



# The OBSIDIAN



Volume IV

Eugene, Oregon, April, 1941

No. 3

## Obsidian Skiers Make Early Climb

Another record was broken recently when the earliest known ascent of the Middle Sister was made on Sunday, March 9. Those making the trip were leaders Ralph Lafferty and Wallace Clark, Frances Eaton, Alvin Lynch, all of Eugene, and Reg Macrow of Vancouver, B. C.

The party left Eugene Saturday night, and were at Frog Camp by midnight. At 3 a.m. they had reached Sunshine Shelter, where they took time out for a brief rest and nourishment. Starting the climb at 9 a.m., they reached the peak by 1:45 p.m.

### Dangerous Footing

The climbers found glare ice the last 900 feet of the trip, and found their worst footing over a 100 foot glacier head wall with a 700 foot drop, which required an hour and 15 minutes to negotiate, with the aid of ice crampons and a 110 foot rope. All but the final 1000 feet of the climb were made on skis with seal skins to prevent slipping.

Although there was a mild gale, members of the party found the atmosphere clear, and from the top of the Sister, had a view that reached from Mt. St. Helens on the north to Mt. Shasta on the south.

### To Show Ski Pictures

The Takena Ski club of Albany is sponsoring a picture, "Jamboree", at Memorial hall in Albany on Friday, April 18. Photos and motion pictures taken during the ski season of 1940-41 at Santiam Pass area will be shown. All skiers and others interested are invited.



Picture courtesy Register-Guard

DRAPED IN a veil of snow, the Middle Sister rises beyond these hardy skiers, who on March 9 made the earliest recorded ascent of the peak. On the climb were Ralph Lafferty, Wallace Clark, Alvin Lynch, Francis Eaton and Reg Macrow.

## DINNER FEATURES SMORGAASBORD

They may have been Grontsagesalat and Gogt Skinke to those who know their languages, including the Scandinavian, but to most of the Obsidians they were just some more of the good things to eat disguised under strange names at the club's annual smorgaasbord, held March 7 at St. Mary's Episcopal parish hall.

So enthusiastically did club members and the general public turn out for this event that all the tables were full and the committee was kept busy seeing that every one had enough to eat.

After the dinner, there was group singing, followed by dancing.

An interesting part of the evening was the feature given by Helen Abrahamson and Norman Larsen, who presented Scandinavian folk dances, wearing appropriate costumes.

## Spring Months Bring Climbs, Scenic Trips

APRIL 20—TIPSOO BUTTE—The automobile trip alone will be worth the price of admission. Up the Willamette highway and over the pass to junction with scenic No. 97, then south through semi-desert piney forest through Chemult and back up to the mountains by a good road. Comes out at Miller lake. A short climb, and you're on top of Tipsoo Peak, the whole vast Umpqua valley to your west, all central Oregon to your east, and to your north and south all the mountains of the Cascades.

APRIL 27—OVERNIGHT AT CABINS—One of our own Obsidian good times in our own place. There will be time to do a lot of things to make the buildings nicer, so bring your tools and you won't know whether you're working or playing. Dancing leader, O. R. Gullion; hiking leader, Darwin Yoran.

MAY 4—SUNSHINE SHELTER—We saw a good cartoon in the New Yorker—a skier glaring hate at the first spring flower, coming up in the edge of a snowbank. Well, we don't hate 'em at Sunshine, the elevation takes care of that. John Skillern and Wallace Clark will lead. If conditions look good, why not climb the Middle?

MAY 11—EXPLORATION, NORTH UMPQUA—The party will go up the North Umpqua above Steamboat. There are very interesting rock spires, 200,300 feet high. There will be roping practice if wished—the spires are very curious, well worth while. Tony Vogel, Carmel Newland are leaders.

(Continued On Page Two)

**"THE OBSIDIAN"**

*Member Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs*

*Associate Member—Pacific National Ski Association*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President..... Dr. O. R. Gullion  
 Vice-Pres..... V. J. Gillespie  
 Sec.-Treas..... Blanche Osborn  
 Alvin Lynch, J. D. Hamlin, Sterling Behnke, Dr. Norman Lee, Eileen Baker, Jean Randolph. Publications committee; Jean Randolph, Miriam Yoder, Margaret Thompson, Louis W. Waldorf, Wallace Clark.

