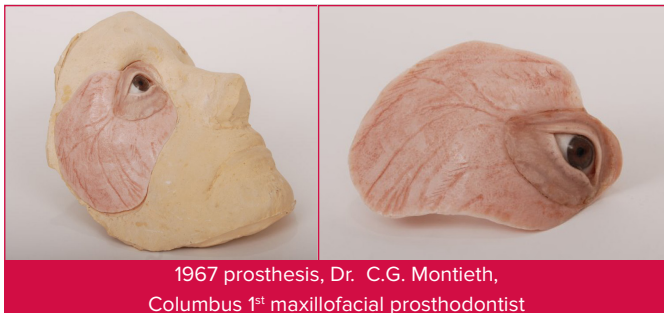


When Dean Postle retired in 1964, Dean John R. Wilson, '43, took over. The 1966 Homecoming Game football program cover showed the dental school.

The first annual meeting of the Carl O. Boucher Prosthodontic Conference was in 1965. More than 160 dentists from 27 US states, five Canadian provinces, and seven other countries attended. Dr. Boucher was founding editor of the Journal of

Prosthetic Dentistry and wrote complete denture textbooks still used today by dental schools worldwide.

Dr. C. Gordon Montieth, University of Toronto, entered OSU graduate prosthodontics in 1965. He was interested in maxillofacial prosthetics, and Dr. Arthur James allowed him to join morning rounds of cancer patients at University Hospital. Dr. Montieth was the first maxillofacial prosthodontist in Columbus.



The College's first 75 years saw class size grow slowly, coursework stayed pretty constant. The curriculum was unchanging. Federal grant money around 1970 funded construction to nearly double the size of the building, and classes swelled past 200. September 1975 was the first class to graduate in three years since WWII, the last was 1981. Since then, classes have shrunk to around 100, going year-round 48 months. Many state dental license exams have merged with regional boards, such as Ohio into the Northeast regional exams.

Four dentists served as dean the first fifteen years. The merry-go-round stopped with Deans Semans, 1906-38, and Postle, 1939-1965, who each begat new dental buildings. Dean Wilson (periodontist) retired in 1974, followed by deans Charles W. Howell (general dentist) 1975-80; William R. Wallace (oral surgeon), 1981-90, interim 1974; Henry W. Fields (orthodontist) 1991-2000; Jan Kronmiller (orthodontist) 2001-2005; Carol A. Anderson (nurse), interim 2006-08, dean 2009-10; and, Patrick Lloyd (prosthodontist) 2011 to present.

Postle Hall was dedicated April 20, 1977 (photo) during Post College Assembly, when the Dental Alumni Society began. Research innovations and continuing education courses during the past 50 years include: athletic mouth guards, Dr. Bill Heintz; general anesthesia, Drs. Morgan Allison and William Wallace; local anesthesia, Dr. Al Reader; principles of gnathology, Drs. Richard Huffman and John Regenos; leaf gauge and complete dentures, Dr. Julian Woelfel; electric braces, Dr. Ze'ev Davidovitch; black raspberries in cancer treatment, Dr. Susan Mallory; and, studies of wound healing by DDS-PhD candidates.

Dental classes today reflect great diversity, with percentage of women approaching men. Between the four dental classes, graduate residents and faculty, the College now represents almost every country and culture on the planet. The future is bright for the next 125 years.

#### References:

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#### Acknowledgements:

Kristin Rodgers, Curator, OSU Medical Heritage Center.  
Meg Birmingham, Photographer, Health Sciences Library



## A NEW MHC BOOK: A Personal Account of the Book No One Else Would Write

By John C. Burnham, PhD

In March 2015, Johns Hopkins University Press is scheduled to publish a book that is based substantially in the Medical Heritage Center. The publisher has unusual aspirations for the book and intends to market it aggressively. My own viewpoint is somewhat different, but I welcome any flattering adjectives that the advertising people will come up with!

The book is Health Care in America: A History. The title indicates that it is not a history of medicine per se, but a history of the whole health care system, with some information about the social context in which looking after the illnesses and health aspirations of Americans is traced from the first permanent European settlement in 1607 right into the first decade of the twenty-first century. It is the first attempt in more than thirty years for a single author to do anything as comprehensive as this, and I have tried to synthesize and integrate the work of a whole generation of prolific writers known only through specialized monographs and articles (there are 100 pages of reference notes).

Leading experts in American medical history have for years bemoaned the fact that there is no up-to-date narrative history, up-to-date meaning a narrative that includes all of the twentieth century and recognizes the many excellent monographs and articles published in the last 30 years. But in spite of their complaints, none of the leading scholars was willing to take the trouble to put all of this material together. Indeed, the last broad history, Paul Starr, The Social Transformation of American Medicine, was published in 1982, and Starr is a sociologist, not a historian. No doubt I was foolish to try to fill this gap, but the attempt is being published.

