This issue marks the 53rd year of the Optometric Historical Society’s publication. The total run of the publication now extends to more than 3,600 pages, representing a remarkable compilation of optometry history. In those pages, Hindsight has examined a wide variety of topics over the full range of optometry history from its spectacle-making origins to more recent times. Similarly, we present a variety of topics in this issue.

In the last issue of Hindsight, Contributing Editor John Amos, O.D., M.S., presented a history of the legislation authorizing the optometric use of diagnostic pharmaceutical agents in Alabama. In this issue, he follows that up with an exploration of the work leading to the passage of legislation for the use of therapeutic pharmaceutical agents by optometrists in that state. Both are stories showing the persistence and dedication of individual optometrists.

Also in this issue is an article recounting a challenge to Colorado optometrists in the 1970s. It was originally published in the Colorado Optometric Association’s newsletter. It examines an episode significant enough to be reprinted here.

There have been numerous pioneers in optometry from the unknown inventor of spectacles who set the stage for what was to follow to the McAllister family of Philadelphia who helped establish the optical industry in America to those who helped to more clearly define optometry as a profession around the beginning of the 20th century to those who have changed the nature and reach of the profession more recently.

In this issue, we offer profiles of three of those many pioneers. Reading about these three individuals, it is easy to imagine the idealism and dedication that drove their efforts. Each of these three pioneers was well-educated, each practiced optometry and each contributed to optometry in a variety of ways. Their lives and accomplishments are celebrated here with emphasis on what may be considered their signature achievements: Charles Prentice for initiating the push for optometric licensure, C. Clayton Powell for co-founding and leading the National Optometric Association and J. Milton Johnston for starting the first periodical devoted exclusively to optometry.

There are many more pioneers in optometry who have worked to make the profession what it is today. Some are well-known and some are unheralded. Hindsight welcomes submission of papers outlining the lives and contributions of other optometric trailblazers.

Over its first 52 years, the Optometric Historical Society’s publication was produced quarterly, from 1970 to 2006, in a newsletter format and since 2007, in a journal format. Recognizing the challenges of formatting and designing each issue, Hindsight is moving to a biannual publication schedule. As always, we hope you find something interesting and useful in these pages.