



The
OBSIDIAN



Volume VI

Eugene, Oregon, December, 1943

No. 6

President's Letter

More than once during the seventeen years of the Obsidian's existence has there been a very live interest in the planning and building of a cabin or retreat in the mountains for the use of the members. The diversity of interests of the members has always prevented the completion of those plans. Such a home to be an ideal one should be located at a point conveniently reached by highway; on a lake suitable for fishing and boating; near the beach; conveniently near many interesting mountain trails; in a ski area; and be well equipped for housing and entertainment. We now have a cabin which meets some of the above requirements reasonably well and at an insignificant cost.

There has been much speculation as to the desirability of a club house located in or near Eugene where its availability to the membership would be practically one hundred percent. In such a house and on its grounds could be held the monthly meetings, the dances, business meetings, picnics. In addition to the other facilities storage space for the club equipment could be arranged for. Such a place would be of value both to the club and to the community.

It is generally agreed that the location should be such as to provide a view of the valley and the mountains. It should be large enough to permit adequate parking of cars, a playground area and by all means for trees and shrubs. If at all possible, water, electric and sanitary services should be available.

The facilities of such a club-

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Have You Heard?

Tony Vogel doesn't hunt alone; he doesn't climb alone; he doesn't ski alone; he doesn't fish alone; he doesn't even live alone anymore.

No indeed, when "that distinguished foreign looking gentleman", Chief Huckleberry, took a week off to go duck hunting recently he started out by first making a little trip to St. Mary's Catholic Church in the company of Lucille Gray.

This was the morning of Nov. 9, 1943.

Tony says the trip was a great success and that he and Mrs. Tony Vogel are now happily installed in the Bryan Ryan house (the Worm-hole) on Whitten Drive.

Congratulations Tony, and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs.

Entertainment

The Entertainment Committee has been quite active. Besides the usual Thursday evening dance held at the YMCA, other parties have been given. The latest is the Thanksgiving Party held at the YMCA Nov. 18th, with Helen Kilpatrick and Thelma Watson in charge. There were music, dancing and light refreshments. And for a special treat moving pictures were shown by Mrs. Kenneth Taylor. These were color pictures taken by Mr. Taylor while boating in Idaho.

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party will be held Thursday evening, Dec. 16 at 8 o'clock at the Y. M. C. A. with Alfred Tyson in charge. Quite a program is planned, including singing, dancing and an exchange of gifts. Everyone is asked to come and to bring some small gift such as could be purchased at the five and ten. Come and meet Santa.

The Mazamas have extended this invitation to us:

"We cordially invite you to help us CELEBRATE the 50th Anniversary of the club at a Golden Jubilee Banquet to be held Saturday, December 11, 1943 in Neighbors of Woodcraft Hall, 14th and Morrison Sts., Portland at 7 p. m. o'clock, tickets for this banquet will be \$2.00.

The Governor and wife have promised to attend, our City Mayor, the National Park and National Forest Service officials will also be present, as will some of our early Charter Members.

We trust that a number of your club can attend, and especially the former old members of our club to meet their friends of the early glacial period of the club. Will you please make reservations by the 5th of December, for that will have to be our dead line for this party.

I trust that I may see your club well represented and with very kindest regards I beg to remain,

Yours very sincerely
Ed. J. Hughes,
Chairman.

1405 S. W. Washington St.,
Portland, Zone 5.

What Club Members Are Doing

Ralph Lafferty and Barbara Summers were married in New York with Lorretta Summers as bridesmaid and Paul Lafferty as best man. They are living at Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Paul and Jean Lafferty have left Elkins, West Virginia and are back at Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Paul is executive officer in the mountain training center at Camp Hale.

Gerald Johnson has been promoted to major. As you all know Gerald is one of the prime menaces that the Jap planes have to face. He has something like 11 to his credit now.

LOCAL WALKS

January 9th to March 12

This schedule of trips has been worked out by your local walks committee and seems to be about the best we can do under present conditions. We hope each of you will resolve to go on at least one of these walks. Advertise these outings among your non-Obsidian friends. We feel sure the leaders chosen will see to it that each walk is a success.

Jan. 9. Gillespie Butte—Vera Heidenreich, leader. This trip will probably start somewhere in the vicinity of Ferry Street bridge, and proceed over inter-

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Photographic Xmas Cards

Norman and Judy Lee were in town recently on a short leave from Ft. Lawton. Norman says he is "still fighting the battle of Seattle."

