



The OBSIDIAN



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NO. 9

'Mr. Obsidian' to head club 1957-58

After the first summer outing in 1928, returning to Eugene, the big question was where we could store the brand new outing equipment and the dishes?

The board appointed a committee in the winter of 1929 to investigate a room in the old Hampton building at 6th and Willamette. But this did not meet the requirements.

Then, in 1937 blue prints were made for a mountain cabin on Deer butte, as the McKenzie pass was the only road and was kept open quite late in the year.

So, after 30 years of needing a place to store our equipment, hold board meetings, hold special meetings, have picture nights, all of our entertainments, potluck dinners, and even a place to meet for trips and above all, the annual meeting, where possibly there wouldn't be a basketball game overhead.

Yes, I certainly would like the building committee to come up with a plan and have the members do much of the work, and by next annual meeting, move into an Obsidian club house.

Also in these first 30 years, with the association of congenial people, I would like to express my genuine pleasure that I have realized in our many summer camps, trips and high mountain climbs. And especially the high mountain climbs, where sometimes there is tenseness, but courtesy is the byword. As someone once said, "There is no animosity above 6,000 feet".

-- Ray Sims

DUES ARE DUE

It's that time. Dues are payable. Make your checks to Obsidians and send to Nat Morgan, 751 E. 14th Ave., Eugene.

Ray Sims, known as "Mr. Obsidian" all over the Northwest, was elected president of the club by the new board of directors. Ray, a charter member of the club, has been just about everywhere in our area. It is generally known that "If Ray hasn't been there, you can't get there from here."

Jim Jeppesen is vice president, Lillian Johnson, treasurer; and Bette Hack, secretary.

Lillian, Bette, Ray and Natalie Morgan were elected to the board this time. Old board members whose terms continue are Jim Jeppesen, Ray Harris, Karl Onthank, Henry Carlson and Bob Medill.

FIVE MEMBERS EARN THE TEN PEAK AWARD

Five members earned the coveted Ten Peak award last year. Early in the season, on the 4th of July, Bruce and Art Johnson on top of Mt. McLoughlin celebrated the holiday by tearing strips of tape off the Obsidian emblems and revealing the "10"s.

A week and a half later, on the Washington climb, Jim Newsom and Bob Northrop earned their way into the fraternity.

Early in August Lorena Shinn, who ran into bad luck with the weather several times last year, got to the top of Diamond Peak, her 10th and one that many get right at first. She climbed the 10 in 13 months.

The five awards were presented at the annual meeting, as was a 10 peak award to Margaret Markley who had earned it earlier.

A three-peak award went to Bill Beaman who finished up on the South in September.

THE OBSIDIAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Ray Sims	DI 4-9456
Vice-President	Jim Jeppesen	DI 5-3434
Secretary	Bette Hack	DI 5-3650
Treasurer	Lillian Johnson	DI 5-6338
Historian	Helen Weiser	DI 5-1234

Board Members: Natalie Morgan, Henry Carlson, Ray Harris, Karl Onthank, Bob Medill.

Bulletin Editor, Bob Frazier, DI 5-1551

SIX NEW MEMBERS

Two senior members and four new juniors have been accepted into the club.

MARRINER ORUM started with the Obsidians on that climb of the south ridge of the Middle, the climb that almost didn't come off because of crossed signals. Later he climbed the South with us, and brought along his wife.

CAROLYN ORUM, who had climbed Hood but not with the Obsidians. Marriner is a US forester in Oakridge. Carolyn teaches in the public schools there.

PEPE BENSEN, age 8, also started on the Middle, climbing in his Cub Scout uniform. Next he climbed the South and was disgusted when bad weather early in October kept him from getting the North and all Three Sisters before he was 9.

DALE SEBRING, age 11, has been up the Middle, Husband, and Mary's Peak.

DOUG APPEL, age 15, went into Yapoah Crater with us in '56. This year he was on the Husband climb and the Yapoah Loop and Dig Delknap Trips.

RON GREEN, age 17, started on McLoughlin and added Jack, the South and the Husband his first summer. He also climbed quite a bit in the Coburgs.

FOR THE BIRDS

Anyone wanting to help in the annual bird count Dec. 29 can arrange it by calling Ben Pruitt at RI 7-8140 or Lawrence Daggett at DI 5-8608.

HERE ARE THE NEW COMMITTEES

Committees for 1957 - 1958, with name of chairman first, follow:

Trips-- Bob Medill, Louis Waldorf, Don Chase, Keith Brunig, Natalie Morgan, Thelma Watson.

