



The OBSIDIAN



VOLUME IX

EUGENE, OREGON - MAY 1949

NO. 4

"OUR MCKENZIE HI-WAY"

OBSIDIANS IN APRIL

While the members of the Obsidian Club sit back in their easy chairs and have the "Clear Lake Cut-off Road" talked right down their throats, the wheels of fate grind on to its reality.

Some of the members, who have been skiing in the McKenzie Area since in the early '20's, before the Willamette or the South Santiam Highways were even built know that this "strait road to Eastern Oregon", is not that at all.

In the first place, the new "Clear Lake Cut-off" comes into the South Santiam Highway ELEVEN MILES FROM THE SUMMIT, which makes a winter driver travel over a-a- sand sinking road in places, and ELEVEN MILES of road that was closed for five weeks this past winter with THREE separate slides. This part of the highway, in its short ten years, has yet to see a winter when slides do not occur.

In the second place, it has been printed in a local paper, that NINETEEN MILES of new road will have to be built, at the cost of several millions of dollars, BUT the PRESENT McKenzie Highway could be modernized to not exceed SIX MILES at many millions of dollars less. These facts are common knowledge among the skiing public, as these statements were told to local representatives, by a member of the Highway Commission, before the war.

In the third place, a very vital thing to Obsidians, is that there will come a day, when the money that has been saved over these many years, will go for a new Lodge, or mountain Chalet, near Sims Butte, or Frog Camp, or Hand Lake, or some place near the THREE SISTER MOUNTAINS, but, will one highway, leading off from the present one, tend to stop maintenance on the present one? Would it not be a civic shame to see our good highway, near the beautiful snow covered mountains be forgotten?

--Ray Sims

The balmy spring weather of April has brought out not only a luxuriant growth of Trilliums and Poison Oak - it has also encouraged a renewed burst of activity among Obsidians. We hope this tempo increases through May and June, when the mountains should be really swarming with these "mountain folks". Here are brief accounts of some outdoor activities for April.

LOCAL WALKS

All trips scheduled for April were well attended. On April 3, a mass of Obsidians and friends, about 35 in all, led by Helikson and Beckett, swarmed up the south slope of Spencer's Butte, saw perfect views of the snow peaks of the Cascades, returned to Eugene and enjoyed a real dinner as guests of Blanche. On April 10, Ernie Ruberg guided a group of 16 into the Coburg mountains, the group eating lunch atop Old Baldy, and enjoying wonderful views of the Willamette Valley. On April 17, which was Easter Sunday, Thelma Watson was leader of a group of 8 hikers, who spent part of the afternoon exploring the expanding southern limits of our city. On the 24, Wayne Bailey and Horace Plumb piloted a group of 18 persons far up an old logging road, east of Wendling, into the old logging area of Booth-Kelly.

SKIERS

Ski trips for April 3 and 17 were not held. On April 24, a very interesting ski trip with 8 persons, was made in to Waldo Lake, from the Willamette Highway, by way of Gold Lake. It was a perfect day, snow about 10 feet deep, Waldo Lake frozen over.

On April 10 the bus trip to Crater Lake, led by Doris Sims and Olivia Watt.

"THE OBSIDIAN"

SUMMER CAMP

MEMBER: Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs; Pacific Northwestern Ski Association; Central Cascade Recreational Council.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ernest Keasling President
 Gilbert Sprague Vice-President
 Judy Egge Secretary
 Ray Cavagnaro Treasurer
 Dorr Hamlin - Adeline Adams - Ernie Ruberg
 Dorothy Steinmetz - George Korn

EDITOR: Frank Sipe - U. of O. - 3300-542

REPORTER: Adeline Adams-1939 Alder-3022J

PERMANENT COMMITTEES

(With Chairman of each)

Publications Frank Sipe
 Local Walks Ernie Ruberg
 Ski George Korn
 Entertainment & Educ. Dorothy Steinmetz
 Outing Louis Waldorf
 Library Helen Weiser
 Membership Adeline Adams
 Search Ray Sims
 Building Doran McKee
 Camera Louis Waldorf
 Scientific Frank Sipe
 Lodge Dorr Hamlin
 Climbing Paul Lafferty
 Auditing Clif Stalsberg

PRINCESS DOINGS

On February 21, the Princesses met at the home of Mary Gillespie. A committee was appointed to make emblems for the new chiefs. The traveling prize was won by Doris Sims.

