



# The OBSIDIAN



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NO. 5

A New Clubhouse  
Unlikely This Year

Three Camps Make  
For a Busy Fourth

Plans for early occupancy of a new Obsidian clubhouse, which looked quite good for a while, don't look so rosy anymore. Members who inspected property recommended by the building committee voted not to accept the committee's recommendation.

This, says Building Chairman Tom Taylor, means the committee does not have time to work up another site for this year. Another committee another year can take it from here, says he.

Thursday, June 12, some 50 members visited property at 3rd and Pearl, which the committee had recommended for purchase, remodeling and quick occupancy. After a look around, 47 members voted this way:

- 13 -- Third and Pearl.
- 10 -- Land near Laurelwood.
- 11 -- Club site at 17th and High.
- 13 -- "No"

Since the present site is up for sale, by board action, Tom figures those votes are in the category of the simple "no" votes against the 3d and Pearl site.

Tom says he's mystified by the vote, because earlier in the year members voted 60 to 4 to sell the lot we have on High. So, he wonders, where did the 11 votes for that site come from?

Only thing left for the committee now, he thinks, is to decide whether or not the members still want to sell the High St. lot and whether or not they want to invest the money right away in another site for the future. If they don't reinvest quickly, they suffer a tax loss.

Earlier the board voted a special vote of thanks to Tom and his committee for their hard work in trying to get a meeting place established this summer. They did the work, even though the membership rejected it. The vote of thanks stands.

Fourth of July Weekend, July 4-6, will offer something for everybody. You can lie around in the sun near the headwaters of the Metolius, you can climb two of the snow peaks on our schedule, or you can go into a rarely visited section of the Wilderness area -- and still be taking part in club activities.

The trips committee has worked up the Metolius trip, with Louis and Roxie Waldorf as leaders. It will be a base camp at one of the many forest camps in the Camp Sherman area, with side trips from there for those who want to take them. Watch the sign-up sheet at Hendershott's for details.

Several Obsidians are taking part in the leadership of the annual wilderness trek into the Three Sisters area, sponsored again by the Friends of the Three Sisters Inc. A special feature of this trip into the Yankee Mountain-Lowder Mountain area will be the presence of several scientists, each of whom will help the rest of us understand the flora, fauna and geology of this seldom visited region.

Climbers will meet at Devil's Lake Camp ground, off Century Drive, July 4. If for some reason they can't meet there, they'll meet at the Devil's Garden camp. Sign-up sheet will tell.

They'll get up early Saturday July 5, to climb the South Sister by a new route pioneered several years ago by Gene Sebring, Lloyd Plaisted and Mike Stahl. Mike will lead toward Rock Mesa and Moraine Lake, thence up the regular south ridge.

Sunday morning, the 6th, they'll get up early again, pack their gear and get out. Those who wish to will stop at Dutchman's Flat for a speedy climb of Bachelor, with Pat Stahl. Pat thinks we can drive a bit nearer the mountain than we have been able to do before. Tom Taylor, who has done a lot of work on plans for a ski resort in the area, will likely be there to show us the possibilities.

## THE OBSIDIAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Ray Sims	DI 4-9546
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Editor: Bob Frazier, DI 5-1551 or 5-6000

Needed: More News;  
And It's Up to You

This is the busy time of year, the time when Obsidians are doing things, with the club and by themselves. We want to get reports of varied activities into your bulletin. But that can't happen without the cooperation of the members.

Hopefully, during the summer we'll run a list of all successful climbers as well as some sort of account of all major climbs. To do that we've got to know who made the top and under what circumstances. So please check in when you return.

You can drop a note to Bob Frazier at the Register-Guard if you wish. But he'd rather have you telephone him, either at work, DI 5-1551, or at home, DI 5-6000. That way he can quiz you on any special details needed for a report on your trip or climb.

If it is too much trouble for leaders to keep all this in mind while they're leading, and it may be, perhaps they can appoint a member of the party to act as reporter for the climb.

Needed are names of climbers, the route and time of ascent and descent, amusing or important details of the climb, a note about the weather and any "goofs" that ought to go into the record as a warning to other climbers and leaders other years.

Also the Register-Guard is interested in brief accounts of climbs -- but these should be in Bob's hands as early as can be on Mondays.