Climbing -- "Doc" Boyles, Bob Northrop, Pat Stahl, Bruce Johnson, Art Johnson, Lorena Shinn.

Outing -- Gene Sebring, Mike Stahl, Ray Harris.

Entertainment and Education-- Mary Castelloe, Roxie Waldorf, Gerry Fehly, Kay Faye, Myrtle Smith, Nellie McWilliams, Ray Cavagnaro, Helen Kilpatrick, Florence Fulton, Henry Carlson, Frank Sipe, Lillian Johnson, Blanche Bailey.

Library and Historical -- Helen Weiser, Nellie McWilliams, Adeline Adams, and Les Cooper.

Membership -- Natalie Morgan, Lorena Shinn, Bob Medill, Jim Jeppesen.

Auditing -- Clarence Scherer.

Publications -- Bob Frazier, Mary Castelloe, Ray Sims, Jim Jeppesen.

Scientific -- Frances Newsom, Bayard McConnaughey, Jim Kezer, Marian Miller, Fred Miller, Gale Burwell, Anna Pechanec, Catherine Dunlop, Ruth Onthank.

Conservation -- Karl Onthank, Frances Newsom, Bob Frazier, Margaret Markley, Douglas Spencer, Kent Gill, Dale Carlson, Doris Sims.

Building -- Tom Taylor, Gene Sebring, Helen Hughes, Dowell Callis, George Hermach.

Youth Activities -- Committee unformed because of change in chairmanship.

Searchand Rescue -- Ray Harris. Rest of committee to be appointed later.

HAVE YOU?

Have you paid your dues to Nat Morgan?

NEW YEAR'S EVE AT SKOVBO'S

Again this year, Pete's little barn loft will be bulging with Obsidians carrying on the traditional year-end capers - dancing folk dances - putting on stunts - playing games - lying whopper lies to try and capture that "trophy". We're asking everyone to bring sandwiches and cookies, and we'll furnish coffee and punch. Also wear comfortable clothes, something warmish. The fun will start at 8 p.m. and last until 1958 is properly ushered in!

PRINCESS DOINGS

November 18 found 16 Princesses enjoying their traditional fall feast and ceremony at the home of Princess Humming Bird, - Florence Fulton. Appropriate decorations provided a colorful setting for their costumes. A short business meeting was held, at which plans were made for the Annual Club Christmas party, as well as the Princess Party, which was held Monday, December 16, with Margaret Markley, Rainbow on the Fog, and Lorena Shinn, Alpine Fir, assisting the hostess, Alpine Glow, Arlene Keasling.

AT BOARD MEETINGS

A representative of the Princesses has been attending board meetings; Nellie McWilliams attended Nov. 7, and Helen Weiser Dec. 5.

THE JUDGE SAYS

There is no animosity above 6,000 feet. That has been said and re-said often. One man who said it a different way was U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. Justice Douglas, who climbed in the Cascades and Wallows as a boy and who still returns to enjoy our mountains, is known as an able and enthusiastic mountaineer. Says he, in "Of Men and Mountains:"

"Mountains have a decent influence on men. I have never met along the trails of the high mountains a mean man, a man who would cheat and steal. Certainly most men who are raised there or who work there are as wholesome as the mountains themselves. Those who explore them on foot or horseback usually are open, friendly men. At least that has been my experience."

CHIEFS INITIATE

Last minute plans made the CollegeCrest community club house the place for this year's annual Chiefs' initiation. With 18 there, it speaks well for the need of an Obsidian town house.

With only one initiate, Bill Beaman of Albany, the entire program was finished Saturday evening and a good deal of time was put in to better the club. Chiefs voted to urge that next year's schedule put trips and climbs together in the printed notice, instead of having them listed separately.

Attending were Smoketurner, Paint Brush, Broken Top, Little Brother, Apple Knocker, Red Face, Substitute, Dig Stick, Thunderbird, Posey, T Bone, Smokey, Lookout, Bantam, Robinson Crusoe, Seal Gull Feather, Abdulla, and Chief Wah (Bill Beaman).

WHAT'S THE NAME?

What's the name of that little glacier on the north side of Three Fingered Jack? Apparently at one time it was named, by the Obsidians, Adams Glacier after Elmer Adams, an active member of this club in its early days and who was drowned in the Pacific. But Kenneth Phillips, the Mazama's glacier expert, has suggested it be called Jack Glacier.

