



The OBSIDIAN



VOLUME XIII

EUGENE, OREGON - APRIL, 1953

NO. 4



Congratulations

to the Obsidian organization on its Silver Anniversary. It is something we can all be proud of — "Obsidianing" part or all of the 25 years has been a bright spot in the lives of each of us. To me, the Obsidians represent a different kind of organization than I have ever known — truly an organization that exists by "doing" — participants rather than spectators — a feeling of close unity and comradeship not experienced in other groups — an organization where leadership is exercised more through committee action, trips and climbs leadership than from the "elective" offices. The more we participate in trips and climbs, the more richly we feel rewarded for our efforts.

Throughout the past 25 years, it is reasonable to assume that each member who has taken some part — great or small — in Obsidian activity has felt that he or she is a better person for having had the experience.

We will gather on April 18 to pay honor to the Obsidian founders, the past presidents, and the membership in general who have contributed to our success the past 25 years.

Clarence Scherer

OBSIDIAN SILVER ANNIVERSARY EDITION

CHARTER MEMBERS *of Obsidians*

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Elmer R. Adams | 23 Lyle T. Kelling |
| 2 Kathryn Agee | 24 Sydney A. King |
| 3 Clifford R. Baird | 25 Nelson F. McDuff |
| 4 Carl R. Baker | 26 Ralph W. Martin |
| 5 Frances E. Baker | 27 Elmer H. Maxey |
| 6 Jack W. Benefiel | 28 Marion F. McClain |
| 7 Glen Bessonette | 29 Dr. Fred N. Miller |
| 8 Edward Best | 30 Earl L. Neet |
| 9 Frank R. Bouck | 31 Mrs. Earl L. Neet |
| 10 John F. Bovard | 32 Florence P. Ogden |
| 11 Lee Bown | 33 Dr. Wilmoth Osborne |
| 12 Dr. V. L. Brooks | 34 Wayne A. Reid |
| 13 Percy W. Brown | 35 Raymond L. Sims |
| 14 Irvin D. Custer | 36 Edward M. Thurston |
| 15 B. Dot Dotson | 37 Ernestine Troemel |
| 16 Tom J. Flippin Jr. | 38 J. Ed Turnbull |
| 17 Prince J. Glaze | 39 Emma Waterman |
| 18 Mozelle Hair | 40 Don M. Woods |
| 19 Henry S. Howard | 41 Reuben C. Young |
| 20 Earl O. Immel | 42 Catherine B. Yocum |
| 21 Frank Jenkins | 43 Harry B. Yocum |
| 22 Sidney C. Jenkins | |

*25th Anniversary Banquet
April 18, 1953*

6:30 p.m.

Osburn Hotel

"THE OBSIDIAN"

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

Board of Directors

Clarence Scherer President
Dale Carlson Vice-President
Virginia Sebring Corres. Secretary
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Walt Banks Treasurer
Lloyd Gust Lloyd Plaisted
Gene Sebring Blanche Bailey

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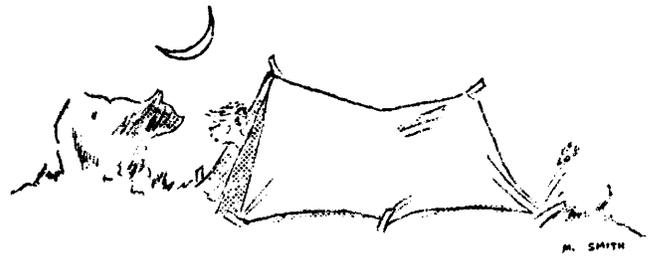
Preview of Coming Attractions

WORK TRIP TO BE COMBINED WITH HIKE TO RAINBOW FALLS

May 17 is the date of this year's repeat trip to beautiful Rainbow Falls; but Dorr tells us that we have a new stove to install in the cabin. Here is a splendid chance to combine a little work with much pleasure, we thought, so let's make it a combined affair. Dale and Henry Carlson will lead.

A FRIEND TO OBSIDIANS

The Club wishes to extend its deepest sympathy to Doris Sims, whose father, Harry Osborn, passed away on April 2, and to all members of the Osborn family. He was indeed a friend of Obsidians, having helped them in many ways, the most recent being the making of our club bulletin board which is now in use at Hendershott's.

