



# The OBSIDIAN



Volume II.

Eugene, Oregon, June, 1938

No. 6

## VACATION IN THE OLYMPIC MOUNTAINS

This year the club will enjoy two weeks in the Olympics, situated on the Olympic peninsula in northwestern Washington.

Few places stir the imagination more with a jumbled sea of snow-draped peaks and green, flowering valleys, than this area. This mountain mass is one of America's most beautiful last primitive places.

This region is dominated by Mt. Olympus and although never exceeding 8,000 feet, the bold peaks rise abruptly from sea level, enhancing their massiveness and mystery. From their glaciers rise streams, which in their mad rush to the sea, leave a trail of beautiful falls, mighty cascades and deep gorges.

Fishing in these streams and the many lakes is said to be unsurpassed.

So to you Obsidians and to all your friends, we urge you to attend this outing. You have here an opportunity to visit a place, which in a few years may not be as wild and primitive as it is today. So come with us and enjoy being really close to nature.

We will drive to Quinault, Washington, which is a short distance north of Aberdeen, the first day. After two days hiking, which will be made in easy stages, will have arrived at Low Divide, where we may have use of a chalet in case of bad weather and possibly the use of showers. Yes, real hot and cold water. After a few days rest we can go on to Elwa Basin, from which point there are at least 8 to 10 interesting peaks to climb.

Those who would like to ride horses, instead of hiking in may do so at a slight additional charge.

### THE NEW SCHEDULE

The Local Walks Committee have completed the new schedule and have made up an interesting SUMMER, and right on into the late Fall. New trips that will just make everyone want to get out and explore the new country, as well as climb the old standby mountains. Some of the new names are: Three Fingered Jack Ski Area, Salt Creek Falls in the Spring from the Roads end, Glass Butte south of Bend, SUMMER CAMP IN THE OLYMPICS, Steamboat Falls or Chivigney Mountain near Roseburg, Squaw Creek, Climb of the Husband from Horse Creek, Sunset bay and Indian Ridge.

Schedule: June 5—Three Fingered Jack Ski Area. Leaders: Tony Vogel and Wallace Rowland.

June 12 — Salt Creek Falls. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Norton.

June 18-19—Mary's Peak. A joint trip with the Mazamas, Chemeketans, and Trails Club. Local Walks Chairman, Harold Trotter.

June 26—Hardisty Mountain. Leaders: Art Hendershott and Roland Burghardt.

July 3-4—Glass Butte—South of Bend, like the swell trip to Newberry Crater last 4th, Remember? Leaders: Bailey Castelloe and Bill Parrish.

July 10—Middle Sister. Leaders: Bill McCracken and Harriett Plotts.

July 17-31—SUMMER CAMP IN THE OLYMPICS. Let's all go. Camp Chairman, Tony Vogel.

### NORTH SISTER IN WINTER GARB

We have long wanted to climb the North Sister, while still covered with winter snows. We have made previous reconnaissance trips in early spring, but never getting further than the first pinnacle on the south ridge.

The morning of May 22nd, our small party, Jim Mackie, Ralph Lafferty, and Paul Lafferty, set out from Sunshine Shelter, at one-thirty in the morning. We climbed for one hour in the dark, until the moon came out at two-thirty a.m. We moved along at a good pace, using climbers on our skis.

We arrived at rim rock on upper Collier glacier, in saddle between North and the Middle Sister, about three hours after our start, 4:30 a.m., just a little before sunrise. We could see the night lights still on in the city of Bend.

After removing our skis, and taking a brief rest, we glissaded down the steep snow bank, and crossed the dip, over to the steep preparatory climb that must be made in getting up to the south ridge of the North. We used crampons from this point on, and had no difficulty, until we arrived at the first ridge pinnacle. Snow bank was too steep on the east side of the pinnacle to cross in the usual manner, so we dropped down and made a traverse under the pinnacle on the west side, and climbed up a sloping ice chute to get back on the ridge.

