



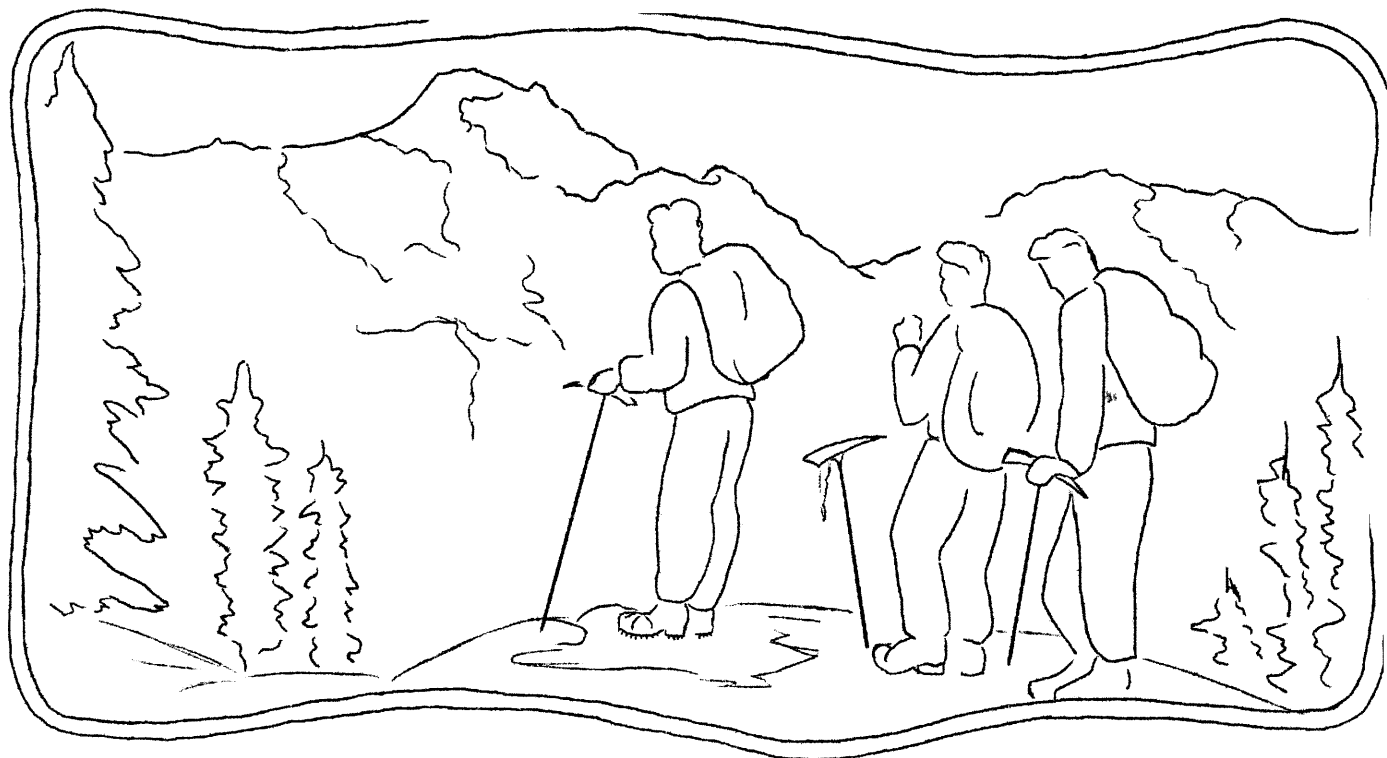
# The OBSIDIAN



VOLUME X

EUGENE, OREGON - MAY 1950

NO. 5



## MOUNTAINEERING

### CLIMBING SCHOOL

Despite the accidents and tragedies in the history of mountain climbing, the sport is not necessarily dangerous. When accidents occur, they are invariable due to ignorance and lack of experience or to downright carelessness. Most accidents are avoidable, given proper caution and experience in the craft.