What came out of all of my effort is a somewhat different and certainly more complete narrative of health efforts in the United States than has existed before. Where monographs and collective works have generally extended the account standard since the late nineteenth century, this book, using some very recent scholarship, strikes a different balance, characterizing what happened before the 1880s as backward-looking, traditional

medicine and thinking and emphasizing the extent of change that took place from the 1880s to the 1980s. I was able to make a narrative out of this material because I had devised a series of eras with which the twentieth century could now be made into an understandable sequence of developments—a schema I presented in my MHC Warren lecture some years ago: the era of germ theory and surgery, the era of physiological medicine, the antibiotic era, the era of technology, and the era of environmental medicine—followed after the late 1980s by an era of genetic medicine and, ominously, “managed care.”

Mostly the book is a narrative, but several conclusions might be drawn from that story. First of all, medicine in the twenty-first century faces an overwhelming accumulation of complexities that should intimidate any of us. A second recurring outcome of the evidence is that pure scientific research is the best source of innovation. Translational medicine is valuable, but free intellectual inquiry will in the end do a great deal more for health care. Others, I am sure, can carry away other conclusions from what I put together from the secondary literature and many primary sources.

My purpose in writing the book, however, has been to try to lead each reader into an interest in the broader history of health care—or into an interest in any small piece of it. I find the specifics of the American story intriguing and fun, if sometimes troubling, and I hope readers (if any) will as well. That is how this book extends the mission of the MHC.

I have by the way made extensive use of materials from the MHC. There are well over a hundred illustrations and charts, a substantial part of which are based in the library and artifact collections of the MHC. In addition to encouragement and support, MHC colleagues have over the years educated me especially in Central Ohio versions of the general story that was, because of them, easier to extrapolate to the rest of the country as I wrote the book.

When the book is published, the MHC will provide ordering information on our website: [go.osu.edu/mhc](http://go.osu.edu/mhc)



## Spring Events

The staff of the MHC is pleased to announce our upcoming spring programs! We hope to see you here! Both events are free and open to the public and will be held at the MHC with a reception starting at 4pm; lecture at 4:30pm. Exhibition of MHC materials highlighting the life of Robert M. Zollinger and Nursing in central Ohio will be available during the lectures as well.

Please visit the MHC on the web at [go.osu.edu/mhc](http://go.osu.edu/mhc) or (614) 292-9966 for more information about these and other future programming!

**April 16: James V. Warren Memorial Lecture** featuring Robert M. Zollinger biographer and MHC Scholar-in-Residence Craig Miller, MD, FACS. Join us for this lecture which provides an overview of the life of “The Big Z,” Robert M. Zollinger, MD, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at The Ohio State University, who rose from the humblest beginnings as an Ohio farm boy to dominate the landscape of mid-twentieth century American surgery. Dr. Miller recently published, “The Big Z: The Life of Robert M. Zollinger, MD” with the American College of Surgeons.



Dr. Craig Miller and Dr. Robert Zollinger, Jr.



Dr. Robert Zollinger, Jr., Dr. Craig Miller, and Dr. Christopher Ellison

**April 30: Friends of Nursing History Lecture** featuring Senior Consultant to the American Red Cross, Sharon A. R. Stanley, PhD, RN, RS, FAAN. The topic of Stanley's lecture is “The Red Cross Nursing Pin: Badge of Honor and History”. This lecture will be co-provided with the Ohio Nurses Association and 1.0 credit hour will be awarded to nursing professionals. The Ohio Nurses Association (OBN-001-91) is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.



Sharon A. R. Stanley, PhD,  
RN, RS, FAAN



## Paul S. Metzger (1925 – 2014)

The Medical Heritage Center lost a founding member and long-term supporter on October 9, 2014, when Paul S. Metzger passed away. Dr. Metzger graduated from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1948 and completed his internship and residency at OSU. He practiced internal medicine associated with the Central Ohio Medical Group (1956-1994) and retired as Vice President and Chief Medical Director of the Nationwide Insurance Company. He was an Emeritus Clinical Professor, Department of Medicine, Ohio State University; certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine; and, a fellow of the American College of Physicians. He was a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve and served active duty during World



War II and the Korean War. He was instrumental in founding the Medical Heritage Center and served as our first advisory committee chair.

Dr. Metzger and his wife, Lee, established the Paul S. Metzger, MD and Lee Metzger Medical Heritage Center Endowment Fund (fund # 644925) in 2002 to provide support of the Medical Heritage collections. Over the years, the fund has been instrumental in making exhibitions, lectures, public programs, and collection preservation and access possible. The staff of the MHC is indebted to Dr. Metzger's vision to help create a home for medical history in central Ohio and is grateful for the support of many who have given in his memory.

## Recent Donations (September 16 – December 31, 2014)

The staff of the Medical Heritage Center would like to acknowledge and thank Drs. George and Ruth Paulson for their generous donation to provide long-term publication support for the House Call newsletter.