The camel's hump was quite unrecognizable, as the snow was well cornised along that knife-like portion of the route, and we

(Please Turn to Page Four)

—LET'S GO OLYMPIC—

(Please Turn to Page Four)

**"THE OBSIDIAN"**

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Outdoor Clubs

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**EDITORIAL**

By Ray Sims

**Preparedness**

Not to fight—but to be able to meet the battles in mountain-climbing with the least displeasure. That is the thought of most of us who like to explore the ever-changing mountains.

First, in making early snow climbs when the Spring sun is so bright, the danger of snowblindness is the greatest. I recall the question of the Ranger at Mt. Rainier, to the six Obsidians who climbed the great ice-covered mountain. What part of our equipment was most important? The answers varied. But he told us that the insignificant little DARK GLASSES were most important. We have since realized his judgment. Not that everyone has to wear them, but when one does become snowblind, the precaution would have been well spent.

The Club's equipment of rope, ice-axes, crampons and alpinestocks, is important to all climbs and the proper use of each has been taught to each leader, which serves to make safer climbs.

Individuals also "carry" many articles of equipment, which brings to mind the query of a beginner on one of last winter's ski trips. The question was to a very popular Obsidian Chief, to list all the articles he carried in his pockets, in his pack sack, and on his belt. So after this was done the beginner's honest remark was, "and every one of them is useful". And Harold added "that one of the six-shooters could be used on the Bear" and the OTHER one on one's self.

**SUMMER PICTURES AND SOME'RE NOT**

By Dot Dotson

(Continued from Last Issue)

First, know your camera. Learn its possibilities and its limitations. If in doubt as to whether it is suitable for your needs, ask your photo-finisher. It is to his interest that your pictures are good. Get him to check over your camera to see that it is clean and working properly. He will be glad to do this for you free, and you will find that it will be worth your time and his in the interest of better pictures.

Once your camera is understood and in good order, choose a film which is suitable. Some of the best workers use one kind of film all the time, and their work is hung in Salons the world over. Here again your finisher can be of service to you.

Now then, what to take, and how to do it. . . . In our country, we are surrounded by beauties of nature on every hand, Falls, Mountains, Lakes and Glaciers, and we also have our groups on climbs, at camp, on trails, around the campfires, and literally millions of other opportunities for good pictures, BUT—before you shoot—THINK. Try to visualize the result as it will appear on paper, in the finished print. Study the subject to get the best angle, to get the best lighting, and the best arrangement within the picture area. Some subjects are better in a vertical frame, while others appear more interesting if taken horizontally. In short—almost anything can be photographed, and, if care is used, a real picture, not just a snapshot can be the result. So again I suggest, *Think* before you shoot.

"How should I set my camera to take a snapshot today?" is a question asked us almost every day, and I am glad. It shows that the person asking is trying to make his pictures better, and when he tries he shows definite improvement.

Exposure is one of the important points to making your pictures technically good, yet it is

not possible for me in this article to tell you how to set your shutter for all of your pictures this summer. However, for average pictures on Plenachrome or Verichrome film, 1-50th of a second at f-11 will give you more properly exposed negatives than failures. Note that I said average pictures. Those taken on wooded trails, those on the beach, or those on top of a mountain in summer sunlight could hardly be called average pictures. Allowances must be made for the lack or excess of light under different conditions. Some advanced workers develop a knack to judging light values, yet it is safe to say most of us miss it occasionally, so to be sure that the picture which we want most of all is right, it is safer to use a good exposure meter to aid us.

Finally remember that if you are in need of legal advice, you go to your lawyer. It follows that if you desire advice or suggestions on photographic problems, whether they be what kind of film, what exposure, what lens, how to do it, or what kind of paper to use for the enlargement of that swell shot you got of Three Fingered Jack, or what not—consult your photo-finisher. If he justifies a place in the profession, he is not only qualified but anxious to help you solve them. The difference in the two instances is that the Lawyer makes a charge for his help, and ours is yours for the asking.

—LET'S GO OLYMPIC—

**BENEDICTION**

DORIS: He said he'd love me for ever and ever.

MARGE: Ah, Men!