For excellent instructions in the craft of mountain climbing, the Climbing Committee has designed a schedule including classroom lectures, practical work during the hikes scheduled by the Trips Committee, rock techniques demonstrated, rope work and knot tying instructions, and in general, a wide coverage of climbing techniques. The schedule is as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
May 12	Wash. St. Rec. Ctr.	7:30 P.M.
June 2	Wash. St. Rec. Ctr.	7:30 P.M.
June 4	Jasper Hills-Lv. City Hall	8:00 A.M.
June 11	Eagles Rest-Lv. City Hall	8:00 A.M.

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### *Schedule of Coming Attractions*

#### JUNE 25 - Middle Sister

This is the annual "Tenderfoot" climb of the Middle. Let's all sign up and make it 100! Leaders will be the Chiefs and Princesses. We can have a grand time if we all turn out. Let's all solicit. This is an excellent opportunity for you to initiate your friends into the craft of mountaineering.

#### JULY 1-2-3-4 - Mt. Adams

This climb will be led by Doris Sims and Mike Stahl. Doris climbed it twice last summer. Incidentally, did you know that Mt. Adams is the second highest mountain in the Cascade range (12,307). This massive bulk of a mountain stands about 30 miles north of the Columbia Gorge, in Washington. Mt. Adams, like most peaks in the Cascades, is an old volcano. Seven distinct glaciers flank her slopes with tongues of lava rock clutching at the aretes. A long weekend - so plan for it now!

#### JULY 9 - Three Fingered Jack.

This is one of Oregon's most interesting  
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## "THE OBSIDIAN"

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

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EDITOR: Frank Sipe, U. of O. 5-1511-542

REPORTER: George Jack, 1755 Mill 4-2127

## CLIMBING SCHOOL (Continued)

June 18 --- This trip will be to a snow course for the purpose of instruction in snow-craft and ice work. Register at Hendershott's for this trip, and also for the other outdoor trips. Watch the Register-Guard for later announcements on the climbing school.

## NEW MEMBER

Many Obsidian Summer Campers will be delighted to learn that Ned Graves was voted an Active Member, at the last Board meeting. Welcome to the fold, Ned!

## PRINCESS SINGS

The May Princess meeting will be at the home of Doris Sims, 2181 Washington, May 15. (No meeting was held in April) At this time the Princesses will work on Obsidian Emblems -- so bring your thimbles, Princesses -- and will also complete plans for a rummage sale.

President Mary Gillespie entertained the group in March.

## CANASTA PARTY SUCCESS

Doran McKee, Chairman of the Building Committee reported at board meeting a very successful Canasta Party. This first of a series of benefits to swell the building fund was held April 21st at St. Mary's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, with a profit of \$44.00 resulting. Ah, yes, with a lot already paid for, the Town Lodge is in the making! Watch for future events to be sponsored by this committee -- and be saving your pennies for this club project.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS(Continued)

ing climbs. Jack, although lacking in elevation, is occasionally a test for the veteran. An excellent opportunity to "time" those juice cans as they plummet into Eastern Oregon. The first recorded ascent of Jack was made by the Mazamas in 1923, 13 years after the North Sister and 17 years after Mt. Shuksan.

NOTE...The Trips Committee has scheduled Mt. Thielsen for July 9 also to make the first double-header weekend for the season. This climb will be in cooperation with the Chemeketans of Salem.

## JULY 16 - Mt. Hood

(1) Mt. Hood from the popular South Side and Timberline Lodge route, which will be led by George Jack and Allan Lindley.

(2) Mt. Hood from the North Ridge or Sunshine Route. This will afford you an excellent opportunity to choose your side of the mountain. Remember, the South Side is the easier! We'll meet on top. Leader of this Hood climb is Paul Livingston.