Obsidians Take Part  
In 'Friends' Group

A number of Obsidians were in Salem the first part of the month for the annual meeting of the Friends of the Three Sisters, Inc. Karl W. Onthank, a member of the Obsidian board of directors, was re-elected president. Frances Newsom, chairman of this club's scientific committee, was elected secretary. James Kezer, another Obsidian, is on the executive committee.

Obsidians on the council are Mary Conn Brown of Redmond, Mozelle Hair, Margaret Markeley, Ray Sims, Myron Stahl, and James Stovall.

Vice president of the group is Al Kirnak of Portland. Other executive committee members are O.K. DeWitt, and Lawrence Merriam. The remainder of the council consists of Roy Elliott, Harriet Thomson, Al Kirnak, Martha Ann Platt, Eunice Brandt, and G. A. McPhillips.

Professors Robert Storm and Henry Hansen of Oregon State College again this year will have scientific teams working in the Three Sisters area on grants from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. John Allen and Dr. Ruth Hopson (an Obsidian) from Portland State will head a committee to recommend to the forest service which portions of the 57,000 acres cut out of the wilderness should be set aside as natural areas because of their unique scientific or scenic value. Jim Kezer of this club is a member of this committee. This committee will collect suggestions from the public.

On Waldo Lake, the group accepted the forest service plan for a road along the east side, but reaffirmed its support of some means to protect the small lakes to the north and west, asking that these be put into Wild Area status. They also went on record favoring protection of the Gold Lake bog at the north end of that lake.

The group joined the Sierra Club in its petition to the secretary of the interior to declare a moratorium on areas of presumed high scenic and recreational value pending a recreational resources review.

### Leaders Chosen For Summer Climbs

Leadership has been arranged for most of this summer's major climbs. A partial list, from co-chairman Mike Stahl, follows:

June 29, Hood: Gene Sebring (See next column).

July 5, South Sister: Mike Stahl (See Page 1).

July 6, Bachelor: Patsy Stahl (See Page 1).

July 13, Three Fingered Jack: Undecided.

July 20, Middle Sister: Princesses.

July 27, Mt. Thielsen: Bruce Johnson.

August 3, The Husband: to be arranged because of a possible change in plans. (See summer camp story, Page 6).

August 10, Mt. McLoughlin: Bob Northrup

August 17, Mt. Washington: to be arranged, maybe Mike Stahl again.

August 17, North Sister (old-times!): Ray Sims.

August 24, North Sister (regular climb) Tom Taylor.

August 31 and Labor Day, Mt. Jefferson: Lloyd Plaisted via Hunts Cove route.

September 7, Diamond Peak: Art Johnson.

September 14, Broken Top: Lorena Shinn.

September 21, open date to be used if one of the above is canceled because of weather.

### Dave's Pictures

Many pictures in recent Sierra Club Bulletins bear Dave Simons' credit line. Dave, a University of California student now, will be at Ansel Adams' photo work-shop in Yosemite, and hopes to be on the Three Sisters Trip Fourth of July.

### First Climb of Year: Mt. Hood via South Side

First Obsidian climb of the year will be on Mt. Hood, the most frequently climbed snow peak in America. Gene Sebring will lead, leaving a base camp early on the morning of June 29. Place of this car camp will be posted on the bulletin board at Hendershott's.

Route will be up the traditional south ridge usually used for large parties. Although this is not one of the peaks for which climbing school or equivalent experience is required, the mountain is not to be underestimated. It is a long old trudge to the top. Climbers should be in good shape -- or as good as they can be this early in the season.

Standard climbing guides estimate time on this route to be four to eight hours up and three to four hours down. Record time was that set by the late Gary Leech who climbed it in 1 hour 25 minutes, from Timberline Cabin, near where we shall begin. That was Aug. 12, 1936.

Chances are we won't be alone on the mountain. There will be skiers on some slopes. And it is a rare Sunday that several parties are not on the south side route.

One year, 1936, 2,034 climbers signed the summit register, and most of them, of course, climbed in the summer months. Now the number of climbers has declined to about 1,000 a year, which is still enough to suggest that we'll probably have company.

We can hope the mountain won't be so crowded as it was August 9, 1936 when 493 persons signed the register. Of the 493, 411 were in one party, sponsored by the Mantle Club of Portland.

It may help to know that it has been climbed by a blind man, by a man with no legs and by several with artificial limbs. Youngest climber was 5 years three months old; oldest 79 years, 9 months.

