



The
OBSIDIAN



VOL. XVIII

JANUARY 1958 - OBSIDIANS, INC. - P.O. BOX 322 - EUGENE, OREGON

NO. 1

Obsidians To Go South for summer

The Winter Season
 Can Be a Busy One

Zion and Bryce Canyon
 Beckon Summer Campers

Winter trips are "iffy" things. Weather can be, and sometimes is, discouraging. But so far this year, says Trips Chairman Bob Medill, things have gone pretty well. He reports 30 on the Christmas tree trip, 8 on the trip up to Salmon Creek Falls, - 14 on the hatchery trip. The mystery trip of Dec. 29 was canceled.

Sunday the 19th saw 20 on the McKenzie snow trip. After parking at the White Branch ski area, they walked at least a mile and a half before finding snow on the highway. Then they skied far above Proxy. Some used snowshoes.

Trips to come follow:

Feb. 2 -- The Metallurgical plant at Albany. The Beamans will lead us through, with Ken Lodewick as leader from Eugene.

Feb. 9 - Donn Chase's place on Salt Creek, with a side trip from there.

Feb. 23- Somewhere on the coast with Lorena Shimm.

Mar. 2 - The schedule says "West Point" with Paul and Helen Weiser.

The Feb. 2 trip to the Albany plant will end with a feed at Mae Beaman's. We start from Marge and Bill Beaman's home. To get there, go just past Tops and turn right; their house is in the second block - address is 811 S. Fulton. Mae Beaman's is 1420 Umatilla.

Sympathy

The board of directors and the membership extend their sympathies to Percy Brown, whose wife, Zula, died the Sunday before Christmas.

Obsidians are going south for the summer. The board has approved the suggestion of the outing committee that the 1958 summer camp be at Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks, with a side trip to Grand Canyon. Dates are Aug. 3 to 16.

Chairman Gene Sebring told the board his committee had conducted a postcard poll of members who usually attend summer outings. The Zion-Bryce idea won, with Mt. Rainier National Park a close second. Next was the Tetons. The poll showed most favored a rather distant trip.

The plan is to camp at both Zion and Bryce, a few days at each. Some time in the period a bus will take campers to the south rim of the Grand Canyon. Those who wish can descend the canyon wall, cross the Colorado River and come up the North wall to the rim where the bus will meet them for the trip back to camp.

While details are not firmed up, Gene reports it will probably be a bus trip and will take about three days each way, leaving eight days in the parks. Details, including price, will be reported in a later bulletin.

Danger River

Again Obsidians will bring a film by Charles Eggert to Eugene. This one will be "Danger River" in time for the opening of fishing season. Tentative date is April 12, a Saturday night at Eugene High auditorium.

Committee is Jim Jeppesen and Ray Sims, chairmen, and Dot Dotson, Art Johnson and Doris Sims. Prices will likely be 90 and 50 cents for adults and students.

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

Board Members: The above and Natalie Morgan, Henry Carlson, Karl Onthank, Bob Medill.

Bulletin Editor, Bob Frazier, DI 4-7139

New Members

The club has three new members -- two active and one junior:

JIM AND MARY DOUGLAS STOVALL are known to all of us, largely because of Jim's lectures on Oregon scenery, geography, and natural history. They were with us on several trips, including the Rebel Rock and Wilderness trips and the Carpenter Mountain excursion.

ROBERT GREEN, 14, is Ron's brother. He climbed the South Sister with the club in September.

A Resignation and Two Ideas

Tracy Caldwell, who has moved to Santa Barbara, Calif., has submitted his resignation from the club, thus keeping himself in good standing. In his letter of resignation, he makes two suggestions:

1. That "unique, known hazards" of certain mountains be pointed out in advance of climbing. As an example he cites the snowfield we pass in climbing the South Sister from Green Lakes. We go up, skirt the snowfield and waterfall and all is well. But, he says, in coming down we are likely to forget the stream that runs under the snowfield. He fears a climber may break through the thin crust to the small hidden stream, or even glissade right off the waterfall.

2. That the club climbing code list the early and late dates which usually bracket the safe climbing season for the major peaks. He admits that there are seasonal differences, but thinks we could set up some rather general rules.

How About a Reprint of
Howel Williams Book?

Remember last month we asked what fate had befallen the Obsidian library copy of Howel Williams' "Volcanoes of the Three Sisters Region, Oregon Cascades?" Well, we never did find out. But Ray Sims loaned his personal copy of the book to the club library. (Other club books are missing, also club pictures - call chairman Helen Weiser if you know where they are.)

