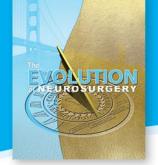


A Brief History of The Early Years of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Issam A. Awad, MD, MSc, FACS, MA (hon)
Historian and Archivist
51st Past President
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

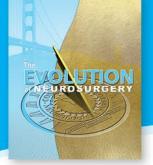




The CNS Seal (Officially Adopted November 1954)







The Call for a Founding Meeting February-April 1951

- The Congress of Neurological Surgeons was founded in May 1951 by 22 neurosurgeons, mostly mid-westerners, outside the world of established elitist "societies"
- The Founders had met and "conspired" on the fringes of the Inter-Urban Meeting in Chicago in recent years, and decided to act on February 24, 1951

BLAND W. CANNON, M. D.
MI UROLOGICAL SURGERY

DOS MADRICH AVERUE

AMERICA, L. LEMNESSEL

April 9, 1951

(.0500)

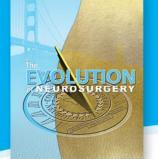
Name Address City, State

Dear Dr. ____:

For some time a group of neurosurgeons have given considerable thought and intermittently discussed the idea of forming a nucrosurgical society. For the most part these individuals form a portion of the younger group of practicing neurosurgeons who will be contemporaries during their professional life. Such an organization would be intended as a medium for the exchange of technical information and experience and for profiding annual fellowship. This group has no intention of competing with the other fine neurosurgical societies which have been established. However, the membership restrictions of some of these groups have encouraged us to consider forming a group of our own.

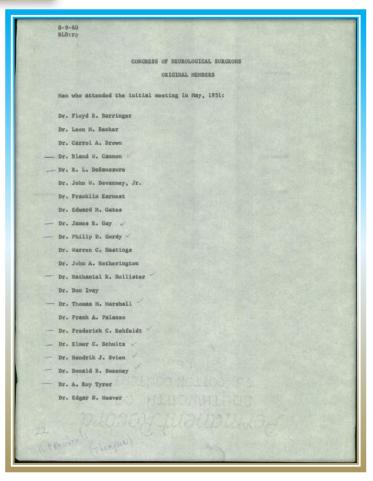
A caucus met at the Palmer House in Chicago, Illinois on February 24th, after the meeting of the Interurban Neurosurgical Society, to lay ground work for subsequent organization. Approximately 40 names were suggested by those present. We would oppreciate your careful thought about this idea of forming a resurgical society and the composition of the membership.





The Founding Meeting

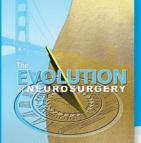
Jefferson Hotel, Saint Louis, Missouri May 11, 1951



22 Founding Members,
11 would later become presidents of the
new organization

The name CNS was chosen with care. The word "American" was dropped, to symbolize international outreach. The initials would also reflect the central nervous system!





Follow-up to The Founding Meeting Principles to Guide the new Organization

May 29, 1951

Dr. Bland W. Cannon 1092 Madison Avenue Memphis, 3, Tennessee

Dear Bland:

I'm sorry to have been delayed in writing you regarding the repot of my Committee; however, on returning home from St. Louis I found myself in and out of the hospital for most of the next 10 days as a result of a severe penicillin reaction taken for that finger infection.

The following is the report of the committee set up to consider Articles I, II, and IV of the constitution and the annual membership dues. The committee was composed of myself as Chairman, and Doctors Baranger, Heatherington, and Palozzo.

Article I: Name of the organization: The Congress of Neuro-Surgeons.

The committee suggested the possibility of altering the title to The American Congress of Neuro-surgeons. This was disapproved on presentation to the group as tending to destroy the international connection of the association and as adding unnecessarily to the length of the title.

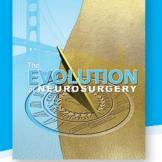
ARTICLE II: Purpose: The purpose of the Congress shall be:

- To form an association of contemporary neurosurgeons which would meet annually for the purpose of expressing their views on various aspects of the principles and practice of neurological surgery.
- 2. To exchange technical information and experience.
- To join in discussion and study of the developments in scientific fields allied to neurological surgery.
- To honor living leaders in the field of neurological surgery.

Comment of the Committee: After considerable discussion, the committee felt that the purposes as set fourth in Article II. most adequately expressed the intent of the society and no changes were recommended.

