



The
OBSIDIAN



Volume VI

Eugene, Oregon, February, 1943

No. 3

Valentine Party

The Obsidians are going to hold a Valentine's Party next Thursday, February 11, at the Y.M.C.A., 1225 Kincaid street, at 8:00 p. m.

An evening of varied entertainment is in store for those who attend. There will be moving pictures, special feature numbers will be given and there will be an exchange of valentines. Glen Snyder will furnish the music. Refreshments will be served.

There will be a small charge of 25c to defray expenses. Come and bring your friends for an evening of fun.

SNOW IN EUGENE!

Skis were standing round the doorsteps of Eugene homes for three days last week, when snow blanketed the Willamette valley for the first time in six years. It was bound to come; for though tires and gasoline must be conserved — Old Man Winter wouldn't let his favorite children down. He knows they couldn't get through a winter without a few days of ski-wax stuck to the kitchen stove, the floor and the handtowels; or without Christies, herring-bones and sitz-marks on the nearby hills.

Laurelwood was the most popular spot, with the old golf course on College Hill running a close second.

Helen and Paul Wiser, Minnie and Bill McCracken and of course the three boys, Nancy Hamlin, and I expect Dorr, Corwin Seitz, Adeline and Doris and Ray Sims were the Obsidians reported enjoying the snow. I expect there were many others.

The Obsidian Club extends their sincere sympathy to Jean Taylor over the death of her brother, Major Tom Taylor who was killed in action January 13, 1943.

WORST FLOOD IN FIFTY YEARS

New Year 1943 brought to Eugene and the Willamette Valley the worst flood in fifty years. In Glenwood and those districts bordering the river, it was actually as serious to those people as the floods of the Mississippi Valley.

Roads and highways were closed, buildings were flooded or moved from their former locations, property was damaged, livestock lost and nine Willamette valley residents were drowned.

With the country flooded the New Year's party planned at the River Road Community House had to be postponed and the date January 16 was set. This date had to be cancelled so now we are hoping nothing will interfere with the Valentine party which will probably be held on the evening of February 13.

Blanket—Who Wants A Blanket!!

The Princesses are giving away a fine blanket to the person who holds the lucky number at the OBSIDIAN VALENTINE PARTY. The tickets are 10c each or 3 for 25c. The proceeds will go toward a War Bond.

A choice recipe will be given with the ticket and the person does not need to be present at the drawing.

Local Walks

Owing to the misfortune of our Local Walks chairman, Louie Waldorf in breaking his right arm (which was his left) the committee has not been able to meet and no walk schedule has been planned. Watch the papers for any announcements.

WINTER OUTING

There will be a winter outing at the Obsidian cabin February 20-22. The skiing and entertainment committees will co-operate with the outing committee.

Sign up at Hendershott's and watch the town paper for more details.

GREENERY TRIP

Obsidians have long been noted for their long miles, their long yarns told at the Annual New Year's party, but their latest achievement was a Christmas tree, 210 feet long, 62 inches in circumference and having 247 rings.

The main object of the December trip was to get greenery for Christmas decorations. Dr. Gullion, leader, invited the group to his farm and 13 accepted the invitation. On arrival at the farm Dr. Gullion's real motive was disclosed—he needed a tree cut down for wood. The tree was felled, followed by a wiener roast and picnic dinner around a huge bon-fire which was enjoyed by all. Cedar and fir boughs, Oregon grape and real Christmas trees to suit each individual's taste and specifications were then supplied to the following:

Bertie and Doran McKee.
Myrtle and Dorr Hamlin.
Jean and Dan McGeen.
Florence and Glen Sims.
Nellie Moore.

Bertha Deckman, Helen Kilpatrick, Ray Boals and Dr. Gullion.

Party at Skovbo's Jan. 7

Thirteen members and friends met at Skovbo's for an evening of dancing. A white elephant exchange was held after which refreshments were served. There would have been more present but transportation was limited.

"THE OBSIDIAN"

Member Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

Associate Member—Pacific National Ski Association

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President.....Mrs. Glen Sims

Vice-Pres.....Ray B. Boals

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Send all correspondence to the Secretary-Treasurer, 108 Monroe Street, Eugene, Oregon.

Entertainment — Doran McKee, chairman, Neta Behnke, Elsie Dotson, Jane Hall, Alfred Tyson.

Local Walks — Louis Waldorf, chairman, Ray Boals, vice-chairman, Ann Brenner, Minnie McCracken, Bob Lemon.

Lodge—J. D. Hamlin, chairman, Glen Sims, Darwin Yoran, Hugh Currin, Ruth Hopson.

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Membership—Dr. O. R. Gullion, chairman, Dorr Hamlin, Thelma Watson, Arthur Hendershott.

