



# The OBSIDIAN

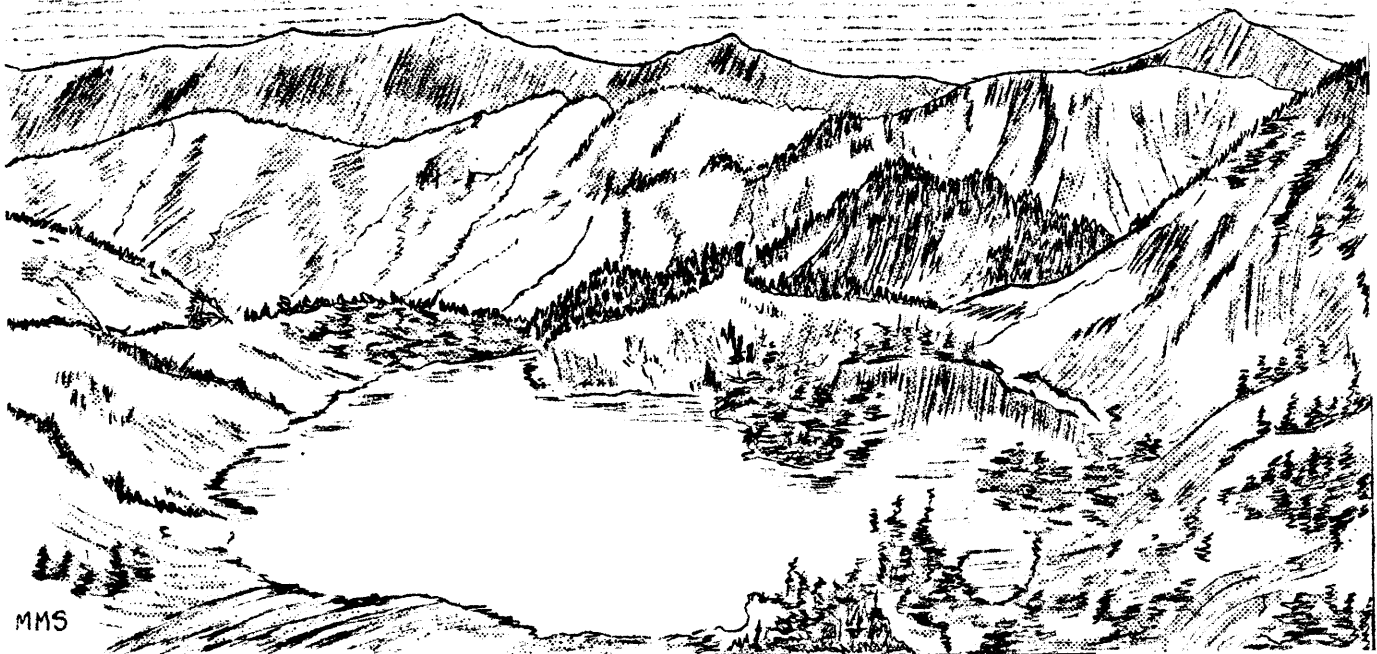


VOLUME XII

EUGENE, OREGON - JUNE-JULY

NO. 5

## S U M M E R C A M P



## M O U N T A I N E E R I N G

### *24th Annual* SUMMER OUTING *at Horseshoe Lake* WALLOWAS AUGUST 3-17

Two weeks of paradise are promised us by the Outing Committee at Horseshoe Lake high up in the seven lakes basin of the Wallowa Mountains of northeastern Oregon. This campsite, scene of two previous outings, remains unexcelled in the minds of Obsidians, for it's central location in "The Switzerland of America", the other name for the beautiful granite Wallowas...and rightly named is it with the "famed Matterhorn" sticking its white marble dome 10,000 ft. into the air, and Eagle Cap, 9,675 ft.

