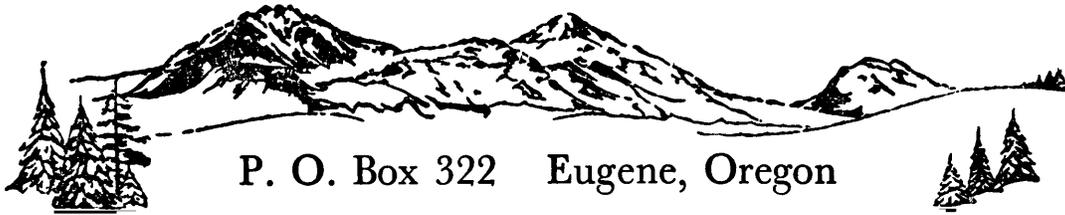


The OBSIDIAN



P. O. Box 322 Eugene, Oregon

VOL. XXI

MARCH 1961

NO. 3

GET YOUR BOOTS
LET'S GO



TRIPS FOR MARCH

- March 12 - Coast trip with Gene Renard, North Fork Falls on North Fork of Smith River.
- March 19 - Snowshoe trip to Burley Lakes, about three miles with Thelma Watson.
- March 26 - Afternoon trip to Anawalt place on Lorane Highway, three mile trip through fields and woods. Expect wild flowers on this one.
- April 1 - Trip up old Baldy.
- April 2 - Easter - no trip.
- April 9 - Bus trip to Mt. Hood. Detailed article on page 2.
- April 15 - Rooster Rock
- April 16 - Clover Patch Butte
- April 23 - Illinois River, six mile round trip led by Jim Kezer.
- April 30 - Tour of Carmen-Smith project with Byron Price all the way to end of tunnel.

Details of April trips will appear in the next bulletin.

Deadline for news for the April issue will be April, 8th. So try for once to get in your news by then, either to Gerry or Bob.

FRIENDLY HOUSE

- March 12 - Margaret Weise will show pictures. Subject: Surprise.
- March 19 - Bob Medill: What else but Mexico?
- March 26 - Mr. Lorence - trip through California, Zion National Park and other points of interest.
- March 27 - Obsidian picture night. John Wells, graduate student in Archeology at the University of Oregon.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

- March 10 - Prince Helfrich slides of the Owyhee - Science Bldg. same time and same room as usual.

LOOK AHEAD to the April 28th meeting when Dr. Baldwin will speak on Pakistan.

Interest growing in Douglas County for mountain climbing, according to the Roseburg paper. And then it goes on to say, "Douglas County is a good place for practice by the beginning mountain climber." It then gives a list of the different types of climbing to be had on Mt. Thielsen, and mentions Eagle rock as a climb for the more rugged climber.

WORK AT THE CABIN GOES ON AND ON

The septic tank is in. The doors are all hung. The insulation is about half installed. Lots of painting is done. More volunteer help could be used on Saturdays. We also have an electric range donated by Donn Chase. I think that special mention is in order to Gene Renard and Donn for the vast amount of time and energy they both are giving to the building.

Your up-to-date Membership List will be mailed with April Bulletin

THE OBSIDIAN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Donn Chase DI 4-3888
 Vice President Lorena Reid DI 3-6131
 Secretary) Ray Cavagnaro DI 3-8357
 Treasurer)
 Board Members: The above and Art Johnson,
 Margaret Markley, Bob Medill, Gene Renard,
 Kay Fahy and Tom Taylor.
 Editor Geraldine Fehly DI 3-2784

For a pretty waterfall, stop at Bridge
 Creek on Highway 58 just East of Black
 Canyon Camp. Walk up the creek about 150
 feet. There is barely room to park one or
 two cars on the highway shoulder, or park
 at the turnout farther east and walk back.
 It is well worth the stop.

Alan Reid

The Search and Rescue Committee has appli-
 cation blanks for individual Rescue mem-
 berships in the Mountain Rescue and Safety
 Council of Oregon if anyone is interested.

