



The
OBSIDIAN



VOL. XV

DECEMBER 1955 - OBSIDIANS, INC. - P.O. BOX 322, EUGENE, OREGON

NO. 11

WHAT'S PLANNED THAT'S GRAND

OUTSIDE FUN

INSIDE FUN

The Trips Committee says, "come along on:

- Dec. 4 - JASPER ROCKS, east of Jasper - Frank Sipe, leader.
- Dec. 11 - CHRISTMAS GREENERY trip - Bailey & Mary Castelloe
- Dec. 18 - CHRISTMAS TREES, choose 'em where they grow.
- Jan. 8 - Visit GEORGE HERMACH'S PLASTIC EMPORIUM.
- Jan. 15 - SKI WILLAMETTE AREA, say Hi to George Korn.
- Jan. 22 - MYRTIE HAMLIN'S. Visit Myrtie and her rock collection.
- Jan. 29 - COAST TRIP. Mary Cavagnaro, Leader.

The Entertainment Committee has planned the following activities for the coming weeks:

- Dec. 5 - PICTURES at Friendly House - (details elsewhere in this issue)
- Dec. 16 - OBSIDIAN NIGHT at Skinner's Butte; pictures of Mt. Olympus climb, and Summer Outing.
- Dec. 18 - ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY - at Skinner's Butte. (Be sure to read details in this issue).
- Jan. 2 - PICTURES at Friendly House.
- Jan. 14 - Saturday at 8:00 PM, FOLK AND SQUARE DANCING at River Road Women's Club.
- Jan. 20 - OBSIDIAN NIGHT at Skinner's Butte: Henry Jeppesen will show some of his European pictures.

Mary Cavagnaro's Entertainment Committee has arranged these three social events for December and January. Plan to be a part of each one. **BETTER MARK YOUR CALENDARS**, because post card notices will no longer be used.

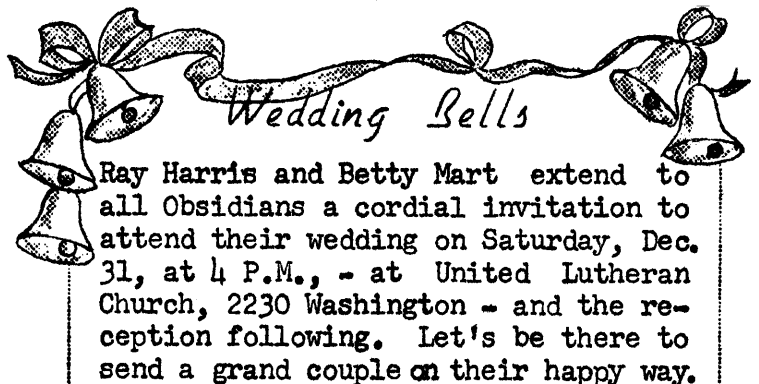
No New Year's Party has been planned this year because many Obsidians have indicated they had other plans.

WUXTRY! WUXTRY!



The familiar Newsboy's call was heard on the streets of Springfield early Friday morning, November 25, - as new poppa Mike Stahl was seen passing out baby blue pitons.

Best wishes from the entire membership to you, Donald Myron --- all eight pounds, one ounce, of you and
Congratulations to your two fine parents!



Ray Harris and Betty Mart extend to all Obsidians a cordial invitation to attend their wedding on Saturday, Dec. 31, at 4 P.M., - at United Lutheran Church, 2230 Washington - and the reception following. Let's be there to send a grand couple on their happy way.

REGULAR OBSIDIAN NIGHT SCHEDULED

Your Entertainment Committee has scheduled Obsidian night for the third (3rd) Friday of EVERY month at Skinner's Butte Recreation Center. Not all activities will be held here, but always on the THIRD FRIDAY a planned program will be presented at this cozy, well-equipped meeting place. Topics of interest to club members, such as conservation, trips, new clubhouse information may be discussed, singing, pictures, etc., will be featured, and most important it gives members a chance to become better acquainted with each other.

"COME SEE MY PICTURES"

You may hear this invitation from anyone this year, as the Entertainment Committee has arranged something new to the Obsidians; a monthly, informal meeting devoted to the showing of slides and pictures of recent climbs and trips.

These picture nights will supplement our other social functions at Skinner's Butte Recreation Center, and are planned for the first Monday of each month at Friendly House, 2445 Kincaid. This cheery place, 2 blocks east of Hilyard, has hosted many of our members before, and will continue to hold its reputation for fine entertainment, thanks to Joe Daniel's plans. Coffee furnished, ladies may bring cookies.

Everyone is welcome. Joe welcomes suggestions from members for future programs, as the entertainment will consist of YOUR pictures. Let's see what beautiful shots have been gathering dust in YOUR closet.

Dec. 5 - The first Friendly House program will feature slides taken in the South Sister area on the last Labor Day weekend. All shutterbugs are asked to bring All of their slides or prints from this trip. Mary and Ray Cavagnaro will show some movies of this trip, too.

Jan. 2 - Ray Sims will show slides of activities in and around Tipsoo Lookout, where he was stationed last summer.