Present plan is to have each member take his sleeping bag with him, as the first night will be spent at Wallowa Lake

(Continued Page 2, Column 1)

### MOUNTAINEERS

For excellent instruction in the art of mountain climbing, the Climbing Committee, headed by Al Lindley, planned and completed a schedule of lectures, practical work during hikes, rock techniques, rope work and snow techniques which was climaxed by the climb of Three Fingered Jack under the leadership of Gene Sebring, May 25th.

The group, after previous weekends of training, camped at Hoodoo Bowl and started the four mile hike to the mountain at 3:30 a.m. Techniques learned in earlier sessions were put to good use in making the mountain less difficult for the novice climbers. Eighteen members of the party were: Robert Ritchie, Jerold Williams, Doyle Kline, Jack Christopher, Francis Dunn, Evelyn Marsh, Lloyd Plaisted, Virginia Drake, Donald Kohler, Kermit and Betty Clemens, Jim Newsom, Ronnie Bessonette, Bob Medill, Dennie Koupal, Gail Burwell, Charles Turner. Gene Sebring, the leader, was ably assisted by Lloyd Plaisted, Dennie Koupal and Don Kohler.

(Continued Page 2, Column 2)

## PRINCESS DOINGS

## BREAKFAST IN THE WILDS

A culinary feat unequalled in the annals of our club was performed on top of Mary's Peak June 19th when the Obsidian Princesses served breakfast to 85 people at 8 a.m.

The occasion was a convention of the American Nature Study Society which is part of the American Assoc. for the Advancement of Science, on the OSC campus. 60 of the delegates were our guests between a bird walk and a lecture on the Oregon Coast Range by Dr. Ewart Baldwin of the University of Oregon.

The menu rivalled that of a big hotel: orange juice, apple juice, hot cereal with cream, blueberry pancakes (Ruth Hopson's specialty), blueberry jelly, sausage, coffee - and more coffee. Everyone had more than they could eat and how they enjoyed it! The Princesses set up a production line of stoves and kept their griddles flashing for more than an hour and a half.

Fine workers as the Princesses are, it would have been impossible without the detailed planning of the group that took the major part in the affair - they are: Doris Sims, Ray Sims, Mike Stahl, Margaret Markley, Charlotte Lemon, Mary Castelloe, Myrtie Hamlin, Blanche Bailey, Elmer McBee, Florence Fulton, Helen Kilpatrick, Catherine Dunlop, Jean Sutherland and Ruth Hopson. From start to finish they shouldered an equal share of the responsibility and saw that every contingency was provided for.

The visitors from other states were loud in their praises of our club and very appreciative of the courtesy shown them.

SUMMER OUTING (Continued from Page 1)  
camp ground, where dinner and breakfast in Wallowa Lodge are on the club. An early breakfast - and on the trail - full of zip for the 9 mile hike into Horseshoe Lake. Horses may be rented for \$5 for the trip in, and most of the campers are planning to ride, but the old guard Obsidian, will disdain such effete transportation and travel on shank's mare!

The committee has already scouted the area, noted facilities and routes of travel, and a detailed prospectus is enclosed which will answer any questions you may have. So - air out the old sleeping bag, oil up your boots and get ready for the time of your lives!

SEE YOU IN CAMP!

## MOUNTAINEERS (CONT.)

## OBSIDIANS LEAD OUT-OF-STATE CLUB

We will have the pleasure of supplying a leader for a climb of the North Sister on the weekend of July 4th for the Inter-Mountain Alpine Club of Richland, Washington. Jim Harrang has been selected as the Alpine Club does not have a member of their own who is familiar with our Three Sisters area.

Larry Upson, an ex-Obsidian, wrote our Climbing Chairman from Richland, requesting a leader and extending an invitation to any Obsidian who may wish to join them. Larry was stricken with polio about 18 months ago and is not yet able to climb.

The Trails Club of Portland will be climbing the North and Middle Sisters on the same weekend, and we wish them an interesting and successful trip.

The Obsidians have scheduled a climb of Mt. Jefferson for that date under the leadership of Lloyd Plaisted. Anyone wanting to climb on the holiday certainly has a good choice of mountains.

