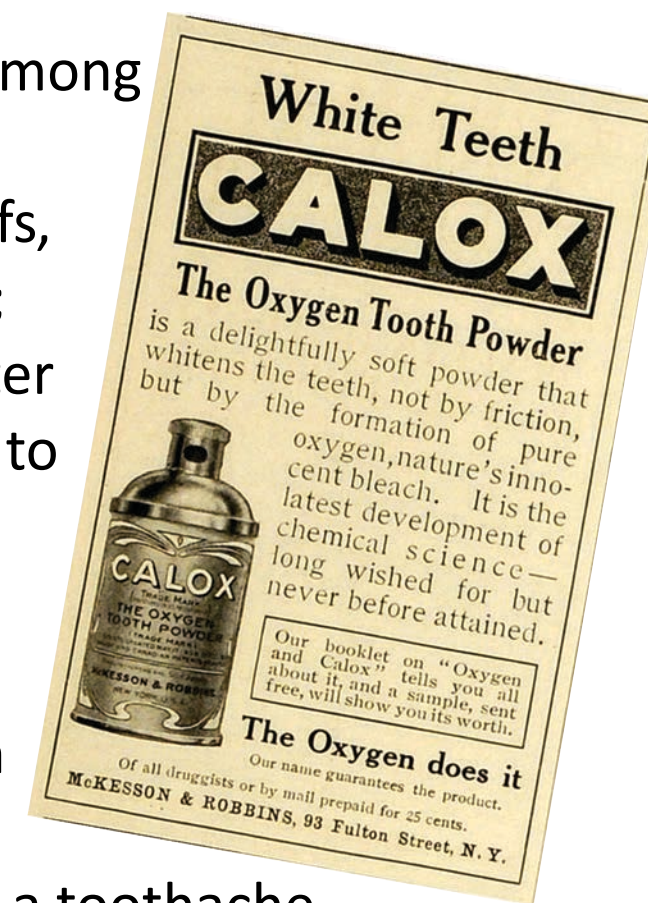


By the Skin of Your Teeth!



Tooth powder was generally used among the Romans, who used a variety of substances, such as the bones, hoofs, and horns of certain animals; crabs; eggshells, and the shells of the oyster and the murex. They were reduced to a fine powder after having been previously burnt, and sometimes mixed with honey. Tooth powder was used to clean and whiten teeth and to fix them when loose, to strengthen the gums and to soothe a toothache.



Major advances continued to be made, and dentistry evolved from a trade to a profession. It came under government regulation by the end of the 19th Century.

In the United States the rise of professional medical schools began in the mid-19th Century. In the late 19th Century, Oklahoma and the Indian territories desperately needed qualified doctors and dentists, and a small number of them did come here.

The University of Oklahoma (OU) developed the state's first publicly supported professional program. Its Pharmacy Department, created in 1893 as a two-year regimen, graduated its first students in 1896. In 1910 the OU medical school merged with Epworth University College of Medicine, a similar facility that had been opened in 1904 (chartered in 1907) in Oklahoma City. Epworth had also operated pharmacy and dental schools.



A dentistry program at the University of Oklahoma first existed as an oral surgery program, established within the Department of Surgery in 1923. Francis Reichmann was the first clinician and later became a professor. The Oral Surgery Residency Program was one of the first of its kind to be formed west of the Mississippi River.



Dr. Rankin, a female dentist, ready to perform an extraction in 1909.

Emeline Roberts Jones became the first woman to practice dentistry in the United States. She married dentist Daniel Jones when she was a teenager and became his assistant in 1855. **Henriette Hirschfeld-Tiburtius**, born in Germany, became the first woman to take a full college course in dentistry in 1869. **Lucy Hobbs Taylor** was the first American woman to graduate from dental school in the 1860s. Taylor received credit for her time in dental practice before attending dental college. She graduated from the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery in 1869.



Ida Gray Nelson (1866-1953) was the first African American woman dentist. Graduate of Ann Arbor Michigan, Nelson had a large and lucrative practice in the city of Chicago.

