



# The OBSIDIAN



Volume IV

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No. 5

## Annual Business Meeting To Be Held October 7

### Dinner To Precede Business Session

The Annual business meeting of the Obsidians, Inc. will be held Tuesday, October 7, at the Fairmount Presbyterian Hall, 1507 Villard.

The meeting will start with dinner, at 6:30 p. m., price 65 cents. It is necessary that all those planning to attend, make their reservations by noon of October 4. Make reservations by calling Mrs. Ray Sims, phone 1798-J.

Dinner will be followed by the business meeting at which time the Board of Directors will make their various reports on the year's activities, and the new Board of Directors will be elected. From the following list of 14 members, 6 men and 3 women are to be chosen:

Dr. O. R. Gullion  
Alvin Lynch  
J. Dorr Hamlin  
Robert Wilson  
Clifford Stalsberg  
Robert Swennes  
Roland Burghardt  
Wallace Clark  
Al Hoffman  
Ray B. Boals  
Blanche Osborn, Marion  
Hayes, Florence Sims, Thelma  
Watson.

Only paid up members will be eligible to vote, and dues will be payable at this time to the secretary, Blanche Osborn.

An interesting feature of the evening will be a talk by guest speaker, Mr. W. M. Tugman (Ajax McGurk), one of the founders of the club.

The Annual Picture Contest will be varied this year—all members will participate in the judging; so come early and cooperate.

*"Show me your God!" the doubter cries.*

*I point him out the smiling skies;*

*I show him all the woodland greens;*

*I show him peaceful sylvan scenes;*

*I show him Winter snows and frost;*

*I show him waters tempest-tossed;*

*I show him hills rock-ribbed and strong;*

*I bid him hear the thrush's song;*

*I show him flowers in the close—*

*The lily, violet, and rose;*

*I show him rivers, babbling streams;*

*I show him youthful hopes and dreams;*

*I show him stars, the moon, the sun;*

*I show him deeds of kindness done;*

*I show him joy, I show him care,*

*And still he holds his doubting air,*

*And faithless goes his way, for he*

*Is blind of soul, and cannot see!*

—John Kendrick Banks

### All Wet

Don Woods and family of San Jose, California, while on their vacation through Arizona, were caught in a cloud-burst and lost their car and most of their personal belongings.

They were compelled to sleep out in the storm one night, with every thing wet and next day walk through mud a foot deep, barefooted, 14 miles to an Indian Village.

### Come Early, See Pictures, Judge Them Yourself

Camera fans, artists, photographers—your time has come.

Prizes in the Obsidian picture contest, as usual an important part of the Annual meeting of the Club, will be awarded this year by popular ballot—So all are asked to come at 6 instead of 6:30, to give more time for voting on and enjoying the pictures.

Rules are as follows:

1. Any member of the club may submit pictures which have been taken during summer or winter outing, or on Obsidian trips between October first, 1940, and October 5th, 1941.

2. All pictures must be 5 in. by 7 in. or larger. May have mat finish, or unframed with mat mounting and may be colored or black and white.

Entries By Oct. 5

3. All pictures to be entered in this contest must be in the hands of the committee by October 5th.

4. Each picture must have the following information attached: title, date taken, class in which it is to be entered, name of entrant must be enclosed but not attached to pictures.

Prizes

Prizes will be given for each of the following classifications: Landscape, Snow Scenes or Skiing, Nature, Human Interest.

Special prizes will be awarded for the best group of 6 colored slides. Committee in charge, Helen K. Kilpatrick, J. Ed Turnbull, Olga Mortensen.

**"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, Robt. Wilson.  
 Publications committee; Jean Randolph, Miriam Yoder, Margaret Thompson, Louis W. Waldorf, Wallace Clark.

**North Sister Attempt**

The August 24th scheduled climb of the North Sister proved to be no exception to the disappointments of mountain climbers the past summer.

The party of seven encountered low hanging fog on their arrival at Camp Sunshine on the 23rd, but as the morning dawned, the fog had lifted, had high clouds covered the sky.

The start was made, but only to be turned back by rain and swirling fog, when nearing the lower edge of Renfro Glacier.

It was disappointing to the three girls, who had not climbed the North, to Glen, who had planned a full length movie of the climb, to Ray, as this was to be his 16th straight trip as leader, and to Bailey and Raymond Jr., for getting up too early.

Those in the party, Jane Walsh, Mary Penoyer, Bertha Deckman, Glen Sims, Raymond Walsh Jr., Bailey Castelloe and Ray Sims.

**Attention—Women Skiers**

Several of the girls who attended the Ski Meet at Mt. Hood last spring are formulating plans for a women's Ski Organization similar to that formed at Mt. Hood. The purpose of the organization will be to promote competitive skiing and to develop women competitors in this area. Women who desire to com-

pete as well as help with the sponsoring of ski meets will be urged to join. All clubs belonging to the Willamette Recreational Council will be invited to join.

The development of women skiers has been far behind that of the men due probably to the proper stimulus for them to get into the races. Most girls are not desirous of entering Class A competition but will find there is a lot of fun to be had in entering Class B and C competition.

