



The OBSIDIAN



Volume VII

Eugene, Oregon, March, 1944

No. 2

A New Service To Our Members

As a member club of the Western Federation of Outdoor Clubs we exchange newspapers with other member clubs and also receive the Mazama Annual and the Federation's Quarterly. As a member of National Ski Association and Pacific Northwestern Ski Association we receive publications from these organizations. We also receive the National Parks magazine and The Living Wilderness magazine.

In the past this very interesting collection of reading material has come to the Secretary and been filed away. We are endeavoring to get this material into the hands of our members.

The Secretary has bound these various publications and placed library cards in the back of each booklet. We will try to have them at Obsidian doings and any member desiring to take one may do so by contacting the Secretary.

Capt. R. R. Hewitt Visits

Dick Hewitt, marine pilot, has been home on a two weeks leave. It took him two days flying to reach San Francisco from somewhere in the Pacific. After that it was only a few more hours to home. He has been enjoying his stay though he says that with all the young people gone he "feels like a foreigner" in his own town. After a trip up the McKenzie he reported that "snow looked pretty nice". He is not very communicative about himself, however. Though he wears a presidential citation his parents still don't know what it is for.

Buy more bonds and stamps.

Letter from Gerald Johnson

Dear Obsidians:

Ever since I left Eugene, three years ago to fly in the Army Air Forces you have sent me letters of encouragement, and the Bulletins regarding your outdoor activities. I've been able to follow you on weekend trips, Summer Camp, and the ski trips in winter. Many new members I do not know but I can say I know the exhilaration they get from their first ascent of Jefferson, Washington, the North Sister. Glen probably remembers the day I fell on Jeff and took the skin off my face—Yes the volcanic ash imbedded in my chin is still visible.

As you know I am now somewhere in New Guinea. I have flown over these jungle covered Owen Stanley's for several hundred hours and they are really rugged. There are waterfalls with 3 and 4 hundred foot drops, peaks rising 14,000 feet into the clouds and over most, a tangle of jungle so dense that you literally have to cut your way through. This country is wild and unexplored and over all its fierceness and mystery, is a natural beauty I cannot describe. Palm trees silhouetted by a brilliant tropical moon. Sunset against the mountains and clouds, and the violence of a monsoonal storm. I still have an Obsidian appreciation of these things as before. Hope to hear from you again.

As ever
Gerald

New Rule

At the January meeting a motion was made and passed that dogs be prohibited from all Obsidian activities in the future.

Pictures

From Sea to High Sierra! a colored movie and lecture by C. A. (Bert) Harwell will be presented by the Natural History Society of Eugene at 8:15 p. m., Fri., Apr. 21, Chapman Hall.

Mr. Harwell is well known to some of the Obsidians. Myrtie says:

"I was pleased to learn that Mr. Harwell is to be at Chapman Hall in April. Dorr and I met him at Donner Pass at the Federation of Out-door Clubs, in Sept. 1939. Mr. Harwell invited everyone to go to Yosemite and about seven carloads decided to go in a caravan with him leading. He pointed out places of interest along the way, and when we arrived at his home he played the piano and whistled bird-songs for an hour or more, before we said goodbye and drove up to Glacier Point to watch the "Fire-Falls" at 9 p. m."

Missing in Action

Two of our members have been reported as missing in action in the European theater. Lt. John W. Brown, who was piloting a flying fortress has been missing since a flight over Germany. Lt. Colver K. Waller also is missing in action somewhere in Europe since Jan. 27. Lt. Waller was navigator and bombardier in a "skip bomber" outfit. We are all hoping that some word from these boys will be received soon.

Coming Parties

The Entertainment Committee has not yet made out its schedule for the next two months. Please watch the local paper for announcements.

"THE OBSIDIAN"

*Member of Federation of
Western Clubs*

*Associate Member of Pacific Na-
tional Ski Association*

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Lt. Colver Waller
Robert W. Wilson SK 1c USNR
Capt. Charles Wiper, Jr.
Maj. Thomas Wiper

Just received a card from a
friend who is a defense worker.
He writes: "Having a wonderful
time and a half."

