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STAFF VISITS . . .

Before leaving the Medford area, the staff met with District Forestry Warden Curtis Neshiem and 22 of his Forestry employees who, because of their geographic isolation from Forestry chapter 25, signified their desire to form a Southwest Oregon chapter. The staff recognized the value of the compactness of this group that would provide chapter harmony and interest, whereupon the Executive Secretary explained the requirements for forming a chapter operation in addition to other Association benefits. Doyle Stockton and Jack Mace, already OSEA members, were appointed researchers for the possibility of organizing. Highway and Fish Commission employees were also visited at their respective work locations before leaving this area.

On the way, the "House of Mystery" was introduced by Jim Daniels to the two new staff members. It was agreed the topsy-turvy phenomenon must have been created from some early-day missile launching pads.

ROSEBURG

Karl Layton was not locatable in Grants Pass; however, lunch was. Arrival in Roseburg was sufficiently early to provide a few departmental contacts for the staff before attending the Roseburg chapter 2 meeting on Thursday night, March 6. In an informal talk by Jim Daniels, he implored the members to seek and maintain favorable contacts with friends, relatives and associates of state legislators whenever feasible. He suggested this as a means of creating better relationships between the Association and the lawmakers. It was revealed at this meeting that the chapter has established a sound grievance committee due to its composition of representatives from several departments, rather than only one or two. To avoid bias, a grievance is not reviewed by a committee member who represents the same department as that in which an aggrieved is an employee. A very interesting buzz-session and social hour also followed this meeting.

The morning of March 7 was devoted to visitations to the local OLCC offices and Welfare section where pertinent Association matters were discussed with Lois Baker over

coffee cups. The staff strolled through the marble halls of Douglas County court house and met the County Extension Agent who hasn't been approached for membership. Gregory assisted in an advertising contract with a local gas and oil dealer who caters to State employees.

COQUILLE and COOS BAY

The motor trip to Coquille and Coos Bay was wet and spirally with the staff shaken into an appetite for a fish dinner. Prior to backtracking to Coquille, the trio met the very affable manager of the Unemployment Compensation Commission's office at Coos Bay and also the Tax Commission representative next door.

A throng of over 100 members of the combined chapters of Coquille 10 and Coos Bay 65 greeted the Headquarters Staff and the District Director at the Coquille Community House. They were astonished to learn it was not a visitation by representatives from the Civil Service Commission. Just as surprised were the Staff members when informed the turn-out would not have been as great had they known it was the Headquarters group. Poor communications provided the awkward situation which was soothed when the Executive Secretary and the staff members presented interesting highlights of current Association activities. A virulent atmosphere briefly pervaded the huge meeting hall when a denouncement was made of the Highway Department's policy of establishing Sunday as the week starting-day. The hastily prepared missive was read to the assemblage and submitted to Jim Daniels by its author, Stanford Sparks. This action was augmented with a claim of Association complacency which was hurled at the Staff by tempestuous Blonson Neavoll, long-time member of OSEA. The stormy, but otherwise harmonious meeting was concluded with the ever-desirable coffee and doughnuts.

Out of Reedsport, the following day, the group encountered more rain, snow and new road construction . . . the latter of which is indicative of the progress being made in Oregon's highway improvement programs. The entire trip was likewise significant of the Association's revitalized program of building and improving internal relations with its membership. Notwithstanding some individual misunderstandings by a few members, the staff acquired the

feeling that the various chapters are disposed to an appetite for frequent informational meetings of this kind with Headquarters members and the Directors. And the objectives of the administration include just such practice.

EUGENE

Following a weekend respite at home in Salem, the staff members fanned out to chapter meetings in Corvallis and Eugene. The latter was attended by the Executive Secretary and the Communications Director following a get-together with Paul Lansdowne, manager of the Eugene Hotel, where arrangements were concluded for the November sessions of General Council. Preliminary researching and groundwork for the handling of the convention details were excellently handled by Walter Welch and Lynn Sullivan, members of the Eugene chapter.

From Here to Eternity, or . . . Chapter Name Is Outmoded

Crow-fly mileage between the two most distant points of John Day Chapter No. 13 exceeds 200 miles, with road mileage in excess of three hundred miles being required to travel from one end of the chapter area to the other.

The chapter stretching from Jordan Valley to Condon covers a small empire of land area, taking in all of Highway Maintenance districts 5A and 5D.

Condon, Fossil, Spray, Dayville, Long Creek, John Day, Austin, Hereford, and Brogan are represented by members from district 5A while 5D has members from Seneca, Burns, Crane, Basque, Jordan Valley, Ontario, Vale and Juntura.

The chapter name of John Day is

a misnomer, unless one refers to the John Day country, and even then the name is restrictive.

Joe Hayes is to be thanked for a recent breakdown of chapter membership sent to headquarters and it is hoped that never again will the John Day chapter have the explanation—" . . . and some from Burns"—which recently appeared in a chapter content list distributed from headquarters.

BURGLAR'S WIFE BADGERING HIM FOR MONEY

"Okay, okay, stop nagging," grumbled the man. "I'll get some as soon as the bank closes."

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