

**FIRST TRACKS**

**A WINTER VENTURE INTO THE  
PREVIOUSLY  
“LOST FROM MEMORY”**

**Part 1**  
**1937 - 1960**

A History of Local Skiing and the Willamette Pass Ski Patrol  
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From Published Articles

2009 / 2010 Ski Season

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### **PART 1**

INTRODUCTION – A Winter Venture Into the Previously “Lost From Memory” .....	3
SOURCES .....	3
PREFACE – History of the Willamette National Forest..... Depression and War, 1933 – 1945	5
BOOTING UP – January, 1937 .....	7
FIRST TRACKS – December, 1938, Willamette Ski Patrol Founded.....	17
OPENING RUNS – November, 1941 .....	43
Willamette Pass Ski Patrol Founded April, 1942 .....	50
SECOND RUN – AFTER THE WAR – November, 1945 .....	53
A NEW DECADE AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES – January, 1950 .....	97
CHARLES BRYAN RYAN – A Retrospective of a Curious Mind .....	143

### **PART 2**

RESETTING THE COURSE – 1960 and Later.....	143
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## APPENDICES - SWEEP

- A. Copies of Obsidian Scanned Bulletins and Register-Guard Articles
- B.1 John Nasholm – Letters, 1960 NSP Olympic Ski Patrol Documents, and Photos
- B.2 John Quiner, II – Letters and 1959 & 1960 NSP Olympic Ski Patrol Documents
- C. Allan Lindley – Photo and Patrol Recollections
- D. Willamette Pass Ski Patrol Photographs, Vintage 1951
- E. Miscellaneous Photographs
- F. Nils Norman – Cross-Country Racer
- G. Recipients of National Patroller / National Appointment Recognition
- H. WPSP Recipients of NSPS Awards, Recognitions, and Offices beyond the Patrol
- I. Jack Meissner
- J. *Ski Patrol Magazine* – 1960 Squaw Valley Olympics Ski Patrol



## A WINTER VENTURE INTO THE PREVIOUSLY “LOST FROM MEMORY”

What began as a request to research and develop a listing of Willamette Pass Ski Patrol members who have received National Ski Patrol awards, recognitions, and held offices beyond the patrol, across the years, expanded into a search of old publications for the activities and names of the founders and promoters of skiing in the area around Eugene, Oregon. See Appendix H for 2010 list of WPSP NSPS Awards.

Names of recipients of National Appointments by division and year, unfamiliar to present day patrollers, required second source verification of their involvement in the National Ski Patrol System, Willamette Ski Patrol, or Willamette Pass Ski Patrol in order to list them with confidence. National Patrollers and National Appointment patrollers are listed in Appendix G.

At the same time, I felt the need to bring forth the conditions, attitudes, aspirations, and enjoyment of skiing in the decades between the 30s and 60s. For all of those who love winter recreation in what is now called the “back-country” but what used to be a normal winter outing; as well as those who sought and still seek cleared runs and ski areas, this is only a partial compilation of the skiing environment during those early years. It may take some time to traverse the decades and activities. If read, or skimmed through, in sequence, a series of names and events will emerge and meld to bring forth, in a partial manner, how we have arrived to what is now being carried on by younger generations of skiers and snowboarders.

## SOURCES

The following information was developed by researching articles found primarily in two publications. First, the *Eugene Register-Guard* from internet searches using Google for archives of scanned newspapers with key words, followed by searches of decades, years, and months where key words appear in articles. The articles were then photocopied from microfilm reels at the Eugene Public Library for retyping.  
<http://www.google.com/archivesearch>

The second major source was scanned issues of *The Obsidian*, a newsletter of an organization by the same name, located in Eugene, Oregon. Janet Jacobsen, Obsidian Secretary, provided the first links related to the early years of skiing and ski outings by the Obsidians and Ski Lauferers, a ski club in Eugene. The internet link to scanned issues was provided by Wayne Deeter, Obsidian and ski patrolman with Santiam Pass Ski Patrol. I encourage you to use your computer, bring this page up, and double click on the years and months to see the scanned images of the bulletins which contain not only what I have retyped but far more information of those times and activities.  
<http://www.obsidians.org/bulletin/>

I have attempted to retype the text as it was published using the (sic) convention where obvious typos were seen. It is likely that I have missed some or created some new ones of my own.

The following pages are a limited time-scope history of recreational development in the Willamette National Forest was taken from that same source as noted at the start of the text. It is provided as a general overview of part of the forest development and time period.

Telephone conversations and meetings were made with surviving members of the Willamette Pass Ski Patrol who are mentioned in articles of both publications. Recollections and comments have been interspersed with the articles to provide additional information and confirmation of the conditions and events of the times. All of these patrollers hold what is now recognized as a National Appointment in recognition of their extensive activities and high level of skiing and patrolling skills and involvement. National Patroller numbers and years

have been confirmed by cross referencing a comprehensive list of recipients found at the internet site linked through the Pacific Northwest Division of the National Ski Patrol System to the Michigan Region data base of National Appointments. These were then affirmed in conversations with the surviving WPSP members of the relevant decades and recollections.

I am indebted to the following patrollers, who I have identified as the “Roots Team” of this project, by providing recollections and information that has been invaluable to this project:

James P. Harrang		
Allan Lindley	NA#1334	See Appendix C
John Quiner, II	NA#2121	
John Nasholm	NA#2186	See Appendix B
Orville Caswell	NA#2201	
Bill Temple	NA#2344	

I have included a few related articles to better portray the times and events as well as the people who are identified and instrumental in the formation and development of skiing, ski organizations, and skiing activities related to Willamette Pass Ski Area and Willamette Pass Ski Patrol

## **PREFACE**

### **History of the Willamette National Forest**

#### **Chapter IV**

#### **Depression and War, 1933 – 1945**

### **RECREATION, AMENITY VALUES, DEVELOPMENTS**

The thirties also saw new developments in Region 6 recreational facilities. Beginning in 1928, skiing enthusiasts began to urge the Forest Service to establish public skiing areas. Such developments to that date had been private, consisting of the use of private lodges and cabins as headquarters for skiers. In 1928 the Forest Service made a series of studies of the Region, working with sports clubs from the Hood River and Portland areas. In 1935 construction of Timberline Lodge was authorized. The structure was mainly built with Works Progress Administration (WPA) labor and Mt. Hood rapidly became a national center for skiing activities. [46]

To the south, skiing became increasingly popular. The Obsidian Club became interested and a subsidiary group formed the Ski-Laufer Club. Weekend excursions were made by rail to Willamette Pass, by automobile to McKenzie Pass and Santiam Pass. In Eugene people felt that ski lodges and ski runs might be built with work-relief labor, and advisory groups of citizens with some Forest Service members, were established to look over possible locations.

The first two ski runs built by CCC labor were failures since they were in the wrong places. At White Branch, off the McKenzie Highway, a two-story lodge, cabins, and water and sanitation systems were set up, a ski run cleared from the second growth forest, and an access road built. Unfortunately it was at the 3,000 foot elevation, too low to acquire the snow depth needed for a long winter season. A second facility was built near McKenzie Summit at Hand Lake. This was a less elaborate structure consisting of a warming cabin, a ski run, and an access road. However, the Oregon State Highway Department did not keep McKenzie Pass open all year, so this project, too, was abandoned.

The completion of the Santiam Pass road in 1939 turned attention to that area. In March 1938, a group met at Fish Lake to study its possibilities. The first snowmobile in Lane County was used to transport equipment and people around the area. In addition to Forest Service personnel, members of the Obsidian and Ski-Laufer Clubs, the Chemeketans Club, the Santiam Fish and Game Association, and the Lions and Civic Clubs of Eugene were present. They decided on the Three Fingered Jack area, and plans were made to build a ski run and facilities near the top of the pass. A rival area, Hoodoo Butte, was also considered, and a special use permit granted to Edward Thurston to develop that area. The Forest Service, meantime, constructed Santiam Ski Lodge with CCC labor. It was built of timber cut from the neighboring forest and of the lava rock, and had bunks for 60 people, a large fireplace, kitchen and dining room, and a store. The lodge was operated under a special use permit.

Some skiing had been developed in the Odell and Crescent Lake area, accessible by rail, and after 1940 by the Willamette Highway. The Forest Service made on-the-ground studies there in April 1939; again, the Obsidian and Ski-Laufer Clubs were represented, together with residents of Crescent Lake and Odell Lake. They developed a downhill ski site, but building of facilities was delayed because of the outbreak of the war. Some of the land for the ski run was cleared by timber sales and logging operations, as well as by volunteer labor from the Obsidian and Ski-Laufer Clubs. By 1944 the area was set in operation with a rope lift and a snack bar, and a permit issued to Roy Temple. [47]

On the South Santiam Highway an organization camp was set up at Longbow. Upper Soda already had a large complex of resorts and summer homes. As in the Willamette Highway area, protection was given to roadsides and streamsides. In the Hoodoo Ski Area a shelter and springhouse were built, as well as an organization building for outdoor clubs. [51]

[46] Jack Grauer, *Mt. Hood: A Complete History* (Portland, 1975), 54-57, 63-72.

[47] Roy Elliott, "White Magic in the Mountains," (c. 1982) Recreation File WNF/H; W.N. Parke, "Winter Sports Area Survey in the Santiam Pass Area," Eugene, 1958, Winter Recreation Sites - Ski Areas File, 2300-3, WNF/H.

[51] Report on Santiam Highway, Recreation Plan by J.R. Bruckart, March 7, 1940, WNF/H.

<http://www.foresthistory.org/ASPNET/Publications/region/6/willamette/chap4.htm>

## BOOTING UP

Register-Guard  
November 24, 1930  
Page 4

### 20 SKIERS GO TO CASCADES SUNDAY

A party of 20 Eugene people spent Sunday skiing in the Cascade mountains above the Lost Creek ranch and a number used the toboggan slide at the ranch.

Skiing was excellent, there being plenty of snow on the ground, according to those who took part in the sport. The skiers went as far up as pole bridge, which is 10 miles above Lost Creek ranch.

Some of the men in the party spent some time brushing out the skyway at Deadhorse hill and the next time it is used it will be in fine shape, it is stated. They also built a jump which will add to the pleasure of the sport.

This was the first skiing party of the season. It is expected that some of the devotees of the pastime will go out each Sunday hereafter. The Obsidian cabins are headquarters.

Note: It is interesting to note the evolution of activities and focus of The Obsidian club from skiing in the forests or barely developed areas, during the 1930 decade, opening ski areas during the 1940s decade, to the disappearance of the Obsidian Ski Committee last appointed in the 1953-1954 season under Chairmanship of Allan Lindley. Thereafter the focus of The Obsidians appears to have changed and little mention of skiing, other than occasional ski trips is made. Readers are encouraged to access the *Obsidians Bulletins* scanned issues to gain a better understanding of the development of skiing and outdoor recreation during these early years.

Old photos of the Willamette Ski Patrol at both Hoodoo Ski Bowl and Willamette Pass Ski Area often show the patrollers with the arrowhead Obsidian patch on their left sleeve and a NSP Ski Patrol or National patch on their right sleeve. Prior to April, 1942, virtually all members of the Willamette Ski Patrol were Obsidian members.

Present day skiers, ski areas, and ski patrol members are fully indebted to The Obsidian club members of those decades for their focus and determination to develop and build winter skiing recreation. The Obsidians provided vastly more support and active involvement than the Ski Laufer club, which while involved, appears to have been more oriented to social ski outings than promotion and development of ski areas and activities. It is not clear when the Eugene Ski Laufer club dissolved. It may have been related to the formation of the Tri-Pass Ski Club during the 1940s.

The Obsidian  
January 25, 1937  
Page 1

### SNOW TRAIN by Horwald Nelson

The "Snow train special", sponsored by the Obsidian Ski Club of Eugene, will leave the S.P. Depot at 7 A.M. Sunday, Jan. 31st, bound for Crescent Lake, in the heart of the Cascades for a day of frolicking in the snow.

Tickets for the round trip are \$2.00, half fare for children under 12. As there are no eating facilities of any kind at the lake, everyone must either bring his own lunch, or eat on the dinner, which will serve a full course dinner for 75c. Sandwiches at 10c each, coffee, milk, etc. 5c, will be on sale in all the coaches. The train will be parked on a siding, and kept heated all day.

The trip is open to all lovers of the out of doors, and tickets are on sale at Babbs, Hendershotts, Montgomery Wards, Washburne's and the Educational Activities office on the Campus, from Ralph Schomp. Persons contemplating taking the trip are urged

(Continued on Page-2)



to buy their tickets out once so arrangements can be made to handle all comfortably.

Bend, Klamath Falls, Corvallis, and Springfield have all indicated a desire to join us in our trip, and it promises to be a grand day.

### **WINTER OUTING** by Glenn Sims

Have you ever wished you could ski and ski and then ski some more? Well, that is what we are going to do.

The Obsidian Club is going to have a winter outing, Feb. 20th to 25th incl. (full moon). We have a summer outing every year and what a vacation that is. Nothing could be finer, so the outing committee has planned a weeks outing in the bohemian Mountains. Headquarters will be at the boarding house of the Champion Mine. It would be hard to find a more ideal site so near home, where the mile high mountains assure us of very dry snow and slopes to suit anyone.

A cook has been engaged and food and other supplies, including a quart of high powered liniment to take care of sore muscles and sprains, were taken in and stored before snow fell.

This year, on account of limited quarters, only about 25 can be accommodated.

Page 3

### **LOCAL WALKS SCHEDULE**

Jan. 31 - Snow Train to Summit.

Feb. 7 - Ski trip up McKenzie as far as advisable.

Feb. 14 - In charge of Obsidian Ski Club.

Feb. 20-25 - Winter Outing

(Continued on Page 7)

Dec. 27 Ski trip arranged by the Ski Club. Watch daily papers for location.

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

&

Jan. 1 - Party and Ski Tournament

Jan. 10. - Ski Club Trip

Jan. 17 - Ski trip to Proxy Creek Falls. This should be a beautiful trip.

Jan. 24 - Cross Country Ski trip to Baemer's Ranch on Willamette Highway.

Jan. 24 - Special Ski Train Arrangements by Ski Club.

Jan. 31 - Ski Club trip.

Page 3

### **REPORTS OF TRIPS**

Jan. 10 - Trip to White Branch, two feet of snow, sunny day, made skiing grand sport.

