

OBSIDIAN WINTER OUTING

February 25 and 26

That exciting Winter Sports area - Mt. Hood - will be our playground for two days and nights. If you can go up Friday, you'll get the jump on the fun at Mazama Lodge - skiing, folk-dancing, sleeping and eating! Please sign up by Tuesday - 5 p.m. so that we may let them know how many to count on for meals. If you find by Tuesday evening that you can go after all - please call Gene Sebring, 3-5118.

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NO.2

CANADIAN ROCKIES GOAL OF SUMMERTIME CAMPERS BANFF, LAKE LOUISE, AND JASPER TO BE VISITED

An away-from-home area was selected because that seemed to be what most of our members preferred. This particular area was picked as the one that most of us have not been to and would like to see and hike and climb in, and just lazy around if we are so inclined part of the time.

The dates will be August 5th to 19th and it will be one of those enjoyable bus trips. Our camp will probably be located between Banff and Lake Louise and we will travel to the various trails and mountains from there. There is a possibility that we may move north up toward Jasper for the second week if that seems desirable.

While your Outing Committee will make every effort to insure a successful and enjoyable summer camp it is actually the members that have a great deal to do with whether or not the Camp is a standout. If you come it will be!

The principal attractions will be magnificent and rugged scenery to look and photograph - hiking, climbing, and the evening campfires. We all will also include eating those tasty and hearty meals our summer outings always feature. And then of course - there's that warm and satisfying feeling that comes with being with a group of swell people.

All of our summer outings are interesting and enjoyable but this one has every possibility and indication of being one of the best; but in order for it to be so - your presence is necessary. There are always people that are especially glad you are there. Don't disappoint them.

So when you are thinking about your vacation, plan it the easy way and leave the details for one of your most enjoyable vacations to your Outing Committee. They are working for you and welcome the opportunity

Henry Carlson

INSIDE FUN

MARCH 2 - Greyhound Bus trip to Portland for Mazama showing of Mt. Everest film. Details elsewhere in this issue.

MARCH 5 - Monthly Friendly House picture night. Three Sisters Wilderness Area. All who have pictures, please bring.

MARCH 10 - Potluck, followed by folk and square dancing. 6:30 p.m. at River Road Women's Club-house.

MARCH 16 - Obsidian Night at Skinner's Butte. Ray Harris will take us to Korea, starting promptly at 8:00 p.m.

OUTSIDE FUN

FEBRUARY 26-26 - WINTER OUTING AND MT. HOOD ASCENT. Mazama Lodge. Outing Committee in charge.

MARCH 4 - MT. PISGAH - Ray Cavagnaro, Leader. The route to take us by some "Indian Fortifications".

MARCH 11 - SKI TRIP - WILLAMETTE. Will play follow the leader with Bailey Castelleo.

MARCH 18 - RICHARDSON'S BUTTE. Another nice easy close-to-home trip for early spring. Henry Jepsen, Leader

COAST TRIP RE-SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 25 AND 26.- At Beachcombers Rest, Yachats. Plans are the same as previously posted. Sign up sheet will be up March 1, and taken down March 21st. For further information call Mary Cavagnaro, 5-6704.

SEE MOUNT EVEREST

Remember those grand Greyhound Bus trips to the Tetons and Glacier? Let's fill the bus Friday, March 2 -- to Portland's Benson High School, as guests of the Mazamas to see "The Challenge Of Everest", and hear author Norman Dyhrenfurth's stirring commentary. (He was the only American member of the 1952 Swiss Expedition which pioneered the route for the successful British ascent in 1953.)

Sign up at Hendershott's must be completed by Saturday, February 25 - the only cost is the \$3.65 fare - bring a sack lunch, as there will not be time to eat until after the show. Time of leaving is 5:15 p.m. at Greyhound Bus Depot.

If sign up is not sufficient, a caravan of private cars will leave City Park Blocks at 5:15 p.m. -- Call Mary Cavagnaro, 5-6704, or Ray Sims, 4-2834, for further information.

SIGN UP NOW-TO SEE "THE CHALLENGE OF EVEREST"

Ray Harris, Host

Committees reported as follows:

BUILDING - With the potential fund around \$7,500 dollars, and the imminent sale of our 17th and High lot for a more suitable location. . . .