Dr. Bland W. Cannon May 29, 1955 The officers of the Congress shall consist of a President, Article IV. First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The committee made the suggestion that the office of Secretary and Tresurer might be covered by one individual. On presentation to the group, this was disapproved. Article Iv was then accepted as originally presented, but following discussion later in the meeting regarding the various committees, this matter was reopened and the officers were approved as being President, President Elect, Vice-President, Secreatry, and The final matter for the committees consideration was the annual membership fee. It was recommended that this be \$ 25,00, which could be varied as necessity would demand. The question of non-payment of dues for members recalled to the Armed Forces was brought up. Dr. Tyre suggested that meetings should be self-sustaining and expenses prorated. Annual dues should be used for stationery, correspondence, and running expenses of the Society. Dr. Cannon suggested that the registration fee at the meeting would take care of the cost of the banquet and it was also suggested that additional levies could be made as necessary. Dr. Decker suggested that a fee of \$ 15,00 might be levied on those members just out of residency but it was felt on the whole that this would unnecessarily complicate the procedure. I will be glad to be on the Steering Committee for this section of the country and will be glad to help in any way I can. The only limitation would be that I have no one covering me here, and getting away again anytime very close to our recent meeting will be rather difficult. Things seem to be going along very nicely and we are all looking forward to a very valuable and stimulating group. Sincerely yours, Philip D. Gordy, M. D. PDG/fz





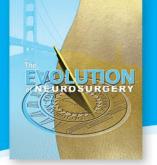
The First Annual Meeting of the CNS

Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee November 15-17, 1951

Elmer C. Schultz, First CNS President Nine Guest Speakers, No Honored Guest

- "Honorary Guests," Professors Semmes and Gotten were invited, but did not actually attend this first CNS meeting
- Legal advisor Mr. Dunlap Cannon, Jr. prepared the Charter of the new organization, incorporated in the State of Tennessee on November 15, 1951





The First Annual Meeting of the CNS Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee

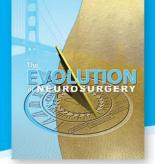
November 15-17, 1951

The 1st CNS Annual Meeting included 63 neurosurgeons, 33 guests and 30 spouses (126 registrants)

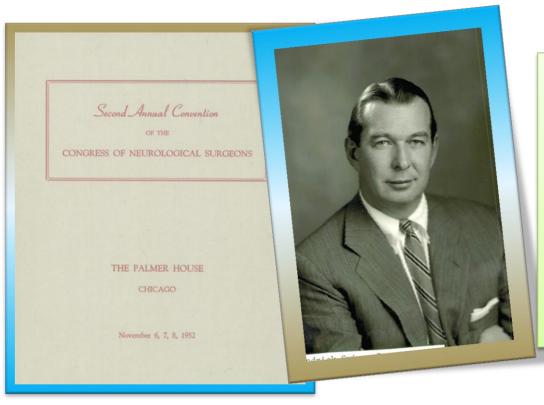


- The CNS held its first Scientific Meeting November 15-17, 1951 in Memphis, Tennessee.
- It was a small affair, each of the 22
 Founders committing to bring one
 or two partners or colleagues while
 a few also brought their spouses.



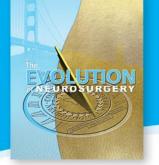


Hendrik Julius Svien Elected Second CNS President



- Hendrik Svien, age 41, from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota was chosen as the 2nd CNS President
- The "Second Annual Convention" would need a great venue, a stellar program, substantial attendance or the CNS could not survive as an organization





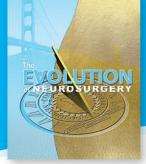
The Second Annual CNS Meeting

November 6-8, 1952 The Palmer House, Chicago



- The 22 Founders of the CNS had met before at the Inter-Urban Meeting and they knew Chicago well.
- They selected the Palmer House, one of the most magnificent hotels in the city. The venue would be a great destination.





Recruitment of Attendees

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- Conting with wife.

- Souther without wife.

- Conting without wife.

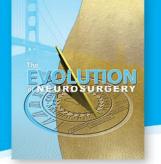
- Conting without wife.

- Conting without wife.

- Anderson, Robert L., 2018. Not Brevet, RockFord, Illiands
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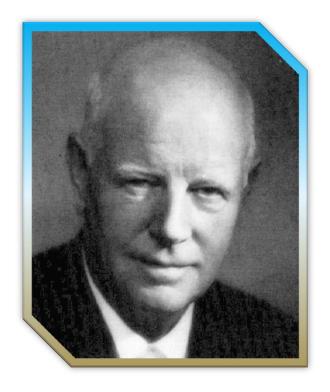
- The Membership Committee went on a recruitment spree. Each attendee at the first meeting in 1951 was contacted and asked to recruit another partner or colleague.
- Lists were drawn of young neurosurgeons in every city and a few foreign colleagues.



