



The OBSIDIAN



VOLUME X

EUGENE, OREGON - JANUARY 1950

NO. 1

SCHEDULE OF OBSIDIAN WINTER SKI TOURS January 29 to May 28

Bob Pfeiffer, Chairman of the Obsidian Ski Committee, has announced the following Ski Tours scheduled for the winter season: (The imminent publication of the Bulletin required some quick work on the part of the Ski Committee --- and so the tentative positions of the leaders herein printed may be subject to change)

Jan. 29 - WHITE BRANCH SKI AREA
Louis Waldorf.....Leader
Feb. 19 - WALDO LAKE - One Day Trip
Ray & Doris Sims.....Ldrs
Mar. 19 - CRATER LAKE - One Day Bus Trip
The Castellones.....Ldrs
Apr. 2 - JACK BUTTE
Ray Cavagnaro.....Leader
Apr. 16 - SANTIAM TO MCKENZIE
Don Nacker &
Bob Pfeiffer.....Ldrs
May 6 & SUNSHINE SHELTER --- Overnight
Trip - Supplies to be dropped
by Plane if desired.
Leo Paschelke.....Leader
May 28 - MT. HOOD
Harold Trotter.....Leader

THE NEW YEAR

Trite as it may sound, there's no time like the New Year to take stock of our present assets and resolve to make them even bigger and better in the last half of the century.

Our Obsidian Club is a heritage to us of an organization which was created to further the love of nature among our townsfolk and to teach woodcraft and mountain climbing to all who were interested. For more than 20 years our club has been actively and vitally interested in the beauties of our state and in instilling this interest and love in the young folks as they grow up.

The first hikes of the season are almost always the easy local ones. Then,
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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The present Board of Directors, after discussing the competitive angle of skiing at many monthly Board Meetings with the Ski Chairmen of the past 3 years, Bob Lyon, George Korn, and our present Chairman, Bob Pfeiffer, came up with a final decision, which we sincerely believe will be for the best interests of the club.

The club at present has a membership of approximately only 150 paid up members. Therefore, financially it has been impossible to carry out a successful competitive ski program in an area such as Eugene embraces. However, under such fine leadership as Bob Lyon, Paul Lafferty and George Korn the past 3 years the Obsidian Club has been able to offer a program to those skiers who were interested in skiing competitively, although each year the Board was aware that financially it was not a success.

The following motion was made effective December 12, 1949: Motion: That the Obsidians, Inc. decline to take an active part in competitive skiing. They recommend that a separate ski club be formed in Eugene; that the Ski Committee continue to promote tours, etc., and to carry out all other aspects under Section 4, Article VI, as far as financially able.

It was a difficult decision for the Board to make, knowing we had sent our Ski Chairman earlier in the year to the PNSA meeting with the authority to schedule meets under our sponsorship.

The four meets scheduled have therefore been cancelled, and a letter to the Secretary of the PNSA, Baker Ferguson, has been delivered stating the action of the Board relative to our ski program.

The club, however, is still paying classification fees for its members who apply, and Obsidian skiers desiring to enter meets in the name of the club will be given an opportunity to do so and will receive financial support with the discretion of the board.

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MESSAGE(Cont. from Page 1, Col 2)

With only this one phase of skiing, -- that of competition -- deleted from our ski program, our present Ski Chairman, - Bob Pfeiffer, has scheduled tours, cross-country and ski bus trips to areas little known by the ordinary skier. Skiers of all ages may participate in and enjoy this type of skiing and may thrill with the winter scene from some high vantage point. Charles Hessey, Jr, co-author of "The Cascades", stated in a letter to one of our members that skiing was in an extra special class of human activities -- and that nothing was more satisfying than cutting a fresh set of tracks on a steep, deep, snow-covered slope.

Board members at their last meeting gave assurance that a new ski club would receive whole-hearted support from the Obsidian Club. And such a club would have access to our ski equipment such as bamboo poles, flags, and numbers which are necessary to carry on ski meets.

THE MARLEY GALS

Two new members of the club, Beverly Steele, and Marjorie Landru (The Marley Gals), are co-owners of Marley's Sport Shop, featuring White Stag Ski Clothes and other outdoor wearing apparel. Also the club is privileged to use their Thursday night radio program over KASH for news and announcements pertaining to skiing or other outdoor activity.

PRINCESS DOINGS

Obsidian Princesses enjoyed their Annual Christmas Party, Monday, Dec. 19, at the home of Florence Sims. The traditional dessert of Christmas Plum Pudding made by Margaret Markley and Charlotte Lemon, with lemon sauce by Florence Sims was served at the beginning of the party. Coffee and salted nuts accompanied this.

Charlotte Lemon conducted a few games until Santa made her(?) entrance, with bells jingling and laughter ringing. Santa presented each Princess with a present from the beautifully decorated tree.

A business meeting was held after the festivities. The Princesses wish to express their pleasure to the hostesses -- Florence Sims, Margaret Markley, and Charlotte Lemon.

