



The OBSIDIAN



VOL. XV

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

NO. 2

WINTER OUTING



FEBRUARY 25-27

Biggest event of the winter season . . . **WINTER OUTING** at **MAZAMA LODGE** ! See Lloyd Plaisted for last minute details.

TRIPS SCHEDULE

MARCH-APRIL

- March 6 Mt. Jimbo. A fairly easy hike about 33 miles up the McKenzie.
- March 13 Winter will soon be over so let's ski Willamette while we can.
- March 20 Picture night and refreshments too! Everyone bring their 15 best slides. No Summer Camp pictures, please.
- March 27 Keep this date open for a day of skiing and sight seeing at our own Crater Lake National Park. Don't forget it's a bus trip. Bob Northrup, leader.
- April 3 Open date. Watch for sign-up sheet at Hendershott's.

April 10 An easy walk to your favorite church.

April 17 Mt. Nebo by way of Wendling. This will be the first peak of the year. Check sign-up sheet for details.

April 23-24 Another trip to the coast. Leaders to be announced later.

OUTDOOR LIVING

It has become quite evident that people in this area are spending more time in outdoor recreation, which necessitates their being subjected to the hazards of wilderness areas. We have wonderful facilities in close range for mental and physical relaxation, but often carelessness and lack of knowledge of these surroundings and how to meet situations uncommon to their environment ends in disaster.

A surprisingly large number of people would be panic-stricken if they became lost and were to spend a night in the wilds. This creates a hazard which is detrimental to all concerned and limits their chances of survival.

The search committee is presenting an educational program this year to acquaint outdoor explorers with the basic rules of safety. Informative lectures will be given and other programs will be announced in the paper.

Ray Harris

OVERNIGHT AT BIG LAKE

The search committee is sponsoring a ski tour into beautiful Big Lake at the base of Mt. Washington, March 12-13. Outdoor enthusiasts will learn how to "hole up" in the snow and be snugly warm. Sign up at Hendershott's and contact Ray Harris for details.

THE OBSIDIAN

Member: F.W.O.C. P.N.S.A. C.R.C.
Willamette National Forest Advisory Council
Eugene Parks and Recreation Council
Lane County Parks and Recreation Assn.

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EDITOR: Bernice Lehrman — Phone 5-1347
Committee Members: Roxie Waldorf, Ray Sims,
Gerry Fehly, Mary Castelloe.



We welcome into membership Dr. and Mrs. Herbert McCornack. Dr. McCornack is a dentist in the Medical Center Bldg.

* * *

Every Obsidian will be delighted to hear that Ray Cavagnaro and one of our new members, Mary Duncan, are to be married May 28.

* * *

Ship Ahoy for Henry Jeppesen, who left for Copenhagen February 9 via the M.S. Monbasa, an Asiatic freighter carrying only a handful of passengers. Henry's voyage takes him via Panama, the Virgin Islands, and the West Indies.

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Chemeketans invite all friends to their annual banquet March 5th at Mayflower Hall in Salem.

* * *

Ever-popular Spencer's Butte saw fifteen Obsidians and friends slither up its slopes February 6. Nice weather — but muddy underfoot.

Thirty-five Obsidians and friends enjoyed the balmy sunny day of the year at Beachcomber's Rest near Yachats January 22-23. Thanks go to the Merle Baileys for a wonderful trip.

* * *

Howard Zahniser, executive director of the Wilderness Society and editor of the Living Wilderness, was guest of the Karl Onthinks during the Sisters Hearing.

* * *

Dr. and Mrs. Miller entertained and informed friends Friday the 18th, with pictures of England, Ireland, the Austrian Alps, the Dolomites, and other attractions seen during their recent European tour.

* * *

C. Edward Graves, of Carmel, Western Representative of the National Parks, was the house guest of Doris and Ray and Jimmie, February 15 and 16, during the Hearing on the Three Sisters Wilderness.

* * *

Adeline Adams is now working in the library at the Eugene Water Board.

