The "Seed" of the Association of Road Superintendents was sown at the first T. J. Mahony Road School held in Hart House, University of Toronto, in May 1959 , by a paper given by Vermont Pow, who, in 1940, became Rd. Supt. Of Southwold Twp., County of Elgin. Vermont told of the Elgin County Organization and its merits. It was founded in 1946, when he was appointed Secretary- Treasurer.

Grey County had organized in 1957. Bruce County organized in May, 1959 and Middlesex in June of 1959.

On Feb.22, 1960 , about 12 Rd. Superintendents met in Vermont Pow's room at the O.G.R.A. convention. The theme of the meeting was to form more county Associations and eventually an Ontario Association. It was decided that Monty arrange for a room to hold a meeting at the Rd. School at the University of Toronto.

At the Rd. School meeting it was decided to hold a meeting at the 1961 O.G.R.A. Convention. Vermont Pow and Melvin Dale were to arrange for a meeting room. Roy Sparrow a friend of Vermont offered the use of his room for a meeting at 2.30 p.m., Monday, Feb., 20, !961. A notice was posted on the O.G.R.A. Convention bulletin board . There were about 25 Rd. Superintendents attended from organized Counties and from counties not organized who were interested in forming an Ontario Association.

The Ontario Road Superintendents' Association was formed at this meeting Vermont Pow was elected President and Melvin Dale was appointed Secretary - treasurer.

Roy Sparrow of Ontario Culvert Co. was instrumental in the organization of most

Of the counties in Western Ontario with the exception of Elgin, Grey, Bruce and Middlesex. He would arrange a meeting of the Road Superintendents in an unorganized county and Vermont Pow, John Brown, or Melvin Dale would speak at the meeting on the merits of a Road Superintendents Association. These three men were often accused by Municipal Councillors of being Union Organizers. In 1983 Roy was presented with an honorary life membership in A.O.RS.

Feb. 26, 1962 O. G. R. A. provided the Prince Edward room, Royal York Hotel for the annual meeting of A.O.R.S. at the O. G. R .A. convention. Chaired by Vermont Pow, President. A constitution was discussed and a committee appointed.

D.H.O. Municipal Roads Branch gave moral support and never failed to provide speakers for A.O.R.S, meetings and the County, District , Regional and annual meetings.

Feb. 25, 1963 A. O. R. S. annual meeting held in Prince Edward room, Royal York Hotel, Vermont Pow, President. The Constitution Committee Chaired by Mel Good presented a proposed Constitution. A discussion followed and several changes were suggested.

Feb. 24, 1964, the A.O.R.S. annual meeting in Prince Edward room, Royal York Hotel, Alex Ewart President, Bruce County. Discussion about Road School, "Use of classrooms versus an Auditorium for the instruction of the Road Scholars."

May 5, 1964 at the A.O.R.S. meeting at Hart house it was decided to send a letter to the O.G.R.A. Road School Committee Re: the use of classrooms for better participation and education at the Road School for the Roads Scholars instead of using an auditorium for the lectures V. Pow and M. Dale were appointed A.O.R.S, reps to meet

with the O. G. R.A Road School Committee.

In 1964 O. G. R. A appointed a special committee to prepare a revised edition of the 1957 edition of the D.H.O. Maintenance Manuel to a "Maintenance Manuel for Ontario Road Superintendents" The special committee was Chairman Wilford J. Smith P.Eng., Welland Co. Eng., O. G. R. A., Charles R. Wilmot, P. Eng. Municipal Roads subsidies Eng. D.H.O. and Melvin Dale Sec. Treas. A.O.R.S.

June 1964 Vermont informed me that Scott McKay invited us to a meeting in his office in St. Thomas with the members of the Road School committee who were J. P. Howard, P. Eng. Municipal Eng. D. H . O., Chairman of the Road School, Jack Rettie, P. Eng. York Co. Eng, O.G.R.A. Vice Chair, and Scott McKay Sec. Treas. O. G. R. A.

The Road School Committee concurred with O.R.S.A.'s request for the T.J. Mahony Road School to use classrooms for lectures at the road school and instructed Scott McKay Sec. Treas. O.G.R.A, to contact the universities of Queens, Western and Guelph to see if they had lecture rooms , accommodations and meals for 200 to 250 in May of each year. The U. of T. didn't have dormitory accommodations. The result was only Guelph had an opening at that time of year to provide dormitory rooms, lecture rooms, meals and parking. The result was for Scott McKay to make arrangements for the Road School Committee to hold the 1965 T. J. Mahony Road School in Guelph, May 10, 11 and 12, a three day school.

A Guelph Road School Committee of Jack Rettie P. Eng ., York County Eng. O. G . R. A. Director, member of the O. G. R. A. Education Committee, Chairman, Charles Wilmot P. Eng., Subsidies Eng., D. H. O. Guelph Road School Director and

Melvin R. Dale Rd. Supt. O. R. S. A., member O.G.R.A. Educational Committee were appointed to design a new three year course and time table for the T. J. Mahony Guelph Road School.

