

4. Cooperation of Plastic and Dental Teams is Vital

THERE have been many times in the history of plastic surgery when the dentist was a most important member of the team.

If we allegorize cleft surgeons as the law-and-order good guys fighting with principles against the bad guys, primary congenital and secondary surgical deformities, then we can flash back to Tombstone, Arizona, October 26, 1881.

At half past two in the afternoon, the Clancy brothers, the McLowrys and a tough young killer, Billy Claiborne, waited in the shadows of the fence corral. The three Earp brothers, Virgil, Morgan and Wyatt, came onto Fremont Street heading for the O.K. Corral. Each wore a black stetson and under his single-breasted black frock coat carried two Colt revolvers. Virgil also had a shotgun. On they came, the three against the five. Suddenly, a man in a flapping gray coat and carrying a cane dashed out toward them from the sidewalk. It was dentist Doc Holliday.

"Where are you fellers going?" he asked.

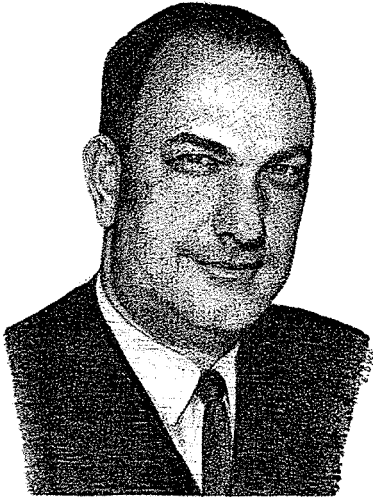
"To a fight," said Wyatt.

"Fine," Doc replied, "I'm in it too!"

He dropped his cane to catch the shotgun Virgil tossed to him. As they entered the corral, Marshal Earp ordered:

"You're under arrest. Up with your hands!" and the guns blazed. When the smoke had cleared, three of the outlaws lay dead and two were on the run. Only two of the Earps had flesh wounds. Doc Holliday had evened the odds and given a good account of himself that day. Gillies' Doc Holliday during World





Sam Berkowitz

War I was Kelsey Fry, while mine in the cleft campaign is Sam Berkowitz.

Berkowitz received his dental degree at New York University and his orthodontic training at The University of Illinois Dental School where he studied with Sam Pruzansky for two years prior to coming to Miami. He is a scholar, artist and dedicated researcher. It is not an exaggeration to say that Sam has strong opinions, does not take kindly to argument against his beliefs and, although beginning to mellow with the years, still can be stimulated to a purple color and some ranting and raving if we insist on an immediate ideal result rather than the long-term plan. He has made original contributions to his field. As stated by his mentor, Pruzansky:

Three dimensional analysis of casts utilizing stereophotogrammetry being carried out by Berkowitz (1968, 1971) provides the most sophisticated approach currently available to measure the architecture of the palate. Studies now being completed by Berkowitz et al . . . may lead to a subclassification of cleft types based on cluster analysis of architectural characteristics of the cleft palate cast.

His dedicated record taking and longitudinal study of our cases has had a tremendous influence on diagnosis and treatment of our clefts. It is important that he have his say, now:

*yet when the
orthodontic team
is more interested
in record taking
than pre surgical
orthodontics, it is
like joining a
shoot out with a
camera instead
of a shotgun!*