Rolf Hasler, a Swiss exchange student, will take us to the Alps, too.

THE GHASTLY TRUTH

Thirty-three Obsidians and guests were greeted by a seasonal apparition (later identified as Bertha Deckmann) at Skovbo's barn when they arrived for the annual Halloween Party. Although it was an October evening, party-goers will not soon forget a "September Morn". We are happy to report there were no casualties as a result of the well-aged cider. M. Cavagnaro

SANTA IS COMING AGAIN

On December 18th at 5:00 PM, right after the Christmas Tree Trip, Santa will host the Obsidians, their families and friends, at the annual Christmas Party at Skinner's Butte Center. Each adult is requested to bring a wrapped gift for himself (but of course he won't get the right one, 'cause that's what Santa's for), mark it for either a man or woman, and bring also a gift for each of the children with you. These children's gifts should be marked with their own name, plainly, as Santa wears bifocals. Use your own discretion on choice of gifts. Bring either sandwiches or cookies, and all your children.

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY

Your Outing Committee, under the direction of Henry Carlson, is starting a program soon of determining the most popular location for next summer's camp.

Henry plans to begin with the December 16th social night (details to be found elsewhere in this issue) by showing pictures of and discussing several possible summer camp sites. "It is hoped that another similar evening can be held soon and then the membership will be asked to indicate where they would prefer the next summer camp to be held. In this way the Outing Committee hopes that the most popular location can be selected, and that a large turnout will result" says Henry. Good idea?!!

TIGER OF THE SNOWS

by Tenzing Norgay

A story after the heart of every mountaineer is Tenzing's story of his life. This fascinating account of his many climbs and many expeditions, many disappointments and failures, and his hard won victories make clear why he should have been one of the first two men to climb the highest mountain in the world. The book inspires a tremendous feeling of poetic justice, in that this man on his seventh attempt was one of the two men qualified to fit the requirement for the first to conquer Mt. Everest. "the right man high at the right moment." (Putnam, 1955). M.M.

* * *

Dolores Jeppesen is teaching first graders in Suffolk, England; her belongings have not yet caught up with her and the English winter is cold - her address: American Independent School, APO 127, N.Y., N.Y.

* * *
We wish to welcome our two newest members - Dorothy Ruse and Lorena Shinn.

GOING, GOING, GONE

Considerable thought, and action should be given to the numerous invasions and proposed invasions of recreation areas and potential recreation areas. The most recent proposition is one involving the sale of millions of board feet of the upper vegetation just south of Diamond Peak and if the sale specified is effected, Crescent Lake will be blessed with a mill designed to at least chop the logs in chips for pulp. The plan also considers that this one sale will open but a small part of a much larger area of this upper country as potential supply which could well be considered all the way to timberline unless recreation is stressed as to the powerful income potential and moral benefits it has for everyone.

Considering the numerous pulp mill company expansions contemplated for the central part of western Oregon the time for action in demanding preservation of some large areas is now. A pulp mill has an insatiable appetite. Practically any tree large enough to be seen can be fed into its machinery. Other things aired recently have been the water right application which would turn Woahink and Tsiltcoos Lakes into reservoirs to run at least two large pulp plants. A new plant operates out of Albany, another is due around Eugene.

It is true our economy depends upon jobs provided by timber industry; many of us depend upon it directly or indirectly for a livelihood. However, as has been mentioned by others, the recreational value is apparently being placed as a much lesser item than saw, and now, pulp logs. Some pulp mills around the Great Lakes (a former great timber stand now practically worthless) are cutting Jack Pines of Montana and shipping them east to their mills and have been for some years. As the areas get smaller and fewer more and more pressure will come to bear upon those remaining.

At least 150 years have seen the timber industry come and go in some regions, expand, and become more efficient overall - and yet not one area (perhaps some pulp mill stands of pine in the south) has to date been able to maintain itself perpetually. According to tree farm propositions those 150 years should have seen at least one and one half more "crops" ready for "harvest". The evidence doesn't appear too convincing. The time to act for preservation of the original is now before the original is no more. It is much, MUCH, MUCH later than you think.

J.J.

Blaine McGillivuddy and Shirley Ann Brue, of Fargo, N.D. are to be married in December in Eugene.

CHIEFS HOLD (LAST) RITES IN CABIN

Amid melting snow and rousing cheers, four new Chiefs were welcomed to the ranks of Three Sisters Climbers on November 19. The new Chiefs, who wear the three black arrows on the Obsidian emblem are: Bruce Johnson, Chief Sea Gull Feather; Lloyd Lindley, Chief Pole Cat; Keith Newsom, Chief Straight Arrow, and Bob Northrop, Chief Abdulla.

It was hard for the twelve old-timers to realize this would be the last initiation in our old mountain retreat. Continuing rent and electricity costs have overshadowed the slight use and difficult upkeep of the old structure, so it was recently decided by your Board of Directors to turn it over to the Forest Service, and redouble our efforts to achieve the long-time dream of a town clubhouse.

Some of the more "valuable" things were trucked back to town, but many items, long -since beyond repair and use, were left in the company of the many fond memories of weekends past. Let's all consider this a milestone to our club, as we continue to build memories, along with a bigger and better activity center.