CLIMBING - Two lectures were given recently, to Irving Boy Scouts, and a church group, on survival techniques and mountaineering, with demonstration of equipment and climbing scenes in the Oregon Cascades. Well received by very attentive audiences. Any club member who knows of an interested or needy group, -- call Gene Sebring or Ray Harris.

MEMBERSHIP - Bernie is still accepting delinquent dues at 549 E. 16th, No. 5; only \$4.00 remember --- a real bargain. Wendell Johnson sends his greetings from Santa Barbara, and says he misses Obsidian activities.

ENTERTAINMENT - Suggested that the 3rd Friday Obsidian Night reserve time for discussion of current topics, with participation by any or all members present. Minutes of Board Meeting will be read to open the meeting, but if members have suggested topics, call any Board member. Suggested by Bernie -- who attended Chemeketa Banquet, that we're missing a lot of fun without one of our own.

PUBLICATIONS - Editor will gladly accept editorial or factual contributions to the Bulletin from members at large; such material to be called or sent by the 3rd Thursday (night before Obsidian Social Night).

LIBRARY-HISTORY - Mary Kaneen reports her committee as Helen Weiser, Lorena Shinn, Mary Medill, Frances Newsom.

TRAILINGS

- Charles Honey and Kathryn Ann Copp were married in Dallas on January 1. They are at home at 743 S. 15th, Corvallis; both attend Oregon State College.
- Jack Weissner has returned to his Cascade Summit home after a sojourn in Sacred Heart Hospital.
- No wonder Art Steele likes the telephone answering business - those pretty operators!
- Ray Sims has been elected Vice-President of the Eugene Recreation Commission for the year of 1956, at the regular monthly meeting at the city hall.
- Thelma Watson recently made a flying trip to Los Angeles - a buying trip - she stayed at the Biltmore - visited Disneyland - and other interesting places!
- **BALD EAGLE'S (JOE) WINGS ARE CLIPPED ! ! !** Wonder if he wore his **FIRE-RED** indian outfit to get the courthouse open on a holiday - Friday, Feb. 3!!
- to obtain the license.

BACKWARD GLANCES

Ski Trip - February 12

The first ski sojourn of the new year was enjoyed by 9 Obsidians on Lincoln's birthday. It was noon before the skiers hit the trail opposite the Willamette Area and proceeded down to the Odell Lake Junction, swung onto the unplowed roadway - past the snowbound summer homes, and soon after saw the half-frozen lake through the trees. In spite of the all-day snow flurries, the railroad tunnel was reached with ease. Before returning, Bailey and Ray were caught reminiscing about the ski trains the Obsidians used to sponsor to this very spot, carrying up to 632 enthusiasts in 1936, before the Willamette Highway was built to its present status. Those making the trip were Bailey & Mary Castelloe, Bernie Lehrman, Helen Hughes, Mary Cavagnaro, Merle Simmons, Henry & Dale Carlson, and Ray Sims, leader.

By Ray Sims

Our first job at the lookout was to bring up plenty of water so all the woodwork and floor could be scrubbed. All of the dishes and also the 160 windows (on both sides) were washed, but this proved interesting - Jim would wash on the one side while I washed on the other.

Then hoisting one of those heavy 8 by 8 wooden shutters into place after having found it down in the 'canyon' where last winters storms had placed it, was also a must.

It said in the 'book' that first the telephone must be put into order and then call headquarters, but even with installing new batteries, my phone was completely dead.

By the second morning we followed the 'ground wire' all the way to the spring and then found on inspection of the 'switch box' down on a pole on the ground, someone had cut one of the wires outside the box, so splicing this, we were able to call McKenzie Bridge, letting them know that we were 'on the job'.

We found the flag pole down on the ground and erected it on the Northwest corner of our catwalk --- so 'Old Glory' would fly above the lookout.

The weather has been quite foggy for the first two days and Doris left at three this afternoon. But as the sun came out today several brown rabbits and a half dozen chipmunks made their appearance.

Though a good supply of wood was on hand, Jim thought it a good idea to fall a good big tree for firewood and split it up, so this was our main job for the third day. Then as we were alone we also had something else to think of --- meals and food to cook.