On March 21, the group gathered at the home of Myrtie Hamlin. The evening was spent discussing forthcoming ski trips, and looking at Myrtie's collections of pictures and rocks. Black light was used to show their fluorescent qualities. The prize went to Olga Mortensen.

An April Shower was the theme of the April 18th meeting at Florence Sim's home. Bride-to-be Mildred Vaughan was presented with miscellaneous wedding gifts. Adeline Adams received the prize. Doris Sims was appointed coordinator with the Eugene Gateways Association.

The climax of each Obsidian year is our Summer Camp. After limbering up our muscles on local walks, and strengthening them on practice climbs, we embark on two weeks of uninterrupted activity in the mountains, climaxed by climbs of some major peak. Also after viewing familiar scenery around home, we are among new scenes, new vistas, and new opportunities for the photographers of beauty and color. Even the evening campfires and president's teas are the climax of our social activities of the year, with all the hidden talent brought out and displayed.

This will be especially true this year, since we will be in a locale wholly new to our club, offering an entire change of scenes, side trips, a major peak that few of us have climbed, and new minor peaks.

Camp will be at Mt. St. Helens, in Washington, in the Primitive Area of the Columbia National Forest, and on the northern shore of Spirit Lake, three or four miles beyond the end of the road, and facing Mt. St. Helens, one of Washington's picturesque mountains, with a snow climb of about ten thousand feet.

There will be plenty of good places to swim -- in Spirit Lake or smaller lakes-- and numerous streams and lakes for the fisherman.

It will be a camp that can be reached easily so that those who can get away for only one week, may attend, as well as some who no longer can take the strenuous trips --yet enjoy the camp activities.

The committee has decided to have the full prospectus in the June Bulletin; this will give us time to secure more accurate information. We plan to take a scouting trip to the area, and this can not be done too soon because of the heavy snow.

The dates will be August 7 to 20, so plan your vacation for this time. Several members have already signified their intention of going. We expect a good sized party. Look for the Summer Camp Poster, which will appear soon at Hendershott's, and sign up early, so your friends will know you are going to be there.

THE OUTING COMMITTEE

* * * * *
 * Louis Waldorf's address is 801 Oak- *
 * way Drive, and his phone number is -- *
 * 4268-W. He is OUTING Chairman *
 * * * * *

CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMP!

Would you be interested in a third week of Summer Camp during which families with children, and persons who like children, might come? The committee is working on such a plan, and if you think you might be interested, be sure to inform the Outing Committee.

SUMMARY OF LOCAL WALKS FOR MAY

MAY 8 SILVER CREEK FALLS
Ldrs: Dorr Hamlin, Myrtie Hamlin
MAY 15 CLARK BUTTE
Ldrs: Bayard McConnaughey, Bill Schallek
MAY 22 WARD BUTTE
Ldrs: Glen Sims, Paul Weiser
MAY 29-30 . . . OREGON CAVES TRIP BY BUS
Ldrs: Ray Sims, Doris Sims
JUNE 5 FERN TRIP
Ldrs: Ruth Hopson

* * *

SIGN UP FOR EACH TRIP AT HENDERSHOTT'S. A FEE of 15 cents is collected from each hiker, during the trip. The LEADER is in responsible charge of hike and each hiker is expected to follow his directions. TRANSPORTATION is usually in private cars; each passenger should reimburse his driver. A cent and a half a mile is considered about right.

OREGON CAVES

The Memorial Day weekend trip to the coast has been changed to a trip to Oregon Caves by bus. The bus will leave Eugene 9 A.M. May 29 (Sunday) and return Monday evening. The bus fare will be \$5.00 round trip; overnight and meals at the Caves will vary in cost. Since the bus holds just 40 persons, sign up promptly if you wish to go.

BIRTHDAY PARTY

About 46 Obsidians and friends met for a potluck supper Monday evening, April 25 at the cottage back of Skinner's Butte, to celebrate the April birthdays, a few of which were - Dorr Hamlin, Arlene Keasling, Ray Sims, Bailey Castellloe, Ray Cavagnaro, Bertha Deckmann, and Dorothy Steinmetz. Birthday cakes and ice cream were furnished by the entertainment committee, Florence Sims, Doris Sims, Helen Weiser, Shirley Couch, and Mary Castellloe.