Jan. 17 - Trip to Proxy Creek Falls, because of the heavy snows, turned out to be another exceptionally fine day at White Branch. There were forty-seven signed for the cross country trip. Jack Hilliard, ski expert from Seattle (courtesy of Babb's Hardware) gave a demonstration of technique and a short period of instruction, which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Page 4

### **JOKE?**

Harold Trotter says the snow is applied to the under or flat side of the ski and the skier is applied to the upper or harness surface for best results. The skier should remain on top at all times.

### **"ACHTUNG"**

The editors of the "Obsidian" got into an argument over the meaning of the word, "achtung" as applied to skiing. Dorr Hamlin wandered in to the press room and suggested, "That's what they say when they fall down." Further investigation reveals that "achtung" means, "Track", as used in the heading of Sid King's New Year's Party story in the Register-Guard.

### **SAND HILLS POPULAR**

Over 125 enthusiastic skiers, Obsidian Club members and others including a few Skyliners from Bend, skimmed the slopes of the Sand Hills of the McKenzie last Sunday, Dec. 20, under cloudy skies. Feature of the day's fun was a Class B standard slalom course. After the better skiers had tired of this variety of the sport the course was moved down the hill and beginners tried their luck. It was four before anyone started for home. Snow was of the corned variety; visibility of the Sisters low.

Sunday Dec. 14, found over 100 skiers on the Sand Hills. The weather was unusually good, the view of the Sisters superb. Carl Young, fire building expert, contributed a minor conflagration. Snow was good being a little wet and well packed. Virgil Hicks, Chairman of the Ski Committee, was the official leader and gave instruction to beginners, a regular feature of these trips.

Sunday, Dec. 7, saw the pioneer ski trip of the season when some 20 Obsidian Ski Club members rallied to the word, "Thar's snow in them thar hills" and spend the day on the Sand Hills.

### **A REAL SKI TRAIL**

The old McKenzie Highway has been cleared of brush and other obstructions from the Deer Butte trail down about a mile and one-half. The Obsidian Ski trail signs are placed at all curves, the ride down should pay for all the back aches from brush cutting.

The Obsidian

November, 1937

Page 1

Note: This is the start of an interesting column by Ray Sims, *The Obsidian Club Why? How? and When?* which begins in this issue and continues for several more. They disclose the manner in which the club was formed, a number of trails, camping places, and features which were named for Obsidian members, as well as the name of the club itself, and several search/rescue missions.

### **A JOINT WINTER OUTING**

The Ski Laufers and Obsidian are going ahead with plans for the winter outing to be held at the Mazama Lodge at Mt. Hood the week beginning February 13th to 19th.

A committee from each club is working together to make this our best and biggest winter outing ever to be held.

An expert teacher will be at hand at all times to show the uninitiated how it's done and the novices what to do.

More tentative details will be worked out before this time. Watch for it in the paper.

### **THANKS TO THE FOREST SERVICE**

Members of the Obsidians, Inc. wish to extend their thanks and appreciation to the Forest Service.

Through the efforts of Perry Thompson, supervisor of the Willamette National Forest, not only members of the Obsidian Club, but every sport enthusiast is going to enjoy a bigger and better winter playground.

The donation of sixteen axes came in might handy for clearing out the trails and making a shelter at Frog Camp. Also, the twenty-five (sic) steel cots are going to be greatly appreciated.

THANKS AGAIN!

## **McKenzie Pass Winter Playground – Come True (?)**

The McKenzie Pass as a winter playground area has long been the dream of many local winter sports enthusiasts; but never has been able to emerge from the dream stage. There are a few of us who have in the past, had sufficient time and energy to make the long trek, in the dead of winter, from the snow line, sometimes as low down as Lost Creek Ranch, to the snug, Pole Bridge Cabin, located in the good snow, well up towards the summit.

Such trips generally required a good day of slow arduous skiing, sinking deep in the soft snow of the lower elevations, retarded by the steeper grade of the higher regions; and gradually fatigued by the heavy pack with necessary provisions for the duration of the outing. Memories of such trips would compare favorably with small scale expeditions into “Little America” – The formidable snow barrier, doing its best to keep us out; but the joys, beauties, and excellent skiing conditions of that varied, High Pass country, providing such an alluring incentive that we always felt well rewarded, making the trip every time that we could, “Hie away to the mountains”.

This year, for the first time, there appears to be a slight ray of sunshine in the skiing aspect, for the enjoyment and development of this grand region. With the cooperation of the State Highway Department, it is very possible that this previously unattainable, High Mountain area, will be made easily accessible to all.

Understand that the State Highway Department does not, as a matter of fact grant such requests, as the maintenance of a dead-end road, high into the summit county of the Cascade

(Continued on Page 2)

Range for the joys and pleasures of a group of winter sports enthusiasts; but the State Highway Department is a very practical, efficiently operated branch of the state’s many necessary activities; and as such, must be convinced of the underlying soundness of this project.

The committee working on this project, endeavored to leave nothing unsaid nor unexplained, that might be of help in convincing the Highway Department of the basic soundness of this development. The committee has spent much time and energy on this project, personal contacts had to be made - culminated by the presentation of a request before the State Highway Commission, at their regular meeting in Portland.

A long time resident and business man of Eugene, Mr. Geo. H. McMorran, deserves the appreciation of every member of the Club, for his sincere interest and personal assistance, in working and appearing with the committee, in furtherance of their request.

After due deliberation of the request, the Highway Commission have decided to favor the proposal, and based largely on definite assurances, of what this development will mean to the people of this, and adjacent communities, have appropriated funds for the specific purpose of snow removal, and road maintenance, to a point in the vicinity of Frog Camp.

This is being done entirely as an experiment to determine whether or not there will be sufficient usage of this area, made accessible, to justify and help offset extra costs of maintenance entailed.

Therefore, the State Highway Department have certainly proffered the long desired “Helping Hand”; and now, it is up to every member of the Obsidian Club, the Ski Lauferers, and citizens of this community, to actively get busy, and reassure the generous move made by the Highway Commission, that their decision is a correct one; and that the yearly maintenance of this roadway into the summit region of the McKenzie pass will be more than repaid by the development and active utilization of one of the finest winter playground areas in this part of the country.

## **OBSIDIANS ELECT OFFICERS**

(A partial list of officers directly related to the development of skiing and the future Willamette Ski Patrol include the following men.)

Paul Lafferty was elected President;

Bryan Ryan, chairman of the ski and entertainment committee;

Tony Vogel, chairman of the outing committee;

Harold Trotter, chairman of the local walks and search committee.

The Obsidian  
December, 1937  
Page 1

## **SUN VALLEY**

Sunday, December 5, was just another dark and very foggy day for most Eugeneans, but for those of the Obsidians who went up on top, it was one of warmth and brilliant sunshine.

After spending the night at the Obsidian cabin, twelve started up the trail for Sunshine shelter early Sunday morning. Lunch was eaten at Scott camp, followed by skiing-plenty! and sunbathing, stretched full length, as

(Please Turn to Page Four)

one would on the beach in summer. IN spite of the sunshine, hard crusty snow made skiing difficult throughout the day.

Those in the party were: Tony Vogel, leader; Ruth Carlson, Harriet Plotts, John Tiffany, Tom Wiper, Wallace (Killer) Clark, Bill and Minnie McCracken, Bryan Ryan, Eileen Baker, Ray Sims and Doris Osborn. When this group returned to Frog camp, they met more of the Obsidians, who had stopped at White Branch Crossing to ski.

Six made the scouting trip to Belknap Crater, including Paul Lafferty, Beth Gullion, Ralph Lafferty, Red Scroggins, and Dorr Hamlin. Very good skiing was reported.

Page 2

## **RESULTS OF WORK TRIPS**

We have all stopped wondering why work parties are so much fun, and have discovered and learned the ultimate reason for the way in which members of the club and others have whole-heartedly helped in clearing and marking the trails, building shelters, remodeling the cabins, etc. It is now possible, and will continue to be possible throughout the winter, to drive to Frog Camp to ski.

A Laufer may now skim down the trail leading out from the base of the Sisters, and if you could close your eyes, (who could), you might thing (sic) you were on the Alpine Trail at Mt. Hood.

According to several members of the Club the past three or four week-ends have been really quite enjoyable at the cabins. Sleeping quarters were completely remodeled with 25 beds installed. Lights were changed and windows and roof on both cabin and sleeping quarters were repaired. The kitchen is again in shape to pass inspection.

Page 4

## **SNOW TRAIN SPECIALS**

Skiers will be glad to learn that the residents of Cascade Summit and the Forest Service have brushed out a good ski slide near the Depot. The next trains will probably stop at the Summit and skiers will not have to walk down the tracks for a space has been cleared to accommodate the crowds.

The Obsidian  
January, 1938  
Page 4

## **THAT NEW YEAR'S PARTY**

(The full article is worth reading, see appendix, but extractions include the following)

All were on deck for a wonderful breakfast, fruit, hot cakes, sausage, eggs, etc. Breakfast over we all drove to Frog Camp and skied to Hand Lake, where the races were held.

Everyone enjoyed the skiing on the slopes around the Lake. At 3 P. M. we all arrived back at Belknap for one of the best dinners ever spread for a New Year's Party.

(A paragraph later on)

Next morning, Sunday, all were off again for the ski grounds at Frog Camp. From there some went to Hand Lake, other to Sunshine, Deer Butte, and some stayed at Frog Camp. . . .

Register-Guard  
January 15, 1938  
Page 1

### **High Snows Opened for Weekend Sport**

Eugene skiers rejoiced Saturday in the news that the state highway department snow plows had bucked the McKenzie pass highway clear of drifts as far as the sand hills, one-half mile west of the summit.

The information was received by the Eugene Ski Laufers and the Obsidians, both of which organizations will have groups at the sand hills. Tony Vogel, Paul Lafferty and Harold Trotter will be in charge of ski instructions there.

The University of Oregon ski club is sponsoring a bus, which will leave the College Side Inn at 7 a.m. Sunday, take skiers to the summit region, and return to Eugene by 7 p.m. Try-outs for the university ski team will be held during the day, it was announced.

Sleety rains which have fallen in the high Cascades the past two days have not spoiled ski conditions, it was reported. A heavy fall of fresh, dry snow was reported in the higher altitudes of the Three Sisters area, and ski experts said that conditions undoubtedly would be ideal in the region of Sunshine shelter, and higher on the Middle Sister. The fact that the highway is open as far as the sand hills once again makes it possible to ski on Belknap Crater, one of the best hills in central Oregon.

Register-Guard  
February 24, 1938  
Page 1

### **Plow Will Open Road To Camp**

A powerful pusher-plow of the "Oshkosh" type had broken through snow in the McKenzie highway to a point two miles west of Frog camp and it was expected the road would be cleared to Frog camp sometime Saturday, it was announced Thursday by Joseph Toole, district maintenance superintendent for the state highway commission.

The new plow, which is larger than the one in use here previously, was brought to Lane county Wednesday and worked all night on the highway, Mr. Toole said. There remains one bad drift between the plow and Frog Camp and when that has been cut through, the remainder will be relatively easy, it was stated.

With assurance that the road would be opened to Frog Camp, the Eugene Ski Laufers, who had scheduled a snow carnival for Sunday, announced that the carnival as such would be postponed, due to the fact the snow conditions at White Branch were not suitable for such an event at this time.

Racing events, scheduled as a part of the show, will be staged, however, either at Hand Lake or Deer Butte.

The new snowmobile built for  
(See Snowplow Story Page 2)

the Ski Laufers, has been completed and will be in operation in the McKenzie area Sunday, it was reported. The machine will operate from the end of the road, taking skiers either to Hand lake or the Sand Hills for skiing. Buttons sold for admission to the carnival, will be good for rides on the snowmobile, officials of the club announced. Following this weekend, the machine will be used by members of the club only.

The snowmobile will be on display in front of Babb's Hardware from 11:30 to 1:30 o'clock Friday.

Since the snowplow can clear only a one-way road, parking of cars will be regulated carefully, Mr. Toole said. A guard will be stationed on the highway and only as many cars as can be parked at the end of the road will be allowed through. The highway superintendent expressed the belief the plow could clear enough room to take care of all who made the trip Sunday.

All young skiers, not over 20 years of age, who are interested in entering the junior races, are urged to get in touch with Ace Moore, in charge of these events.

## **Second Snow Train Scheduled March 6**

The second snow train of this season will be run Sunday, March 6, it was announced Thursday by Norwald Nelson, in charge of the event for the Eugene Ski Lauferers, sponsors of the train.

The train will go to Crescent lake where skiing and other snow sports will be arranged. Heavy public demand for a second train led the club to sponsor the "snowball special," Mr. Nelson said.

Register-Guard

February 27, 1938

Page 3

## **Exploration Trip Into Cascades Starts Monday**

(By Ned Simpson)

A week's exploration trip into the frozen fastnesses of the high Cascade mountains for the purpose of inspecting several prospective sites for a big new winter sports playground will start Monday when representatives from Eugene, Albany and Salem outing clubs, newspapermen and U.S. forest officials leave for the vicinity of the Santiam pass.

The trip is being conducted by the forest service, under the direction of W. N. Parke, recreational director of the Willamette forest. The party, which will number close to 30, will camp at the Fish Lake ranger station where supplies were cached last fall when the forest service first started planning the survey.

Through the courtesy of the Eugene Ski Lauferers, winter sports club, the expedition will have the use of the Ski Lauferers' new snowmobile, which will be piloted on the trip by I. F. Davidson, its inventor. Others who will go from Eugene are Mr. Parke, Wallace Rowland and Guy Wright, representing the Ski Lauferers; Tony Vogel and Ed Thurston, representing the Obsidians, Inc.; and the writer, of the Register-Guard staff.

From Salem will be Conrad Frigaard, president of the Salem Ski club, and W. I. McLoud, president of the Chemeketans, a group similar to the Obsidians. From Albany F. C. Mullen, county agent, and Bill Wilkinson, secretary of the Santiam Fish and Game association, will be representatives. Harry Miller will represent Lebanon on the trip.

In addition to outing club members there will be three district rangers: Glenn Charlton, from Detroit, R. C. Burgess from Cascadia, and Ray Engels from McKenzie Bridge. Mr. Parke also stated Saturday that a cook and cook's helper would accompany the party.

The Eugene members of the expedition will spend Sunday night at the McKenzie Bridge ranger station in order to get an early start Monday. They will go up the Clear Lake road, starting from Belknap Springs, on the snowmobile to the Fish Lake station, a distance of about 18 miles. Salem and Albany members of the party will drive up the Santiam highway, hike four miles into the station.

