



The OBSIDIAN



VOL XVI JANUARY 1956 - OBSIDIANS, INC. - P. O. BOX 322 - EUGENE, OREGON NO.



A LOOK AHEAD



Outside Fun

The Trips Committee hopes you'll be a part of the following trips:

Jan. 28-29 - COAST TRIP - Mary Cavagnaro, Ldr. Details elsewhere in this issue.

Feb. 5 - FIR (OR NAPER'S) BUTTE - Clarence Scherer, Ldr. Northwest of Eugene - a nice short hike.

Feb. 12 - SKI TRIP - Ray Sims has a short cross-country planned in the Willamette Pass Ski Area.

Feb. 19 - SPENCER BUTTE - Pat Stahl, Ldr. Hopin' for nice weather as this trip pays big dividends for the energy expended.

Feb. 25-26 - WINTER OUTING. The Mazamas have promised fine skiing weather for this annual weekend trek. Watch for details in next Bulletin.

Mar. 4 - MT. PISGAH - Ray Cavagnaro, Ldr. The route to take us by some "Indian fortifications".

Inside Fun

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

Mon., Feb. 6 - BOB MEDILL will show pictures of flowers and scenes from Fingerboard Prairie and Deer Butte, at Friendly House.

Sat., Feb. 11 - REGULAR FOLK AND SQUARE DANCE PARTY at River Road Womens' Clubhouse. You'll have a lot of fun!

Fri., Feb. 17 - POTLUCK, 6:30 p.m. RAY HARRIS will show his slides of climbs of Oregon peaks via unusual routes and climbing scenes from North Dakota, at Skinner's Butte Community Clubhouse.

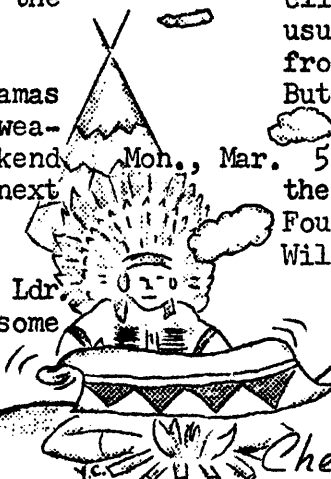
Mon., Mar. 5 - Bring all your slides from the Fort Rock trip - and the Fourth of July Three Sisters Wilderness Area trip.



Mazamas Invite

the Obsidians to be their guests on March 2, at Benson High School Auditorium, to view a famous movie "The Challenge of Everest", to be shown by Mr. Norman Dyhrenfurth, who was the only American member of the 1952 Swiss Expedition that pioneered the route for the successful British ascent in 1953.

It is possible that a bus will be chartered for this event; if you are interested in going, please call your editor at 4-8797. Urge your friends to go! Let's show the Mazamas how much we appreciate their efforts to bring us the finest!



Chemeketans Invite

Obsidians to attend their Annual Banquet on February 4, at American Legion Hall, 2700 S. Commercial St., Salem. Fred D. Ayres, a member of a climbing party who conquered seven peaks in the Peruvian Andes will lecture and show slides.

Reservations must be made by February 2 - write to Frances S. McCarter, 360½ State St., Salem. Two completely different menus are being offered - one is Chinese food served family style, the other is a regular American dinner. Be sure to indicate when making reservations which dinner is desired.

DUES WE DO! . . . SO WHY DON'T YOU!
 . . . send your check to Bernie Lehrman, 549 E. 16th, #5 . . .

COMMITTEES COMPLETE

TRIPS Bob Medill, Chairman
 Henry Jeppesen Ray Sims
 Frank Sipe Mary Cavagnaro
 CLIMBING Ray Harris, Chairman
 Joe Daniel Tom Taylor
 George Hermach Mildred Ball
 OUTING Henry Carlson, Chairman
 Clarence Bankhead Dale Carlson
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 Mary Medill Helen Johnson
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 Frank Sipe, Chairman
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 REPORTER Keith Brunig

BOARD NOTES

A letter from Dorothy Stahl resigning her position on the board as Secretary was regretfully accepted. We understand she has her hands full now. Keena Northrop was elected to fill her place.

Trips Committee reports 39 members at Hermach's while the two pre-Christmas greenery trips brought out 45 members. Thanks was expressed to Dave Burwell for his interesting trip and explanation of forestry methods.

Climbing Committee is preparing a program on survival training for the Boy Scouts. Frances Newsom was appointed as Membership Chairman of F.W.O.C.

Entertainment Committee expressed enthusiasm for the recent turnouts on scheduled inside events. Mary Cavagnaro continues to welcome suggestions for the future.

Eugene Recreation Comm. welcomed Ray Sims as Obsidian representative again this year.

Membership Committee reports 137 paid members, 43 delinquents. Resignations were accepted from Bob Pfeiffer, Grace & Bill Stiles, and E. A. Britton.

