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NO. 8

THE SIERRA SPEAK . . .

Obsidian Summer Campers have returned from 1955 Camp Sebring filled with the awe-inspiring sights of granite peaks and domes of Yosemite Park in the High Sierra. After establishing camp at Tuolumne Meadows Forest Camp, Section "D" (affectionately known by the rangers as "Dog" Camp), the campers thereupon set out to travel over meadows covered with soft green grass and wild flowers, through paths bordered by quaking aspen, along quiet as well as rushing streams and waterfalls, around lakes and across clean-swept white rocks. Highlights were . . . hikes into High Sierra Camps - including Glen Aulin and Waterwheel Falls area . . . Vogelsang and Evelyn Lake, May Lake and Mt. Hoffman, a climb of Lambert Dome and lunch at Dog Lake; Cathedral Lakes and Cathedral Peak, Gaylor Lake and mining area, and a one day trip into the lower valley for a look over Glacier Peak and in the evening the program at Camp Curry with the Firefalls following.

We are proud of the camp committee who worked very hard to make the camp so successful. So thanks Lloyd Plaisted, Ray Harris and Henry Carlson. Other campers included Mr. and Mrs. Bob Medill, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cavagnaro, Margaret Markley, Natalie Beckett, Mr. and Mrs. Merle Bailey, Bette Hack, Margaret Hines, Catherine Dunlop, Anna Pechanec, Thelma Watson, Vina Amort, Alice Olmstead, Mae Beaman and Selma Vangesness and daughter Ann. Selma handled the camp cuisine excellently and fed us such things as lemon pie and hot cinnamon rolls. We heartily agree with the rangers who offered to let us come back providing we bring our cook.

Several week-end visitors were welcomed by the campers including Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Draper of Eugene, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Rogers and two children, sister and family of Margaret Hines who drove up from Sacramento, California, and our own Dave Faville and Kathryn who stopped at Tuolumne while making the tour of High Sierra Camps. Dave added some new verses to "Aunt Clara" and entertained us at

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Interesting programs provided by the ranger naturalists thrice weekly around a blazing campfire added an extra fillip to our Summer Camp evenings. Rangers Carl Sharsmith, Will Neeley

and Ron Bainbridge participated in the programs established by the National Park Service. Their programs included community singing, novelty songs by the rangers themselves and discussion of their guided tours, including nature walks to strenuous climbs. The trips, led by the rangers are open to all Tuolumne visitors. The highlight of each campfire program was the lecture on some facet of Tuolumne's natural history which contributed a great deal to our appreciation of the area. Subjects discussed during our stay were: Geology of Yosemite Valley and High Sierra country with considerable History of the Whitney Survey and John Muir, known as "Mr. Yosemite" and Yosemite's greatest interpreter; The Indians of Yosemite with interpretive dances and songs and exhibits of their basketry; the wildlife of Tuolumne; the natural history of the Mono Basin; the ecology of the wildlife. This is Dr. Sharsmith's 24th Summer in Yosemite and Will Neeley's 5th, while Ron was enjoying his first season. Carl and Will have developed a philosophy during their years among the green meadows and granite cliffs and domes of Tuolumne that flavored their lectures and provided excellent food for thought. Several Summer Campers took one or more scheduled trips with the rangers and found them most rewarding as we saw country we would not have discovered, and saw it through the competent eyes of the naturalist.



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LET'S GO CLIMBING

-2-

T R I P S

Fall almost upon us but we still have some good climbs left for the season. I'll list them later.

The climbs after the middle of July have all been during excellent weather. The groups have been very small, except for the Tenderfoot Climb of Diamond Peak on July 17. The re-schedule of Three Fingered Jack was a success with excellent weather.

There have been many non-affiliated people climbing in small groups, many from here in town. It would be good to get some of them for members. An example of the number climbing in the Three Sisters Area was the week-end of July 24 — when the accident occurred on the North Sister. I estimate at least 70 people were there including Mazamas, Obsidians, some other clubs, and others. I have not counted the 50 or 60 who helped rescue the injured man off the North Sister. Throughout the West indications are such as to show that climbing is on the increase as a sport.

For those of you who are contemplating the Mt. Olympus climb over Labor Day, Tom Taylor has posted full particulars at Hendershott's. I noticed that he plans to leave Friday, Sept. 2 at 7:00 A.M. I recommend that you read his complete information.

Good climbs to come are:

Aug. 28—NORTH SISTER. A good climb of our most interesting Sister. Will be led by a capable leader, Mike Stahl. . . You'll need this one to become a Chief or Princess.