The Fish Lake station will serve as a base of operations, with trips to be made to three different localities where an ideal winter sports playground could be established. The first trip will be to the vicinity of Three Fingered Jack, an 8,000-foot peak north of Hogg pass. The second survey will be to Hoodoo and Hayrick buttes, at an elevation of about 6,000 feet, while the third likely site will be inspected at Tombstone Prairie, at an elevation of about 6,000 feet.

A portable radio sending set is being taken by the party, and will be used in case any emergency comes up. If it is possible stories of the expeditions' activities will be transmitted to Belknap ranger station, then relayed to the Register-Guard by its representative.

The trip is expected to take five days. The various groups will trek to Fish Lake Monday, consolidate forces for three days of survey work, and make the return trip Friday.

### **Skiing Is More Than a Schport, It Iss a Vay of Life**

By Ken Binns (Copyright Shell Service)

If this were the strictly the orthodox bit about how to ski, it would, in this, the fourth installment, deal with the stem Christie, which is the step beyond the stem, which is the step beyond buying the skis, which is a step into winter madness.

We have no time for orthodoxy, however, nor the stem Christie, which you couldn't do, three weeks later, if you tried . . . provided, of course, you are the casual skier you probably ought to be. There's no use going frantic about this business. Let the experts do that.

That's the trouble with skiing. It has wheels within wheels, and stems within spills, and sometimes a profound sorrow within moderate limits. You'll regret skiing as many times as you regretted taking up golf.

That will be when you discover that the incompetent you took with you the first timeout, and who has skied three weeks (as you have) is doing a much better job than you are.

This upsets most of us.

But what would you do about it? Let him spoil your fun?

No use.

Otto Schniebs, who used to coach skiers at Dartmouth and who, heaven forgive us, is a much better philosopher than we, told the whole story of skiing in one brief eloquent sentence:

"Skiing is more than a schport. It iss a vay of life."

Which is true, of course, of any sport you set your heart into; but ours happens to be skiing. We may look at a divot with a cultivated indifference, but when we get in snow, no matter how deplorable it is . . . crusty, heavy, avalanchy, (sic) or packed . . . we begin kneeling like the truest fox hound in Kaintuck. It's a blood fever, no less.

It was about this time, though, that our illustrator, R. Gordon sneered over the reportorial shoulder.

"Fine and pretty," he said. "But as a lesson in either skiing or philosophy . . . knuts.

Which drew things back to a more academic level. You're about to embark on another trip.

Have you noticed that the snow texture wasn't the same the second week out s the first or the third week as the first or second? It's invariably a matter of amazement to all skiers . . . the veterans as well as the novices.

Ant then came another day, and another type of snow, and things went sour. No control. Skis ahead of the legs. Result, sitzmark. Right on the one-spot. Or right on the nose, as the skis stuck, and the anatomy pitched forward.

It's maddening, mister. Disheartening.

So we'll quote a mountain man, who learned his skiing in the days when you learned it the hard way, without benefit of ski instructor, press or clergy:

"No skier is worthy of the name if he hasn't gone into the mountains."

If he stays on that practice hill for all of his skiing live, he'll be no better than a lobby skier. How in the world can he tell what to do in different types of snow?

Which is gospel truth, confusing as it may sound. The snow on a practice hill isn't the snow you'll find two thousand feet higher. And the Coast country is alpine country, with a different snow type for every 500 feet of altitude.

Send a skier to 10,000 feet, for instance, on a warm, early spring day.

At 5,000 feet that snow may be wet. A trifle "warmer," say, than spring snow.

At 6,000 feet it's "spring" . . . firm, corn snow, not fluffy, but grabby enough to hold a ski from slipping in a turn.

At 7,000 feet there may be shade. Shade on snow means, sometimes, crust. Crust means spills.

At 8,000 feet, the sun again, a better, faster type of spring snow.

At 9,000 feet it may have snowed this morning. Temperatures are much lower. The snow may be powder.

At 10,000 feet, still more powder – the sort of snow a skier yearns for, if it's not too deep.

It would be unfair to ask you how you'd come down through those different types of snow. A trip like that should never be attempted, save with someone who knows. But you'll find, on the way down, that you'll speed freely here, and check sharply there, as your skis hit different grades of snow . . . and that's what the mountain man meant when he told skiers to go into the mountains.

He never said, but we will: That the thrill of accomplishment on a trip of that sort transcends even the physical ecstasy (sic) of booming down.

And, twenty years from now, don't try to tell me no.

(Readers desiring re-prints of previous articles of this series may obtain them by leaving their request with any Shell dealer.)

The Obsidian

March, 1938

Page 2

### **THE NEW SKI AREA**

By A. J. Vogel

The conclusions reached by members of a survey party which was conducted from March 6th to 16th by the United States Forest Service was that the territory around Three Finger Jack was the location they were looking for. The survey party was composed of Forest service officials, rangers, newspapermen and representatives of Eugene, Albany and Salem winter sports clubs. The group from Eugene were: W. N. Parke Willamette national forest recreational director; Wallace Rowland and Guy Wright, representing the Ski Laufers; Tony Vogel and Ed Thurston, representing the Obsidians; and Ned Simpson of the Register-Guard staff.

Although our club has always been in favor of the Three Sisters Country, and we know this area surpasses anything that may be developed anywhere in the Cascades, we will have to admit that under the present set up it will be most advisable for us to support and approve this Three Finger Jack area. It may be in the neighborhood of ninety miles from Eugene going by way of Marcola, Mable and Crawfordsville, then up the south Santiam highway which will be kept open along with the north Santiam.

The Forest Service plans to develop this area by easy stages. The first and most important will be the building of four and one-half miles of road from the highway to the base of Jack. IN time other developments will follow, such as shelters and a resort, and a natural down hill trail from the mountain to Lost Lake. A few members of the party went over this trail during the survey and report a very thrilling ride. It is steep and free of timber with the exception of the last quarter of a mile near the shores of the lake which will have to be cleared out.

This area will be about equal distance from Albany and Eugene, a little farther from Corvallis and about ninety miles from Salem. In view of the fact that these cities are combining to promote this area and that they should have, and deserve a place to ski, it seems advisable for the Obsidians and all the service clubs of Eugene to help these cities in their efforts. Later and not too far in the distance we and hope for and will have a development near Eugene.

The Obsidian

September 1938

Page 1

### **OBSIDIANS, INC., HAVE ORDERED SNOW**

(Column 1, third paragraph)

First on the new schedule is a work trip to Camp Sunshine. This trip should have been well attended, as wood will be needed in that high country on the week-end ski trips this winter.

For, with the shelter at Camp Sunshine made into a cabin, with bunks, the Forest Service have started what should prove the thing that will lead to some of that excellent skiing in the high altitudes in early morning and late evening.



(Skip the next paragraph, and continue)

But for the men who like to swing an axe, about this time of year, we recommend work trips on both week-ends, the 30th and November 6th to the Hand Lake area. The Ski Laufers with the help of a few Obsidians, have done a good job already this year, but the clearing out in that area,

(Continued on Page Three)

started by the Obsidians back in 1929, can still be improved upon. So let's all who can possibly go, lend a hand to make Hand Lake a real ski area.

Page 2 (Middle column, end of Why the Obsidians article.)

The Obsidians have for years been active in ski sports in Winter and have taken the lead in promoting skiing activities and will continue to do so this year. We are interested from a purely recreational and sports standpoint and not commercial; and the skiing program of the club deserves the support of all members and ski enthusiasts who go into it for pure sport. "TRACK" for a good year!

Page 3

#### **P.N.S.A. Member**

The Obsidians are now associate members of the Pacific Northwest Ski Association, a branch of the National Ski association. Paul Lafferty, past president of our club returned from Seattle with this news.

As members of the association it gives local ski enthusiasts an official standing and allows members to enter official competition without additional fees.

The reduced age limit to our club and the admittance to recognize competition are expected to prove an impetus to winter sports in our club.

Page 4

#### **TRACK**

The program for the coming season drawn up by the Ski Committee will be one of interest and attraction to all members of this organization, especially the great number of younger members who have come into the club during the fall months.

There will be organized trips into that unsurpassed wonderland in the vicinity of Camp Sunshine Camp Scott and the higher slopes of the Middle Sister. Those of us who know the many beautiful flower tinted meadows of the summer months will find a different picture in the winter. The valley and gullies (sic) and even the steep perpendicular cliffs take on a new form under the heavy blanket of snow which changes the country side from an imaginary fairy land into a reality and the high peaks forming a sky-line to the east reach up and kiss the sky that is bluer than you have ever seen it.

Plan at least one trip to this area this ski season. It can be done very easily in two hours from Frog Camp, with proper equipment.

There will be a group of ski instructors organized who will work out the problems with all members who register in the ski school and a definite date, place and time will be arranged to try to accommodate everyone. Special attention will be shown beginners.

As the season progresses it is planned to have at least four classes of ski teams to represent the club in competitive meets at Mt. Hood and other areas. There will be senior teams for both men and women and junior teams for younger boys and girls, of high school age. This will give all members an opportunity to try their skill against some of the other clubs and the juniors will have a chance to prove how well they are advancing.

In the near future Darrell Crooks of the Olympic Ski team will show some motion pictures which surpass anything that has ever been shown here. Watch the local papers for the date which should be along the latter part of November.

## FIRST TRACKS

The Obsidian  
December 1938  
Page 2

### SKI PATROL

Organization of the Willamette Ski Patrol, a part of the Northwest ski patrol, affiliated with a National Group, is well under way, with headquarters to be at Pole Branch Cabin.

Paul Lafferty, former Obsidian President, is division Chief at Eugene, with Guy Wright patrol chief of the Ski Lauferes and Tony Vogel patrol chief of the Obsidians.

The members of the patrol numbering about 40, were drawn from the Obsidians and Ski Lauferes.

Ten men of the patrol will be on duty each weekend to render assistance in case of accidents, and are distinguished by means of an orange and black armband.

Each member has been trained in the First Aid class of the American Red Cross, whose organization has given the patrol and First Aid kit.

Page 4

### FIRST-AID CLASSES

The First Aid classes sponsored by the Ski Patrol, are being well attended. These classes are being held at the City Hall each Wednesday evening at 7:30 and are open to any member of the Obsidians or Ski Lauferes.

Mr. John B. Patterson, of the Bell Telephone Co., is instructing the classes and is well known for his splendid work. Mr. Patterson has worked for many years here with the Red Cross First Aid courses and is making these classes especially interesting.

Register-Guard  
December 4, 1938  
Page 4

### Push Knees Forward Is Theme In New Skiing

By Bob Donaldson (Portland Ski Expert)

With the development of new ski areas such as White Branch Ski Hill and the brand new recreational areat (sic) at Hoodoo Mountain, together with up-to-the-minute ski equipment, skiing is taking its rightful place among our sports. With these improvements it becomes necessary for all skiers to learn controlled skiing so that they may thoroughly enjoy the sport. Modern ski equipment and especially downhill bindings have been developed as a result of the tendency toward "forward lean" in skiing. That is, thrusting the weight forward.

The popular demand of the ski instructor to his pupil to "bend the knees" has been rephrased in my technique to "push the knees forward." This not only causes the would-be skier to bend at the knees and ankles but pushes the weight of the body forward simultaneously.

### Push Knees Forward

#### New Ski Theme

"Push the knees forward!" This is the key action in learning to ski. One will find himself in a crouched or semi-crouched position, keeping the body weight well toward the front of the skis, head up and back straight at a slight angle. The muscles become relaxed.

The DOUBLE STEM is the best and most popular position for the beginner to master. It is accomplished by keeping both skis flat, but pointing them together at the tips and wide apart at the backs, forming a V-shape. Gliding in this position is known as "stemming." Stemming brings control, and controlled skis and skiing are essential to good skiing.

The stem can be easily turned into the "snowplow" by edging being in a stem position and stemming. This materially slows the skier and as the edging becomes more pronounced brings him to a stop.

Double stem turns are the result of properly directed weight. The skier turns left by shifting his weight to the right ski, which being gin (sic) a stem position and pointed slightly left is literally pushed to the left. The

weight must not be bounced over to the ski, but pivoted from the ankles sidewise bringing hips and shoulders above the right ski and leaves the skier facing in the new direction. Skis remain in a double stem position during the turn; skier in crouch.

### **Pick a Gentle Slope**

#### **On Which to Practice**

Likewise, pivoting the hips and shoulders to the right and shifting the entire weight to the left ski complete a right double stem turn. The ski poles are held fairly low at the sides, with the ring end extending backwards and downwards, several inches above the ground. Do not wave them out from the sides nor in front. The poles are a great aid in proper balance when skiing and are indispensable when climbing. Pick a gentle slope upon which to practice.

From the double stem turns, the skier goes to single stem, lifted stem turns and stem Christianas. Stem Christies and open Christies are popular high-speed turns.

But lest we forget, all skiing is not done on the snowfields. Conditioning through exercises should commence two or three months before ski time and during ski season, to harden soft muscles and loosen the stiff ones.

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### **AMERICANS SUPERIOR**

Canadian skiers generally consider their brothers in the United States as the better skiers.

Page 4, Column 2, bottom half of page:

#### **Ski Patrol Organized in Eugene**

(Text beginning with the second paragraph)

Eugene will have its ski patrol this year, the organization having been formed by leaders of the two outdoor organizations here with Paul Lafferty as division chief, Guy Wright is patrol chief for the Eugene Ski Lauferers and Tony Vogel for the Obsidians. The local ski patrol is affiliated with the Pacific Northwest Ski Patrol which is in turn affiliated with the National Ski Patrol.

Members of the ski patrol must graduate from a course in first aid and must be expert skiers. During days when many skiers are enjoying the winter sport, members of the ski patrol, designated by distinctive arm bands, will be on duty at the various centers, ready to give first aid to sprained ankles and knees, (hidden text) . . ed to give proper care to (hidden text) . . legs or arms and prepared to render other forms of assistance which may be required.

In the interest of promoting more complete safety and freedom from accidents in the sport of skiing, the National Ski Patrol was organized by the officials of the National Ski Association of America.

Page 4, (Advertisement at bottom of page, below Ski Patrol Organized article above.)

#### **Individual Hand Made SKIS**

HAND MADE FROM FINE QUALITY HAND SELECTED EASTERN HICKORY

Skis made to order. The finest ridge-top slalom and cross country skis.

Metal edges fitted. Save your skis with new inlaid edges of duraluminum, brass or stainless steel.

We also carry a fine selection of ski poles and ski waxes.

