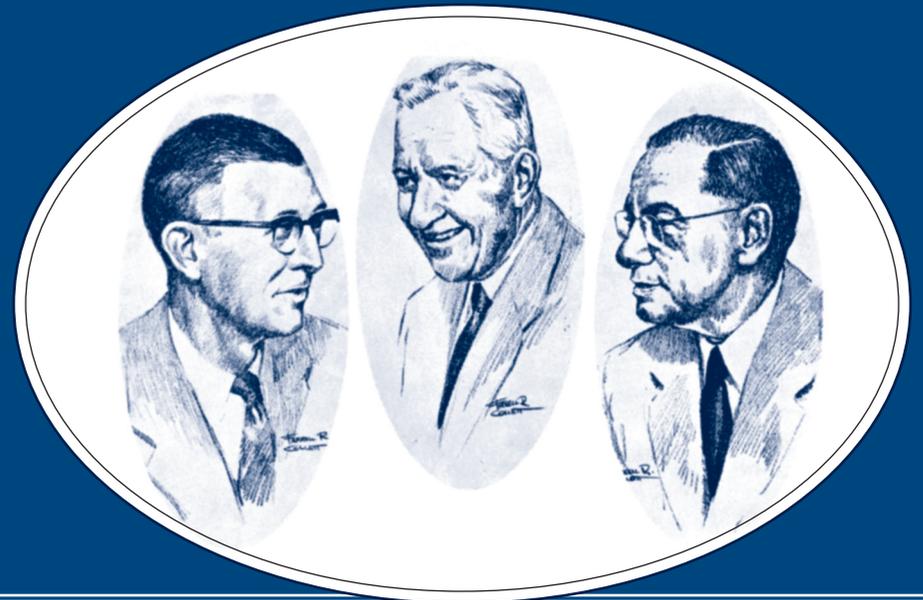




A HISTORY OF THE
OGDEN SURGICAL-
MEDICAL SOCIETY

1946 to 2005



Front Cover Photo: 24th and Harrison Boulevard
site of the Thomas D. Dee Memorial Hospital

Sketches (left to right) Clark L. Rich, M.D., Ezekiel R. Dumke, M.D.,
George M. Fister, M.D., founders of the Ogden Surgical Society.

PREFACE

The purpose of this little treatise is not to recreate and report every single activity and speaker that has comprised the Ogden Surgical-Medical Society, (although any Doctor of Medicine would recognize the names of many of the speakers and guests from his medical textbooks and his own specialty societies). The purpose really is to recall to those who have participated in the past and who participate now and in the future, how a few good doctors, with the interest of their fellow colleagues, patients, and community at heart, can create an enduring legacy of education and collegiality, which ultimately improves the medical condition for all in that community.

Special thanks to Dr. Robert Whipple, President Elect of the Society, for requesting this history be written. It is hoped that this writing will bring to the recollection of the older members of the Society the great educational and social experiences of the past, and will encourage current participants to spread the word that this is a special medical organization worthy of perpetuation, that all in our local and surrounding areas should be a part of.

This book is a compilation of information from many sources. Much of the information is from personal communications or notes from family members or descendants of local physicians. Some is from archives at McKay-Dee Hospital and Ogden Regional Medical Center (St. Benedict's Hospital), and special collections at Weber State University library. A large portion is from a book 'The History of Medicine in Weber County from 1852 to 1980 which was a project of the Auxiliary to the Weber County Medical Society and was published in 1983. Other sources of material are local newspaper clippings, old programs from past Ogden Surgical Society annual meetings, and from scrapbooks kept by the Society, most prominently those assembled by Dr. E.D. Morton, long time historian of the Society.

In addition E.D. Morton, M.D. maintained programs, photos, and news articles about the Society, as its Historian from 1973 to 1998. We are indebted to him for keeping much of the historical information and creating historical scrapbooks.

Val B. Johnson, M.D.
Historian - 2005

The Ogden Surgical-Medical Society
Founded A.D. 1946
as the Ogden Surgical Society.

Historical Record
Compiled by Dr. G.M. Fister,
Dr. E.D. Morton, and Dr. V.B. Johnson,
Historians of the Society

THE EDUCATION OF THE DOCTOR WHICH GOES ON AFTER HE HAS HIS DEGREE IS, AFTER ALL, THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF HIS EDUCATION.

— JOHN SHAW BILLINGS

The old Ogden Orpheum Theater is gone but a story told from its stage in about 1955 is still remembered fondly by local doctors who were in the audience and heard it told.

It was told—as a true experience—by Sir Rodney Maingot, surgeon at the Royal Free Hospital in London, England.

According to Sir Rodney, he had stopped in New York and was engaged in conversation with a physician prominent in the East Coast.

“Where are you bound,” asked the eastern medical luminary.

“To Ogden, Utah to address a surgical meeting,” Sir Rodney replied.

“Why that hick town?,” asked the eastern doctor.

“That’s quite a meeting they have out there,” Sir Rodney said. “Cattell, Ochsner and Backus have spoken there and if its good enough for them, it ought to be acceptable to me.”

The eastern physician thought awhile and then said wistfully “wonder why I’ve never been invited?”

“Maybe you haven’t arrived yet,” Sir Rodney said.

The implication of that story and the international stature of the man who told it, sums up succinctly the quality of the Ogden Surgical-Medical Society’s annual scientific meetings.

HISTORY OF THE OGDEN SURGICAL SOCIETY

The first written history of the Ogden Surgical Society was by George M. Fister, one of the Founders. Dr. Fister was especially notable in that he became President of the American Medical Association in 1962 (one of two Ogden physicians to be president of that most prestigious organization of American doctors). He wrote this brief history in 1970 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Society. This will serve as an excellent introduction to the Ogden Surgical Society itself, and following this, a more complete and updated version will follow.

“The Ogden Surgical Society is a most unique organization. The success of this annual meeting has been possible not only because of the work and efforts of the doctors of medicine, but in addition by the loyalty and support of the community of greater Ogden, the State of Utah and the Intermountain area.

The first meeting of the Ogden Surgical Society was held in 1946 under the title, “Spring Surgical Clinics Meeting”, and it was held at the Thomas D. Dee Memorial Hospital. The Ogden Surgical Society was “born” on April 16, 1946 at 7:30 a.m., when quite by accident, Doctors E. R. Dumke, Clark L. Rich and George M. Fister, by mere coincidence, met in the doctor’s cloakroom in the Dee Hospital. After many private discussions, it was agreed that this meeting was possible so a date was set and each of the three doctors were to invite a guest speaker. The first speaker invited to the Ogden Surgical Society meeting was C. B. Huggins, M.D., of the University of Chicago College of Medicine. That this was an excellent choice was made evident in the fact that in 1966, Doctor Huggins was one of the Nobel prize winners in Medicine. Alton Ochsner, Sr., M.D., Chief of Surgical Services at Tulane University was also invited that year but was unable to attend. Doctor Ochsner, however, has been a speaker at each annual meeting since 1947. In 1968, the meeting was dedicated to Doctor Ochsner, our friend and a great surgeon and Ogden City declared Wednesday, May 15, 1968, as “Ochsner Day”.

The guest speakers invited to this annual meeting have been outstanding men in medicine. There have been representatives from 29 states and 49 different Medical Colleges and Universities in the United States. In addition, there has been represented on this scientific program, the following countries: Canada, England, Brazil, Scotland, Sweden, Ire-

land and Russia. The annual attendance has been excellent, about 700 registrants.