Bob Wilson is home on a 15-day leave. He has completed his training course at Farragut, Idaho and is awaiting his next assignment. He has been promoted to Storekeeper 1c.

The Glen Sims have sold their home and are planning to move to town.

Ann Brenner is now working for the Bekins Van and Storage Co. in California.

esting country roads to the butte.

Jan. 16. South Willamette—Olga Mortensen, leader. Start anywhere on Willamette St. south of city limits, and follow rough country road to west of Spencer Butte and headwaters of Spencer Creek.

Jan. 23. Jasper Rocks—Glen Sims, leader. A short distance beyond Jasper, some quite rugged rocks will furnish interesting exploring for curious persons. Qualifying.

Jan. 30. Tour of Eugene Water Board Plants—Hugh Currin, leader. This trip will give some of those "take everything for granted" individuals a chance to know what lies beyond the light switch and the water faucet.

Feb. 6. Coburg Mountains—Celeste Campbell, leader. If you haven't been on a hike through the park-like beauty of the Coburgs, don't miss this trip. If you have been there, you will want to go again. Qualifying.

Feb. 13. Mount Nebo—Cliff Stalsburg, leader. Cliff knows

of a trail to Nebo that will require a minimum of car driving to reach. This will probably be a real climb; so if you have passed up previous trips as unworthy of your prowess, better plan to go on this one. Qualifying.

Feb. 20. Ski Trip—Wallace Clark, leader. The local walks schedule just looked odd without a ski trip; and who knows, it may snow a foot on the 19th! Your local walks committee is eager to provide for any contingency. Qualifying.

Feb. 27. Bear Creek—Bob Lemon, leader. A drive to near Bear Creek school, on Bear Creek, east of Creswell, brings one into a rugged country, from where a hike of most any length may start. Qualifying.

March 5. Hills South of Eugene—Darwin Yoran, leader. According to Darwin, the Obsidians yet have a lot they can learn about the hills within sight of town.

March 12. Eagles Rest, near Dexter—Ray Sims, leader. This trip can be one of the very best, if some way may be devised for getting to the place where the hiking begins. Qualifying.

Register for each trip at Hendershotts, 770 Willamette St. Each leader will post here all details of his trip, such as time and place of leaving. Bring along ten cents for local walks fee.

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OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT—

Sleeping Bags, Packs, Hiking Boots, Canteens, Mess Kits, Radius Stoves, Carbide Lamps, Light Weight Tents, Flashlights, Ice Axes, Crampons.

HENDERSHOTT'S

770 Willamette Phone 151

*Downtown Headquarters
for Obsidians*

Service on the Home Front

Work! work! work! That extra work! We believe that most Obsidians are guilty of extra work this year. Those who live on farms of course take it as a natural thing, but when "city hicks" go out into the country to work, that is something.

In the early spring a bunch of active Obsidians were called on to weed Chief Paintbrush's orchard. And believe us, they did. At about the same time the S. P. made a call to white collar workers to join the section gang. In the sixty there were two Obsidians, namely Chiefs Spreadeagle and Smoketurner, both of whom spent their Sundays for six months working on the section.

When the harvest started Princesses were out picking cherries and beans. A number of Sundays and some week days found truck loads of both men and women out picking filberts and walnuts.

The love of just helping out has been the motto of all who have taken part, but of course the "pocket change" is also appreciated.

When the Fruit Growers issued a cry for those same white collar workers in the peak season, many were used. It was here that Spreadeagle and Smoketurner again turned out, as well as Sky Hook and R. Landrum.

Those who were assigned to the canning part worked evenings from six till eleven. Their work lasted a little over a month. But those who started in the warehouse where they stack the full cans of fruit and vegetable, work evenings from six to ten. And they are still working and wondering if their job will be done when the beans start coming in next spring.

There are also those who give their time to the Red Cross or a

similar service. The Forest Service trained a class of Smokechasers and one of cooks for Smokechasers and some in bundle and parachute wrapping.

And let's not forget the victory gardens or the canned, frozen or dried products thereof. Our President built one of the finest dehydraters in town. And how it worked this year.

All in all the workers on the Home Front have done their best to offset the manpower left vacant by our boys and girls at the War Front.

President's Letter

(Continued from Page One)

house and grounds would, of themselves, constitute an attraction sufficient to justify membership in the club. At the same time it would not limit the summer or winter outings to one area.