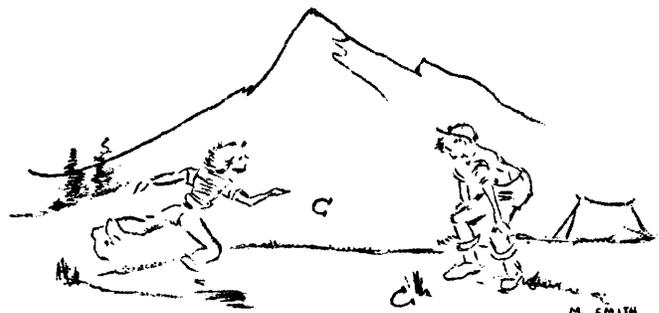


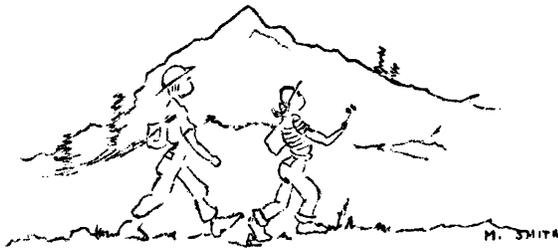
OBSIDIAN SUMMER CAMPS

Table with 3 columns: Year, Camp Name, No. Attending. Lists camps from 1928 to 1952 with attendance numbers.

Approximate Total 770

HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING OUT? Y'A' BETTER-THEY'RE COMING! Watch This Corner





MANY TIMES! MUCH FUN!

by Lloyd Gust

During the past colorful twenty five years, the Obsidians have been extremely active. The mountains and streams, lakes and hills, beaches and waterfalls, have been visited by Obsidians on official climbs, hikes, and outings an astounding number of times with even a more astounding number of people.

Looking back into the Ol' Black Book of record, statistically we find that the McKenzie River and high country surrounding the Three Sisters has been the most popular area. McKenzie Pass has and is continuing to be the most popular area drawing record numbers to places such as Deer Butte, Linton Falls and Lake, Proxy Creek Falls, the Cabins, past and present, Cap Hagan, Castle Rock, Sunshine Shelter, Obsidian Camp, Camp Scott, and the Three Sisters Mountains.

The "Great Big Chocolate Drop between the other Two", (Middle Sister) has been the biggest drawing card over the many years with a total of 19 climbs exclusive of many during summer outings not on record, with a total of 543 persons signing the register on top. Since most climbs of the Sisters must have originated at Frog Camp or general vicinity, a total of 5,253 feet must be ascended. Multiply this figure by 543 and we arrive at 2,327,379 feet or approximately eighty times the elevation of Mt. Everest. The North Sister falls in second place with a total of 19 ascents, exclusive of summer outings, and with a total of 315 persons reaching the summit. The South Sister probably due largely to the greater distance, has beckoned only 14 official ascents with a total of 258 climbers viewing the blue waters on her summit. A quick bit of calculations for "our own" Three Sisters alone will give some amazing results. Combine all the climbers of the Sisters, multiply them by U. S. Census average height per person of 5.75 feet, stand them on each others shoulders on top of the North Sister and they would reach an elevation of 2,000 ft. higher than the highest mountain in the U. S., and the top

man would find it hard to breath at something over 16,000 feet.

The Obsidians in their twenty five yrs. of brilliant climbing experiences by no means spent all of their time on the Three Sisters. Diamond Peak and Mt. Hood fall next in line of popularity with 170 persons reaching their summits on official climbs. 7,848 foot Three Fingered Jack has always been and always will be a great attraction for climbers netting a total of 106 climbers in 8 attempts on her (or is it his) tricky ridge - crawl - chimney. Mt. Washington has unsuccessfully kept 91 hardy Obsidian mountaineers from reaching her summit in 7 official climbs. Mt. Thielsen with 90 in 5 climbs, Mt. Jefferson hosted 88 aplinists on her rocky crest, and Broken Top surrendered to 60 in 6 attempts. Mt. Adams, Mt. Rainier, and Mt. Shasta, the most distant peaks, were visited by a total of 34 climbers on recent official climbs exclusive of the summer outing held in Mt. Rainier National Park.

