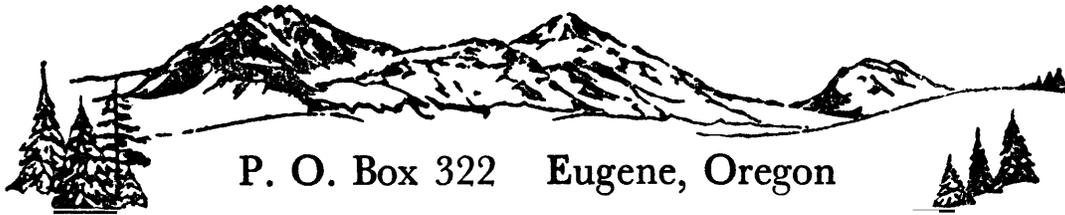


The OBSIDIAN



P. O. Box 322 Eugene, Oregon

VOL. XXI

FEBRUARY 1961

NO. 2

TRIPS FOR FEBRUARY

- February 12 - Range the Coast Range with Gene Renard.
- February 19 - Tour of Lookout Point Dam arranged by Kenneth Lodewick.
- February 26 - Mt. Pisgah with Mildred Ball leading.
- March 4 - 5 - The Chemeketans of Salem have invited us to spend the weekend of March 4 & 5 at their Lodge on the North Santiam. The skiing enthusiasts can cavort at Hoodoo on Sunday - Saturday too, if you want to go there first - and dinner will be served Saturday night, and breakfast Sunday morning. They buy and serve the food and the cost is pro-rated. If you don't ski, there will be hikes around the cabin on hoof or snowshoes or just lazing around the open fire. Bring your sleeping bag and mattress and lunch for Sunday, and get to know our neighbors to the north! Sign up by March 1. (Fee: about \$1 for dinner and breakfast; cabin 50¢. Leaders: For Chemeketans, Frances McCarter, for Obsidians, Margaret Markley - DI 4-0716, Directions: Drive to Halsey and Sweet Home to Junction of 20 and 22; left to Whitewater Creek Bridge, right to cabin.

* * *

The Scientific Committee is helping to organize a course in the classification and identification of wild flowers for Spring Term at the University under the direction of the General Extension Division. Frank Sipe will be the instructor. This will be a three hour, non-credit class meeting on Tuesday night from 7 to 10 in Room 217, Science Building. Several field trips are planned. No prerequisites are necessary. The fee will be \$15 and the first meeting will be March 28. For further information contact Mary Douglass Stovall, DI 4-8530.



FRIENDLY HOUSE

- February 12 - Bryan De Toit will show pictures of his home country, Africa, taken during his Christmas vacation.
- February 19 - Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin will share their pictures of the Far East: Korea, Japan and the Philippines.
- February 26 - Jack Gruber has slides of Bali and Cambodia for us to see.
- March 5 - Go Fossil hunting on Baffin Island with Walter Youngquist. Everyone who enjoyed "Over the Hill and Down the Creek" will want to see these.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

- February 10 - Friday - Wallace M. Ruff, will show slides of the South Pacific; New Guinea and Australia, Science Bldg., No. 123, 8 p.m.
- March 10 - Prince Helfrich slides of the Owyhee - Science Bldg., same time, same room. If you read accounts of his trip in the Portland paper you won't want to miss this.

PRINCESSES met with Thelma Watson for their regular meeting in January - with fifteen Princesses present. Next meeting will be at the home of Beverley Lindley - with Virginia Sebring assisting.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE announces a Potluck at Eugene Water Board, February 18, This will be a Valentine Party. Entertainment will be furnished by the Chiefs --- which should make it exciting because who ever knows what to expect of the Chiefs?

CONDON LECTURE

Melvin Calvin, distinguished American Chemist, will lecture Thursday night at 8 p.m. in the ballroom of Erb Memorial Union. Topic - Studies of the Origin of Life on Earth.