## OBSIDIANS TO SCALE MT. RAINIER

For the first time in many years, Mt. Rainier is on the Obsidian official climbing schedule and is slated for the weekend of July 18, 19, and 20.

The start of the ascent will be on the afternoon of the 18th to base camp at Steamboat Prow, 9,000 feet; then continue on to the summit, and back to the Prow or base camp (depending on the time) on the 19th. The group will drive back home on the 20th.

The climbing requirements for the ascent are: (1) Mt. Jefferson and one of the following smaller peaks - Three Fingered Jack, Mt. Washington, Mt. Thielson or the Middle Sister, or (2) Any three of the following four peaks: Three Fingered Jack, Mt. Washington, Mt. Thielson, or the Middle Sister.

The Mt. Rainier National Park requirements are posted on the bulletin board at Hendershott's; but here are a couple of the important ones: Army surplus crampons may not be used and climbers under 21 years of age must have a written permit from their parents or guardian.

Let's get our ice axes polished and our boots greased and get these required mountains under our belts and make Rainier!

Al Lindley

*"It's Great to be an Obsidian"*

I, for one, think it's wonderful to be an Obsidian for it's great to get out in the wilderness and away from the noise of the city. The wilderness affords the peace and quietness where one can think clearly and enjoy the huge trees, flowers, birds and animals which live within these boundaries. One doesn't always realize that what Mother Nature provides is more wonderful and beautiful than man-made things. Usually all man goes out for is the fun which he may have; so he gets careless, and soon the places he has camped are looking like a city dump, leaving less beauty for others to enjoy. He may get careless with fire and a forest fire starts. Then many animals, flowers and timber are destroyed and there isn't enough money in this world to pay for the damage which one careless person caused.

In the wilderness one finds mountains which provide a big share of enjoyment - climbing up their slopes and rock faces. As you climb, you can see the extreme beauty of the country. That is where the Obsidians come into the big picture. I use the expression "big picture" for the reason that they share the largest part in keeping the wilderness what it is. They teach one to enjoy the outdoors and at the same time prevent the misuse one dreads. They show a person that there is something else in this world to share along with other people that man-made things can't give. If there were more clubs in the world like the Obsidians, it would be a more peaceful place in which to live.

We all know that Korea is a place where nobody wants to go. The newspapers say so many people have been killed there and the whole country is devastated. As I see it, Korea is a place of beauty with its green hills and cultivated valleys; but one doesn't dare to go out too much to enjoy nature for there are still gorillas in the hills. But a nature lover can still look! Everybody who is an Obsidian should be proud to belong to such a wonderful club. There is one closing thought and that is - Man can make and win wars but cannot overshadow Mother Nature.

Signed, A Fellow-Obsidian in Korea

FLASH! Watch for news of the Fourth of July trip in the Register-Guard! The Forest Service is sending a man over the trail to check snow conditions. Too much snow, no go! Mike

## FEDERATION AFFAIRS

One of the big objectives of each of our several outdoor clubs of the west is to preserve the areas of wild and primitive country that we now enjoy, so that future generations may likewise see them as we do. The one big objective of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs (FWOC) is to keep informed concerning any unjustified attempts to destroy or impair areas that seem to us to have their greatest value to our country if kept free from commercial development.

Below are listed a few of the issues that have been considered by the FWOC, and by your own Obsidian club, in recent months.

1. No dams in National Parks. (Johnson Bill, in Congress)
2. More money for Forest Service, to develop and maintain its recreation facilities. (Tackett Bill)
3. Three Sisters Wilderness Area. Talk with any member of your Obsidian Scientific Committee.
4. Upper McKenzie country; can power development there be carried on without fatally impairing the scenic and recreational values?
5. Waldo Lake (may be drained, if some present plans are carried through). This would ruin any value of the Waldo Lake Wild Area which has been planned to establish.