Class B is for advanced skiers and Class C consists of girls who have never entered competition or at least never done well in any kind of racing. Class A is for those capable of entering divisional championships.

The plan for the organization would be to have instruction meetings on skiing; racing instruction; instruction meetings on officiating at tournaments. If the organization was able to sponsor a meet, a good many persons would be required to officiate and handle housing etc., therefore all women interested will be urged to join even though they do not desire to compete.

**Princesses, Non-Princesses Meet For Party**

The traditional entertainment given the Princesses for all women of the club, was held this year with Margaret Norton as hostess at her home on College Hill. The girls enjoyed a picnic dinner in Margaret's walled Garden. Afterwards some went up the hill to the paved reservoir to roller skate, while others went with Minnie McCracken to see her now home nearby. The crowd later gathered again at Margaret's to play darts.

For the regular July meeting, the Princesses met at the Skinner Butte Park. Each girl brought whatever food she fancied and prepared it at the open fire. The girls gave Margaret Sprague, a recent bride, a lace tablecloth and to Miriam Yoder, a traveling case. Miriam has left Eugene to accept a position as librarian at Moscow, Idaho.

**Thelma Watson  
New Princess Leader**

A big event of the year for the Princesses is the annual change of officers. This took place at their September gathering, held at Skinner Butte Park. Nellie Moore retired as President, Thelma Watson, last year's vice-president, taking the office. Helen Kilpatrick, last year's secretary, becomes vice-president and Helen Wiser is secretary.

**Answer Call**

Three members of the Princesses, Celeste Campbell, Thelma Watson, and Margaret Thompson, have answered their country's call and joined the army. That is, they have become members of the Eugene Unit of the Oregon Women's Ambulance Corps. When last observed they were all on the floor at the armory giving each other artificial respiration.

The corps members will be trained in first aid, communications, etc. They are also trained to march, which will come easy for our girls.



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## Western Federation Of Outdoor Clubs

The Tenth Annual Convention was held August 30th, 31st and September 1st, at the Trail Club Lodge Nesika at Columbia Gorge just below Bonneyville on the high cliff. The meeting was well attended, being represented by Nineteen Clubs.

The Officers elected for the next year were: H. A. Hertenstein (California Alpine Club.) State Vice Presidents were as follows: Washington, Judge F. Y. Loomis (Hoquiam, Washington); Oregon, Otto Bowman, (Salem, Oregon); California, Richard M. Leonard, (Sierra Club); Montana, Lynn Ambros (Missoula and Utah); Ray McGuire (Salt Lake City).

The Meeting place for the 1942 Convention was left to the Executive Board to locate but no doubt it will either be at the High Sierra Club House near Lake Tahoe or at Salt Lake City.

The Salt Lake City Club. "Wasatch Mountain Club" is our baby member having been voted in at this convention and have every indication of being a live active club.

Very few Resolutions were passed at this session. The one that seemed to attract the most attention was for asking that money be appropriated for the use of the Forest Service to keep the Recreational Areas and Camp Grounds in good, clean sanitary conditions as they were first made.

The Park and Forest services were well represented at this Convention. Mr. E. P. Leavitt, supervisor of Crater Lake Park;

John C. Preston of Mt. Rainier Park; Lyle F. Watts, Regional Supervisor of U. S. Forests of Washington and Oregon; F. E. Horton of U. S. Forest Service; and Mr. Sedergrin, Chief Ranger of N. Park. All took an active part in our convention and seemed very much interested in our work and offered every assistance possible.

The Convention was represented for the Obsidian Club by Helen Kilpatrick, Olga Mortenson, Mertie Hamlin as guests, and by J. D. Hamlin as delegate.

The Trails Club certainly are to be commended for the way they handled the entertainment and meals, having good programs and many nice trips and climbs. Although the weather was not the best everybody seemed to enjoy every minute of the convention and left with nothing but praise for the Trails Club's hospitality.

## Gordon Gullion Tells Of A Lookout's Life

Unless you've stayed on an U. S. Forest Service Lookout for a month or so it is impossible to imagine the differences from ordinary life. Especially on Substitute Point Lookout.

To begin with the problem of water is the great consideration in living on Substitute. The nearest water supply that is consistent is in Buck Meadows, one mile and a half away. However, this summer I've been able to collect enough rain water to do for most of the summer. But to conserve this supply I found that it was necessary to get along on not more than a gallon a day.

Next thing to consider is the fact that at the beginning of the summer, supplies must be gotten for the season. And then I have to stand my own cooking for the summer.

"Isn't it awfully lonely on a lookout", is the common question. Yes, for the first week, I must admit that I got very lonely and homesick but you become so busy that you just don't have time to get lonely.

Even the job of packing water becomes somewhat enjoyable

when you think of all the people who climb for pleasure.

Substitute Point is in some ways the most desirable lookout in the district. For one thing, from the building you can see more than two hundred and forty points and more than four dozen lookouts. But on the other hand being the third highest in the Willamette Forest and just west of the Sisters, when the sun is hidden it gets rather cold at Substitute.