OBSIDIAN PICTURE NIGHT AT FRIENDLY HOUSE February 27 should see a full house as Ber Pruitt will be there to show his bird pictures. This will be a real treat.

THE OBSIDIAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Donn Chase DI 4-3808
 Vice President Lorena Reid DI 5-6131
 Secretary)
 Treasurer) Ray Cavagnaro DI 3-8357
 Board Members: The above and Art Johnson,
 Margaret Markley, Bob Medill, Gene Renard,
Kay Fahy, Tom Taylor.
Bulletin Editor, Geraldine Fehly DI 3-2784

BOARD NOTES

The regular monthly Board meeting was held February 1 at the home of Gene Renard. The Treasurer reported all bills paid to date and a balance on hand of \$530.74.

Trips Committee's Markley reported 9 hikers to Coburg Caves; commended Bob Ashworth as leader of a pleasant, well-organized trip. 21 attended Richardson Butte; 26 went to Rosary Lakes; 15 Spencer Butte in the rain. Summer trip schedule is taking shape; printed instructions to leaders being brought up to date. Plans for a ski bus trip were discussed. Markley commended the leaders who complete trips even in the face of adverse weather.

Climbing Committee's Taylor reported the year's schedule and it was approved.

Building Committee's Renard reported continued progress on clubhouse. Many more work parties needed to complete building. Interior furnishings needs were discussed.

Scientific Committee's Stovall told of the research in progress as the result of a request by the Forest Service for information on Iron Mountain. On March 28 a class in plant identification will begin at the U. of O. Taught by Frank Sipe, will be a 3 hour non credit course. The fee \$15.00. Permission for additional committee member Ruth Onthank was approved.

MIKE STAHL REPORTS THAT THE CONSTITUTION is in the hands of Douglas Spencer who will look it over this weekend for technical flaws. It is planned that this will be ready for presentation to the membership at the March 18 potluck, at which time the members will vote on the revision of the constitution. PLEASE PLAN TO BE THERE.

* * * * *

Have you been anywhere or done anything of interest to other Obsidians? If so the Publications Committee wants to be in on the news. We have to depend on you to let us know so that we may make the Bulletin of greater interest to all members.

Membership Chairman Fahy received approval for junior members; Earl Smith, Lei, Noelle and Chela McCornack.

Search & Rescue's Reid reported that the club rescue equipment is stored at his home. A meeting with the Lane Co. Sheriff to coordinate any rescue efforts was held. The savings account for search and rescue events and equipment was brought to attention of Board.

Outing Committee Jeppesen announced that Summer Camp would be August 6 thru August 19. Selma Vangsnes to be Camp Cook. Several places are under investigation for Camp.

Library Committee's Johnson advises all records in order.

Publication Committee's Fehly announced that the extra page in the bulletin was not included at Club expense. She thought the item would be of interest and ran several copies.

Catherine Dunlop was appointed as Youth Activity Chairman. The Scout office will present the Club's new Troop Charter at the next meeting, which will be March 2, at 7:30 at the home of Alan and Lorena Reid.

One more member has been added to the Scientific Committee - Ruth Onthank.

Entertainment Committee's Towlerton reported on the successful party with the Search and Rescue Committee. Discussion of a possible Valentine Party sponsored by the Chiefs and a combined event with Climbing Committee to sponsor the Bill Unsoeld lecture.

GENE RENARD reporting for the BUILDING COMMITTEE, reports that the siding is all on, door frames installed, second floor flooring in place, stairway framed, doors & millwork there but not installed. The Fireplace hearth is formed. And each of Gene's reports ends "road in poor condition" - we believe that because we saw a visitor to the site stuck in the mud and he wasn't even there yet! Those who haven't seen the new building should go take a look!

