



# The OBSIDIAN



Volume III

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Number 8

## Belknap CCC Camp Selected for New Year's Party

*By Roland Burghardt*

### LAFFERTY SCANS 1940 SKI SEASON

*By Paul Lafferty*

All skiers eagerly await the first good snow-fall which will permit the active opening of the long over-due 1940 ski season. Dedication of the new chair lift at Timberline, Mt. Hood, and the Arnold Lunn races, have been postponed from Nov. 19, to Nov. 26, and as the weather still fails to cooperate, until Dec. 10. While the prolonged delay in the snow fall deters early enjoyment in participation of the sport, still the continued mild weather has afforded the forestry service and commercial operators to improve facilities for the better enjoyment of the winter ski season when it finally does come.

The Willamette national forest has cooperated in the improvement of skiing areas accessible to every community of the Willamette valley bordering on its confines. Major development has been in the Hoodoo Butte area. Adequate shelter facilities have been erected, and additional ski runs have been cleared. The forest service has constructed a shelter and established sanitary facilities in the Hand Lake area, and has provided equipment for the Obsidians, Ski Lauferers, and Ski Patrol to do considerable additional clearing in the Hand Lake area, thus enabling the opportunity for a far greater number of skiers of all classes to enjoy the sport of that favorite locality.

Ed Thurston plans to operate a ski tow at both Hoodoo Butte,

*(Continued On Page Two)*

### CLUB CALENDAR

#### DECEMBER

- 10—Ski trip ..... Sunshine Shelter
- 13—Board meeting ..... 1248 High St.
- 14—Dancing ..... 817 Willamette St.
- 17—Christmas greenery trip.
- 25—Merry Christmas .... Everywhere
- 31—New Year's Eve Party .....
- ..... Belknap CCC Camp

#### JANUARY

- 1—New Year's Party.....
- ..... Belknap CCC Camp
- 7—Ski trip.
- 11—Dancing ..... 817 Willamette St.
- 10—Board meeting.....
- ..... To be announced
- 14—Ski trip ..... To be announced
- 17—Dancing ..... 817 Willamette St.
- 21—Ski trip ..... To be announced
- 28—Ski trip ..... To be announced

### HAND LAKE SKI AREA

*By J. W. McCracken*

When friends meet at the Hand Lake Ski Area soon (we hope) they will find a new three sided shelter with an open fireplace which the Forest Service constructed this fall.

Through combined efforts of the Willamette Ski Patrol, Ski Lauferers and Obsidians, five work trips were held at the Hand Lake Ski Area during October and November.

A good turn out of hard working boys (not forgetting the good looking girls who made coffee) accomplished a great deal of work under the supervision of Forest Ranger Ray Ingalls. The planning done by Mr. Ingalls and the excellent tools he furnished made every minute count. The boys who did the work will testify to the pleasure it is to use a sharp axe that will really cut instead of one

*(Continued on Page Three)*

We're expecting a big crowd this year at the New Year's Eve party. The Obsidians are fortunate in securing the use of the spacious quarters of the Belknap CCC Camp, a short distance above McKenzie Bridge. We'll really "go to town" and can dance our shoes off as the floor space will be much larger than we've had in the past.

We are planning a real party—the best yet. We'll swing, sing and have a time all will remember. There will be games, skits, stunts, and the LIAR'S contest, and a competition between Yodelers and Hog Callers. (Better get in front of a mirror and practice.)

The committee is making arrangements so there will be plenty of favors, such as hats, horns, streamers, decorations, confetti, and noise makers (mechanical).

Things will be made to move lively all evening, and when the zero hour of midnight arrives, we'll all gather 'round to drink a toast and sing "Auld Lang Syne" as the old year rolls out and the new rolls in. Then we will have the midnight lunch, and that's some affair in itself. We'll keep the party going as long as the crowd wants.

Next day, we will have a grand breakfast after which we will trip off to the snow for some skiing. Remember our turkey feed of the past? We'll have another awaiting our return from skiing, and that's when it tastes its best.

The price for the entire weekend will be \$3, and for the turkey dinner only, \$1.50.

**"THE OBSIDIAN"***Member Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs**Associate Member—Pacific National Ski Association***BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**PRINCESSES, CHIEFS INITIATE**

Before the fire of an Indian gathering, on the night of October 7, Celeste Campbell became Princess Warbler; Mary Gillespie, Princess Pine Squirrel; Stella Nee, Princess Snow-shoe; Jean Randolph, Princess Rosy Cloud; and Jean Taylor, who came down from Portland for the initiation, became Princess Comet.

These same chiefs had likewise initiated five neophytes the evening before: Chief Black Hawk (Bob Swennes); Chief Moccasin (Sterling Behnke); Chief Wise Owl (Alvin Lynch); Chief Fire Builder (Norman Lee); Chief Pack Chaser (Tom Miles), and Chief Broadcaster (Guilford Hollingsworth).

**HALLOWE'EN PARTY**

Stella Nee, Jean Randolph, Mary Gillespie, and Celeste Campbell, should have a bouquet or two for a very entertaining Halloween party, which was held this year at the Four H hall at the fairgrounds.