* * *

Friendly enemies were George E. Owen and a group of eight conservationists, including Ruth Hopson and Verlis Fischer, when Mr. Owen invited the latter to his home for lunch the second day of the Three Sisters hearing, giving his wife only five minutes notice!

* * *

Sierra Club, in cooperation with the Wilderness Society and other groups is putting on the Fourth Biennial Wilderness Conference at Berkeley, March 18-19. Attending would be an interesting and valuable experience for any Obsidian. — For more information call Ruth or Karl Onthank, who plan to attend.

EXTRA!

Save March 5th to hear our own Ruth Hopson, who is associate professor of general science at Portland State, lecture and show slides on the natural history of Lava Beds National Monument. Ruth spent the summer of 1953 as ranger-naturalist at Lava Beds. The Obsidians and the Natural History Society are co-sponsors of the meeting, which will be held at Chapman Hall at 8:00 P.M.



FRIENDS OF THE THREE SISTERS

On the evening of October 9th, 1954, Karl Onthank, chairman of the science committee of the Obsidians, invited his committee and many conservationists from other cities of Oregon to meet at his home to formulate an organization.

This organization was to become the "Friends of the Three Sisters Wilderness Area," with Mr. Onthank and Mike Stahl as co-chairmen, Frances Newsom and Doris Sims as co-secretaries, and Ray Sims as treasurer.

A number of vice-chairmen from other cities of the valley were appointed and articles by the ream have come out of the organization pointing out the many values of retaining the Three Sisters Wilderness boundaries intact.

The assembling of two sets of fifty colored slides each was accomplished at the beginning of the meetings and they have been in constant demand, showing the beauty of the entire western part of the Wilderness area, which is in question.

In the minds of the many people who have given this problem serious thought, there is but one answer, and that is to save this LAST Wilderness area, in the state of Oregon, for the countless millions of future citizens, to have a place to go and relax from the busy world of civilization and our ever-expanding cities.

WILDERNESS CAMP-OUT

Gene Sebring, Jim Kezer, Bill Dean, Prince Helfrich and Ray Sims, spent the 12th and 13th of February camping out in the Wilderness area. They drove from McKenzie Bridge up the Horse Creek road eight miles. Then snow was encountered and they hiked through the snow a half mile beyond the end of the road to the shelter, which they reached at noon of the 12th. The afternoon was spent in climbing Separation Creek ridge, where the elk from the high country were found to be wintering. On Sunday the five
(Continued on Page 4)

HAVE YOU WRITTEN THAT LETTER?

Have you written the Forest Service your opinion on the Three Sisters Wilderness question? Remember, the Hearing didn't settle anything. Letters will be received by

Mr. J. Herbert Stone, Regional Forester
Pacific Northwest Division

P.O. Box 4137, Portland 8, Oregon
until March 16 and placed on record as part of the official Hearing. Get others to write - especially people elsewhere - who have a share in our beautiful wilderness but probably have not been told that it is in jeopardy.

A complete supply of "Literature" prepared by the Friends of the Wilderness is available at Dot Dotson's Photo Shop, 111 E. 11th - stop in and pick up what you need.

Be sure to become a member of the Friends of the Three Sisters Wilderness. A carbon of your letter sent to Frances Newsom, 708 E. 11th St., or a dollar (or more!!) to Ray Sims, 2181 Washington St., will bring you a handsome membership card. There's lots of work yet to do and the \$\$\$\$ are needed. How about a buck or two for the recording of the Hearing - so we can all hear these fine Obsidian speeches.

ROY ANDREWS

Roy Andrews died February 3, after a stroke at the January 28 Eugene Natural History Society meeting on the Three Sisters Wilderness, for which he had worked hard preparing the exhibits. In his quiet and unobtrusive way he was one of the best of Obsidians. He was a scientist and a teacher, a lover of nature and of people, in some respects thoroughly conservative, in others equally liberal - a man of many sides, all of them kindly.

He was a great climber and hiker - last summer had climbed the South Sister for the 22nd time - and stepped right along. But he always had time to pause
(Continued on Page 4)

January

The Trips chairman adds Bob Medill's name to the committee.