Let's do some more shuffling of figures. Take the total of all climbers during the past twenty five years and lay them side by side on Willamette St., they would reach from the S.P. Depot to the bottom of Spencers Butte. A lot of people and a lot more fun. Head to foot, they would reach from Broadway and Willamette to Springfield 5th and Main.

While many mountains were climbed, many other beautiful spots in our wonderful state of Oregon were visited by the Obsidians. The McKenzie area takes the prize for attracting the mostest again. With 9 hikes to Sunshine Shelter and vicinity, and 38 incidental visits to climb, this wonderful spot has attracted 1,116 persons on official Obsidian functions. The Obsidian Cabins have been extremely popular drawing over 870 people to its shelter in the past years during 30 visits, one of which was for 101 persons. Full house!

(Cont. next page)



While we claim to be mountaineers and have for the object of our organization, the exploration of the mountains, streams, and trails of the Northwest, and to get together for the mutual benefit those who find pleasure in mountain, forest or stream, the Oregon Coast and beaches have been frequented by literally hundreds of our clan. During the past twenty five years, 30 trips were made to the coast consisting of 609 persons. The most popular spots around town, and within sight of Eugene have been Spencers Butte (29 hikes - 321 persons), and the Coburg Mountains (28 hikes - 392 persons). Silver Creek Falls, a popular pot luck and hiking area was visited by 302 Obsidians and guests during 9 trips. Castle Rock, offering a magnificent view of the McKenzie River Valley and the Sisters to the East, hosted 206 hikers calling themselves Obsidians who even supplied the lookout with supplies. "SHE" got hungry once! Cap Hagan felt the weight of 154 Obsidians during 10 hikes, as did Deer Butte with 191 skiers, hikers, etc. during 12 trips.



DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN - - - -

- - -Hugh Currin - like Neptune - rose from the depths of Green Lakes, enveloped in the rubber boat that "threw" him?

- - -the big, brown bear nipped a bite of Ray Harris while he was taking a picture of her cubs in the Tetons?

- - -the C. A. P. used to drop us iced drinks and ice cream when we reached "the top" - all hot and dusty?

- - -Louie Waldorf led us up the dry riverbed of the McKenzie with water up to our armpits?

- - -did Dave Faville ever find out why Aunt Tillie likes coffee but not tea?

- - -how Chieftain Lake got its name?

- - -we visited Wilbur--the stinkin' whale? and played leap frog on the beach?

- - -Dale Carlson's figure rivalled Marilyn Monroe's?

- - -when the harvest started in summer of 1943 Princesses were out picking cherries and beans?

- - -the Obsidian Board purchased the lot on the S. W. corner of 17th & High in May 1944?

- - -in the spring of 1943 a bunch of active Obsidians were called on to weed Chief Paintbrush's orchard?

- - -we had huckleberry cobbler, picked by the hands of fair maidens, at Camp Sipe Presidents' Tea?

- - -Cynthia landed in Russell Lake?

- - -we used to ride the army trucks up into the mountains to repair forest camps. Rough ride - lots of work - fun!

- - -the first and second women in the world climbed "all-three". They were Obsidians!

- - -something happened to the Imu at Jeff Park, and we didn't eat 'till midnight?

- - -the powder room caught on fire? Who done it? ? ?

- - -we had to go by boat to climb Death Ball?

- - -some silly folks had "paper chases" on skis?

- - -someone found the Hiding place of Three Fingered Jack, the Bandit Chief? A play "The Bandits Bride" in 3 reels and a stagger.

Reel #1: The Bandits Den

Reel #2: The Roadway

Reel #3: Reel #1.

- - -we were "half starved" and came upon Indians with a clean white tablecloth spread with good food...and those luscious peaches...how Dot Dotson offered the old chief a cigarette from a new tin(cigarettes came in tins those days)....and the old fellow kept it(the tin)....after the young buck talked long and fast in Chinook the old chap reluctantly handed it back?

- - -Henry Korn met a cougar face to face on the trail?



First, The Eugene Outdoor Club

By Ray Sims

It was mid-morning of Tuesday, the day after Labor Day of 1927, that the telephone in the Lane County Sheriff's office rang, and the man on the other end was Prince Glaze, the Forest Ranger at Frog Camp.