In any case, why don't we visit it? How do we get there -- from Jack Lake? Could we camp there and hike in?

CHEAPER FOR SOME?

The board of directors discussed, but took no action on suggestions that lower dues be assessed against members living so far away that they cannot take part in year-around club activities. Also discussed was a cheaper "spouse membership" similar to that used by some other clubs. And would our membership be greater if we made it easier, and cheaper, for dropped members to reinstate themselves? Action on these questions cannot be taken by the Board, because constitutional amendments are required.

BOARD ACTION ON SOME
CONSERVATION MATTERS

Board approval has been given several recommendations of the Conservation Committee, headed by Karl Onthank. Another question, raised by the committee, has been left open. Approved were the following:

*Reaffirmation of the club's stand on Waldo Lake. We hope it will be left in its wild state, although with a corridor to the lake and with motor boats permitted on the water.

*Send letters to the Water Resources Board urging that the Waldo Lake waters be maintained as recreational waters.

*Give support to a book, still in the "talking about" stage on the wilderness of the Northwest.

*Urged approval of the Strube dam, a re-regulating reservoir below Cougar.

*Backed the efforts of the Oregon Roadside Council and Senator Neuberger to regulate the placement of billboards, especially along the new freeways. A similar resolution backs the Lane County Planning Commission in its efforts to regulate billboard placement locally.

The board withheld action on a proposal to offer financial help in bringing a commercial photographer into our area to take pictures for use in a Northwest book such as the one approved above.

LATE TRIPS

Late fall trips have been well attended. Eighteen were on the Mary's Peak trip led by Keith Brunig, 19 went on the in-town trip to Lafferty's ice house, led by Louis Waldorf, and a dozen went up Mt. June, led by Donn Chase. Jim Jeppesen's Mt. Pisgah trip was also well attended.

The Mt. June party found quite a lot of snow in their area, almost a foot deep on top. That was on Nov. 17. Of special interest were the tracks in the snow of the snowshoe rabbit, squirrel, coyote or wolf, weasel, deer, and Obsidians.

TWO GIVE TESTIMONY
AT HEARING ON RIVER

When the State Water Resources Board met early in December to talk about plans for the upper McKenzie, Karl Onthank was there in behalf of the Friends of the Three Sisters and Kent Gill represented the Obsidians.

They told the board they felt the upper river was more valuable for recreation than for any other purpose. They neither approved nor opposed the Carmen Smith project as such. Their approach was more general.

Karl is sending summaries of the Carmen Smith situation to persons who were not at the hearing. He told the Obsidian board of directors he felt the Water Resources Board was trying to take a "long view" of the situation. He reiterated his belief that a study of the whole situation on the upper river is badly needed.

WHERE TO PUT IT?

Now in the club's possession is the priceless first Middle Sister book, put on the summit in 1892 by Dean John Straub of the University of Oregon. Where shall we keep this and other valuable books and documents of historical interest? A board committee is investigating putting the book in the Oregon collection of the U of O library, possibly with microfilm and/or typed copies of the contents for our immediate use. Helen Kilpatrick is doing the investigating.

This book and others like it are old and fragile. The mere handling of them is likely to make them less legible or to tear them. Also, at that age, changes in humidity and temperature may harm it. The library has a good spot for them.

MISSING

Who has the Obsidian Library copy of "Geology of the Three Sisters Area" by Howel Williams? It's a valuable book, now out of print. If you have it, or have a clue, please notify Librarian Helen Weiser at DI 5-1234.

OUTGOING PRESIDENT CARLSON DELIVERS HIS 'MESSAGE'

Best wishes to President Ray Sims for the year ahead. Certainly nobody ever deserved the presidency more. Since the inception of the club, Ray has been one of the most faithful workers in furthering our aims and objectives.

His sincerity in wishing to be of great service was demonstrated in declining previous opportunities to be president in the belief he could do more elsewhere. We are pleased he is president now.

In the past year when it was my honor to be president, we undoubtedly forged ahead. It is hard to state one outstanding accomplishment, so efficiently did all committees perform. We neither stood still nor lost ground.

A highlight was the sponsorship of the showing of Charles Eggert's "Canyon Voyage" down the treacherous Colorado River. Many non-members attended. Comment was favorable.

We regretted losing Keena Northrop as secretary and board member, but were fortunate in her replacement, Bette Hack.

