

### Cornerstone of State Highway Building Laid

(Photos on page one)  
A new state building in Salem, estimated to accommodate office work of the highway commission over the next 35 years, was dedicated Wednesday.  
Cornerstone was laid by Ben Chandler, Coos Bay, commission chairman, after an address by Gov. Douglas McKay at the northwest corner of the building now going up on North Capitol street.  
The governor declared that the state's expanding building program has been necessitated by public demands.  
Post-war expenditures, involving new construction at state institutions under the board of control, exceed more than \$18,000,000, Governor McKay averred. The governor said demands for additional state facilities stemmed largely from the 40 percent increase in population during the past few years.  
The new \$1,570,000 building is five stories high with basement and of concrete and steel construction. One floor will house offices other than those of the highway commission. The structure faces Summer street. It stands across Chemeketa street from the new public service building.  
The cornerstone chest contains a brief review of the building design, legislation making the structure possible, roster of current employees of the highway department, Oregon Blue Book, the commission's last biennial report to the legislature, photos of present and some past highway commissioners, and copies of Salem and Portland newspapers.

### Employment at Post-War High; Men Needed

The demand for skilled and semi-skilled workers is the most acute in five years with employment at a new post-war high, the state unemployment commission announced Wednesday.  
With the exception of the Columbia flood period of June, 1948, placements in industry, trade and service were higher than at any time since September, 1945.  
The commission reported nearly 1,000 skilled and semi-skilled job openings at the opening of September with the number increasing since that time despite increasing placement of many experienced men from other coastal and nearby states. Of 2,085 skilled and semi-skilled workers placed during August—a new recent monthly high—946 were in lumber and logging, 348 in construction and only 26 in food processing.  
Veterans numbered 992 of this group while 242 were past 45 years of age and 166 were handicapped. Nearly half of 14,000 actively seeking jobs were women and a good proportion of the remainder were from the older and partially disabled groups.  
Unemployment was a third lower than at any time since the war, declining more than 80,000 in the past seven months and some 20,000 under last summer's low.  
More than half of those asking compensation came from trade and service groups, while only 230 were construction workers.  
Approximately 1,200 representative employers indicated 460,000 working in industry, trade and service in mid-August with many more on the job at this time.

### State Bankers Group Praised

NEW YORK, Sept. 27 (Special)—The Oregon State Bankers' association has received the American Bankers' association agricultural commission's 1000-point rating award more often than any other state banking group in the nation.  
That was brought out here recently when country bankers of 46 states were honored for their service to agriculture at the A.B.A.'s diamond anniversary convention.  
Oregon received the rating for the 21st time. It has been in existence 22 years.  
Reynolds Named To Handicapped Children Bureau  
Appointment of Norman Reynolds as acting state consultant in the education of visually handicapped children was announced Wednesday by Rex Putnam, state superintendent of public instruction.  
He replaces Dora Crouter who has been granted a leave of absence to take advanced graduate work at the University of Wyoming.  
Reynolds is a graduate of the West Linn high school, Oregon College of Education, and the University of Oregon. He previously served as principal of the Baker public schools and taught in the McLoughlin junior high school and at Clark college in Vancouver, Wash.

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