



# The OBSIDIAN



THANKSGIVING NUMBER

Volume II.

Eugene, Oregon, November, 1937

Number 1

## THE OBSIDIAN CLUB WHY? HOW? AND WHEN?

*By Ray Sims*

The stormy week-end of Labor Day, 1927, was past, but news came to Eugene from Prince Glaze, Forest ranger at Frog Camp, that two University of Oregon boys had been lost in the Three Sister region. The sheriff's office received the news and Sheriff Frank E. Taylor lost no time issuing a call for all men, who would go, to join in the search.

As the two lost boys, Guy Ferry and Henry Cramer, were from The Dalles, two hundred men responded from all over western Oregon. The boys, last seen by ranger Prince Glaze, had left Frog Camp that fateful Monday under much better weather conditions than did the searchers have in the ten day fruitless search.

Setting up Forest Service tents in six inches of snow and living in them, with hardly a let-up in rain and sleet, the searchers would return each night to the base camp. Ray Conway, a Mazama of Portland, was in charge.

It was in one of these rain-soaked tents that it was made apparent that Eugene needed a mountaineers' organization. Sidney C. Jenkins, a reporter on the Morning Register, approached Ed Turnbull and Ray Sims on the subject and was warmly received. With their backing, Jenkins would sound out the public, when we returned to Eugene. Sid King and W. Reynold Landrum, later of the Club, as were many others from Eugene, were in the party.

A meeting was called in the early part of October and the Organization of Woodsmen was assured. As less than twenty responded for the first call, the "winter members" list was left until another meeting in two weeks, when Dean John F. Bovard was called in to help in forming this new club.

*(Continued in Next Issue)*



## A JOINT WINTER OUTING

The Ski Laufers and Obsidians are going ahead with plans for the winter outing to be held at the Mazama Lodge at Mt. Hood the week beginning February 13th to 19th.

A committee from each club is working together to make this our best and biggest winter outing ever to be held.

An expert teacher will be at hand at all times to show the uninitiated how it's done and the novices what to do.

More tentative details will be worked out before this time. Watch for it in the paper.

## THANKS TO THE FOREST SERVICE

Members of the Obsidians, Inc. wish to extend their thanks and appreciation to the Forest Service.

Through the efforts of Perry Thompson, supervisor of the Willamette National Forest, not only members of the Obsidian Club, but every sport enthusiast is going to enjoy a bigger and better winter playground.

The donation of sixteen axes came in mighty handy for clearing out the trails and making a shelter at Frog Camp. Also, the twenty-five steel cots are going to be greatly appreciated.

THANKS AGAIN!

## McKENZIE PASS WINTER PLAYGROUND — COME TRUE (?)

The McKenzie Pass as a winter playground area has long been the dream of many local winter sports enthusiasts; but never has been able to emerge from the dream stage. There are a few of us who have in the past, had sufficient time and energy to make the long trek, in the dead of winter, from the snow line, sometimes as low down as Lost Creek Ranch, to the snug, Pole Bridge Cabin, located in the good snow, well up towards the summit.

Such trips generally required a good day of slow arduous skiing, sinking deep in the soft snow of the lower elevations, retarded by the steeper grade of the higher regions; and gradually fatigued by the heavy pack, with necessary provisions for the duration of the outing. Memories of such trips would compare favorably with small scale expeditions into "Little America" — The formidable snow barrier, doing its best to keep us out; but the joys, beauties, and excellent skiing conditions of that varied, High Pass country, providing such an alluring incentive that we always felt well rewarded, making the trip every time that we could, "Hie away to the mountains".

This year, for the first time, there appears to be a slight ray of sunshine in the skiing aspect, for the enjoyment and development of this grand region. With the cooperation of the State Highway Department, it is very possible that this previously unattainable, High Mountain area, will be made easily accessible to all.

Understand, that the State Highway Department does not, matter of factly grant such requests, as the maintenance of a dead-end road, high into the summit country of the Cascade

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**"THE OBSIDIAN"**

Member Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

Published by the Library Committee: Doris Osborn, Chairman; Marge Ferguson, Eileen Baker, Reva Moore, Mirian Yoder, Nellie Moore.

### McKenzie Pass Playground (Continued from Page One)

Range for the joys and pleasures of a group of winter sports enthusiasts; but the State Highway Department is a very practical, efficiently operated branch of the State's many necessary activities; and as such, must be convinced of the underlying soundness of this project.

The committee working on this project, endeavored to leave nothing unsaid nor unexplained, that might be of help in convincing the Highway Department of the basic soundness of this development. The committee has spent much time and energy on this project, personal contacts had to be made—culminated by the presentation of a request before the State Highway Commission, at their regular meeting in Portland.

A long time resident and business man of Eugene, Mr. Geo. H. McMorran, deserves the appreciation of every member of the Club, for his sincere interest and personal assistance, in working and appearing with the committee, in furtherance of their request.