## JULY 23 - South Sister

The most refreshing climb of the season because "You'll always find blue water there". The South Sister holds, in her coveted crater, the highest crater lake in North America. The climb will begin at Devils Gardens and Rock Mesa. Don Nacker will be the leader.

NOTE...You may also climb Diamond Peak with the Trips Committee on this same date.

## JULY 30 - Mt. McLoughlin

This Southern Oregon Mountain is the scenic spot of the Klamath Falls area. A long, but beautiful climb. Long glissades on endless snow are usually found on McLoughlin. Fill your 10 Peaks Award with this one.

## AUGUST 27 - North Sister

Mt. Washington

The North will give the climber almost every type of mountain conditions from rock to interesting snow fields and ice. The climb will begin at Sunshine-Camp Scott area and will be led by Ray Sims for his 24th ascent.

Mt. Washington is an old lava hulk that stands on the backbone of the Cascades between the Santiam and McKenzie Passes at an elevation of 7,802'. Washington presents the climber with many opportunities

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## COMING ATTRACTIONS(Continued)

for rappelling, and advanced rope work. Washington will usually utilize all of your advanced technical ability.

## SEPTEMBER 2-3-4 - Mt. Jefferson

The climbing season for 1950 will formally end with the Labor Day climb of Mt. Jefferson. This climb will be a much shorter climb than that made of Jeff in 1949. The climb will begin at Jefferson Park in the vicinity of Russell Lake. The entire party may camp on the floor of the park. The general route of the climb will lead up and over White Water Glacier, approach the rock ridge from the south and ascend to the Red Ridge. From the Red Ridge, over the snow field, and up the west ridge to the summit. Upon returning to the park, you will find those beautiful, warm rock-bottom lakes to take that bath in. The Trips Committee is also scheduling Jefferson Park for their Labor Day trip so the outing will be well stocked with people to send us off and greet us when we get back down. Plan for this trip, it is a must!

## EQUIPMENT

Finally found out from the 1947 Sierra Club Handbook what the li'l ol' brush on a climber's hat is for. "To brush the dirt out of hand holds", - naturally - and while we are on the subject of equipment, don't forget the little items that are so essential. Remember, 3 for comfort: Mittens or gloves, sunburn lotion, and misc.; and 3 to find your way: Compass, map, and flashlight. Then you must have a pack to carry all this junk and there is none better than the Army Bergen Ruck Type. This model can be taken off the steel frame to give you a light climbing pack, and while on the frame will permit you to carry the heaviest loads. Remember, also, to load the heavy items close to your back. Why not throw in an extra shoe lace, a candle or oil soaked piece of paper to light that fire. Sox are very important so bring an extra pair. Then food enough! Found a novel item recently. Ever try Gerbers Junior Chocolate pudding? You'll find it very small and light and it tastes just like Grandma's old fashioned. If you like date-nut bread, then lend an ear. It comes in cans and may be heated in a fire without removing from the can. Very light and excellent substitute for squishy, squashed, and oozy sandwiches. Now put all this in your pack a-

long with your ice axe, crampons, canteen, first aid kit, extra shirt, sun glasses, etc., and you probably can't lift it off the floor. Oh well, that's life.

## PEAK AWARDS

The Register, posted at Hendershott's for the 3 and 10 Peaks Awards, will close May 31. If you desire to receive these awards, please place your name on appropriate register before above date.

All mountains officially scheduled by the Obsidians, Inc., whether by the Climbing Committee, or the Trips Committee, will be considered as official climbs, and persons making any of these climbs will be eligible to receive summit awards and the 3 and 10 peaks awards.

## THE NORTH SISTER

by Ray Sims

It was September of 1921 when the writer and ten other Eugene youths, under the leadership of E. A. Britton, physical director of the local YMCA, hiked from Lost Creek Ranch to Linton Meadows, at the base of the South Sister, that gave the hikers their first taste of the "grandeur" of the Three Sister Country. The Middle and South Sisters were climbed, but the only knowledge of the "rugged" North Sister was very vague.