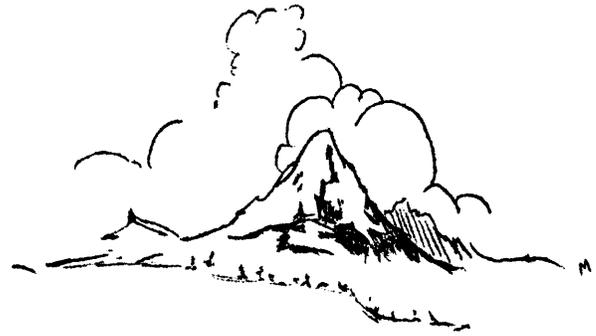
Alan Reid attended the Ski Patrol meeting
 recently and talked on search and rescue
 and obtained a few recruits for search and
 rescue from the group.

Barbara Hasek reports seeing a number of
 Obsidians skiing. Jim, Jan and Frances
 Freedenburg taking skiing lessons. At
 Santiam ski area a week ago Bob Hasek came
 in third in the Mighty-Mites race for
 children twelve and under. Julie and Jane,
 Meissner's two girls came in first in
 their class. Barbara met Kitty Lou Shaw
 skiing at Bend and Kitty Lou sends her
 best regards to everyone here. She also
 reports having met the Orums at Bachelor,
 Willamette and other areas.

Hi Ho, Hi Ho, it's off to work we go-
 WHERE? Why to the Obsidian Clubhouse, of
 course - - Every Saturday morning at 9 a.m.
 and Saturday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. - ex-
 cept the Saturday before Easter. This ap-
 plies to the younger generation too. All
 possible help is needed. All muscle-bound
 members turn out and limber up.

A doctor says that insanity is inherit-
 able: That parents can get it from their
 children.

* * *



TIMBERLINE LODGE, MT. HOOD APRIL 9

Let's all sign up to go by GREYHOUND BUS
 to TIMBERLINE LODGE at Mt. Hood on April
 9th 1961.

In 1959 we went by Greyhound to the new
 Bachelor ski grounds - then in 1960 we
 went again to Crater Lake - each time
 the most beautiful time of year - about
 April first - so this year again let's
 make up another bus load on the Sunday
 of April 9th - the fare will be \$6. and
 with plenty of snow for skiing, snow
 shoeing or picture taking - take your
 lunch or eat at the cafeteria at the
 lodge - the sign up sheet is now at
 Gilberts shoe store, pay as you sign -
 we will leave at 6 A.M. Ray Sims will
 again be leader.

Membership Chairman Kay Fahy
 Needs help and asks you to pay
 Those dues that are dragging
 'Til the bank account's sagging
 The Treasurer too is sad

\$\$

Those with unpaid dues please add
 last line!!!

The Mazamas are planning a boat trip
 down the John Day river, June 11 to June
 18. If anyone is interested write to Bob
 Peirce (spelled right), 7236 S. E. Salmon,
 Portland 15, Oregon.

A THANK YOU NOTE

Was received from Mr. & Mrs. Ralph W.
 Simons in which they say,
 "Thank you for sending back the 1961 mem-
 bership dues of our son, David R. Simons.
 It was used by us for conservation causes,
 in his behalf".



To all ski enthusiasts: Many of you may have realized a problem that a great many skiers are having. It is almost impossible to get to Willamette Pass on Sunday without owning a car or chartering a bus. As a junior member, I can do neither.

Many cannot get away to ride Saturday ski busses and would enjoy going Sunday. Personally I feel that the lack of transportation has stunted the growth of the sport.

A great percentage of Obsidians ski, also a few of these do have cars. If there is room in these cars, it seems only reasonable that other members could go up with them, at a reasonable price, of course. This type of an arrangement would allow people who otherwise would stay at home, to go out and enjoy themselves. Skiing is becoming a more popular sport all the time.

I think if we kept a list of skiers who go often and usually have room for others everyone would benefit.

The list of skiers could be permanently posted at Gilbert's during the ski season.
Charla Eubanks, Junior Member

Thank you, Charla, this is the sort of letter the club likes to receive as we want to do all we can to encourage our Junior Members to take an active part in the club.