Sept. 4—SOUTH SISTER. Last of the three for the season, An interesting week-end is planned together with the trips group. Bob Elston, leader. The next day, Sept. 5, Henry Carlson will lead a climb up Broken Top. This is an excellent climb of a lesser peak which has not been climbed by us for a while.

Sept. 11—MT. WASHINGTON. A spectacular view of the country around Big Lake and Hoodoo Bowl. Also the Lava Beds. A short climb with easy going to the mountain. Ray Harris, leader.

J.J.

Aug. 28—LOOP TRIP TO OBSIDIAN CAMP, OBSIDIAN FALLS, SCOTT CAMP. Bernice Lehrman, leader.

Sept. 3,4,5—THREE DAY CAMP AT DEVILS LAKE. The Waldo Lake trip has been cancelled.

Sept. 11—DRIVE TO BIG LAKE AND HIKE. Leader, Joe Daniel.

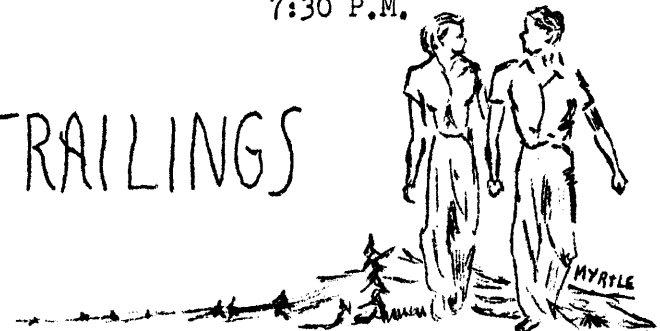
Sept. 18—COLLIER GLACIER SNOW AND ICE RESCUE TECHNIQUES. Ray Sims, leader.

Sept. 25—GEORGE KORN'S MYSTERY TRIP.

For further information on these trips see your little blue trips schedule.

NEXT BOARD MEETING, THURSDAY SEPT. 8
at Lloyd Plaisted's, 1260 Monroe
7:30 P.M.

TRAILINGS



Attending the FWOOC Convention Sept. 3-5 are the Onthinks and Frances Newsom----- Geraldine Fehly has been chosen to be the secretary to Judge Alfred T. Goodwin and the clerk of his court. Congratulation, Gerry!---The Castellones recently flew to Wisconsin to visit Bailey's mother and sister Dorothe who returned with them for a week's stay in Eugene-----Home on visit is Cadet Jim Newsom--Walt Banks is still in California after his eye surgery. He injured his eye while at his summer job in the Wallowas---Trailer tripping again were the Waldorfs, this time to Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph Dams and Mt. Rainier---also the Glen Sims, who spent a week at the coast, fishing and relaxing---Dolores Jeppesen is now in France where she will be teaching for a year under the Air Force---On June 26, Jim Harris was married to Enid Vondy in Denver, Colorado---Susan Elizabeth, born August 5, makes three merry little girls for Clarence and Dorothy Scherer---Bernice Lehrman has been seeing some of Oregon this summer, including the unsurpassable Steens Mountains. Fellow Obsidians, did you ever consider having a summer camp in the Steens? It could be a great success---The six who went up Red Top Mt. July 17
(Continued on Page 3)

About 10:30 on July 24, a party of climbers from Salem were ascending the chute on the pinnacle of the North Sister, when a large rock came loose and fell, striking one of the climbers, Frank Gillette, and narrowly missing three others. Gillette's hand and foot were badly injured.

The climbers, and a group from the Portland Wy'East Climbers who were just below the chute, attempted to get the injured man off the mountain. They lowered him out of the chute, and started to work him across the snowfield that lies immediately below. During this operation, Ross Petrie, one of the Portland group, attempted to traverse upward on the steep snow without crampons, and slipped and fell. He attempted a self-arrest, but was thrown over backward when his ice-axe struck a rock. He slid down the snow for nearly 150 feet, miraculously coming to a stop on the only rock ledge between the snow and the cliff below.

He was brought up to the party, who were badly shaken by the narrow escape, and the attempt to cross the snowfield with the injured man was abandoned. Two men were sent for help, and a bivouac was dug out of the loose, shale-like rock for the injured man and a companion, Richard Chambers.

Word reached Eugene about 2:00 P.M., and two hours later an advance group of Obsidians, Lloyd Plaisted, Gene Sebring, Mike Stahl, and Jim Harrang, were on the way, with others to follow as they could be contacted. After stops at Leaburg to alert the Carlsons and Bob Elston, and at McKenzie Bridge to talk with the Forest Service, the group reached Frog Camp at 6:00, and were in Sunshine at 8:00 P.M.