**SPRING SCHEDULE**

*(Continued From Page One)*

**MAY 18—MT. YORAN**—The McCrackens are leaders on this one. Up the Willamette highway to this spectacular peak—elevation 7132.

**MAY 25—SILVER CREEK FALLS**—A beautiful park, a beautiful little creek, a beautiful cascade tumbling into a beautiful pool. The creek abounds in crawfish, 'tis said. A different sort of trip into different country. Myrtie Hamlin and Bertie McKee.

**DIAMOND PEAK** — We're giving the Willamette country a big play this year, but who could leave Diamond off the schedule? Sterling Behnke, Ruth Carlson.

**SKATING PARTY**

Roller skating has become a popular sport with Obsidians, following the skating party which the social committee recently sponsored at the Paramount rink. Between 30 and 40 club members and guests turned out for the evening.

**RADIO SPECIAL...**

Just received the latest equipment for setting your Push Buttons for the new frequency. Come in and see it.

At...

**RADIO SHOP  
DOTSON'S**

11th and Oak

Phone 202

**FLORENCE ENTERTAINS**

The March meeting for the Princesses club was held at Florence Sims' home in the River Road district north of Eugene, with Ann Brenner as co-hostess. Although spring flowers and pussy willows decorated the rooms, the girls were glad of Florence's cheerful fireplaces. Sixteen princesses attended, and after the skiing situation, keeping open McKenzie pass, etc., had been settled, the girls decided on a rummage sale for Saturday, April 5.

Celeste Campbell and Mary Gillespie entertained the girls for the April meeting at Celeste's. Games were played, prizes going to Ann Brenner, Helen Smith, Doris Sims, Jean Randolph, Myrtie Hamlin, and Nellie Moore. Plans for the rummage sale Saturday, April 5, were completed. Mary Gillespie surprised Hostess Campbell with a birthday cake. Blanche Osborn and Eileen Baker will entertain in May, at Blanche's home.

**MRS. KILPATRICK ILL**

Mrs. Helen Kilpatrick has returned to Eugene after a serious illness which kept her in an Eastern Oregon hospital for two weeks, and in Portland consulting specialists for another week. Mrs. Kilpatrick was visiting her son Roy and his wife, hoping to recuperate from a prolonged case of flu, when she became worse. The Obsidians take this means of expressing their sympathy, and their heartiest wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

A picture of Ray and Doris Sims and their new car, taken by Blanche Osborn, won a prize in a contest recently sponsored by the Chevrolet magazine, "Friends". The picture appears in the January issue of the magazine.

Blanche took the picture last year at the Pole Bridge cabin.

Membership chairman Norman Lee announces two new junior members: Jack and Jacqueline Bogan.

**GO TO SUN VALLEY**

Visits to Sun Valley were popular with Obsidian skiers the past winters.

Among those spending time at the famous Idaho resort were Bill and Minnie McCracken, who spent 10 days there late in February. Minnie did herself proud, receiving the Silver Skis award for making the Silver Skis run in one minute, 56 seconds.

Eileen Baker and Blanche Osborn made their annual trip to Sun Valley the same time that Bill and Minnie were there. Accompanying them were Helen Tillman and Nancy Lee.

Elizabeth Gullion also spent 10 days at the ski playground during March.

**More New Members**

Among those making the Obsidian habit permanent, lately, are Warren E. Smith, Martha Switzer, Jane Walsh, and John Chuck Wiper, Jr.

**Musical Obsidian**

How could we get along without Chester Pietka? He's a welcome new member, and we'll extend an honorary membership to his accordion, too.



**Shelton-Turnbull-Fuller Co.  
PRINTERS**

Phone 1668

44 W. 10th Ave.

Eugene, Ore.

**FOR ALL**

your photographic needs

See

**DOTSON'S PHOTO SHOP**

KODAK - COMMERCIAL

111 East 11th

Phone 202

P.S.: We will be glad to answer your questions.