WINTER ASCENT PLANNED

Some hardy souls have expressed a desire for a winter climb of Mt. Hood. Climbers should be skiers - bring crampons, ice axe. For details, call Ray Harris, 3-2926, or Gene Sebring, 3-5118. Signup at Hendershott's.

J. ED TURNBULL

The passing of the Obsidian's third President, J. Ed Turnbull, is mourned by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Ed was a true friend to us all. His vision in those early days of the club was clear and precise. He was chairman of the first summer outing at Obsidian Camp, which was the beginning of the many summer camps that have been so successful and brought so much pleasure to so many people.

Ed was one of us, in those rain-soaked tents at Frog Camp, during the long fruitless search for Perry and Cramer. And it was Ed who was so enthusiastic about starting a mountaineering club on our return.

And to Christine, his wife, the Obsidians extend their many sympathies.

Ray Sims

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The Club extends its deepest sympathy to George and Trilla, Henry and Fan Korn, and their father, at the death of their mother.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

'Around Oregon With Pick And Dipnet' will be the topic of Dr. Robert M. Storm when he addresses the Society on Friday, February 24, 8 p.m., Room 207, Chapman Hall, U. of O. Campus. Dr. Storm is Ass't Prof. of Zoology at OSC, and promises an interesting 'tour' with slides.

BEAVER MARSH

After reading several months ago about the Federal Power Commission granting a license to the Eugene Water and Electric Board for the construction of the Beaver Marsh Project, I was, needless to say, much disturbed. The granting of this license was just one of numerous applications for invasions of public domain. The only enjoyable and free recreation that the general public has, or will ever have, is within or on public domain. It seems that these "special interest" invasions are almost always in spots of irreplaceable scenic, historical, physiologic, unique, or recreational value; the value of which would exceed any monetary estimate.

I have been informed of a little publicized item of serious magnitude. This point is that nearly every river, stream and creek has at least one private power reservation filed upon it, many of which have been on file since before World War I when another big "grab" was taking place. These applications obligate the public thusly: (1) That in the eyes of the Federal Power Commission these applications have gone uncontested for over thirty years - so why not grant them (I might add that to find record of these is very difficult and accounts for the lack of protest due also to little publicity); (2) That if any of these sites are granted the Government must provide land for a right of way, at public expense, to serve said grantee, - thereby despoiling scenery, and placing much timbered acreage out of the so-called management plan; (3) That almost any scenic spot along said waterways are possibly subject to be affected. I strongly recommend pressure be brought to reveal all of these sites and proper course of action be taken to protest each and every one that will needlessly damage scenic or recreation resources and educate the general public to the same in groups and as individuals. As power is needed is time enough to accept and grant site applications, if absolutely needed.

I have been fortunate enough to have spent many a happy day in the Upper McKenzie area along the river, at Clear Lake, and down on Beaver Marsh itself. This stretch of the river is the only stretch left along the entire river with any amount of original beauty remaining. From town to Belknap Springs is a sorry excuse for scenery when compared to about 16 years ago. Our remaining truly beautiful areas are being despoiled one by one - and bear in mind - not for years, but forever. No economic value

-3- can be placed upon such as these, the sum would be astronomical, except by those few who desire to gain their personal ends.

I want to repeat, this upper stretch of the McKenzie River is one of the most beautiful, if not the most beautiful, stretches of river on the Pacific Coast, bar none. I will also say that Clear Lake and Fish Lake are beauty spots in their own right. Results of the completion of this project will be as follows: (1) The valley floor, including Beaver Marsh, will be destroyed; (2) Koosah and Sahali Falls will be seriously affected and will not be much of an attraction, for long, after the proposed tunnel diverts the river. They will, rather, become part of merely an overflow ditch which the river along this diversion tunnel will automatically become; (3) Fishing will be popular, possibly for a short time, but will last but for a few seasons, regardless of what is said to the contrary. It takes an act of God to catch a decent fish today in Leaburg Lake - as compared to the period just after the lake was formed and the "big-uns" were trapped so to speak, behind the dam; (4) The fluctuating surface of Clear Lake will cloud the water for all time to come. The beautiful shoreline will not appear natural any more. A constant-level lake such as this is unique in that the type of natural dam composed of lava which trapped the water behind it is a geologic phenomenon. The trees that are seen beneath the surface are preserved and will last indefinitely if they are never exposed to air. These compose the "Ghost Forest" and are scattered about the lake. Fluctuation will obstruct the view of these trees - due to the resultant murkiness of the water and the ability to see, as if through crystal, the bottom life, plus boats appearing to float on air, will be gone forever; (5) The little-publicized, but not denied, fact that this Beaver Marsh setup is one step in a long chain of dams that will extend down river.....below Belknap Springs. This is passed off as not being the issue at hand. These additional dams will neither enhance the scenery, aid flood control, nor provide a revealable source of power (lines planned to carry 150,000 volts, approximately, carrying only less than a third of said sum seem revealing). Besides this, the remaining beauty stretch of the McKenzie River will be no more. To top it off power can be purchased very reasonably from an ever-expanding and reliable source owned by the Government which in effect is all of us.