On the way in we met several parties, one of which was the Obsidian group who had climbed the Middle Sister, and had attempted to help the rescue party. Jim Jeppesen was injured in the attempt, and came out. Another party was from Portland, part of the Wy'East group, and there were three or four good climbers in that group whom we felt should have stayed in to help with the rescue.

TRAILINGS (Continued)

report excellent views of many lakes including Fawn, Odell, Summit, Crescent, David, and Wickiup, and of course Diamond Peak was in prominence. They heartily advocate including this trip again in next year's schedule.

After talking with the Petries, who were at Sunshine, Gene Sebring and Mike Stahl took four sleeping bags and some food, and started for the mountain, planning to reach the injured man around midnight. However, by the time they reached the lower edge of the snowfield, they were so tired, and their lights were so dim, that they decided not to attempt a crossing in the dark, and so bivouacked among the rocks until daylight.

Meanwhile, the second group had reached Sunshine, and around 1:00 A.M. they started up, bringing Dr. Ronald Findlay of Eugene, with them. The second, or main rescue group, were: Lloyd Plaisted, Jim Harrang, Henry Carlson, Dale Carlson, Bob Elston, and Keith Petrie.

The advance party reached Gillette and Chambers about 4:30 A.M., gave them some hot soup, and started cutting a path across the snowfield. The main group arrived at 6:30, and soon after 7:00 the injured man, splinted, folded in a sleeping bag, and tied in a wire basket stretcher was started across the snowfield.

The crossing took nearly half an hour, with the stretcher, belayed at three points, being moved a foot at a time along the narrow path chopped in the frozen snow. Then the stretcher, still securely belayed, was carried across the treacherous rock gully between the snowfield and the south ridge, and then down the ridge. The third party from Eugene met the stretcher about half way down the ridge, and took over the job. They were: Ray Harris, Bill Byrd, John Lindstrom, Bob Sherman, Joe Daniel & Leo Margosian.

The rescue party reached the flat just above Sunshine Shelter about 12:15 P.M., and half an hour later the Coast Guard helicopter from Port Angeles, Washington, landed and took the injured man aboard.

Two parties of five men each, from the Hood River Crag Rats and the Alpinis, were coming up the mountain from Sunshine Shelter to help, but were not needed.

All organizations co-operated splendidly in this operation: the Forest Service, the State Police, the Lane County Sheriff, the Coast Guard, and the Red Cross. Although the Obsidians performed the main rescue operation, these others provided communications, transportation, food, and co-ordination vital to the rescue of Frank Gillette. M.S.

* * *

The 25 who visited Crater Lake on Sunday August 21 found it bluer than blue, with a perfectly beautiful day for scenery.

The Science and Conservation Committee reports on issues on which Obsidians have been working and writing.

DINOSAUR: The House committee finally reported out a bill for the Upper Colorado Project, without Echo Park Dam: Senate had previously passed a bill including it. Because it was feared that, if the House bill passed, the dam would be restored in Conference to reconcile the two bills, conservationists (and those opposed to the whole project as economically wasteful) opposed the bill so vigorously that proponents, fearful of defeat, had not brought it to the floor when Congress adjourned. When Congress reconvenes in January, proponents are expected to try again, so keep writing and using your influence in opposition, especially with Congressmen in the Eastern states which have no stake in the Colorado Project.

BEAVER MARSH: After the public hearing by the Federal Power Commission Examiner, the week beginning June 27th, in which Obsidians and others made a strong and impressive plea that Clear Lake and the McKenzie falls and their area are worth more for scenery and recreation than for the comparatively small amount of power obtainable from them, the lawyers have been drawing briefs and answers, and the issue will presumably come before the Federal Power Commission in September. Letters to Federal Power Commission, Washington 25, D.C. urging the importance of preserving such a unique and irreplaceable area, would help and must go soon. With both Secretary McKay and Senator Neuberger publicly opposing the project, and many another including some important people, the decision may well be in the balance and further letters could be of critical importance.

THREE SISTERS WILDERNESS: The report of the public hearing and other papers went two months ago from the Regional Office to the Chief Forester, without announcement of the former's recommendation. So it must be assumed that it is for reduction to the Horse Creek line as originally proposed. The Chief Forester will, presumably, soon make his recommendation to the Secretary of

Agriculture who has final decision. Hence, now is the time to write to Honorable Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C. urging that the Three Sisters Primitive Area be reclassified as a wilderness area intact. Note that those on the July 4 trip into the western portion, which the Forest Service recommends be excluded, arranged by the Friends of the Three Sisters Wilderness, Inc., including several recognized scientists and others who have gone separately have returned much impressed with what they saw and more than ever convinced that those who originally set the area aside knew what they were doing Write Now, especially if you haven't previously, and get others to do so, especially people at a distance who can say they want this small but exceptional portion of the National Forest, which is partly theirs, protected for their use and enjoyment and that of their children.