It was four years later in the summer of 1925, that Sid King and two of the other boys and myself decided the mystery of the North Sister should be investigated. So, this time, hiking in from Frog Camp, we made camp about where "Camp Scott" is now located.

We had a beautiful day for the climb and as I remember the vastness of Renfro Glacier permitted us to walk right over the middle of it on a straight line and also to the thin edge of rock separating it from Collier Glacier. And Collier was so high, with all the rocks we now know being covered with many feet of ice and snow. The route up the red ridge and all the little pinnacles we now go around, were all climbed and down the other side, on that first climb.

The foot of "Prouty Pinnacle" was reached, but as it was early in the summer, and we had neither rope nor ice axe, we stopped  
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## THE NORTH SISTER(Continued)

there. The snowfield below the pinnacle, on the west side, was huge.

The Eugene Outdoor Club sprang into being in the fall of 1927, so as August of the following year rolled around, the first Summer Camp was held at the spot on the newly made Skyline Trail, that is now Obsidian Camp. Then it was just a spot on the trail, five miles from Frog Camp.

It was my pleasure to lead the first "seven men" from that first camp, to the top of the North Sister, on August 7th, 1928. We had rope, ice axes and a little more knowledge than we boys had, a few years before.

It was interesting too, to note in the small notebook up there in a tin can, that it had been left by H.H. Prouty, President of the Mazama Club in a solo climb in 1910. Also, but 63 people had climbed the North, and that no party of more than seven had climbed. Our seven members who enjoyed our stay on that first climb are: Henry Korn, Ed Turnbull, Dot Dotson, Frank Bouck, Ken Dalton, Irv Custer and myself.

The next year, 1929, I had a large party of twenty, this time we(now Obsidians) took up our first President, John Bovard, and also the first girls, Florence Ogden, (Mrs. Glen Sims), Elsie McHoes (Mrs. Dot Dotson), and Elizabeth McMahon.

As the years rolled by I have had the extreme pleasure of leading the North Sister Climb, for the past 23 years; I would like to mention that the Obsidians had the honor of placing the fine new Mazama boxes on each of the Three Sister Mountains, the same day, back in 1930.

Let's see all you mountain climbers --- come August 27th, I'll be there again --- I hope.

## *Let's Climb A Mountain!*

When the summer weekends arrive, we will find ourselves racing home with that gleam in our eyes, dive in the basement, emerge with that ice axe. We should have oiled last fall those faithful Vermonties we swore to throw so far we would never see them again, and those odds and ends like --- let's see, oh yes, a pack with miscellaneous items in it like Dad's wrecking bar, pitons, a block of printer's lead, crampons, and a slicker(don't know why). Toss all this into the family lizz, say goodbye to the family members, long since resigned, as they say: "Thankful that the insurance is paid up and that the neighbors don't know".

(Really now, folks, we know it isn't like that at all.) Just think, the dangers of the bustling city are all to be soon forgotten, no more worrying about the rush, rush, downtown.

We'll buzz all over town to pick up our hairy-eared friends, and...off to the top---which is really "Just around the corner". Soon we find ourselves in the thinning timber, ever upward---upward---and at long last, high in the screaming crags, and the summit. Here we can forget our chilblains, aching joints, freezing flesh, and weariness, for this matchless beauty where we can see Mt. Shasta down in California, and Mt. Rainier up in Washington, the Eastern Oregon wheatfields, the green Willamette Valley, and spit a mile. It will be wonderful to be back on the mountains once more. Do you suppose that man is still standing on the Middle? Especially anxious to see what the Lava-Larvae did to the chimney on Jack. This season should be a very fine year for climbing with the extra pack of snow to make those snowfields stay just a li'l while longer, so see y'all then...huh?

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### RUMMAGE SALE PLANNED

All you Obsidians who have rummage you would like to dispose of --- please hang on to it a few more days, as the Princesses are planning a giant rummage sale --- very soon. You will receive a postcard telling you where to leave your goods and when, or whom to call to have it picked up.

