



The OBSIDIAN



VOLUME XIII

EUGENE, OREGON - JANUARY 1953

NO. 1

WINTER SPORTS

COMING SKI EVENTS CAST THEIR SHADOWS BEFORE THEM AND THEIR SITZMARKS BEHIND THEM

Looking for something to do? Ho Hum. Do you ever tire of riding the ski tows? Up and down. Up and down. DOWN and up. Have you ever longed to ski-tour Europe? Visit the Swiss Alps? Austria? Scandinavia? Or how about Sun Valley? Have you ever been to Aspen or Alta. Maybe you have never been to Timberline Lodge or Marys Peak.

Well! Here is your chance. Ski Oregon first. Low expense trips. No Breakfast food box tops or radio soap opera quiz contests to win a trip to Hollywood. Just take your pick.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON THESE TRIPS

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|---------|--|-----------|---|
| Jan. 25 | Willamette - Eagle Rock - View of Odell Lake - By Bus | Apr. 19 | Willamette - Waldo Lake - Warm up Tour |
| Feb. 8 | Willamette - Odell Butte - Look Out View - By Bus | Apr. 26 | McKenzie Pass - Obsidian Tour - John Craig Race - By Bus |
| Feb. 22 | Willamette - Ski Mystery Trip - Surprise !!! | May 3 | Willamette - Maiden Peak - Via Rosary Lakes - By Car |
| Mar. 1 | McKenzie - White Branch - Obsidian Cabin Pot Luck - By Bus | May 10 | Santiam - Hayrick - Mountaineering Class - By Car |
| Mar. 8 | Willamette - Ski Butte - View of Cascades - By Bus | May 17 | Willamette - Diamond Peak - Ski Tour - By Car |
| Mar. 15 | Umpqua - Taft Mt. - Edelweiss Ski Club - By Car | May 24 | Bohemia - Fairview - The Bohemian Mines - By Car |
| Mar. 22 | Hood - Winter Outing - Obsidians - By Car | May 30-31 | Bend - Bachelor Butte - Overnight Tumalo Cabins - By Bus |
| Mar. 28 | Willamette - Saturday Night - Moonlight Ski Party - By Bus | June 7 | McKenzie - Sunshine Shelter - Three Sisters - By Car |
| Apr. 5 | Willamette - Easter Services - Golden Bunny Race - By Bus | June 14 | Hood - Ice Follies - Portland - Leave Sat. p.m. - Golden Rose Tournament - Overnight at Lodge |
| Apr. 12 | Crater Lake - Obsidian Sponsored - Trail Skiing | | |

Winter Outing

A winter outing is being planned at the Mazama Lodge at Mt. Hood. This will be in March -- the dates of March 20-22 have been set -- and will be Friday night until Sunday evening only. That means we poor working people can go for the weekend too. So everyone watch for the BIG DATE and start planning for a wonderful weekend.



"THE OBSIDIAN"

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

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NEW MEMBERS

Bessie Brunig	Associate Member
Lawrence Maves	Active Member
Charles Turner	Active Member

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Entertainment Committee, assisted by the Princesses, entertained nearly 70 guests at the traditional Christmas party on December 14th at the Washington Recreation Center. Dessert was served with coffee and ice cream at the beginning of the evening.

The young Obsidians entertained their elders in the program which followed. Roxie Waldorf and Chester Pietka led the group in carol singing.

Due to an unprecedented attack of laryngitis, Santa Claus was unable to speak when distributing his gifts, but Chief Smokey acted as helper as well as ably MC-ing the rest of the program. m

FEBRUARY TRIPS SCHEDULE

Feb. 1	Ground Hog Trip-Springfield Butte
	Arlene Keasling, Leader
Feb. 8	Continuation of U. of O. Trip --
	Library and Museum of Art --
	Lloyd Gust, Leader
Feb. 15	Wallace Creek - Milton Koupal, Ldr.
Feb. 22	Mt. Pisgah - Come along and see
	the Crystal rocks. Frank Sipe.

DID YOU KNOW.....

That the Gust family is now three (Boy-December 19); as is also the Stiles family (Boy-November 10); and the Cruickshanks - (Helen Erickson)(Boy-November 2); and the very latest addition to the Walt Banks family is a Boy-January 15).

CHIEFS INITIATION

Four more stalwarts of the pleasurable game of climbing mountains were initiated into the royal order of Obsidian Chiefs, at the cabin, on the weekend of November 23rd.

Eighteen of the ranking Chiefs were there to put on the initiation which is the same as Chief Horsefeathers first put on in the mountains in the 1928 summercamp at Obsidian Camp. Although the five years between 1940 and 1945 saw no Chiefs taken in, yet there are now 116 on the roll.

The initiation went well with Merle Bailey as leader of the neophytes until next morning at breakfast; it was then the Chiefs found out all the things that go into the making of pancakes.