Would members who have room to take extra passengers post their names at Gilbert's? In this way those wishing transportation could get the names and call and make arrangements for a ride.

Three species of *Erythronium*, commonly called Adders Tongue, Lambs Tongue or Fawn Lily, will be blooming in or near our area within the next month or six weeks. This plant belongs to the lily family and is one of the most beautiful of our spring flowers. It has two, rarely three, oblong leaves growing near the base of the stem. In some species the leaves are mottled. There are 1 or more flowers to a plant and they are quite large and showy with the petals and sepals nearly alike giving the impression of 6 petals. *Erythronium oregonum*, the largest of the species, sometimes reaching 12 inches or more, is now in bloom on the low hills around Eugene. Each stem has from 1-6 cream colored blossoms with a golden center. The leaves of this species are mottled. *Erythronium revolutum* is the pink coastal species, blooming in early April. A good place to look for it is on the wooded hills along highway 20 about 10 miles east of Toledo, or any of the western slopes of the coastal mountains in Lincoln or Tillamook counties. It appears on Saddle Mountain in late May and early June. The leaves of this species are more deeply mottled than *E. Oregonum*, and the plant is somewhat smaller but the flowers are a delicate and unforgettable pink with a golden center. *Erythronium grandiflorum* var. *pallidum* will bloom on the summit near the lookout of Marys Peak east of Corvallis as the snow recedes. The flowers are yellow and quite fragrant and the leaves are not mottled. Although this is a variety it is with the exception of the white anthers almost indistinguishable from the species known as glacier lily and found in the high Cascades later in the season.

Remember the class in plant identification starting Tuesday March 28, Room 217 Science Building at 7:00 P.M. Frank Sipe, instructor. So many people have expressed an interest in this course that there may be a second section, possibly on Wednesday night. Contact Mary-Douglass Stovall for additional information. DI 4-8530

Helen Kilpatrick, Ruth Onthank, Catherine Dunlop and Frances Newsom recently attended the meeting of Nature Conservancy Oregon Academy of Natural Science held in Portland, where they had the pleasure of meeting Roger Tory Peterson whose new Field Guide to Western Birds will be out next month. Helen stayed for a few days with Ruth Hopson's mother.

BOARD NOTES

The March meeting was long and the following business was witnessed.

The treasurer reported \$427.76 balance on hand, all authorized bills having been paid. Trips Committee Markley presented a new leaders instruction sheet. It was agreed that hikers, 12 years and older, would pay a trip fee. An excellent trips schedule was presented and approved. A chartered bus trip to Mt. Hood was announced for April 9.

Building Committee Renard read architects report of clubhouse progress. Work parties will be held every Saturday, and a great deal can now be accomplished on the interior. Contractor Harding appeared and presented billing of 2924.48 for completed work.

Entertainment Committee Towleron, reported on plans for March 18 potluck and meeting to discuss constitution revision. An April 15 event will be a lecture on Carmen Smith project prior to actual tour of area.

Climbing Committee Taylor working on leaders for schedule.

Membership Committee Fahy turned in 79.00 in new membership and dues. Approved for membership were juniors Reeve and Rhonda Johannis and Mr. and Mrs. Bressler and Ted Hermach.

Scientific Committee Newsom (for Stovall) reported progress of plant identification class. Popularity of class has necessitated two evenings - Tuesday and Wednesday. School teachers may receive credit for in service training.

Library Committee Johnson reported that trips records are up to date; regular meetings held of committee.

The Seattle Mountaineers have extended us an invitation to join them in their summer camp if we care to go and have the price. Their camp this year will be up in Eastern British Columbia in the Yoho National Park. Their camp will be from July 30 to August 13.

MAZAMA THANK YOU

The Mazama's have mailed us a picture of all the plaques they have received from various clubs, with our plaque in a prominent place.

Lodge Committee Johnson (special committee) Organized to make recommendation to Board about duties of a Lodge Committee. Meeting decided that since the clubhouse is not yet ready, and since policies need to be made by the Board relative to use of the building, that appointment of Lodge Committee be postponed until Board feels responsibility can be delegated. Approved making a contract to provide kindergarten facilities for Edison School PTA for \$65.00 monthly.

