



The OBSIDIAN



Volume II.

Eugene, Oregon, April, 1938

No. 5

SUMMER VACATIONS

It's time to make our plans for our vacation again, and those who have been interested in Obsidian affairs are no doubt wondering where we are going this year.

The outing committee is considering that place we have all been wishing to go to for some time. Plans are not definite as yet; there are many problems to work out. They refer to a spot concealed in a remote corner of the great northwest—one of the last strongholds of nature, a little kingdom in the wilderness that seems fresh from the Creator's hand, so untouched it is by the great spoilers. A priceless solitude of magnificent wilderness and beauty. They have in mind the Olympic mountains in Washington.

Several outdoor clubs have had their summer outings in this same location. Negotiations are under way and if the cost can be kept down within reason, the outing will be held there.

They are expecting some motion pictures that were taken by the Seattle Mountaineers while on their outing in this region, and if they are as good as has been reported, should give a pretty good idea of what this gorgeous country is like.

It has been said that the weather during July is much better than in August, our usual date for the outing, so if this location is decided upon it may be advisable to have our vacation a little earlier.

Keep in mind the showing of these pictures and when the date has been set, be sure to bring a friend and invite as many as you can. In a city the size of Eugene there should be 50 or 60 people who want to take advantage of

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SUMMER PICTURE

The sharpness
Of sun on pine.

The rhythm
Of heavy hob-nailed boots
Swinging forward.

The warmth,
The stillness;
The patches of old snow
In the shadows.

The feeling
Of being high
—and free
—and far. . . .
Princess Red Feather.

Publicity Plans

Arrangements have been made for publication of occasional pictures taken on trips in local newspapers. If some of your snaps are really good, with plenty of contrast, take them to Robert Lemon at 229 Miner Building early on Tuesday. They might appear in Wednesday's paper.

COMING TRIPS

May 1—Bring your May baskets (with lunch) and trail along with the gang up Horse Creek Trail. Vint and Mary Gilesie will lead.

May 8—Black Butte is listed—with Percy Brown and Hugh Currin leading.

May 15—Winberry Mt., Darwin Yoran and Harriett Plotts, leaders.

May 22—Duval Falls — Blanche Osborn and Marge Ferguson, leaders.

May 29-30—Annual trip to the coast. Ace Moore and Ray Sims, leaders.

YEAR AROUND PROGRAM

By Paul Lafferty

Put up your skis, poles, and waxes where the summer's sun won't get them; and break out your nailed boots, crampons, and overhaul hiking and climbing gear. The Obsidian's activities never cease, and what ties in any better for both the beginner and the more advanced skier, to continue his conditioning, build up endurance, legs, and all around physical ability, than by an active program of hiking and climbing through the summer and fall months. These outdoor activities are very closely correlated, and participation in one, definitely benefits better performance in the other. A constant level of outdoor activity is much better, and easier on the physical system, than a sudden, single over-dose at any one time of the year.

In anticipation of a banner hiking and climbing season, the local walks committee is busy at this time, planning an interesting variety of week-end trips to Forest haunts, and primitive solitudes, that the average citizen of this busy world seldom has the opportunity to visit. These weekly scheduled trips, are especially designed for people of average hiking ability. You do not have to be a veteran of the trails to be eligible for the local week-end hikes. Leaders are carefully selected, pace is set for maximum enjoyment of all members of the party, and all club members and their friends, are encouraged to avail themselves of the opportunity presented in these jolly weekly outings.

The Board of Directors has recently devised a new idea, that has particular bearing on the summer and fall climbing program. A climbing committee

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"THE OBSIDIAN"

Member Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

This issue published by: Doris Osborn, Chairman; Marge Ferguson, Margaret Thompson, Eileen Baker, Bill Parrish and Ray Sims.

EDITORIAL

By Ray Sims

The month-old tragedy on the snowy slopes of Mt. Hood, when two men lost their lives by freezing, on a Sunday climb of the mountain, serves as a never-ending (though costly) reminder, that one cannot be TOO careful in the mountains. And that the Boy Scout motto "Be Prepared" means just what it says.

The summary of the fateful climb, by John Scott, in the Oregonian of April 17th, tells the story of what really happened in very easy-to-follow style, and clears up a very incoherent story of the happenings during the time of the search.

Tony Vogel was an active member of the searching party who spent four days in finding the frozen body of Russell Gueffroy, and brought back first hand news that only praise could be given the Mazama leaders on both the climb and the search. That the ELEMENTS were just too much for man on that day.

The regulations governing the climbing of Mt. Hood in the Winter months, have possibly been lax, for with that new Timberline Hotel, climbing parties could check in on leaving and by all means on returning, instead of "turning them loose" as has been the policy, above Lone Fir.