Many of the club members believe that an immediate start toward such a project should be made, that is, the selection and purchase of a site. Once that beginning has been made, work on the landscaping and on the building lay-out can be gotten under way. It is more than likely that the actual construction of a house can not be undertaken until after the war is over. Even then the completion of the building might easily require all the club's time and funds for two or three years. It would be an ideal post war project and should greatly simplify the work of the local walks committee for months.

Please let your board of directors know what you think of this suggestion for our 1943-44 objective.

R. B. BOALS, *President.*

Letter by Dave Faville

I enjoyed reading your account of the trip you and Ruth Hopson and Helen Kilpatrick took into

the Scott Lake country in July. This was the first I had known there had been no summer encampment, so I don't feel so badly about not being able to go.

Katheryn, Donald and I had 12 days in the Yosemite the first part of Aug. People were few over there instead of the usual crowds, but there were bear, deer and many birds all about us. I took one hike alone that might interest you. I climbed what is called the "ledge" trail from the floor of the Yosemite Valley to Glacier Point. It is so steep you have to pull yourself along wires part of the way—a rise of 3,300 feet in 1¼ miles. From Glacier Point you can see all over creation at an altitude of 7,500 feet. From there I went back by way of Lillouette, Nevada and Vernal falls and so on to the floor of the valley.

Previously I had spent a week in Bohemian Grove. I wore white shorts and shirt and, believe it or not, white shoes, and came in for a good deal of kidding, being referred to as "Purity in a big, big, bottle". We had some nice evening entertainment, including songs by John Charles Thomas and stories by Irvin S. Cobb. I first heard Ann Boleyn at the Grove but nobody sang it this year.

I'm still working part time for the Office of Civilian Requirements for WPB—in addition to my regular teaching. Have been checking shortages of goods. It is rather interesting work.

Best regards,
David Faville



Eskimo he say: Lighthouse no good—light he burn, bell he ring, fog horn he blow, and fog come in just the same.

Blanche Osborn

By Ray Sims

Flying a "Flying Fortress" is the greatest experience of my life", says Blanche Osborn in one of her many letters home. "These big ships move around so easily", she adds, "they seem like something alive."

In her first week at Louckbourne Army Air Base, she thought flying these big ships a man's job, it took so much strength. By the second week it had become natural. The third week she said, "It's really fun".

The 17 girls picked for the advanced work of flying "Fortresses" have seven days each week packed full of work. Their day begins at 5 a. m. (only the army would start at such an hour) and continues till 10 at night, with exercises, classes, ground school and 5 hours in the air for each girl, daily.

Their boundaries on cross country flights are the Atlantic ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Rocky Mountains and Canada. But she says that isn't enough. She can't come HOME.

In the picture in the Register-Guard you may have seen an emblem on her sweater. That was a "Fifenella" created by Walt Disney. It is a sort of Fairy for the girls, to combat the Gremlins which put ice on their wings or cause them to go to sleep while flying.

When she gets out of the army she says she is "going to sleep TILL NOON."

Letter from Bryan Ryan

Bryan Ryan writes from La Cross, Wis. that:

"I'm still out in the sticks at Watermeet. I mean sticks. This is supposed to be the much fabled North Woods. North Brush would be better terminology. Brush and more brush. The nearest town is Moon River—20 miles away. I haven't been there but I hear the liquor is cheap and the hotels good. Maybe I'll get down there next week end.

I'm now a snow-shoer, God

forbid. Skillern is up here with me.

Biff Nielson is the C. O. of this particular group and I'm appointed chief instructor. God knows why! We have about 240 men to train in the art of taking care of themselves. But it's all fun."

(Biff Nielson went to the University here. Obsidians probably remember him better for his ski and climbing activities in the Mt. Hood region.)

Annual Meeting

The 16th Annual Meeting of the Obsidians, Inc. was held at the River Road Women's Club House. About fifty were present. A 6:30 potluck supper under the supervision of the Princess club was enjoyed by all. Voting was held from 7:00 to 8:00 then the meeting took up. The Chairmen of the various committees reported on the year's activities and the treasurer gave her report.

Mr. Bruckart gave a short talk, thanking members for help in the fire fighting projects and told us some of the plans for the coming year and post-war activities.

A petition signed by 12 members was presented nominating J. Dorr Hamlin for Honorary Membership. He was unanimously elected.