Outing—Cliff Stalsberg, chairman, Neta Behnke, Frank Sipe.

Search—Ray Sims, chairman, Ed Kremer, Miner Hamlin, Joe Heidenreich, Dorr Hamlin.

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A-C Sam M. Cox, AFBFF Lemoor Field, Lemoor, Calif., 43-C.

1st Lt. Gerald Johnson, 0428829, 57 Fighter Squadron, T Harding Field, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

John B. Merrill, Aviation Cadet, Mira-Loma Flight Academy, Oxnard, Calif.

1st Sgt. William C. Peltier, 186 Inf., Musical Ap. No. 41, c-o Postmaster, San Francisco, Cal.

Cpl. Chester Pietka, Co. B, 69th Amrd. Rgt., 6th Armored Division, A.P.O. No. 256, Desert Maneuver, c-o Postmaster, Los Angeles, Calif.

June Porterfield, S.S. St. Louis, c-o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

Candidate Charles B. Ryan, O.C.C. 121—7th Co., 1st Reg., Fort Benning, Georgia.

Lloyd S. Sims, S. 2c, Reg. 3, co. 18-42 U.S.H.T.S., Farragut, Ida.

Lt Warren E. Smith, Service and Supply Battalion, U. S. Marine Corps., Camp Elliott, San Diego, Calif.

Cpl. Robert H. Swennes, O.C. C. No. 54, Fort Sill, Okla.

Lt. Thelma Swennes, W.A.A.C. 714 N. Oleandro, Daytona Beach, Florida.

Toney Vogel, C.E.M., 51st Battalion, 2nd Platoon, N.C.P.C., Camp Endicott, Davisville, R. I.

Cadet Colver Waller, 2nd Classification Wing Squadron, 24 S.A.A.A.B., Santa Anna, Cal.

Robert W. Wilson, S.K. 3 CU. S.N.R., c-o Disbursing Office U. S.N.T. Station, Farragut, Ida.

Lt. Charles Wiper, Gray Field, 116 Observant Squadron, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Lt. Thomas Wiper, Flight Commander, Victorville, Calif.

Richard Hewitt, U.S. Marine Corps Unit No. 715, c-o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

Major Paul Lafferty, 87th Inf., Mt. Regiment, Ft. Lewis, Wash. First Lt. Ralph Lafferty, 87th Inf. Mt. Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Sterling J. Behnke, Pvt., 363 Base H.Q. and A.B. Squadron, Camp Williams Field, Camp Douglass, Wis.

Apologies to Lloyd Sims for not having your name with the list of members in the armed forces.

Vera Moves

Vera Heinderick and family have moved to higher ground. After having their home sold out from under them they scoured the country and finally found a place a little further west and north of where they have been living.

They didn't escape the flood, silver thaw, snow, etc. As to the snow and skiing they had the ideal place. They could go out their back door, up the hill and have a private ski run of their own.



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What Club Members Are Doing

Darwin Yoran led a trip to the cabins Jan. 10. They found everything in good shape. After a bountiful spread of eats (Myrtie, Florence and Josie Yoran were along) the afternoon was spent playing Michigan.

Lieutenant Gerald Johnson was one of three to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross from Maj. Gen. Simon B. Buckner, Jr. He shot down one Jap plane and reportedly saved the life of his flight commander.

Following almost immediately on the heels of this recognition came the award of an Oak Leaf Cluster, one of seven announced at that time. The citation — as released through Associated Press from Anchorage—reports that he voluntarily attacked enemy camps and anti-aircraft installations over heavily fortified Kiska Island in complete disregard for his own safety. In spite of heavy barrage of anti-aircraft fire he made his score and enabled a flight of heavy bombers to do their stuff. Are we proud of Gerald!

He is now stationed at Harding Field in Louisiana, but travels throughout the U. S. teaching graduate pilots the art of tactical combat.

Adeline Adams did not spend her afternoon January 22d shopping or working but thoroughly enjoying herself skiing.

Cliff Stalsberg was seen going home for lunch on skis. It was reported that Dorr Hamlin and Ray Sims skied to work, also.

Olga Mortensen has returned from a several weeks visit with her sister and family in San Francisco.

Mary Penoyer Castelloe was a Eugene visitor over the week-end of January 24-25.

Word has just been received that Chester Pietka has been advanced in rank in the army from Private to Corporal. Congratulations, Corporal Pietka.

Princess Meetings

The Christmas meeting and party was held at the home of Margaret Norton December 14 with Oneita Behnke as assistant hostess. During the business meeting it was voted to donate \$5 to the Red Cross for comfort kits.

Santa Claus made his annual visit and games were played.

Present were Doris, Minnie, Vera, Myrtie, Olga, Helen K. Florence, Helen S. Ruth, Thelma, Mary, Nellie and the two hostesses.