But don't underestimate this mountain. Forest service records show there have been 18 deaths on Mt. Hood.

### Do Some of Our Trips Leave Eugene Too Late?

Complaint has been registered that some of our trips are started too late -- at times like 10 a.m. for the shorter ones. There is some feeling that the best part of the trip is usually made before noon. And, when a little climb is involved, it is often good to be on top by noon because as everybody knows lunch tastes better when it is eaten on top.

The board has asked Bob Medill, trips chairman, to pass the word along to trip leaders to start a little earlier, even on some of the shorter jaunts.

### Chemeketan Climbs

For those interested in latching on to Chemeketan (Salem club) parties for some visiting climbing, here's what that club will be doing the next month or so:

July 4th weekend, Shasta; July 12-13, Adams; July 18-20, Rainier; July 26, Broken Top; July 27, South Sister.

### Company Coming

When Obsidians climb Washington Aug. 16 and 17, they'll have company. The Inter-Mountain Alpine Club of Richland, Wash., will make the same climb the same day.

Meanwhile that club's trips group will divide into two parties, hiking from the McKenzie to the Santiam and from the Santiam to the McKenzie along the Skyline Trail. A car switch will be involved.

That's a trip a number of Obsidians have talked about, too. The main trouble is that a car switch can be an infernal nuisance. By the time the leader has the details worked out, he feels as if he'd planned the Normandy invasion.

The usual way of doing it is with duplicate sets of car keys, and switched drivers, although it is sometimes possible for a carload of drivers to whip around to the starting point for all the cars. But in this case the distance, via Sisters, is rather long.

### One More Cave Than Expected

A dozen Obsidians, led by Kent Gill, had some extra time on their hands June 8 after coming down from Iron Mountain in the Santiam country. The weather has been cloudy, the view poor, and they had expected to get wet.

So they detoured into the Sawyer Ice Caves, just beyond the Clear Lake Junction. And they found yet another small cave which they had not expected. Plans are to sponsor a full-scale trip to this area, perhaps next year, for a better study of the caves.

### Explaining Obsidians

Some members who have been at public gatherings have noticed little brochures explaining the purposes of the Obsidians and telling strangers how to go about taking part in our activities.

Jim Jeppesen, with board approval, had these made up as a device to spread the word and to meet some of the Sierra Club literature which is so often available at public functions. He has about 3,000 of these sheets, which are available to be placed around where they'll do the most good.

### 'Pacific Northwest'

Samuel N. Dicken, head of the geography department at the University of Oregon, is author of "Pacific Northwest," a paper bound booklet of pictures and description of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and western Montana. It was published by the American Geographical Society and is on sale at the University of Oregon co-op book store.

### Time To Be Careful

The middle of May a lookout was sent to the top of Castle Rock. This was unusually early in the year. But fire danger has been unusually high. The June hot spell, added to May's, makes things worse. The usual warnings about fire apply, only more so.

### How Far Is It "Up the McKenzie?"

Ever wonder how far it is from point to point up on the McKenzie Pass? Here are a few figures that might be of use, especially in winter time for skiers and hikers who like to look at the McKenzie Pass when nobody else is looking at it:

Proxy Falls	0.0 mi	0.0 mi
Lower Alder Spr.	1.5	1.5
Gates & Alder Spr.	.3	1.8
Frog Camp	4.8	6.6
Scott L. Jctn.	.7	7.3
Summit (Dee Wright)	6	13.3
Windy Point	3.5	16.8
East Gates	3	19.8

Thus it is 19.8 miles from Proxy Falls to the east gates, or 18 miles from one set of gates to the other. The grade, if one is on foot, is surprisingly gentle. If one is on skis, it seems steeper on the way up, more gentle on the way down. If one is on foot, the distances seem much longer, and the pack gets much heavier.

### Two New Coast Camps

The state highway commission has established two new overnight camps at the coast. One is at Sunset Bay, the other at Delake.

The Sunset Bay camp, answering a need for overnight facilities in this popular section west of Coos Bay, provides camps for 73 parties. Trailers are permitted. Showers and laundry are also available. Season is May to October.

The Devil's Lake camp, almost in the city of Delake will be especially liked by boaters. It provides for 35 camps this year, with more to be added later. As yet trailers are not provided for. Showers, laundry and season, same as for Sunset.