Sunday skiers, who don't bite off quite as much as climbing the mountain, roam all over the lower slopes, and it is a wonder that someone of them doesn't "get off the course" on stormy days.

In our Three Sisters mountains we have been fortunate in having only summer climbs, but even then on a few occasions the compasses have been studied and some "late" parties have come out of those mountains.

The Obsidian Board of Direc-

tors are to be complimented on the appointment of a committee of six, to "pass" on the personnel of Obsidian climbing parties instead of leaving it to the "already overloaded responsible" leader.

**SQUAWS POWWOW:
PLAN HIKE**

By Margaret Thompson

The princesses got together at the wigwam of princesses White Dove and Sahali, the evening of April 12.

The girls patted themselves on the back for their successful card party, March 8, at the Del Rey cafe. The haul for the evening was \$15.12 profit.

Princess Meadow Lark is inviting all princesses to the next meeting, at her abode. The date has been changed to Monday, May 9.

The princesses talked over ideas for an entertainment for the girls of the Obsidian club who are not princesses. The plan is to take them for a short hike and evening dinner at a farmhouse, sometime in June, with the thought of inspiring them to qualify for princess membership. Details will be announced later.

A vote of sympathy was extended to Mrs. Genevieve Lake, a friend of the club, who was ill.

White Dove and Sahali served hot chocolate and cookies, and the meeting adjourned so that the girls could write a "round robin" note to princess Light Foot, (Betty McMahan to you) whose address is 503 East 3rd, Tucson, Arizona. Light Foot would be delighted to hear from any member of the Obsidian club, and can be reached at that address.

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SILVER CREEK FALLS

Twenty-nine Obsidians and their friends opened their hiking season Sunday, April 24 with a trip to Silver Creek Falls State Park. Eleven falls were visited on the four-mile walk, varying in height from cascades of twenty-five feet to drops of two hundred feet. At several points the trail goes behind the falls and the group was able to look out through the rainbow-hued sheets of water.

Lunch was eaten at the foot of South Falls, near the highway. The trip was led by J. D. Hamlin.

Those making up the party were Helen Smith, Nellie Moore, Thelma Watson, Elsie Dotson, Vena Amort, Sibyl Westfall, Mrs. J. D. Hamlin, Glen Sims, Rupert Bean, Minnie, Billy, Bruce and J. W. McCracken, Marian Payne, Vera Heidenrich, Lois Lutz, Virginia Chase, Violet Runte, Irene Quick, Florence Sims, Ray Sims, Doris Osborn, Blanche Osborn, Charlotte Lemon, Robert Lemon, Agnes Wallace, James Sanders, Louis Carp, and the leader.

SEASON IS OPEN

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SO WE'VE HEARD

By "You Don't Say"

THAT Vent Gillespie is spending Sundays working in his yard—his beds of tulips are well worth seeing—like a sunrise on the North Sister.

THAT Myrtie Hamlin is getting ready to collect more unique rocks and things and such on the coming hikes.

THAT there are certain members of the Obsidian's fair-sex going in for bicycling. One spent Easter Sunday "learning" in an alley. Never mind Marge, next time you can go to Spencer Butte too.

THAT you are missing something if you haven't been in to see Bailey Castelloe's new store. It's a "humdinger"—modern and lots of switches.

THAT Margaret Sprague was out doing the Big Apple at Swimmer's Delight just last week—we hope to see her on hikes this summer—what say Margaret?

THAT Margaret Thompson is going to spend her vacation on the Skyline Trail—with her horse.

THAT a letter from our Betty Boop (Betty McMahan), "Princess Light Foot," who is in Tucson, Arizona for her health, states she is visiting many interesting places and making new friends there, but is plenty homesick for the old bunch.

BY THE WAY, Erwin Williams was spotted on the main stem of our city—on a bike. Glad to know that he's back with us.

GOT to wondering about this "Mystery Party"—no one lets us hear a thing about it—just a mystery?

"LITTLE SQUIRT" Lemon's latest achievement: two brand new teeth. Princess Meadow Lark says he has developed quite an extensive vocabulary, but it is a little hard to understand.

NOW that hiking season is beginning we hope to see our Roseburg friends, Carmel Newland and Mr. E. A. Britton.

THAT Chief Kingfisher was flying "Ace" high at the Ski Laufer's dance Friday night.

HEARD THAT Carl Young is again with us, having just re-

turned from Jury duty in Portland.

HEARD TOO:

A friendly word's a sunshine broom,

That keeps the day swept clean of gloom;

And quite before you are aware
A happy "feel" is in the air.

