



# The OBSIDIAN



VOLUME XI

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NO. 4



## WE TAKE TO THE TRAILS!

### *The John Craig Memorial Ski Race*

Obsidians will be proudly showing off their corner of "God's Earth", to skiers from all over the Northwest, on the morning of April 28. Glen and Ray Sims, and Bailey Castelloe, with assistance from Doris Sims, PNSA Ski Touring Chairman, will lead a special tour across the McKenzie Pass Highway, packing the trail for the competitors in the JOHN CRAIG MEMORIAL SKI RACE, who will follow four hours later.

The Obsidians, working with the Tri-Pass Ski Club, sponsors of the race, will be giving the non-racer the opportunity to see the magnificent McKenzie country under its white blanket - making it possible for more to share in the wonderful spirit of this type of skiing. Also, through the combined attraction of tour and race, it is hoped to familiarize more skiers with touring.

The racers, scheduled to leave the starting gates at Windy Point, east of the Pass, at 11 a.m., will run approximately 18 miles, finishing at Alder Springs, on the west side. One of the most interesting classes will probably be that of the veterans, men over 35. It is hoped that the entry list will include some of the names of the men who make records in the McKenzie country

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### *Trips For April*

APRIL 8 - MT. PISGAH from the southeast.

This is an easy hike which will help get us in condition for real hiking later. Dorothy Scherer and Ian Walker will lead.

APRIL 15 - CAP HAGEN, Qualifying. Near Nimrod in the McKenzie area. Keith Brunig, Leader.

APRIL 22 - SEAVEY BUTTE in the Coburg Mts. Frank Sipe, Leader. A delightful climb, with spring flowers coloring the hills.

APRIL 29 - LAIRSON ROCK, Qualifying. John King will lead this one, across the river from Oakridge. Here's your chance to follow in the footsteps of a KING!

MAY 6 - EAGLE ROCK, McKenzie River country. Ray Sims, leader.

### SCHEDULE OUT

The schedule of hikes and climbs for the entire year is enclosed with the Bulletin this month. Put it in a safe place for future reference and join us in exploring the beauties of Nature in our State. Bring your friends with you. Remember, everyone is welcome. Extra Copies are available at Hender-shott's or from Committee members.

**"THE OBSIDIAN"**

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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<b>EDITOR:</b> Blanche Beckett — Phone 5-4569	
<b>REPORTER:</b> Adeline Adams — Phone 5-6526	

**NEWS NOTES**

\* Adeline Adams is our new Reporter for the Bulletin; leaders should call her to have notices of trips and social events placed in the Register-Guard. Phone 5-6526.

\* Harold Jack, serving in Korea, was wounded in the hand on the 15th of March. Recovered now, he is back in active duty near the 38th parallel. New Address: "H" Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Marine Regt., 1st Marine Div., FMF PAC, c/o FPO, San Francisco.

\* Don Temple received his First Class Rating recently, while his parents and those of Gilbert Bissell were in Texas visiting the boys. There is a slight change in his address which is posted at Hendershott's.

\* Euc Paris and Bob Pfeiffer have spent several days at home recently, Euc with a cast on his leg, and Bob with a new title of "head cook", and looking a little heavier — due, he says, to his "own cooking".

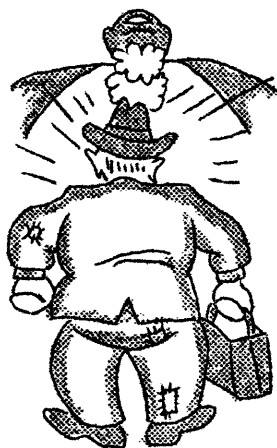
\* These Librarians! Now Helen Erickson is planning on taking a MRS degree in Home-making sometime early in June. James Lawson Cruickshank of Donnelly, Idaho, is the lucky guy and he's going to take Helen back to the spud state to live. Best wishes of the club go with you, Helen.

\* Barbara Gust is leaving for California next week where she and Lloyd will make their home while he is stationed there.

\* Dick Paris has been home also ... what a grand reunion for a grand family!

\* Dale Christensen of Junction City, has served our country in the Navy for 2½ years now, and has been in Japan since Oct. 1, 1950, his mother informs us. He is stationed on an ammunition supply ship, which delivers ammunition to destroyer ships in the fighting area. Recently his ship accomplished the rearming of the St. Paul, The Missouri, two destroyers, and the aircraft carrier Bataan. Dale's address will be printed in the next issue of Obsidian.