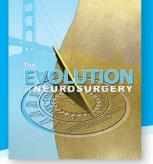


The First Honored Guest: Herbert Olivercrona Second CNS Meeting, Chicago 1952

- The founding pledge "To honor living leaders in the field of neurological surgery", was finally fulfilled in 1952
- Herbert Olivercrona, from Sweden, a towering figure was chosen
- Many of the early CNS Honored Guests were foreign leaders, uncommitted to other established American neurosurgical societies







Emerging Prominence The 1952 CNS Meeting in Chicago



- Total of 316 registrants (a record not surpassed until the 6th CNS Annual Meeting, also in Chicago!)
- These included 116 declared members, 101 guests, 28 residents and 71 spouses
- The attendance of 28 residents
 was a major coup establishing
 the CNS as a leader in
 Neurosurgical Education



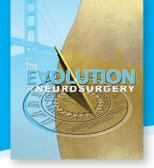


Emerging Prominence The 1952 CNS Meeting in Chicago The Attendance of Spouses



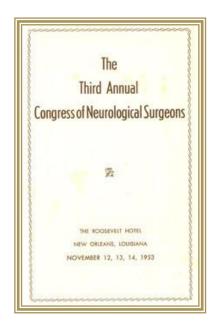
- Traditional neurosurgical meetings were "smoke filled" affairs purposely excluding women
- The CNS would be different, with the venue and evening events designed to welcome accompanying spouses
- The attendance of spouses forever altered the culture of neurosurgical meetings

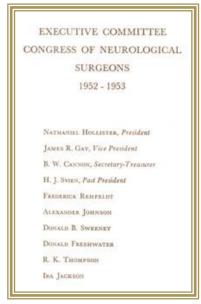




Establishing the CNS Meeting Tradition

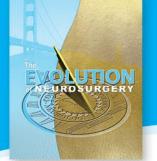
The Third CNS Annual Meeting November 12 – 14, 1953 The Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana







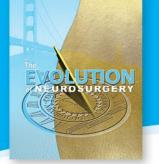






The first CNS Newsletter:
Promoting the local venue,
"New Orleans, the Paris of America"





The Third CNS Annual Meeting November 12 – 14, 1953

New Orleans, Louisiana



Time is short and specific commitments must now be made for the Congress Travel Club trip to Hayana. We hope you are planning on it, for if you are not we believe you will be disappointed and miss a real opportunity for relaxation, fellowship, and additional scientific information. Here are the travel plans:

- 1. Leave New Orleans, 7:25 PM, Saturday or Sunday, November 14 or 15, via Delta-Leave New Vrieams, 7/23 PM, Saturday or Sunday, hovember is or 15, van Betta-Ohicago & Southern Airlines, flying direct to Havana. (There is but one flight daily after 1:00 PM accemodating 40 passengers. We anticipate 80-100 travelers; therefore, two days will be required to accommodate all — first come, first served. Wives may take flight at 9:30 AM Saturday if they wish.
- 2. Rest and relaxation, Hotel Nacional de Cuba, Havana's finest.
- 3. Monday AM, November 16, International meeting with Cuban Society of Neurology

Monday PM - Tour of Havana hospitals and city.

- 4. Tuesday AM. Nov Club, Varadero (longer if you
- 5. Back to the mi let's go!

Let's look at the cost person, round trip from M bar chits, gambling misso Plan. You never guessed home. And on top of all

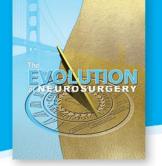
to New Orleans and to tak travel fare by purchasins In addition to this, you usual 40 pounds. Illustricities is indicated below: be departing. As you see Coasters are well-heeled



Introducing the Post-meeting Travel Group to Havana, Cuba

> "For those who have a few additional days (plus a few dollars)"





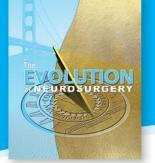
The Third CNS Annual Meeting

November 12 – 14, 1953 New Orleans, Louisiana



Photo & Signatures of the Post-meeting Travel Group





the course will have the hearty endorsement of the Group as evidenced by individual attendance. The plan of the Executive Committee is to present varied courses each year in conjunction with the meeting, and this is the Premiere. A small fee will be necessary, but 'twill be a bargain day, so plan on shopping for some x-ray pearls.

If you haven't heard. THIS is the news release of the week: Honored speaker for the meeting will be SIR GEOFFREY JEFFERSON of Manchester, England. What a rare privilege! Thank you, program committee: otherwise the great majority of us would never have had occasion to see and hear this distinguished pioneer of neurosurgery.