SKIS FOR RENT

#### **KAARHUS CRAFT SHOP**

1796 East 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue Phone 2444-R

### **Science Has Come To Aid of Skier**

Science has come to the aid of the modern skier by producing equipment which is as far head of that which he used a few years ago as (obsured) ships are ahead of wheel- (obsured)

Time was when the few hardy skiers of Eugene ventured into the McKenzie area with flat, ash or pine skis with toe straps and not much else in the way of equipment. But nowadays, for a modest expenditure, the skier can obtain equipment which is good enough for the best skier in the country. If he has more money, he can have nicer looking equipment, but it won't be any more practical.

Skis themselves have been improved vastly in recent years. Ridge tops are almost universal now unless the skier can afford the laminated variety. Hickory is still considered the best wood with maple, ash, and pine coming in (obsured)

### **Laminated Skies**

#### **Have Great Strength**

Hendershott's Gun Store is displaying the Otto Lang line of laminated skis this year. They carry a three months guarantee, have a three-ply lamination with the running surface of hickory, the core of ash and the top of hickory. The different sections of the ski are glued together with a newly developed water-proof glue especially designed to resist wet snow conditions so frequently found I the pacific northwest. The skis are exceptionally strong, permitting a full-grown man to throw his entire weight on the ski with the tip placed on the floor.

Straight-grain hickory skis may be obtained at relatively low cost this year. There seems also a tendency to use a slightly longer ski than was considered popular last year. The additional length is believed to give greater security in running due to its ability to absorb shock and to avoid wobbling.

Two new items in binding are shown this year. One is the new (obsured)-type binding with the front component designed so that it can't slip out. A new heel spring lock is being imported from France this year which is attracting considerable notice among skiers.

The new lock works on a safety principle which enables it to be set to release at a given pressure. Thus, the skier sets it to release at a pressure equal to his own weight; then, in case of a fall, the latch will release., allowing the boot to come free. It may be set to any weight or may be locked shut.

Duel metal poles, poles of ton-(obsured) cane with smaller rings than heretofore are features in new equipment this year. The smaller rings are said to be easier to handle in soft snow.

Page 5, Column 1, bottom of page:

### **Snow Trains Popular Here**

Demonstrating the fact that Eugene is "ski minded", hundreds of persons go on the snow train sponsored each year by the Eugene Ski Laufers. The trains (obsured) to Crescent Lake in the high Cascades where snow is deep and normally of the powder variety so much admired by skiers.

From 500 to 600 persons have been on each train sponsored here and an even larger crowd is anticipated for the two trains scheduled so far this season.

This year residents of Crescent lake have constructed an excellent ski run, 1,000 feet in length and over 100 feet wide.

\* \* \* \* \*

Maris Note:

Conversations with John Quiner, II, member of the WPSP, in the 1950s – 60s, and member of the 1960 NSP Olympics Ski Patrol, (National Appointment #2121) have encompassed many recollections. Early ones include John as a young boy, riding the ski train out of Eugene up to Crescent Junction. There were four cars: one for drinking, one for youngsters and teens on their own, and the others for adults and families. John recalls that after a day of skiing, the kids were really wet and piled back into their own train car. A portable rope tow was set up with a top sheave tied around a stump or tree and a small "one lunger" engine that could

pull about a dozen skiers up the slope. Later editions of The Obsidian, indicate a vote of the membership to but a portable Swede Tow Rope tow system. It was used in several places but often at Sand Hills on the McKenzie.

\* \* \* \* \*

Register-Guard

December 4, 1938

Page 4 (Verify date and page)

### **Obsidians Feature Year-around Trips**

By Louis W. Waldorf

President, Eugene Obsidians, Inc.

The western slope of the Cascades has served as a playground for the Obsidians in winter as well as summer for ten years. Climbing the majestic snow covered peaks and hiking over mountain tails in summer, and skiing in winter, these outdoor enthusiasts have found outlet for their energy and love of the out-of-doors.

For a number of years after the organization of the club, hikes were scheduled on most of the Sundays and week-ends in winter as well as in summer. Along with these hikes a few ski trips were scheduled. However, in later years, more and more numbers have taken to skiing I winter and ski trips are placed on the winter schedule.

Each week end will find a large number of members and friends headed for the skiing grounds where the snow is best. The McKenzie pass country and Three Sisters, center of the Cascades country from Eugene, have been the favorite territory. As the Santiam and Willamette highways are completed, no doubt trips will be made to these areas too; but it is likely that there will always be a demand for skiing trips up the McKenzie.

### **Schedule of Trips**

#### **Prepared Each Year**

A schedule of trips is prepared twice a year – one in the spring for summer trips and one in the fall for winter trips, giving names of leaders and assistant leaders, and as nearly as possible the locale of the trip. These schedules are available to the public; and a bulletin board is maintained at Hendershott's sporting goods store, showing where the trips area to be, and a sign-up list for transportation, etc.

The Obsidians are members of the Western Federation of Outdoor Clubs, comprising fourteen mountaineering clubs of the Pacific Coast. Meetings are held each Labor Day of representatives of all clubs. The Obsidians entertained the federation meeting three years ago at the White Branch winter playground.

There are two special winter ski outings which have become traditional with the Obsidians. One of these is the New Year outing, sponsored by the local walks committee, of which Harold Trotter is Chairman. Along with one or two full days of skiing a New Years' Eve party is held; with fun and dancing, liars' contests and entertainment. The location for this New Year outing has not been definitely decided, but will be announced soon. The skiing program, will include skiing for all who wish; and competition in down hill and slalom racing.

### **Winter Outing Is**

#### **Set At Mt. Hood**

The other traditional outing is known as the winter outing; and lasts from a few days to a week. This year the winter outing will be one week at the Mazama lodge at the base of Mt. Hood, where the club spent a delightful week last year. This will begin on Sunday, February 5. The Mazamas are now maintaining a regular caretaker and cook at the lodge so that all meals will be furnished. Skiing instruction will be offered members of the outing this year at a nominal cost. Trips will be taken to the ski bowl, with its "up-ski," and to Timberline by auto, with glorious rides down the Alpine ski trail! The outing committee is headed by Paul Lafferty.

The same committee handles the summer outing of two weeks to one of the high mountain areas. Last year's outing was to the Olympics. This year's outing has not yet been announced.

Two outstanding changes have been made this fall in the membership qualifications of the Obsidians. The minimum age requirement for regular members has been dropped from 20 to 18 years. Junior members with

no minimum age requirement are also now admitted. To become a regular active member it is still required that they go on three designated qualifying hikes, or climb to the summit of a major mountain peak.

In the past there have been many young people interested in joining who were unable to do so because of the age requirements. The members feel now that by taking them in they can render these young enthusiasts a real service, for as they go on trips with experienced leaders, they will learn how to take care of themselves in the mountains in the winter as well as summer. And when summer and the long warm days come, those who have joined because of skiing activities will welcome the hikes and mountain climbs and summer outings.

### **Skiing Instruction**

#### **Planned This Winter**

Skiing instruction will be undertaken this winter under the supervision of the ski committee, headed by Anthony Vogel, for both senior and junior members. The Obsidians are associate members of the Northwest Ski Association; and eligible to send representatives for competition. Ski teams are being organized for men, women, and juniors. Places on these teams will depend upon ability. Meets will be held with other valley teams. When sufficiently qualified, members will be sent to northwest competition.

The Obsidians are cooperating with the forest service and the Ski Lauferers in the organization and maintenance of the Willamette Ski Patrol. This is a unit of the National Ski Patrol; and it is the function of the ski patrols to have a number of their members on hand for (sic) emergencies at the ski grounds each week-end. Paul Lafferty of the Obsidians is divisional director of the patrol. All members of the patrol who have not done so are required to take the regular Red Cross first aid course.

Those who enjoy skiing, hiking, or mountain climbing, are always welcome on Obsidian trips, whether members or not. Naturally, the club will welcome applications for membership from those who have these same interests; but it is not necessary to join the organization before going on one of its trips. Information on ski trips, hikes, etc. may be obtained from the headquarters at Hendershott's sporting goods store or from any of the officers of the club.

Register-Guard

December 5, 1938

Page 2

### **Obsidians Stage Junior Ski Meet**

#### **Sand Hills Snow Slowed By Rain**

The Obsidians staged the first of a series of junior ski meets at the Sand Hills, atop McKenzie pass Sunday. Reports of the pass being closed held the attendance down to 55 cars and 100 Obsidians and Ski Lauferers. A Bend contingent arrived when the meet was half completed and Eugene skiers captured all places in the three events for boys and girls.

Cloudy weather and snow slowed by recent rains greeted the skiers.

Ralph Lafferty, Joe Jackson and Ruth Carlson captured top honors in the meet. Lafferty negotiated the slalom in 30 seconds to beat out Ed O'Reilly by a full second. Joe Jackson won the downhill from Wallace Clark by the same margin – one second. Ruth Carlson completed the girls' slalom in 64 seconds to nose out three others tied for second.

Junior Slalom – Won by Ralph Lafferty (30 sec.). Ed O'Reilly (31 sec.). Wallace Clark and Bud Hulbert (35 sec.), tied for third.

Junior Downhill – Won by Joe Jackson (9 sec.). Wallace Clark (10 sec.), second; Ralph Lafferty, Bud Hulbert, Jimmy Donahue, Coulter Mitchell, Ed O'Reilly, tied for third.

Girls. Slalom – Won by Ruth Carlson (64 sec.). Blanche Osborn, Eileen Baker, Harriet Plotts (65 seconds), tied for second; Elizabeth Edmunds (72 sec.), third.

\* \* \* \* \*

Maris Note:

Some additional newspaper research, following a lead from Obsidian, Janet Jacobsen, about the Eugene Ski Laufer group who had many outings with the Obsidians in the late 1930s and early 1940s, produced a lead that I was looking for. They often went to 1/2 mile west of the summit of McKenzie summit in an area known as the, "Sand Hills." I have talked with Jim Harrang who is mentioned in the 1946 & 47 articles as a patroller who substantiated the Willamette Pass Ski patrolling activities at the Sand Hill area, Santiam Pass ski area, and Willamette Pass Ski Area before 1940 and afterwards as a common patrol area range.

\* \* \* \* \*

[Plans for US Ski Patrol Outlined; Work Slated to Start This Season;...](#)

\$3.95 - New York Times - Dec 15, 1938

How the **National Ski Patrol**, which is expected to play an important part in the healthy ... All I hope this year is to get the **National Ski Patrol** working. ...

Register-Guard

January 9, 1938

Page 1

**Lane Winter Sports Enthusiasts Enjoy Hand Lake Skiing Sunday**

Nearly two hundred Eugene and Lane county sports enthusiasts, aided and abetted by several car-loads of Oregon State College students, put the ski slopes adjacent to Hand lake, in the McKenzie summit country, to good use Sunday under snow conditions which were near perfect.

More than seventy cars were parked near Pole Bridge cabin during the day. Traffic conditions were admirably handled by employees of the state highway department, whose giant snowplow widened a space for cars to turn around in, and who directed the parking of all machines.

Autos were backed in towards the Hand Lake trail, all facing towards Eugene. At a given time in the late afternoon, all skiers were asked to leave the hills and the "caravan" of autos started the return trip to Eugene at nearly the same time.

The snow was not powdery, but was light and fluffy enough to provide fine sport. The practice slopes on the western shore of the lake were crowded all day, with "Skimeister" Tony Vogel kept more than busy giving instructions to over a score of pupils.

The tournament hill, located to the east of the lake, proved popular among the more expert skiers and jumpers, many of whom made good use of the big ski jump constructed by the Obsidians and Ski Laufers last summer.

Members of the Willamette ski patrol, which has taken over the task of rendering first aid to the "wounded" when accidents occur, were not kept very busy Sunday as only minor accidents occurred. They urged skiers to observe the primary rules of skiing "etiquette" more carefully in the future.

Register-Guard

January 17, 1939

Page 2

**(Charles) Wiper Named Head Of Lane Red Cross**

(Continued from Page 1)

(Second Paragraph)

**Ski Patrol Organized Sunday**

Plans are being made by the heads of the various committees for vigorous activities during the coming year and the life saving committee, in conjunction with the National Ski association has organized a ski patrol

for the Willamette National forest. Under the guidance of Paul Lafferty the patrol, composed of 30 local skiers, will cover the snowline and render first aid to injured winter sports enthusiasts.

(Extract from third paragraph listing chairmen for various committees.)

. . . Frank Riggs, life saving; . . . . and Paul Lafferty will assist Frank Riggs on the life saving committee.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Maris Note: This appears to be a particular view of the Willamette Ski Patrol which was actually formed as published above in *The Obsidian*, December, 1938, consisting of 40 members. The core organizations do not include mentioning the Lane Red Cross. The following article, of January 29, refines the formation date to November and recognizes cooperation with the Red Cross.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Register-Guard  
January 29, 1939  
Page 3

### **Ski Patrol To Give Dance Wednesday**

To render first aid and help prevent accidents in the McKenzie ski area is the primary purpose of the Willamette Ski Patrol according to Hale Thompson, president of the local organization. To generally assist in the supervision of the unorganized winter sport through cooperation with the Willamette Forest service and the National Red Cross is the second reason why this group was organized last November, Thompson says.

Members of the organization are at present taking a course in First Aid instruction to qualify as regular Patrol members. Though membership in the Willamette Ski Patrol is voluntary, all members must have obtained the standard Red Cross first aid cards.

First aid kits have been donated (to) the Patrol by both the Red Cross and the forest service. In order to purchase more first aid equipment the patrol is sponsoring a dance to be held at the Del Rey café February 1, at which Paul Lafferty, regional patrol chief, will show motion pictures of skiing in Switzerland.

The Willamette Ski Patrol grew out of the need for some such organization in the McKenzie area, according to Thompson. Patrol members do not "police" the area, he pointed out. They have no real authority, merely suggest safety measures and help in whatever way possible in case of accidents.

Register-Guard  
February 3, 1939  
Page 1

### **First Snow Train Set for February 12**

Eugene's first Snow Train of the season will roll out of the S. P. Depot for Crescent lake early the morning of Feb. 12, according to an announcement made Friday by Norwald Nelson, chairman of the event being sponsored by the Ski Lauferers.

The hundreds of skiers who will make the annual jaunt will inaugurate the use of a new ski slide built a half mile from the Crescent Lake Station.

Tickets, at \$2 round trip, will go on sale Saturday at Babb's, Hendershott's, Montgomery Ward's and Washburn's.