This fine book is a true contribution to the library of anybody who is interested in "our" mountains. But it is no longer in print. A number of club members are writing to the University of California Press, Berkeley, asking that it be re-issued. If you want to join the crowd, the title is "Volcanoes of the Three Sisters Region, Oregon Cascades" by Howel Williams. It is identified as Vol. 27, No. 3, pp 37-84. Original date was 1944.

At hand is a new map, also by Howel Williams. The book and the map make a fine set. The map is "A Geologic Map of the Bend Quadrangle, Oregon" and "A Reconnaissance Geologic Map of the Central Portion of the High Cascade Mountains." It was published by the State of Oregon, Department of Geology and Mineral Industries and the U.S.G.S.

In at least one letter Cal Press was asked about the possibility of having the book re-issued with the map as an enclosure.

Good literature on the Sisters Region is not plentiful. If fact, few mountain areas of the United States have been so overlooked in print. We'd better see to it that what might be available is also readily obtainable.

Resigns Board

Ray Harris bought a farm. That means he is pretty busy. So he resigned from the board of directors, and also resigned his position as Search and Rescue chairman. A new chairman and a new board member will be named soon. Because of Ray's November vacation, he also had to quit his post as a member of the outing committee. However he maintains his membership in the club and will still be around.

Bird Counters Find
80 Different Species

A number of Obsidians helped with the annual bird count conducted by the Audubon Society during the Christmas holidays. The 24 observers counted 20,555 birds of 80 species. This includes 400 ducks of a species that could not be determined because of poor visibility at Fern Ridge Lake. Between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 29 they covered 190 miles by car and 75 miles on foot.

Obsidians participating included Frances Newsom, Helen Kilpatrick, Margaret Markley, Myrtle Hamlin, Frank Sipe, Ruth Beacon and Mary Castelloe.

Species observed and number seen were:

Eared grebe, 2; pie-billed grebe, 2; Great blue heron, 7; Canada goose, 1,500; white-fronted goose, 7; mallard duck, 43; gadwall, 6; baldpate, 46; pintail, 108; green winged teal, 2; shoveller, 2.

Wood duck, 3; ring-necked duck, 14; ruddy duck, 5; sharp-shinned hawk, 14; Cooper's hawk, 3; red-tailed hawk, 12; Marsh hawk, 5; sparrow hawk, 26; mountain quail, 2; bob white, 35; pheasant, 150.

Coot, 61; killdeer, 1,000; Wilson's snipe, 50; least sandpiper, 5; ring billed gull, 68; Bonaparte's gull, 10; pygmy owl, 2; mourning dove, 3; screech owl, 1; kingfisher, 4; flicker, 194; California woodpecker, 130; Lewis's woodpecker, 2.

Red-breasted sapsucker, 5; hairy woodpecker, 2; downy woodpecker, 11; Say's phoebe, 1; Stellar's jay, 83; California jay, 109; crow, 3,120; Oregon chickadee, 91; bush-tit, 41; white-breasted nuthatch 4; red-breasted nuthatch, 3.

Brown creeper, 2; winter wren, 2; Bewick's wren, 4; robin, 2,300; varied thrush, 245; hermit thrush, 1; western bluebird, 27; golden crowned kinglet, 153; ruby crowned kinglet, 29; American pipit, 600; cedar waxwing, 20.

Northwestern shrike, 5; lutescent warbler, 1; Myrtle warbler, 30; Audubon's warbler, 58; English sparrow, 141; Meadowlark, 108; red wing blackbird, 618.

Please bring a few of your current trip pictures for showing after the program Feb. 3.

Brewer's blackbird, 2,500; cowbird, 25; starling, 1,750; western evening grosbeak, 40; California purple finch, 22.

House finch, 9; green backed goldfinch, 4; spotted towhee, 94; Savannah sparrow, 2; Oregon junco, 593; white crowned sparrow, 40; golden crowned sparrow, 79; white throated sparrow, 1; fox sparrow, 5; song sparrow, 56; and band-tailed pigeon, 1.

Indoor Sport

Winter time is a good time for staying inside sometimes. So reasoning, 80 turned out for the Christmas party for which Ray Sims was master of ceremonies and Bob Meddill Santa Claus. On New Years Eve 25 went to Skovbo's barn. Lorena Shinn and Gerry Fehly tied in the liars' contest. Lorena won, on the toss of a coin. Lorena's lie appears on page 5.

Jan. 6 at Friendly House a number of Obsidians met to discuss ideas for the club. Such meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month, usually with color slides of recent activities.