**DOT says—**

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## HERE AND THERE

The Duval Falls Trip is as mysterious as Honey Lake and all its legends. For the past 2 years Mary and Vint Gillespie have gone on this trip and tramped over logs and through brush in search of the falls. Are there such Falls?

Chief Pack Horse (Dorr Hamlin) took in the recent Horse Show. You missed a nice Sunday trip, but hope you enjoyed the Show.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Soukup (Mildred Osborn) are now living in Petersburg, Alaska. They flew their own ship from here to Cordova, where they were for three weeks, flying passengers to Fairbanks. The trip over water from Juneau to Cordova, a 550 mile hop, was especially interesting. Mildred writes of the many glaciers that are found in this vicinity. One in particular, the Malaspina Glacier has an 18,000 foot mountain in the background and reaches to the water's edge. They have flown some 25,000 miles on their trip and plan to spend some time at Petersburg now flying their 4-place plane on floats.

Marge Thayer, a popular Obsidian is now living in Seattle. She has joined the Seattle Mountaineers and has taken numerous interesting trips. She has joined the hiking group and writes that they make a business of climbing. They meet once a week, keep note books and discuss equipment, rock climbing, snow and ice technique, and place special emphasis on knowledge of avalanche slopes. She met Virgil Hicks on one of the ski trips.

It seems that Tony was able to pull everything out of his pack the other Sunday on the Middle Sister but a new ski. But of course Tony 'Came Straight Down' even on one ski. (We Jumpers!)

The squirrels at Sunshine Shelter seemed to be especially hungry last Sunday. They stole an apple from Ray's pack after chewing a 5 inch hole in the side

of it. How Come! Don't Chiefs ALWAYS hang their packs up?

Hi Ho, Hi Ho, fellow members, here's something else to look forward to. You have all heard of Glen and Florence's new home being built at the end of Park Avenue. What a spot for a summer picnic out under the huge fir trees.

Believe It or Not! A Chief was able to crash a Princess meeting. And—he certainly charmed the ladies. (More power to you—Chief Little Squirt).

Description: It takes years of practice before a ski-jumper stops looking like something being thrown out of a Night Club.

—LET'S GO OLYMPIC—

## PRINCESSES MEET

Obsidian princesses met at the Meadow Lark's nest, May 10, for their monthly evening get-together.

The big chicken dinner which they are planning for June 14, their next meeting date, will be real "hen" party, as the girls are inviting all the non-princess women of the Obsidians. Every feminine Obsidian is urged and invited to register with Blanche Osborn or Margaret Thompson, or any princess, in plenty of time for the trip.

Cars will start leaving Eugene about 5:30, June 14, for the suburban farm-house where the dinner is to be served. Early comers will have a short hike through the woods. Dinner will be served at 7 in the garden, with a beautiful view of the Willamette valley, and a rising full moon, in sight.

—LET'S GO OLYMPIC—

## HUNGRY DEVIL

Tony had just arrived back from an outing (coming STRAIGHT down to Eugene). "How did you enjoy yourself?" asked Grandma. "Oh, it was all very beautiful, but you should just see the 'Devil's gorge'!" "My dear," reproved shocked Grandma, "you shouldn't speak like that of your friends. I expect the hike and fresh air gave them an appetite."

## COAST TRIP

With all the sunburn that possibly can be gotten in two days at the beach, twenty-nine Obsidians and their friends spent the double holiday at Lester Circles "ranch" five miles north of Florence, returning Monday evening.

Ideally located near the beach, the cabins and house served the party well and the cry of "Batter up" was heard once again, as the entire day of the 30th was spent down on the sand, with baseball, swimming, and just roaming being the order.

In the evening a large bon-fire was built on the beach and after the setting of the sun, songs and marshmallow toasting, till quite late was enjoyed by all.