Conservation Committee McCloskey advised that a possible appeal could be made for preservation of Waldo Lake area. Many discrepancies for recreation use appear in the present status.

Search and Rescue Reid told of meeting with Lane Co. Sheriff and organization of all necessary equipment was completed. An up to date call list is being assembled.

Outing Committee Jeppesen proposed 1961 Summer Camp for Big Redfish Lake in the Sawtooth Range of Idaho. Bob Medill and Henry Carlson were approved for members of committee.

Youth Activity Committee Dunlop has request for assistance from Girl Scout leader. Also received approval to appoint committee, to include junior members.

Scout Executive Fred Hanson was present and described the work of the Explorer troop sponsored by the Obsidians. The renewal of our charter will be made as soon as an Obsidian representative can be appointed to work with the troop.

A telephone was discussed for the clubhouse.

The next meeting will be April 5, Wednesday at the home of Art Johnson.

Seventh Biennial Wilderness Conference sponsored by Sierra Club will be held in San Francisco April 7 and 8, 1961 at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel. Theme - American Heritage of Wilderness - main speaker: Wm. O. Douglas.

To all you people who have been losing stuff over the years, Bob Medill knows where it's at. He helped her move.

UNPAID DUES

SECTION 10 of our Constitution reads in part "If dues are not paid at the annual meeting or before that time, the member is considered delinquent, and not in good standing. If dues are not paid before or at the next annual meeting, a final notice shall be sent by the membership committee. If dues are not paid by January 1, following, the person shall be dropped from membership by the Board of Directors."

SECTION 11 states "Membership in the Club may be terminated by submitting a written resignation addressed to the Board of Directors. The Board shall act on such resignation at its next regular meeting following receipt of same."

The Board is always reluctant to drop any member for nonpayment of dues as we sometimes feel it may be only neglect. It is much better, if you no longer wish to belong to the club, to send a letter of resignation to the Board so we will know your wishes in the matter and also to maintain your good standing with the Club.

MARCH 18 POTLUCK

This potluck should be well attended for this is the night we will all have a chance to vote on the new constitution. At the Eugene Water Board building. Eat at 6:30 P.M.

THE TRIPS AHEAD

Your Trips Committee has been hard at work and has come up with an exciting spring, summer and fall schedule.

There will be pack trips, and charter bus trips and weekend outings. Many new places will be visited this year. Both Saturday and Sunday schedules are planned. You will want to line up your friends and enjoy another wonderful year of Obsidian hiking and climbing.

Word comes from Roxie and Louis Waldorf in Mesa, Arizona, telling that Helen and Paul Weiser are there but have not yet located a motel. Weisers were in Indio during the date festival, attended the pageant and thought it splendid.

* * *

- SAVE YOUR COFFEE BANDS -

A Don Blanding which almost seems to have been written for Obsidians.

We knew the desolation of great heights
And the contentment of deep valleys;
We saw the moon leap silver from the mountain peaks
And watched the red sun die in a welter
of mists on the horizon;
We knew the white swift decline of vast
snow fields
And the small beauty of forest flowers;
Our dreams rose with the smoke of our
camp fires in the wilderness
And our friendship glowed with the embers
of fir fires;
We shared hunger, thirst and the great
struggle toward the mountain top
As we shared peace, good food and pleasant
rest of our night camps;
All these things ... the dizziness of
sudden precipices, straining muscles,
weariness, exaltation, the soothing
fragrance of pine trees, the chatter of
mountain streams and the roar of furious
rapids entered into the pattern of our
friendship and made it fine.
These things we knew together ...
And these things we will remember.

Don't swear: use these words when climbing;

Arete: Ridge.

Belay: To secure a climber with a rope.

Bergschrund: A crevasse or series of crevasses at the head of a glacier.

Chimney: Opening in rock face wide enough to admit human body.

Col: Pass.

Cornice: Overhanging mass of snow or ice along a ridge.

Couloir: Is larger than a chimney and smaller than a gully.