The ladies of the club, Princesses and others, were more than welcome on Sunday morning, as they put on the mid-day feast after watching the new Chiefs lazily working around. At dinner the new Chiefs were introduced: Merle Bailey, Chief Smokey; then Joe Daniel as Chief Bald Eagle, next Bob Elston as Chief Young Buck, and last but not least, Jim Newsom as Chief Stinker - - and Jim is number 116.

EXIT THE OLD, ENTER THE NEW

Exclusive little groups were soon dispelled with Ray Cavagnaro's a-little-more-than-clever method of mixing the crowd. Ask any Obsidian who was present and they will tell you it has never been done before. We ran the gamut of games -- from guessing to relay and a liar's contest.

Louis Waldorf as Rip Van Winkle, with white beard and clothes tattered and torn after 20 years in the mountains, made a very impressive appearance, and brought to us a modern version of the Legend of Sleepy Hollow. Frances Newsom led us in a riotous Hokey Pokey - from that to the Virginia Reel which was entered into with gusto. At 11:30 the doors to the dining room swung wide to reveal candle-lit tables laden with tempting food, - sandwiches, salads, hot chocolate, coffee and cakes. With a great deal of admiration, the guests descended like an avalanche and the food disappeared as if by magic. Then the New Year was welcomed with noise makers and finally a more serious and sincere Auld Lange Syne with hands clasped with neighbor's hands, after which there was more dancing led by Margaret Markley.

CHEMEKETAN BANQUET - JANUARY 24 - 6:30 p.m., Izaak Walton League Clubhouse, Salem, Oregon. All Obsidians are invited. Call Nanette Schmuki, 3-1866, evenings, or 5-6850 in daytime for reservations.

IT IS WITH THE DEEPEST REGRET that we all note the passing of Darwin Yoran. He was one of the counsellors of the Obsidian club when it was young, and camping was one of his joys. I well remember the naming of Darwin as Chief Prune, from the prunes he always carried on mountains and especially the climb of the South Sister from the 1929 Camp Bovard. There were 80 on top that day. Darwin and I won the horseshoe championship in the 1929 summer camp with 22 other competitors. We have and will miss him greatly.

R. Sims

POSSIBLE POWER DEVELOPMENTS ON THE UPPER MCKENZIE RIVER

We have all heard, during the past year, that the Eugene Water and Electric Board is studying the possibilities for power generation on the Upper McKenzie River. They have been careful to make it clear that any plans they have put forth are still in the study stage, and that any plans they have put forth are still entirely tentative. No concrete plans or proposals have been made, nor has application been made to the Federal Power Commission for permission to do any construction.

However, we know that all Obsidians want to know what these plans are, however tentative they may be; for any changes in the upper McKenzie may vitally affect the scenic and recreational values of one of the Nation's best known rivers. This, then, is the essence of the EWEB's findings to date:

1. It is possible and feasible to put a dam across the middle of Fish Lake, converting the upper part of the lake to a storage reservoir. The water from this reservoir would be discharged through the present creek channel into Clear Lake.

2. A small diversion dam could be placed across the outlet of Clear Lake, so that this lake will become another reservoir, with some daily fluctuation, probably not more than a foot, of water level.

3. A tunnel could be constructed from this dam to a point below the middle (Koosah) falls, where the first generating plant would be built. These falls would not be allowed to go dry during the tourist season; a certain minimum of water would be kept flowing in the river channel during this part of the year.

4. A second diversion dam could be built at Beaver Marsh, and the water thus obtained carried through a tunnel to a point above the mouth of Smith River, where the second generating plant would be built.

5. Another dam about 90 feet high, could be built across the McKenzie below the mouth of Smith River, forming a reservoir possibly a mile in length. The water thus obtained could be carried, via tunnel, to a point above the mouth of Frissell Creek, where a third plant would be built.

6. Again, a diversion dam at Frissell Creek would furnish water for a plant located somewhere below Belknap Springs.

7. The use of these dams and plants would necessitate the construction of a re-regulating reservoir, probably at the site of the present Paradise Forest Camp.

8. A power transmission line would be built, connecting these plants, and linking them to the present facilities at Leaburg. This would require an approximately 200 foot wide cleared right-of-way, with poles and lines, from Beaver Marsh to Leaburg. This line would necessarily follow the McKenzie River for the full distance.

The possibilities, therefore, are that seven dams may be built on the McKenzie River from its extreme head in Fish Lake to Paradise Forest Camp, and that four power plants, with attendant facilities and transmission lines, could be constructed.

It is probable that, if the EWEB does proceed with this project, that all, or almost all, of the described units will be built, since each one will provide only a fraction of the total estimated power requirement.

These plants will provide "peaking power"; that is, water will be accumulated behind the dams for part of the day, to be used in larger volume than normal river flow at peak load periods. This may cause considerable fluctuation of water level in the river, necessitating the re-regulating dam to maintain a steady flow in the lower river.

In making this study, the EWEB maintains that the upper McKenzie River will quite probably be used for power development at some future time, and that the EWEB is the logical agency for such development.

Mike Stahl

POSSIBLE POWER DEVELOPMENTS ON THE UPPER MCKENZIE RIVER