Delaware County

Among Grove's early dentists were F.J. Caldwell, T.T. Cater, J.W. Easton and E.O. Williams. Dr. Williams came to Grove from Southwest City about 1905. He practiced dentistry in Grove for fourteen years until his death in 1919 at the age of thirty-five. He owned a drug store until March 1917, when he sold it to J.S. Turner. Dr. Williams and F.J. Caldwell were partners until 1909 when Caldwell went to Westville. Dr. Williams later shared an office with Dr. C.F. Walker.

Many do not look forward to visiting the dentist—even with all the modern advances! Imagine a trip to the dentist around the turn of the century. Grove citizens either went out of town to a dentist or waited until one came to Grove.

The earliest dentist I remember in Grove was Dr. Moore who came from the east or northeast. In those days—at least I felt this way and I think most people did—you just didn't go to the dentist until you were in awful pain.

There was no electricity in Grove at that time. He had an old whip-propelled foot-pedaled drill (right). There was a belt operated from where you pushed down your foot and that turned the drill and it WAS painful. It was a horrible thing. You just didn't go to have a tooth filled, you just waited until it was in bad shape and had it pulled. Less painful. There was another dentist shortly after Dr. Moore and then Dr. Halterman came to Grove.

John Elmo Pace recollections

Dr. I.L. Halterman came to Grove in 1919 from Mt. Vernon, Missouri, and opened his office January 1920 over Willy's store at Third and Grand. He had attended and graduated from Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, in 1917. He married the Grove High School English and Latin teacher (and later High School Principal), Laura Tallman. She was an ardent outdoorsman, as was Dr. Halterman, and enjoyed hunting and fishing. Their son Harry, was a dentist in Jay. Halterman practiced dentistry from 1917 to 1980 and continued to live in Grove until his death. In later years his office was on the southwest corner of Fourth and Grand.



Right, Dr. I.L. Halterman in 1934 or 35. Left, Dr. Halterman, an avid fisherman, with a Northern Trout in Canada.

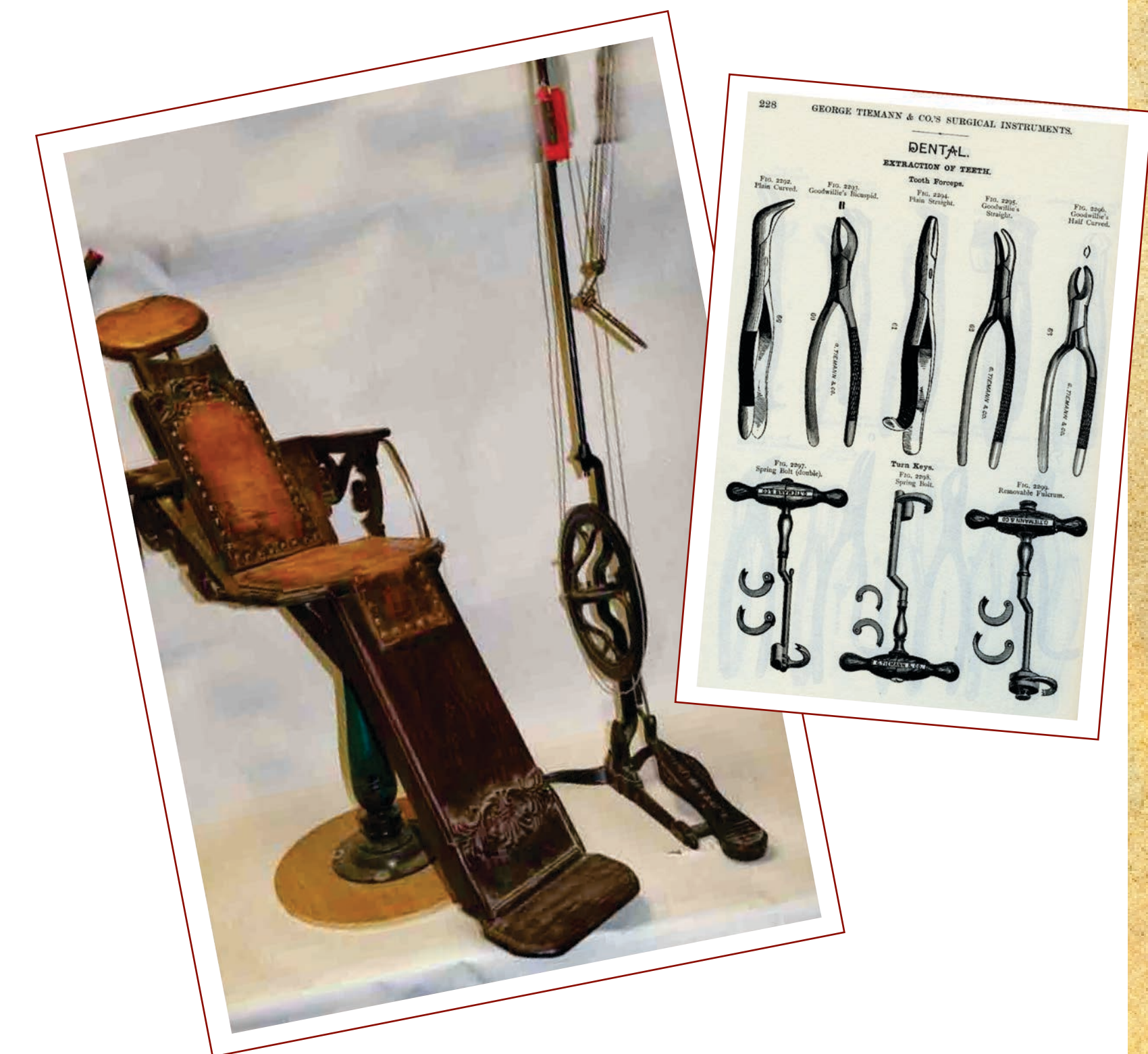
Image courtesy of Delaware County Historical Society