The July Oregon Business Review (published by the University of Oregon Business School) has an article from the Stanford Research Institute: "Tourism in the Pacific Northwest---a Billion Dollar Business"---pointing out: (1) it is already vastly profitable and growing rapidly; (2) that the "natural resources of the tourist industries are scenic beauty and good climate"; and (3) that these resources can be used without the depletion characteristic of other industries provided they are protected from the exploitive industries. Copies are in the library and a few are available for those who can use them to advantage.

SIERRA (Continued from column 2, page 1)

Considered by all as one of our own outstanding campfires was the one held the night Carl, Will and Ron came to dinner and spent the evening with us. In addition to campfire songs and fun, considerable discussion was given to problems of preserving our nation's Wilderness Areas. Carl explained that Tuolumne is also threatened in that the Curry Co. is petitioning to open a resort at Tuolumne. Obsidians can express their appreciation for the contribution the rangers made to our Yosemite visit by supporting them in their efforts to preserve Tuolumne as we saw and loved it - an Alpine Wilderness in the beautiful High Sierra. R. & M.C.

SIERRA (Continued from Column 1, page 1)

campfire as only Dave can do. The ranger naturalists were dinner guests one evening and stayed for our campfire. Last but not least, was the nightly visit of a big black bear looking for a hand-out. B.H.

COPY OF LETTER TO RAY HARRIS

Dear Ray,

Would you please convey my appreciation and commendation to each one of the Obsidians who helped in the rescue of Frank Gillette on North Sister. We are most grateful for the prompt and wholehearted response of your organization.

Sincerely, Edward W. Elder
Sheriff

Misplaced at Black Canyon Picnic:

The Johnsons lost a serving spoon - Bette Hack has a red-handled one but not the Johnsons!!
The Kornes lost a place setting of stainless.

CAMP SEBRING REUNION

Sept. 17, Saturday, 6:30 P.M. \$2.00
Del Rey Cafe All Obsidians Welcome

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

BULK RATE

CAMP SEBRING

(Tune of "Davy Crockett")

Camped in the meadow at Tuolumne
Garden spot of Yosemite
Pitched our tents mid deer and bear
For the outer world we did not care.

Chorus:

Ca - amp, good Camp Sebring!
High in Yosemite.

Tioga Pass was washed away.
WE didn't want to waste another day
So, we tackled Sonora. Oh, me! Oh, my!
We crawled along while the clouds rolled by.

First day out to Lambert Dome
Stopped at Dog Lake on the long way home.
Tropical Punch was Henry's delight;
Drinks it all day and cashes in at night.

Droopin' through the lupin to Cathedral Lake.
We had to keep goin' for Alice's sake.
Ray and Lloyd hung off Cathedral's top
Their rope descent made the tourist's eyes pop!

Climbed Mt. Dana when the sun was bright
But very soon it turned to night.
The hail all hailed and our hair stood out
The rocks all hummed as we scrambled about.

Grab your mixer and grab your cup!
At the Soda Springs we're holding up
Our trip to Aulen and Waterwheel
While we wet our whistles and drink our "feel".

Ray lost his bride on a nature walk.
As through the woods he tried to stalk,
A big brown bear with flashing eyes
Dropped down behind him - to his surprise!

We all set out for the Valley Floor
'Twas hotter 'n heck - with people galore!
Saw the Fire Fall on our one day spree
But yearned for our camp in Tuolumne.

Climbed Mt. Lyell and Hoffman too
Tripped to Gaylor and Mae Lake blue,
So many treks and things to see
Our two short weeks we wished were three.

We took our baths in a gurgling stream
Where the deer all drink and the poets dream.
We didn't mind the deer or the wandering bear
It's the men with binoc's that gave us a scare!

The maidens' voyage was Vogelsang
But Henry joined us before too long
Oh, the trip was delightful- the day was bright
But, the next time we go there- we're staying
all nite!

A gala event was Wednesday night
When the rangers three came to eat a bite.
Though they all had wives to keep them fed
Will's Lentil soup filled them all with dread.

Looking for blonde beauties at Elizabeth Lake
Dashing Bob almost met his fate
While he attempted to do some Spyin'
He came face to face with a mountain lion!

Our food was so good it attracted a bear.
But good cook Selma it did not scare.
Her lemon pies and doughnut twist
Made our mouths water so we couldn't resist.

Now, the Camp Committee deserves all praise
For giving us the happiest camping days.
The weather was perfect - the food divine.
Yes! Good Camp Sebring meant a wonderful time!

Natalie Beckett