Watch for these wild flowers during February and early March. Indian plum (*Osmaronia cerasiformis*) is generally our earliest blooming shrub, starting in January and sometimes continuing into May. The flowers are white and fragrant but not very showy and often appear before the leaves. The next earliest flower (*Synthyris reniformis*) that loves shady, moist woods and sheltered stream banks. The leaves, all basal, are kidney-shaped, usually green above and reddish beneath. The flowers are small blue and bell-shaped. The spring beauty (*Dentaria tenella*) has two types of leaves. One is round in outline, long-stemmed and grows somewhat distant from the stem as if in no wise belonging to the main plant but the connection is by creeping root-stalks. The stem leaf is 3 to 5 parted, the segments long and narrow. This plant belongs to the Cruciferae which means "cross" as symbolized by the 4 petals which are pink and about 3/8 to 1/2 inch long. Hound's tongue (*Cynoglossum grande*) standing one to two feet high has blossoms that are pink at first, becoming a deep clear blue with ten bead-like white crests in the throat. The name *Cynoglossum* means hound's tongue and refers to the shape of the leaf. Baby eyes (*Nemophilla Menziesii*) will appear soon in moist, open fields. Compared with the plants the flowers are large, often up to 1½ inches in diameter. Bluish white in color they usually have black dots within. Skunk cabbage, distinguished by its yellow spathe protecting the flowering spike, trillium, Oregon Grape and erythronium or Lamb's Tongue - are all favorites that will follow soon after these earlier blooming flowers.

* * *

Bailey Castelleo is now at home recuperating from an operation, and wishes to say THANK YOU to all who sent good wishes and funny get-well cards (which kept him in stitches).

* * *

FROM HOLLIS, PRISCILLA & LUCINDA OXLEY comes word that Hollis likes his work very much. He compiles maps from aerial photographs using stereo equipment. They make contour maps and the work is exacting and quite technical. He has been out with the Sierra Club four or five times, rock climbing twice and two or three knapsack trips but had to quit in August as Priscilla has been ill. He hopes to get in more trips next summer. He reports missing Eugene and his many friends here. Hollis especially misses the easy access to the woods and finds the Sierras dry and bare.

ABOUT 35 PEOPLE enjoyed the January 21st potluck at the EWEB cafeteria, including special guests, Sheriff and Mrs. Marlow, Chief Deputy Sheriff and Mrs. McLeod, and Keith Petrie, John Arens and Dick Pooley of the Mountain Rescue and Safety Council of Oregon.

After supper late comers and nonmembers increased the attendance to about 50 for the entertainment, to which the general public was invited.

The program, arranged by the Search and Rescue Committee featured two excellent films obtained through the U.S. Forest Service. "Winter World" gave us some tips on travel and camping in the snow, while "Avalanches to Order" showed the work of the Forest Service in predicting and preventing dangerous avalanches.

Pooley and Arens told us something of the origin of the Mountain Rescue and Safety Council, and Keith Petrie showed slides of Last spring's Mount McKinley rescue and explained how the rescue efforts were conducted.

Several of the nonmembers present expressed a lively interest in taking part in the club's regular outdoor program. The Search and Rescue Committee also received some inquiries and offers of help.

Payment of Pledges for the new Clubhouse would be most welcome at this time and new Pledges could be used also. This is your Clubhouse and is going to be a real pleasure to the whole organization when completed. It is only by the united effort of the entire membership that it can be a successful venture.

* * *

Nellie McWilliams called to tell us that she and "Mac" left here the evening of Dec. 21 on their trip over the Christmas holidays. They stopped at Los Gatos to see her brother and stayed overnight at his home. From there they traveled to Riverside, Calif., where they were guests of Nellie's sister, Mrs. Aron Hansen. While there they visited Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, Forest Lawn Memorial Park where they saw the famous mural of the Last Supper. They also went to Balboa Park in San Diego and wound up by seeing the Tournament of Roses Parade on January 2. "Had a wonderful time."