The Obsidian  
March-April 1939  
Page 3

### **HAND LAKE DEVELOPMENT**

(From the Office of Willamette Nat'l Forest).

The Hand Lake winter sports area has become increasingly popular during the past several years as an early and late season ski area. During the early part of the past winter the area was used for several weeks,



until the McKenzie Highway was finally closed by winter storms. District Ranger Engles, of McKenzie Bridge, estimates that approximately 1415 people visited the area during the season, and the largest single day's attendance was 350 on Sunday, January 8.

According to those who have frequented this area during previous years, the present season's use has been the greatest so far experienced.

The Forest Service recognizes the need for additional improvements at Hand Lake, particularly sanitation facilities. There is need for a simple but adequate shelter to provide for the comfort and convenience of skiers during cold or stormy weather. Further clearing of ski runs also appears desirable. Ranger Engles made a survey of the Hand Lake area last winter, and worked out a simple but systematic plan of development. The progress of this development will depend upon the facilities available for this class of work. The Forest Service expects to complete necessary sanitation improvements on the area this summer, and if funds can be secured, a simple shelter will also be constructed. Additional clearing of ski runs, in all probability, will have to be postponed for another year or more.

The Obsidian

March-April 1939

Page 3

### **CROSS COUNTRY SKIING FROM ODELL LAKE**

How many old time Obsidians remember the very first SNOW TRAIN in Lane County? When we had a crowd of forty in one car – and our destination was Odell Lake?

Well, on March 5th, this past month, Bill McCracken undertook to organize such a trip – but ever more – after a hearty breakfast at the Odell Lake lodge, we were to ski down the new Willamette Highway to that little flag station of Heather.

A dozen was the crowd Bill assembled. We caught the midnight train, arrived at Odell lake while the moon and stars were still shining, and had a grand breakfast at the Lodge, now operated by Lowell Hall, and soon after sun-up were on our way.

The dozen skiers rounded the West end of the lake and were soon on the new highway grade, where with just downhill going, this new country flashed by covered with many feet of perfect snow. Before the roar of Salt Creek Falls could be heard, the new grade ended, but all for the better, as the slashed country for several miles made some of the best rides.

The snow was only 6 feet deep, so the tunnel was open, saving the skiers the thrill of skirting the canyon.

Lunch was eaten inside and many stalactites and stalagmites formed by the ice were in the tunnel.

Five more miles of skiing on the Eugene side of the tunnel and the station of Heather was reached a full hour before train-time. But all were talking of the possibilities of another such ride, as the 16 miles just covered was like many trips taken during the winter the first years of the club.

Those on the trip – Bill McCracken, Bud Nasholm, Doris Sims, Roy Elliot, George Korn, Dorr Hamlin, Leo Paschelke, Louie Waldorf, Ray Sims, Billy Hall, Howdy Hall and Howard A. Hall.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Maris Note: Bud Nasholm was the father of John Nasholm, WPSP member during the 1950s and 60s, (National Appointment #2186), as well as a member of the 1960 NSP Olympic Ski Patrol.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Page 4

(Column 1, **HERE AND THERE** Last two bulleted items)

Nice work! Ski Patrol. Hale Thompson heads the Patrol in this area.

Did you ski back in '29 and '30 at Lost Creek Ranch? The paper staff has been interviewing several reels and it is really history- it is hard to believe we did not use BINDINGS AND POLES. You can't even imagine the number of spills in each ride down the icy slide back of Lost Creek Ranch.

(Looking back to an article of at least one of these events referred to. See also previous retyping of that date.)  
Register-Guard,  
November 24 1930  
Page 4

### **20 SKIERS GO TO CASCADES SUNDAY**

A party of 20 Eugene people spent Sunday skiing in the Cascade mountains above the Lost Creek Ranch and a number used the toboggan slide at the ranch.

Skiing was excellent, there being plenty of snow on the ground, according to those who took part in the sport. The skiers went as far up as Pole bridge, which is 10 miles above the Lost Creek ranch.

Some of the men in the party spent some time brushing out the skiway at Deadhorse hill and the next time it is used it will be in fine shape, it is stated. They also build a jump which will add to the pleasure of the sport.

This was the first skiing party of the season. It is expected that some of the devotees of the pastime will go out each Sunday hereafter. The Obsidian cabins are headquarters.

Register-Guard  
May 16, 1939  
Page 2

### **Ski Patrol Names Honorary Members At Annual Meeting**

Reports on the past year's activities were given and plans made for the summer at the annual meeting of the Willamette Ski Patrol, Monday evening. Honorary memberships were conferred on John B. Patterson and Ray Engles.

Officers of the group, all of whom were re-elected are Hale Thompson, president; Dr. Norman Lee, vice-president; Dorr Hamlin, secretary-treasurer; Bill Parrish, patrol chief; and Bill Peltier, first aid chief. Plans were made for advance first aid classes. Members who qualify in this class will be eligible for membership in the national Ski Patrol. The first aid chief reported that 26 injuries, six of which were fractures, were treated during the past season.

The group passed a resolution to promote skiing in the McKenzie river and Hoodoo butte areas, and also to co-operate with the Willamette valley recreation council.

One of the projects for the summer will be marking ski trails.

The Obsidian  
September-October, 1939  
Page 1

### **HAND LAKE SKI AREA**

Heeding the call of the forest service to come up to Hand Lake and use their axes and saws, sixteen Obsidians and five Ski Laufers spent a day of clearing two long ski runs for the first work trip of the 1939 season Sunday, September 17.

Ray Ingals was the "boss" in charge and many a tree will be missing when the snow piles up at Hand Lake this winter.

The forest service is also building a shelter at the foot of one of the runs and is just starting to make this a real ski area for Eugene and vicinity. Let's all help when we can.

Those on Sunday's trip: Louis Waldorf, Percy Brown, Dorr Hamlin, Stella Nee, Mr. and Mrs. KcKee, Harold Trotter, Bob Swenes, Wallace Clark, Bryan Ryan, Walter Gilbert, Bill Parrish, Ray Simms, Bill Peltier, Leo Paschelke, Ray Ingalls, Guy Wright, Dr. Chas. Donahue, Thelmer Nelson and Norwald Nelson.

Register-Guard  
October 23, 1939  
Page 5 (Local meetings and events.)

**To Discuss Ski Area –**

Dr. Charles Donahue, Dr. Norman Lee and Guy Wright, local representatives of the Willamette Ski council, will be guest of the forestry service at Hoodoo Butte Sunday. The group will discuss maintenance of the Hoodoo Butte ski area.

**Ski Patrol to Meet –**

The Willamette ski patrol advanced class in first aid will meet at the Del Rey cafe Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Register-Guard  
December 5, 1939  
Page 7

**The First Time on Skis? Oh, What a Day! Girl Tells How the New Adventure Felt**

By Margaret Holford

The next to the happiest, most thrilling, most nearly flawless day in my life was the day I bought my ski suit and got some skis after months of scrimping and saving. Of course, the happiest was the first day I went skiing.

I had been planning on this skiing trip for weeks in advance. I went to every movie that even so much as advertised a snow scene and I watched the experts ski. It wasn't so hard if you just kept your head, I decided. I got a book on skiing. "How to Improve Your Skiing" looked the best title to me – the word improve was tactful – it sounded as if I already knew something about skiing. When I picked up the book, I noticed it did say skis should never, never be of a soft word, such as pine, (which mine were) and you should be able to bend your wrist and still reach your ski tops. My skis were my brother's (he's about six feet tall; I'm five feet three inches tall when I stretch) and I admit that they were long, but my motto is "never look a gift horse in the mouth" – especially when he has such a long mouth.

I even took "limbering up" classes in which the fundamentals of skiing were taught and the muscles most used therein (which included every one, I think) were exercised. But I had to drop that after a week because my parents were getting tired of seeing me stagger and limp around.

The night before the ski trip, I got all my things ready- everything I could possibly need from an extra pair of mittens to a sewing kit- in case I fell and tore my ski pants in an embarrassing place. In the morning I checked and rechecked everything to make sure I hadn't forgotten a thing – not even the matches and a compass. I was going in a truck so I lugged everything over to the meeting place. I decided it took a lot of heavy equipment to go skiing.

When I got to the truck everyone else was standing around waiting. Several of the boys came up and examined my skis. "No good," they said, "Pine" (with derogation) "Slow," they laughed. "If you can beat a snail going backwards uphill, you'll be going a lot faster than I think you can."

One or two of them looked scared. "You'll break your neck on those – things," they said. "You won't be on them for five minutes before they crack."

My heart sank. I felt lower than a degraded worm. But I looked at them and said, "I'll show you, you such and such blankety – experts. I'll show you." And I proudly ordered one of the boys to put the skis in the truck. "Carefully," I warned. "You might scratch them."

The worst part about it was they were right. My skis were slow. But then that was because I tried all their different ski waxes. Every person who had ever seen a ski knew just exactly the ski wax that I needed and they didn't hesitate to tell me. Each one agreed that the last wax recommended was absolutely foul. But one thing all waxes had in common was a foreign name – usually Scandinavian, and a foreign price.

Each time I leaned about a new wax I was hopeful. But the result was always the same. I still went slow. Then one day I hear somebody say they used paraffin pressed on with a hot iron on their skis. I couldn't believe it. Not an everyday commonplace thing like paraffin! But I tried it anyway.

The first time I went downhill so fast I couldn't even see the trees. But the people I left behind – behind, do you hear? – said that I barely missed practically every one.

As soon as I began to go fast I wondered why I hadn't been satisfied to go slow. The faster I went the faster I fell. So I decided that, if fall I must, I would learn how to fall. I referred to my ski book. It said you should relax and lean slightly backward and fall to the side – like a prima donna doing a faint. But how could I relax when the ground was coming up at me sixty miles per and trees rushing in on every side? Besides I was trying to remember the things I was supposed to do so that I wouldn't fall down.

There was one thing that the boys were wrong about. I skied and I skied and I skied but I could not break my skis. I certainly tried hard enough. I did everything that a skier shouldn't do and everything that is considered impossible for a ski to standup under. Still I couldn't break my skis.

What I'm wondering is who it was that started the rumor that pine was a soft wood?

Register-Guard  
December 5, 1939  
Page 7

### **Skiing Should Be More Popular, Obsidian Asserts**

Skiing should be better than ever this year, according to Ray Sims, member of the Obsidian club, because the forest service, with the help of skiers of Eugene, have developed and cleared out the Hand lake area on the upper McKenzie.

The Obsidians is the Eugene ski club, organized in 1927, and sponsoring both winter and summer outdoor activities for the past twelve years. The club uses the McKenzie pass region for their ski grounds. A ski lodge for the use of the members is also situated in that vicinity.

Last year the age limit was lowered, allowing junior members to belong. Several ski meets were won by junior members during the winter ski season last year.

Essential equipment need for skiing consists of the standard ski-shoe, a woolen outfit (sic), hardwood skis and ski poles. The skis are from 5 to 8 feet long, 4 or more inches wide.

Ordinarily, ski season opens sometime in November and lasts until April. Spring skiing has become very popular in the last few years. The same equipment is used, with the exception of the heavy clothing.

Last year about 600 people every Sunday, skied in the McKenzie pass area, proving that it has become a major sport.

Register-Guard  
December 5, 1939  
Page 7

### **Crescent Lake Snow Fields To Attract**

The snow train to Crescent lake has in the past accommodated 660 skiers and reports are that there is "always room for more." The slides at Crescent lake have been cleared of that annoying brush and undergrowth so the "going will not be so jumpy." The entire place has been revamped for the greater safety and enjoyment of the patrons.

In the Santiam area, the forest service has constructed a lodge which will accommodate 60 "overnighters," and which is equipped with sleeping facilities, a lounge room, and a caretaker for full time supervision. Running water and lights make the lodge "just like home."

At Hoodoo butte near there, the runs have been enlarged and the lodge enclosed for greater comfort. Two shelters are available in this area, with Ed Thurston, prominent Ski Laufer, on hand with his ski tow.

Eugene members of the Ski Laufers are cooperating with clubs from Salem, Lebanon, Albany, and Bend in the skiing project. The groups plan to work together, and will supply springs and mattresses for the lodge at Santiam.

Although insufficient snow now covers the mountains around Eugene for skiing purposes, it is expected that any day the white flakes will fall. Once the season starts, it lasts through January and February and has been known often to continue through July.

Register-Guard  
December 5, 1939  
Page 7

### **New Lodge Awaits Santiam Pass Skiers**

Although no snow has yet fallen on Santiam pass, local ski enthusiasts are preparing to invade the area after the first of the year to occupy the new Santiam lodge which is now receiving finishing touches by its builders, the civilian conservation corps.

The lodge will be ready for the skiers in January and will accommodate 75 people at one time. Meals will be served at rates prevailing in city restaurants.

The Central Cascades Recreation council is endeavoring to finance mattresses and springs for the lodge through sale of tickets entitling the holder to sleeping facilities at the lodge after it is completed.

The lodge is situated at the top of the pass and is in the center of a fine skiing area of 20 square miles. This area is found around Hoodoo butte and Three-Fingered Jack.

Register-Guard  
December 5, 1939  
Page 7

### **Instruction To Be Offered To Skiers**

The McKenzie ski school for beginners and advanced skiers will be held again this season. Although there will be no charge for teaching beginners, a small fee will be charged for advanced skiers for coaching during the season.

Those who take advantage of this service may obtain any week-end at the ski area from the instructor on duty. Plans are being made to train a group of fancy slalom running to be featured in ski meets. Persons interested in the school may get in touch with Tony Vogel through Hendershott's.

Register-Guard  
December 5, 1939  
Page 7

### **Excellent 'Ski Bowls' Nearby for Eugene Skiers**

Eugene skiers have a number of excellent bowls where they can go "schussing" or "slalomming" down the hillsides of the Cascades.

Available all season for the first time will be the Santiam ski area near Hoodoo butte. The Willamette forest service is now hastening construction of a larger near the bowl which will house between 50 and 75 people when completed.

The nearby skiing area is reported to be one of the best in the state. At present two small shelters are available there. Ed Thurston, local enthusiast, has installed a lift to make things easier for the devotees of the sport "nearest to flying."

The Cascade recreation council has formally petitioned for the permit to operate the organization lodge at Hoodoo butte, it was announced Monday by J. R. Bruckart, supervisor of the Willamette national forest.

The council will probably be awarded a permit as soon as details are worked out, Mr. Bruckart added. They will then be in charge of the use of the building. The council is formed of representatives of ski and winter sports clubs throughout the valley.