**Material:** American College of Surgeons (Dr. Olga Jonasson's white coat) • Dr. Athenia Athans: given in memory of Col. Clotilde Dent Bowen, MD (books) • Ms. Kim Brown (books) • Dr. Walter Buchsieb (book) • Mr. Paul and Dr. Mary Ann Burnam (books) • Dr. John and Mrs. Marjorie Burnham (books) • Dr. Sandra Cornett (books and journals) • Dr. Neil Evans (books) • Drs. Louis and Nancy Goorey (books) • Dr. John and Mrs. Anne Hohmann (books, journals and assorted papers) • Dr. Robert Malone (book) • Ohio Nurses Association (archival material) • OSU College of Optometry (book) • Drs. George and Ruth Paulson (books) • Dr. John and Mrs. Carol Robinson (artifacts) • Mrs. Rosemary Rodgers (artifacts) • Dr. Drew Solomonides: given in memory of Dr. C. H. Solomonides (books) • Mrs. Mary Ann Stockum: given in memory of Dr. Alfred E. Stockum, MD (pediatric medicine spoon) • Dr. Manuel Tzagournis (books and journals)

**Monetary:** Mr. Richard and Mrs. Fadelma Babcock\* • Mr. Bob and Mrs. Jean Boyd\* • Ms. Jean Brandt\* • Mr. Victor and Mrs. Lorraine Brenk\* • Ms. Virginia Cimin\* • Dr. Carl Coleman (in memory of Judith and Sally Jo Coleman) • Mrs. Carolyn Copeland (in memory of Dr.

William E. Copeland, Sr. and Dr. William E. Copeland, Jr.) • Mr. Ohmer and Mrs. Pat Crowell\* • Mr. Jerald and Mrs. Shirley Danhoff\* • Mr. Mike and Mrs. Elaine Danhoff\* • Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Therese Delgreco\* • Mr. Evan Dixon • Mr. Jack and Mrs. Kathi Faulstich • Dr. Reinhard and Mrs. Mary Gahbauer • Mr. Warren and Mrs. Janet Hull\* • Mr. John Marakas\* • Mr. Gordon and Mrs. Linda McCutchan\* • Mr. James and Mrs. Elizabeth Mc Mahon\* • Ms. Julia Metzger\* • Ms. Elaine Mierzejewski\* • Dr. Krzysztof Mrozek • Mr. Jack Olson\* • Mr. Jaon and Mrs. Alycia Orcena\* • Drs. George and Ruth Paulson\* • Ms. Harriet Perkins\* • Ms. Carol Prince • Mrs. Karen Cimin Rist\* • Mr. Steven Robeano\* • Mr. Winslow and Mrs. Gloria Sawyer\* • Ms. Anne Schlichter\* • Mr. Emmett and Mrs. Crystal Schrock\* • Mr. Richard Schrock\* • Mr. Robert Seal\* • Mr. Jack Shaffer • Ms. Allison Shaw\* • Mr. Robert and Mrs. Esther Slaughter\* • Col. Kevin Spillers and Mrs. Lucia Anne Wooley • Ms. Effie Spillman • Mrs. Mary Ann Stockum\* • Mr. Laurence and Dr. Linda Stone\* (in memory of Ms. Karen Hartker) • Ms. Shirley Wagner and Family\* • Mr. Michael and Mrs. Judith Wiener

\* in memory of Dr. Paul Metzger, MD





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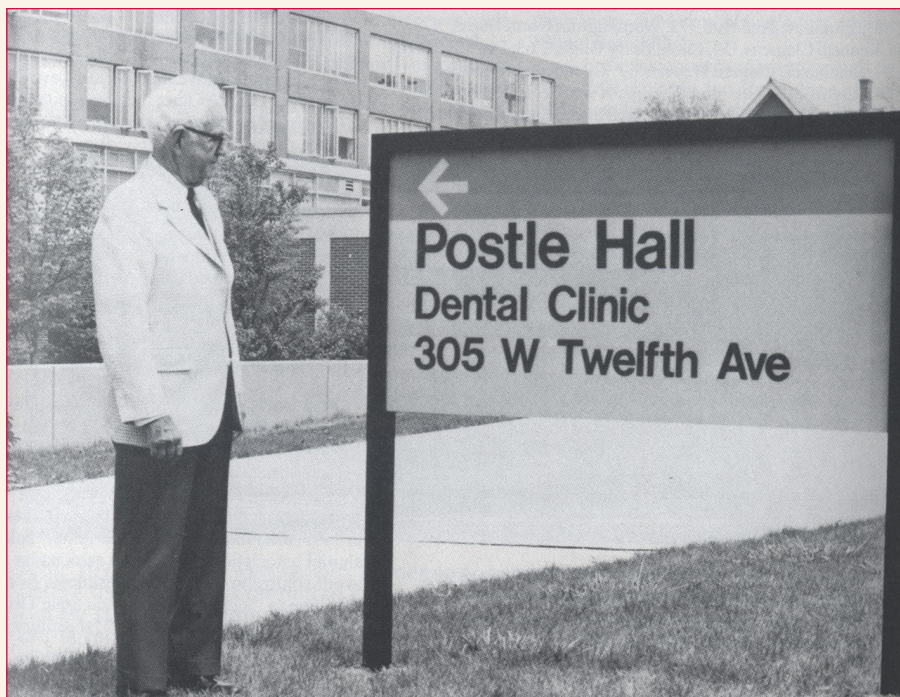
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Wendell D. Postle in front of his building, dedicated on April 20, 1977



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