Misfortune again overtook us when Bernice Lehrman resigned as board member and membership chairman because of her new job as a teacher in Salem. Elanche Bailey carried on as membership chairman, but a replacement for Bernice's spot on the board was delayed until the election.

Helen Hughes, our efficient treasurer, and George Hermach concluded their terms. George had also served as trips chairman.

I thank everyone for the cooperation, help and support they gave in generous measure. Without it I should have been at a loss. It was appreciated and will not be soon forgotten.

Thanks to Ray Cavagnaro and his outing committee for the summer camp I and many others enjoyed.

Again congratulations to Ray Sims and best of luck during his term of office.

---Henry Carlson

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

The trips committee wants to know what trips the members want. Also if you know of a trip you'd like to lead, please tell a member of the committee about it.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO READ?

What kind of Bulletin do you want? Don't hesitate to tell Bob Frazier (DI 5-1551) what you think is wrong with the bulletin and what you'd like to see included or excluded. It's your bulletin.

SUMMER OUTING

The outing committee is considering several possibilities for next summer. Included among the possibles are the Tetons the Sawtooths, Glacier Peak and Mt. Rainier. The committee feels it's time for another bus trip. Ideas can be registered with Gene Sebring.

THE NEWSOMS

Keith Newsom spent Thanksgiving with Wendy Johnson in Santa Barbara. Keith is attending Stanford. Brother Jim, now a lieutenant since his graduation from West Point, is at Ft. Benning, Ga., for some airborne training.

COLOR SLIDES

The monthly slide showings at Friendly House will be resumed Jan. 6.

NEW BOOK AT LIBRARY

The Eugene Public Library has received a copy of "The Picture History of Mountaineering" by Ronald W. Clark. It's a beautiful book, mostly pictures, but with generous text. Many of us will feel that it goes in too heavily for climbing in the Alps, and not enough in North America. Still it's worth looking at, and a good possibility for a Christmas present.

ARE WE PREPARED?

How many of us have up-to-date RedCross first aid cards? It's mighty comforting to know what to do when you have to do it.

OBSIDIAN SCIENTISTS KEEP PACE WITH THE IGY YEAR

Frances Newsom showed up at the December board meeting with a hatful of ideas for her scientific committee this year, as befits an observance of the International Geophysical Year. Here are some of her ideas:

*Work with the trips committee for a geology trip, led by a good geologist.

*A coast trip with Bayard McConaughy in the lead.

*Get somebody like Dave Burwell to lead a woodsmanship and survival trip.

*At a potluck get Fred and Marian Miller to show the slides they took among the Indians of the Southwest.

*See the slides Herb Kariel got in New Zealand.

*Take advantage of the offer of two biology professors to lead biology trips.

*Have Dean Henry Hansen of OSC lecture on climate.

*Schedule scientific articles for your Obsidian Bulletin.

*In advance of summer camp, arrange for books on the area to be visited, money to come from the summer camp budget.

*List the scientific books in the club library, and try to get gifts of more.

*Compile bibliographies of books and articles bearing on the Three Sisters and other mountains and regions well known to the club.

*Ascertain the safety of the drinking water in places we commonly visit. Follow streams and determine the source of any pollution.

*List contributions of Obsidians to science.

*Compile information on early Oregon and contemporary scientists and their association with the Obsidians.

*Confer with the Mazamas to learn what they are doing about measurement of Oregon glaciers, especially Collier Glacier.

*Prepare a photographic display on our area for use at various meetings and conventions.

*Urge members with good black and white photographs of our area to see if these can be used to advantage by the club.

HOW ABOUT IT?

Nearly every year members talk about scheduling climbs of the less often visited peaks such as Broken Top, the Bachelor, Cowhorn, Bailey, Maiden Peak, Union Peak, Mt. Scott, and Devil's Hill. Also a check reveals that few of us have been on the lesser known and more hard-to-get-to peaks like the Wife and the Sphinx.

Can we get into some of these areas one of these years? Who can lead? If they are on the schedule, will they draw away from the more established climbs? Would some of the major peaks have to be left off the schedule if we were to list these? What do you think?

TO REVISE IT

Remember the hassle over revising the constitution, the debate that took so long at annual meeting? President Ray Sims, recognizing that work still needs to be done has appointed a new committee to work further on the constitution. Members are Dot Dotson, chairman, and Doug Spencer, Bailey Costelloe, Mike Stahl, Jim Jeppe-son, Kent Gill, Mozelle Hair, and Dale Carlson.

OBSIDIANS, INC.
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B U L K R A T E