



The OBSIDIAN



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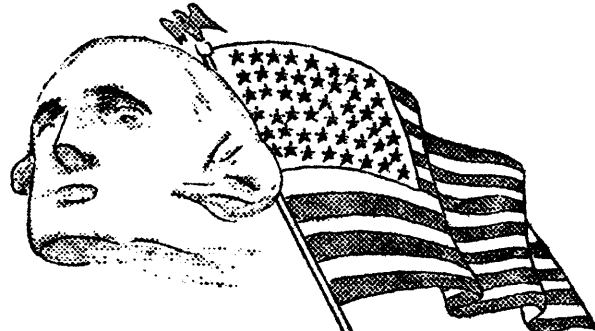
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WINTER OUTING

MAZAMA LODGE - MARCH 6TH and 7TH. Again this year the Obsidians have been fortunate to be invited to Mazama Lodge, near Government Camp, Mt. Hood, Oregon, for their Winter Outing. Members who can go on Friday have been requested to check in before midnight. The cost will not exceed \$5 including 3 meals and your lodging. Nice dormitories are provided with adequate and clean washroom facilities. Members are to pay individually at the desk at the lodge.

Take your own sleeping bags, blankets and equipment. This promises to be a swell weekend with plenty of Lodge atmosphere for those so inclined or fun in the snow if you prefer. Also, sun, we hope. You will enjoy the evening games and dancing at the Lodge.

Just "ask the man" who has been there before. Sign up at Hendershott's early.



FEBRUARY 22 - GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY
From his "Farewell Address" to the people of the United States, September 17, 1796, we quote:

"The unity of Government, which constitutes you one people, is also now dear to you. It is justly so; for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquility at home, your peace abroad; of your safety; of your prosperity; of that very Liberty which you so highly prize. But as it is easy to foresee that, from different causes and from different quarters, much pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth..."

SAVE THIS DATE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH - 8:00 P.M. - CHAPMAN HALL - U. O.

ALFRED SCHMITZ, Vice President for the state of Oregon, FWOC, and a member of the Mazamas, will be present under the sponsorship of the Natural History Society of Eugene to lecture on the DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE and present the movie "The Wilderness River Trail." Also on the program will be Don L. Hunter, Head of the Audio Visual Department, U. of O., who will show colored slides of the area and present a tape recording of an interview with the head Ranger Naturalist and boat guide, made on a trip there in 1953.

Complete support is urged against the building of Echo Park Dam in the Upper Colorado River basin which will destroy the DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT as well as much of the natural beauty of Northern Colorado and Utah. Let's help keep it unimpaired as an important part of a world renowned National Park System.

We thank the Natural History Society for playing host to Mr. Schmitz in bringing this important conservation problem to the attention of the people.

Some Obsidians are already members of the Wilderness Society. Others would be if they knew about it. Dr. Olaus J. Murie, an old friend of Obsidians, is President. Annual dues, \$2.00, brings the excellent journal, The Living Wilderness. Address Wilderness Society, 1840 Mintwood Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Karl Onthank, Chairman

DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT

The Committee sent the Club's resolutions opposing the construction of dams in the Monument area, and favoring HR1037 by Leroy Johnson of California to make the Monument a National Park, to President Eisenhower, Secretary McKay, to the House Committee and Sub-Committee which has the bill providing for the dams. Individual letters are also needed. Write to Sec. Douglas McKay (address letter to Douglas McKay, Sec. of Interior, Wash. D.C.), who has recommended the dams but could withdraw the recommendation, and especially to Representative A. L. Miller, Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Representative William H. Harrison, Chairman of the Sub-Committee which has the bill and to the Oregon Delegation; also to other Congressmen you know. Do it now! (Address Miller & Harrison - House Office Building, Washington, D. C.)

THREE SISTERS WILDERNESS AREA

Club resolutions favoring the Ridge Boundary rather than the Horse Creek Boundary recommended by the Forest Service, have been sent appropriately. It is significant that as people become informed, interest and support develop, most of all among those who have seen or explored the area. This was especially evident following the Natural History Society program at which various scientists reported their observations in the area—a meeting put on by Frances Newsom, member of the Committee who doubles as President of the Natural History Society. The Trips Committee plans spring trips into the area to which members of other clubs will be especially invited. The Sierra Club plans a summer camp on Green Lakes from which parties will explore the area. The Committee is getting out a "brief" on the area. If you need information, call a Committee member. The basic issue is chiefly how much is enough for the long future, especially of an area possessing such unique and irreplaceable values.

THE UPPER MCKENZIE

Word comes from Washington that the Cougar Dam on South Fork may be built in cooperation with Eugene Water and Electric Board, which may or may not ease the pressure. McKenzie people have an obvious interest, economic as well as sentimental, and will actively oppose dams on the Upper McKenzie.