Did You Know?

The Instrument cabinet with marble top in the Har-Ber Village Dentist Shop is made of African mahogany and is from the office of Dr. Leonard Y. Jones, Twin Falls, Idaho.

Some of the other equipment in the office is from Dr. Jones' office as well as from northwest Arkansas.

A picture of I.L. Halterman and his Northern Trout hangs on the wall in the office. His white coat is draped on the office chair. The box he used to stand on when he needed to pull back teeth is ready at the chair for use!!



I had a tooth filled at age 5 by the Dr. I.L. Halterman, and his son, Dr. Harry Halterman, was my dentist until I went away to college. Old Doc Halterman was a real character and rough as a cob dentist. His son, Dr. Harry, was an excellent dentist, and he tried his best to take care of my poor teeth. He told my mother when I was about 16 that he expected me to have false teeth by age 25. I fooled him though—I still have my own teeth!

Linda DuBois, Grove

Longtime dentist Harry Halterman passes away

Harry Wells Halterman was born June 30, 1884, in Grove, Halterman passed away on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2008 at his home in Grove. He was the only child of Dr. I.L. and Laura Tallman Halterman. As a child, Harry was known as a precocious youngster, widely recognized for antics such as out-house tipping, unearthing tree saplings from neighbors' yard and driving his friends between Grove and Southwest City, Mo., at the early age of eight. Harry was educated in Southwest City during his mother's teaching tenure there, and in Grove public schools where he was elected president of Grove's senior class of 1942. He received a bachelor's degree in biology from Northern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and a Doctorate of Dental Surgery from the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Dentistry in 1952. Shortly after graduation, Dr. Halterman opened his dental practice in Jay, Okla., where he served patients from around the four-state area of Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas. He was the first dentist in Oklahoma to be board certified by the American Academy of Implant Dentistry and was a member of both the National and Oklahoma Dental Associations. He maintained his dental practice in Jay until his retirement in 1994 at age 70. On July 31, 1984, Dr. Halterman married the former Norma Ray at the First Methodist Church in Grove. Harry was passionate about his avocations. An accomplished hunter and fisherman, he made numerous trips over the years from Central America to the Arctic Circle. He received instrument ratings in single and multi-engine aircraft and enjoyed many hours piloting his friends and family on trips around the country. His life-long enthusiasm for steam engines culminated in the construction of two scale-model steam locomotives capable of hauling four-to-six passengers per car, and the creation of the "Wasted" (See HALTERMAN pg. 8)



