



A meeting of women officers from the Salem chapters, photographed one day after work by Robert Stanley of the Highway Bridge Department. Seated from left to right: Sara McNeil, Ruth Penny, Lillian McCall, Jessie Singleton, Hetty Kreikenbaum, Gladys Jones, Elsie Boston. Standing, left to right: Barbara Ortman, Marcia Hill, Elizabeth Dotson, Hilda Bartels, Blanche Munson, Magdelene Erpelding, and Lois Manning.

Women Members Help OSEA Activities

The number of women employees joining the OSEA and taking an interested part in its activities is steadily growing. Charter members of the Association in the Highway Department remember when the number of women members could be counted on one hand. By electing one of them secretary of Highway Chapter No. 1, the presence of that one could be pretty well counted on. Frequently, one or two others came and gave her a little support.

Because of the predominately masculine field staff of the Highway Department, it was not until Chapters 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 were organized in Salem by Forrest Stewart during the fall of 1944 that the number of women members began to noticeably increase. A women's membership committee appointed in the spring of 1945 found, however, that it was still difficult to recruit new members. Many of the women working then were planning to leave state employment when their husbands returned from military service and many employees worked only a short time before leaving.

During 1946 and so far this year, the increase has been constant. The latest chapter added, Public Welfare No. 31, is starting its career with 86 women members and a woman president, Mary DeSantis. There are, however, many who are still potential members, who should be willing to give the Association their support.

Women are seeing increasingly that they have a vital stake in the success of the OSEA. Not only are they members in name and financial support; they are giving of their time and energy as officers and committee members. Twenty-six of the officers of our 31 chapters are women.