



# The OBSIDIAN



Volume IV

Eugene, Oregon, February, 1941

No. 2



SPARKLING sunshine and crisp white snow make this scene, taken at the start of the trail to the ski area at Hoodoo bowl, an ideal winter picture. The Obsidian club's annual winter outing will be here March 16 to 23.

## Highway Closing Hinders Skiers

By ALVIN LYNCH  
(Obsidian Ski Chairman)

This ski season has been marked by a great many ups and downs, particularly for those whose favorite habitat is the McKenzie area. With an early snowfall skiers' hearts were soaring high. "Boy! It sure looks great this year!"—and then the rains came. By the middle of December three and one-half feet of snow had faded away.

The ski tow purchased during the midst of the heavy snowfall was not put into operation until the last Sunday in the old year.

There were three good weekends of skiing, including New

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## Obsidians Hold Dance, See Moving Pictures; Smorgasbord Is Planned

One of the most successful and enjoyable Obsidian events of recent months was the dinner and dance held January 30 at the Del Rey cafe. After the dinner, Dr. W. B. Neal, showed colored moving pictures of his recent trip to Central America. The Central American theme was cleverly carried out in the decorations.

Following the dinner and program, dancing was enjoyed, with Chester Pietka playing the accordion. Bob Wilson led the singing.

The social committee announces that its annual smorgasbord, always eagerly anticipated by Obsidians and their friends, will be held February 28. Doris Sims is chairman.

## Winter Outing Set For Hoodoo March 16 to 23

Santiam Ski Lodge and Hoodoo Bowl on the Santiam Pass has been chosen as the scene of the Obsidian 1941 winter outing. The outing will be held during the university spring vacation, March 16-23.

The Hoodoo ski bowl provides excellent skiing for amateur and skilled skiers and cross country trips have been planned to Three Fingered Jack and Mount Washington.

### *Entertainment Planned*

Evenings may be spent playing cards, dancing, reading, etc. Bryan Ryan is in charge of entertainment at the Lodge.

Cost of the outing will be \$15 for the week, or \$2.50 a day, and will include use of the ski tow. It will officially open with Sunday night's lodging on the 16th, and close after breakfast on March 23.

This is the second outing that the Obsidians have held at Hoodoo. Last year's outing, held here also, was considered very successful by the thirty Obsidians and friends who attended.

### *Committee Named*

The committee in charge of arrangements is Sterling Behnke, Bill Parrish, and Glen Sims.

The outing as usual is open to members and non-members.

Register early at Hender-shotts.

Among recent new members is Phil Parks, boys' adviser at Eugene High school. Welcome, Phil.

**"THE OBSIDIAN"**

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tional Ski Association

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### Princesses Gather At Reva Moore's

Princesses met with Princess  
Spotted Fawn (Reva Moore)  
and Princess Red Feather (Mar-  
garet Thompson) at Reva's new  
home at 8th and Polk streets, for  
the January meeting.

Sixteen girls attended. After  
the business session, Red Feath-  
er read a chapter from "Snow on  
the Equator", by H. W. Tillman,  
an account on a solo climb of an  
18,000 foot African volcano.

Princess Blue Waters (Flor-  
ence Sims) is hostess for Febru-  
ary, with Princess Wren (Ann  
Brenner) at Blue Waters' home.

### Dances Continue

The Thursday night dance  
groups continue to be popular  
with the Obsidians, from 20 to  
30 attending almost every week.  
The dance is held from 8 to 10  
p.m., with a brief intermission  
for refreshments, every Thurs-  
day at the Del Rey.

### Joined Up

Mrs. Norman Lee — "Judy"  
Lee—has taken out her final  
papers and is now a full-feathered  
Obsidian. We're glad to have  
both members of this popular  
couple.

### Smith Family Obsidians

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Smith have  
joined Helen as club members.  
Their interest in dancing is a big  
help to the club.

**HERE AND THERE**

+ + +

Bryan Ryan is giving instruc-  
tion at Hoodoo ski bowl. His  
services are available to all Ob-  
sidians at no cost.

+ + +

"Star" of the January Princess  
meeting was little Judy Moore,  
not quite one year old.

+ + +

Paul Lafferty is in charge of  
the 15th infantry ski patrol, sta-  
tioned at Mt. Rainier National  
Park. Paul spent the past week-  
end at home, skiing at Hoodoo;  
and Jean returned to Mt. Rainier  
with him Monday.

+ + +

Reva Moore's new living room  
in her new home at 8th and Polk,  
was much admired when she was  
hostess to the Princesses in Jan-  
uary. Soft apricot-toned plaster  
walls lend warmth to a long room  
dominated by the large tiled fire-  
place and mantel mirror.

