Corydon Palmer
The Unique Dental Society

by Toni A. M.

On March 10, 1913 the Youngstown Dental Society called a meeting of the Ohio State Dental Society of Mahoning County to organize a component of the Ohio State Dental Society.

The question was, "What is the purpose of this new society?" Dr. Palmer consented to the use of his name.

"As for myself," Dr. Palmer said, "I assume that organizing dentistry is a noble profession." However, when visited by a committee asking for permission for the use of his name, they "found that not to be the case. Dr. Palmer was, rather, a foe of some of the organizers of dentistry, and this was vastly different." The Ohio Dental Journal, 1914 stated further, "He had a high respect for his co-workers in the profession but had no use for the political fringe." Consent was granted.

The Corydon Palmer Dental Society formed March 10, 1913 was named in honor of one of the leading pioneers in dentistry. Dr. Corydon Spencer Palmer. Corydon Palmer is unique in being the only dental society named for a highly influential forefather of dentistry. After reading much of the history of the man, Dr. Palmer, I am sure it must give its members a fraternal feeling of pride and honor to carry this distinguished name.

Corydon Spencer Palmer was born in Warren, Ohio on January 12, 1859. His boyhood was spent in Warren, where he attended school. In 1886 at sixteen years of age, he became an apprentice to a silversmith in Warren, Ohio. During the four years he worked as a silversmith's apprentice, he also studied dentistry. Picking up as much knowledge as he could (the only way to learn in those days) from other dentists, one especially mentioned in this early training was Dr. E.E. Smith of Philadelphia.

In 1891 he opened his first office in Warren, the city he always loved and would inevitably return to.

From this preceptorship background, he became the foremost inventor of dental instruments, a member of the board of trustees and a leader of operative dentistry in the Ohio College of Dental Surgery, which conferred upon him the honorary degree of D.D.S. This is a little humorous to me, you might say he wrote a book called "On the grizzled face of furniture." It did not please his wife, so he took it out in the back yard and burned it up." Dr. Liddle said, "It's smart to take the wins on shopping trips." He continued, "When I was a student, rubber dam was found back in the civil war days Dr. Palmer bought one of the first completeRA - carborundum, press, flasks, clamps. When he found out that he was paying a royalty for the process and rubber, he hoarded the entire outfit into a showroom and had it all hauled to the Mahoning River. He did not believe in royalties for health services.

Dr. Liddle revealed that another factor of Dr. Palmers history, on January 1, 1974 — "Dr. Ralph Phillips in his lecture last Thursday mentioned a little story about Dr. Corydon Palmer, who apparently had a taste for chocolate. He decided to place it on the counter to see if he could eat it or not. He took it out in the back yard and burned it up." Dr. Liddle said, "It's smart to take the wins on shopping trips." He continued, "When I was a student, rubber dam was found back in the civil war days Dr. Palmer bought one of the first complete RA - carborundum, press, flasks, clamps. When he found out that he was paying a royalty for the process and rubber, he hoarded the entire outfit into a showroom and had it all hauled to the Mahoning River. He did not believe in royalties for health services.

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The Corydon Palmer Dental Society in 1912, elected Dental Inspectors to the Board of Trustees to review and evaluate the health services to the public. Dr. Palmer was appointed to look after the charity works at the hospital.

Also, in 1913 a resolution was passed for the care of "Indigent Patients" and of "Charges," distributing these as equally possible among all members. Through the years the Corydon Palmer dentalists worked up to date on the newest scientific advancements in dentistry. From two meetings a year the program was expanded to the present eight meetings a year in the interest of better dentistry.

Dr. Palmer was highly respected and admired by his colleagues for the work that he did. John, among other things, was a close and intimate friend. His love for fellow human was ampli
ty returned to his patients. He was a true friend to all.

In 1944 Dr. Palmer was compelled to give up the practice of dentistry and went to live with his son, Dr. Delos Palmer in New York. Dr. Palmer died peacefully on January 17, 1971. He was returned to Warren where he had always been his home, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

The unique Dental Society continues to work to keep the standards and brings honor to the name it bears, Corydon Palmer.