

Recollections as told by Dick Riedel

### **Charles H. Tweed**

A very close tie existed between the UW Dept. of Orthodontics and Charlie Tweed. As first chairman of the department, Al Moore gathered together the best of local orthodontists to form the foundation of our clinical faculty, all of whom had already established a close relationship with Charlie. Over the years, many of that faculty would head to Tweed's course to act as facilitators, mentors, and teachers of the 'Tweed Technique.' George McCullough, Paul Lewis, and others brought their expertise to those undertaking the course and, in turn, brought back to UW orthodontic residents the latest from Charlie.

Dick Riedel, when asked how and when he decided to pursue his post-retention study, always said that he was not the first to learn from serial long-term records. He always described how Charlie Tweed was on that path long before we gathered such records at UW. Dick spoke of how Charlie grew up in the Edward Angle philosophy and for years treated most cases non-extraction just as Angle had taught. But with time he saw that his post-retention patients returned with various degrees of relapse. Typical of Charlie, he blamed himself and wanted to make amends by retreating those failed cases, at no charge by the way, but this time with extraction of first premolars.

Dick indicated that Charlie, always the teacher, decided to document case records consisting of pre-treatment non-extraction, end of active treatment, and post-retention relapse. An Angle Society meeting was his venue of choice to display those and to speak on his progress in retreatment via an extraction method. Paul Lewis attended that meeting and said that Charlie not only brought the records, but he hired a train car and brought along the patients. What an impressive display.

Dick told of Charlie's intent to gather final records on those retreated cases and then to follow them for years with post-retention records to show hoped for success of his new extraction philosophy. Unfortunately, there was a fire at Charlie's office and all records were destroyed.

Dick was determined to mimic Charlie's efforts and decided to begin with a study of his own ABO case records. So hunting down those patients began our collection. Dick indicated that he learned so much from his own ABO cases that he decided to expand the search to all of his private practice patients that he could find, and then to those treated at UW, and eventually cases of our graduates and interested local orthodontists. At various meetings featuring Dick, he always diverted the limelight to Charlie Tweed, the one who first focused on the study of one's own cases no matter the success or compromise results.

PS from Bob Little: Dick was my closest mentor and friend. We spoke at length often and usually lunched together almost every week so he could question me about our progress with the post-retention cases. But he also wanted to know what we could do to improve the teaching of our residents. Any new 'hair brained idea' I wanted to try was welcomed. But beyond that attitude toward me, he wanted to push all the young faculty upward and outward. When he got

an invitation to speak somewhere, he would pass it on to one of us so we could get our feet wet. The audiences expected Dick but instead got a rookie instead of Dick. He did not have a self-serving bone in his body. To me he was an icon, mentor, father figure, and pal. I visited Dick in the hospital on the day he died. As usual, he only wanted to know how the post-retention project was going and what was next.