



# The OBSIDIAN



VOL. XIII

EUGENE, OREGON - DECEMBER 1953

NO. 10

God bless you at Christmas and grant you all peace and happiness this Holy Season



RING OUT, silver bells! The traditional symbols of Christmas will enhance the setting of our Annual Party, to be held at the Washington Recreation Center, on Sunday, December 20th at 6:30 p.m. All Obsidians, their families and friends are invited to this traditional and enjoyable event. The Spirit of Good Will and Fellowship seem to follow us all through the year with memory of this party.

Dessert will be served at 6:30 p.m.: Each family attending is asked to bring a cake decorated with the Christmas theme, or you may bring Christmas cookies. You may wish to get together with another party in planning your dessert. Ice cream, coffee and punch will be served by the entertainment committee.

A Christmas program will be presented consisting of Christmas songs, stories, the children's program, and Santa Claus - to bring a gift for each child (gift to be supplied by parent).

RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE by FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18. Call Nellie McWilliams at 5-1422, or Margaret Markley at 4-0716, or Mary Castelloe at 4-5168.

The entertainment committee wants to see all Obsidians at this Sunday Party.

Be seeing you at the Obsidian New Year's Party where there will be lots of exciting games, folk and square dancing and short hikes — oh yes, eats too, are on the agenda for the big two day party starting at 9 p.m. Thursday, December 31, with a BIG FUN-PACKED EVENING. All those with big whopping lies will have the floor. PREPARE NOW — after the biggest liar has been determined, dancing will commence — lasting until midnight.

(Note: As part of the entertainment a Television Show is being planned. ...A "Cinerammer Drammer".....or a "Spectre of Spectacles".(Better bring your dark glasses!)

THEN, with all the noise we can muster, we will welcome in 1954. Then a very wonderful midnight supper will follow.

On Friday morning breakfast will be served at 9 a.m. Then a morning of hiking and running around will follow. Bring your boots — bring your skis!

The cost of all this is only \$4.00.(Under 15 years — \$2.00). Folks may come up for the dinner on New Year's day and then the cost will be just \$2.00 for the dinner.

Sounds like fun, doesn't it? We assure  
(Continued Page 2)

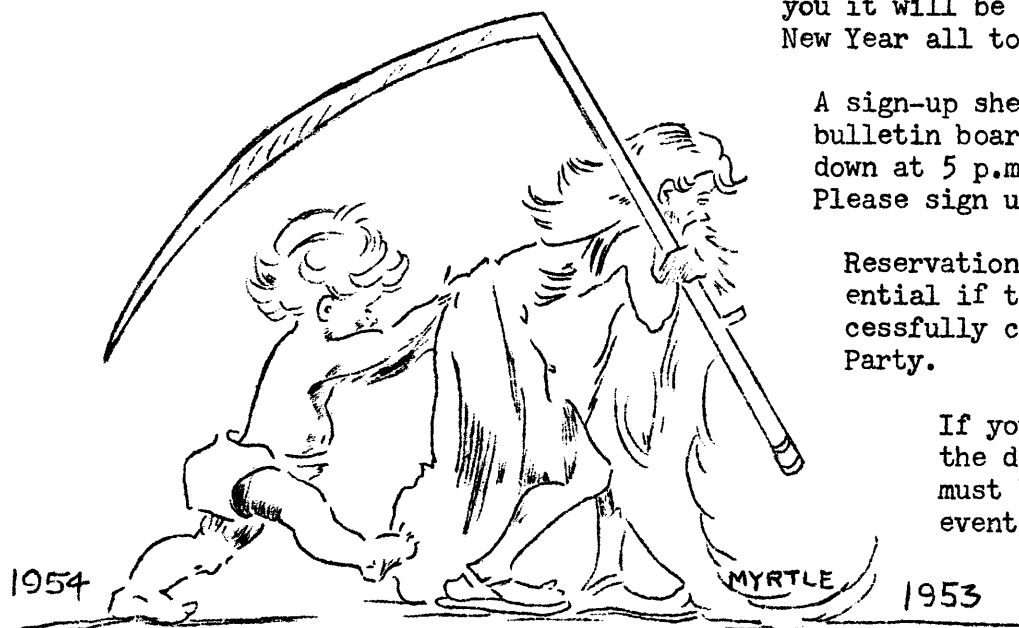
you it will be too. Let's start the New Year all together!

A sign-up sheet is on Hendershott's bulletin board, and will be taken down at 5 p.m. on DECEMBER 28TH. Please sign up by then.

Reservations are absolutely essential if the committee is to successfully carry out this holiday Party.

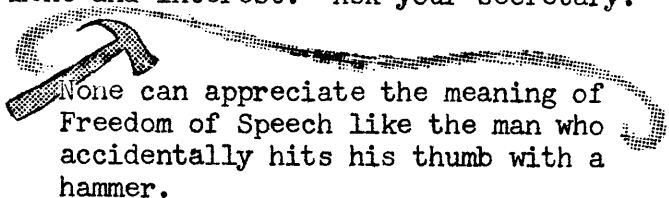
If you are just coming for the dinner, reservations must be made also for that event.