The living room has a south-  
east exposure. Reva and Ace de-  
signed the home themselves. It is  
in modern style, all on one floor  
with attached garage. Doris Sims  
was particularly interested; she  
and Ray are building soon.

**HIGHWAY**

(Continued From Page One)

Year's Day. Then, an ugly rumor  
began circulating. The road  
wouldn't be opened to Hand Lake  
the next Sunday. With no snow  
at White Branch this looked  
mighty serious, but with support  
from the Greyhound Bus line the  
highway commission was pre-  
vailed upon to plow the road out  
another week-end.

A flying trip to Hand Lake to  
bring out the ski tow was made  
necessary by the closing of the  
highway, which was, this writer  
believes, absolutely unnecessary  
because there was only about 12  
inches of snow in the road, and  
30 inches on the level. This close-  
ure should be heartily opposed  
and protested by every Obsidian  
in every way. Only by sticking  
together and fighting for a win-  
ter road to the McKenzie summit  
will the area be available to  
Skiers in the years to come.

The other areas are not quite  
satisfactory to those who live in  
or near Eugene. Crescent lake  
on the Willamette has been vis-  
ited, but the area is small, the  
runs are very rough, and the  
cross country trail a small pos-  
sibility because of the heavy tim-  
ber.

Hoodoo in the Santiam area, a  
good ski ground in most respects,  
requires too much traveling time  
and not enough skiing for a one-  
day trip. Bohemia, with about 20  
miles of mountain road and two  
or three miles of uphill skiing  
is not as accessible as most peo-  
ple would like.

### Another New One

A recent new member is Ann  
Brenner, who has rejoined her  
interest in mountain activities.  
Glad you're back with us, Ann—  
makes it a little easier to pay  
that traffic fine when you're  
there in Cal Bryan's office.

### Crutchleys Have Joined

Mr. and Mrs. Crutchley have  
joined Obsidians. Their interest  
in youth hostels as well as per-  
sonal congeniality make them  
aluable to the club.

### Tired After Skiing?

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# NEW LODGE IN TOWN DISCUSSED FROM ALL ANGLES

By MARGARET THOMPSON

Following is a general survey of facts and opinions on the "lodge-in-town" question, compiled after talking to such Obsidians as were "handy," by the Obsidian staff.

**Question**—Why should the Obsidian club have a lodge in Eugene?

**Answer**—For a general meeting place, for club parties, for chiefs and princesses meetings, for the board and committees, the dance group, a place to store searching equipment, toboggans and other club equipment, and to display the club scrapbook, library pictures, trophies, etc.

**Q.**—What would be the disadvantages?

**A.**—The cost.

**Q.**—Let's lay aside the money angle for a moment.

**A.**—Well, there's the difficulty of deciding how big and elaborate to make it, who would take care of it, and where to put it,—whether downtown, for a central location, or in the suburbs for more room and a scenic setting.

**Q.**—How large a building would be required?

**A.**—If the regular yearly club parties and annual meeting were held there, the building should have a main room at least the size of the one at the Anchorage or 4-H hall at the fairgrounds. Then a kitchen and rest rooms, and at least one smaller side room would seem to be necessary. Opinion seems to favor a floor suitable for dancing and a fireplace in the hall, with facilities for music and movies. Give that conception a good location, and it represents the maximum or ideal of what the membership wants.

**Q.**—And the minimum?

**A.**—Just an empty room or easily-got-at storage space where various items of club property can be collected and kept permanently, instead of being spread around at homes and offices of various members or up at the McKenzie cabins where they are not easily available.

**Q.**—Why can't the club go on hiring large halls for parties?

**A.**—We can, but how much more enjoyable our parties would be if we had our own pictures and other things dear to us and traditional with the club, for furnishings; our own decorations and draperies and furniture; our own kitchen; everything handy and suitable. Many think that the club would find itself holding more parties, getting together more often, becoming stronger.

**Q.**—What are some of the suggestions that have been favorably discussed?

**A.**—A hall about 35 x 60, in a building, say, 45 x 60, the extra 10-foot strip taken up by the service rooms. There would be a fireplace at one end and probably a stage about 12 x 20 at the other end. A one story building that would be built as far as possible by member help, costing somewhere around \$1000 all told. Space possibly for a volleyball court outside and plenty of room for planting shrubbery and flowers brought back from trips and

camp. Room for parking cars, near enough to the business district for walking if necessary, but not in a thickly settled district where neighbors might object to cars or noise.

**Q.**—How about taxes?

**A.**—It would appear that the place would be tax free, belonging to a non-profit corporation.

**Q.**—Sounds like a good idea.

**A.**—Definitely!

## VISIT SUN VALLEY

Jean Lafferty and her younger brother went to Sun Valley about a month ago for a week of skiing. At the end of the week Nancy Lee met them and the three picked up a new car near Chicago and drove east. After a visit with Jean's sister Eleanor Stevenson, in New York City, the travelers came home through the south, visiting many interesting points.