He told the Sheriff that Guy Ferry and Henry Cramer's model T Ford was sitting there, and that the boys - from The Dalles - had been in to the Middle Sister on Sunday and had been driven off by storm, and that on Monday about eleven o'clock they left again for the mountains.

As they had not returned, he asked the Sheriff to spread the alarm--(Radio was not in wide use then)--get a party from Eugene to come and help in the hunt.

In this ten-day fruitless search --- in stormy weather - from Eugene, were J. Ed Turnbull, Elmer Maxey, Sidney King, Ray Sims, W. Reynold Landrum, Earl Britton and others. But a young newspaper man, Sidney C. Jenkins, seeing that Ray Conway of the Mazamas, was doing the directing of the search, said, "Need of an organization of experienced mountain climbers and woodsmen in Eugene for such emergencies, is apparent."

As the boys had been on the Middle Sister Sunday, it was thought by some that they may have gone to the South Sister on Monday. Two hardy men from Bend, Nels Skjersaa, and Nels Wulfsberg, went on that long trip down to the South Sister, and climbed it in very bad weather, but found that the boys had not arrived at the box.

So they returned to the base at Frog Camp, where now more than two hundred men had joined in the search. Mr. Britton had arrived and taken over Mr. Conway's huge job and it was then decided to climb the

Middle. "Brit's" recollection of this all-important climb was that Wulfsberg and Kostal of Bend went with him and were nearly to the top, while Nordeen and Skjersaa had come up from the East side,--they all met on top. The box was set in solid ice, and it took precious time to get to the book.

The last pages written upon contained "WE LEFT FROG CAMP ABOUT ELEVEN A.M. AND REACHED THE SUMMIT AT 5:35 P.M. WE WERE UP HERE YESTERDAY IN SUCH A BLIZZARD THAT WE COULDN'T FIND THE REGISTER BOX. STORMY AND COLD TODAY."

GUY FERRY
508 Fulton St.
The Dalles. Graduate of U. of O.
'26-S.P.T.

HENRY CRAMER
1545 Beall St.
The Dalles S.P.T.-U. of O.

By this time, nearly three foot of snow had fallen and the chances of finding them were growing very dim. I was in a party that followed down Linton Creek to Lost Lake, only to have to walk back to Frog Camp in a driving rain.

The Forest Service furnished large white tents to house the men and some women and the Portland Ad Club ran the commissary.

(The Boys were never found alive. Their skeletons were discovered the following summer beside Chambers Lake between the Middle and South Sisters.)

Sid Jenkin's suggestion to Ed Turnbull and Ray Sims to return to Eugene and organize a club was well taken, but the first meeting at the Chamber of Commerce was not very well attended so a second meeting was held, when 43 turned out to form as Charter Members, on the First Tuesday in October 1927, an outdoor club that would grow and grow -- with the name "THE EUGENE OUTDOOR CLUB."

At the first meeting, a board of nine directors was elected to serve the first year. They are Dean John F. Bovard, President, Henry S. Howard, Vice President, J. Ed Turnbull, Outing Chairman, Marion
(Continued on Page 6)

EUGENE OUTDOOR CLUB(Continued)

McClain, Local Walks; Sidney Jenkins, Publicity; and Rodney Roach. Their first meeting was at noon, at the Osburn Hotel on November 21, 1927.

A schedule of local trips were taken but the first event of large proportions was the two-day New Year's party at McKenzie Bridge, January 1 & 2, 1928. The group went up to the Bridge in a chartered bus to hold their New Year's party, and the next day all went to Lost Creek Ranch for a day of Skiing. It proved to be quite a job turning the bus around in the fairly deep snow.

Ed Turnbull's outing committee started working early and by May announced we would camp at the foot of the Middle Sister on a grassy knoll where ice cold creeks flow on both sides and the meadows of mountain flowers are boundless--(later to be known as Obsidian Camp) -- the date to be the first week in August.