# WALLACE REVIEWS HIGHLIGHTS OF WINTER OUTING

By Wallace Clark

I have read of such weather in advertisements of Sun Valley and St. Anton am Arlberg but the first time I have ever actually seen it snow at night and sun shine during the day for a whole week at a time was during the Obsidians annual winter outing this last month. The snow was pretty scarce when we arrived so (I guess we live right after all!) the weather-man was thoughtful enough to schedule snow for the next day. The only trouble was he couldn't get the plug back in the barrel and it snowed the rest of the week. However it did most of its snowing during the night and the dawn found several inches of new powder snow on the door-step each morning. The days were notable for the wonderful summer sunshine that made skiers produce suntan lotion and discard parkas. During the middle of the day it was so warm that it was advisable to seek out some shady ever-green and sit under it to avoid sun-stroke (also a good excuse to rest after a long pull up some hill.)

## On Cross Country Trip

The Skiing end of the outing was high-lighted by two cross-country ski trips into the Three-fingered Jack region and the Hoodoo Butte area. The trip into Three-fingered Jack was taken by some of the more hardy individuals and was led by Glen Sims. They reported rather chilly weather upon the south ridge of the mountain and told tales of 30 feet of snow in places. The trail around Hoodoo Butte was followed by a great many

skiers and reported as a very enjoyable one; in spots they were able to view the Three Sisters, home ski grounds for Obsidians, and Mt. Washington. It was led by the Winter Sports Supervisor located at the Santiam Lodge, B. Ryan, erst-while member of the club.

However most shusspusers preferred to confine their activities to the ski bowl, where there was plenty of room for christies, glendusprungs, sitzmarks and where the slight bother of returning to the top of the hill after each run was done away with by the marvel of man's creation, the ski tow. With about four feet of solid pack snow to fall in excellent downhill skiing was enjoyed by all, with a noticeable improvement in everyone's technique before the week was over. Jim "Fancy Pants" Donahue could be seen each day trying to unravel the mysteries of a slalom course; Oneta Behnke tried to master the intricacies of the christie; Killer Clark pseudo-"ski meister" attempted to teach his pupils to ben ze knees; and Florence Sims could be seen concentrating on keeping the outside shoulder DOWN. It was interesting to watch progress of many of the members on the outing in regard to their skiing. Some progressed from stems to Christies while with others the reverse was true, they went from christies to snow-plows and their skiing was much the better for it. Many a member who discovered he wasn't quite as proficient as he imagined, could be found with his nose in "The Hannes Schnieder Ski Technique" in the evenings.

## Skiers Eat, Too

Speaking of evenings, that was the other half of the outing. Dinner was quite an affair. The lodge management was amazed at the ability of one group to eat so much in such a short time. Those who had had some pre-outing training in boarding houses held the upper hand for the first two meals but were sad looking specimens the rest of the week, after the others caught on

to their method and improved on it 100 per cent. It was discovered early in the week that the place to get the most to eat was at the opposite end of the table from that which Walter "Speed" Gilbert sat. Service was provided for by Al "Casanova" Hoffman who waited on tables and did KP work for his expenses. Many favorable comments were heard about Al's service and he should be complimented on his industrious work.

After dinner most shusspusers retired to pipes and easy chairs to rest after the hard work of eating such excellent food as the lodge provided. But they were soon brought out of this mood by Glen Snyder and his versatile accordion as the song books were passed around and the refrains of Du, Du or Viva la Amour were cheerfully and loudly sung. Later the accordionist and followers of the schottische and polka retired to the annex for a riot of dancing that no one could resist. Highlighting the dancing was Doctor Gullion who very ably led the group in this phase of the outing. In fact Doc's endurance is still being speculated on. He skied all day, danced the greater part of the night and the rest of the night talked in his sleep. I understand that no one was able to make out what he said as someone else talking in his sleep drowned the doctor out with something about "ben ze knees and keep that shoulder DOWN."