Next month, on Feb. 3, Frances Newsom will be in charge of the meeting. She'll talk about early Oregon scientists and what they did and wrote to increase the world's knowledge of the new corner of a new nation. Her title is "Bookmarks on the Trail of the Oregon Naturalists", and she will bring some of their books. Persons attending should bring a few sandwiches or cookies for this event.

Frank Sipe will be in charge of March, April and May meetings.

Trip fees at such events are left at Friendly House, as a contribution to this unique institution.

Valentine Party

The entertainment committee announces a VALENTINE POTLUCK, Friday, Feb. 14, — at River Rd. Womens Clubhouse, 6:30 p.m. Drs. Fred & Marian Miller will show slides of Bryce-Zion-Grand Canyon-Southwest Indians.

New Chairman

Frank Sipe has been appointed chairman of the important Youth Activities committee. The post became open when Ray Harris was appointed chairman of Search & Rescue. Committee members not announced.

The Building Committee
Faces Old, Old Problems

Tom Taylor's Building Committee will go on trying to find a solution to one of the oldest Obsidian problems, building a clubhouse that we can use for meetings, board and committee meetings, and as a jumping off place for trips and climbs. The board, at its last meeting, told Tom to try again. He reported, first, that we had three choices:

1. Use the present lot.
2. Use the Springfield site the club's been considering, or
3. Find a third site.

The present site, on the southwest corner of 17th and High, is not adequate, he said his committee believes. While it is in a proper zone, the area is too crowded. Parking space required by the zoning regulations would eat up so much of the space that adequate room would not remain for a building. He said the lot had been appraised at \$12,500. All improvements are in and paid for.

The Springfield site, on the river at the foot of North B St., is a good site with 1.2 acres of land and some trees. But it is in Springfield, probably too far out for our convenient use. Also, he said, necessary remodeling and strengthening of joists would cost about \$6,000. We could get the property for somewhere in the neighborhood of \$11,500 or \$12,000, but we'd need a zoning variance, and the possibility still remains that it would not be big enough for our use.

Finding a new site has its problems. One of them is zoning. Save as we might locate on public reserve land, we have to keep out of residential areas. And if we get too far removed from the city, we'd always have to worry about vandalism. Another problem is septic tank, which we do not have to worry about on our present lot.

Tom estimated cost of a suitable building at \$15,500 plus lot. That's for the 2,300 square feet we think we need. He

asked permission to list the present lot for sale, and to look for a new one. But for tax reasons the board indicated it did not want the present lot sold yet. However, the committee will keep looking for something else.

Board member Karl Onthank cautioned the board to be careful about putting up a building that would be a drain on the resources of the club. The danger, he warned, is that the building might prove so expensive that the club's main activity might become supporting the building.

'Mission 66' Cut

President Eisenhower's big budget, in which major additions are called for in defense, also calls for some cuts in the "Mission 66" program of the National Park Service. Most of the cuts proposed would be in construction of new roads, trails, and facilities.

The current budget allows 22 million for roads and trails, a drop of 9 million and \$12,400,000 for construction and improvement of buildings and facilities, compared with the \$17,400,000 authorized a year ago.

The overall park service budget calls for \$62,478,800, compared with \$75,650,000 for the year we are in now.

Windfall

Judge Robert W. Sawyer of Bend, with no prompting at all, recently mailed the club a check for \$5 with instructions that it be used in any way the club saw fit. What we need is more friends like Bob Sawyer, who, by the way, knows a great deal about the Three Sisters Country and is an Obsidian Chief.

Name, Address, etc.

Next issue, if membership lists are up to date, which means if we all pay our dues, we'll probably publish the annual list of members, with addresses and telephone numbers.

Four Items Before Conservation Committee

Karl Onthank's conservation committee considered four items during the month:

1. WILDERNESS BILL. At the committee's recommendation, the board wrote sponsors of the wilderness bill, the Oregon delegation in Congress and members of the committee on interior and insular affairs in support of the wilderness bill "in substantially its present form." Karl told the board the committee felt recent alterations in the bill eliminated most of the objections to it.

2. WALDO LAKE. Mike Stahl was named to represent the Obsidians on a three-member fact-finding group which will keep its eye on plans for this large lake between the Sisters and the Willamette Highway. Other members are Tom McAllister, representing the Friends of the Three Sisters, and Jim Kezer, also of the Obsidians, to represent the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. They will talk with Bob Aufderheide and other forest service officers to find points of agreement.

3. TIMBER SALES. The committee expressed concern over reported plans to put up for sale some timber in the Owl Creek area up the McKenzie. Jim Kezer will join James Storm of OSC in a trip to the area to see if it might be well to try to get the region, with its distinctive vegetation, classified as a natural area.