(Continued Page 4 Column 2)

May 5, 1952

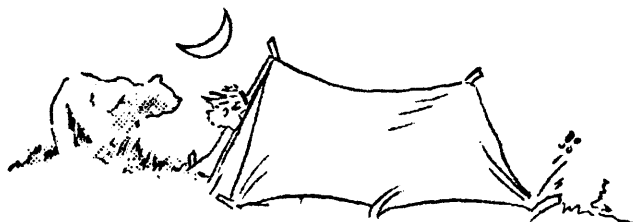
Dear Obsidians:

We want to thank the Obsidians for the appeal which, in some way, found its way into the January Bulletin, for blood donors for our daughter, Mrs. Edith Tour. The help that came from so many directions was a heart-warming experience. The transfusions which these donations made possible added much to her comfort and gave her a better chance for recovery than would have otherwise been possible.

We deeply appreciate the sympathy you extended to us after her passing. Some of the happy memories she often spoke about were mountain climbs she had taken with the Obsidians as she was growing up. Thank you.

Most sincerely yours,

Karl and Ruth Onthank



SUMMER CAMP is looming on the horizon, folks. Your fun begins the moment you sign up, start saving your money and making out your list of necessities (and a few luxuries!), and start a pile of towels, jeans, cold cream, etc., in the corner of the bedroom.

Up early on The Day - Slacks and blue jeans new and clean - your hair "fixed" or freshly cut, according to your sex. "Hi, Everybody" - and before long you are staking out your two-weeks homestead.

Perhaps you will hike, perhaps be lazy around camp, wash duds, chop wood and write letters telling everyone sincerely "how you wish they were here".

When day is done, dinner dishes ready for breakfast, then come the memory making hours around the campfire. Songs... "Aunt Tillie" or some other brain-straining stunt, popcorn, and a cough here and there as Smoke Gets in Your Eyes. Someone stirs the fire and sparks wiggle through the smoke to join the stars-perhaps that's what stars are - sparks from campfires that warmed people thru the ages. Who knows?

Then "Good Night Ladies" and the harmony of the songs as you follow the beam of your flashlight as it leads you to your camp. Then to sleep, perchance to dream, unless you nearly freeze or the air escapes from your mattress.

Surprisingly soon, some early bird, hungry for pancakes (not worms!) yells, "Brek Fust"! Out of your bag you crawl, wash in the tepid water from your hot-water bottle and run to be "fust" in line to start another day in summer camp.

Fourteen days! It seemed like such a long time when you pitched your tent. Now it is gone - your jeans and slacks are baggy and soiled -- your hair all stringy and long, regardless of your sex.

Do you feel a little weepy? Why not? You have experienced many days of good sportsmanship, close friendship, relaxation and close fellowship with Mother Nature. So back to the bank, the office, the store, the home. Old tasks seem so easy - it is fun to dust furniture, count stacks of money, file invoices and sell merchandise as you secretly re-live the happy days in summer camp. So take your piggy bank off its starvation diet and sign up for a ticket to 2 weeks of happiness!

#### FEDERATION AFFAIRS (Continued from Page 3)

It would be an excellent thing if every Obsidian would keep informed on these and other "conservation" issues. Ask members of your Board of Directors, or Scientific Committee; read the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs bulletin; be informed, and work for your convictions.

#### *Did You Know...*

- that Doran McKee is feeling on top of the world again after a not-so-pleasant sojourn in Sacred Heart?
- that Bertha Deckmann and the Keaslings now have brand-new roofs over their heads - also walls and yards!
- that The fourth member of the Bob Wilson quartet has arrived - named Robert Bruce. (Sounds like a tenor!)
- that Mr. and Mrs. Elmer McBees stopped in Oroville, Cal., on their way home from Mexico, and visited Dr. Gullion who is reported in fine health.
- that There's a new model Buick on display in Springfield - smart new chassis, all fluid drive, unmatched for beauty and value, called the Nancy Mae. Call Clarence or Dorothy Scherer for demonstration - day or night.
- that The Building Committee is busily investigating various properties that may serve as a town house for our club. We'll have one yet!
- that Harold Jack and Diane Potwin of Tacoma were married June 21 at Eugene. Both bride and groom are in the Navy and stationed at Tongue Point. The bridal party and a group of friends from the Naval Base were entertained after the ceremony at the home of the groom's parents, Irene & George Jack.
- that Ruth Hopson, elected vice-president of the American Nature Study Society last December, was program chairman for that group's Corvallis meetings in connection with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, June 16-20. She was leader of their field trip to Mary's Peak on the 19th.
- that Dr. Olaus J. Murie, President of the Wilderness Society of America, took time off between his many lectures to serve on the program of the Corvallis Science meetings, and was a guest of the Obsidians at the Mary's Peak breakfast.
- that Bob Barber is now at Memphis, Tenn.,

