



The OBSIDIAN



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NO. 1



Obsidians are very proud that among their members are many who serve the Ski Patrol.

Our National Ski Patrol is a voluntary, and non-profit organization of over 4,000 members, including some 800 women. All are trained in ski rescue work and are graduates of Red Cross first-aid courses. The patrol is financed by contributions from skiers.

The Ski Patrol serves the seven areas of skiing—Eastern, Midwest, Northern Rockies, Southern Rockies, Utah, California, Pacific Northwest. In each area, a chairman directs regional men, section chiefs, patrol leaders, and the patrolmen. The local patrolman is the key man of the organization—a skier gives up much of his own ski fun to aid accident victims.

In a typical year, some 2 million skiers in the U.S. suffer only 15,000 accidents—less than 1 percent. Only about one quarter of these are fractures, but all require first-aid and rescue by toboggan.

The National Ski Patrol seeks to reduce even this low accident rate through safety education for skiers.

The ski season again is with us, so let us all try to help these Ski Patrolmen whenever we can. One best way is to use caution in our own skiing and on the trails.

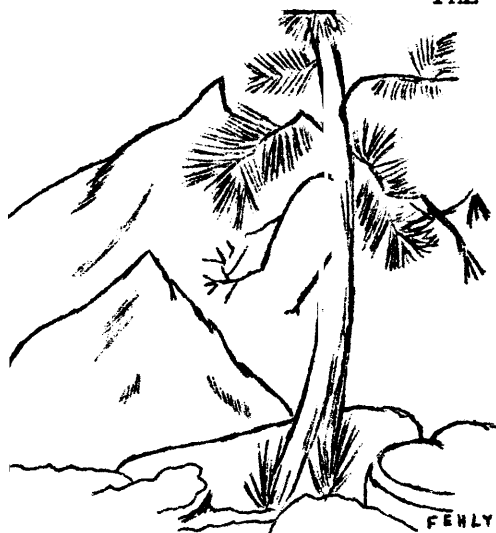
A Message From President Carlson

To me the pleasures of belonging to the Obsidians are many. They include our Sunday hikes and climbs. Our social evenings throughout the year are fun. Weekend trips to the cabin or the coast always prove popular. The privilege of serving on a committee or the Board is always a pleasure and is interesting to say the least. The highlight of the entire season for those so fortunate to attend is the annual Summer Camp. However, the greatest reward of belonging to the Obsidians is the pleasure of enjoying good companionship.

For me the greatest adventure of Obsidian life is being in the wilderness with the afore-mentioned companions. Whether it be at the breakfast fire before a climb with the tantalizing odors of frying eggs and bacon, or along the winding trail where scenic beauty prevails on every side, or perhaps the sighting of a doe and her fawn in early Summer, or whether it is at the heavily laden table of an evening meal at Summer Camp, there are no other thrills which can begin to compare. During winter skiing at the fine areas in the vicinity offers a lot of fun and adventure (and for me a few spills). The Winter Outing usually proves one of the most successful weekends of the entire year and much good fellowship is enjoyed.

Our evening social activities also provide us with the finest of entertainment and pleasure. Included are the potluck picnics followed by volleyball or softball and then an evening campfire for roasting marshmallows. The holiday parties are especially fun as are picture nights and barn dances.

Just don't see how any of us could do without our fine club with its variety of fun and adventure. However, these pleasures couldn't be possible without the companionship of the other members and friends. As a special reward to yourself why don't you find time to attend more Obsidian planned events this year so that others may more fully enjoy your companionship.

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WATCH YOUR STEP! Whether we will it or not we cannot journey without leaving footprints and others will follow where we go because we have marked the way.

* Numerous pieces of advertising literature reach the club post office box. Some of it is interesting, some not so interesting. Information about hiking equipment and camp equipment is kept for future reference. Members may inquire about information available. The latest piece of advertising contained a nice selection of all-expense tours to Europe via Scandinavian Airlines. A 16 day all-expense trip is available for \$689.00 -- a 21 day trip for \$700.00. Any club member who gathers 15 people to make such an excursion receives a free trip.

* The National Ski Museum at Ishpeming, Mich., will be dedicated in February of 1954 during the National Ski Association's Golden Jubilee Celebration. The NSA has requested each Division to contribute some article of interest to the skiing public to be displayed in the new building. It could be a trophy, some item of "ancient" equipment or clothing or even an unusual picture. Or maybe some of you have better ideas. If you do, contact the Executive Secretary. Gretchen Fraser generously parted with the racing number she wore when she became the first U.S. skier to bring home a gold medal from the Olympic Games.