Another committee addition is Pat Stahl, Climbing.

Resignation of Joe Tompkins was accepted.

Lloyd Plaisted reported that Yosemite has also been selected as the summer outing location of the California Alpine Club, which will be there on a traveling basis.

The Search and Rescue committee, headed by Ray Harris, is busy collecting information and organizing a program for this area. Literature by and pictures of mountain rescue equipment belonging to the Seattle Mountain Rescue Safety Council were shown.

Corresponding secretary Adeline Adams reported interesting items gleaned from FWOc member publications. Members wishing to scan these publications may contact Adeline or your editor, Bernice Lehrman.

February

Accepted as associate members were Dr. and Mrs. Herbert McCornack.

The Obsidians accepted the recommendation of the Friends of the Three Sisters Wilderness Area regarding the proposed boundary settlement. The recommendation is that the whole area be retained rather than the compromise Olallie Ridge boundary.

July 4th Wilderness trip announced.

Dr. Miller picture night and Dr. Hopson picture night announced.

Building committee considering possibility of issuing non-interest bearing bonds to finance clubhouse construction.

The building committee would like the opinion of members regarding the issuance of non-interest bearing bonds. Contributions are slow in coming in and this would be one method of getting the building started. Contact Bailey Castelloe, chairman of the committee, with your ideas. No doubt he would welcome financial contributions also.

WILDERNESS CAMP-OUT

(Continued)

hikers, with snow all the way, hiked up the steep Castle Creek trail about three miles, just viewing this wonderful wilderness in the winter time. It was Gene and Jim's first visit in this part.

ROY ANDREWS

(Continued)

and note, and to name and describe to interested fellow hikers, the flowers, and trees and birds met on the trail.....If one were unable to go with him for Gold Hill huckleberries, he stopped by afterwards with huckleberries.

He loved music, and possessed and played with understanding and appreciation an exceptional collection of records. He supported the local orchestras. He read thoughtfully on many subjects, including controversial issues, on which he was always for the rights and welfare of the common man. On such issues he never feared to speak his mind even if on the unpopular side, whether on the human destruction of war or on the reckless exploitation of our natural resources. He was active in organizations seeking to prevent both. Forty-five years ago he was a founder of the Unitarian Church; in recent years he was also active in the work of the Society of Friends. And he was at Friendly House on Friday nights... Recently he had dreamed of acquiring and living on a tract of virgin forest by the sea, and perhaps ultimately leaving it as his gift to future generations. That was not to be. But to those of us who knew and remember him he will live in the beauty of the days, and the sea and the mountains will know him still.

Roy Andrews' sisters have sent to the Obsidians a note of appreciation for their floral remembrance at the Memorial Service - as well as for their loyal friendship with him.

ANY OLD DISHES?

KNICK-KNACKS

CLOTHES?

Please save them for the big RUMMAGE SALE on Saturday, April 30 at 31 West 7th. The Building Fund will benefit . . . so the more you can dig up, the better! Fast-selling items are: dishes, glassware, vases, knick-knacks, clothing in good repair (if possible indicate sizes), jewelry, shoes (especially boots), hats . . . this project is sponsored by the Building Committee and the help of the whole club will be needed in such jobs as pick-up, sorting, marking and selling. The Obsidian women and men are urged to offer their services. Call Roxie at 4-5302, or Mary C. at 4-5168. IF YOU HAVE RUMMAGE YOU WANT TO GET RID OF IMMEDIATELY . . . LEAVE IT AT WALDORF'S . . . 414 EAST 15TH AVE.

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REPORT OF U. S. FOREST SERVICE HEARING ON THE THREE SISTERS WILDERNESS AREA
Held in Eugene, Oregon on February 16th and 17th, 1955

The U. S. Forest Service ended a 2 day hearing at 8:15 Thursday evening on the controversial issue: Shall the Three Sisters Primitive area be reduced in size to permit logging in its Western area? This hearing began Wednesday, February 16th, in the Veterans Memorial Building in Eugene. The first speaker was J. Herbert Stone, Regional Forrester, Pacific Northwest Division, who presented the issue and reasons for holding the hearing.