Another improvement recently completed at the recreation area is a spring house to make water available all through the year. Mr. Bruckart said that the North Santiam road by way of Detroit will be kept open during the entire season. The South Santiam road will be open until slides close it. The area is 105 miles from Eugene.

Under present plans the shelter should be completed by the middle of January. It is being built by forest and CCC workers.

The McKenzie valley also offers several excellent areas fit for skiing. The bowl farthest from Eugene at Sand Hill is usually the first one with sufficient snow. It is near the McKenzie pass summit. Sanitation provisions are the only improvements.

Since the McKenzie highway is closed soon after the heavy snows begin, the Sand Hill area is not available for much of the season. Skies then retreat to the Hand Lake area. Here the forest service has built an open shelter with a fireplace, provided sanitary facilities, and improved the trail.

The Hand Lake area is about 60 miles from Eugene. The ski bowl is only 1/4 mile back from the highway over a good trail.

Still closer to Eugene, but usually without snow for a larger part of the year, is the White branch area. A ski tow has also been installed there year by Ed Thurston. White Branch comes into use when the highway to the Hand Lake area is closed by heavy snows.

At present skiers have little to occupy themselves except waxing their skis, checking their gear, and practicing fundamentals in an imaginary snow field.

Snows are very late in coming this year. Every weekend skiers check the skies and the weather reports for a sign of snow. To date they have been greeted with clear weather and a continuation of Indian summer.

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#### **Ski Tow To Be Used At Hand Lake Area**

Something new for skies at Hand lake this year will be the ski tow operated by Ed Thurston. If enough snow falls at White Branch this winter, the tow will be put into operation there. Mr. Thurston also has a ski tow in the Hood area.

Register-Guard  
December 5, 1939  
Page 12

#### **Three Times Old Area Now Available In Hand Lake Section**

The skiing in the Hand lake area will be greatly facilitated by clearing which will accommodate three times the number of people it has in the past, it was reported. Trees have been brushed out and a shelter was built by the forest service facing the ski run, so those who tire of skiing may watch the others. The region will now accommodate from 700 to 800 sportsmen.

Register-Guard  
December 8, 1939  
Page 14

#### **Ski Enthusiasts Promote McKenzie**

A petition from various local groups interested in promoting the use of the McKenzie area for skiing purposes was taken to Portland (line obscured) president of the Willamette Ski Patrol, to be presented to the Oregon state highway commission asking that the roads to the area be kept open during the winter months.

Mr. Thompson was accompanied by William Parrish and Sterling Behnke, members of the ski patrol.

Pointing out that funds are granted by the commission for the use of other skiing areas, the petition states that they McKenzie area is the only satisfactory skiing country within reasonable access to Eugene and Lane county residents.

Local ski enthusiasts have spent a considerable amount of time in improving this area and it will provide skiing possibilities for thousands of persons until May of next year if the roads are kept open the petition reports.

Local groups which backed the petition are: Kiwanis, men's physical education department at the university, Eugene playground commission, Eugene recreational council, Obsidians, Ski Lauferers, Willamette ski patrol, junior chamber of commerce, Rotary club, chamber of commerce, and the Lion's club.

The Obsidian

December, 1939 – January, 1940

Page 1

### **LAFFERTY SCANS 1940 SKI SEASON**

By Paul Lafferty

All skiers eagerly await the first good snow-fall which will permit the active opening of the long over-due 1940 ski season. Dedication of the new chair lift at Timberline, Mt. Hood, and the Arnold Lunn races, have been postponed from Nov. 19, to Nov. 26, and as the weather still fails to cooperate, until Dec. 10. While the prolonged delay in the snow fall deters early enjoyment in participation of the sport, still the continued mild weather has afforded the forestry service and commercial operators to improve facilities for the better enjoyment of the winter ski season when it finally does come.

The Willamette national forest has cooperated in the improvement of skiing areas accessible to every community of the Willamette valley bordering on its confines. Major development has been in the Hoodoo Butte area. Adequate shelter facilities have been erected, and additional ski runs have been cleared. The forest service has constructed a shelter and established sanitary facilities in the Hand Lake area, and has provided equipment for the Obsidians, Ski Lauferers, and Ski Patrol to do considerable additional clearing in the Hand Lake area, thus enabling the opportunity for a far greater number of skiers of all classes to enjoy the sport of that favorite locality,

*(Continued on Page Two)*

### **1940 SKI SEASON**

*(Continued from Page One)*

and the Hand Lake ski grounds, so skiing at the established areas of the upper Willamette valley will be on a comparative level with skiing conditions found at other favorite spots in the northwest.

Dr. Norman Lee, newly elected chairman of the ski committee, brings plenty of pep and enthusiasm to this important department of the club's year around activities. The annual winter outing will be held this season, possibly a trifle later than last year's outing, and will likely be at Mazama Lodge, Mt. Hood.

Another item of interest is the establishment mainly through the interests of P. J. Bruckart, superintendent of the Willamette national forest, of the Willamette valley ski council. This is conceived as the parent organization of all of the ski groups located in the Willamette valley. This idea is a good one. The council was organized last spring, and already had done much to coordinate the activities of each of the separate member clubs into active programs that work out to the best interests of all.

The near approach of the 1940 ski season brings forth the old question, how long will the road be kept open to Pole Bridge. I believe that the increasing numbers of people from this and adjacent communities, clamoring to get up to the good snow available in boundless quantities from the vicinity of Hand Lake and Frog Camp are sufficient proof of the value of this recreational facility being established and maintained thruout (sic) the winter sports season.

It is a proposition that everybody of this community who is the least bit interested can take up as an individual project and do everything in his ability to put this long-hoped-for dream into actual operation.

If you skiers desire a year-around ski area and stabilized snow condition as that area equal to the very best in the country, there is a way to get it. Do no sacrifice the start that has already been made on this highway maintenance proposal – add momentum to the ball that has already been started rolling.

December, 1939 – January, 1940

Page 1

## **HAND LAKE SKI AREA**

By J. W. McCracken

When friends meet at Hand Lake Ski Area soon (we hope) they will find a new three sided shelter with an open fireplace which the Forest Service constructed this fall.

Through the combined efforts of the Willamette Ski Patrol, Ski Laufers and Obsidians, five work trips were held at the Hand Lake Ski Area during October and November.

A good turnout of hard working boys (not forgetting the good looking girls who made coffee) accomplished a great deal of work under the supervision of Forest ranger Ray Ingalls. The planning done by Mr. Ingalls and the excellent tools he furnished made every minute count. The boys who did the work will testify to the pleasure it is to use a sharp axe that will really cut instead of one

*(Continued on Page Three)*

## **HAND LAKE SKI AREA**

*(Continued from Page One)*

that will chew off a tree if perseverance holds out.

The skiing area we had last year has been more than doubled with three good runs for downhill skiing and a narrow one for the up-ski, all connected by a miniature timberline trail. When one reaches the top of the rope tow, he can select any type of run he wishes from a straight schuss on the steep slopes offered by the first runway to a leisurely winding slide down the trail to the lower clearing thence back across the lower portions of the other two runs to the base of the ski tow.

Because of these developments Hand Lake will be much more enjoyable than it has ever been before and will undoubtedly be used to the fullest extent of its facilities every weekend the highway can be kept open.

The Obsidian

December, 1939 – January, 1940

Page 3

## **McKENZIE SKI SCHOOL**

The “McKenzie Ski School” will be operation again this year, and although there will be no charge for teaching beginners (those who don’t know a stem turn from a cow) the advanced skiers (those who do) will be able to obtain coaching for the entire season at a very nominal fee.

Those who take advantage of this service will be entitled to “help” any weekend during the ski season, from the instructor on duty. There is a plan being worked out to train a group of these students to do fancy slalom running, as a group, and if the plan is successful there is a possibility of having something new to show at a ski meet, other than competition. The object will be to bring out grace and form in its finest degree for the interest of the non-skiing spectators. All those who are interested should get in touch with Tony Vogel through Hendershott’s.



The Obsidian  
December, 1939 – January, 1940  
Page 4

### **SKI TOW READY**

Hand Lake will have a much needed ski tow in operation this season. Ed Thurston, the “Tow King” (almost said Towhead) is responsible. He also has one in operation at the Hoodoo area. When are you going to have one up the Middle Sister, Ed?

The Obsidian  
February-March, 1940  
Page 2

### **SKI BUS**

Of special interest in the 1940 ski program is the establishment of a weekly Greyhound ski bus service to Hand Lake Ski Area. The company plans to provide one of their deluxe busses to accommodate the many university students and town people who have never been able to obtain transportation to the popular ski area. Round trip rates of a dollar and a half have been announced for the trip, which will afford anyone a full day of enjoyment and healthful sport at a very economical figure. The bus leaves town about 7:30 Sunday morning, and after arriving at Hand Lake will be kept heated throughout the day as a warm shelter for the passengers.

On the return trip it will stop at Belknap where the passengers can swim in the popular heated outdoor pool. The bus is scheduled to return to Eugene about seven o'clock in the evening.

The Obsidian  
February-March, 1940  
Page 4

### **SKI PATROL DANCE**

Willamette Ski Patrol will hold their annual benefit dance next Wednesday night, February 7, at the Del Rey Café. Purpose is to raise revenue to pay the current costs of operation of the Ski Patrol. These expenses are not great, but as the Ski Patrol is a purely voluntary organization there are no means of raising finances to carry on the small but necessary costs of the organization.

The Willamette Ski Patrol, going into its second year of service, has rendered distinctive service to many unfortunate victims of minor and major mishaps, while playing in the snow.

The Obsidian  
February-March, 1940  
Page 4 (Just for fun and entertainment.)

### **TALE OF SKIING WINS IN LIARS' CONTEST**

*By J. D. Hamlin*

I, with a ski party, found myself in the vicinity of the Three Sisters in a blizzard. The wind seemed to be blowing right around and around the mountains, so we turned our skis upward to keep from going to fast, and went up with wind, arriving on top of the Middle Sister. While the rest of the party was signing the book, I dropped off to sleep. When I awakened, the others had gone, and the fog was so thick I could not see which way to go.

I was bewildered, and asked the Sisters to help me, as I had to be at the Cabins by 8 o'clock for a New Year's dinner. The Middle Sister asked the South Sister to blow a cold blast from the open lake in the glacier on top. She did so, and the fog was frozen as hard and smooth as glass.

I recognized a tree top above the fog, and know I was near the cabin. I started for it, but on my way saw a deer near Deer Butte with its feet frozen fast in the fog. In passing, I grabbed it, tore it loose from the fog, and

took it with me. When I reached the tree, I kept grabbing the branches and went around and around the tree until I wore my way down and landed at the cabin.

I found that a skunk had taken possession and had driven everybody away, but as the skunk and scent had become frozen in the fog, I was soon able to cut the scent out of the fog with a shovel. I hurried into the cabin and found a big fire going. I began cooking the deer for New Year's dinner.

The news had gone out that a man had frozen to death on the mountain, and a big search party had gone out, stopping at the cabin for instructions. By the time they arrived and the women came back, I had everything cooked and on the table. I fed more than 500 people at that dinner, which all said was the best meal they had ever tasted.

The Obsidians all swear that I was frozen to death and that it was my spirit that came back and prepared the meal. They have never held another New Year's party at that cabin, always going to Belknap Springs of the CCC camp, but I am still alive and swear the story is true.

\* \* \* \* \*

Maris Note:

Tales of the effects of extremely cold conditions seem to have been popular around this era. Another example, which may be compared to Dorr Hamlin's story with the skunk odor frozen in the fog, is found in a few years earlier in the book, *Escape on Skis*, by Brian Meredith, Hurst & Blackett Ltd. London, England, 1938, pp 48,49. A guide to Meredith, on a lang-lauf into Skoki Camp, Alberta, Canada, during a stop at a half-way warming hut relates:

"...we never had it as cold as they did one winter twelve years ago north of Edmonton."

He paused to let me wonder how cold it had been then. "It ran to seventy or eighty below," he went on. "But you never felt it because it was so dry. The Husky dogs didn't seem to suffer, though they lived in a corral in the open, and buried themselves in the snow at night in the usual way,"

He was polishing the oil-cloth now (cleaning off a table). "A funny thing about the effect of the cold on the dogs, though. You couldn't hear them bark.

"It was so cold the sounds just froze in mid-air and fell at their feet. The ground was thick by the end of the winter with the barks and snarls and growls, all of which had frozen solid before they could reach your ears."

He pulled on his mitts.

"Of course in the spring, when the thaw came. . . the noise was terrific. . ."

And he opened the door and disappeared into the dusk, It was a good exit. . . ."

\* \* \* \* \*

The Obsidian

December, 1940

Page 1

### **Portable Ski Tow Approved By Board at Special Meeting**

Purchase of a portable ski tow by the Obsidian club was approved at a recent meeting of the board of directors. The model chosen is a Sweden Speed ski tow, Model C, seven and three-fourths horsepower. Cost of the tow is \$342.50 while the 1200 feet of rope specially treated to avoid soiling clothing costs \$14. Insurance will be \$27.23 a year.

Under proper management, the tow could be paid for in two years. Memberships for its use can be sold either by the day or by the season to Obsidians or non-members.

### **No Attendant Needed**

The machine weighs 350 pounds and uses about two gallons of gas a day. It can handle 12 persons at one time. No attendant is necessary to operate the machine after it is once started.' The two would probably be left at Hand lake, and later moved to the White Branch area. At present, two tows of this same make are being used at Mount Hood.

### **Skiing Starts**

The tow will be bought and put into use as soon as possible as mid-December finds the ski season well started. The cold wave that swept across the country brought the first heavy snow of the year to the Cascades on November 9. Many enthusiastic souls opened the season on November 10, and have been going each week since then.

Ski instruction will be offered this year on the McKenzie by Tone Vogel, while the Willamette Ski Patrol is also making plans for teaching skiing.

Register-Guard  
December 28, 1940  
Page 6  
**Ski Heil!**  
By Wallace Clark

**If you should ask a skiing-friend about the advisability of little Edgar buying a pair of the slats, your** mind will not be particularly set at rest when you are told that a great number of accidents occur in skiing. The seriousness of the accidents and the number of skiers involved will very probably depend upon to what extent the skier know what he is talking about and how high he can count. However, if he really knows his stuff you will be relieved to learn that accidents are really few and far between and that unfortunately those which do occur receive more publicity than is warranted. If Jimmy breaks his arm on the parallel bars at school nothing of any importance will be said, but if he should sprain his ankle on skis some Sunday his name is sure to appear in the obituary column the next day. But it is quite true that a certain number of accidents do occur. It was the effort to eliminate these that caused the National Ski Patrol System to be formed in 1938.