Eighteen made up the personnel of the first summer camp. After camp was set up and all arrived, the first limbering up hikes were: CLIMB THE HUSBAND on Monday, CLIMB THE NORTH SISTER on Tuesday, CLIMB THE MIDDLE SISTER on Wednesday, and - can you imagine - we RESTED on Thursday! Friday was to become all important, as five of those who could still walk, hiked across-country and climbed the South Sister. It was on the way home, walking over the jet black Obsidian which lay on the ground, Henry Korn came up with one of his many ideas. He said "now we walk on - why not call ourselves - OBSIDIANS". It took like wildfire, and around the campfire Henry told of the plan and also surprised with "another one" when he said "We will call the men who climb the Three Sisters mountains CHIEFS and the women PRINCESSES." We came back to town, with FOUR new chiefs: Henry Korn, Horse Feathers; Ed Turnbull, Hooey Hooey; Ray Sims, Smoketurner; Dot Dotson, Kodak.

If you had only visited into the Three Sister area once, what would you do? Yes and that is what the first four Obsidian Chiefs, Horse Feathers, Hooey Hooey, Smoketurner and Kodak did too. With the help of lots of ballyhoo in the newspaper -- they led a group of townspeople numbering



73 into that beautiful country of glaciers, white mountains and meadows of Indian Paintbrush and Blue Lupine, just two weeks after their first "Summer Camp" at Obsidian Camp.

It was August 26, 1928, leaving Frog Camp at nine in the morning, the long line following the trail over the Lava, across turbulent White Branch, then up White Branch to the foot of Collier's greatness, actually protruding down into the trees, with White Branch roaring from beneath. It was here, while eating lunch, that Hooey Hooey began proceedings, while Smoketurner unleashed a puff of campfire smoke, and the first initiation in the Obsidians began.

With a feather dripping with icy drops from water brought down from the blue lake on the South, Horsefeathers touched each of the following under the nose, Elmer Maxey, three peaks; Marion McClain, - two peaks; Glen Bessonette, two peaks; -- Darwin Yoran, one peak; William Tugman, one peak; Frank Bouck, one peak; Arthur Hendershott, one peak; and C. R. Clark, one peak. The awe-struck crowd who witnessed this ceremony thought a new tribe of Indians had sprung into being.

The trip continued and Marion McClain gathered them out into the center of Collier Glacier where a great gaping hole, known as the "draft" showed dark blue water beneath the ice. And there, Marion told the history of Collier Glacier, and its movements.

It was getting late when the long line

climbed out over the top of Collier and down through the trees, where later Sunshine Shelter would be built, and out the Skyline Trail to Frog Camp, in fact it was midnight when the last "high heels" got out.

The second year's summer camp was at Camp Bovard, on Linton Creek, above the Skyline Trail, but west of the South Sister, attended by forty-two and honoring our first president, John F. Bovard.

Two things stand out as important in this fine camp, first, on the middle Sunday, nearly our whole camp climbed the South Sister, only to find Earl Britton - and his Boy Scouts of Roseburg, -- camped at Todd Lake, a large party from the Bend Skyliners - with our own group- numbering in all around 80.

Second, I took a party of twenty on a bivouac camp up near Camp Scott, to climb the North Sister. Our party consisted of Florence Ogden (Florence Sims), Betty McMahan, and Elsie McHoes (Elsie Dotson) - and was the first time we had taken women up the North - so they became the first Princesses. Many new Chiefs were in the making on this climb also; John F. Bovard, William Tugman, Darwin Yoran, David Faville, Dr. W. B. Neal, Percy Brown, Louis Waldorf, Dick Kay, Elmer Adams, Carl Baker, Ted S. Easton, Glendon Dotson, Orville Richardson, made their first ascent of the North, assisted by Henry Korn, Ed Turnbull, Dot Dotson and Ray Sims.

Another event involving many enthusiasts was the first "snow train" to Cascade summit, carrying 630. It was 1936, and the Willamette Highway had not been built, neither had the South Santiam - and the Natron Cut-off to Klamath Falls was new. But - back to the train --- Louis Waldorf, Roland Burghardt and Dr. Charles Hunt - moved up and down the 14 long railway cars leading the singing. In nearly every car it would be something different. And we carried a portable organ for the music.

That night as we returned to the Eugene depot, John F. Bovard, our first president, standing on the platform, watching the more than 600 people get off and the scramble to the baggage car to get their own skis, said, "And to think, all this started just eight years ago."

In 1933, when the summer camp committee descended on Camp Scott, they were met by a blizzard, in that first week of August, and almost gave up, as four inches of snow fell. But the next morning, when the sun came out and the snow melted, it was a "much brighter world."