Why is the Ogden Surgical Society unique? The membership at the time of organization in 1946 was 38. Now (1970) the membership is approximately 140, each of whom pay an annual dues. The Scientific Program consists of three days, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. The annual number of guest speakers is approximately 18. There is no registration fee. There are no exhibitors. The meeting is open to all licensed physicians and the registrations show that the attending physicians have come from many states in the Intermountain area. In addition, when an invitation is extended to a guest speaker to attend our meeting, his wife also receives an invitation.

One might ask how is this possible to put on such a large program. The answer is simple. It has been accomplished through the loyalty, interest and support of the citizens of greater Ogden and the neighboring areas. The Ogden Surgical Society is thankful and is appreciative of the contributions that these people have made to provide speakers for this Scientific Program. This unity between the city and the members of this organization is most unique and it demonstrates to the entire area the benefit that can be obtained when there is unity, by providing better medical care through education.

The members of the Ogden Surgical Society are most grateful for the interest and hard work of their wives. These ladies attend the programs, provide entertainment, work on the various committees with their husbands and help to make the meeting outstanding.

It is an honor to be a member of the Ogden Surgical Society and it is a great privilege to have had such outstanding members of the medical profession on our annual program. The primary purpose of the Ogden Surgical Society is one of service, and service has been the basic principle in medicine throughout the ages."

George M. Fister, M.D.
Historian - 1970

YOU MUST ALWAYS BE STUDENTS, LEARNING AND UNLEARNING TILL YOUR LIFE'S END, AND IF, GENTLEMEN, YOU ARE NOT PREPARED TO FOLLOW YOUR PROFESSION IN THIS SPIRIT, I IMPLORE YOU TO LEAVE ITS RANKS AND BETAKE YOURSELF TO SOME THIRD-CLASS TRADE."

— JOSEPH, LORD LISTER

Although the first written history of the Society states its "birth" as 1946 (actual dates from original program, April 18, 19, & 20), the "conception" was probably in 1945, giving the organizers time to select and invite speakers to that first meeting. This first meeting was in the Nurses' Lecture Room of the Thomas D. Dee Memorial Hospital. There were 7 speakers at that first meeting, and since that time we have had as many as 25. About 15 to 20 speakers seems to be a more ideal number, allowing for multiple topics to satisfy a broad range of interest, but at the same time staying more fiscally discrete and manageable.

A little further elaboration on the genesis of that first meeting is interesting. It is remembered by one of the early members that it was a snowy day in February, 1946, that the three founding members bumped into each other in the coatrium of the old Dee Hospital. They had spoken before about starting a yearly scientific meeting. Until that time, the talk had always taken a cavalier tone. When the subject came up that morning, Dr. Fister turned to Drs. Clark L. Rich and E.R. Dumke and said: "Hell, are you fellows really serious about this thing? If you are, let's each call a physician who could give us a good message, find out when they can come, and get this thing going."

They agreed to the proposal. Dr. Fister went directly upstairs and called Dr. Charles Huggins. Dr. Rich telephoned Dr. Charles Mayo in Rochester, Minn. Dr. Dumke invited Dr. Alton Ochsner in New Orleans.

Dr. Huggins was the only one of the three who could make it for the society's first meeting which was actually not called "The Ogden Surgical Society" but was called "Spring Surgical Clinics". The physicians gathered for the session in the old Dee Hospital nurses' lecture room. They jammed the place, and many stood in the doorways.

The original members of that first meeting of "Ogden Surgical Clinics" were:

General Surgery - E.M. Abbott, F.K. Bartlett, H.K. Belnap, W.H. Budge, F.R. Conroy, R.L. Draper, E.R. Dumke, G.M. Fister, H.C. Hancock, G.F. Harding, C.C. Hetzel, Sr., H.T. High, C.H. Jenson, Rich Johnston, I.B. McQuarrie, J.R. Morrell, G.G. Moyes, L.R. Pugmire, R.W. Pugmire, E.C. Rich, E.I. Rich, C.L. Rich, J.E. Rich, M.J. Seidner, H.C. Stranquist, A.Z. Tanner, N.Z. Tanner, W.J. Thomson, J.F. Wikstrom, W.J. Wilson.

Gynecology and Obstetrics - W.R. Brown, L.S. Merrill, H.W. Nelson, V.L. Ward.

Pathology and Radiology - E.P. Mills, W.G. West, E.D. Zeeman.

The Chairman of that meeting was Dr. Clark L. Rich.

The following year, (1947), the name of the meeting was officially changed to the "Ogden Surgical Society" with Dr. Rich as its first president.

The forming of the OSS was largely due to the aid and influence of Dr. Ezeziel R. Dumke and the two other founding Ogden doctors. Doctor Dumke was very active in its affairs, having done much to bring this yearly meeting to its position of national renown, through his many travels and wide acquaintance and friendship in medical and surgical circles throughout the world. He would often be in a position to personally invite speakers of world wide reputation. The generosity of Doctor Dumke and his family in the financial support of this organization has been a large factor in perpetuating it. He maintained a summer home at Hebgen Dam in Montana, to which he invited many of the doctors who attended the annual OSS meetings. He was a great friend with Dr. Alton Ochsner of Tulane University in New Orleans, who was one of the first eminent surgeons to openly and actively campaign against tobacco use, particularly as it related to lung cancer and emphysema. Through this association, Dr. Ochsner became a real friend of the OSS, attending nearly every year, sometimes as a speaker, and lending his esteem to the Society. Because of his renown, Dr. Ochsner was especially helpful in obtaining well-known medical authorities as speakers for the Society annual meeting.

That first history by Dr. Fister also named several different countries from which speakers have come, but in addition, in those early days, other doctors from our own country, whose names have become legend, were lecturers at our meetings. These include Charles Mayo, George Crile, Alfred Blalock, Louis Buie, Michael DeBakey, Maxwell Wintrobe, Frank Lahey, Henry Swan, Owen Wangensteen, George Cahill, Kenneth Cooper, Louis Goodman, William DeVries, Lester Dragstedt, Willem Kolff, and R. Zollinger.

After the first meeting of the Ogden Surgical Society it became apparent that the Lecture Room at the Dee Hospital would not be large enough to accommodate all who wished to attend, so the next year (May 15, 16, 17, 1947) the meetings were moved to the Hotel Ben Lomond. In 1948 the general sessions of the annual meeting were held in the adjacent Orpheum Theater. The meeting in those early days was essentially a general session with several speakers in sequence. Only a few smaller break-out sessions were held in the Hotel. Meals were obtained in the Hotel and other nearby cafes between sessions.

By 1974, the Downtown facilities were inadequate and parking had also become a problem, so the meetings were moved to Weber State College. As attendance increased there were also requests for more "breakout" sessions to address more specific topics and specialties. Weber State (a two year college at the time) had a new Student Union building with an auditorium, smaller lecture

rooms and a food service. This was a wonderful change, but as meeting attendance grew, and as Weber State grew in student-body numbers, and parking became less available, it became apparent after several years that we were going to need a new venue.