The results of the election were read as follows: Ray B. Boals, J. Dorr Hamlin, Doren McKee, Darwin Yoran, Louis Waldorf, Frank P. Sipe, Florence Sims, Jane Hall, and Helen Smith directors for the ensuing year.

Passenger Car Situation

By Office of Price Administration

According to the Rubber Director's estimate for 1943 there is a difference of about 8 million tires between the 25 million needed and the 17 million available. Additional demand for commercial tire uses is expected to increase the shortage.

To help meet this demand, scrap piles are being thoroughly combed to obtain every tire that shows a possibility of any further use. By doing this it is hoped to reduce the shortage by 2 million with the hope of further reduction by whatever production of synthetic tires is possible. However the small quantity of synthetic tires produced will not be sufficient to afford much relief over the next few months.

Car sharing and strict conservation of tires by recapping and driving under 35 miles an hour are the primary solutions to the present critical situation.

Party at Skovbo's

A delightful party was held at Skovbo's the night of October 23, 1943. This was planned especially so Chester Pietka could attend. Three friends of Chester's Eddie Liskowiak, Walter Jakoboski and Edward Swinka honored us by singing several folk songs including the "Volga Boatman" with Chester accompanying on the accordion as only Chester can. Refreshments were enjoyed late in the evening and another round of dancing, of course.

A baby girl arrived at the home of Mildred Soukup, in Klamath Falls on November 14th. Mildred is the sister of Blanche Osborn and Doris Sims, and the baby's name is Nancy.

Stamps and Bonds Will Do It!

DIAMOND A

Fruits and Vegetables



The Best From the West



Eugene Fruit Growers Association



P. S.'s on the North Sister Non-climb

By Ray Sims

Nearly every week there was rain or snow in the mountains last summer and our week-end was no exception. Nevertheless, in my opinion, if we could have climbed the North on Aug. 29th, it would have been the earliest climb in all my 18 times as leader. The reason? There were well packed snowfields clear down to Camp Sunshine, and that would have been good walking.

* * *

Two Rays were not enough, so the lad from the Mazamas was named Ray Jones. This was the fifth time this summer that he had been stormed away from a mountain. Hood three times, Jefferson once. We invited him to come back again though, if he could prove he wasn't the jinx.

* * *

Dr. Kremer wondered if Ray Boals wasn't glad it snowed as he had "nearly" climbed the rugged North once before.

More North Sister P. S.'s

By Ray Boals

The theme song of the camp fire was "Smoke gets in your eyes". Sung without variations.

* * *

Why didn't the Forest Service course include a lesson in blind climbing?

* * *

Elmer and Ray were the only

ones to climb the North Sister. They did it quickly and comfortably from Scott Camp while lying in the meadow. They say it is a very restful method and saves much wear and tear.

* * *

The Water in the creek at Sunshine was so cold that the snow accumulated in the creek bed like sand. You could scoop it up. Fact.

* * *

Excerpt from Ed Kremer's note book: "Shorts are strictly fair weather pants."

* * *

Who said "Them clouds don't mean a thing—the barometer has been away up for a week?" The weather man provided swirling snow and sheets of rain everywhere without and some places within the shelter. Within a few minutes the would-be nature lovers began hunting bare spots on the floor. It has been estimated that if the would-be sleepers had been laid end to end or even snore to snore, they would have reached from Sunshine to Frog Camp. As a matter of fact they all did reach Frog Camp some hours sooner than was planned.

* * *

When 4 o'clock, the zero hour, came did they "all stick together"? Heck! They didn't even stick around.

* * *

Said the North Sister to the South Sister: "That guy Sims! After falling all over me for

seventeen years, he quit me cold." "Cold?" shivered Sims as he shook off the snow, "Sister you ain't kiddin'."

Princess Meetings

The October Princess meeting was held at Ruth Hopson's on October 18th. A rummage sale was discussed, but it was decided to wait for another meeting before making final plans. Knitting squares for another afghan was continued. We enjoyed seeing the pictures taken on the week's camping trip of Ruth, Helen K. and Myrtie. Later delicious refreshments were served.

The November meeting was held at the home of Helen Smith with 14 attending. More plans were made for a rummage sale and a committee appointed. Plans for the Christmas party at Minnie McCracken's were made. Margaret Norton is to be assistant hostess. Delicious refreshments were enjoyed.

Please Note

Our new Phone Number is

248
111 E. 11