But, that is just the beginning. Look at the rest of this All-Star Revue:

- Dr. Gerhardt von Bonin, Professor of Anatomy, Univers Dr. Stanley Cobb, Bullard Professor of Neuro-pathology,
- Harvard Medical School, and Psychiatrist in Chief, Massachusetts General Hospital.
- Dr. Robert Heath, Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry, Tulane University.
- Dr. Harold Hemwich, Director Research Institute of Nervous Diseases, Galesburg State Hospital, Galesbure. Illinois.
- Dr. Hyman Mayerson, Professor of Physiology, Tulane University.
- Dr. Alton Ochsner, Director, Ochsner Clinic, and Henderson Professor of Surgery, Tulane University.
- Dr. J. Lawrence Pool, Professor of Neurosurgery, Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons.
- Dr. A. Earl Walker. Professor of Neurosurgery, Johns Hopkins Medical School.
- Dr. Walter Wilde, Associate Professor of Physiology, Tulone University.

Brother, that's "Top Brass", if I know Army lingo!

BOUQUETS - 1952 MEETING

Should you be a doubter as to the success of our 2nd Annual Congress Meeting (and I know you aren't), waft generously from the following aroma penned to the Executive Committee:

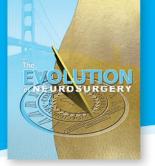
"With the vitality and enthusiasm expressed in your organization, it will be a real factor in medical progress." Dr. Albert Kuntz, Saint Louis University School of Medicine, 1402 South Grand Boulevard, Saint Louis 4. Missouri.

"The Chicago meeting was most enjoyable and worthwhile from my point of view, and I must congratulate your Committee on the pleasant way in which everything was organized." Dr. Francis L. McNaughton, 3801 University Street, Montreal 2, Canada.

Follow-up correspondence to the CNS members, with highlights of the Scientific **Program:**

- "All-Star Revue"
- "Top Brass"...if I know Army lingo!"





"I want to congratulate you on the excellent organization that you have." Dr. John M. Meredith, 1200 East Broad Street, Richmond 19, Virginia.

"It was a pleasure to be associated with the Congress of Neurological Surgeons." Dr. Eric Oldberg, University of Illinois, Chicago. Illinois.

"I certainly enjoyed that meeting as much as, or more than any of the other neurosurgical meetings that I have att Raney, 1136 West Sixth Street, Los Angeles

"I think you have a splendid, we Ver Brugghen, 122 South Mic

Rave Reviews!

Adrien

of that

There is noteworthy pillar professional not only stimulate endeared themselves all of us who had lowing the Congress meeting, a rather stre for Prof. Olivecrons which included meeting Minneapolis, Baltimore, New York City, Bos This, however, was punctuated with a bit of Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota, Pr honorary degree of science. Here in Memph Master exhibit his skill in yet another wa as he and Cary Middlecoff burned the cours was delightful.

1954 MEETI

Broadway, here we come! We're head superlative arranging genius of Jim Gay. Douglas McArthur, may be an honored guest.

A gadget review is being planned in your ingenuity has proven productive, or another some item which has been particula along for presentation.

Congress Membership - it's still g they are inaccurate. We've crossed the 2 second largest neurosurgical organization membership list including address changes

"I want to congratulate you on the excellent organization that you have. " Dr. John M. Meredith, 1200 East Broad Street, Richmond 19, Virginia.

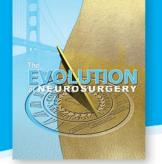
"It was a pleasure to be associated with the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. " Dr. Eric Oldberg, University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois.

"I certainly enjoyed that meeting as much as, or more than any of the other neurosurgical meetings that I have attended." Dr. R. B. Raney, 1136 West Sixth Street, Los Angeles 17, California.

"I think you have a splendid, well-run organization." Dr. Adrien Ver Brugghen. 122 South Michigan Avenue. Chicago 3. Illinois.

"In my opinion it was without question the finest meeting of that type that I have ever had the privilege of attending." Dr. Paul G. Flothow. Seattle Neurological Institute, 1317 Marion Street, Seattle 4. Washington.



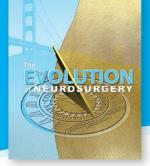


Congress Membership - it's still growing. Figures are scarcely quoted until they are inaccurate. We've crossed the 200 mark, and you are a member of the second largest neurosurgical organization in the world. The enclosed is a current membership list including address changes. If there are any corrections, please let us know.

Membership grows dramatically after 2 years!

The CNS becomes the second largest neurosurgical organization in the world



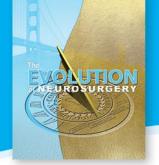


CNS Firsts!