Doris Sims invited the club to her house for the January meeting.

Delicious refreshments were served.

The January meeting was held at Doris Sim's with Helen W. Charlotte, Thelma, Mary, Myrtie, Ruth, Minnie, Florence and Nellie present.

An interesting letter was read from Marie O'Neal Wright, a former member who is now living in North Sacramento, Calif.

The evening was spent knitting 6-in. squares for the Red Cross. Several who did not know how to knit were given their first lesson and at the last report were progressing nicely.

Buy bonds and stamps and bring our boys back.

The Basements and the Hills

Oh the basements and the hills
They are full of desp'rate ills
They are maiming all our good folk by the score.

Oh the basements and the hills
They are full of desp'rate ills
And the wise ones never go there any more.

But the foolish, foolish Helens
O with them there is no tellin's;
And the hills attacked and got one with a ski.

But the foolish, foolish Helens
O with them there is no tellin's;
And the basement slapped the other in the knee.

Then our laughing cock-eyed Louis
Snapped his fingers and said,
"Phooey!"

From such foolishness I'll never come to harm!"

Oh our laughing cock-eyed Louis
Snapped his fingers and said,
"Phooey!"

As the basement rose and bashed him in the arm.

Oh the basements and the hills
They are full of desp'rate ills
They are maiming all our good folk by the score.

Oh the basements and the hills
They are full of desp'rate ills
And the wise ones never go there any more.

—Mabel Currin

Characters, Louie Waldorf, Helen Kilpatrick and Helen Wisner.

We are glad to announce that Janet Hall is not going to Portland as recently announced. She may go later.

OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT—

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

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SCOOPED!

Last year, at Summer Camp time, some Obsidians (Glen, Bob, Bailey and Cliff) strayed back Scott Lake Way to see what they could see. They not only took time to sign their names and destination in the Scott Lake Forest Service registration book but took time for a "look-see" who had been there recently and where they might be headed. Two names signed on the same date line, one long familiar with most Obsidians, started buzzing on the old grapevine and there were whisperings around Summer Camp.

It seems that if a gal wishes to keep a secret from these Obsidians she should place her name in a book at the end of a far more hazardous trail than Scott Lake Way. Though Miriam Yoder was headed for home (Eugene) all right, Wendell M. Keck's destination read "Matrimony!" So—when Miriam was home from Idaho for Christmas she decided there was no point in keeping the secret longer! And the best suspicions of some friends were confirmed.

Wendell Keck is now on leave from the University of Idaho faculty for duty with the United States navy and is stationed at Houston, Texas. Miriam is still at the University of Idaho library.

No further details are available as this goes to press.

Another Chief

Major and Mrs. Paul Lafferty have announced the birth of a son born January 8 at the Community Hospital, Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Decline Invitation

We were sorry to have to decline the invitation of the Cheneketans to their Christmas party. Tires and gas rationing would not let us go so far.

Social Activities

So far this year the social activities of the Obsidians have been about on a par with other activities, mostly postponed or cancelled. However, we did have a very interesting evening of December 14, when we had our shadow sale and potluck, 28 being present, total receipts were \$11.60, with a small expense.

Mr. Elliott of the Forest Service, and Professor Beck of the University of Oregon entertained with movies. Mr. Elliott showing the effects of fire in the forest and methods of fighting and prevention. Professor Beck showed some very interesting pictures of his pet squirrels at Water Lake. He has the prize squirrel in captivity, and his pictures would indicate a much greater mental capacity than most people would give them credit for.

After the pictures the evening was finished in dancing, as is our custom each Thursday evening.

Red Cross Needs Help

More help is needed at the Red Cross headquarters. Anyone who can possibly do so should go down and help make bandages for our boys. Thousands of bandages are needed to meet the November quota.

The Red Cross headquarters are opened Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9-11:30 and 1:00-5:00; afternoons Monday through Friday from 1:00-5:00 and Wednesday from 7:30-9:30. The instructors are lovely women and anyone can learn to make bandages.

There is talk of starting another evening class and I wouldn't be surprised if a class for men would be started in the near future.

Let's have a table of Obsidian members. Watch for announcements in the town paper.

Lt. Thelma Swennes, WAAC

Stationed at Daytona Beach, Florida, is Second Lieutenant Thelma Swennes (Mrs. Robert Swennes), one of the first WAACS from Eugene to finish her officers training at Des Moines. At Daytona Beach, Lieutenant Swennes is helping to receive and equip recruits.

Our Speeder Upper

Ronald T. Burghardt, now working at the Kaiser Company at Vancouver as marine machinist, won first prize for an engine and milling machine in December, which will help materially in speed-up production. Congratulations, Ronald.

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