It is my opinion that an extensive pre-
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liminary program has been initiated and followed by the Eugene Water Board which includes: (1) Extensive and numerous out-of-state trips (lobbying) to help insure the granting of a license. (2) Opposition to public power (Hell's Canyon) and full support of the so-called partnership program, which indicates why the lack of interest in purchasing cheap Columbia River Power; (3) That the convenient creation of a public park area on Leaburg Lake last year, the recent notice of rate reduction in the Eugene Register-Guard, The more recent article on Leaburg Lake and Dam also in the Guard (not put out by the Water Board however) were planned as such and they could well influence the Bond Issue Election to be held next month by acting as buffers against the opposition; (4) That any comparison of the Beaver Marsh project with Leaburg Dam & Lake is pure fallacy. Leaburg Lake offers only limited scenery and is only slightly accessible due to private ownership. The "scenery" is also either logged off, full of summer homes, or commercialized areas. Generally speaking the scenery is enjoyed chiefly by the shoreline owners. The fishing is extremely poor. The "beauty" of this lake is lacking to me although a spot or two may be called picturesque. The boating is almost limited to motors due to the rather strong current. The water around this lake is impure as compared to the Upper McKenzie area to be affected by these dams.

I feel that any optimistic views that are being held to the contrary are deceiving. Once people are talked into the thing and it completed, it is too late... Then a great many will suffer irreparable disappointment, and the Upper McKenzie as a beauty-spot of nature will remain only in legend (Snoqualmie Falls, Twin Falls) and be seen only as a power development with guided tours.

The public of today will be losing one of the remaining spots of beauty uncluttered with commercialization and which is public and free to use subject only to a few protective measures, and those to follow will inherit just that much less of their heritage.

Jim Jeppesen

Excerpts Of A Letter Received By The Editor From Olaus J. Murie, President of The Wilderness Society

Mr. Murie commented on the apparent good fellowship between the Obsidians, — Mazamas and Chemeketans—the enjoyment of being among those with interests in common. He commented very favorably on Jim Jeppesen's article on Conservation. A point that Jim tries to point out is stated by Mr. Murie "history shows us that high-minded objectives are reached by earnest minorities".

Mr. Murie commented on what he considers a good citizen: first, your personal life is your vote for the kind of civilization you would like to build and second, your interest in the out-of-doors, the mountains, forests, ... the kind of neighborly fellowship this engenders and which we were urged to develop some 2,000 years ago; all should tend toward a strong culture.

Another important point that Mr. Murie mentioned. "I have had good opportunity to know that legislators, far or near, are attentive to letters they receive. They need such letters to give them an idea of what the voters are thinking. My advice is to get well informed on an issue and then let the people "at the wheel" know, definitely, where you want to go."

The Wilderness Society is a National Conservation organization incorporated to secure the preservation of Wilderness. The immediate purpose is to defend these areas; its long-time, broad purpose is to increase the knowledge and appreciation of Wilderness, wherever found. They publish The Living Wilderness, which each member receives and well worth the minimum fee you can pay; they personally investigate wilderness areas and problems, see that legislators are informed. and seek to keep the public posted as to the proposals of "special interest" groups. A good group to support, they welcome members; dues are — Member \$2, Contributing Member \$5, Sustaining Member \$10, Supporting Member \$25, Life Member \$100. Address: The Wilderness Society, 2144 "P" St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

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BULK RATE

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