In about 1985 a new Hilton Hotel had just been built in downtown Ogden. It was the first hotel here with a 'convention center'. Wishing to support the efforts of City government to enhance the downtown area, the Society moved the annual meetings there. This proved to be a great success because it allowed virtually all aspects of the meeting to be in one compact package. Our guest speakers and out of town attendees now had a convenient place to stay. Meals were on the premises. Multiple rooms were available for the meetings, and shopping was just across the street at the Ogden City Mall for spouses.

By the early 1990's the historic Union Station was being renovated and so a change was made to hold the meetings there in 1992. This was interesting, having access to the various Browning Gun, Automobile, Railroad, and Gem and Mineral Museums, but lighting and acoustics were so poor that it had to be abandoned.

Finally, in 1998 the City and private philanthropists renovated the old historic Egyptian Theater and built a beautiful adjacent conference center. The annual meetings of the Society have since been held there.

This comment by a 30 year member of the Society reveals some of the welcoming and congenial practices in the early days. "My father was a physician, and as a child I remember invited speakers and out of town guests for the OSS staying in our home rather than at a hotel. This was not an uncommon practice and contributed to the collegiality and esprit de corps of the meetings. Our local physicians were able to meet and associate 'up close and personal' with experts and other physicians from different parts of the country. In addition, when I was in High School, my father would take me to the meetings at the Orpheum Theater."

Prior to about 1985 most of the physicians in Ogden closed their offices during the annual meetings and the hospitals even closed their operating rooms, except for emergency cases, so that the doctors and some of the ancillary staff could attend.

Up until the 1990's the annual meeting was usually introduced by the Mayor of Ogden or the Dean of the Medical School at the University of Utah. This was often followed by an invocation on the meeting offered by a pastor of one of the local churches. It seems that as medicine itself has become a little less personal than it used to be, that some of the other traditions that tie us together as community have suffered also in their removal from many of society's occasions.

If you will look at the medical license for a doctor in Utah you will note that it designates him as a physician and surgeon. In the early days medical doctors were considered both physicians and surgeons, and in fact, even today in Britain, a doctor's office is called a 'Surgery'. It was probably not originally

intended for the Ogden Surgical Society to be only for Surgeons and to exclude physicians practicing other disciplines. However, the name did cause some confusion among prospective attendees and also among some of the speakers, who sometimes thought that they would be speaking only to surgeons. Also, some of the officers and even presidents of the Society were not Surgeons in the strictest sense. In the early years topics leaned more heavily toward surgery, but by 1975 the subjects had become much broadened to include many non-surgical ones. In fact, in some years there was more time given to subjects such as diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease than to surgery. In 1979, Dr. Chelton Feeny became the first Internal Medicine Doctor to be President. Therefore, in order to decrease the confusion and to make it more clear that the intended audience was really to include all physicians, the name of the Society was changed in 1988 to The Ogden Surgical-Medical Society. Of course, this name change did not set well with all of the older members, particularly some who were specifically 'surgeons', and who felt the tradition had been violated. But, it was clearly necessary if a multi-specialty meeting was to be presented, and this name change was voted upon and approved by the membership.

Since the 1950's the annual meeting format has generally been two and one-half days of educational meetings with general sessions in the mornings, and sometimes several break-out sessions in the afternoons. This has varied, however, from year to year depending upon the wishes of the President and the Program Committee. In more recent years there have been fewer general sessions, and more small specific sessions. This has caused some dilution of attendance and some loss of the camaraderie that the larger sessions afford.

A favorite part of the meeting has become the "What's New in My Specialty" session, which is held first thing each morning with the attendees at breakfast tables. Usually three or four speakers lecture for about 10 minutes each on the newest and most exciting things in their areas of medical interest. This allows the doctors to get a "bird's eye view" of many current developments without going into the extreme details (something that many of us may not wish to do that early in the morning).

Following the mini-lectures there is usually a "Post-prandial" speaker. This has varied from medical issues to governmental issues to historical issues. Following this there is a break for the attendees to visit and ask questions of the faculty, and then following this is usually a general session with two or three speakers, each having about 30 to 45 minutes to develop their topics.

Some years the general sessions have had unifying themes, such as breast disease, and the speakers have had the opportunity to discuss various modes of diagnosis and management, including surgical, medical, and radiological.

In some years the topics lean more heavily toward internal medicine (hypertension, cardiology, obesity, diabetes, endocrinology), and other years there is more surgical emphasis. Depending on who the President is, there may be more talks on orthopedics, sports medicine, or wilderness medicine.

The luncheons now are attended by the physicians and their spouses, whereas, in the earlier years, the physician's wives, (you must remember that back then the physicians were almost exclusively men), held their own luncheon activities. The luncheon topics now are those which would be of more general interest to all attendees, including the general public, and include things of historical or governmental type interest, or personal experiences of the speaker in more exciting adventures such as mountain climbing or exploring in Africa or other far-flung places.

The afternoon sessions used to be general sessions, but now are often two or three break-out sessions. We have even had some years in which the organizers felt the multiple break-out sessions were so interesting that they were offered on several occasions during the meeting so that attendees would not have to limit their choices so much. As you can see, this annual meeting has evolved and changed in an attempt to let the doctors get the most out of their time. At the conclusion of the annual meeting attendees are asked to respond on an evaluation form so that the meeting organizers can entertain suggestions to improve or vary the meetings.

For a few years Audio Digest recorded some of the sessions of the meeting for dispersal and sale to physicians across the country.

The Annual Meetings have included demonstrations of non-traditional medicine such as acupuncture and Pilates exercise, and 'hands on clinics' to teach local physicians procedures such as thyroid needle aspiration.

In addition, sessions on topics of historical interest, such as the Lewis and Clark expedition were presented. Discussions of medical-cultural and political-medical issues have been given, and we have even heard lessons on art, literature, and music. A person attending these meetings has a chance to broaden their entire perspective (and not just their backside).

We have had interesting speakers on subjects not purely medical. We have learned about the Transcontinental Railroad, which was so important to Ogden. We have had a program on the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. We have had explorers and mountain climbers give us their first hand experiences in Africa and Mt. Everest in the Himalayas. We have had fascinating talks on the history of medicine and on alternative medical practices.

For many years, the annual meeting of the Ogden Surgical-Medical Society also incorporated the annual meeting for the Utah Society of Ophthalmologists. The Society would arrange for an Ophthalmology specialist to come to the meetings to provide a general talk which would be of interest to physicians in general, and then spend an entire day with just the Ophthalmologists in attendance.

The final morning of the meeting usually had speakers discussing Obstetrical and Gynecologic issues, in addition to the other speakers. This gave the OB-Gyn doctors a chance to get together with some topics more specific to them.

A golf tournament on the afternoon of the last day of the meetings was a long time tradition. This seemed to be consistent with the impression that many people had of the doctor being on the golf course whenever he was not in his office. But as times have changed and there are so many other activities competing for every persons attention, and with increasing costs for the golfing, this organized activity also has been discontinued in the past few years. The Society tries to accommodate guests and directs them to various activities, but currently does not organize a golf or tennis tournament. These are activities that could certainly appear again in the future if interest warranted, but the planners of the meetings are also very conscious of the costs surrounding the convention and wish to make this the biggest educational value for the doctors that is possible.

Friday night was usually left available for other specialty groups to have a dinner meeting with a speaker if they desired. The most regular attenders were the Obstetrician-Gynecologists, and the Family Practitioners. In more recent years these additional evening meetings have fallen by the wayside, since usually by that time everyone is exhausted from nearly three full days and two nights of meetings and activities.