Year Around Program

(Continued from Page 1)

composed of Ray Sims, Tony Vogel, Robert Lemon, Harold Trotter, Paul Lafferty, and Bryan Ryan, has been formed for the purpose of placing more emphasis on the safety factor, and to minimize the danger element in climbs sponsored by the club.

In the past ten years of the club's existence, up to the present date, the Obsidians have had an unblemished record, not so much as a minor mishap on any of our regular scheduled trips. This is a record to be proud of, and we want it to continue. Practically every one of our mountains have had their moments, and what was commenced as a gay holiday outing has ended in a grim tragedy.

It is a good idea to keep this in mind, as the mountains, at all seasons of the year, are whims to their own fancy. A large margin of safety must be allowed at all times. The climbing committee will function in the following manner: Certain climbs, such as Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, North Sister, Three Fingered Jack, and possibly others that have a certain amount of technical difficulty, will be posted on the board in usual manner, and those desiring to make the as-

cents will sign on the board.

A day previous to the departures, the climbing committee will meet, and carefully check each name on the list. The committee will pass on the ability of each signator to make the trip; if there are some that are deemed not sufficiently well-qualified, they will be notified in ample time. Points that the committee will consider are, climbing experience; ability to climb unassisted, with rope only as additional safeguard; equipment; physical condition.

The Club does not aim to prevent any one from making various ascents, but does feel that it has a definite responsibility in making the climbs safe in every particular.

It is felt that this move will help to continue our good record, and will dispel the idea that people take their lives in their hands when they climb mountains. This will also serve to place climbing on a higher plane, and make the individual a greater appreciation in the final accomplishment of a Peak that they have actually had to meet exact requirement before opportunity to climb.

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The OBSIDIAN

SUMMER PICTURES AND SOME'RE NOT

By Dot Dotson

When Summer comes, the thoughts of most of us turn to the mountains, trails, etc., and to a summer camp somewhere. We all can, and I notice most of us do make picture records of our trips and points of interest, so that we may preserve the memories of the fun and fellowship we enjoy during the all-too-short climbing season.

It is my belief that all of us who click shutters have a real desire to make better pictures than we do—so this article is written in the hope that perhaps it will get us to really think and study the problem of "Why does Mary or John make better pictures than I?"

Is it because they have better equipment? Possibly, but not likely. Did you ever notice that the hunter who always gets his meat is not always equipped with the newest type rifle? Well I have, and the point I wish to make is that the same thing is true in making pictures. Success is due more to the man behind the gun than to the gun itself, providing of course that the gun, or camera, is working properly.

Naturally your possibilities for good pictures under different conditions are broadened with good equipment, and the extent to which a negative may be enlarged will depend upon the quality of the lens used, but after all the most important thing is how you use your camera. With this in mind I hope the following suggestions may prove helpful.

(To Be Continued)

New Members

We welcome the following new members, accepted at the last board meeting: Charles Edwards, and Dr. and Mrs. H. H. Norton. We will look for them on the next trip.

SUMMER VACATION

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this outing. It may never come again.

Another plan has been suggested—that of a trip down the Skyline Trail from Mt. Hood to McKenzie or Willamette Pass. Pictures of this trip will be shown with the Olympic pictures.

Don't forget to watch for the date of this showing and be sure to come and bring as many friends as you can. Let's make it look like a bank night. The date-time-place will be announced in the local papers, SOON.

ARSENIC MINES

The Geological Society of the Oregon Country were guests of the Condon Club on the campus Saturday, April 9. The next day the group took a field trip to an Arsenic mine on the South Fork of the Willamette. This field trip proved extremely interesting, especially to several Obsidians, who went as guests, when they learned the mine was to be found so near home. It is located a few miles east of London Springs on Hobart Butte. Here is the largest known Arsenic deposit in Oregon. What had hitherto been merely rock piles beside the highway near Goshen, were discovered to contain rare and interesting fossil leaves. Clam and small

shell fossils were also found near Springfield, revealing that the sea had at some time covered this territory.

Dr. Warren D. Smith, Prof. of Geology, led the field trip, giving interesting information on various geological formations. He told of many other fossil beds to be found near Eugene.

The Geological Society of the Oregon Country, largest amateur geological organization in the northwest, is composed of several hundred members, mostly of Portland and vicinity. They hold two lecture meetings and two field trips each month. The Condon Club is the local honorary at the University of Oregon for geography, geology, and anthropology.

Obsidians enjoying the trip were Jean and Helen Kilpatrick, Paul and Helen Wiser, Myrtie Hamlin, and Ruth Hopson.

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