The Trips and Entertainment Committees



## TRAILINGS

- \* Arthur Johnson, attorney with the firm of Johnson, Johnson, and Harrang, and Anita Holmes of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, were married in November. Our best wishes!
- \* Ray Harris is home from Uncle Sam's Marine Corps and is polishing up his pitons for next year's climbs.
- \* Bob Wilson is our newest Life Member.
- \* Florence and Glen Sims are spending the holidays in sunny Florida on their tour of the U.S. Hurry back, you two, before you forget what Oregon mist is like!
- \* Karen Dell Helikson was born on Nov. 22 to Lloyd and Doris. Our congratulations!
- \* Members will be interested to know that a complete catalog of books relating to mountain climbing and the out-of-doors, is kept in the club files and is available to members. The catalog includes fiction, non-fiction, historical, and "Hysterical", photography and camp lore.
- \* Other hiking and climbing club's bulletins are received by our club secretary each month, and are kept for your enjoyment and interest. Ask your secretary.



None can appreciate the meaning of Freedom of Speech like the man who accidentally hits his thumb with a hammer.

## OUR TRIPS

- DEC. 20: THE ANNUAL OBSIDIAN CHRISTMAS PARTY begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Washington Street Recreation Center.
- DEC. 27: CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT by Natural History Society (See page 3).
- DEC. 31-JAN. 3: NEW YEAR'S PARTY AT OBSIDIAN CABIN (See page 1).
- JAN. 10: SPENCER BUTTE--BLANTON HEIGHTS. A nice short trip, for folks to keep in hiking trim.
- JAN. 17: WILLAMETTE SKI AREA. Ski or play in the snow at George Korn's new and remodeled Ski Area. Skiers and sight-seers will be both pleased and surprised.
- JAN. 24: RICHARDSON'S BUTTE.
- JAN. 31: LAURELWOOD GOLF CLUB AREA.
- FEB. 7: DILLARD HILL.
- FEB. 14: VALENTINE'S DAY AT THE CABIN.

## MORE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

### SKI

Al Lindley, Chmn. Clarence Bankhead  
Jean Banks

### SCIENTIFIC

Karl Onthank, Chmn. Mike Stahl  
Roy Andrews Fred Miller Ray Sims  
Frances Newsom Helen Weiser

ENTERTAINMENT - Add the names of Doris Sims, Ruth and George Hermach, which were left off the list last issue.



## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I'd like to tell you about a Christmas which I spent in the Army, and which holds a very prominent place in my memory.

Several of my buddies and I who had just returned from Europe were aboard a train bound for the West Coast. We had hoped to be home at Christmas time, and we were disappointed to have to be traveling. It didn't seem like Christmas at all, this morning on the train.

When we stopped at Omaha, the weather was bitterly cold and blustery, and our spirits were about as low as the temperature. Near our antiquated Pullman stood an elderly man very poorly clad for the freezing weather. He clapped his bare hands vigorously in an attempt to warm them. Having no time to get off the train several of us opened our windows and spoke to the old fellow.

This man obviously had very little of worldly goods and perhaps no formal education. However, he captured our friendship in just a few minutes with his manner. He asked many questions concerning our families, and our homes. He listened to each of us with an intense interest. And he was happy for us that providence had seen us safely through the war; glad that we were soon to be separated from the Army, and soon again to be home among our friends and those we loved. His friendly sincere interest brought some cheer to this part of the day. As the trail pulled away we shouted "Merry Christmas" to him and to each other, and waved our goodbyes.

Then, while waving, one of the men dropped a glove out the window. It was one of a fine pair which the soldier treasured as they were a Christmas gift from his family. Our old friend by the track ran to the glove, picked it up and ran for our car in an effort to return it. He was almost able to put the glove in the outstretched hand of one of the men, but finally his speed lessened as that of the train increased. In a last attempt he threw the glove toward us—but it was missed, the train now going faster. Suddenly the soldier owning the gloves threw his remaining glove near the one on the ground and toward our Christmas friend, as he called out "Merry Christmas, mister". The old fellow put the gloves on and as long as we could see him, he waved to us. Seeing this needy person receive a gift in such an unusual way brought the Spirit of Christmas to our Pullman for the remainder of that Christmas Day.

Dale Carlson

## FIFTY-FOURTH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

For the past ten or more consecutive years the Natural History Society of Eugene has been taking part in a wildbird census known as the Christmas Bird Count.

This project—covering continental U.S., with parts of Canada and Alaska—is directed by the National Audubon Society in collaboration with the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service. The purpose being the gathering and recording of evidence for scientific and statistical uses in determining year to year variation in abundance, distribution, etc., of birds, and in setting dates and the duration of hunting seasons, and bag limits on game birds. In addition, the project has recreational, aesthetical, and educational value.