(Continued Page 5, Column 1)

## *I Was Thinking . . .*

Lots of things this month. Even tho Doran McKee is ill, and Florence Sims and Paul Weiser are both on vacation, there is quite a bit of activity about the clubhouse project, both in and out of the Committee. George Korn, for instance, has been investigating a promising location near Judkin's Point.

The Princesses' breakfast on Mary's Peak was a grand success. There were ten (I think) Princesses and three Chiefs on the trip, and we fed about seventy people. We fed, met, and talked with people of note from all over the country. They all pronounced the breakfast delicious, and marvelled that the girls would attempt, and make such a success of a project of this kind. Huckleberry Pancakes! Yummmmm!

Worrying (a little) over the Fourth of July trip. We must have twenty hikers to break even, and only seven have signed up. And there may be too much snow on the ridge for the pack horses. This wet, cold June has slowed up the melt.

The tentative schedule for this trip is: Leave Eugene 7:30 Friday morning, drive to McKenzie Bridge. Leave cars there and take a truck to Frissel Crossing. Leave Frissel Crossing before 11:00, and hike to Olallie Meadows for first camp.

Saturday, hike north to Saddle Camp, making side trips as desired. Stay at Saddle Camp Saturday night, and hike to McKenzie Bridge Sunday.

A cook and grub will be furnished, and each hiker may send in up to 20 pounds (no more!) of personal gear (sleeping bag, etc.). The cost will be \$15 per hiker.

Time is short. Sign up at once if you plan to go!

- - - Hootowl

### DID YOU KNOW(Continued from Page 4)

for 28 weeks of Aviation Electronics School, after graduating from a basic airman school at Jacksonville, Fla., 8 weeks long. His address is: Bob Barber, A.A.735-37-70, AT(A) BKS 143, N.A.T.T.C., Memphis 15, Tenn. Bob wants to hear some of the news from home, so let's all write - and drop a line now and then to other service Obsidians, too.

that Lloyd Helikson has brought home his bride, the former Doris Cameron of Edmonton, Alberta, Can., after their wedding at Sherwood Lodge, June 8 at Yachats. They are at home in Eugene.

that Jim Newsom left Sunday, June 22, for the annual Beaver Boy's State at Salem, to which he is a delegate. Jim received his Eagle Scout award recently - highest rank in scouting.

that These Obsidians received academic degrees from the U. of O. on June 15: Jack Napper, B.S. Liberal Arts; Don Kohler, Master Science; Conrad Christensen, B. Bus. Ad.; Gilbert Sprague, Master Science Educ.; Richard Mengler, Bachelor of Law.

that The Jim Harrangs have a baby daughter born June 2, 1952.

A Very Handsome bride & groom were Marge Beckett & Bill Beaman at their pretty wedding June 7. Happy years to them!

### RAINBOW FALLS

By far the most popular trip this year so far was the hike into Rainbow Falls led so ably by Karl and Ruth Onthank, Chairman of the Scientific Committee. 54 people signed up and viewed some of the most beautiful country imaginable. Fortunately, we were able to drive up a logging road, so the hike in to the falls was not arduous. Louise Creek, where we lunched, was a lovely spot -- the water rapid, clear and very cold, and all the trees along the banks and many out in the water were completely moss-covered, lending an eerie, pale green hue to the atmosphere.