Away back in 1939 when skiing had really begun to take hold of the nation, ski accidents had reached an appalling degree. Most of these accidents could be laid directly at the foot of ignorance as to proper ski equipment and technique. As accidents grew more and more numerous, groups of experienced mountaineers and skiers, realizing the gravity of the situation, began to form rough organizations for the purpose of administering first aid in event of accident, aiding in the search for lost persons and, most important, publicizing ski safety. With the whole-hearted cooperation of the forest service, which had been caught unawares by this sudden trek into the snowy hills by the populace of the nation, the Ski Patrols began to take definite form, organization, and soon were an efficiently operating body of men engaged in the voluntary protection of their fellow skiers. It was in the year 1932 that the first Ski Patrol was organized. In 1938 the idea had spread so far and had been so universally adopted as a means of solving one of skiing's most pressing problems, that the National Ski Association organized the National Ski Patrol System. With a board of directors consisting of active doctors, who are ski enthusiasts, and men interested in the promotion of winter safety, it serves as a coordinating body binding together all the local patrols into a national organization. With a monthly news-bulletin of their own they are able to exchange ideas on safety, how to publicize safety on skis, and other specific problems which may arise.

**The Eugene area is protected by the division known as the Willamette Ski Patrol. It is made up of** well qualified skiers and mountaineers from Eugene who area willing to devote long evenings in the fall to study of first-aid and who are glad to spend their own time in patrol of ski areas during the week-ends, when most accidents do occur. This week-end marks the opening of their duties, as ten patrolmen travel to the Santiam Ski Bowl for patrol duty. The Santiam area serves so many localities that the different patrols alternate with each other in patrol of the area. Supplied by the forest service with badly needed first aid equipment, the patrol somehow manages to raise enough money each year for the purchase of needed replacements, such as toboggans for transportation of the injured, arm-bands, badges and also money for transporting the patrolmen to their patrol areas.

Some day I expect to see one of the patients murdered. How the patrolmen can splint a broken leg, carry the patient two grueling miles on a bucking toboggan, spend their own money to get him to a hospital and then have him fail to return the blankets that were used to warm him in the prevention of shock, and not even thank the patrolmen; that is more than I can see. They must have an awful lot of self control. It seems that if a person doesn't thank them for their help or return the blankets then he won't obey them if they ask him to ski a

little less recklessly around the novice hill. If you really want a good cry go up to Mt. Hood and hang around the Ski Patrol headquarters, where casualties from five thousand skiers are treated each Sunday. You'll think skiers the most ungrateful lot you know.

**Sitzmarks - - - I dare say that this snowfall is not particularly unwanted.** The community of Government Camp on the slopes of Mt. Hood depends so much on snow for its livelihood that his lack of it pretty nearly sent some of the businessmen into bankruptcy court. But it is here at last and we hope it is here to stay.

. . . Look for youthful Reese Stevenson to win the junior expert division of the Portland race at Mt. Hood Sunday. The U. of O. will be represented in a half-hearted way, but we wish them luck . . . When a swimming suit manufacturer finds a gold mine in knitting ski sweaters as does the Jantzen Knitting Mills, then there should be something we can do about baseball umpires in their off season.

Register-Guard

January 5, 1941

Page 6

### **Ski Heil!**

By Wallace Clark

(Extraction of second of three "commentaries.")

**The Skiers can't complain of lack of good snow anymore. Old St. Peter, the slat rider's saint, didn't** let them down. He just gave them a little scare. As a matter of fact snow like we have had the last ten days makes one believe in Santa Clause. It has been the kind of snow every single skier dreams of, crisp powder snow over a firm packed base and a bonus of sunny skies, making for fast, excellent skiing. If you have been holding out on waxing up your skis, waiting for better conditions, you can dust them off and put that lacquer or pine tar on, because you won't find any better conditions for a long time.

Ed Thurston's rope tow at the Santiam Ski Bowl received a sorely needed improvement last Sunday. When you have several hundred skiers riding a tow there are always a few who can't wait for their turn and must edge in ahead of the others, much to the dismay of the less adventurous ones. In the past the skiers who had the sharpest ski poles and hardest metal edges and then used them to the best advantage on the skis and persons of the other prospective tow riders usually got the most rides during the day. But three cheers can be given to the Willamette Ski Patrol, whose week it was for duty at the ski bowl, for after watching the brawl as skiers tried to grab the rope out of turn, they stepped in and exerting the authority given them by the forest service proceeded to make the procuring of rides an organized affair.

This item, among several other improvements which they affected, certainly made a hit with Mr. Burgess, district ranger in whose area the ski bowl is located. There was a great deal of favorable comment from the skiers who heretofore had little success in getting their rightful rides, although the boys who had been edging in were grumbling dark and dreadful threats. It is interesting to note, at this point, that the ones who had been the most inconsiderate were the local "experts" and racers. They of all people should be setting the example for better ski manners, instead of showing what a little self-conceit and notoriety will do to a skier.

Register-Guard

January 11, 1941

Page 6

### **Ski Heil!**

By Wallace Clark

(Column addresses ski competition: ski-jumping, slalom, downhill, and cross-country racing. It describes the courses, pole placement, skiing techniques for each. The following three extracted portions focus on slalom, downhill, and then followed with cross-country.)

A slalom course consists of a group of "gates" set on a steep slope providing an artificial trail for the skier to follow. The poles are habout (sic) eight feet high and about seven feet apart set firmly into the hard packed

snow, constitute a gate in a slalom course. These gates are generally set out in pairs and about forty in number make up the average slalom course. They are arranged in as deceiving a manner as the ingenuity of the course setter's mind allows.

He takes advantage of every change in terrain to place a unique arrangement of the poles. The skier must follow the course set by the course setter with great care, weaving in between every pair of flags in the order that they are placed on the hill. The skier who can negotiate the course in the shortest possible time generally has the best ski ability.

In slalom a mastery of all the fundamentals of downhill skiing is essential. The stem-christiana is the turn most relied upon but without a complete mastery of the lowly stem or snow-plow even this is useless (note to some Eugene would-be Jr racers!) When you see world champion slalomist Friedl Pfeifer of Sun Valley doing some beautiful slalom running next time, just remember that without his mastery of the stem he'd still be back in Austria on the practice slope.

**The most dangerous of all forms of competitive skiing is the downhill race. A thrilling race for the spectator to watch and fearsome for the races to run,** it is generally about five miles long with a drop of about three thousand vertical feet. Speeds obtained in a race of this type often exceed 60 m.p.h. The sole requirement of the race is for the racer to "get from hyar to thar in the fustst time with the wholest body." The racer need not have any particular skiing ability or technique if he can stay on his skis, and all that takes is courage and stamina.

At one time this race was a good test of a skier's ability, forcing him to pick his own course down the mountain, the one he could best negotiate considering his ability. Now it is changed. All the racers go the same way - the straightest and quickest - and the races with the best legs and wax wins. It is a foolhardy race, although a thrilling one, which even its greatest participants denounce as "madness." Dick Durrance, national downhill and slalom champion openly condemns it as the easiest suicide known.

Each year several fine young racers, last year one of them was Sig Hall of Seattle, added to the list of skiers who do not know that the world will not long remember nor care what they did in a downhill race. Better to place last and live to see another day. Better to give your life for some of the really great cause the world is fightin (sic) for, than to be carried off the mountain by the ski patrol after ripping into a jagged rock, unseen in the fog.

**Cross-country racing is the race calling for the most knowledge of the sport and also for the most exertion by the skier** (perhaps one of the reasons it has taken a back seat in America). It is generally about 14 miles long and overy (sic) varying terrain having equal parts uphill, downhill and on the level. To win a cross-country race requires great intimacy with the art of skiing and great physical and mental training. One must be perfectly familiar with the different strides that he can use, with the likely snow conditions that he will run across and the type of wax to use for each. One must wax before the race for the dozens of different possible snow conditions that he will encounter during the 14-mile race; think of that the next time you damn the manufacturer for making so many different kinds of waxes and you can't decide which one to use for powder snow.

The Obsidian  
February, 1941  
Page 1

### **Highway Closing Hinders Skiers**

By Alvin Lynch  
(Obsidian Ski Chairman)

This ski season has been marked by a great many ups and downs, particularly for those whose favorite habitat is the McKenzie area. With an early snow-fall skiers' hearts were soaring high. "Boy! It sure looks great this year!" - and then the rains came. By the middle of December three and one-half feet of snow had faded away.

The ski tow purchased during the midst of the heavy snowfall was not put into operation until the last Sunday in the old year.

There were three good weekends of skiing, including New  
(Continued on Page Two)

Year's Day. Then, an ugly rumor began circulating. The road wouldn't be opened to Hand Lake the next Sunday. With no snow at White Branch this looked mighty serious, but with support from the Greyhound Bus line the highway commission was prevailed upon to plow the road out another week-end.

A flying trip to Hand Lake to bring out the ski tow was made necessary by the closing of the highway, which was, this writer believes, absolutely unnecessary because there was only about 12 inches of snow in the road, and 30 inches on the level. This closure should be heartily opposed and protested by every Obsidian in every way. Only by sticking together and fighting for a winter road to the McKenzie summit will the area be available to Skiers in years to come.

The other areas are not quite satisfactory to those who live in or near Eugene. Crescent lake on the Willamette has been visited, but the area is small, the runs are very rough, and the cross country trail is small possibility because of the heavy timber.

Hoodoo in the Santiam area, a good ski ground in most respects, requires too much traveling time and not enough skiing for a one-day trip. Bohemia, with about 20 miles of mountain road and two or three miles of uphill skiing is not as accessible as most people would like.

Page 2

## HERE AND THERE

Brian Ryan is giving instruction at Hoodoo ski bowl. His services are available to all Obsidians at no cost.  
+ + +

Paul Lafferty is in charge of the 15th infantry ski patrol, stationed at Mt. Rainier National Park. Paul spent the past weekend at home, skiing at Hoodoo; and Jean returned to Mt. Rainier with him Monday.

Page 4

(Photo with caption. See Appendix A for captioned photo.)

**A PLEASANTLY** familiar sight to many Obsidians is the Santiam lodge, above, which will be headquarters for the annual winter outing March 16 to 23. Besides skiing, skiing, and more skiing at Hoodoo Bowl, there will be several interesting cross country trips. The outing committee urges that those who wish to attend sign up as soon as possible.

Register-Guard

March 1, 1941

Page 6

## SKI HEIL!

By Wallace Clark

**One more week like the last one and we'll all be smearing skare on our skis, Skol on our faces** and heading for the high mountains and spring skiing. Spring skiing is just about the best skiing that there is. A bright sun, blue sky, corn snow and a high mountain and a skier has paradise. Yep – stuff your ruck-sack with wax, sandwiches, sunburn lotion and (sic) extra parka then hoist your slippery-slats to your shoulder and you are off to a winter sport with a summer sun.

If you haven't been skiing much this year and want to get away from town for one enjoyable week-end why not come with us on a trip to Sunshine Shelter? Let's shoulder the hickories and head for the mountains. Let's drive to Frog Camp next Sunday, unload the skis, put on our climbers and hike in to the base of the Middle Sister. It's 4 miles into Sunshine, up a steep grade. You'll get tired but the mountain air makes you like it. When we get there we'll rest awhile (you'll be easily persuaded). Then while the snow is still slightly frozen we'll play around the shelter, maybe go up to Prouty's Memorial and take a nice fast ride back down to the shelter.

Early in the morning while the air is still icy, the snow if fast. So until about 11 o'clock we'll ski hard. After eleven the snow gets soft as the heat of the mid-day sun hits it. Then stick the seal skin climbers back on

and, leaving your pack below, start up the tree-less slopes of the Middle Sister. Take it nice and easy; there's no hurry. Amble along until about two or three in the afternoon; by that time you should be very near the top. If you don't want to go clear to the top – what the diff'. Go as far as you want and where you want, the mountain's plenty large enough. Go up to the head of the glacier if you want, or perhaps only to the Horses Neck. You'll really be surprised at how easy it is to climb on skis is all covered with a deep mantle of snow.

**Rest awhile at the top, or wherever your legs took you, and enjoy the view.** That a nice way to say that you're tired and want to blow awhile. But you **will** be amazed at how clear the air is. It's spring air and there's no smoke or dust in it, you can see for miles. Look to the south. There's the South Sister and a lake on top, there is Broken Top and majestic Diamond peak. Farther south is Mt. Thielson and clear on the horizon you see mighty Mt. Shasta so far away, yet you can hardly believe it's in California. Now swing around to the north, past Elk lake, Tipsoo, Castle rock the McKenzie valley, Mary's peak, until you look due north. Before you stretching for hundreds of miles up into Washington lies the great Cascade mountain range. Great glittering peaks of white snow, you can see them for miles, stretching to the north. Farthest to the north a white cloud-like spec identifies the Evergreen State's Mt. rainier. To the left of it you can see Mt. St. Helens and to the right Mt. Adams.

Now we go south across the blue Columbia upon whose south bank perches Oregon's own Mt. Hood. It looks so close you almost think that the tiny black specs you see on Hood's wide snow fields are skiers, like yourself. We gaze southward from Hood and see Mt. Jefferson, Three Fingered Jack "the Black Demon of the Cascades," until nearest us we see sheer Mt. Washington spiraling up into the sky. Now lean back onto your pack and look up. Watch the fluffy white cumulus clouds go billowing by and wonder why people stay in town on Sundays.

**Rest some more, there is still no hurry. In the mountains time waits for you. With the rest of the gang peel off your shirt, smear sun-tan lotion on and stretch out on the rocks, feeling the warm spring sun shine on your back as you get your pre-season tan.** You'll probably soon doze off to sleep or maybe just lie on the warm rocks and talk. Talk about this wax or that wax, this mountain climb or that one. More likely you'll ask your pardner (sic) if he has any of that chocolate left in his ruck-sack.

Soon, as the sun gets a little farther down in the sky, it will begin to get chilly. Now a cool breeze will spring up and you'll hastily don shirt, sweater and cap. But don't leave yet, the snow is just right. Play around, do stems, Christies, glendesprungs, have a short race and watch the sun sink lower.