Feb. 22, 1965, O.A.R.S. annual Convention Meeting was held in the Alberta Room, Royal York Hotel, Louis Truax President, Essa Twp., Simcoe Co. The Topic was "Tender Calls and You" by J. V. Mclaren, Editor and A. A. Greene, Promotion Manager, Daily Commercial News.

The O.G.R.A. Education Committee asked A.O.R.S. to take charge of the Road School Banquet and to arrange for an after dinner speaker. W. Routly suggested Rev. F. Stewart of Kitchner.

A discussion followed as to the O.R.S.A. nominating a representative for the position of a director for the O.G.R.A. Executive. Moved by James Dillon second by P. A. McCrae that Vermont Pow be appointed to the O.G.R.A. Nominating Committee and that he sponsor M. Dale as a nominee to the Executive of O.G.R.A.

Feb. 23, 1965, O.G.R.A. Convention Program: J. P. Howard B.A., P. Eng. , Municipal Roads Eng., D.H.O. Chairman of the Rd. School Committee announced the 1965 T. J. Mahony Road School will be held at the University of Guelph on May 10,11, and 12. You will note that the school term has been extended by one day. It is our proposal that this year the program will not be confined to general lectures but there will be more participation by students through the workshop method of instruction. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning will be use for lectures with an examination on Wednesday afternoon. The extra day will, we, expect, provide the additional time necessary for a program of this type.

Feb. 24, 1965 Melvin Dale Rd. Supt. was elected new Director of O.G.R.A. and became President of O.G.R,A, in 1973

John Appleton Road Supt. Oxford County, 1974, President of O.R.S.A. elected Director of O.G.R. A. and became President of O.G.R.A. in 1983

Dan Zakula Road Supervisor, Niagara Region, 1977, President of O.R.S.A elected Director of O.G.R.A. and became President of O.G.R.A. in 1991.

The first T. J. Mahony Guelph Road School was a three year course for the maintenance, construction, legal matters and safety in regards to roads and bridges.

1968 Feb. 27, O. G. R. A. program: President Hugh Lamb B. Eng. , M. E. I.C., P. Eng. announced that 210 Road Superintendents and Supervisors had successfully completed the 3 year, T. J. Mahony Road School and 27 "Outstanding Students had an average of 90% or more.

0. R. S. A. held three meetings each year, the Annual Meeting at the O. G. R. A, Convention, the Road School Meeting and a fall executive meeting which was held in November at Westminster Township Offices and latter changed to Guelph University.

Feb. 20, 1978 , A.O.R.S. Annual Meeting, I notified the Association that I was retiring from the Town of Forest and felt that the position of Sec.- Treasurer of A.O.R.S. should be an active member of A.O.R.S. no one seemed interested I made a few phone calls and finally William Taylor of Huron County said he was interested.

Sept. 27, 1978 at the fall executive meeting in Guelph. Moved by L. Huber sec. by J. Connelly that William Taylor, Rd. Supt. Stanley Twp. Huron Cty. Varna Ont. be appointed Secretary-Treasurer of A.O.R.S. as Melvin Dale is retiring from the position.

Mr. Taylor to assume his duties at the convention meeting, Feb. 1979. Under William's guidance the A.O.R.S. prospered. In April of 1985 I received a call from William Taylor that he was retiring because of ill health and I had better be at the road school meeting to fill his position in May as he had no prospects to take his place as Sec.- Treasurer.

Middlesex County Assoc. had an excellent Sec. - Treas. Ross McKenzie, so I called him to see if he would be interested in the position at A.O.R.S. He said he would think about it. He called back, said he was interested and what would he have to do to apply for it. I told him to be at the Road School meeting in Guelph and I would call Wm. Taylor and tell him that Ross McKenzie Sec.- Treas. of Middlesex Co. was interested.

1985 May 5, A.O.R.S. Road School meeting minutes show Ross McKenzie, Lobo Twp. Middlesex Co., was appointed Secretary- Treasurer of A.O.R.S. and latter became the first Chief Administrative Officer. A.O.R.S. membership grew and the annual Trade Show was first held in Huron County and became an annual affair.

When Don Dean became President in 1988 he asked me to write a history of the Association of Ontario Road Superintendents. The book is from 1952 to 1990.

Out of the blue I received a telephone call from Ron Gelderland, President A.O.R.S informing me about the sudden death of Ross McKenzie and the effect it could have on the operation of A.O.R.S. He asked me what I thought the Executive should do 1. Call for applications for the position of Chief Administrative Officer or 2 . Was there anyone in the Association that could fill the Position? I said I would have to think about the question. Later I called Ron and asked him if he might be going to London in the near future and he said he was going on the Middlesex County bus trip to the Goderich

Salt Mine, so was I and would see him then. I suggested Don Deane, who was on several committees including the certification committee and he had been accompanying Ross McKenzie to all of the Executive meetings and would be well versed in the operation of the Association.