In 1899 a small group of conservationists decided to attempt to substitute a Christmas bird count for the then customary Christmas bird kill. The results were gratifying. Twenty-seven gunless observers reported almost ten thousand birds. From that beginning the Christmas bird count has grown into the greatest cooperative ornithological project ever undertaken. Now, fifty years later, some five thousand volunteers take part each season. They travel up to fifty thousand party-miles (ten thousand of which may be on foot); more than four hundred reports are sent in, listing as many as four hundred seventy species, with a total of six to eight million individual birds.

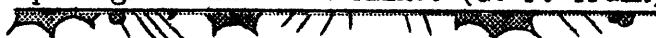
The 1953 census is set for Sunday, December 27th. Meet at Condon Hall, U of O Campus at 8 a.m. Bring lunch. From there small parties will go to assigned localities. Trips will not be strenuous. About 4:30 p.m., return to Eugene, home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Flynn, 1762 Columbia St., where, following refreshments and count totaling, Gordon Gullion is expected to entertain with pictures of desert wildlife.

Everyone welcome.

Ben Pruitt



THE WORLD USUALLY PUSHES A MAN THE WAY HE makes up his mind to go. If going up, they push him up; if going down they push him down—gravitation, however, making the speed great in the decline. (G. F. Train)



## ON SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION

When Alfred Schmitz, Oregon Vice-President of the Federation of Outdoor Clubs, called a meeting of representatives of the Oregon clubs in Salem, November 21, before the Science and Conservation Committee could be organized, we found, fortunately, that Ruth Hopson and Mike Stahl could represent Obsidians and equally fortunate, that they could report at an informal meeting of members able to assemble again on November 28th. Present were, beside Ruth and Mike: Ray and Doris Sims, Roy Andrews, Helen Kilpatrick, Dr. Fred Miller, Paul and Helen Weiser, and Ruth and Karl Onthank, the group hosts. To these Ruth and Mike reported that, during the afternoon session, Mr. C. H. Armstrong, Supt. of Oregon State Parks, had reported on the State Park set-up and program followed by general discussion. In substance, in Oregon provision for State Parks is a subsidiary operation of the State highway Comm. and no parks are developed or sites acquired which are not on state highways. The state was fortunate (or the then Commission and Park Superintendent foresighted) in acquiring a number of fine sites along the Coast Highway before it was opened and a considerable portion of the presently available funds are being used to develop these areas.

During the evening Wilderness Areas were discussed, the proposed Waldo Lake area and others but chiefly the Three Sisters area. Forest Service officers were present at the Salem meeting. Brit Ash, McKenzie District Ranger and Dick Bowe, who recently succeeded Bill Parke as Regional Recreation Officer, reported that the Willamette Forest and Regional officers were about to recommend that the area be cut down to a line on Horse Creek and Eugene Creek with provision for locating the access road, which would be built into the withdrawn portion of the area, along the west bank of Horse Creek but, where possible, 200 feet from the stream with a 500 foot belt of timber west of the road. At points where the stream runs close to a cliff or where the canyon narrows, it would not, of course, be possible to keep the road away from the stream.

The club members present in Salem were there for information and discussion, had no authority to take action and took none. But Ruth and Mike reported that, though

as usual there was some difference of opinion, the consensus favored holding for the Horse Pasture Mountain-Olallie Ridge Mountain line on the divide between the Horse Creek and McKenzie South Fork Water Sheds, as set forth in the resolution of the FWOC at the Snoqualmie meeting a year ago. It seemed that though some favored going along with the Forest Service recommendation, about as many others favored holding to the original boundary, fearing that to give way on this would set a precedent which would jeopardize the boundary of every wilderness, recreational, or restricted area, and because of the unique and irreplaceable value of the area as it now stands. It was reported that FWOC officers and some of the stronger member groups were for defending the ridge line, some, even the original boundaries, but wish to know how the clubs close to the area stand.

This report was discussed by the Obsidian group which reached the unanimous conclusion that although.....Obsidians could not with hope of success, ask for more than the Federation or at least a representative group, would support, we could not decently and should not, ask for less, especially since the club is on record by resolution of its directors that the original boundary be retained. The chairman of the committee was accordingly instructed to write the FWOC and to other member clubs indicating that the club will stand on the ridge boundaries and if there is enough support to warrant it, on the original area boundary.

Before communicating with other clubs, however, the chairman is conferring with Federation officers to make sure that action by the Obsidians will be harmonious with that of the Federation. FWOC officers are conferring with major clubs and with Forest Service officers, including, it is expected, the Chief Forester, who is to be in the Northwest shortly. As the matter develops the Conservation Committee will, of course, keep the Obsidian Board of Directors informed.

Karl Onthank, Chairman

SECT. 34.66 P.L.&R.

