An Inventory of the Papers of
Claude O. Watkins, D.C.
1940-1987

Collection Number 5

A Holding of
Northwestern Health Sciences University Archives
Bloomington, Minnesota 55431

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VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 box

RESTRICTIONS: None


Born in Iowa and raised in North Dakota, Dr. Watkins set up his practice in Sidney, Montana, and practiced there for over 50 years. Despite living and working in such a rural area, Dr. Watkins rose to renown and influence in chiropractic circles through his writing and involvement in several organizations. His writings often stressed the need for more research in the field of chiropractic, but he also argued for stronger educational standards and clinical experimentation.

Dr. Watkins chose not to follow totally the philosophy of B.J. Palmer, believing instead that chiropractic should continue research, develop a clinical database to support claims that chiropractic makes, and stress education more, ideas that Palmer did not agree with.

Although Dr. Watkins’ name may no longer be familiar to many people, his writings have lasted over the decades, his philosophies are yet sound, and the principles he espoused are still valid.

Due to the research and workings of Joseph C. Keating, Jr., Director of Research at NWCC, Northwestern College of Chiropractic posthumously awarded Dr. Watkins an honorary Doctorate of Humanities in 1987. His widow accepted.

This collection is comprised of writings, photos, transcripts of oral interviews, and correspondence.

CONTENTS:

Folder 1: Clippings
- Various original and photocopied items.

Folder 2: Correspondence (mainly photocopies)
- To Dr. F.T. Ratledge, 5.17.1940
- Unidentified, n.d.
- To ACA, 5.2.1966
- To Committee on Research, 5.22.1967
- To ACA, 11.21.1967
- To Committee on Research, 12.22.1967
- To Committee on Clinical Research, 1.12.1968
From D. A. James Seeley, 1.23.1968

To Dr. Ted Shrader, 8.13.1970

From Mrs. Carolyn Collins, 10.29.1970

To Dr. Joseph C. Keating, Jr., 7.21.1986 (from Helen Watkins)

To Dr. Joseph C. Keating, Jr., 7.22.1986 (from Helen Watkins)

To Claudia, 3.25.1990 (from Joe K.)

Questionnaire for chiropractic colleges, ca. 1967

Handwritten note to family, 10.1977

Folder 3: Miscellaneous

News release, 6.6.1987

Table 2: Watkins’ Professional Positions

Similarities between Palmer’s and Watkins’ philosophies of chiropractic

Differences between Palmer’s and Watkins’ philosophies

“A model for clinical, scientific and educational development” by Keating, Nelson, Mootz

“Watkins on chiropractic unity” by Keating

“Basic principles in chiropractic education” submitted to Digest of Chiropractic Economics, 3.20.1987; withdrawn 4.23.1987

“Basic vs. applied science” submitted to JMPT by Keating, 4.1987

“What is chiropractic” submitted to Activator Update by Keating, 5/6.1987

“Irregular sciences” submitted to Dynamic Chiropractic by Keating, n.d.

Folder 4: Oral interviews (transcripts)

Conversation between Joseph Keating, Mrs. Helen Watkins, and Robert Watkins, 9.2.1986

Unidentified, n.d.

Folder 5: Submission to Chiropractic History (manuscript)

“A philosopher of the science of chiropractic” by Joseph Keating
Folder 6: Photos

- Color and b&w, most unidentified and undated

Folder 7: Writings (1930s)

- “The new offensive will bring sound professional advancement”, *The Chiropractic Journal*, 6.1934
- “Educational standards must be raised for public assistance”, *The Chiropractic Journal*, 1.1938
- “Physical education should be emphasized by our profession”, *The Chiropractic Journal*, 5.1938
- “Democratic principles must be maintained to assure professional progress”, *The Chiropractic Journal*, 2.1940

Folder 8: Writings (1940s)

- “The science and art and philosophy of things natural—chiropractic”, *The Chiropractic Journal*, 3.1940
- “What about unity—how can we unite for greater progress?”, *The Chiropractic Journal*, 5.1940
- “Graduate education amendment will bring greater advancement”, *The Chiropractic Journal*, 10.1940
- “The dawn of a new era in chiropractic advancement is here!”, *The Chiropractic Journal*, 11.1940
- Photocopy of *The Chirolite*, 11.1941
- Photocopy of *The American Chiropractic Journal*, 12.1941
- “The need of basic unity in chiropractic”, *The National Chiropractic Journal*, 1.1945
- *The basic principles of chiropractic government*, ca. 1945
- “Subluxation in lumbo-sacral region”, *The National Chiropractic Journal*, 1.1945
- “Etiology associated with subluxations”, *The National Chiropractic Journal*, 2.1945
- “Interference with nerve function”, *The National Chiropractic Journal*, 12.1945
- “The treatment of sciatica”, *The National Chiropractic Journal*, 7.1945
- “Teeth as a source of nerve irritation”, *The National Chiropractic Journal*, 12.1945
- “Nature of the chiropractic movement”, *The National Chiropractic Journal*, 3.1946
- “Dentition, a source of nerve irritation”, *The National Chiropractic Journal*, 5.1946

● “Eclecticism and chiropractic”, *The National Chiropractic Journal*, 2.1947


● “The great mistake in chiropractic”, *Journal of the California Chiropractic Association*, 6.1948


**Folder 9: Writings (1950s)**

● “Clinical research in chiropractic”, *The Journal of the National Chiropractic Association*, 1.1951

● “Modernizing the practice acts”, *The Journal of the National Chiropractic Association*, 4.1951


**Folder 10: Writings (1960-1970)**

● “Routing the John Birchers”, NEA Convention, 7.5.1962


● “Clinical research as the basis for chiropractic practice”, 3.7.1966


● “The importance of discovery”, 1.18.1967

● “We can meet the challenge of medicine”, 1.18.1967

● “Living on borrowed time”, 3.1967

● “Some basic considerations in chiropractic”, 3.1967

● “Chiropractic must have promise to survive”, ca. 1967, printed in *The American Chiropractor*, 5.1987

● “More about clinical research”, 11.16.1967