Those on the trip were: J. D. Hamlin, Myrtie Hamlin, Nellie V. Moore, Helen Kilpatrick, Faith Bartsch, Anna Witham, Nathalie Edmiston, Miner Hamlin, Mabel Currin, Flora Currin, Florence McCoy, Helen Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Roy F. Smith, Agnes Wallace, Miriam Yoder, M. B. Castelloe, Eleanor Hicks, Beatrice Burton, Blanche Osborn, Doris Osborn, Margaret Ferguson, Eileen Baker, Bryan Ryan, Doris Harthshorne, Jean Kilpatrick, Erwin Williams, Hugh P. Currin, and Ray Sims.

—LET'S GO OLYMPIC—

Lift me out of my laboring day

Lift me up to the blue and away  
And let me discover my own horizon line

Then drop me back to my work  
and play

And the far ends of the world in  
my day shall shine.

—L. H. Bailey.

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## If Hungry . . . .

to or from a day of skiing,  
drop in at

## SPARKS RANCH

Mrs. Sparks' Famous Meals  
can't be beat.

Mrs. Rosa Sparks, Prop.



Page Four

The OBSIDIAN

**NOTICE TO MEMBERS**

The club could do with a few new members. Many of the old timers have dropped out of active participation, and a few live individuals to take their places would do the club a world of good. Remember, a prospective member must be recommended by two members, and is allowed associate membership for only six months before he makes his three qualifying trips for full active membership.

The Obsidians are not exclusive, but are a bit selective. Choose your active friends who would enjoy outdoor activities and invite them on the next trip. Introduce them to members of the party, and show them a good time.

Bailey Castelloe is chairman of the membership committee. He has application blanks and the signed applications should be turned in to him. The \$5.00 fee pays the initiation fee and the dues to October. Suppose we shower Bailey with some first-class applications.

—LET'S GO OLYMPIC—

**FLASH**

The summer camp scouting party of Tony and Ruth and Glen and Florence returned late Monday evening by way of the coast and reported the trip to Lake Quinault and the Olympics a new country that the Obsidians will enjoy every minute they are there.

And that the packer assured them that it was not a hard trip into camp, and that there is lots of room for camping in that beautiful mountainous country. To where the cars are driven is just 335 miles from Eugene. The scouting party drove to Lake Quinault and returned to the Columbia river in a day.

**NORTH SISTER CLIMB**

(Continued from Page 1)

were able to walk across with little trouble. The final ridge pinnacle, we climbed up and over the top, rather than crossing around the east base.

Trip was comparatively easy up to the base of the first summit pinnacle and when we swung around the west base to the usual route over to the shale patch, we were confronted by a hard crusted, snow field, lying at almost a perpendicular angle clear over to the shoulder that marks the commencement of the shale patch crossing. We could have worked our way over to the sloping shoulder by slowly cutting steps; but then would have had a much longer slope to cut steps in crossing the shale patch to get over to the chimney.

By this time the sun was sufficiently warm to commence thawing the snow and ice on the summit pinnacles, and not having a large enough party to use ropes to best advantage, we decided to descend, and get back to saddle ridge and our skis in time to get the best snow conditions for our trip down the mountain.

We were well rewarded for the exertions of our slow climb, in our rapid breath-taking descent. Snow conditions were ideal, when we started down the mountain about nine-thirty a.m., and we enjoyed rare skiing to the base of the mountain, striking a distinct snow change around the vicinity of Prouty's tomb.

—LET'S GO OLYMPIC—

**Be A Booster**

Tell the Advertisers that you belong to the Obsidian Club. This issue has four advertisers. Patronize them and show them that it pays to continue advertising in THE OBSIDIAN.

**LET'S GO OLYMPIC**

(Continued from Page 1)

The dates of the outing are from July 17 to 31, a little earlier than usual. This has been done in order to take advantage of the fine weather they usually have at this time of the year. Later, in August they have fog and light rain.

The outing is limited to 45 persons, so those of you who plan to go sign up early at Hendershott's. The Prospectus will be in the mail soon. Better make your plans now and return to that usual first of the month business with a coat of tan and that healthy mountain complexion, hard as nails and not a worry in the world. You will talk a long time, about the beautiful sights, the big fish, that particular sun rise or sun set and all the many worthwhile things that live in your memories a long, long time.

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