* * *

- SAVE YOUR COFFEE BANDS -

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

SEARCH AND RESCUE

All those who turned in the rescue information sheets have been put on call lists in some capacity. We would like very much to receive more of the information sheets. Probably some members feel that we realize they are willing to help even though they haven't returned a sheet. If it becomes necessary to call people, however, we would rather call those who have expressed an interest. We also need to know whether you are prepared for cross country skiing or snowshoeing, and where to contact you during business hours. There are extra information sheets on the bulletin board at Gilbert's and completed forms may be left there.

We hope to have some training sessions before summer. If you would be interested in taking a Red Cross First Aid Course, please contact Alan Reid (DI 5-6131).

In an emergency on a mountain or in the snow country, contact Mt. Rescue through any County Sheriff's office. Our Obsidian Rescue Unit will be notified through them.

* * *

Bob Nicholson has moved - new address is 1943½ Onyx St.

* * *

Margaret says a ski or bus trip to Mt. Hood or Batchelor Butte may be in the offing. Watch for this.

* * *

Bob & Mary Medill returned Sunday night from their trip to Mexico.

Helen and Paul Weiser are leaving Thursday, February 9, on what sounds like a bit of a vagabond trip - "Don't know just where we are going" says Helen, "Just to the desert". We will go to Indio and may go to Mesa to see Roxie & Louis Waldorf. Incidentally, word from Roxie indicates the Waldorfs are having a very enjoyable winter in the warm sunshine of Arizona. Paul and Helen plan to return about the first of April.

Frank Sipe is presently in Riverside, Cal. visiting with a friend and making side trips to the desert. He plans to be in Joshua Tree National Monument Park from time to time. He also plans to return about the first of April.

OPERATION PERCOLATOR. PRINCESSES have initiated a club project to acquire two large percolators free for the new Clubhouse by saving the unwinding bands from Folgers and MJB coffee cans. On the Folgers bands only the last inch with the star or stars is needed. On MJB the whole band including the key must be saved. The labels from the jars of instant coffee count also. It takes 650 units for the MJB percolator and 1,000 for the Folgers. START SAVING and ask your friends to save. With everyone's help we should have these percolators in two or three months. Bring bands and labels to the Entertainment Committee's monthly meeting or give to any Princess. For further information call Florence Sims or Margaret Markley.

* * *

- SUPPORT YOUR CLUBHOUSE -

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS WRITTEN BY BOB AND MARY MEDILL FROM MEXICO
(This is not printed at the expense of the club)

Well, you asked for it. Other people just asked us to be sure to send a card but you want a rundown on the whole trip. In the first place, I am not one to shrink from superstitious beliefs or dangerous living, so we left on Friday, the 13th. That's me. But we had a nice train ride to L. A. Called a friend of ours with whom we became acquainted in Springfield. They had a big party for us (14 altogether). They called for us and took us out to their home. Dallas, the host, immediately began telling everyone that I was a mountain climber and had climbed all the mountains in Oregon and one or two in California. He got to bragging so about my ability as a climber that after while the mountains got more plentiful, steeper, higher and more dangerous and also more numerous and by the time he got through I had climbed every mountain in Washington too. We had a grand party in spite of it all. Rode down from Eugene with Betty Harris who was coming down to visit with Ray who is in the Naval Reserve. He looked very handsome in his uniform.

We put up at the very best hotels and, of course, this is all paid for before we leave home. Our escort is a handsome young Mexican and is very efficient and courteous. He has told us a lot of what to expect and what not to do. He has also told us that American cigarettes cost 50¢ down here.