OBSIDIAN TRIP SCHEDULE

January 22 to April 9

George Jack, Chairman of the Obsidian Trips Committee, presents the following schedule of trips for current months:

- Jan. 22 - SPRINGFIELD PARK
Sterling Patterson..Leader
- Jan. 29 - THE BRAES
Dorr Hamlin.....Leader
- Feb. 5 - SUNDAY SURPRISE
Louis Waldorf.....Leader
- Feb. 12 - RAIL SPLITTERS' POT LUCK -- at
Obsidian Cabin
Myrtie Hamlin.....Leader
- Feb. 19 - DILLARD HILL
Glen Sims.....Leader
- Feb. 26 - FERN RIDGE DAM HILL
Bertha Deckmann.....Leader
- Mar. 5 - SPENCERS BUTTE
Henry Jeppeson.....Leader
- Mar. 12 - OLD BALDY
Paul Weiser.....Leader
- Mar. 19 - CRATER LAKE BUS TRIP
The Castelloes.....Leader
- Mar. 26 - VINYARD BUTTE
Vina Amort.....Leader
- Apr. 2 - FIR BUTTE
Ray Cavagnaro.....Leader
- Apr. 9 - EASTER

Note: An evening trip through the Weyerhaeuser mill will probably be scheduled after bad weather forces cancellation of a Sunday Trip.

PICTURE CONTEST

The Library Committee wishes to thank Dot Dotson, Ray Boals, and L. F. Coburn, for acting as judges at the Annual Obsidian Photo Contest. They spent considerable time and conscientious effort to select the best pictures from the many entries.

First and second prize winners in the black and white enlargements were: for Landscape, Mary Kaneen; for Human Interest, Bailey Castelloe, and Myrtie Hamlin; Climbing and Skiing, Dennie Koupal and Mary Kaneen; Plant and Animal Life, Mary Castelloe and Bob Pfeiffer. First prizes for the best 35 mm. slides in the same classifications were awarded to Florence Sims, Ray Sims, Henry Carlson and Paul Weiser and in the larger slide group to Mary Kaneen, Bailey Castelloe, Bertha
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PICTURE CONTEST(Cont.from P.2,Col.2)

Deckmann, and Bob Pfeiffer.

The club also thanks Doris Sims for showing her most interesting collection of climbing enlargements and Bob Pfeiffer for his slides shown after the contest. Several others brought slides which were of special interest. but could not be shown because of lack of time. The thanks of the committee go to all who entered pictures as well as to the judges.

Helen Weiser

BOARD MEETING NOTES

New members approved at the last board meeting were: Beverly Steele, Marjorie Landru, Morris Funke, and Bill Forrester.

Others approved recently but not before mentioned are: Mildred Erickson, James Jeppesen, Dolores Jeppesen, David Knox, Jim Wilson, Bob Fuller, Eleanor Edwards, Janet Barnhart, Barbara McBee, Ruth Porterfield, Knorad Wagner, Donald A Kohler, Euclid Paris, King Haviland, Hans Hoolaas, Nils Norman, Jean Hjelte, and Clarence Bankhead.

The following Chairmen and their committees recently approved by the board:

Climbing Committee Chairman --- Lloyd Gust - Cliff Stalsberg, Myron Stahl, Bryan Ryan, Ray Sims. Their first meeting will be held in the very near future, at which they will discuss and plan for the 1950 climbing schedule; climbing school to be held prior to the opening of the schedule and to run for at least 4-6 sessions (to include movies, VIP's, instruction and lectures, practical work, and to make available mountaineering books and other related literature.).

Chairman Lloyd Gust reported that effort has been made to locate all equipment, supplies and literature, and to provide a central location for the above.

He gave assurance that all effort will be exerted to provide a schedule suitable and satisfactory to the club in general as well as the assurance that all climbs will be conducted efficiently and safely to provide for the utmost enjoyment for all members of the parties.

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The Search Committee has been selected - in case you plan to get lost, - please notify(?) one of the following: Ray Sims, Chairman, Bailey Castellote, Roy Temple, Cliff Stalsberg, Al Weiner, Lloyd Gust.

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OBSIDIAN CLUB SECRETARY is Mrs. Ray Sims, 2181 Washington - Phone 4-9546.



Christmas vacation seems to have been a very nice one for many of the Obsidians. As soon as the snow came in December, the long-stored-away boards came into use again. Skiing was reported to have been reasonably good at Santiam and Willamette during the vacation.

The Jere Gillis Memorial for junior men and women, sponsored annually by the Bend Skyliners, was postponed from January 8 until sometime in February. One of the main reasons was the conflict presented by the Portland Day Trail Races, scheduled for the same weekend.

The Obsidians had originally scheduled 4 PNSA sanctioned meets, this season, but due to the lack of finances needed to support such a program, they have been cancelled. However, 5 tours, the annual Crater Lake Trip, and a special Winter Outing will be undertaken. (Tour schedule on Page 1)

The organizational meeting of the new Tri-Pass Ski Club was held last Wednesday night at Roosevelt Jr. High School. Ralph Johnson was elected President and Howard Carrells Vice-President; Lavrita Page, Secretary, and Uke Paris, Treasurer. These four officers will be joined by 5 committee chairmen, in directing the affairs of the new club as its board of directors.