This party ought to be good.
The Entertainment Committee
is trying to round up the Obsid-
ian talent and show it off. Come
and see what your neighbor can
do. You may be surprised. April
1, 8 p. m. at the YWCA. Alfred
Tyson will have charge of the
program. Admission 15c.

Dues

Will members who have not yet
paid their dues please send same
to the treasurer?

Thanks

The Princesses wish to thank
Helen Abrahamson for the yarn
she gave them for the Red Cross
afghan they are making.

Mrs. X glanced at the head-
line in the paper which read:
"Bank robbed! Police at sea."
She laid down the paper, "Now
look at that, Ed!" she said to her
husband, "here's a big city bank
broken into by burglars and the
police force all off fishing. What
a scandal!"

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What Club Members Are Doing

Chester Pietka, who was studying Russian at the University, has been transferred to Camp Cook, Cal. We miss him and his accordion.

Ace and Reva Moore are the proud parents of a baby girl.

Olga Mortensen spent a week in San Francisco visiting her sister. She says travelling is very difficult. Going down was easy, there being plenty of room on the bus. But coming back was different. She had to wait from noon till midnight before she could board a bus coming north. A passenger, now, is required to have not only a ticket, but a reservation also. The reservation is numbered and the would be traveller waits till that number is called whether it be that day or the next.

Nellie Moore is no longer working on College Hill. She says she would appreciate tips on a new job.

The Vocational School seems to cast a spell over some of our members. Ada Smith is learning woodworking there. Olga Mortensen has been studying photography for some time. And Gladys Lees and Bertha Deckman are just entering a photography class.

Nellie says it pays to advertise. She ran an ad in the Feb. issue of the Obsidian and had an answer before she had received her own copy.

Mary Donaldson was in town long enough to call on Charlotte Lemon between busses one day.

Jack Lamb Film Shop

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There was no Winter Outing this year but the Glen Sims, the Hamlins and the Yorans took one anyway. We hear they had a good time.

Florence and Glen Sims took their two week vacation visiting their son in San Diego. They went across into Mexico of course (get Florence to show you the lovely handkerchiefs bought there) and also made stops in San Francisco and Oakland. Though they went down on the San Joaquin Flyer and came back on the Coast Daylight Flyer, they report travelling conditions difficult.

Major Thomas Wiper and his family were in town very recently visiting his parents before going on to Portland to visit Mrs. Wiper's parents.

Helen Smith is being very modern these days. She has bought herself a pony. Helen says you don't have to see your ration board to get a hay card.

Dorr Hamlin has been re-elected vice president of the Fruit Growers again. Can Dorr be getting into a rut?

Gordon Gullion was home recently on furlough. He has been serving with the Medical corps at Camp Richardson, Anchorage, Alaska, but is being transferred to another base.

Brian Gillespie is at Stevens Point where he is taking a course of army air force instruction in preparation for appointment as an aviation cadet.

Capt. Charles Wiper is serving as observer and liason officer between air and infantry forces in the Solomon Islands.

Spoilage

A bill has been introduced in Congress by Mr. Magnuson which would permit mining operations in the Olympic National Park. This is House Bill 3084. Members of outdoor clubs are urged to write their Congressman and senators about it.

Parties Past

There have been several parties since January. The first was the Valentine Party and Dance held at Skovbo's. The next was the Leap Year Party, also a dance which was held at St. Mary's Parish Hall. This party honored Chester Pietka whose birthday is Feb. 29. There was a large turn out to wish Chester a "Happy Birthday".

The St. Patrick's Day Party Mar. 28, was at the YMCA. Mr. C. L. Andrews, writer of Alaskan history and description, who has spent most of the last 50 years in that country, showed slides of Alaskan scenes. His glacial pictures, taken at intervals over a period of years are especially interesting in that they show so clearly the rapid recession of the glaciers. The remainder of the evening was spent in dancing.