4. SPENCER'S BUTTE. The committee urged the board to be on the lookout for plans to erect a television tower atop Spencer's Butte, and a road up the side.

Mozelle Hair was appointed to the conservation committee, replacing Herbert McCornack, who resigned.

Due and Overdue

Dues are more than just due. They're overdue. The membership committee has mailed out reminders of this grim fact. Your check, please, made out to the Obsidians, and put promptly in the mail to Natalie Morgan at 751 East 14th Avenue, Eugene.

Lorena's Tall Tale

Here is the story of the "Hot Climb" that won Lorena Shinn the New Years Eve Liars' Contest:

Much has been said in scientific articles about the effects of heat. Here is a strange experience we had:

I'm talking about the Obsidian climb of The Husband last fall. We knew it wasn't going to be the coolest climb as soon as we struggled out of the trees above Husband Lake and saw the mountain dancing in the heat waves.

On one of our rests, after we had stopped panting, a small noise caught our attention. We looked for the swarm of insects it sounded like. No insects! It was perspiration dripping from Obsidian bodies and sizzling on the hot lava.

We had no trouble finding footholds, on even the steepest spots, as our rubber soles melted and made convenient grippers to hold boot to rock. In fact, we had difficulty getting our feet loose from some of the holds!! As for handholds well, if you're up there soon and find some of the rocks covered with bits of human skin, slightly curled and crisp on the edges, you'll know why.

We were startled by a sizeable grayish cloud hanging over the summit. Was nature activating a volcano under our very feet? No, it was just a swarm of flying ants trying to fan the rocks cool enough to land on without frying. They found our clothing and skin cooler, though, and we were covered with crawly coatings within seconds after reaching the summit.

The signing and looking were done in record time, and we started down on rubbery legs. No, not fatigue, not among Obsidians! We were merely melting, which actually made the descent quite easy. How? Why, we melted down into a little stream and ran gurgling down from rock to rock until we finally plunged with much sizzling and steaming into Husband Lake, where we congealed somewhat. And that, by the way, may explain the peculiar shape some of us are in today.

Pronunciation

Mt. Thielsen, that jagged old lightning rod east of Diamond Lake, is pronounced TEELsen. Our authority for this fact is Frances Newsom, who says she knows the family, and that's how they pronounce it.

It was named, by the way, for one Hans Thielsen, a pioneer railroad surveyor, in olden times the mountain was called Big Cowhorn, to distinguish it from Little Cowhorn, the volcano core to the north that is now known simply as Cowhorn.

New Code Coming

Doc Boyles says his climbing committee will work this winter on a revised climbing code for the club.

Holes in Their Skis

Hood River Crag Rats require that all members drill holes in the tips of their skis. Thus the skis will be more adaptable for lashing together in emergency rescue operations. Club fine for failing to comply is 50 cents.

People You Know

BOB AND KEENA NORTHRUP who have a new son, their second boy, born Dec. 28.

THE MIKE STAHLs, who have a new daughter, born Oct. 18.

GERRY FEHLY who has a new grandchild, her sixth. Father is Gerry's son, Robert.

THELMA WATSON who has moved to a new house, 1549 Mill, where she'll live with her sister, Angie.

THE HERMACHS who have moved to 150 Irving Drive.

MARGARET LEMON who was home during the holidays from Cottey College, Nevada, Mo.

FRANCES NEWSOM, JIM KEZER, RUTH HOPSON, AND KARL ONTHANK, who will attend a meeting of the Oregon Academy of Science on Feb. 15.

Party, Party

Bernice Lehrman, who used to divide her time between the Obsidians and the Salem Chemeketans, but who has now moved back to Salem for keeps, invites us to a party. The occasion is the thirtieth annual banquet of the Chemeketans, at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1 at the American Legion Bldg., 2650 S. Commercial St., Salem. She says most clubs have been sending representatives to these things, but that the Obsidians never have.

This year President Ray Sims and a number of others will go. Speaker will be Randall Kester, Oregon's mountain-climbing supreme court justice and a long time member of the Mazamas and MoResCo.

A Dim View

The membership committee has studied a proposal to reduce the price of membership for persons living too far away to participate regularly in club activities. Membership Chairman Nat Morgan says her committee was "cool" toward the idea. In any case nothing could be done about it without approval of the entire club at an annual meeting.

Water, Water

Bayard McConnaughey is in charge of the Scientific Committee's experiment with the sources of pollution in drinking water. Working with the trips committee, a scientific group will follow a stream or creek from its source to the point where the water becomes unpotable, in an effort to see how and where our streams are rendered unfit for drinking.

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

BULK RATE