The Falls itself is a riotous cascade of water in a series of falls 700 or 800 feet high. Most of the party made the descent of the cliff and came up the canyon floor to view the sight "head-on" which was most effective. Several times a hand rope for helping the hikers over some tough spots was most welcome and Ruth's Forest Service maps helped us orientate ourselves and view the surrounding country with more interest.

WANTED - - - Help in planning and arranging the Fourth of July trip. There's lots to do, not much time to do it in, and no one working at it. Call me for an assignment-Mike.

## *The St. Helens Tragedy*

A young man recently lost his life on Mt. St. Helens as the direct result of inexperience and carelessness. The facts seem to be these.

Four young men from Seattle climbed the mountain, reaching the top about 11:00 A. M., and started to return, two on skis, and two gillsading. They had a rope, but did not think it necessary to rope in, so one of the party, Art Jessett, carried it.

Suddenly, he disappeared, and it was discovered he had fallen in a crevasse, taking the rope with him. He did not seem to be badly hurt. One of his companions immediately went down the mountain for help, the second went to contact another party of climbers on the mountain, and the third stayed with Jessett.

The other party of climbers, led by a reputedly experienced mountaineer, had no rope, but sent some of the party to get one from the ski hut near timberline. With this rope they lowered the lightest (and most inexperienced) of the party into the crevasse, after enlarging the hole through which Jessett had fallen. This rescuer had no ice axe. He stopped on what he thought was a ledge, and, although he heard Jessett moaning, made almost no attempt to locate him. He soon returned to the surface.

Then, about 5:00 o'clock, the whole party left the scene. On the way down, they met the man who had gone for help. He had phoned the State Patrol and some relatives of the climbers, but had not notified any mountaineering or mountain rescue group, not even the Forest Service. However, he did bring another rope.

In spite of this additional equipment, the party made no new attempt to rescue Jessett, and all of them, apparently nine people, left the mountain. Jessett was removed from the crevasse, dead, the next morning. It was discovered that the ledge on which the would-be rescuer stood, was actually Jessett's body, covered with the snow and ice they had knocked down from above.

This tragedy is an object lesson in how not to climb a mountain, and how not to conduct a rescue. The first mistake was climbing without experienced leaders; second, crossing glaciers without roping in; third, failing to know whom to call for help; fourth, chopping snow and ice directly above the victim; fifth, sending an inexperienced man to attempt a rescue; sixth, not making a determined and repeated rescue effort; seventh, leaving the scene without even one man remaining to guide other rescuers; eighth; failing to return for another effort when the second rope was brought.

These are the most evident mistakes. It is quite possible that Jessett might still be alive if even one of these mistakes (except the seventh) had not been committed.

Climbing any major mountain always has some danger. We carry and use climbing equipment to minimize this danger. But a rope is not a safety device if it is not used. And when someone's life is in danger, never give up without making every possible effort to rescue him.

Remember this the next time you climb. The man in the crevasse might be a friend of yours. It might even be you!

### TRIPS AND CLIMBS FOR JULY

JUNE 29 - CASTLE ROCK - Jean & Walt Banks, Ldrs.  
 JUNE 29 - MT. THIELSON - Wayne Bailey, Ldr.  
 JULY 4-5-6 - THREE-DAY PACK TRIP-Scientific Com.  
 JULY 4-5-6 - MT. JEFFERSON -Lloyd Plaisted, Ldr.  
 JULY 13 - ANNUAL TENDERFOOT CLIMB MIDDLE SISTER  
 JULY 20 - LINTON CREEK TRAIL - Lloyd Gust, Ldr.  
 JULY 27 - Open  
 JULY 27 - MT. HOOD - Joe Daniels, Ldr.  
 JULY 30 - MT. MCLAUGHLIN - Lloyd Lindley, Ldr.  
 JULY 30 - MT. RAINIER - Climbing Committee  
 AUGUST 3-17 - SUMMER CAMP IN WALLOWAS

The Entertainment Committee now has several picnics planned - if the weather will only cooperate. Watch for announcements.

SECT. 34.66 P.L.&R.

*Sign up NOW for July 4th t*