Bill Eastman, of the National Parks service, is a new Obsidian member. His experienced viewpoint on mountains and forestry problems will come in handy.

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## Obsidians Greet 1941 With Party

A party complete with the liveliest dances, singing and plenty of good food, and a day of excellent skiing weather made the annual Obsidian New Year's celebration an event to be remembered by all who attended.

About 60 Obsidians and guests were present for the party, and others came up the next day for the skiing and the New Year's dinner. The two-day gathering was held at Camp Belknap.

The party began with the arrival of Chester Pietka, accordionist, and Verne Sellin, violinist, and the next few hours schottisches, waltzes, polkas and the Virginia reel followed one another.

Ken Purdy won the surprise contest by blowing up and breaking a balloon.

### Dorr Wins Prize

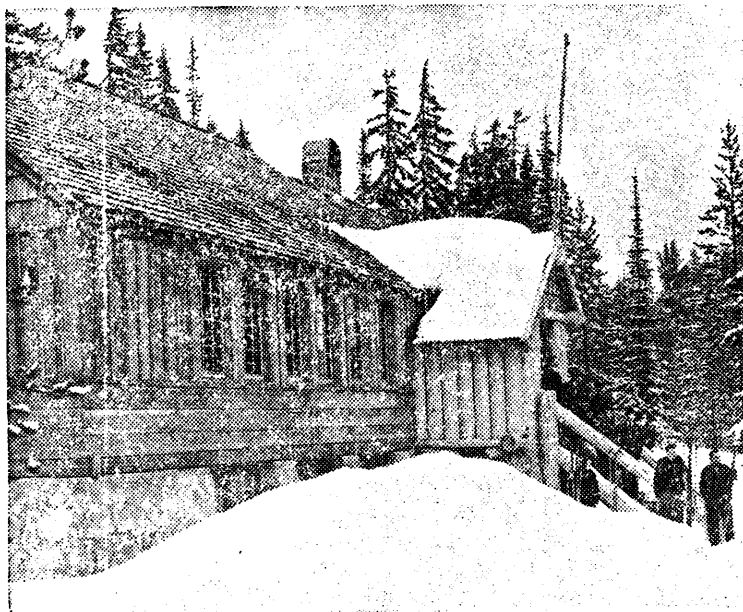
Finally, the crowd demanded a breathing spell and the club's best liars took the center of the stage in the annual liars' contest. After stiff competition from Bryan Ryan, Bob Swennes and Dr. O. R. Gullion, Dorr Hamlin annexed the horsefeathers trophy, winning the prize for the second consecutive year. Judges were Bailey Castelloe, Mr. Glen Sims, and Percy Brown.

Another highlight of the evening was Helen Smith's dance in costume, for which Chester played the accompaniment.

In the schottische contest, the judges, Dorr Hamlin, Roy Smith and Dr. Gullion awarded the prize to Jean Taylor and Miner Hamlin; and Tony Vogel and Lucille Gray.

### Greet New Year

As midnight approached the committee distributed favors, whistles and all sorts of noisemakers. The resulting din was calmed only by the announcement that food was on the way.



A PLEASANTLY familiar sight to many Obsidians is the Santiam lodge, above, which will be headquarters for the annual winter outing March 16 to 23. Besides skiing, skiing, and more skiing at Hoodoo Bowl, there will be several interesting cross country trips. The outing committee urges that those who wish to attend sign up as soon as possible.

After a hearty lunch in typical Obsidian style, the more enthusiastic members of the crowd went back to their dancing.

Wednesday, New Year's day, found most of the crowd off for the ski area. After enjoying the sport for the larger part of the day, they came back again to the cabins for the traditional New Year's Day dinner.

### Tom Miles Marries

Tom Miles, former member of the Obsidian club, and Miss Mary Duffield Stewart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stuart Stewart, were married January 1 in La Jolla, Cal., home of the bride. They will live in Burbank, Cal.

Fred Hughes' membership in our club was a Christmas gift to him from Van Purdy. Fred's a skier and a grand guy.

### Rocks, Minerals Studied In UO Extension Course

Several Obsidians are taking the night class on rocks and minerals at the university this term for which Dr. Lloyd W. Staples acted as instructor.

Included in the course are discussions on the cutting and polishing of minerals, Oregon's minerals, and precious stones. This is a non-credit course sponsored by the general extension division of the Oregon state system of higher education.

### Interested in Nature Study?

If there is enough demand, a nature study class may be given in the spring term. This will consist of bird study and botany.

Among those enrolled in the class are Elizabeth Gullion, Mrs. J. D. Hamlin, Mrs. Helen Kilpatrick and Wayne Bailey.