Crack: Aperture in steep rock too narrow to admit body.

Crevasse: Fissure in a glacier.

Gendarm: Rock tower or tooth on ridge.

Glissade: To slide down a snow slope.

Ice-fall: Disrupted and crevassed part of glacier caused by change in pitch or direction of slope.

Morain: Stone, etc., brought down by glacier.

Rappel: Descending on a rope, doubled around a belay point.

Scree: Slope of small, loose material.

Serac: Tower or pinnacle of ice usually found in ice-falls.

Verglas: Thin coating of ice on rock.

ATTEN-SUMMER CAMP-TION

After lots of study and figuring and talk - the study of requests by members this year and last, your camp committee simmered the location down to three possible locations. One was up in the north Olympics. One was the Glacier Peak area north of Lake Chelan. The other the Sawtooth mountains north of Sun Valley in Idaho, and this country was finally decided upon. This will be a bus vacation camp trip. Costs and details will be worked out and this will be done as soon as it can possibly be accomplished.

The Cabal is composed of Jim Jeppesen, Curator; Henry Carlson, Cuisine, and Bob Medill, Caballin. If anyone has any pictures of this area please let us know.



Catherine Dunlop reports about twelve Princesses met at the home of Beverly Lindley. Chief business was counting and mounting coffee can bands which Obsidians and friends are saving for coffee percolators for the new clubhouse. We have about 250 MJB bands and need 400 more. There are about 24 Folgers. Drink more Folgers and MJB you Obsidians'.

Princess Swift Fawn (Virginia Sebring) assisted Princess Snow Crystal (Beverly Lindley).

Next Princess meeting at home of Frances Newsom (Grandmother) on March 20.

Moving vans have been kept busy this past month getting Dorothy Raines and Gerry Fehly moved into their new location at 1163 Oak St., Unit C. Telephone number is Diamond 3-2784.

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



Margaret reports that the trip to the Chemeketan Cabin was a very fine trip and Chemeketans are very good hosts. The Johannis family were all there, Dorothy Towler-ton, Adeline Adams, and Margaret Markley, and our own Merle and Blanche Bailey, as well as sixteen Chemeketans.

A card from Lt. Tom Bricher in which he says he had the honor to be on the Matterhorn. He says that he and some others made the climb Sep. 14, 1960 and reached 10,800 feet, but then were turned back by adverse weather. His new address is 818, OPS Sq., Lincoln AFB, Lincoln, Neb.

Lt. and Mrs. James Newsom of Urbana, Ill. are happy over the arrival of a new daughter, little Susan Marie. This gives our Frances the brand new title of Grandmother. Welcome to the ranks, Frances.

* * *

- SUPPORT YOUR CLUBHOUSE -



(Not printed at club expense)

I am writing this out on the balcony of our room on the seventh floor overlooking the Acapulco Bay with its myriad boats and lights and swaying coconut palms from gentle breezes coming in off the Pacific. We leave pretty soon for our evening's entertainment and go out on the bay in a boat for a 4 1/2-hours' ride to different sights, then here tomorrow night and leave for Taxco and have a half day and a night there. Yesterday we left Mexico City and drove out to the Pyramids and - what an amazing sight. One has to see these things for it is impossible to get a true picture just by reading about them. But I can give some facts. It is not known who built them but it is believed to have been the forebears of the Aztecs. It was first discovered by Porfirio Diaz in 1905. He saw one corner of one of the Pyramids exposed and ordered uncovering to begin. An area now one-half mile wide by two and one-half miles long has been opened up, having been covered by volcanic ash and cinders. The big Pyramid is not as tall as Cheops (Egyptian Pyramid) but is larger in area. Away from the Pyramid is a wall which looks like almost a one-half mile square. It must be 40 feet wide and is about 14 feet high. There are three sets of stairways built up on each side of its four sides. In the center of this enclosure are two pyramids having the most marvelous carvings, looks like hundreds of them. All this stone work is made out of volcanic rock and so are the carvings, with some carvings made out of Obsidian. I have a carving of the original Obsidian Chief which I am going to give to the club. Well, this rock work involves hundreds of thousands of tons and is all cemented together with a mortar that has stood up perfectly all these thousands of years. We have a lime and cement expert on this tour with us who says he doesn't know where they got the lime, but does know that they burned the lime the same as we do but that their mortar is far superior to anything we make today.