- Congress Newsletter, February 1952 (Roy Tyrer, first editor)
- Directory of Neurological Surgeons in the United States, 1957 (John R. Russell, Chairman of the CNS Survey Committee)
- CNS Executive Committee authorizes the expenditure of funds for the lodging of residents attending the Annual Meeting (May 1958)
- World Directory of Neurological Surgeons, 1967 (George Ablin, Editor)

WORLD DIRECTORY NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS PART II (1967) PART I - Directory of Neurological Surgeons in the United States of America September 15, 1966 (Published and Distributed Separately) PART II - Directory of Neurological Surgeons in the World (Exclusive of the United States of America) June, 1967 Survey Committee CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS enthusiastically welcomed by the Chairman of this Committee. A copy of this Directory is available only to neurological surgeons or other physicians when requested on their own letterhead; a nominal charge will be billed at the time of mailing the Directory. George Ablin, M.D., Editor Chairman, Survey Committee 2828 H Street Bakersfield, California 93301 United States of America Copyright @ 1967



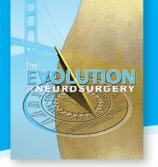


Other Notable CNS Firsts (International Stewardship)



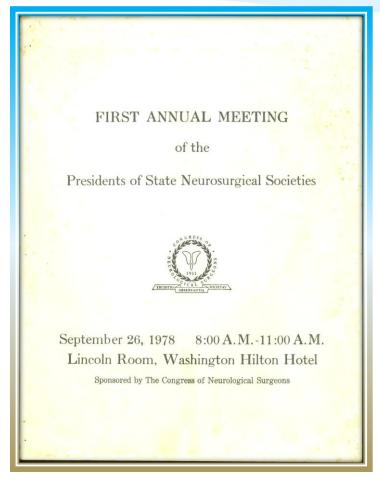
- Founding member in the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies in 1955
- The CNS commissioned the "International Gavel" and presented it to the WFNS at its first meeting in Brussels in 1957



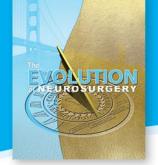


Other Notable CNS Firsts (Socioeconomics)

- Fee Survey (Edward Bishop, CNS Socio-economic committee, 1966)
- Neurosurgical Utilization Guidelines
 (Utilization Guidelines Committee,
 Walter Lockhart, Jr. 1969)
- The CNS hosted the first meeting of *Presidents of State Neurosurgical Societies*, 1978

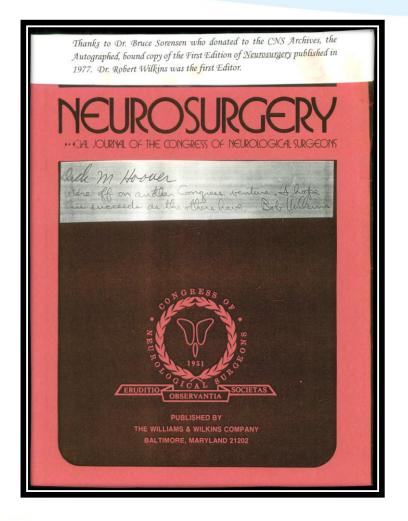




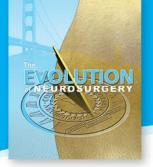


Promotion of Knowledge: A Pillar of Neurosurgical Education

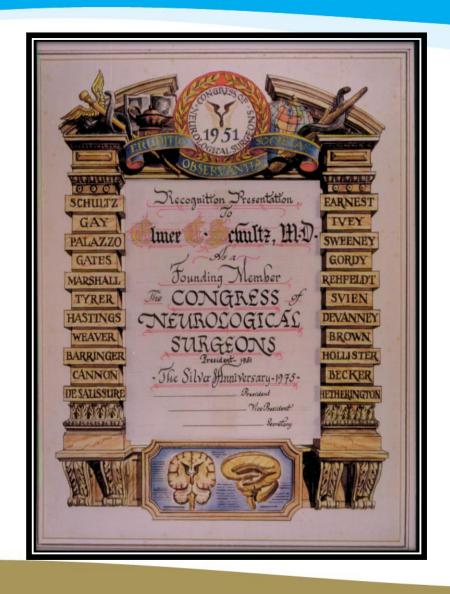
 1977, the CNS publishes the peer reviewed journal NEUROSURGERY (Robert H. Wilkins as its first Editor)



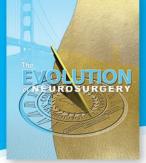




CNS Tribute to its Founders







CNS History Archives!

www.cns.org/about/history