A few other innovative approaches have also been taken in the past.

In connection with the OSS meetings of 1949, under the presidency of Dr. Conrad H. Jenson, a program for the general public was provided at the Ogden High School Auditorium. The first part of the program was provided by the Ogden Symphonic Choir led by Glen Hanson, and the second part was an address by Dr. A.C. Ivy of Chicago on "The Medical War Crimes of Nazi Germany." Dr. Ivy had investigated these atrocities for the United States Government and testified at the trials of the Nazi leaders. This program was greatly appreciated by the public, and the large auditorium was filled to capacity.

A Winter educational meeting of the Society was held on February 5, 1987. It was a one day meeting with afternoon skiing. It did not draw very good attendance and was abandoned in order to concentrate more on the quality of the annual May meetings.

The Annual Meetings of the Society have always been a great social event in Ogden. In fact in the 1950's and 60's the Women's Auxiliary of the Society would hold a luncheon for all of the spouses of the attendees and speakers. These luncheons were usually held in the home or garden of a local physician and were traditionally catered by Carma Green. These luncheons gave opportunity for the spouses to associate on a casual basis, and to meet the spouse and families of the invited guests from around the country. Sometimes a tour of historical buildings and other sites was held. In those days the local newspaper, the Ogden Standard Examiner, had a Society section in which many pictures and articles about the annual meetings were featured. After all, this was and is the largest ongoing annual convention in the city, and even today is the best attended regularly scheduled medical convention in the western United States. In the 1980's the local newspaper changed its format, and since that time they

have given very little attention to this unique convention, even though the Society continues to bring in medical speakers of national and world renown, and even though the meetings have always been open to the general public without charge.

Until the 1990's there were "Ladies Activities" associated with the annual meeting. These were well advertised and reported in the Women's and Society section of the Ogden Standard Examiner, and even occasionally in the Salt Lake newspapers. These activities included luncheons (usually at the home of a member), fashion shows (usually at Wolfer's, or Nye's, or L.R. Samuels), Broadway Musical excerpts, melodramas ("At the Red Garter"), golf and tennis tournaments, tours of the city and environs, jewelry displays, western dancing at the "Old Mill", Hawaiian luaus, riding the chair lift at Snow Basin (1959), art shows and discussions, special lectures, and exercise clinics (Yoga, Pilates).

For several years a 5K race and Fun Run were held, with help from Weber State University. This, in hopes that we could encourage our doctors to get into a little better physical shape, and something that their family members and others in the community could participate in.

Other social and family activities have included the Antelope Island tour, barbeque, and skywatch with the Ogden Astronomy Club, a picnic at Patio Springs, the family activity at the Ogden Nature Center with Dr. Diane Wilson's family, the Hale Family Fiddlers performing after a buffet picnic, and this year's activity at the Eccles Dinosaur Park. Another family oriented program was presented at the historic restored Egyptian Theater. It was a program with area storytellers and a clown performing, with balloon animals and storybooks as gifts for the children. In 2001 the general session of the annual meeting was also presented in the Egyptian Theater and the ambience was enjoyed by everyone.

One of the honors of being President of the Society in its early days was that the President was able to put on an evenings' entertainment and food (often at the Ogden Golf and Country Club) at his own expense. Local dignitaries, contributors, and administrative personnel at our local hospitals were invited, along with the speakers and attendees and their spouses or partners. The policy of the President paying for this party has since changed due to the large expense, and in fact in the past few years this "President's Reception" has been replaced by lower key activities designed for the whole family. The 2002 Winter Olympics were held in part at Snow Basin. Because of this, a wonderful lodge and kitchen were built there. This has provided the Society the opportunity for a fine dinner activity, sometimes with the chance to ride the ski gondola to the top of the mountain. This has replaced the traditional Dinner-Dance that was held for so many years.

The hospitality of the Society has sometimes been taken advantage of by invited speakers, and there have been a few uncomfortable situations that the organizers of the Annual Meetings have had to deal with over the years.

On one occasion, a speaker wished to see the Southern Utah Parks. We offered to have someone drive him to escort him. He said it wasn't necessary, but we ended up having a bill submitted to us after he hired a taxi to drive him to Bryce, Zions, and Grand Canyon National Parks. Another time, a speaker from Sweden billed us for a two night stayover for shopping in Paris.

We were often able to negotiate out of these situations, but they were always awkward since we did not wish to offend our invited guests or speakers, but at the same time did not wish to be taken advantage of ourselves.

The last two years the Society's presidents (Dr. Starley and pres.elect Dr. Whipple) have had cabins near the Tetons in Driggs, Idaho, and have invited the Executive Committee of the Society there for a weekend of meeting planning and activities. This has been a most enjoyable outing making the time spent volunteering for the Society even more worthwhile.

THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE OGDEN SURGICAL-MEDICAL SOCIETY WORK

Up until 1963 the Society ran pretty much under its own manpower with multiple committees formed to do the necessary tasks. Whomever was the president usually had his own office staff do the clerical work, and the physician who was the secretary actually did much of the arranging for the meetings. The committees were each staffed by several of the local physicians on a volunteer basis. There was a Program Committee, a Finance Committee, a Pharmaceutical Solicitation Committee, an Arrangements Committee, an Entertainment Committee, a Reservations Committee, a Publicity Committee, a Hosting Committee, a Sponsors Committee, and a Ladies Entertainment Committee.

As the attendance at the annual meeting increased, the complexity of making all these arrangements also increased, so Dr. Tony Lund (then secretary) and Dr. Louis Peery (president), asked Phyllis MacDonald, who was working for Dr. Peery, if she would like a part time job doing the clerical work for the Society. Up until that time, it was often the President's wife or office manager who did those clerical tasks of mailing announcements and invitations and writing to prospective speakers.

Phyllis MacDonald accepted that position as the first executive secretary of the Society. She also was the secretary for the Weber County Medical Society, which was natural, since many of the members of both organizations were the same people.

Although Mrs. MacDonald took on the various clerical and secretarial tasks, there was still a need for the functions of actually arranging the meetings and working out details of publicity, audio-visual aids, deciding on meeting venues, etc. The Arrangements Committee did most of this work, often headed up by Dr. Dean Hammond, his laboratory manager David Young, and George Vickery (the Eli Lilly pharmaceutical representative).

When CME began being required, the clerical work for Phyllis MacDonald increased, and George Vickery was made Executive Director of the Society (on a volunteer basis) to do much of the running around and arranging for meeting rooms, signs, projection equipment, and those other necessary things when the convention was actually being held. He retired in early 1970's and Dick Eppley, another pharmaceutical representative, filled in for about two years.

Then, in the mid-1970's, Kenneth Knapp retired as administrator of the McKay-Dee Hospital and became part-time Executive Director of the Society, working along side Phyllis MacDonald. He was particularly interested in helping the organization get on a better financial footing, and through the many

contacts he had in the city, was able to raise more than \$200,000 by establishing chairs and memorials in the Society's trust funds.

In 1982 Ken Knapp moved to California and Dan Heiner, who had been an assistant administrator at McKay-Dee Hospital became the Executive Director. Again, this was just a part time position, with his services being needed primarily at the time of the actual meetings in May.