## Queen Is Visitor

A part of the outing not to be under-estimated was the visit of

(Continued on Page Four)

We Specialize in . . .  
Hiking and Climbing  
Equipment for Obsidians

- Climbing Boots
- Crampons—a few pair left
- Light-Weight Sleeping Bags
- Primus Stoves
- Carbide Lamps
- Back Packs

**HENDERSHOTT'S**  
770 Willamette St. Phone 151

**STAR BRAND SHOES  
ARE BETTER . . .**



Hiking Boots at  
**\$3.75 to \$7.95**



**GILBERT SHOE CO.**  
881 Willamette St.

Page Four

The OBSIDIAN

# New Lodge Presents Problems; "Cons" of Argument Are Aired

By Margaret Thompson

In our last issue we published a summary of the lodge-in-Eugene proposition, stating the reasons why one would be desirable, where it might be placed, what demands it should meet, all as expressed to us by various members, together with the doubts and uncertainties as to financing, size, arrangement, etc. We gave details of a building which has been discussed seriously by the board.

Comes now a deposition by the gentlemen of the opposition. The Obsidian Bulletin blushes with pride—our subscribers really read our efforts! Maybe we can get a real argument started in our columns, and boost our circulation accordingly.

The opposition comes mostly from the group which always goes to the very summit whenever possible, and skis furiously from dawn to dark. They want a mountain lodge of our own as soon as possible, and their position is that nothing should be allowed to interfere with this most important aim, so far as the club's funds is concerned. Rent some rooms, the minimum necessary, for Eugene activities, sure—but don't establish a property ownership and an expensive building with financial responsibilities that will hold back the club's development as a MOUNTAIN club. There, they feel, lies our real strength and the real desires of the real Obsidians. A few assorted comments:

"The Obsidian club is not a dancing or social club; it is a mountaineering club. . . . The main purpose of this club is the out-of-doors, not dancing. . . .

Dances, socials, reunions, parties are a very great part of a mountain club but they should not be allowed to supersede the main purpose to the extent that it becomes a minor part. . . . For many years, since 1930, we have money for a mountain lodge. Many feel that the building of a lodge in the high country is an ultimate goal of the Obsidians. We do not feel that the reality of the mountain lodge should in any way be jeopardized by the proposal to build a town lodge for social affairs, at least until a mountain lodge is a fact."

"We would like to suggest that at the present we confine ourselves to something less pretentious. We suggest the renting of club rooms at some favorable location in Eugene, something adequate but not too elaborate. . . . After we have our mountain lodge then let us turn to a nice club house in town."

Well, Obsidians, what do you think about it? The Obsidian would much rather fill its columns with lively arguments on controversial subjects like this one, (excluding personalities and destructive criticism, however.)

Isn't the chief urge for a high country lodge to be found in the skiing situation? Is there real danger of becoming so interested in dancing, parties, potlucks, and a tangle of over-organization, committees, and complicated cliques and jealousies here in Eugene that the real, unique, foundational principle of the Obsidians' success will be smothered and die? That principle is simply the joy of climbing mountains and skiing together in the wild places where other people

don't go . . . training ourselves on every possible weekend for that inevitable tragedy when knowledge of the far places will enable us to save life.

The high-country lodge or the Eugene party center? Isn't it just possible that we can have both? One more suggestion is made—the best of all:

"Let us hope that before any action is taken on this project that will entail use of the club's funds, a general meeting of club members is called to discuss the matter thoroughly."

## Winter Outing

(Continued From Page Three)

Queen Dorothy and her court (wow!) representing the Oregon Winter Sports Association and boosting Oregon skiing in a western tour. They stayed at the lodge Saturday night through Monday morning and a very good time was had by all. The amazing thing was that they were good skiers, could schot-tische and captured the hearts of many a youthful Obsidian. ("Tonto" Ryan take note.) They stopped at Suttle Lake some eight miles from the Santiam Lodge on their way back up north Wednesday night and a very enthusiastic contingent of Obsidians turned out for the dinner given in their honor by the Bend Skyliners. The dinner was notable in several respects. It was a very large meal and most of the Obsidians had already eaten at the Santiam Lodge earlier in the evening, which provided interesting complications. It was a very formal dinner and the Obsidians turned out in ski-clothes. Still it would have been a pretty dead-dog affair if the Obsidians had not turned up to help out (confided various members of the queen's party and a sky-liner of two). As it was the Obsidians turned it into a near riot in place of a funeral that it started out to be.