After due deliberation of the request, the Highway Commission have decided to favor the proposal, and based largely on definite assurances, of what this development will mean to the people of this, and adjacent communities, have appropriated funds for the specific purpose of snow removal, and road maintenance, to a point in the vicinity of Frog Camp.

This is being done entirely as an experiment to determine whether or not there will be sufficient usage of this area, made accessible, to justify and help offset extra costs of maintenance entailed.

Therefore, the State Highway

Department have certainly professed the long desired "Helping Hand"; and now, it is up to every member of the Obsidian Club, the Ski Laufer, and citizens of this community, to actively get busy, and reassure the generous move made by the Highway Commission, that their decision is a correct one; and that the yearly maintenance of this roadway into the summit region of the McKenzie Pass will be more than repaid by the development and active utilization of one of the finest winter playground areas in this part of the country.

### OBSIDIANS ELECT OFFICERS

Officers of the club were elected at a meeting of the new board at the home of Miss Thelma Watson, Oct. 15th. Paul Lafferty was elected president; Doris Osborn vice-president; Harriet Plotts, secretary; Thelma Watson, treasurer; Doris Osborn, chairman of the library committee; Bailey Castelle, chairman of the membership committee; Bryan Ryan, chairman of the ski and entertainment committee; Tony Vogel, chairman of the outing committee; Harold Trotter, chairman of the local walks and search committee.

### BARN DANCE

WHAT—Dancing, fun, in fact a party.

WHEN — November 24th — Wednesday.

WHERE — Watch paper and bulletin board.

BY WHOM — Entertainment committee.

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### OUR BESSIE IS GONE

Bessie Day passed away quietly at her home October 18, 1937. She was 71 years old.

She was an active member of the Obsidian Club, and was always willing to work on any committee assigned to her. She was given the name of Mountain Lily when made an honorary member of the Princess Club. She had been a member of the Mazama Club for twenty years and attended many of their summer camps. Her happy smile and cordial greetings will be missed by all members who know her.

### PRINCESS'S & CHIEFS

The annual Princess's Initiation was held November 6th. Four new members were initiated: Carmel Newland, Princess Wampum; Eileen Baker, Princess Blue Bird; Reva Moore, Princess Spotted Fawn; Blanche Osborn, Princess Sahalie.

The Chief's held their initiation at the Club cabins the same evening. Irwin Williams is their new member with Chief "Taw" being the name they bestowed on him.

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## AT THE BEACH

According to Myrtie Hamlin, leader of trip to the coast October 31st, the "stay-at-homes" certainly missed one perfect week-end at the beach. About fifteen enjoyed the trip part of whom went over Saturday night and stayed at cabins near Florence. Sunday morning the party drove to the top of Cape Perpetua. With the aid of Helen Kilpatrick's binoculars members of the party were able to see miles around, in fact, Ray Sims could see eight big crabs somewhere in the vicinity of Yachats and lost no time in bringing them back not alive.

Rex Stocker was chief crab cleaner, and with the aid of the of the party a picnic dinner was enjoyed.

The following people made the trip: Florence Sims, Glen Sims, Helen Kilpatrick, Jean Kilpatrick, Jack Fassnacht, Nellie Moore, Kathryn Wilkins, Willis Bebe, Doris Osborn, Ray Sims, Miriam Yoder, Bailey Castelloe, Rex Stocker, Dorr Hamlin, Myrtie Hamlin.

## DAYLIGHT SAVING

Bright moonlight lured sixteen Obsidians up the south side of Spencer's Butte on the evening of October 20 for a weiner roast.

Cars left Eugene at seven. By and by nine the crowd had scaled the peak and were gathered round a bonfire. With weiners, buns, cider and song, the crowd made merry; and "Let's do it again" was heard on all sides.

Those making the trip were: Ruth Carlson, Tony Vogel, Louis Waldorf, Ruth Randall, Bud Randall, Mary and Vince Gillespie, Marge Ferguson, Blanche Osborn, Mildred Osborn, Delbert Faust, Beth Gullion, Ray Sims, Wallace Clark, Harold Trotter, and Miriam Yoder.

The princesses thought they had a hide out—and the chiefs knew where they were all the time.

L. A. Britten of Roseburg was at the Chief's initiation.

## LOCAL WALKS SCHEDULE

Nov. 7—Work Trip—Cabins House Committee.

Nov. 14—Over Night—Cabins, Mystery trip (qualifying). Ace Moore, leader.

Nov. 21—Frog Camp—An interesting day. Harold Trotter, leader, Mary Gillespie, assistant leader.

Nov. 28—Open—Chairman local walks committee.

Dec. 5—Coburg Caves—Rock work. Tony Vogel, leader; Doris Osborn, assistant leader.

Dec. 12—Fairview Mountain—Dorr Hamlin, leader; Carl Young, assistant leader.

Dec. 19—Greenery Trip—Si-uslaw Falls. Nellie Moore, leader; Ruth Hopson, assistant leader.

Dec. 26—Christmas (I'm told)

Dec. 31 - Jan. 1 — NEW YEAR'S PARTY.