* Clarence and Dorothy Scherer have moved to their new home at 1240 Q. St., Springfield, and have a new phone number, 6-1397. Gene and Virginia Sebring have occupied their new home although it is not quite completed; their address is Rt. 2, Box 87B.

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The best of healers is good cheer. (Pindar)

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Did you hear about our Ned Graves? The National Parks Association has announced the appointment of C. Edward Graves as their new Western Representative. National Parks Association is a non profit organization whose sole purpose is to see that our great nature reservations are protected from despoiling influences and are administered under high standards. Our best wishes are with your cause, Ned, and we wish you every success with N.P.A.

* Ray Sims is our latest Obsidian Life Member. Santa Claus (Doris) managed the presentation. No one deserves the privilege of Life Membership more than Ray, who has been untiring in his efforts with Obsidian activities since the founding of our club.

* Ruth Hopson has been elected President of the American Nature Study Society. This is a national organization, and a very important one in naturalist circles. Our congratulations Ruth.

* We wish Bertha Deckmann a speedy recovery from her "grand opening" at the Sacred Heart hospital recently.

* Surely glad to learn Helen Kilpatrick is up and around again after suffering a serious knee injury. Can't keep a good gal down - long! Good luck, Helen.

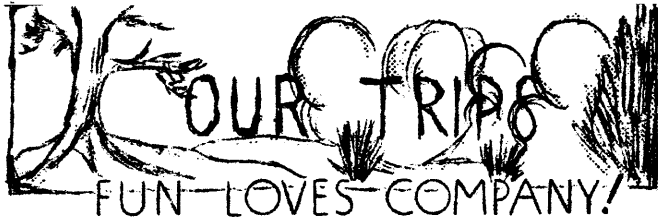
* Karl Onthank has made an appeal for help with typing letters to members of Congress and committee heads on projects being undertaken by the Scientific Committee. Anyone who can spare a little time with this important work, please call Karl.

* Obsidians are invited to the Chemeketa banquet at Mayflower Hall, Salem, January 23, 6:30 p.m. Dinner \$2.00.

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The Entertainment Committee has planned a fine OBSIDIAN POTLUCK for Thursday evening January 28, at the Washington Street Recreation Center.

Beside the fine dinner, members will have the opportunity to hear Mrs. Loftus speak on her experiences in Alaska. This is a highly amusing, interesting presentation complete with pictures and props. We know all will enjoy it. Dinner at 6:45 - Bring own table service. Your Obsidian friends will be there to help you have a good time.



January 24 - RICHARDSON BUTTE. Mildred Ball is going to take us on a fairly easy climb. This butte affords a nice view of Fern Ridge Lake as well as the area west of Eugene. In case you hadn't noticed - it's beautiful. Mildred has ordered sunshine.

January 31 - LAURELWOOD GOLF COURSE. Helen Hughes will lead us over the country South and West of the golf course. Short hike, but good exercise, in very nice surroundings. Helen has ordered sunshine.

February 7 - DILLARD HILL. Margaret Lemon is going to show us some of the interesting things about the South Hilyard area of Eugene and its new suburban area. Margaret has ordered sunshine.

February 14- VALENTINES DAY. Some cupid is up to no good, but sunshine is ordered. Let's hope the weather man doesn't disappoint these Obsidian gals who are leading our February trips.

— Just Released —

OBSIDIAN SKI COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

February 13-14 - HOODOO BOWL. This will be a do-as-you-please event. Take a cross-country trip, ski the trails, loaf around the lodge. Some events will be planned, depending on the weather and snow conditions. Get your friends together — and circle the date on your calendar - mark it A GOOD TIME!

In March we have our Winter Outing - at Mt. Hood. March 28 - ODELL LAKE - Around Odell Lake on Skis. April 11 - CRATER LAKE - That wonderful traditional event that Greyhound takes us on. All these snow trips should be beautiful. In June-cross-country trip to Sunshine Shelter. Date to be announced.

UGH!

Two students in a psychology class at a well known Southern University, asked to list their most valuable personal asset wrote down - "Intelligence" - both, however, misspelling it.

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The most utterly lost of all days is the one in which you have not once laughed.

THE OBSIDIAN

Obsidians, Inc., have membership in the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs - Pacific Northwest Ski Association - Central Cascade Recreational Council - Lane County Recreation Commission - Eugene Parks and Recreation Commission.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Thelma Watson Blanche Bailey
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The Natural History Society invites all Obsidians to attend a lecture on the Cascade Region of Oregon, to be held at Chapman Hall on the U. of O. campus, at 8:00 p.m. Friday, January 29th.

Dr. Baldwin, Associate Professor of Geology, will tell us about the geology of the area.

Dr. Leroy Detling, Associate Professor of Biology, will picture for us the Botany of the area.