It seemed when the Willamette Highway was completed in 1940, "that the last frontier" had been erased. This remark was made the year before, when the nine Obsidians skied from the Odell Lake Lodge down the present highway site to beyond the overhead trestle.

The skiers had taken the train the day before and spent the night at the lodge. When the long ski trip began, the temperature was nearly zero, making skiing perfect and the many miles of "down grade" in a new country, with changing scenery at every turn, made this an unforgettable trip on skis, in a mountainous country that was already changed by the engineers to a road for cars. Of course we do not regret progress -- but "that was a fine ski trip!"

25 Years

~ 1927 - 1952 ~

OUR HONORARY MEMBERS

Four of our long-time Obsidians have been held in such high esteem by our Club that they have been designated by the Board as Honorary Members. They are:

Dr. John F. Bovard, founder
 Dr. Omar R. Gullion
 David E. Faville
 J. Dorr Hamlin

Their outstanding leadership, continual interest and unusual devotion to the welfare of the club have made them beloved by all. We salute these Honoraries who have established traditions, planned hikes and led climbs over many years, and have inspired newcomers by their enthusiasm and companionship.

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 invariably due to ignorance and lack of experience or to downright carelessness. Most accidents are avoidable, using proper caution and experience in the craft.

The annual school in mountaineering sponsored by the Obsidians has been very well attended in the past by those interested in the more technical aspects of climbing and we hope that it will prove even more successful this year. The outdoor sessions are the highlight of the varied schedule this season. The climbing school is soon to start. Let us see you all out for our sessions to offer encouragement to the new and brush up on our own technique.

The schedule for the school is as follows with the time and place to be announced at a later date:

- May 7 - Indoor Session
- May 10 - Outdoor Session at Hoodoo Bowl in conjunction with a trip planned by the Trips Committee. It promises to be fun as well as a valuable experience with snow and ice technique.
- May 18 - Indoor Session
- May 24 - Coburg Caves - the rock is excellent for practice and by that time the flowers should be at their best.
- May 30 & 31 - Three Fingered Jack as led by Lloyd Plaisted and the rest of the Climbing Committee. This is graduation exercises for the climbing school.

DO ALL TURN OUT AND LEND YOUR SUPPORT!

* * * * *

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN - - - -

- - -we hiked three miles into Berkely Park in the rain and hailstorm-over snow, only to find that the committee and cook who left two or three days ahead of us - had only reached camp an hour before!

Climb of Rapids... to be Memorial Weekend Highlight

The mail always goes through. This year the mail will be accompanied by OBSIDIANS. Yes, the mail boat trip to Agnes, a spring highlighted event you will not want to miss!

The U. S. Mail travels in the most modern conveyances, including the fastest aircraft, streamliner trains, speedy buses, express motor freight trucks, and by water; but the only one of its type - the only unique mail boat left in the United States is in Oregon. This mail boat plies daily from Gold Beach on the Oregon coast up the rugged Rogue River carrying mail and sightseers to the little village of Agnes, 20 miles upstream. Aside from the unique, historical features of this U.S. Mail Boat ride which will make you feel like a pioneer, are the myriad of rapids, and glistening pools of clear blue water set in breathtaking cliffs, green timbered hills and flower-covered meadows.

The itinerary for this special holiday is as follows: Leave Eugene at 8:00 Sat. May 30, via an "Extra Special" Greyhound with Clarence at the wheel. Drive to Humbug Mountain State Park on the beach passing through Drain, Reedsport, Coos Bay-North Bend. Camp out in the park arising early for breakfast at the Humbug Chalet, short drive to boat landing, and we're off - up the river on a specially chartered boat. The thrilling ride to Agnes usually takes 3 hours; however, we may make it as long as we wish under provisions of the charter, arriving at the Old Post House at Agnes for luncheon. Tour of this quaint village, board the boat again for the picturesque ride back to Gold Beach. Return to Eugene Sunday evening. Approximate Cost: Bus Fare \$6.00. Boat Fare \$3.00. Luncheon \$2.00. Breakfast \$1.00. Diner, on your own. \$15.00 would cover your weekend of one of Oregon's scenic spots and truly an exciting venture. See you then? Sign up now!

SECT. 34.66 P.L.&R.