HELP ON THE WAY

November saw the possibility of organized and coordinated mountain rescue work draw nearer, according to Gene Sebring, Search Committee Chairman, as he reported on a recent meeting in Portland, which he and Ray Harris attended. The Oregon Mt. Rescue Council, similar in scope and function to the one in Washington, now has in its membership all Portland and Hood River mountain clubs, and is asking the support of all other clubs in Oregon. Started after the tragic death of Bill Morely on Mt. Jefferson last year, the Council will have two functions: 1) members will go into high schools and colleges with movies and educational lectures on woods and mountain safety, and 2), the Forest Service or State Police will channel all calls for rescue aid through a Portland office of the Council, which will then contact the closest club's Search Committee, as well as make other necessary arrangements for men and equipment. "If this club's membership in an organization of this kind resulted in saving the life of one of our members in, perhaps, 25 years, it would be worth the cost of joining", - says Gene. Don't you agree?
* * * * *
PRINCESS CHRISTMAS PARTY, Monday, Dec. 19, at 1930 Todd; M. Castelleo & Olga Mortensen.

AN INTERESTING LETTER FROM BOB PFEIFFER

Bob Pfeiffer is in Portland studying to be a Chiropractic Physician in between mountaineering summers and skiing winters. Last summer he had the opportunity to gain some practical experience by interning with a practicing physician up north.

He boarded a plane at Se-Tac, and winged his way up to Ketchikan, Alaska (3 hr., 40 min.) The city (pop. 10,000) is on an island (with an unpronounceable name) (Rev. ilagigedo--Ed.) 50 miles from the mainland and 88 miles as a seagull flies from Prince Rupert, B.C.

From the city you have a choice of scenery. If an ocean lover--the Tongass Narrows (a portion of the Alaskan Inland Passage) is adjacent to town or if mountains are your favorite, there are several 1500' peaks with snow on them until August.

The climbing potential is almost unlimited on the island but if more difficult climbs are desired, some of the neighboring islands have 500' to 1000' rock faces to scale and further north the mountains increase in elevation up to 20,000'.

On the Al-Can border there are numerous unscaled peaks from 10,000' to 18,000' - an excellent training ground for those Obsidians preparing for Everest.

* * * * *
The Princesses enjoyed a regular meeting at Helen Weiser's home, Monday, Nov. 21, in place of their overnight party which had to be cancelled.

LOGGERS' BUTTE LOOKOUT - OCTOBER 30

On a beautiful sunny Sunday morning - six Obsidians left Eugene to meet their leader, Roy Temple, & family in Oakridge, to climb Loggers' Butte. At Oakridge, clothing but not spirits were dampened by a heavy shower. However, afternoon was rewarded by return of bright sunshine. At 12:15 the party started up the Butte through an exceptionally fine stand of Douglas Fir. In short order, white flakes began falling and the lookout was reached

* * * * *

OBSIDIANS ARE ESPECIALLY INVITED to hear Mr. Joe Penfold, Nat. Cons. Dir. of the Izaak Walton League of America - speak on Thursday, Dec. 8, 8 PM, at the Lane Co. Elec. Coop on Franklin Blvd. He is just back from a conference with Douglas McKay on Dinosaur.

OBSIDIANS, INC.
P. O. BOX 322
EUGENE, OREGON

"TIPSOO" LOOKOUT IN 1955

By Ray Sims

This is the first of a series of articles by Ray Sims, and is his attempt to show the Obsidians what goes on between Sundays on a lookout. The average person rarely gets a clear picture of the work and life during the week.

I went to work for the United States Forest Service, at McKenzie Bridge, during May of 1955. First, the work of readying the forest camps for the coming summer was completed. Then it became apparent that most of the crews were to "do-over" the old Belknap Camp, built by the CCC in 1934, and would be needed for the "Guard Camp" in the middle of June.

During the spring work, one of the men of the Forest Service taught a class in advanced First Aid, in which we all participated and at one of the Thursday meetings we were alerted to search for a lost fisherman. The next morning, Mr. Anderson, the head ranger, told us to go up to Linton Lake and join in the search.

This search was well directed by the State Police and I was fortunate to be in the small Forest Service party that actually found Leo Hibbs about noon on Monday. We were assisted by most of the searchers in carrying Mr. Hibbs by stretcher out to the highway on that up-and-down trail from the lake. He did recover satisfactorily.

To be continued.

at 1:30 P.M. in the face of a blinding snow storm. Roy thoughtfully provided the key to the lookout and soon a roaring fire was blazing and hot coffee warmed the near-freezing hikers. Everyone had a topnotch time and agreed that we should return next year to see the view. Those making the trip were Roy, Edna, Don Temple, Diane Dooley, Henry and Anna Jeppesen, Frances Newsom, Ray Sims, and Ray and Mary Cavagnaro.

* * * * *

WHO KNOWS

where the heaviest stand of petrified wood in Oregon is? Reportedly, it is in the Santiam area and consists of oak and fig wood. Les Cooper and Bob Medill are going to find out and perhaps a trip will be scheduled to the area.