Housewife...spare that old lamp, --- odd dish, dog-eared book, etc...

### STILL SOME SKIING

The remainder of the winter ski tour schedule shows a trip to Sunshine Shelter coming up soon. It was originally scheduled for May 6 & 7, but the McKenzie Highway is not yet open to Alder Springs. The announced date of its complete opening is June 15.

So watch the Register-Guard and the Obsidian Bulletin board for announcement of this annual favorite ski tour.

Also in May, on Sunday the 28th, Harold Trotter will lead a trip to Mt. Hood. If enough interest is shown, a bus may be scheduled for this trip. However, whatever the transportation, plan to re-visit Hood's enticing snow trails, and sign up at Hendershott's.

Winter's not over yet! Paper reports 12  
(Continued on Page 6 - Col 2)

## *Primitive Areas*

The San Jacinto Primitive Area is a part of the San Bernardino National Forest, and is situated just west of Palm Springs, California. Powerful pressure is being exerted, for permission to build an aerial tramway across a certain portion of the Primitive Area. Perry Thompson, Regional Forester for the California Region, and a former Eugenian, will have much to say as to whether this permit goes through. The following letters, and many others, have been sent to Mr. Thompson, from organizations like the Obsidians:

Mr. P. A. Thompson, Regional Forester  
U. S. Forest Service  
630 Sansome St., San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Friend Perry:

On the 20th day of April, you will make one of the major decisions of your life.

It will be whether you will consistently uphold and defend the things which you and I have advocated, supported and fought for, namely: the preservation of certain of our Wilderness Areas for the benefit of this and future generations, or whether you shall allow one of the finest fruits and monuments of your life work to be destroyed.

I refer to the application to violate the San Jacinto Wild Area by running a tramway across it for the benefit of commercial interests, with all the attendant construction, destruction and litter of man-made things, as well as the kind of destruction and litter its completion will invite. It is true that only a small portion would be taken; but it is taking out the HEART; it would be dominating the Area; and it would be tearing out the HEART of every conservationist and nature-lover in the Area, as well as thousands of us who have never visited it.

Furthermore, THIS WOULD BE AN OPENING WEDGE, a precedent to invade, to cut up, and to defeat the purpose of every WILDERNESS AND WILD AREA in the National Forests. I know of proposals in this area (the Three Sisters and Three Fingered Jack Areas of our Willamette National Forest) which would be encouraged by the wrong decision in this case.

You helped to establish these areas and to determine their boundaries. Would you like to see the Three Sisters Wilderness Area and Jefferson Park Wilderness Area so despoiled?

Let not this and future generations say that you were the one who recommended to your superiors that action be taken to undo the fine work of your lifetime! You are eligible for retirement. To the end, stand by your fine record and what you know is right and laudable.

I speak for myself, also as authorized conservation representative of the Obsidians, Inc. (Mountaineering Club), a member of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs.

Sincerely yours,  
Louis W. Waldorf

Frank Sipe, Vice-President of the FWOC for Oregon, also wrote to Mr. Thompson stressing two arguments which stand out especially against the proposed plan:

(1) As population increases in any area, such as is taking place very rapidly now in Southern California, the value of Primitive Areas becomes greater: to the scientist, who finds great value in such unaltered areas; and to that ever present segment of any population who find inspiration in areas accessible only by the crudest of trails.

(2) Relaxing the rule about commercial developments in Primitive Areas, or removing certain segments from the Primitive Area, for commercial development (which is equivalent to relaxing the rule), would, of course, pave the way for like action in other areas, whenever population pressures become great enough. To us, here in Oregon, this might well mean that some day a tramway might be built up the MIDDLE SISTER, or a commercial airplane landing in JEFFERSON PARK.