In 1988 Phyllis MacDonald, our executive secretary for 25 years, retired, and the Society hired Kay Lynne McDougal to replace her. Mrs. McDougal, who began working in the Fall of 1987, was also secretary to the Weber County Medical Society. She quickly caught on to the details of the work and was also able to do all of the things formerly done by the Executive Director. The work associated with the Society had increased and she wished to be working full time, so in about 1992 Dan Heiner retired and Kay Lynne replaced him as Executive Director and performed all of the clerical and management tasks of the Society. She has been with the Ogden Surgical-Medical Society now for 18 years, serving enthusiastically and energetically, and will retire after this year's annual meeting.

It is always a difficult chore to replace someone who has worked so well in an organization for such a long time. The Executive Committees of the Ogden Surgical-Medical Society, Weber County Medical Society, and Davis County Medical Society all met to discuss a replacement. The new Executive Director would be working for all three of these organizations, with greatest emphasis on the Ogden Surgical-Medical Society. Seventeen extremely well qualified persons applied for the position. These were reviewed and interviewed and we feel we have an excellent replacement in Mrs. Penny Ogle, who has been working with Kay Lynne for several months and will be with us at the Annual Meeting in May this year (2005). The leadership of the Society looks forward to working with her, but will certainly miss the long association with Mrs. McDougal, just as we did with Phyllis MacDonald.

These outstanding secretaries and directors have been extremely faithful to the organization and have been influential and great supporters and advocates for our Doctors and all members.

Kay Lynne McDougal, our retiring Executive Director, made some comments about some of her most memorable experiences with the Society. She always enjoyed seeing the same physicians come year after year. Dr. Deiss from Casper, Wyoming, for one, has been here every year, and always had a hug for her. She remembered another member, Dr. Jay Oldroyd who practiced in Bountiful for years and always wanted to come up to the meetings, but never seemed to be able to get away. After he retired, he moved to Round Rock, Texas, and started coming faithfully. Last year he called to say he would have to miss the meetings because he was going on a Medical Mission. However, he showed up after all. His wife had fallen and required shoulder surgery, so he

brought her to Salt Lake for the surgery so he could attend the annual meetings during her recovery.

Kay Lynne remembered that when Dr. Rhonda Lehr was President, the President's Reception happened to be on her birthday. Dr. Lehr spent the evening dancing with Dr. Willem Kolff (Professor Emeritus of Bio-Mechanical Medicine at the University of Utah) and had a delightful time. That was also the year we flew Jeannie Bryson (Dizzy Gillespie's daughter) and her jazz group in from New York to perform. The string bass player would not ship his instrument so we had to buy an airplane ticket for the bass fiddle to be placed in a seat. Those were days before we established a more strict budget for the meetings.

In 1992 Kay Lynne recalls missing almost the entire conference because she was learning about surgery first hand in the hospital with a gall-bladder attack.

Another great year for her was in 1999, when Dr. Joseph Anderson presided. He had invited Ken Cooper, so there was a full house. He wanted to introduce Relaxation Therapy, so he invited a speaker from Harvard to give that some credibility, and he invited several massage therapists to come to the meeting to give complimentary shoulder massages to the attendees. Physicians, being a little stodgy, were resistant to this at first, but after a year or two they were lining up for their turn at massage.

KayLynne recalled her most emotional moment when in 2000 Dr. Chris Merkley gave his closing remarks at the conclusion of his meeting. He had designed his entire meeting that year around adolescent medicine and it was a huge success. He then shared his own experience about his daughter and her very severe, in fact nearly fatal, injuries. You could hear a pin drop in the audience as they felt his compassion, both as a physician and as a loving father.

Then there was that embarrassing time in 2001. It was Dr. Jack Wahlen's President's Reception and 400 people enjoyed a nice dinner and then waited for the entertainment. They waited, - and waited,- and waited,- and waited, but the performer had forgotten his engagement and didn't show up.

But, all in all, KayLynne expressed what a joy it was to be able to work for so long for such a wonderful group of professionals. She has always been so excited to be around both those who plan and execute the meetings for the Society on a volunteer basis, and those who attend, who ultimately are there that they may improve the care they give to their patients.

Phyllis MacDonald recalled some occasions from meetings in the earlier days. She particularly liked demonstration sessions, such as the one at meetings held in the Hilton Hotel where our doctors were taught the use of the new flexible sigmoidoscopes when they first came out. She didn't elaborate on whether they were demonstrating the use on doctors in attendance.

She also recalled one night at the Dinner Dance when all the doctors who had divorced had to sit together at separate tables because the wives of the other doctors wouldn't sit at the same table with the new wives.

At one meeting Phyllis saw an unkempt, shabby looking man taking pens and notepads from the registration table. She assumed he was a derelict or homeless person and asked “can I help you?”, thinking she would frighten him off. He replied, “I am speaking at the lunch meeting today and just wanted to make a few notes before the lecture”.

She also remembered an incident when Ken Knapp was Executive Director. The meeting was being held at Weber College and Athleen Fishburn, owner of the largest travel agency in town, and adorned in colorful muumuu and large straw hat, set up an impromptu travel display with booths, palm trees, and all. This had not been authorized, and Ken, ever looking for additional revenues for the Society, told her she needed to make a donation. She wasn't there the next day.

Others in our community also helped with the logistics of the annual meeting. In particular, Ken Yearsley (former laboratory manager at the Dee Hospital), and Dale Page (chemist at McKay-Dee Hospital) ran the slide projectors and audio equipment. They, and some of the pharmaceutical representatives, would also sometimes help in transporting speakers and guests to and from the Salt Lake airport, and to various activities around town.

We definitely cannot forget the wonderful ladies at the registration desk who volunteer their time to prepare badges, give out programs, register attendees, take messages, run errands, sell tickets for meals and events, compile CME forms, and do all of the odds-and-ends and miscellaneous chores that make the annual meetings run so smoothly. There are several in particular who have helped the Society for many years, including Nadine Martin, Beth Swearngin, Gerry Apgood, Caleen Peterson, Helen Horton, Sue Bowden, Elaine DeGroot, LaDean Thomas, Julie Wills, Amy McDougal, Andrea Griffin, and Geri Knighton. We are really indebted to all of them and their loyal assistance. We also appreciate Don McDougal, Kay Lynne's husband, who was often the “go-pher” at the Annual Meetings.

We are currently trying to interface with the City of Ogden by having the meetings at the same time of year that the City is putting on programs, such as the Ogden Marathon this year, so that convention attendees may participate in these activities if they are interested.

For most of the years of the Society's existence it was also unique in that there were no exhibitors at the meetings. It was felt by some that physicians were able to visit exhibits at most of the other medical meetings that they attended, and that this meeting was unique in that they could concentrate on the educational aspect and not be distracted by various representatives of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals. In fact, those representatives often expressed appreciation that they could just come to the meetings on a casual basis and help out and visit with doctors in a more low-key way. However, as there has become less opportunity for these representatives of the medical industry to set up booths and displays in the hospitals, as they once regularly did, we have recently found

it to be mutually beneficial to have exhibitors booths for the doctors and other attendees to visit during break times between sessions. This brings in additional income to the Society and allows interaction between the doctors and various suppliers of drugs and medical services, a function that formerly occurred in our hospital hallways.