Harry Wells Halterman

Halterman (Continued from pg. 1) Money "Railroad Line". Harry enjoyed sharing his trains with passengers and enthusiasts during the Los Angeles Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers train meets at the Griffith Park in Los Angeles. Harry was an avid collector of antique and classic automobiles, ranging from a 1921 Stanley Steierr, a 1928 V-16 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham, a 1941 Buick Century and his pride and joy, a 1928 Model T convertible. He loved driving these automobiles as well as "tinkering" with them. Notwithstanding his hobbies, Dr. Halterman was also very civic minded. He was a 2nd degree Mason, Scottish Rite (Tulsa), and a member of First United Methodist Church in Grove. He was also a member of the Grove Municipal Services Authority, Delaware County Health Board, and the original Jay City Hospital Board. Harry was known for the uncompromising standards which he brought to an organization. During his tenure on the Grand River Dam Authority, the Tulsa World cited Harry's vigilance in his efforts to protect Grand Lake property owners' rights and ensure transparency and fiscal responsibility by the Authority. A local editor remarked, "He shares the common man's intolerance of even an appearance of impropriety." Harry was passionate about Grand Lake, having watched its creation in the 1940s and he worked tirelessly as the only GDA member who lived on the lake to maintain high standards for other lake-area residents. Dr. Halterman was a founding member of the Grove Airport Board and often moved the airport's landing strip at his own expense with his tractor. His commitment to education led him to serve on the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority and later the Grove School Board of Education. Along with the late Dr. N.A. Cotner and others, Harry was an original Grove General Hospital Board member who worked to further enhance the medical community in and around Delaware County. Harry is survived by his wife Norma of the home; a daughter, Kay and husband Charles Mortimer and their children Laura and Wells of Jackson, Miss.; son Dr. Mark and wife Dr. Clory Halterman of Tulsa; their children, Alex and Gabrielle of Tulsa; daughter Lynne Dutilleul and her children Cole and Andrew of Joplin, Mo. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Heart Association or the charity of the donor's choice.

The science of modern dentistry developed sometime between 1650 and 1800. The English physician Thomas Browne in his "A Letter to a Friend" (ca. 1656) made an early dental observation:

The Egyptian Mummies that I have seen, have had their Mouths open, and somewhat gaping, which affordeth a good opportunity to view and observe their Teeth, wherein 'tis not easie to find any wanting or decayed: and therefore in Egypt, where one Man practised but one Operation, or the Diseases but of single Parts, it must needs be a barren Profession to confine unto that of drawing of Teeth, and little better than to have been Tooth-drawer unto King Pyrrhus, who had but two in his Head.

The French surgeon Pierre Fauchard became known as the "father of modern dentistry." Despite the limitations of the primitive surgical instruments available during the late 17th and early 18th centuries, Fauchard was a highly skilled surgeon whose dental instruments were often tools adapted from those used by watch makers, jewelers and even barbers. He introduced dental fillings as treatment for dental cavities, and was sure that acids from sugar were responsible for dental decay.

Fauchard discovered many methods to replace lost teeth. He suggested that substitutes could be made from carved blocks of ivory or bone. He also introduced dental braces, discovering that the position of teeth could be corrected. Waxed linen or silk threads were used to fasten the braces.

In 1763, British surgeon John Hunter entered into a collaboration with a London-based dentist James Spence. They began to theorize about the possibility of tooth transplants from one person to another. He realized that the chances of a successful tooth transplant would be improved if the donor tooth was as fresh as possible and was matched for size with the recipient. These principles are still used in the transplantation of internal organs.

Around 700 B.C., Etruscans in northern Italy made dentures out of human or animal teeth. Although these materials deteriorated quickly, the dentures were easy to produce and remained popular until the mid-1800s.

One of the most famous early denture wearers was the first U.S. President, George Washington. Contrary to popular belief, however, Washington's dentures were not made of wood. Washington wore some of the highest quality false teeth of the time, consisting of a denture plate made of carved hippopotamus ivory into which human teeth (along with parts of both horse and donkey teeth) were filled.



As long ago as 3000 B.C., the ancient Egyptians constructed crude toothbrushes from twigs and leaves to clean their teeth. Other cultures such as the Greeks, Romans, Arabs and Indians also cleaned their teeth with twigs. Some would fray one end of the twig so that it could penetrate between the teeth more effectively. The modern toothbrush was developed in England in 1780.