The Tri-Pass Ski Club will start off the season with a giant Slalom, January 22, at Hoodoo Bowl, and will sponsor various other tournaments throughout the ski season: Feb. 12, Cross-Country Meet at Willamette with Class A, B, C. & Jr. Men and Class C & Jr. Women; March 26--Cross-Country at Santiam with same.

Baker Ferguson, Executive Secretary of the PNSA, spoke to the group, pointing out the advantages of organized ski groups; he also gave some valuable tips on direction of the club's activities.

After adoption of the constitution and by-laws, dues were paid for Charter Membership. Upon payment of dues each member received the club emblem, a subscription to "Skiers Informant" (official publication of PNSA) and a monthly bulletin.

WINTER OUTING

A special Winter Outing committee was approved by the board last Monday night consisting of Margaret Markley, Doris Sims and Lloyd Gust, who are working

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WINTER OUTING(Continued from Page 3)
together in planning this Annual event. They have announced that the dates will be March 22 to 26, to coincide with the Spring Vacation at the University. They will look into the possibilities of Mt. Hood, Santiam and Willamette, for the location of the outing and a complete report will be given in the February issue of the bulletin.

THE NEW YEAR(Continued from Page 1)

as the weather improves, some of the not so "local" trips, preceded by a drive of 50 or 60 miles into the mountains, are made, such as Tipsoo, Castle Rock, and Hardesty, consisting of 10 or 16 miles round trip hiking. A definite pattern is followed by the Trips Committee, in scheduling climbs with a gradually increasing degree of 'toughness', so that by the time the major peaks are attempted the climber is in best possible physical condition.

There is a gay expectant feeling among all the members, young and old, as they set off on a scheduled hike in the early dawn. Easy hiking and gradual slopes at the beginning, keep the novice from becoming too tired or discouraged about attempting something really "big", and as he finds he can keep up with the rest and get on top of some of the vantage points for view, his enthusiasm grows. Living in the valley as we do, we seldom realize how gorgeous the scenery can be from a peak or look-out station which is really only a short hike up! The wonderful panorama spread out below us from one of these view points fills all nature lovers with joy and awe, and presents a Roman holiday for the camera fiend. There's more truth than poetry in our favorite Obsidian song, "We take a look, and sign the book, and then we rest a week!"

Since all the trips are led by a couple of experienced climbers, each hike is a lesson in woodcraft and mountain lore. Always one comes back wiser in many ways, whether it be geologically, botanically, geographically, or just plain physically! Only the most brash novice ever dashes ahead of the leader to use up his first strength quickly, or ambles off the trail on side trips of his own. Quite firmly he is instructed in mountain etiquette and he soon learns the leader is THE BOSS on these expeditions. All camps or picnic sites are left in shipshape condition. No refuse or garbage can be left scattered, and all campfires must be carefully extinguished.

On one matter we must be eternally vigilant. Thoughtless campers and new hikers so often litter the trails with wrappers, paper bags, orange peelings

and the like. All this refuse must be buried or put in disposal units. The beauty of our mountain trails must not be marred by these evidences of carelessness. Even if the litter is not of your own making, "Clean it up, anyway" is the Obsidian motto. Leave a campsite clean and inviting for the next camper.

The training that the climber receives on these trips is invaluable, as has been proven many times in instances where an individual might have perished, lost in the woods, had he not been experienced in camping in the open.

There is a gay camaraderie between generations in hiking which is seldom found in other organizations. We salute those of the older members who have planned climbs and led hikes over many years and inspired newcomers by their enthusiasm - and companionship.

Only recently the Register-Guard printed an editorial of appreciation of our club and commended the fact that the Obsidians are always ready to organize a search party for missing mountain climbers, or help in any rescue work for which they are called. It requires knowledge of the wilds and organization to make these searches effective. This experience and "know-how" our club has, but they have not had any SOS calls for many years.

The Obsidians have been training others, even while they have been heartily enjoying themselves! We have a reputation to maintain - - - Let's all fall to and make it even better!

BOARD MEETING NOTES(Cont. from Page 3)

Those members who are eligible for the Three Sister Peaks Award and the Oregon Cascades Award are asked to make application for these to the Climbing Chairman: Lloyd Gust, Stan-Ray Hall, B-28 Vet's Dorm #1, Eugene, Oregon --- by Feb. 1st.

The Three Sisters Peak Award recognizes ascents of the North, Middle and South Sisters. The 10 peaks included in the Oregon Cascades Award are as follows:

Mt. Hood, Mt. Jefferson, 3-Fingered Jack, Mt. Washington, North Sister, Middle & South Sisters, Diamond Pk, Mt. Thielsen, & Mt. McLoughlin.

* MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE FOR THE *
* YEAR 1949-50. SENIORS PAY \$2.00 - *
* JUNIORS PAY \$1.00. PLEASE GIVE OR *
* SEND YOURS TO DORIS SIMS, MARGARET *
* MARKLEY - OR ANY BOARD MEMBER. *

SECT. 34.66 P.L.&R.