C. C. Carlson, U. S. Department of Agriculture solicitor was the moderator and along with the Forest Service officials has been commended many times over on the fact that this hearing was one of the most exhaustive but orderly, fair and impartial of any meeting ever held here.

Seventy-nine speakers were heard during the two days. Forty-nine of the speakers spoke in favor of retaining the whole area or at least to the Horsepasture-Olal-lie Mt. Ridge and thirty speakers asked that the boundary be placed either at Horse Creek or Separation Ridge. The first speaker was Jim Kezer, Biology Department of the U of O, speaking for the Obsidians and submitting their statement favoring the retention of the wilderness area with its present boundaries and backing the statement with many convincing arguments. The large hall was well filled both days with spectators and speakers pro and con on the issue, but applause which is conspicuous by absence, as it is not considered ethical at such a hearing, was spontaneous on three occasions, the first being on the second day when Martin Oosterkamp, a U of O student from the Netherlands, told the alert audience of his country's as well as all of Europe's lack of Wilderness Areas. He pleaded most effectively that our country not make the same mistakes. Martin had been on the Wilderness Trip last 4th of July with the Federation groups and the Forest Service officials. The second to draw applause was also the second day, Charles Peck, a small mill operator, but just representing himself, who remarked, "I guess I am just an odd-ball but I am here to tell you to just leave this wilderness area alone with it's present boundaries and don't touch it....." He spoke only 5 minutes, chiefly on our obligation to leave to our children a little of the wilderness as we found it, but so effectively

that, after the spontaneous applause, more than one in the audience was dabbing his eyes with a handkerchief. The last speaker to be called on and who drew applause from both sides was the Executive Secretary of the National Wilderness Society, Mr. Howard Zahniser and editor of its National Publication, "The Living Wilderness." We Obsidians especially feel most honored that Mr. Zahniser took the time to fly out here from Washington D. C. to help in saving a proper portion of wilderness area not only for people in this area but for the whole United States. Through the efforts of the Bob Tuttle's and the Prince Helfrich's of the McKenzie River Area, Mr. Zahniser was able to make the trip up the McKenzie and see a portion of the wilderness area in dispute. He spoke also in behalf of the American Nature Assn. He urged that "The government retain all the wilderness area which is needed," and also urged its use perpetually as a living museum and place where man may go to find inspiration from nature, in a place not spoiled by civilization. He also suggested it would be a better move economically for the Forest Service to make an adjustment between the cutting and the yield of the Lane County forest area. Welcome news was also brought by Mr. Zahniser to the many friends of Dr. Claus J. Murie, president of the Wilderness Society, one of the leading conservationists and biologists of the country. Dr. Murie has been in a Denver hospital recovering from a serious illness but will be back in Moose, Wyoming this summer.

Not enough praise can be given to Karl and Ruth Onthank, who have given so much of their time and knowledge to the Wilderness cause, which affects every one of us. They made arrangements for the luncheon held the first day of the hearing to honor Forest Service Officials and special guests from a distance. Karl presided and made the introductions with many responding to the more than 80 present. Among these was C. Edward Graves, who flew up the 1,000 miles from Carmel to testify on the behalf of the National Park Assn. of which he is the Far West representative. On the same plane with Ned came Dr. Edgar Wayburn of San Francisco, President of the F.W.O.C who spoke on behalf of the Federation.

Others from out of town speaking in favor of retaining the whole area were Polly Dyer, Seattle, for the Mountaineers and Dr.

and Mrs. Pat Goldsworthy also of Seattle. Dr. Goldsworthy spoke for the Sierra Club also for the entire area, as did Leo Gallagher of Tacoma, President of the Olympic National Park Assn.

Verlis Fischer, Mazama member and Ora Niemala, Chemeketan, both gave convincing talks and had fine material that could not be disputed.