The first summit book from the Middle Sister was enjoyed by board members-Watch for excerpts from this ancient record.

T R A I L I N G S

Cadet Jim Newsom was home for Christmas (West Point-3rd year); he has achieved the honor of being named to the Dean's list.

Dr. & Mrs. Sanford Tepfer lent their expert direction to the Obsidian folk dance Saturday, Jan. 14, alternating with Helen Johnson's able guidance. Their combined efforts made it a highly successful affair and delighted everyone - so much so that the Entertainment Committee suggests you save the second Saturdays of every month for a regular folk dance at the River Rd. Women's Clubhouse! We welcome the Tepfers and their friend Jack Glass, who is a juvenile Counsellor, and hope they will join us in all our activities.

Natalie Beckett was home for the holidays and sang beautifully at the Christmas Party with Walt Banks. Anna Jeppesen also sang, and Sunny Hamlin, and others. Santa didn't sing, but he surely made a hit with everyone, and played his part so delightfully - especially when he singled out Henry Carlson for the choice package tagged "to Pop".

ANNUAL BIRD COUNT-Natural History Society

The 1955 bird count was held Jan. 1, 1956, and was considered very successful. Lawrence Daggett and Ben Pruitt served as leaders. 83 species and 15,591 individual birds were recorded. In greatest numbers were robins, killdeer, juncos, blackbirds, starlings, sparrows, Canada geese and Mallard Ducks. Few shore birds were seen due to the recent high water level. An outstanding find were 20 Northern Phalaropes, identified by H.V. Johnson.

DORAN MCKEE

When Doran McKee passed away on Dec. 20th the Obsidian Club lost a good member and a nice friend. Doran was a man who loved beauty and who created beautiful things with his hands. His violins are the result of keen craftsmanship and his myrtlewood pieces are so carefully made they will preserve the beauty of the wood for years. Doran loved nature and enjoyed the beauty he saw while on hikes and trips with club members. And Doran loved people. It is a privilege to be among those whom he knew and loved as friends. We all extend our sincere sympathy to his wife Bertie, and to his brothers.

Roxie Waldorf

The club extends its sincere sympathy to Alice Olmstead whose father passed away just before Christmas, and Helen Weiser, whose father passed away January 10.

Just prior to this century a group of far-seeing men, and no doubt women, bless 'em, among them Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot, began to see the light. They argued, against strong and vicious opposition, for the preservation of natural beauty and wildlife for those to follow. Many of the National Parks, National Monuments, National Forests, the forerunners of Wild and Primitive areas, and some of the same are direct results of the efforts of these men and women. The Sequoia tree might well be but a memory today were it not for the arguments of a few.

Visualize how things would be today, much less than a century later, had it not been for these people. There would be few, if any, Parks that each and every one of us has an ownership in and are able to afford and freely enjoy. The same goes for all National Forests which would doubtless have been at least 50% further toward depletion had they not been protected from the former hit and run practices of lumbering.

Today we face countless threats of invasions of comparatively small areas by numerous "special interests". They are educating us, the public, through picturesque ads, slogans, misrepresented economy, the elimination of fact, evading the issue, actively seeking ways to get around various laws, and even trying to make it appear that so many owe so much to so few. Remember, to fell a tree one need only take one chop at a time to accomplish the end.

I might add that the above doesn't apply to any single resource but to many such as water, land, timber, water power; however, we are concerned with the recreational potential of these resources and their proper protection and development.

What can be done about all this? Keep writing to your Representatives and Senators, whether Party you may be. Write to the heads of departments and committees and let them know your opinions. There is much talk about so-called lost causes--nothing is too late if the fight is actively continued; talk it up, attend discussions, and write in the paper. If we all did this what a force it would be! Much of this dastardly and open defiance of our rights to a heritage of open and unadulterated beauty would be checked.

"If we desire any sort of heritage to bequeath to our children each of us must lend a hand-----. It is not a question of what we want to do, but what we must do."

Gene Stratton Porter

By the way, your own Oregon State Highway Department is trying to establish numerous camp grounds and parks along your highways throughout the State. Many people cannot afford to pay \$6 to \$12 or more for a night's lodging and find these managed camps with clean camp sites, hot and cold pure water, restrooms, and firewood a real haven. But as usual, the opposition is terrific. The hotel and motel owners vigorously oppose developing any more and even recommend strongly to eliminate all those now in existence. Why not write to R. H. Baldock, Oregon State Highway Engineer, and tell him what a great job he is doing in cooperating with others in the establishment of these State camps and parks.