SPRING SKI TRIP SCHEDULE

MAY 8 - SANTIAM TO MCKENZIE PASS
MAY 15 - DIAMOND PEAK - 16 miles.
Leaders - Jack Meissner, Gilbert Sprague
Stay - Overnight Cascade Summit, Sat.
Start - 5 A.M. Sunday Cascade Summit.
Arrive - Base of Diamond - noon.
Back - 5 P.M. Sunday, Cascade Summit.
Advance party will leave Saturday noon and camp outdoors at Yoran Lake overnight for Sunday climb. Others follow Sunday for trip to base of mountain. Sign up which party you wish to join.

MAY 22 - SUNSHINE SHELTER

POSTPONED TO JUNE 26

* * * * *

CRATER LAKE

Three Greyhound busloads of Obsidians and friends went to Crater Lake Sunday, April 10, where they spent the day doing many interesting things. Nearly everybody took pictures, and all enjoyed looking at the beautiful lake in its winter glory. Being frozen over did not spoil its grandeur. The skiers took the trail many times, returning by bus, and also availed themselves of the use of the two tows provided by the Rogue Sno Men free of charge. The day being bright, no one escaped getting sunburned, but everyone said it was worth it!!

DANCE ! !

All Obsidians and friends are invited to a farewell party for the Skovbos, who are leaving on a trip to Denmark early in June. The folk dancing will start --- at 7:30 P.M. Thursday night, May 12, at the Skovbo's Barn - Dane Lane - Junction City. Each person is requested to bring a dozen cookies. Coffee will be furnished.

SILVER CREEK FALLS - MAY 8

The Sunday trippers were out in full force to visit Silver Creek Falls. More than 35 enjoyed the potluck dinner, assembled and kept hot by Myrtie's expert hand. Her coffee was superb! Dorr Hamlin's trip around the loop was slightly altered this year due to trail washouts, but the hikers absorbed enough sunshine, spring flowers, roaring falls, and fresh air, to last them quite a while.



.....
 . SECRETARY JUDY EGGE'S ADDRESS IS .
 . 1658½ E. 13TH AND HER PHONE NUMBER .
 . IS 2461-J. .

SANTIAM TO MCKENZIE

Fifteen skiers led by Everett Alford and Melvin Lindley made a 25 mile trip Sunday from Santiam Pass to McKenzie Summit, leaving at 6 A.M. and reaching Alder Springs about 6 P.M. Hand Lake was reached by 2 P.M., and ice cream and fruit juices were dropped to the group there by the CAP. Big Lake was found to be still frozen solid, but one small water hole was open at Hand Lake. Those who went said the skiing was good, and the terrain not too difficult.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Adeline Carlton, who was married to Dean Lloyd on April 1st.

Mildred Vaughan, who was married on May 1st to Arthur Rhodes.

The Harold Trotters, who now have a new daughter -- another dishwasher Harold says.

Art Johnson, who was elected President of the Student Body at the University of Oregon

Phyllis Morgan, who shared the honor of being queen of Junior Weekend at U.O.

CLIMBING SEASON

In preparation for this year's climbing season, the Mountaineering Committee met Monday evening and Chairman Paul Laferty reports that a full schedule has been made out, and that there will be three sessions of Mountaineering School

at the Coburg Caves, June 5, 12, and 19. These will be under the direction of John Skillern, and Bryan Ryan, with the whole Mountaineering Committee assisting. Not only the Obsidians but all who are interested in the techniques of Mountaineering and climbing are urged to attend. The complete Climbing Schedule will appear in the June issue of the Bulletin.

SIERRA TRAIL TRIPS

A letter from Joseph C. Wampler describes two interesting trail trips to be made in the High Sierras during July and August. The John Muir Trail Trip lies through the finest of the High Sierras; the party is limited to 20 and leaves Whitney Portal August 1, 1949, arriving at Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite Nat. Park, August 27, 1949; Total distance is just short of 200 miles --- about 50 miles a week; you can join for two or three weeks; limit is 30 lbs. per person; camp chores are cooperative; a full month costs \$205 ---riding horses \$5 per day extra; full deposit required with reservation; for full information contact Joseph C. Wampler, 1940 Hearst Ave., Berkeley 9, Calif.

The other trip consists of circle tours in the vicinity of Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite or from Cedar Grove in King's Canyon Nat. Park. Trip No. 1 - July 2-16 and No. 2 - July 16-30. Cost per person per trip \$75 adult or child 12 or over; \$65 children 6-11. Trip limit 20 persons.

 SECT. 562 P. L. & R.