Al Schmitz, Mazama and Oregon Vice President of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs read a paper prepared by Al Kirnak. Professor James McNabb also spoke for the National Conservancy. A tremendous amount of research had been made by the conservation and science committees of each of the clubs and a good example is the Friends of the Three Sisters Wilderness, a group which was set up to work on this issue and was co-chaired by Karl Onthank and Mike Stahl. Many, many hours both day and night were consumed by all members of this group, in order that a proper presentation could be made at the hearing. The following Obsidians attended all or part of the 2 day hearing and either spoke or turned in statements for the record of the hearing: Bob and Charlotte Lemon, Dale and Henry Carlson, Frances Newsom, Mozelle Hair, Louis Waldorf, George Hermach, Herb Kariel, Jim Kezer, Ruth Hopson, Mike Stahl, Karl and Ruth Onthank, Doris and Ray Sims. The following Obsidians lent support by their presence part of the two days and some of these had written their letter to Mr. Stone already - Blanche Bailey, Ernie Keasling and Arlene Keasling, Bailey and Mary Castellloe, Paul and Helen Weiser, Helen Kilpatrick and Roxie Waldorf and others. Dr. Ruth Hopson, Ruth Onthank whom many believe are the real champions of the Three Sisters issue and have been the real watchdogs of our wilderness areas, helped tremendously with their presentations and the many exhibits turned in, including pictures, maps, magazines, pamphlets, printed material, etc., favoring the retention of the whole area. Ruth Onthank also spoke for the establishment of the two proposed Wild Areas and turned in, as exhibits a map of the Diamond Peak Wild Area, and a topographical map of the proposed Mt. Washington Wild Area, in which she suggested certain changes to the boundaries to include some important historical areas.

Louis Waldorf spoke eloquently in approval of the U. S. Forest Service plan to establish the proposed Mt. Washington Wild area.

Doris Sims and Mary Castellloe have spent

untold hours for many weeks mimeographing material about the Three Sisters Wilderness Area. The Obsidians and the Friends of the Three Sisters Wilderness are very appreciative of Mr. W. J. Mishler's generosity in permitting his plant and machines to be used by Mary and Doris. Others working hand in hand with the Obsidians for many months prior to the meeting were Miss Harriett Thomson, the late Roy Andrews, Roy Elliott, Prince Helfrich, LeRoy Pruitt, R. T. Tuttle, H. V. Johnson, Mary Miles, Mrs. Marjorie Hall and Mrs. Hallie Huntington, and others over the state have given of their time and money to help SAVE what we believe would be "For the greatest good to the greatest number of people for the longest time," which is the Forest Service policy.

Dr. Edgar E. Wayburn of San Francisco, President of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs (30 outing clubs of Washington, Utah, Oregon and California) in his talk gave us the great surprise of the hearing! Since 1952 the Federation has stood for the compromise line on Horsepasture Mt.-Ollalie Ridge. Mr. Stone did not accept this compromise when he announced his recommendation last summer. Dr. Wayburn, in his fine address changed the stand of the F.W.O.C. to a western boundary on the east slope of the South Fork of the McKenzie, - the western boundary of the present Primitive Area is on this slope!!

The Oregon Academy of Science, through Dr. H. G. Hansen, Dean of the Graduate School of O.S.C., announced the overwhelming vote of its membership in favor of the retention of the whole area! Mrs. Fern Brader of Chemult, Chairman of the Conservation Committee of the Federation of Garden Clubs of Oregon, Frances Gregg and Mozelle Hair all spoke feelingly of the stand of the Eugene and State Garden Clubs for the entire Area.

Mr. C. Edward Graves, Western Representative of the Nat. Parks Assn., reported that the Directors of the Assn. urged that the entire area be retained. He then quoted from "We Need Wilderness" by Sigurd Olson, President of the Assn, "---wisely set aside many areas that may be classed as wilderness--areas dedicated to the spiritual welfare of all,"---"museum bits of the once primeval wilderness of North America."

Mr. George Holcomb of Portland said that a large group of C.I.O. Unions urged that the Three Sisters Wilderness Area should not be decreased in size. Mr. R. T. Tuttle