Jim Jeppesen

POTLUCKS BY OBSIDIANS

The Obsidians are known over the state as mountain climbers, hikers and conservationists, but what the people of Oregon do not know about Obsidians are their potlucks. These consist of gorging proportions of this, that, and something else or rather everything else. The Obsidians are a hardy breed and must be if they are to survive their mountain climbs and their potlucks. They are a peculiar breed of humans--the hero of the hour is he or she who has discovered a harder and tougher way to get someplace. These are the kind of people it takes to get away with an Obsidian potluck.

There will be 57 varieties of beans with another 57 kinds of meats and other dishes along with pickles and knickknacks galore. Many push down 6 big pieces of cake and as many of pie. They saturate the whole mess with a quart or so of coffee. Ah, me! The Obsidian is hard stuff for sure!

The activities preceding a potluck are something of a mystery to even the old-timers, but they accept it without question. When we held potlucks at our cabin in the woods we were divided into 2 groups of gorgers: one going up the evening before from 4 pm to midnight and the other not getting away until next day, arriving between midnight and gorging time.

At each potluck every Obsidian tries to eat more than he did at the last one--I believe that some make it. On the way home from one of these gorgeous gorgings one husband said to his wife, "Boy! Oh, Boy! One dish there was sure good! I wish you would get the recipe. It was that gooey stuff with the whatcha-callit mixed in and the green and purple stuff on top.

(Continued Page 4)

TIPSOO LOOKOUT IN 1955 - by Ray Sim

By the middle of June, new siding was in place on the buildings at the Belknap Camp and all the "scraps of paper" picked up, in preparation for the influx of 90 men and boys who were to partake in the 3 day schooling in forestry.

The rangers and assistants from each of the six districts of the Willamette National Forest were the leaders and instructors. One or two men from each of the districts were put in squads of 8 and all went to class between the hours of 1 and 4, during 3 days of June 22, 23, 24.

All of the buildings were used and a class room was even held in the old Obsidian Cabin. The schooling was invaluable for the first year men, such as myself, who planned on being a lookout. The fire finder is intricate and interesting and is the heart of a lookout's day, during the fire season. Its use filled half a day's class.

On the 19th of June my family wanted to see where Jim and I were to live for the summer, so we enticed Helen Hughes, Margaret Markley and Bill Forrester to accompany the 3 of us on a Sunday trip up the 5 mile trail to the lookout.

We arrived about noon and proceeded up the 31 steps of the lookout, which is on stilts, 40 feet in the air. Upon inspection of the 14x14 room, we found the cooking utensils to be quite adequate for the cooking that we had planned.

Then on July 6th I bought the \$65 worth of food which we had planned would last us the first month. Next morning with a good early start we drove to Walker Creek on the South Ford road, where we met our Forest Service packer who loaded our sleeping bags, duffle and food for the steep 5 mile trip to Tipsoo, which was to be "our home" for the summer of 1955.

On arriving (Doris, Jimmy and I) -- we found our dunnage and boxes of food at the foot of the stairway, so, having been there 2 weeks before, our main purpose now was to stroll through the grassy meadow to the 2 ice cold pools of spring water, which we were so lucky to have within a city block and a half of the lookout.

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SEE YOU AT BEACHCOMBERS' REST
January 28 and 29

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

B U L K R A T E

TLUCKS(Continued from Page 3)

... was in that blue bowl with the yellow daffodils all around the edge". His wife fishes around in a box and comes up with the same bowl and asks, "Is this the bowl you're talking about?" The poor guy's mind is on driving or he wouldn't have said, "Yeh, that's the one. Saaaay, what's it doing in our car?" His wife snorts out, "Well you dumb ox, this bowl is ours and when I make this dish at home you won't even try it."

Bob Medill

PRINCESS DOINGS

Princess Christmas Party was hostessed by Olga Mortensen & Mary Castelloe, & a new project begun - that of obtaining and recording the history of the old piano which graced the Obsidian Cabins for many years. It is now in the Pioneer Museum where it is regarded as a gift from the Obsidians. Roland Burghardt, who originally secured it has been contacted and there will be more information in next bulletin.

Thelma Watson entertained the Princesses in January - oh those flaming bon bons! And the Tree Quiz!

WINTER AT THE COAST

On January 28, club members and friends will have the opportunity to enjoy another winter weekend at the coast. Beachcombers' Rest will be our host, and Mary Cavagnaro has promised a full and interesting itinerary, which includes a tour of the Coast Guard Lighthouse installation at Heceta Head. Mary says this is one of those "family trips", so make plans to include the children. Cost not expected to exceed \$2.50 per person (small children who do not require bed space will be guests of the club).

Bring two potluck dishes, one each for Saturday night and Sunday noon. Breakfast will be furnished by that versatile Entertainment Committee. Sign up is necessary by mid-week, or would you rather sleep with the clams? (If you discover after the Tuesday deadline that you can go after all, please call Mary at 5-6704)

MEMBERSHIP LIST

will be sent out in the next bulletin -- anyone desiring a copy before then, should contact any board member.