Local Walks

Frank Sipe

During February and March, only one trip has so far been cancelled. For this time of year, this seems a most excellent record. Attendance has also been good, with fifteen on one trip, and thirteen on two. While most of the hikes have been rather local, two of them, Mt. Nebo and Eagles Rest, were of the pre-war variety, and were much enjoyed by those going.

We hope each Obsidian who reads this will look over the April-May schedule, and pick out at least one or two trips that seem to his liking.

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Local Walks April and May

April 2. BAILEY HILL. Thelma Watson, leader. Explore the mysteries of this nearby country with a leader familiar with each nook and cranny.

April 9. Easter. No trip.

April 16. SPENCER BUTTE. Ray Boals, leader. Our first official clumb of Spencer this year, and led by our president in person.

April 23. MT. PISGAH, from southeast. Arlene Brant, leader. A somewhat more gentle slope than from the west; bring your rock pick and collect Thomsonite. Qualifying.

April 30. CROSS COUNTRY to Goshen. Alfred Tyson, leader. Start from south end of River-view street, hike cross country to near Goshen.

May 7. SEAVEY'S BUTTE. Elmer McBee, leader. A short trip by car and a hike through meadows and woods leads to a cool spring, where a noon lunch will be enjoyed by all. Lots of wild flowers. Qualifying.

May 14. BLANTON HILL. J. D. Hamlin, leader. This hill is southwest of Eugene, and will afford a pleasant afternoon walk.

May 21. MT. HAGAN. Bertha Deckman, leader. Many Obsidians are familiar with this climb. If visibility is good, fine views

Princess Meetings

The Feb. meeting was held at Thelma Watson's with Olga assisting. A bond was voted and the evening was spent working for the Red Cross. Mrs. Bartsch, Myrtie's friend from Canada, was a special guest.

The March meeting was at Myrtie's with Ethel Glaze assisting. More knitting and crocheting for the Red Cross was done. A report from the week at the USO was given and plans were started for another week in the fall.

The April Meeting will be with Helen Kilpatrick.

Don't You Believe It

We hear that at one of the recent Board meetings an extra figure showed up. Though this was highly irregular, the Directors went ahead with the business, thinking he would take the hint and leave. But it seems he wasn't that kind of a guy. So finally, giving up all hope of achieving elimination by indirect action, the President sidled over to him and murmured, "This meeting is for Board Members only." "Well," replied the unabashed intruder, "if anyone was more bored than I was I'd like to see him."

of the McKenzie country can be had. Qualifying.

May 28. LOGGING OPERATION. Louis Waldorf, leader. This trip to a logging operation, probably in the Fall Creek area, is being sponsored by the Natural History Society. It will be led by a member of the Forest Service staff. Obsidians interested in the trip will sign up, as usual, or contact Louis Waldorf.

Your local walks committee hopes to schedule some interesting trips for June and July. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. Transportation, of course, is the great problem.

U. S. O.

GOOD HOME COOKED FOOD. That's what all service men like. Did they eat their fill when twenty-three Obsidian women served as Senior Hostesses, the week of Feb. 21st thru the 27th, under supervision of the Princesses. The delicious fourteen pound ham, baked and decorated by Neita Behnke, Myrtie Hamlin's homemade bread and the fifteen luscious cakes and eight pies, donated by our women, disappeared like "Japs before a machine gun." The Board of Directors gave \$10.00 to purchase the meat, butter, doughnuts and other incidentals. No record is available of the number fed, but it was well into the hundreds.

Are our Obsidian boys, wherever they may be, taking advantage of U.S.O. service? We hope so.

Florence Sims
Chairman

New Members

Four new members have been added to the Obsidian roll. They are Arlene Brant, Walter Banks, Dorothy Halle and Col. Venable. We are glad to welcome them to the club.

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