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A LETTER FROM BILL PARKE

Regional Forester,

Willamette National Forest

Professor F. P. Sipe

University of Oregon

Eugene, Oregon

Dear Professor Sipe:

Many thanks for the copy of "The Obsidian", which contains your editorial on "Our National Forest".

It was a pleasure to sit in with you and Roy Elliott on the discussion of various conservation and recreation topics pertaining to the Willamette and other forests. The Obsidians have always been helpful in our forestry program and, thanks to your added interest in such matters, I am sure other members will also benefit.

Best personal regards, William N. Parke

## SUMMER CAMP

Remember! Summer Camp this year is really going to be "Out of This World!" We're heading for the Grand Tetons in Wyoming! Begin planning now for your vacation, August 5-20. You can't afford to miss this big event, for several reasons. It will be one of the biggest summer camps ever planned. An enterprising mountaineer could climb for weeks and not get all the climbing done that he wanted to, and the wilderness lovers will find that here Nature has done her very best.

The way the plans now stand, we will charter a Greyhound bus, and, with our own Clancy driving, set out en masse for the greatest of all vacations. They say it takes only 33 hours, and it may be done without stop-over except for meals and occasional leg-stretching.

There will be no long hike in, and our de luxe transportation will take us right to a campsite that has everything. The Mazamas enjoyed this paradise last year and said they even had running water; but perhaps that's too civilized for Obsidians!

With the snow-covered peaks of the Grand Teton, Teewinot and Mt. Moran towering above, Jenny and String Lakes are set like jewels to reflect them, and offer vistas of unlimited beauty from the trails. String Lake will be our destination with a campsite specifically set aside for groups like ours, far enough from the main auto road to make us feel alone and untrammelled, with bathing, boating and horse-back riding for additional recreation.

Surprise Lake is a fisherman's heaven, they say, so maybe you'd better take that fishing gear along. As an added inducement (as though you need any - by now!) we may drive up into Yellowstone National Park and have a sight-seeing tour in our own private bus.

You'll all want to be there, to hear the "Last call to breakfast" (Edna Temple will be cook again), and to rope up on the most exciting mountain range in America. See Ray Sims or Roy Temple for more information. Detailed announcements will be in the next issue of the Bulletin.

## Coast Trip

What could be more fun than a day at the coast in May? That's what the Obsidians are offering you on the weekend of May 20-21. If the weather is fine we'll take our sleeping bags, stay overnight at the Cape Perpetua Forest Camp, and have a preview of the kind of campfires we are going to have at Summer Camp.

But if the weather is drippy, we are going to have a big cabin at Edgewater where we can stay warm and dry overnight. Sunday there will be a hike up Cape Perpetua or to one of the many fascinating marine gardens. Watch Hendershott's for details. C. Scherer & B. Beckett, Leaders.

STILL SOME SKIING(Continued)  
inches of new snow on Santiam Pass Tuesday night. Let's go skiing!

George and Trilla Korn left Wednesday morning for Sun Valley where they will attend the National Ski Association Convention this weekend, George as official delegate from the Pacific Northwestern Ski Association, of which he is a director.

### Dr. Smith Recovering

Dr. Warren D. Smith is at home now recuperating from a siege in the hospital. He is very glad to be at home and wants no more of operations.

### >DUES ARE PAST DUE

\*Please send in your dues if not paid since last Annual Meeting. According to our constitution, the board must drop from membership, those whose dues are not paid within a certain time. Read your constitution. Send dues to Doris Sims, Secretary, 2181 Washington Street.

MAY 19 CLIMBING SCHOOL  
CHANGED TO JUNE 2  
PLEASE FOLLOW THE SCHEDULE FOR  
CLIMBING SCHOOL AS PRINTED IN  
THIS BULLETIN, AS THE MAY 19  
SESSION HAD TO BE POSTPONED TO  
JUNE 2 DUE TO A CANCELLATION OF  
RESERVATION AFTER THE POSTCARDS  
WERE MAILED OUT.

SECT. 34.66 P.L.&R.