MEDICAL EDUCATION IS NOT COMPLETED IN THE MEDICAL SCHOOL; IT IS ONLY BEGUN. HENCE IT IS NOT ONLY THE QUANTITY OF KNOWLEDGE WHICH THE STUDENT TAKES WITH HIM FROM SCHOOL WHICH WILL HELP HIM IN HIS FUTURE WORK; IT IS ALSO THE QUALITY OF MIND, THE DISCIPLINED HABIT OF CORRECT REASONING, THE METHODS OF WORK, THE WAY OF LOOKING AT MEDICAL PROBLEMS, THE ESTIMATE OF THE VALUE OF EVIDENCE."

—BULLETIN OF THE HARVARD MEDICAL
SCHOOL ASSOCIATION 3:55, 1892

FINANCIAL BASIS OF THE OGDEN SURGICAL-MEDICAL SOCIETY:

The history of the Society is also, in part, a history of philanthropy in Ogden, because contributions to the financial well being of the organization involve many of the “upper crust” families such as the Brownings, Eccles, Dees, Wattises, Bambergers, Dumkes, Macks, and Powells. In fact, it was Spencer Stoddard Eccles, Chairman of First Security Bank, who helped Drs. Rich, Dumke, and Fister establish the initial financial foundation for the Society.

This Society is unique in that many prominent families in this city contribute generously each year. It is also supported by the members of the organization through their dues, by physicians from the surrounding areas, business concerns, druggists and the pharmaceutical houses. The enthusiastic support of all the above is motivated by the feeling that postgraduate physician education leads to better patient care in our community and the intermountain west.

The Society is set up as a qualified charitable organization under the State of Utah tax regulations and under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is therefore not subject to federal or state income taxes.

Multiple fund accounts were contributed to the organization. These included endowments from Calvin and Hope Eccles Behle, Dr. Ezekiel R. and Edna Wattis Dumke, Wade and Harold Mack, Maude Dee Porter, Samuel and Myra Powell, Rulon and Margaret Howe, Edith Dee Green, Dumke-Rich-Fister fund, Dr. Frederick Deiss Family endowment, Val A. Browning, and Blanch B. Rich, and others. In 1980, Dr. Chelton Feeny suggested that these be consolidated and merged into one Ogden Surgical Society Foundation.

Other significant contributions have been made by the families of Ruth and John Bamberger, Dr. William Riley Brown, Dr. Harlo Rigby, Dr. William P. Daines, Lawrence T. and Janet T. Dee, George and Dolores Dore Eccles, Willard and Ruth Eccles, Harold Hemingway, James C. Knighton, Dr. Clark Rich, Dr. Junior Edward Rich, Donnell and Elizabeth Dee Shaw Stewart, Dr. A.Z. Tanner, Dr. R. Joseph Watson, Elvaretta Littlefield Wattis, and Dr. and Mrs. Constantine Annest.

Under the terms of some of these gifts, the Society may only withdraw the investment income from the gift and not the principal, whereas some other gifts allow up to 5% withdrawal of principal, if necessary. Further, under the original agreement, if the Society were to be dissolved, any remaining principal of the fund would be contributed to the University of Utah Medical School.

Kenneth Knapp, upon retiring as administrator of McKay-Dee Hospital, assisted with major fund raising for the Society through the many community

contacts which he had. At this time he held a title of Executive Director, although Phyllis MacDonald was in fact performing all of the clerical duties.

In addition, Pharmaceutical companies, local pharmacies, and some other organizations with medical interests have contributed, either by cash or by directly sponsoring a speaker or activity.

The three local hospitals, McKay-Dee, St. Benedict's (Ogden Regional Medical Center), and Davis Hospital & Medical Center, have always made financial contributions to the Society and have assisted with or sponsored other associated activities.

For the past three years we have allowed exhibitors, which has provided additional income, and has not seemed to detract from the meetings.

Currently, it costs about \$125,000 to \$150,000 annually to run the Society and hold the annual meetings. There is still no cost for registration and attendance at the meetings, but this year we have had to increase Membership Dues to \$250. This includes meals and certification for Continuing Medical Education credits. For those not wishing membership, a small charge of \$10 per meal and \$10 per credit hour is collected. This is still the least expensive general medical convention that any of the attendees knows of and provides up to about 20 hours of category I CME credit.

In the month following the May Annual Meeting a joint meeting of the Ogden Surgical-Medical Society with the Weber County Medical Society was held. Since most members of one organization were also members of the other this allowed for some savings in the costs of the meetings and allowed for dues to be extremely inexpensive (darn cheap!). This meeting was also the annual business and finance meeting for the OSMS where a report of the society's finances was made and discussed and where new officers were elected. This was usually a 'Russian' style election in which there was only one candidate, but I think that many who accepted the responsibility to serve on behalf of the other doctors in the community also felt it an honor.

Information about the meeting continues to spread by word of mouth and small mailings in Utah and the surrounding states. The annual meeting provides a great chance for its members, some of whom have been attending for more than half a century, to meet and renew friendships. Many physicians plan their year activities around the Ogden Surgical-Medical Society meeting, knowing that they will be treated to excellent up to date speakers, will enhance their current medical knowledge (and, oh yes, receive about 20 hours of Continuing Medical Education credit to report for renewal of their medical licenses), and will have great social interaction, all at the least expense of any medical meeting that anyone who attends has ever heard of.

This is really quite a remarkable story about this home grown medical meeting formed in 1946 by a few local doctors. Since that year, this meeting has grown in attendance and stature with about 500 to 600 annual registrants currently.

Physicians from nearly all the states in our country have registered at this meeting. It is still the largest annual convention in Ogden.

We would hope that there will never need to be a post-mortem on this organization. We hope it will not only survive but will flourish and bring new vigor and enthusiasm to its members and those who attend its meetings, just as the originators of the Society initially brought a unique way of educating the local doctors and brought a unifying attitude to the whole community of Ogden.

MAN IS BORN OR COMES INTO THE WORLD IGNORANT: BUT HE IS FURNISHED WITH THE SENSES, SO AS TO BE IMPRESSED WITH THE PROPERTIES OF THINGS; BY WHICH HE GRADUALLY, OF HIMSELF, ACQUIRES A DEGREE OF KNOWLEDGE. BUT MAN GOES FURTHER; HE HAS THE POWER OF RECEIVING INFORMATION OF THINGS THAT NEVER IMPRESSED HIS SENSES: AND, IF HE HAS THAT POWER, IT IS NATURAL TO SUPPOSE THAT ONE MAN HAS THE POWER OF COMMUNICATING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THINGS TO ANOTHER, EACH GIVING AND RECEIVING RECIPROCALLY; WHICH WE FIND TO BE THE CASE.

— JOHN HUNTER

Essays and Observations

APPENDIX: (Appropriate to a Surgical treatise)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE OGDEN SURGICAL-MEDICAL SOCIETY



EZEKIEL RICKER DUMKE, M.D. 1886 - 1961

Dr. Ezekiel R. Dumke was born December 15, 1886, in Manitowac, Wisconsin. His father came from Germany and owned a shoe store in Wisconsin. In his youth he did the usual chores, including cutting neighbors lawns, and loved to hunt and play football and basketball in High School. He was called "the man with the million dollar smile."