And then when an electrical storm rolls in! ! It got rather warm up there with over a dozen strikes crashing into the timber within a half mile of the lookout. On that day I was sitting there peacefully eating lunch when right in front of my eyes one, two, three strikes hit less than a 1000 yards away and then—crack—and the lookout danced a bit and settled back to earth. Then for 25 minutes that kept up. Fortunately all the fires started were soon put out by rain.

About the only complaint I have against a lookout life is the fact that you must be confined to the building from 7:00 in the morning till six at night. Also the beauty of the wide expanse of virgin forest sort of spoils one for coming back to civilization.

By the way if you ever visit Substitute Point — take your own water.

## EXPLORATION

"My wife explored my pockets last night."

"What did she get?"

"About the same as any other explorer—enough material for a lecture."

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Page Four

The OBSIDIAN

## Summer Camp Devoted To Collier Glacier Study

Taking a sick glacier's pulse may turn out to be fun if done in August at Sunshine Shelter.

Ruth Hopson, commissioned to make a systematic study of Collier glacier for Dr. Francis Matthes, senior geologist of U. S. Geologic survey and chairman on the committee on glaciers found an opportunity in the dilemma of the Obsidians who were looking for a site for summer camp. Why not combine the two projects and go to Sunshine Shelter for a cooperative camp giving Ruth her opportunity and providing pleasant vacation for all.

### Cooperation

It was a cooperative camp, sharing work and expenses. The week was spent in studying the glacier, and several of the party made independent studies of plants and animals of the region; several climbs were made.

The campers found that Collier glacier now has a muddy lake at the snout. The glaciers are suffering from malnutrition due to "Vitamin snow deficiency." Miss Hopson clearly demonstrates this fact in her survey, by many pictures extending back to 1933.

### Mushroom

Mushrooms were of great interest both at mealtime and as a scientific study. The varieties eaten included: Psallista canpestris, coral Calvatia, meadow mushrooms, and puffballs. Of scientific interest 'only' was the deadly poisonous amanita muscovia a specimen of which was found growing near camp.

Ruth Hopson assisted by Helen Smith had general supervision of the camp. Dehydrated and other concentrated foods were used as much as possible. This

made Dr. Warren D. Smith's task as head packer much easier. He filled this assignment so well that he persuaded the forest service to do the whole job for the camp.

The women appropriated most of the Sunshine Shelter building, their living quarters, and calmly pointed out to the men a grove of mountain hemlocks. "Under those trees you can sleep perfectly dry while the rain comes down in torrents," they said.

Lloyd Helikson was wood chopper; a big job—but the Lord was on his side and sent a flash of lightning which literally splintered a big hemlock into perfect cooking wood. Phoebe Smith edited the daily newspaper, "The Sunshine Times".

The cooking was shared by all and the campers vied for "Degrees Cum Laude" in the exact science of pancake flipping. Dr. Smith flipped his one big pancake miner fashion but Elmer McBee showed them the Alaskan style by flipping four smaller ones at one time.

The Middle Sister and Little Brother were climbed successfully. The traditional President's Tea ended the camp in a blaze of glory. Bailey Castelloe made the tea which was really remarkable. Some suspected that he put 'Electric Punch' in it.

Those attending camp were: Dr. W. D. Smith, Phoebe Smith, Ruth Hopson, Helen Smith, Katharine Dunlop, Mary Penoyer. Elmer McBee, Lloyd Helikson, O. R. Gullion, Bailey Castelloe.

"WE'LL ALL STICK TOGETHER."

### LATE DATE

She: "I thought I told you to come after supper."

He: "That's what I came after."

## If Autumn Comes— Can Skiing Be Far Away?

Getting ready for skiing season is almost as much fun as the slippery sport itself. . . . We keep hearing these delicious rumors about the McKenzie highway being kept open all winter this year. The reason given is national defense. Well, we'd hate to be beholden to der fuehrer for anything—but it's an ill wind, etc. . . . and if the pass is kept open for any reason we certainly will do some skiing up thar in the powder. We see there's a work trip to Hand lake October 19, anyway—just in case and just for fun. The work at Hand lake will be Sunday, following a Saturday night ski dance, etc., at the cabins.

Remember that mile-and-a-half of bad trail—icy frozen snow—under the big trees from Hoodoo lodge on the way to the open meadows on Jack? The forest service hopes to get a better route cleared out for this winter which will even be a little shorter and avoid the pitted snow in the forest. Ranger Burgess will be in charge and cars from Eugene, Lebanon, Albany, and possibly Sweet Home will take part. Tentative date for the trail clearing excursion is late October.

### SOUP'S ON

The Officer of the day, stopped a mess orderly as he was carrying a soup kettle out of the kitchen.

"Here, you," he snapped, "Give me a taste of that!"

Obediently he was handed a ladle, and he tasted it.

"Great Scott! Do you call that stuff soup?" he roared.

"No, sir," responded the orderly meekly, "that's dish water."