Went to a Jai Alai game and bet 10 pesos and in less than ten minutes had won 224. Went out north along the coast today and what we saw no one would believe, but we saw miles and miles of coconuts, more coconuts than the South Sea Islands ever had, and mangoes, bananas, cashew nuts and breadfruit, 35 miles of it and hundreds of natives who harvest the coconut meat and live with the pigs, chickens, burros, cows and each other. Saw natives using oxen to plow with and using wooden plows. Bought two very beautiful strings of beads from a little girl and her mother. One string has hundreds of shells and the other has thousands of shells - each string for 8¢ each. Bought these way back up in a jungle miles from the road in a boat run by a native and he took us up to where most of the "African Queen" was filmed. They raise three crops of corn a year there and harvest a crop of coconuts every three months. One man told us there had been no such thing as clouds in Puerto in Jan. since about 1920, but it clouded up today and looked like rain. Have been trying to figure out what kind of system is used in restaurants here in Mexico and have come to the conclusion that they have no system. If you order one thing they will bring you something else. If you are specific and say "coffee now" they will not bring it until 20 minutes after you are through eating. If you are having something else to drink through your meal and you specifically say to hold the coffee, they will bring it to you at once. Oh, well, you can't drink the stuff anyway so it really doesn't make much difference. They will bring you soup and then wait until your soup is cold before they bring you a spoon.

Tomorrow we leave for Taxco where the greatest silver mines and plants

in the world are. They tell us that all their silverware is hand crafted right there by the natives. This is the only hotel I have ever been in where they do not furnish blankets. Just one sheet to cover you with and that's all, no windows either, so that settles the window washing. Mary and I are surely getting hungry for a good steak.

We are now in Guadalajara, having spent a night in Taxco, a town which pretty much hangs on edge--where dogs, roosters and mission bells wake you up at 3 a.m. Don't believe all you hear about the beautiful mission bells. I have heard their incessant banging until I am sure filled up with it. Mexico City is the dirtiest and Guadalajara the cleanest. One thing that is very impressive is the great number of parks and fountains and statues in all cities.

My hat is off to the Mexican drivers. The way they can negotiate this traffic of dogs kids, burros, goats, cows and narrow, winding streets and never even put a scratch on their cars is marvelous. And these bus drivers handling these huge busses and lots of times to negotiate a turn they must see-saw back and forth a number of times to make it. Yesterday we traveled almost 400 miles over roads almost as crooked as going over our McKenzie pass.

We have visited a glass blowing factory where all work is done by hand and a boy must serve an apprenticeship of twenty years to become efficient enough to do the work that these men do. And that is so wonderful as to be almost unbelievable. We also visited a ceramic plant and a pottery plant where the work is taught to no one but a son. All the work these Indians do is so nice and accurate. We have seen poverty such as we have never seen before; we have seen riches and the results of past riches beyond belief.

Being on an escorted tour we have learned so much of the history of these people and their struggles, their capture and subjugation by other world powers, then their revolt against their captors, then their struggles with themselves - one internal revolution after another that we have come to have a much greater respect for them. And they are so determined to please and are so grateful for your attempt to speak a few words of their tongue. Everywhere you go you see hundreds of vendors from small children to grownups. They meet you at every bus stop. They come into your hotels and the restaurants. I had bought five baskets and one place where we stopped and the vendors were especially plentiful, I gathered the five baskets on my arm and went after one vendor after another trying to sell them baskets and crying out "50 pesos, 50 pesos, only 50 pesos". The other vendors would stand back and just double up with laughter.

Senor and Senora Medill

Swaying palms and gentle breezes from the Pacific seem to attract Bob and Mary and we have it on good authority that they will return from their next trip with Bob playing the Ukulele and Mary entertaining us with a hula. That will solve the entertainment problem for summer camp!