

The President's Message . . .

The Civil Service Commission in its October 9 meeting made decisions on a number of rule changes. Among these was the proposed addition of a rule creating a basis for computation of service credit. The staff of the Commission recommended that, since the relative weights for seniority and merit rating and the method of determining service credit had been adopted many years ago, they should be included; the addition was made.

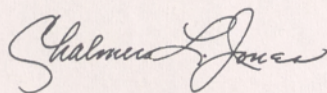
The OSEA did not feel that this should be done until a uniform state-wide merit rating system was instituted by the departments of state government. This stand, explained in another story in this issue, was not judged necessary by the Commission.

There was, however, one change made in the rule that raised a few eyebrows when the decision was made public. The current practice of allowing one-fourth was revalued in closed session to one-half point. This, in essence, places more value point credit for each month of unbroken service in a specific or comparable class on seniority than in the former method of computation.

The Association actually has no argument with what the Commission did. The surprise came at its rather arbitrary change in evaluation, since this issue was not raised at the public hearing. OSEA was told in private that a stand on comparable values would have been preferable to the one it took, but no hint was given during the hearing that any change was contemplated in the text of the items.

The Civil Service Commission, by this action, appears to act by executive decision without recourse to those whose welfare it oversees. Since its staff arm did not bring up the matter publicly, it was considered that further additions or changes to the proposed rule were not to be considered.

The Commission owes it to the people it serves to make public all contemplated actions which affect state employees in all areas as important as service credit computations.



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(Signed) Malcolm H. MacEwan
Editor

Ek Rorick Retires from State Service



OSEA and District 7 lost a pillar of strength when E. H. "Ek" Rorick, Director of District 7 and an OSEA member since 1947, retired from state service on September 1. Ek joined the Department of Employment in 1941 and

became manager of The Dalles' local office in 1950.

A man of many talents, from flying World War I Jennies to leading his own dance band, Ek livened many OSEA sessions with his abundance of good humor and his willingness to let others in on the fun.

On the serious side, Ek served his chapter (Oregon Trail No. 35) long and well. He was elected President, Vice-president, and of course, was Past President. He was in his second term as Director of District 7 when he retired.

Ek was replaced on the Board of Directors by Smith French of The Dalles Chapter No. 9.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

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