RAINIER NATIONAL PARK

An aerial tramway is proposed for Paradise Valley. It is strongly opposed by the Mountaineers of Seattle and other clubs. The directors have approved a resolution opposing this invasion of a National Park. Write to Governor Arthur B. Langlie of Washington at Olympia, whose committee is recommending this, and to the Superintendent of Rainier National Park encouraging the Park Service to stand by its regulations.

The Committee is cooperating with the Federation and other agencies in other "defensive" actions including Olympic Park and Congressman Harris Ellsworth's HRA646 providing that a sustained yield timber operator who loses timberland by condemnation for a dam and reservoir site or other public use may reimburse himself by selecting other government timber land. The Club Directors approved a resolution opposing the bill unless it contains adequate safeguards for Park, Recreational, Wilderness and such other restricted areas, and gives the Forest Service a reasonable and proper voice in the selection. One would think that the small timber operators, who stand to lose rather than to gain from this bill, would oppose it . . .

If it seems discouraging that so much defense is necessary, take heart. It has happened before. When the People, to whom National Parks and Forests belong, are informed and aroused they can win, as they usually have in the past when aroused. So inform yourselves, make yourselves heard by voice and letter, especially to Senators and Congressmen. Let it be known that there are enough conservationists really to matter, that conservation is not partisan but American. And, incidentally, that tree-farming, important as it is, is not synonymous with conservation, but is only one aspect of it. Most Congressmen try to do what their constituents want and are apt to estimate that from the letters they receive.



When you are discouraged because you are in the valley, remember that every valley reaches up to the hills.

Our good friend Dr. Gullion wrote recently, "Please note I have changed my address from Oroville, Cal., to 742 N. 1st St., San Jose, Cal. After spending two years raising peanuts, hams and melons in Gullion Park (as Elmer McBee named it) I'm helping establish a rest home here. When any of you bucks can't hike any longer, come down here and rest."

When last heard from, Glen and Florence Sims were pulling into New Orleans, La.

Hugh and Mabel Currin are spending a Winter vacation in Arizona, getting sunshine kilowatts.

A future Obsidian chief was born in January to Chief Dave and Princess Gale Burwell. Our congratulations to the happy parents.

When "Mr. Boals goes to Washington" - do you suppose he checks on Mamie's Spring Hats?

A Correction--Clarence and Dorothy Scherer and those two cute little Scherers have a new address -- but not the one reported in the last bulletin. Someone pressed the wrong button. Their address is 1476 Pleasant Street, and the phone is the same - 6-1345.

Sir Edmund Hillary, conqueror of Mt. Everest, will speak in San Francisco, March 10, and then in Seattle. There is a possibility he will appear in Eugene. Keep your fingers crossed - he has been invited by the U. of O.

Roxie Waldorf very beautifully and expertly plays in the first violin section of the new Eugene Civic Symphony orchestra. She also plays with the University of Oregon Symphony. Next concert February 24th at the music school auditorium. (Free Adv.)

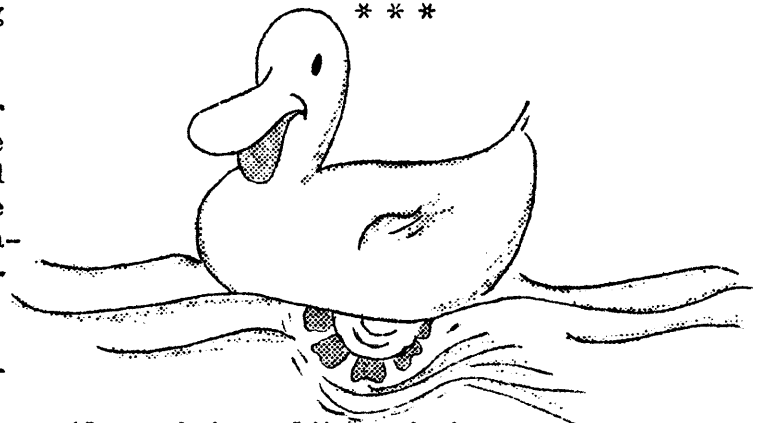
A surprise birthday party for Myrtie Hamlin was well attended the other night. A bunch of Obsidians "barged in" on Myrtie's ironing to wish the Obsidian's sweetheart many happy returns of the day. Myrtie's age? Well the cake had 16 candles and they all went in one blow. The wish? Myrtie wished she could have 16 candles on her cake again next year.

Too much televisioning we guess, but Bailey Castelloe had Mary aghast the other day when he absent mindedly turned on the radio, waited a minute and seeing nothing exclaimed, "My gosh, Mary, I'm blind."