The Zoology of the Cascades will be unveiled (speaker to be announced later).

Ray Sims will discuss the Recreational facilities of this famous playground.

All will present a short lecture with slides, and Karl Onthank will lead a discussion after the lecture.

No admission charge will be made. This will be an evening well worth the time.

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* Bob Pfeiffer showed his summer climbing pictures (colored slides) to the Obsidians while home for Christmas vacation. Included were some slides taken of and by Ray Harris when he climbed some rock pillars in the Black Hills, using expansion bolts.

WINTER OUTING AT MAZAMA LODGE WILL
BE IN MARCH - WATCH FOR THE DATES!

ABOUT THAT IMPORTANT BIRD COUNT

The 54th Bird Census conducted by the Natural History Society was a most interesting and successful event. Thirty enumerators took part, and 79 species of birds were recorded. It is interesting to note that four species have not been included in any previous Christmas count for this area. They are Anthony's Green Heron, Screech Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Myrtle Warbler. The total count was 11,373 birds.

* * * * *

312 DAYS TO DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

...but we want to tell you about the 1953 Obsidian Christmas party. About 85 people attended a grand party, very handsomely engineered by the entertainment committee and quite successfully chairmanned by Mary Castelloe (now you leave your name in there, Mary) and MC'd by Clarence Scherer. Our thanks go to all these and all the folks who worked to make the party such a fine one from dessert to Santa Claus (Harris).

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SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE ...

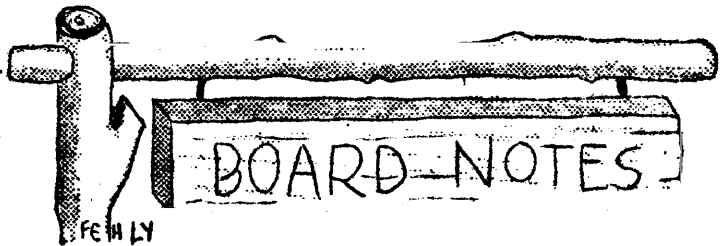
Obsidians properly welcomed 1954 at a big party held at the Obsidian Cabin (the spacious mess hall was used also). 27 Obsidians enjoyed this Winter holiday, and all who missed the event are still feeling badly. The wonderful games, the swell buffet, and the Turkey Dinner for New Year's Day were just a part of the grand fun. Special thanks go to Roy and Edna Temple who so nicely handled the food department... and to Jean Banks and Thelma Watson, co-chairmen of the party, go thanks for a gala event.

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DINOSAUR EMERGENCY NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Federation of Western Outdoor clubs has made an appeal to all member clubs to have their membership enter the battle to save Dinosaur Monument. Sec. of Interior McKay has recommended to Pres. Eisenhower that Echo Park Dam be constructed. If this is done as proposed, it will desecrate the famous Dinosaur National Monument... which is so unique and beautiful.

You are urged to write Pres. Eisenhower urging him to save Dinosaur. It has been very conclusively proven that there does exist outside of this park alternate power sites which would provide more than ample power and water for the people of this area. Address your letters "My dear Mr. President." The campaign to save Dinosaur is national and gaining some headway. We all must add our protest.



There were some interesting "goings on" at recent Board of Directors meetings, we think all Obsidians will be interested in hearing. Here's what they did:

Learning that the Sierra Club is to make their 1954 Summer Camp at Green Lakes, Ray Sims was appointed to write a letter of welcome and tell them some fine points of this favorite spot.

Welcomed Larry Leighton as the club's newest Junior member.

Accepted Dr. Gullion's contribution of -- \$50.00 to our Club House Fund (This is his 4th such donation). Also accepted and thanked Dean Bovard for his generous donation to our Club House Fund.

Agreed to support the cause and purposes of the Lane County Recreation Commission and the Eugene Recreation Commission.

Reviewed and accepted plans for the Obsidian Club House designed by Mike Stahl. The Building Committee was given OK to submit plans to determine costs of building.

Also OK'd committee plan to have Doug Spencer proceed to have club made a non-profit organization for tax purposes.

Moved to have resolution sent to Representative Johnson in favor of his proposed bill to make Dinosaur Monument a National Park, and prevent the building of dams in National Parks.

Learned that present club membership is exactly 200 happy people.

Heard plans for a Winter Outing to be held at Mazama Lodge either the first or second weekend in March. PUT THESE DATES DOWN, FOLKS, AND WATCH FOR FURTHER NEWS.

OK'd sending material to the Chemeketans regarding the controversial Three Sisters Area reclassification.

Offered Tri Pass Ski Club ski racing numbers and course flags for nominal amount per their request.

SECT. 34.66 P.L.&R.