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**DON'T MISS OUT****"OLD TIMERS' PARTY"**

The Building and Entertainment Committees have scheduled an "OLD TIMERS PARTY" to be held at the River Road Women's Club House, corner River Rd. and Hillcrest Drive, April 26th at 6:30 P.M.

This will be an old fashioned BASKET SOCIAL followed by DANCING. CHESTER PIETKA will be there with his accordion, and you know what that means...a good time for all with plenty of dancing. Girls you'd better pretty up those baskets to bring a good price...proceeds go to our Building Fund, and Boys, whatever you do don't forget your purse. Basket should contain Chicken or Turkey (yum!yum!), Salad and Dessert, with whatever additional you wish to include. Coffee, cream, and sugar will be furnished. If you don't dance, there will be cards.

Dress in old clothes ... in anything... that suits your fancy, but DON'T dress in your best. All old time Obsidians are especially invited. So bring your children and friends ... let's make this a real old "family githern". Invitations will be mailed, additional ones enclosed are to be given or mailed to friends. At least bring another couple.

The "Basketeers" will start to auction the baskets promptly at 6:30. Mark this date on your calendar, THURSDAY, APRIL 26. Don't forget or you will miss a fine dinner and a gay time.

**WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS**

Assoc.: Paul Buchner	2091 Friendly
Eugene M. Sebring	Box 249, Rt. 4
Helen Johnson	284 E. 16th
Rhoda Banks	364 E. 13th
Active: Richard J. "Rick" Pittman	1810 Fairmount
Junior: Jan Gilhausen	2226 Kincaid

**OUR BOYS IN THE ARMED FORCES**

GILBERT BISSELL	BILL LINDGREN
PHIL CAMPBELL	JACK LYONS
DALE CHRISTENSEN	EUCLED PARIS
LLOYD GUST	RICHARD PARIS
HAROLD JACK	BOB PFEIFFER
RALPH JOHNSON	NORMAN RICHARDS

DON TEMPLE

# OUR GREAT WILDERNESS LABORATORY

Harriet W. Thomson

All who know the thrill of high country and wilderness domain cannot but be pleased with the plans of the Forest Service to establish new Wild Areas in the Cascades and adjoining regions as described in the August-September 1950 issue of the Obsidian. These, with the already dedicated Three Sisters Wilderness Area which it is stated, "will remain substantially the same so far as recreational values are concerned", will provide a greater range of the wonderful recreational opportunities right in our back yard, or is it in our front yard?

But what does this about the Three Sisters Wilderness Area "remaining substantially the same" mean? Simply that, as stated in the above-mentioned article, the Forest Service, finding much of the western part of this Area apparently of little recreational value, decided to open it to timber harvesting without considering other possible values.

It is felt that the very important value of this region has not received sufficient consideration, that it is a perfect laboratory for scientific research the like of which does not exist, so far as the writer knows, in such a sizable, continuous, and almost undisturbed condition in any of the wilderness, wild, virgin or natural areas of the western ranges. It extends from the ten thousand three hundred foot elevation down to nineteen hundred feet at its western border. It contains four life zones in which the higher plants and animals are known but of its lower forms not so much is known. Adequate collections of such plants as fungi, liverworts, etc., and of such animals as salamanders, frogs, lizards, etc., have not yet been made.

For a thorough knowledge of the region the scientific studies could well take the form of research in:

1. The formations of the region and its soils.
2. The erosion that has been checked and that which is operating now.
3. The past and present climates.
4. The comparative humidities with this and cut-over and other disturbed regions.
5. The type, conditions and values of the watersheds.
6. The higher and lower flora and fauna: Their range, food, tolerance (increasing or dying out); Their parasites, diseases, etc.
7. Making adequate collections of all life forms to be preserved for immediate study and for comparison with findings in this and other regions as time goes on.
8. The study of the record of the age-long struggles, adjustments, failures and victories of plants and animals in their fight to survive the hazards of natural forces. This record is of first importance as a source of scientific study of Nature's processes which developed the life forms now present. It is of equal importance as a place where Nature's future developments of life forms and ecological conditions can be studied undisturbed to take their natural course, something which can never be done unless a specific area such as this is dedicated to the purpose. THIS STUDY HAS THE GREATEST SCIENTIFIC VALUE OF ALL THOSE LISTED HERE.

This record of the "wisdom of the ages" is for us to preserve and study. To preserve and study not just for ourselves but for the use of productive scientists from all over the world.

## RESOLUTION APPROVED

A resolution asking for a delay in action of the change in boundary of The Three Sisters Wilderness Area was passed both by the Princesses and the Obsidian board. This was done to allow time for a survey of the region in question so that a more comprehensive study of its scientific value could be made. Further research has uncovered scientific material here which is found nowhere else.