A big open fire in the fireplace, a curtained-off corner where a fortune teller (Rose Crutchley) mysteriously held forth behind shaded lights and Indian blankets, lots of autumn leaves and other clever decorations lent a festive air. A puppet show, magician's tricks from M. B. Fear, and a big evening of games and dancing, kept the crowd busy.

**EIGHT OBSIDIANS GO TO ROW RIVER CAVES**

The Eugene Obsidians were on a trip Sunday, November 19th to the Row River Caves east of Cottage Grove. A descent was made into the caves, the first 20 feet with the aid of a rope. After exploring with flashlights they returned to light and sunshine. The ascent was made with some difficulty, but with time and encouragement, all arrived safely at the top. It was still early so the party decided to drive about 6 miles to the Pole Camp for lunch. After lunch they started to drive to the top of Fairview, but found a car over-loaded with household goods in the middle of the road, so the cars were parked and the rest of the way was taken on foot the true Obsidian way. It was a beautifully clear day and from the Look-out station St. Helens, Washington, Jefferson and the Three Sisters to the North and Diamond and Thielson from the South could be seen.

Those who enjoyed the trip were Hugh Currin, leader; L. E. McCoy, Bertha Deckman, Nellie Moore, Ray Sims, Mr. and Mrs. Doran McKee, Richard Ten Eyck and Alvin Lynch.

**1940 SKI SEASON***(Continued From Page One)*

and Hand Lake ski grounds, so skiing at the established areas of the upper Willamette valley will be on a comparative level with skiing conditions found at other favorite spots in the northwest.

Dr. Norman Lee, newly elected chairman of the ski committee, brings plenty of pep and enthusiasm to this important department of the club's year around activities. The annual winter outing will be held this season, possibly a trifle later than last year's outing, and will likely be at Mazama lodge, Mt. Hood.

Another item of interest is the establishment, mainly through the interests of P. J. Bruckart, superintendent of the Willamette national forest, of the Willamette valley ski council. This is conceived as the parent organization of all of the ski groups located in the Willamette valley. This idea is a good one. The council was

organized last spring, and already has done much to coordinate the activities of each of the separate member clubs into active programs that work out to the best interests of all.

The near approach of the 1940 ski season brings forth the old question, how long will the road be kept open to Pole Bridge. I believe that the increasing numbers of people from this and adjacent communities, clamoring to get up to the good snow available in boundless quantities in the vicinity of Hand Lake and Frog Camp are sufficient proof of the value of this recreational facility being established and maintained throughout the winter sports season.

It is a proposition that everybody in this community who is the least bit interested can take up as an individual project and do everything in his ability to put this long-hoped-for dream into actual operation.

If you skiers desire a year-around ski area and stabilized snow conditions that are equal to the very best in the country, there is the way to get it. Do no sacrifice the start that has already been made on this highway maintenance proposal — add momentum to the ball that has already been started rolling.

Obsidians had a busy week-end recently, with a party at Belknap CCC Saturday evening, and a trip to Proxy creek falls on Sunday. Saturday night's party included dancing, games and singing. Elmer McBee and Darwin Yoran led the quadrilles, and Rolan Burghardt led the group singing. Chester Pietka, accordionist, provided the music. Bob Wilson was general chairman for the party.

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## MARGARET NORTON IS PRINCESSES' HOSTESS

In the clutches of a card game that involves throwing the cards up in the air and grappling for them, and calling them fancy names like Sir Hinkum Finnenduster and his Faithful Wife and his twins' three black kittens, or something like that, certain Princesses completely forgot their dignity at their last meeting. Princesses White Dove, Sahali, Pine Tree, and Red Feather once met under the table to do battle over Sir Hinkum Finnenduster Himself, while Princess Rosy Cloud flew through the air in pursuit of Club the Postman's Faithful Wife. The other princesses played sissy games like bridge and casino.

Margaret Norton was hostess as the girls met Tuesday, November seventh. Plans for the Princesses' portion of the entertainment at the New Year's party were talked over, and Hazel Stalsberg, Helen Smith, and Miriam Yoder were named the committee in charge.

A letter from Ruth Hopson, who is now studying in New York, was read. Ruth described some field trips around the New England countryside, and her adventures in crossing the continent by bus. Ruth says she would very much like to hear from all of us Obsidians. Thelma Watson can give her address.

Princess Spotted Fawn was presented with a gift from the Princesses' club. Names were drawn for gifts at the Christmas party, to be held December 12, at Minnie McCracken's.

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## SALT CREEK FALLS

Nine Obsidians made the trip to Salt Creek falls on November 12 under the leadership of Bailey Castelloe. Members of the group left their cars near the tunnel on the new Willamette highway, inspected the tunnel, and went on to the park in the forest beyond the falls. After lunch, the party took a short hike up to the highway, and came back to the foot of the falls. Camera fans amused themselves by taking pictures of the falls.

Those on the trip were Bailey Castelloe, Ann Brenner, Mr. and Mrs. Doran McKee, Elmer McBee, Nellie Moore, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hamlin, and Jean Randolph.