There are about 35 or 40 in the group all fleeing the U.S.A. One couple from France can't speak English but have no passport but our escort said he could get them one but it would take a little money. The reason for the difficulty is because they have no passport to be in the United State



Out across California for miles the highway is lined on both sides with woven-wire fences and so much dirt and filth you can't imagine. The wind has blown tumbleweeds, paper, cardboard boxes, gunny sacks and piled them up fence high against the fences. Two days' travel from L.A., about 900 miles and as far as the scenery goes one could have pulled off the road and parked in one place for two days and seen just as much. No life to speak of, just some jack rabbits. They were all carrying packs on their backs. We took after one and he threw his pack off and took off. But the pack is all we wanted to see anyway and you cannot guess what he

was carrying. It was a very small bale of hay. The natives here say a the rabbits do that. If they didn't they would starve to death going from one blade of grass to another. (You wouldn't spoof us would you Bob?)

Everyone cautioned us about getting sick in Mexico. I fooled them, got sick in the U.S.A. I figured I didn't want to kick off in a foreign country. Have skipped three meals and am getting better. Think the Mexican border should be moved north about 100 miles. Haven't seen anyone but Mexicans for about that distance. Tomorrow we go South of the Border so thought maybe I should write you this much now. Not much time to write.

Bob & Mary Medill

The more I see of this fabulous country and its amazing people, the more I realize how incapable I am of conveying what I have seen. The trip costs \$320 each which covers everything, best hotels, all tips, some banquets, sightseeing tours and the best possible guides. First night in Mexico was at Chihuahua. At one time this whole state was owned by one man who raised cattle and at one time when he had an order for 50,000 cattle he sent back a note asking which color the customer preferred.

Cars cost double what they do in the States. Our bus costs \$25,000 in the States - \$60,000 here. The same bus and driver will be ours all the way to Mexico City. Got 494 Pesos for two \$20 bills. The more you spend the more Pesos you get until you have a roll too large for your purse. To get back to Chihuahua, we saw the mansion that was used in "Gone With The Wind." A good deal of that story was filmed here. Saw Pancho Villa's home and visited with his widow who is a most remarkable woman. She posed for a picture. Hope it is good.

The 520 miles to Durango was our longest day's drive. The dobie villages we drove through are indescribable. All look like single rooms about 12 to 14 feet square and each one attached to the next - with pigs, chickens, cows, goats, turkeys and children all around the openings for doors. We saw women doing their washing at every waterhole we passed. Men and women and children lying down anyplace whenever they felt so inclined no matter how dirty. One thing for sure, there are no lawns to mow, and people, children included, searching for miles to get a back pack load of sticks, mostly cactus, for fires. On to Leon for another night. Had lunch in Aguascalientes. I never saw such a table setting and they had a top Mexican orchestra out to welcome us. There was even ripe watermelon on the table. We ordered T-bone steak dinners and the steaks were larger than the oval platters they were served on. The bill was \$60 but by this time we are getting accustomed to the difference in money. They were celebrating this town's 385th birthday. It was exciting to see the wealthy caballeros come to town from their ranchos with their senoritas. The outfits they were wearing were very elaborate and cost in U.S. money from 3 to \$4,000. They all wear one or two six shooters and one or two belts of shells. We went through the birthplace of Thomas Alva Edison. Surprise to me too but was told he went to the States when about six years old. The lowest elevation in almost 1700 miles from El Paso is 3800, highest 9000. Mexico City is 7347. We were entertained in Zacateca. Overnight in Guanajuato in an old castle built in 1680. At least it was started then and took thirty years to complete. Fixed up for a hotel a few years ago. This is silver country and fabulous amounts of silver have been shipped out to Spain. A few years ago I read a story about a place in Mexico where corpses mummified. The story was accompanied by photographs. I only half believed the story and never expected to see the place. We did, though, and yes, I have some pictures I took of them. Grotesque. And now Mexico City. This is the third day and it is indescribable too, so much, so unbelievable, so beautiful, so amazing. Have seen too much to write about. We visited the University and it is also unbelievably beautiful. A bull fight, Cochimilco Gardens; theatre the largest in the world, tallest office building in the world - its foundations start at over 7300 feet - fooled me too. Leave tomorrow for the pyramids.



Bob & Mary Medill