After high school his first job was with a cement company and his next job in a ship yard. One day a fellow-worker had a bad accident. It was then he decided that other jobs offered more of a future. He had a sister who taught school and a brother and sister who were doctors. He spent two years at Denver University, working at various jobs to support himself. He made his first trip to Utah in 1905-06 as a member of the University of Denver football and basketball teams.

After two years he had saved enough to start medical school at Northwestern University. During the summers, to pay his way, he worked in the mines at Butte, Montana. He graduated from Northwestern University Medical School in 1910, and interned at St. Anthony Hospital in Denver, and later at L.D.S. Hospital in Salt Lake City.

In 1911 he came to Ogden to practice as an assistant to Dr. Ezra Rich. In 1915 he left Ogden and went to Chicago, then to Boston, to do postgraduate work at Massachusetts General Hospital. He also took postgraduate courses at the University of Pennsylvania, Crile Clinic, and Mayo Clinic. He decided to return to Ogden in January 1917 to enter private practice and was appointed the surgeon for the U.I.C. Railroad, Bamberger Railroad and the Utah Power and Light Company.

During Dr. Dumke's first stay in Ogden (1911) he was invited to a party at the home of Mrs. E.O. Wattis (Utah Construction Company), where he met her daughter, Edna Wattis. His statement at that time was that he would wait for her to grow up. On June 25, 1917, they were married.

Zeke enlisted in the Medical Reserve Corps during the First World War, and in January left for Oklahoma. He also served in Texas and New York in a debarkation hospital. He returned home to Ogden in March 1919 to begin his practice all over again.

He had many patients, and like most doctors, worked long hours. He was regarded as very kind and generous, and many patients recalled that if they were in financial difficulty and needed medical care Dr. Dumke would tell them not to worry as there would be no charge from his office.

There was a small boy who had his legs burned badly, who sold newspapers from a small red wagon he pushed on the street. Doctor Dumke always bought papers from him. He told the lad that if he would like to have his legs straightened he could do it for him without any charge. The boy learned to walk once again.

One of his little town activities was the aid he gave (particularly financial) to young people of need entering the medical as well as other fields. As Director of the E.O. Wattis Foundation and the E.R. and Edna Wattis Foundation he was credited with helping many young doctors through their early years of practice. He assisted in placing many more young doctors in their desired fields of practice due to his influence with many prominent men of the nation.

The forming of the Ogden Surgical Society was due to the aid and influence of Dr. Dumke and the two other Ogden doctors, Dr. Fister and Dr. Clark Rich. He was very active in its affairs and through his many contacts around the country and the world was able to be in a position to personally invite speakers of great reputation to the meetings. The generosity of Dr. Dumke and his family in the financial support of this organization has been a large factor in maintaining it.

Dr. Dumke was a familiar figure at football, boxing, baseball and other athletic events. He was a man who loved to fish on the Madison and Snake rivers. He had a summer home at Hebgen Dam in Montana where he would often entertain doctors who had attended the annual meetings of the Surgical Society.

Ezekiel Dumke, M.D. passed away in the Iron County Hospital at Cedar City, Utah on March 21st, 1961, of a coronary occlusion while returning with Mrs. Dumke to Ogden from an extended trip throughout this country and Mexico. His friend, Dr. Alton Ochsner, said of him, "How much he did for all of us. We are all a great deal richer for having known him. I know of no one else who embodied all the principles of a real physician as much as Zeke. He had those rare qualities of sweetness and thoughtfulness that so few people have. It was always so much fun to be with him."



GEORGE MORGAN FISTER, M.D. 1892 - 1976

George Morgan Fister was born in Logan, Utah in 1892, the only son and youngest of five children. His father had served in the Army Cavalry and ran a saddlery shop. He attended schools in Logan and the Utah State Agricultural College. After graduation he taught math for two years. He then went to the University of Chicago, and received his Doctor of Medicine degree from Rush Medical School in 1918. He interned at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He helped put himself through medical school by selling shoes, working in the school lab, and selling long winter underwear from the Utah Knitting Mills to the miners in the mining towns in Utah and Colorado.

Dr. Fister practiced general medicine in Brigham City, Utah from 1919 to 1923. He then did a Urology residency at Henry Ford Hospital from 1923 to 1926, and did additional post-graduate studies in London and Vienna.

In 1928, George came to Ogden and set up a practice in Urology until his retirement in 1964.

In 1941, Dr. Fister and his wife Ruby purchased a farm on Boughton and 39th Street in Ogden, and for many years farmed. They had two large Percheron horses, chickens, planted all kinds of vegetables, and grew fruit trees. George and Ruby lived in this home for thirty years. Ruby died in 1966, and George then married Edna Wattis Dumke, widow of his old friend, Ezekiel R. Dumke. Dr. Fister died on May 11, 1976 at the age of 83.

Dr. Fister gained many accolades throughout his life of 83 years, among which, the most important was being elected to the Presidency of the American Medical Association in 1962. He was a man of much humility, integrity, and sincerity. The many accomplishments he made and gave to medicine as well as the public service to his State were great and varied. He had a keen sense of humor, which he kept throughout his life. He was President of the Fifty-Years of Medicine Club when he died. From his modest beginning of general practice in Brigham City to one of the highest positions that American Medicine can bestow, he had indeed, accomplished much.



CLARK LOWE RICH, M.D. 1901 - 1962

Clark L. Rich was born in Ogden, January 21, 1901. He was the son of Dr. Ezra Clark Rich and Annie Lowe Rich, and the grandson of Charles Coulson Rich for whom Rich County (Bear Lake area) is named. Dr. Rich's family is associated with much development of the West. His father (Ezra Clark Rich), uncle (Edward I. Rich), and cousin (Junior Edward Rich), were all respected physicians in Ogden.

His elementary education was in Ogden, and his pre-medical training was at the University of Utah. In 1925 he graduated from Harvard Medical School with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. He interned at St. Lukes Hospital in Chicago where he specialized in surgery. He also did some post-graduate studying in Vienna. In 1928, he joined his father in Ogden.

Dr. Rich was the local surgeon for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. He was one of the three original founders of the Ogden Surgical Society and served as its first president.

He was a member of the U.S. Army Medical Corp Reserve Officers 1932-1941. In World War II he was chief medical examiner for Weber County Selective Service. In 1944 he was appointed senior surgeon in the Reserve Corp of the Public Health Service.

Clark married Dorothy Scowcroft in 1929. He lived in a truly wondrous age. He was born in the horse and buggy days and lived to see the astronauts conquer space. The same was true with medicine. He lived in the age of the discovery and application of miracle drugs; sulfa, penicillin, and insulin. He saw new developments in surgical instruments, anesthetics, and surgical procedures.

In the beginning of his practice he performed many services such as delivering babies, taking care of children with measles, mumps, and tonsillitis, and treating adults with broken bones and appendicitis. As medical science progressed and became more specialized, he chose to concentrate on orthopedics and abdominal surgery.

Each autumn he and his wife would travel east to the American Medical Association meetings or the American College of Surgeons meetings to study and learn new techniques and update his knowledge of his specialties. He maintained his early friendships with doctors at Mayo Clinic. Many physicians visited his home in Ogden for the annual Surgical Society meetings. Some of these, such as Crile, House, Charles Mayo, Allen, Wangenstein, Ochsner, Priestley, Hinds, and Hutchings,

would be recognized for their contributions to textbooks which have been studied by many of today's doctors.