## HERE AND THERE

We learned with regret that Chief Fire Builder has been ill. We hope this finds you recovered, Norman.

Our one-time president, Paul Lafferty, has been making the headlines lately. He was married November 4 to Jean Stevenson of Portland. Congratulations, Paul.

## HAND LAKE SKI AREA

(Continued From Page One)

that will chew off a tree if perseverance holds out.

The skiing area we had last year has been more than doubled with three good runs for downhill skiing and a narrow one for the up-ski, all connected by a miniature timberline trail. When one reaches the top of the tow, he can select any type of run he wishes from a straight schuss on the steep slopes offered by the first runway to a leisurely winding slide down the trail to the lower clearing thence back across the lower portions of the other two runs to the base of the ski tow.

Because of these developments Hand Lake will be much more enjoyable than it has ever been before and will undoubtedly be used to the fullest extent of its facilities every weekend the highway can be kept open.

See you at the New Year's party.

Happy New Year! M—C—!

## McKENZIE SKI SCHOOL

The "McKenzie Ski School" will be in operation again this year, and although there will be no charge for teaching beginners (those who don't know a stem turn from a cow) the advanced skiers (those who do) will be able to obtain coaching for the entire season at a very nominal fee.

Those who take advantage of this service will be entitled to "help" any weekend during the ski season, from the instructor on duty. There is a plan being worked out to train a group of these students to do fancy slalom running, as a group, and if the plan is successful there is a possibility of having something new to show at a ski meet, other than competition. The object will be to bring out grace and form in its finest degree for the interest of the non-skiing spectators. All those who are interested should get in touch with Tony Vogel through Hendershott's.

We are glad to welcome Bertha Deckman, a transfer from a Walla Walla ski club, as a new member of the Obsidians.

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Page Four

The OBSIDIAN

## ONE, TWO, THREE, GO!

Do you like variation in dance themes? If you do, come to the dance classes which the Obsidians are sponsoring each Thursday night from 8 to 10 in Helen Thranert's studio, 817 Willamette Street.

Olga Mortenson, Tom Kaarhus and Margaret Norton are giving lessons in old fashioned square dances, folk dances, polkas, schottische steps, and the hambo.

A group from the Sons of Norway have been joining in the classes, and in turn were hosts to other members of the class at their Schottische Saturday night, November 18.

A fee of ten cents an evening is charged to cover the expenses of rental and phonograph records.

Dr. O. R. Gullion, in charge of the class, reports that from 15 to 25 have been attending the classes, and invites others interested, whether beginners or not.

## SKI TOW READY

Hand Lake will have a much needed ski tow in operation this season. Ed Thurston, the "Tow King" (almost said Towhead) is responsible. He also has one in operation at the Hoodoo area. When are you going to have one up the Middle Sister, Ed?

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## COUNCIL DISCUSSES WINTER SPORTS AREA

Facilities for winter sports in the Santiam pass recreational area and the Hoodoo butte area are being developed through the co-operation of the Cascade winter recreational council and the Willamette forest service. The council met last month at Fish lake with Dr. Norman Lee, chairman of the Obsidian ski committee, representing the club.

The Cascade ski council was organized last March with representatives from the Obsidians and Ski Laufers of Eugene, the Albany Takena club, the Bend Ski-Liners, the Lebanon East Linn ski club, and two Salem clubs, the Santiam Ski club and the Chemeketans. Harry Miller of Lebanon is president. Purpose of the council is the development of facilities for winter sports, co-operation with the forest service in this work, and the provision of additional facilities in available areas.

## DIRECTORS ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING

About 75 Obsidians met at the Anchorage on October 3 for the annual business meeting, at which directors were elected and reports of chairmen for the past year given. Officers later chosen from the group elected at this meeting were Hugh Currin, president; Dr. O. R. Gullion, vice-president and treasurer; and Blanche Osborn, secretary. Committee heads appointed were Mrs. Henry H. Norton, social chairman; J. D. Hamlin, lodge; Harold Trotter, search, outing and climbing committees; V. J. Gillespie, local walks; Dr. Lee, ski and membership; and Miriam Yoder, historian and librarian.

Winners in the annual picture contest were announced at the meeting. Mrs. J. D. Hamlin won

the grand prize and other prizes were won by Mrs. Harold Mortenson, Ray Sims and Elizabeth Gullion.

Louis Waldorf, retiring president, presided at the meeting. Dean Karl W. Onthank spoke on the development of youth hosteling in Oregon. The report of J. D. Hamlin, delegate to the meeting of the Western Federation of Outdoor clubs, was read.

Reports on membership revealed that the club has a membership of about 150. Of the 52 new members taken in during the last year, half were Junior Obsidians, a classification which was started last year.

After the business meeting, Prof. E. P. Sipe and Ray Boals showed colored pictures of mountain climbing trips and mountain scenery and flowers.

In charge of arrangements for the dinner were Eileen Baker, Blanche Osborn and Mrs. Glen E. Sims.

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