## HAROLD'S HOOEY

*By Harold Trotter*

You all know these here moonlight hikes may be all right for some folks, but me, I don't know. Here is Marge Ferguson going around looking like she had been matched with Bulldog Jackson, but she tells me she sprained her ankle on a Moonlight hike. What do you all think?

Who says thar is snow in them thar hills? While workin' over the thar ski trail Sunday, comes a hearty hail up slope, "We'll all stick together!!" So Chief Bigwind knows it is 40 below, on the level, and time to grease the slippery slatts.

I heerd some cherce bits about some of our fairer sex and the balmy salt air at the coast. Seems as how them gentle breezes kept them in bed past 9 A.M. Now Miriam, you tell us—you were there.

They tell me on a certain Sunday the Early Bird must have slept in, anyway, the Pheasants got the Worm.

Erwin, our new chief sez to me the other day: "Now that there is snow up in them hills, do you spose one of the Sisters would go skiing with me?"

## BRING A FRIEND

Many are the rewards to nature lovers on these lovely autumn week ends. How the office worker, the housewife, the truck drivers would enjoy our weekly trips. Are your friends aware of the activities of our club? Do they know that not having a car should not stop them from participating in our trips? Bring a friend on the next week end and add to your own enjoyment by giving him a good time.

Not once did Bob mention chief little's quirt over the week end of initiation.

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## OBSIDIAN HALLOWEEN PARTY

*By Minnie McCracken*

On Friday evening, October 29th, a group of ninety Obsidians and their friends gathered at the Knights of Pythias Hall for the annual Halloween Dance sponsored by the Obsidian Princesses. The large number of people present and the enthusiasm shown demonstrates that we as a group do enjoy a party.

During intermission we were favored with a fine juggling act presented by Keith Barger of the U. of O.

Much credit must be given to Darwin Yoran, our floor manager, for the snappy way in which the program was carried off. His constant efforts did much to spark enthusiasm and keep things rolling at such a fast pitch that midnight and supertime came all too fast for the dancing Obsidians.

Myrtie and Dorr Hamlin and Florence Sims, with the assistance of the Princesses did themselves proud as a refreshment committee. The food was good and there was lots of it.

After supper came singing and what singing! Dr. Hunt led the songsters in everything from the Obsidian song to Sweet Adeline.

As a climax to the evening Dr. Gullion paid a very sincere tribute to the memory of Bessie Day.

It was after one o'clock when the last merry-makers left the hall.

And by the way, Glen Sims says the "Ghost at the Door" was not Dorr Hamlin.

## NEW MEMBERS

The membership committee takes a great deal of pleasure in announcing the names of several new members to the club.

Carmel Newland, Roseburg; Helen Smith, Blanche Osborn, Colin MacDonald, Miriam Yoder, Tom Wiper former member of the Salem Chemeketans, Gordon Shattuck and Tom Kaarhus are our new associate members.

You may secure membership application blanks from your new membership chairman, Bailey Castelloe.

## EXTRA! EXTRA!

Members of the Washington Alpine Club are wondering why work parties are so much fun. They say digging ditches and clearing trails is supposed to be just plain WORK. They say maybe it is because we don't have to do it or because of that certain spirit, or morale, which increases with the tempo of the many swinging picks and axes in the hands of friendly workers that just plain work turns out, to be sure, a lot of fun.

Perhaps several members of our club could give the ultimate reason for the work done so cheerfully and diligently on the Spring Lake Trail.

Regardless of the reason for it, at least forty members turned out for the first work party, November 7th, and many more are planning on going up the next three or four week-ends as these are to be devoted to work trips according to the Local Walks chairman, Harold Trotter.

## 1937 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual Obsidian meeting was held October 5th, at the River Road Community Club house, with a 6:30 dinner served by the ladies of the club. A good crowd was present. Club singing was led by Louis Waldorf, and Arthur Hendershott accompanied by his wife gave several selections on his violin.

The following members were named as directors of the Club for the ensuing year: Bryan Ryan, Tony Vogel, Paul Lafferty, M. B. Castelloe, Thelma Watson, Harriet Plotts, Harold Trotter, Robert Lemon, and Doris Osborn.

The annual picture contest was held during the evening. Prizes were awarded in the following groups: Human Interest: Myrtie Hamlin 1st, Ray Sims 2nd, and Ruth Hopson 3rd; Scenic: Myrtie Hamlin 1st, Ray Sims 2nd and Myrtie Hamlin 3rd; Wild life: Myrtie Hamlin 1st, Ruth Hopson 2nd, and 3rd. The judges were Sidney King, Herbert Wiltshire and John Edge.

## NEW MEMBERS THANK PRINCESSES

Eileen, Blanche, Carmel and Reva take this means of thanking the Princesses for the well planned and executed initiation, and above all, the very enjoyable week end. We hope to be worthy of their campfire councils.

Material for the December issue of the "Obsidian" must be given to Doris Osborn, chairman of the Library Committee, or some member of the committee, on or before December 11th.

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