On one of his trips to Rochester, Minnesota, he met Helen Keller. This began a long friendship. She came through Ogden on the train and visited Dr. Rich's home, having dinner with him there. It was a remarkable experience that he and his family would never forget.

Occasionally Dr. Rich would hold "clinic" at his house on Saturday. The parents would bring their children for a shot from "Uncle Clark". On one such "clinic" all the children were vaccinated for small-pox. He was a tough but kind master and expected perfection from those who worked with him. He was proud to serve in positions he was called to in the local hospitals, and to his patients and family, he was a truly wondrous man. - (Sally Rich Burbidge, a daughter, April 14, 1980)



EDWARD WILLIAM ALTON OCHSNER: 1896 - 1981

Edward William Alton Ochsner, always known as Alton Ochsner, was one of the first physicians to see a possible relationship between cigarette smoking and lung cancer. He obtained his medical degree from Washington University, St. Louis, in 1920 and became professor of surgery at Tulane University, New Orleans, in 1927. A pediatric residency program at the Tulane University School of Medicine and Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation, now the Ochsner Clinic Foundation, are named for him.

An editorial from the Ogden Standard Examiner, May 14, 1968.

Dr. Alton Ochsner: Honorary Ogdenite

It is particularly fitting that Ogden will officially observe Wednesday as "Dr. Alton Ochsner Day" and that the 23rd annual meeting of the Weber (sic) Surgical Society should be dedicated to this great American surgeon.

The roll of internationally-famous physicians who will appear at the Weber Surgical Society's meetings Wednesday, Thursday and Friday is long and impressive. So is the list of surgeons who are in Ogden this week to learn more about the latest developments in their profession so they can better serve their patients.

Scores of persons have contributed to the growing prestige of the annual meetings of the Weber Surgical Society. None has done more than Dr. Alton Ochsner.

He has attended every one of the society's meetings since they began 23 years ago, giving freely of his time and talents. And that's not all. Between sessions, the Louisianan has been one of the most vocal ambassadors to volunteer his help in attracting speakers and surgeons to attend the Utah program.

Dr. Ochsner has attained many honors. He is a former president of the American College of Surgeons. He is professor emeritus of surgery at Tulane University in New Orleans, where he is chief surgeon of the Ochsner Medical Center. He has been King of the Mardi Gras in New Orleans. He holds active and honorary memberships in numerous medical societies and has written many books and articles on his specialties.

In addition to the meetings this week of the Weber Surgical Society, Dr. Ochsner will be featured ñ with a guest from Russia ñ at a public program Wednesday evening at Ogden High School auditorium.

Dr. Ochsner will be speaking on a vital current topic, "Smoking and LSD." Sharing the platform and discussing "Life in the U.S.S.R." will be Dr. Fedor Romashov, professor of surgery at Russia's University of Peoples Friendship by P. Lumumba, an institute dedicated to the memory of the late Congolese leader.

The Greater Ogden Chamber of Commerce is presenting Dr. Ochsner with its unique "Big Hat Award," an honor reserved for particularly distinguished friends of our community.

What we are doing, in effect, is recognizing Dr. Alton Ochsner as an "honorary Ogdenite." He certainly has earned our thanks for the many favors he has done for our city.

PAST OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Past Presidents

1947 C.L. Rich, M.D.	1967 A.J. Lund, M.D.	1987 A.F. Budge, M.D.
1948 E.Z. Dumke, M.D.	1968 G.H. Lowe, Jr., M.D.	1988 C.B. Williams, M.D.
1949 Conrad Jensen, M.D.	1969 K.A. Stratford, M.D.	1989 R.B. Foley, M.D.
1950 V.L. Ward, M.D.	1970 K.F. Farr, M.D.	1990 M.A. Godfrey, M.D.
1951 F.K. Bartlett, M.D.	1971 R.C. Petersen, M.D.	1991 R.L. Alder, M.D.
1952 G.M. Fister, M.D.	1972 W.G. Harline, M.D.	1992 V.B. Johnson, M.D.
1953 I.B. McQuarrie, M.D.	1973 W.L. Richards, M.D.	1993 B.T. Neville, M.D.
1954 H.C. Stranquist, M.D.	1974 J.W. McEntire, M.D.	1994 R. Lehr, M.D.
1955 D.W. Tanner, M.D.	1975 T.M. Feeny, M.D.	1995 R.C. Newman, M.D.
1956 W.J. Thomson, M.D.	1976 V.R. Kelly, M.D.	1996 C.M. Campbell, M.D.
1957 R.N. Hirst, M.D.	1977 W.J. Gardner, III, M.D.	1997 R.J. Alley, M.D.
1958 R.F. Howe, M.D.	1978 D.C. Hunter, Jr., M.D.	1998 D.P. Felt, M.D.
1959 N.Z. Tanner, M.D.	1979 C.S. Feeny, M.D.	1999 J.R. Anderson, M.D.
1960 C.C. Hetzel, Jr., M.D.	1980 D.F. Hammond, M.D.	2000 C.H. Merkle, M.D.
1961 J.E. Rich, M.D.	1981 V.H. Johnson, M.D.	2001 J.D. Wahlen, M.D.
1962 O.E. Grua, M.D.	1982 N.L. Nellis, M.D.	2002 J.R. Wood, M.D.
1963 L.S. Peery, M.D.	1983 M.J. Haslam, M.D.	2003 D.J. Reinhart, M.D.
1964 R.W. Pugmire, M.D.	1984 J.J. Bergera, M.D.	2004 J.W. Starley, M.D.
1965 L.R. Curtis, M.D.	1985 R.E. Nilsson, M.D.	2005 S.D. Scharmann, M.D.
1966 L.D. Nelson, M.D.	1986 D.W. Packard, M.D.	

Past Secretaries

1947 to 1951	G.M. Fister, M.D.	1981 to 1985	A.F. Budge, M.D.
1951 to 1956	R.N. Hirst, M.D.	1985 to 1989	R.L. Alder, M.D.
1956 to 1961	O.E. Grua, M.D.	1989 to 1994	R.J. Alley, M.D.
1961 to 1968	A.J. Lund, M.D.	1994 to 1998	C.H. Merkle, M.D.
1968 to 1971	W.G. Harline, M.D.	1999 to 2000	J.R. Wood, M.D.
1971 to 1977	C.S. Feeny, M.D.	2001 to 2005	A.A. Gabrielsen, M.D.
1977 to 1981	Harvey Ruskin, M.D.		

Past Treasurers

1948 to 1949	W.J. Thompson, M.D.	1971 to 1975	L.W. Spencer, M.D.
1949 to 1952	W.J. Wilson, M.D.	1976 to 1981	N.L. Nellis, M.D.
1953 to 1956	T.M. Feeny, M.D.	1982 to 1990	V.B. Johnson, M.D.
1957 to 1959	V.H. Johnson, M.D.	1991 to 1996	A.H. Wagon, M.D.
1960 to 1962	W.G. Harline, M.D.	1997 to 1999	S.L. Hicken, M.D.
1963 to 1965	L.G. Merrill, M.D.	2000 to 2003	J.W. Starley, M.D.
1966 to 1970	J. Amano, M.D.	2004	F.H. Brown, M.D.

Past Historians

1946 to 1972	G.M. Fister, M.D.	1999	V.B. Johnson, M.D.
1973 to 1998	E.D. Morton, M.D.		