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE CHOSEN

Ruth Onthank, Chairman of the Scientific Committee, has named Bob and Charlotte Lemon, George Korn, Helen Kilpatrick, and Ruth Hopson as members of her committee.

## NEWS NOTES(Continued)

\* We are happy to note that Doris Sims' injury at Crater Lake was nothing more serious than a strained ligament, and that Beverly Jarvis' strained back is recovering o.k. You sure had us worried Doris & Bev!

\* Short of cutting off its right arm there is nothing the board dislikes doing more than accepting the resignation of Mike Stahl as Chairman of Climbing and Co-Chairman of Outing. But the demand of other duties makes it impossible for him to serve at this time. We'll miss your eager cooperation, Mike, and hope you'll be back soon.

## PLEASE - ANOTHER HOBO BREAKFAST?

The enthusiastic response to our unscheduled Hobo breakfast on April Fool's Day was so great that our Trips Chairman has promised to arrange another one - or even two, later on this spring. Armitage Park is a lovely spot to flip pancakes, and it's so close to home - even armchair Obsidians don't lose any early Sunday sleep.

## FULTON PAINTINGS TO BE SHOWN

A showing and sale of Cy Fulton's beautiful oil paintings will be sponsored by the Obsidian Princesses on Saturday and Sunday April 21 and 22, at the Women's Clubhouse, 450 E. 14th. Hours will be from 1 to 10 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday. The showing is open to everyone; the Princesses will serve refreshments.

## OBSIDIAN MOUNTAINEERING SCHOOL

Spring is not around the corner anymore! ...It's here! The Climbing Committee has arranged dates for indoor school this month and many of the subjects are interesting to everyone who loves the hills and mts; so all Obsidians are invited to attend.

## INDOOR SCHOOL - SKINNERS BUTTE COTTAGE

April 6	Snow Technique	7:30 P.M.
April 27	Rock Climbing	7:30 P.M.

## FIELD TRIPS

April 14-15	Snow Tactics	Santiam Area
May 6	General Rock Work	Eagle Rock
May 20	Piton Tactics-Skin.	Butte Rock Quarry

## BAZAAR

Scheduled for sometime next fall is a BAZAAR-CARNIVAL sponsored by the Building Committee. Dorr Hamlin is General Chairman. If you can make anything that will sell, contact Dorr, 1570 High, Phone 5-1148 and he will assign you to one of the different committees now working on this project. More about this in the next bulletin.

## JOHN CRAIG MEMORIAL(Continued)

20 years ago, when cross-country and jumping were all that existed of skiing.

A special contest to find "Miss Ski Tour of 1951", is also under way. Ski Clubs throughout the Northwest have been invited to send their candidates under the name of their ski area. The Obsidians will have "Miss McKenzie Pass", the Bend Skyliners will send "Miss Santiam Pass", and the Tri-Pass Ski Club will enter "Miss Willamette Pass", who is Kitty Lou Shaw, a Eugene skier, sophomore at University of Oregon.

Festivities will begin on Friday noon, April 28, with a chamber of commerce luncheon, followed with a tour of the U. of O. Campus, for all out of town skiers. At 4 p.m. the town will "see the mail off" via pony express, from the steps of the Eugene post office. A special event is planned for Friday night, with skiing at Hoodoo Bowl on Saturday.

The "old mail wagon" will rumble into Sisters, Saturday night, midst a get-acquainted gathering, bringing the letters to be carried across the Pass by the racers.

The mail packed by the competitors will consist of specially designed stationery and envelopes, commemorating the event. Each letter will be transported by foot, horse, coach, train, plane, car and skis, before being mailed at McKenzie Bridge to its original destination. Sets are now on sale at Hendershott's and through members of both clubs. The money derived from these letters will be used to finance the meet.

A presentation banquet will immediately follow the race, at which time the name of "Miss Ski Tour of 1951" will be announced and all trophies will be awarded.

Special busses will leave Eugene, for Saturday's skiing and the evening at Sisters. Tickets for these busses will be available at Hendershott's.

Out of town skiers will need a place to stay in Eugene Friday and Sunday nights, and all Obsidian and Tri-Pass members should make an effort to accommodate them. Anyone having space should notify the secretaries of either club, or George Korn at Hendershott's.

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Glen and Ray Sims have been named Co-chairmen of Obsidian Summer Outing

START PLANNING NOW FOR THE 23RD ANNUAL OBSIDIAN SUMMER OUTING AT MT. ADAMS - AUG. 6-20