Fees at both camps at \$1 a night.

### People You Know

KARL ONTHANK who rated a two-page article, with pictures, in the new Oregonian upon his semi-retirement from the university.

LIEUT. JIM NEWSOM whose address is 127 Engr. Bn., APO 29, N.Y., N.Y. He's in Munich now, and has attended the Brussels fair.

TOM BRICHER who received a bachelor of science degree in engineering from the University of Portland early this month.

TOM TAYLOR who graduated from the U of O school of architecture.

JOE FRAZIER who was chosen for Order of the Arrow, Boy Scout camping honorary.

MARY AND BAILEY CASTELLOE who are on an extended trip to Wisconsin and way points.

MARY CAVAGNARO AND MARGARET MARKELEY who have joined the swelling ranks of the Volkswagen drivers.

KENT GILL who is vice president of the Lane County Chapter of the Oregon Education Assn.

DON CHASE who is president of the Associated Plumbing Contractors of Lane County.

ROY TEMPLE who is treasurer of the Lane County Rescue and Recovery Volunteers.

DENNIE KOUPAL whose address is Ensign D. J. Koupal, 4747 Santa Cruz Ave., San Diego, 7, California.

FRED MILLER who, as part of his round the world trip, will be in Tokyo in September to participate in an international conference on diseases of the chest.

GEORGE HERMACH who presented a paper on illumination through wall plastic at a meeting at the University of Houston, Tex.

FRANCES NEWSOM who showed pictures of the mountains we climb, to a group at the convention of garden clubs in Eugene.

"PEPPY" CARLSON, new junior member.

## Obsidians in Battle To Save Spencer Butte

Right from the first Obsidians have taken an active part in the campaign to prevent building of a road up the sides of Spencer Butte. They were among the first to protest to the city council and they were out in force at an organizational meeting of the Citizens' Committee for Parks Preservation.

Present at the first meeting of that group were Obsidians Kent Gill, Louis Waldorf, Mozelle Hair, Doris Sims, Ray Sims, Bob Frazier, Karl Onthank, Gene Renard, Helen Kilpatrick, Margaret Wiese and several more. Karl Onthank moderated the first meeting. Kent Gill and Louis Waldorf are on the executive committee.

Mozelle Hair, acting as a citizen who took part in the original purchase of the butte for a park, has instituted a law suit to prevent the council's granting of permission for the teevee tower and road.

Petitions must be circulated if the question is to be on the ballot in November. By August 22, 2,600 names must be on file to get it on the ballot. Probably some of us will be asked to push petitions.

It has been generally agreed that more people would be interested in saving the butte, if more people knew about the view and the pleasure of the climb. It has also been suggested that this club and similar groups work with the city parks and recreation department to build a better engineered trail up the butte.

An act of good citizenship would be to guide a person who has never made the climb to the top. If everybody in the club took one novice to the top, it would help a lot.

Try it early in the morning, before the heat. We left the house at 6 a.m. one day, arrived at the parking lot at 6:15 with persons who had never climbed before. On top at 6:45. Left at 7. Down at 7:20. Home at 7:35. Plenty of time for a shower and to get to work shortly after 8. And what a wonderful way to start the day!

## Will There Be A Summer Camp?

Summer camp plans, well laid, may not pan out. Gene Sebring, outing chairman, reports trouble. And the trouble is that too few are interested in going to Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion National Parks in early August.

By last board meeting Gene still needed 21 more sure summer campers before a bus could be arranged for. That means we'd have to go in private cars. But some of those who did sign up indicated they did not want to go unless they could be sure of going by bus -- air conditioned bus.

So that leaves things very uncertain. Registration for summer camp will continue until July 1. But by that time Gene has to know. So, please, he asks, don't delay in letting him know.

If the regular camp should be called off, there is talk about spending a few days in around Husband Lake or Linnton Meadows, scene of last year's camp. The Husband is on the climbing schedule for Aug. 2 and 3, which would be the first summer camp weekend.

Remember the essential details, however about the regularly scheduled camp:

Bryce and Zion and Grand Canyon National Parks, quite a little time in each, and many side trips. Cost is \$85, including transportation. Go via Las Vegas, return via Salt Lake City and Boise.

Gene has got, just got, to know by the first. So tell him.

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B U L K   R A T E

