

Ever Widening Horizons

By Robert M. Ashby

OSEA President

The trend of OSEA activities is very well expressed in the above chosen topic for this rather informal report.

There were times, and not long past either, when the four letters OSEA stood for or meant little to the general public. This does not now appear to be the situation as I will endeavor to demonstrate in the forthcoming chronicle of events.

At the start of 1950, OSEA was approached for the first time by a county public service agency, requesting that a representative of this group be appointed to serve on their Planning Board. The Marion County Infantile Paralysis Foundation had heard of and become acquainted with the ever-growing organization of the Oregon State Employees. They could see the strong possibilities for moral and financial support in enlisting the aid of such a large and progressive group. The outgrowth of this initial contact was the appointment of the serving District Director of District 2 of OSEA to the Marion County Polio Board. Your present State President was the new appointee.

Regular monthly meetings were attended in order to become acquainted with the polio program and to determine the Employees Association's role in this movement. It developed that the foundation was up against a financial crisis and needed the aid and support of our Association. A choral group of state employees was immediately formed and 65 members strong made their first public appearances on May 26 and 27, 1950, in behalf of the Marion County Polio Foundation. The net proceeds of the concerts amounted to \$900 and was presented as an outright gift to the Polio Foundation to assist them in their service

to the afflicted of Marion County. This gesture on the part of OSEA was gratefully accepted by the Polio Foundation and our Association gained tremendous favor in the eyes of the general public.

Mr. Lyle Sacre, the present District 2 Director, is the OSEA representative on the Marion County Infantile Paralysis Board for the year of 1951.

More recently the Marion County Chapter of the National Tuberculosis Association announced plans for an X-ray survey of all the inhabitants of this county. Again all civic organizations were called upon to lend assistance and among such recognized groups appeared the name OSEA. Out of this movement developed a plan for a valley-wide chest X-ray survey encompassing eight counties; namely, Washington, Yamhill, Clackamas, Marion, Polk, Linn, Benton and Lane.

The Oregon State Employees' Association members were pressed into service immediately during the early planning stages of this survey. Jason, Lee, personnel consultant to the State Tax Commission and an Association member, was elected chairman of the Marion County Tuberculosis Chapter. As such he was selected as temporary valley chairman to spearhead this movement. As the plans progressed, your State President was elected by the eight county chairmen to be the permanent chairman of the Willamette Valley X-ray Survey, Inc. In this capacity, a great deal of time and effort has been expended in organizing and coordinating the activities of the eight county Tuberculosis Chapters. Throughout this initial work, members of OSEA have been very much in prominence and it is the writer's opinion that this public service will in