Ron called Don and asked him to consider managing A.O.R.S. and he would be talking to him on the bus trip.

On the bus trip, I was sure Don Dean would except the challenge to join A.O.R.S. but he said he would think about it and talk it over with family and his employer London Township. To the benefit of A.O.R.S. Don accepted the position of Chief Administrative Officer did an excellent job and the Association grew prospered in many ways. Don retired in 2001

Bryan D. Clarke CRS-S was appointed to the position of Chief Administrative Officer after Don Deane retired. He is doing an excellent job managing the Association preparing for all the A.O.R.S. meetings and the coming events for 2004

I still attend the Annual Convention Meetings and the Association is operating A-one and growing with certification.

Due to the forced amalgamation of Municipalities into larger Municipal Governments , it was felt advisable to change the Association's name from Association of Ontario Road Superintendents to Association of Ontario Road Supervisors.

Melvin R. Dale C.S.T., Genealogist and Historian. Honorary life member of Middlesex County Road Superintends Association, Ontario Road Superintendents Association and Ontario Good Roads Association.

Certification

Certification was discussed at A. O. R. S. meetings in the early 1970's but little interest was shown. Finally the Executive decided to have a speaker on the subject.

Feb. 24, 1974. The A.O.R.S. meeting was held in the Confederation Room, Royal York Hotel, William Taylor, President, Rd. Supt . Stanley Twp. Huron Cty. Presiding.

Topic "Certification of Road Superintendents" Speacker: Michael Smithers, Managing Editor, Municipal World. In his talk he intimated that A. O. R. S, was not strong enough or prepared to administer a certification program.

After the speaker left several comments were made, Joe Vantroost said the thinking of the younger Superintendents certification is the answer. C. E. Snow said with Regional Govt. more responsibility and fear is the biggest obstacle and agreed with certification. Geo. Guyer said that being a Road Superintendent is a profession and certification is needed. The President called for a show of hands, of the 183 present, 46 voted for certification , 10 against. The Seed of Certification fell on rocky ground !

At the Feb. 22, 1982 annual meeting of A.O.R.S held in the Confederation Room R.Y.H. Mike Woodcroft member of the Educational Committee spoke about the new courses at the Road School.

1986 Feb. 25 annual meeting of A. O. R. S. held in the Confederation Room R.Y.H. Mike Woodcroft director of the C. S. Anderson Road School picked up the dormant seed of certification with his presentation of "Certification through Education"

May 4, 1986 Executive Meeting a discussion took place in regards to

Certification of Road Superintendents. Jim Britnell reported to the executive that he had a meeting with the O.G.R.A. Educational Committee about Certification. He reported that M. T. C. had some concerns with the proposal as presented. The O.G.R.A. Educational committee had referred this issue to their study group.

1987 Feb. 24 Annual meeting held in the Territories Room Royal York Hotel Mike Woodcroft and Steve Carroll brought the membership up to date on the progress of Certification .

1988 Feb. 23, Annual meeting of A.O.R.S. Ken Kleinstieber P. Eng. M. T. C. brought A.O.R.S. up to date on the progress of Certification and hoped to have more information at the Road School in May at Guelph.

1988 Sept. 21, Executive meeting held at Huntsville Mr. Ken Kleinstieber gave a detailed overhead presentation of the certification of Road Supervisors.

1989 Feb. 20 , the A.O.R.S, Executive meeting was held in the Manitoba Room Royal York Hotel, Don Dean, President, Presiding. The Certification Program was discussed in detail. Moved by P. Duffy Sec. By M. Summers that " A.O.R.S. implement the Certification Program as presented and to make an agreement with O.G.R.A. to operate the program under the direction of A.O.R.S.

Don Dean introduced a program by Ms. Sheila Gordon to prepare a Certification Manual, Certificates, Application Forms, and that she would revise the A.O.R.S. Constitution.

1989 April 30, an Executive meeting held at Guelph Don Dean brought the Executive up to date on the Certification Program. He reported that the board had been

appointed and has met at the O.G.R.A.offices and the program should be operational by mid summer.

1989 Oct. 5 . The Fall Executive Meeting was held in Grand Bend and chaired by Dan Wilson. Don Dean gave a report on Certification and announced that approximately 70 Applications had been received.

Finally, the Seed of Certification picked up and planted by Michael Woodcroft, Director of the Anderson Road School, in 1986 with his paper "Certification throug Education." The plant has bloomed in 1989 with the issuing of the first certification Certificates. Were some of the skeptics and doubting Thomas among the first to apply?

The Winter issue of the A.O.R.S. newsletter lists a total of 948 Certified Road Supervisors . Hopefully the number will be over 1000 by the Annual Convention in February 4004.

Melvin R. Dale C.S.T., Genealogist, Historian, Honorary Life Member of Middlesex County Road Superintends Association, Ontario Road Superintendents Association and Ontario Good Roads Association.