Do you members know the 1954 Obsidian "cut up". No it isn't bachelor President Carlson - it's Frances Newsom, club Librarian. She cuts out all club publicity and does a mighty efficient job of it, too.

That smoke you see rising from the Merle Bailey's home several hours each day is not fire. It's from Blanche's typewriter so busy pounding out conservation material re Three Sisters and Horsepasture area. What would the club do without the good help of Mrs. Smokey?

Obsidians are still talking about that wonderful potluck supper at which Dorothy Loftus entertained. "Outstanding" is the word for Loftus. Many thanks.



Always behave like a duck -
Keep calm and unruffled on the surface,
But paddle like the devil underneath.

(Brabazan)

In writing to Representatives Miller and Harrison on Conservation issues, include a request that your letter be placed on record.

OUR TRIPS...

With Spring just around the corner, all Obsidians look forward to exploring the countryside. Here are some of the trips your COMMITTEE has planned:

- FEB. 21ST - ROW RIVER - DORENA DAM and surroundings. An interesting trip and who knows, maybe a trillium will be discovered.
- FEB. 28TH - DAY TRIP TO THE COAST - SILT-COOS OUTLET and surroundings. A lovely time of year at the beach, and a favorite spot of all.
- MAR. 6 & 7 - WINTER OUTING AT MT. HOOD - MAZAMA LODGE.
- MAR. 7TH - EXPLORING NEW ADDITIONS TO HENDRICKS PARK and surrounding area. Early wild flowers should be very much in evidence.
- MAR. 15TH - WHITE BRANCH SKI AREA - Lots of fun in the snow and you don't have to just ski, bring along a sled or snow shoes.
- MAR. 21ST - Oops - don't throw away that old lard can, we may need it for the HOBO BREAKFAST AND HIKE at Armitage Park. Watch for further announcement of time and details. Bring your friends.
- MAR. 28TH - Keith Newsom promises a fine day of hiking on SPENCERS BUTTE. A good view of an ever-changing panorama-Eugene.
- MAR. 28TH - FOR SKIERS - A CROSS-COUNTRY TOUR AROUND BEAUTIFUL ODELL LAKE.
- APR. 11TH - CRATER LAKE BY BUS - watch for details.



Did you know the Forest Service reports that over 20,000 folks used the two ski areas in the Willamette Forest last year - and 65,000 made use of the Forest Camps and picnic areas--and more than 50,000 were fishermen - poor fish!

Following two successive fire seasons of record-breaking severity, the 1953 season set new records for low fire danger in Western Oregon and Washington according to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Pacific NW Forest and Range Experiment Station, Portland, Oregon. The low danger is reflected in the fire record. The U.S. Forest Service and forestry offices of both states all report the lowest acreage burned since fire records have been kept. A cool, wet spring, above normal relative humidities during the summer, general rains in late August, and recurring fall rains were largely responsible.

BOARD NOTES...

February Board meeting was held at the home of Ray Cavagnaro (for lack of a clubhouse). Here are the highlights of reports and action taken:

Bailey Castelloe reported the contractor is working on plans and costs of the Obsidian Club house - we will have some building figures soon.

Thelma Watson reported on Trips. 15 Obsidians and friends made the trip to Richardson's Butte on January 24, led by new Princess Mildred Ball. Not only did the group have clear cool weather and some snow, but they saw 3 deer. 14 made the trip to Dillard Hill on February 7, led by Margaret Lemon, also 14. The group reported this trip very successful with nothing to hamper their view of the South Sister. This was Margaret's "first" as a leader, and she did an outstanding job.

Heard plans for the CLIMBING SCHOOL to be held the latter part of April and the first of May. There will be six lessons in all with 2 indoor and 4 outdoor sessions. Watch for further announcements, and remember if you know how to climb, you know what to do when an emergency does arise. Townspeople are especially welcome at this school.

Read an appeal from our friends the Seaveys to help keep destructive trespassers off their property! Guns, dogs, etc., are prohibited, especially during the lambing season. Obsidians are requested to obtain permission from the Seaveys before crossing the property.

Ray Sims was appointed as Obsidian representative to the Eugene Park and Recreation Commission and the Lane County Recreation Commission.

Ray Sims read a very appreciative letter from the Sierra Club thanking him for his help with their plan for Green Lakes Summer Camp.

The Mazamas have helped us select a camp site for our Summer Outing at Mt. Hood - August 1 to 15th.

SECT. 34.66 P.L.&R.

Remember the George Washington Birthday Party Thursday, Feb. 18, 8 p.m. - River Rd. Clubhouse - Refreshments!

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