By now the snow is fast, even frozen a bit. We had better start down. We shrug into our parkas before starting. Then with a sharp yell, for the thrills to come, we are off down the mountain. The wind is cold and it cuts into your eyes, the sky is clear and the snow is like lightning. Half-way down we pull into a sharp check to stop and rest. It is too cold to talk now and as we gasp for breath we can only make motions with our mittened hands to describe the way we rode that last "schuss" or the cornice before it. It's easy from here on down so we open 'em up and take it wide open. Two miles of down-hill running! Quickly we arrive at the shelter and grab our packs; we must be off.

The leather on the packs is stiff, it's freezing now, we've got to get a move on it. Hey! Hurry up! Do you want to come out of here in the dark? But before we are half-way out we have to stop, open our packs and take out our head-lamps.

The rest of the way is fun.. With only a spot of light to guide us we wind in and out of the tall jack-pine. Now we see the highway and are soon strapping our skis on the ski-tote and loading the ruck-sacks into the car. Before starting home we turn for one last look at the mountains. We stand silently as we watch a feathery wisp of cloud, luminous in at the star-light float softly over the top of the Middle Sister; over the very spot where we stood not over two hours ago. Then a group of silent mountaineers we climb into our cars and head for home in the valley below.

So ends a spring ski trip into the Cascades; why not come along yourself next Sunday? We'll all be there.

## **SKI HEIL!**

By Wallace Clark

**After writing such a sentiment-tinged article on winter mountaineering two weeks ago that it lured** even the writer into the mountains to see if it was really so, I feel that I shouldn't drop the subject entirely. Before again turning the column over to skiing ala ski-tow and forgetting the appreciative side of skiing I would like to mention a few points of interest about the technical side of winter mountaineering.

Spring and winter mountain climbing with the aid of skis is a phase of the sport which while ancient in Europe is extremely new in this country. More and more mountaineers are turning to skis as an aid for winter ascents and many more skiers are beginning to notice the mountains as something that deserve a little investigation. Being as new as it is in this country it is bound to have a few draw-backs. In the "old country" they have done it long enough to experience the full pleasure of winter climbs on skis and they have had enough experience to fully understand the dangers and hazards involved in winter climbing. And there are plenty of hazards and dangers that will engulf the unsuspecting climber.

When one goes into the high mountains in summer it is always a little risky, but in winter it is a thousand times more risky. The chances of exposure are increased to where it is almost fatal to be injured and have to remain all night on a blizzard-swept mountain. Avalanches are frequent especially after new snowfalls or after a slight warm spell which loosens the snow fields. Skiing can always be dangerous and in the mountains it is awful thing to break a leg. Every year the mountains of America claim a dozen or so more victims, often unavoidable accidents but more than likely the results of fool-hardiness or ignorance of the dangers.

When planning a trip into the high mountains for some spring or winter climbing be careful, don't rush off half-cocked. Observe a few simple rules that may save you a lot of grief and the Obsidians search committee or the Willamette Ski Patrol a lot of hard work.

**It is never necessary to go into the mountains alone – even if she doesn't love you anymore. Never** go in a smaller party than three. Then if something should occur one can go for help while the others or other, person can remain with the accident. Or if one should slip two can often pull a single person out of a crevasse but one alone is helpless. Only fools go alone and jeopardize the lives of those who would be forced into search for them should an accident occur.

After 5000 feet above sea level, and on up blizzards come up quickly and are fierce elements to deal with. Plenty of clothing is a safe precaution to have.

When you are ready to start out and there are a few very, very innocent clouds floating around in the sky and you wonder just whether or not you'll need your parka or not or that extra pair of mittens think of this little saying. Concocted by Harold "Blue" Trotter, veteran mountaineer of these parts it goes somewhat like this: "You can always take off and carry what you brought along but you can't put on what you ain't got." Simple? I thought so until on a June climb of the Middle Sister I was foolish enough to wear Boy Scout shorts, and was greatly enlightened as to the rapidity with which a blizzard come up. Better to play safe.

Speaking of avalanches, never climb after a snowfall, or after the sun has just come out. Stay out of the valleys and climb on the ridges. On knife ridges, have one person walk on one side of the ridge and one on the other side and so on, thus if one slips the other counterweights him. If you have to go across a slope that is at a dangerous pitch and looks as if it might avalanche, don't diddle on the way, get across as quickly as you can and don't stop long enough to put any strong weight on any one spot. Let one go across at a time, using the rope to belay. If possible go straight up the slope, not at an angle to a vertical but straight up, and each one walking in the other's footsteps.

It is a sensible idea to take an extra pair of almost everything. If you lose your mitts, you'll be darn glad to dig the extra pair out of your pack. Or if you accidentally step on your smoked glasses, that extra pair in your parka pocket may save your eyes for future use.

**It is essential that you take proper climbing equipment or else –. Ice axes, crampons and a 110 – 125 foot rope** are "musts." Ice axes and crampons are a little strange to the novice and it is wise to try to learn to use them at every chance you get. Take a day off some time and just practice cutting steps up a little ice



wall or snow field and you may learn lots. It is no good to have the equipment if you can't use it right. Speaking of rope, an English imported linen rope is best but very expensive and if like most of us you can't pay \$10 for a 100-foot length, get a good four-strand hemp and use it carefully. Be sure it has a test breakage of at least 3000 pounds. You should throw it away after every climb as little defects are bound to occur that will fray it when you need it most, but if you carry a first class rabbit foot you can use it all winter, if you go to church regular like.

In conclusion take a few tips out of the Swiss Mountain Guides Handbook. They say to carry a small ball of red yarn which on dangerous slopes you let out and drag behind you. This serves as a guide to the body if an avalanche cuts loose and carries you off down the mountain. One thing we in America have overlooked with an eye to extra weight is considered a necessity and that is a small 24 inch, 2 foot aluminum shovel to be used in hunting for the corpse delecti. (sic) Take an extra tip. I mean a ski tip. The tip is the most easily broken part of the ski and it's a tough job to walk some 10 or 12 miles or even one, if you want to argue, mile in deep snow with a tipless ski. These tips are made of aluminum and can be purchased at almost any sport shop.

I have not covered the subject by any means but I hope it shows you that something besides a pack-sack and a tuna-fish sandwich are needed, if you don't want your widow to collect the capital sum on your accident policy.

Register-Guard

March 24, 1941

Page 1

(Photo with caption.)

**THE WILLAMETTE SKI PATROL** is shown at work here on a victim in the Santiam ski area recently. The patrol, organized two years ago, took up its duties at Santiam Sunday. In the picture, left to right are: Bob Swennes, Dr. Norman Lee, Hale Thompson (kneeling), Sterling Boehnke, and Alvin Lynch.

The Obsidian

April, 1941

Page 1

### **Obsidian Skiers Make Early Climb**

Another record was broken recently when the earliest known ascent of the Middle Sister was made on Sunday, March 9. Those making the trip were leaders Ralph Lafferty and Wallace Clark, Frances Eaton, and Reg Marcrow of Vancouver, B. C.

The party left Eugene Saturday night, and were at Frog Camp by midnight. At 3 a.m. they had reached Sunshine Shelter, where they took time out for a brief rest and nourishment. Starting the climb at 9 a.m., they reached the peak by 1:45 p.m.

### **Dangerous Footing**

The climbers found glare ice the last 900 feet of the trip, and found their worst footing over a 100 foot glacier head wall with a 700 foot drop, which required an hour and 15 minutes to negotiate, with the aid of ice crampons and a 110 foot rope. All but the final 1000 feet of the climb were made on skis with seal skins to prevent slipping.

Although there was a mild gale, members of the party found the atmosphere clear, and from the top of the Sister, had a view that reached from Mt. St. Helens on the north to Mt. Shasta on the south.

The Obsidian

September-October, 1941

Page 1

*"Show me your God!" the doubter  
cries.*

*I point him out the smiling  
skies;*

*I show him all the woodland  
greens;*

*I show him peaceful sylvan  
scenes;*

*I show him Winter snows and  
frost;*

*I show him waters tempest-  
tossed;*

*I show him hills rock-ribbed  
and strong;*

*I bid him hear the thrush's  
song;*

*I show him flowers in the  
close –*

*The lily, violet, and rose;*

*I show him rivers, bobbling  
streams;*

*I show him youthful hopes and  
dreams;*

*I show him stars, the moon, the  
sun;*

*I show him deeds of kindness  
done;*

*I show him joy, I show him  
air,*

*And faithless goes his way, for  
he*

*Is blind of soul, and cannot see!*

- John Kendrick Banks

### **Attention – Women Skiers**

Several of the girls who attended the Ski Meet at Mt. Hood last spring are formulating plans for a women's Ski Organization similar to that formed at Mt. Hood. The purpose of the organization will be to promote competitive skiing and to develop women competitors in this area. Women who desire to compete as well as help with the sponsoring of ski meets will be urged to join. All clubs belonging to the Willamette Recreational Council will be invited to join.

The development of women skiers has been far behind that of the men due probably to the proper stimulus for them to get into the races. Most girls are not desirous of entering Class A competition but will find there is a lot of fun to be had in entering Class B and C competition.

Class B is for advanced skiers and Class C consists of girls who have never entered competition or at least never done well in any kind of racing. Class A is for those capable of entering divisional championships.

The plan for organization would be to have instruction meetings on skiing; racing instruction; instruction meetings on officiating at tournaments. If the organization was able to sponsor a meet, a good many persons would be required to officiate and handle housing etc., therefore all women interested will be urged to join even though they do not desire to compete.

Register-Guard  
October 17, 1941

Page 12

### **Obsidians Schedule Sunday Work Trip**

In preparation for winter skiing the Obsidian club and Willamette Ski Patrol will take their annual play and work trip next Sunday to clear trails. The ski patrol will also make a special defense survey at the same time.

Wives and families of the members are invited to attend as it is planned to make this as social as well as a working trip.

Register-Guard  
October 25, 1941  
Page 3

### **Winter Sports Areas Around Eugene Greatly Improved**

The winter sports area surrounding Eugene has undergone improvements over the summer, says R. A. Elliott of the Willamette forest office.

A downhill ski track one mile long has been cleared above Hoodoo ski bowl, which is its terminal point. Two overnight ski shelters have been constructed – one on the slope of Three Finger Jack, and one at Big Lake. Ski trails from Hoodoo bowl have been connected with Blue lake and Suttle lake so that cross country trips can be made with the aid of automobiles. A ski run has been completed around Hot Rock.

The Santiam pass lodge came in for its share of attention. A newly equipped electric plant will furnish light for the lodge as well as for a gentle ski slope near the lodge, making night skiing possible.

Mr. and Mr. Wayne Branden were granted the ski lodge concession at a recent meeting of the Central Cascade Recreation council at Albany.

An additional room at the ski lodge will soon be dedicated, and reserved solely for the use of the Ski Patrol, Elliott said.

Rustic steps from the highway to the lodge have been constructed, removing danger of falling on slippery ice which has been a hazard there. The state highway department has cleared a 3000 foot parking area, and widened and graveled the loop road from the lodge to the highway. Between 9000 and 10,000 visitors stopped in the Santiam area lodge last year, and the forest service expects to see at least 15,000 during the coming season.

## OPENING RUNS

Register-Guard  
November 22, 1941  
Page 1

### **Skiers Offered Chance to Limber Up, Improve Skiing**

Skiers and winter sports enthusiasts are asked to do a little “back bending” at the new playground just north of the Willamette highway summit as part of their “setting up exercises” for a winter sports season expected to break all records.

Dr. Omar Gullion and Dorr Hamlin, veteran Obsidians, will lead a party of axe men out of Eugene Sunday morning at 6:45. They will have two large cars at the Register-Guard office on Willamette street at that hour and they are asking for some stout-hearted and strong-armed volunteers.

“There is no law against other cars reporting at that time and taking a whole battalion of workers to the scene of action,” said Dr. Gullion.

C. B. McFarland, district ranger at Oakridge, will be on hand with a gang of good woodsmen. Roy Temple and people from the Odell and Crescent lake sector will furnish a tractor and tackle.

Not waiting for federal funds to finance the playground which the Willamette National Foresters have laid out on the Willamette as the first step toward replacing the old Hand Lake playground, the Gullion-Hamilton-McFarland-Temple combination proposes to do it now” and get this area ready for use immediately. They advise:

1. Wear tall boots because there is already about 8 inches of snow at the site.
2. Bring a sharp axe or a hazel hoe to grub out brush.
3. Bring your own lunch, to insure your own good humor.
4. Bring your skis and play-things if you feel that all work and no play may become tiresome.

Plan is to clear out the small trees and brush on several wide runways leading down into a snowy meadow and to make a number of runs and shoots – “not for experts but plenty good for the average skier.”

When this job is done the leaders plan to get busy on a much larger project of a six mile road to the slopes of Diamond peak where there is an area said to be potentially better than Mount Hood or Hoodoo Bowl or the more famous winter play areas.

Some of the “younger set” according to the veterans are still clamoring to make the state highway department open the road to Hand lake and have not shown much interest in the voluntary axe-swinging, but Gullion and Hamlin say that’s okay with them because the youngsters will come around when things are ready.

The highway department has refused to keep the McKenzie highway open to Hand lake because it has only enough rotary plow equipment for the all-year highways and claims the weekend travel to the Hand lake area would not warrant the expense.

Gullion says the work party will be like old times in the Obsidian organization when volunteer crews built the first shelters and playgrounds in the Lost Creek area.

Register-Guard  
November 25, 1941  
Page 1

### **Volunteers Begin Clearing of New Willamette Summit Playground for Winter Sports**

More than 150 feet of clearance from “the bowl” up the slopes of “McFarland’s Butte” was accomplished Sunday by 14 volunteer workers at the new Willamette Summit winter playground, according to Dr. Omar Gullion, Dorr Hamlin and George Korn, who are acting as a temporary citizens’ committee to work with the forest service on this project.

The committee is now calling on Oakridge, Westfir, Cottage Grove, Eugene and Gilchrist (the new mill town across the Willamette pass) to send out volunteer workers and representatives the coming weekend and each weekend as long as weather permits, and as soon as possible a more permanent organization will be elected to conduct the work.

### **For Everybody**

"It is not our purpose to replace or compete with any of the mountain sports organizations now in existence and to which most of us belong," said the three. "The function of this new committee or association will be simply to get this additional winter playground into shape for everybody who likes winter sports, and everybody is invited to join us in building up the whole program of winter sports in the Eugene area."

Clearance at the Willamette Summit area has proved unexpectedly easy, according to the Eugeneans. So far it has not been found necessary to cut a single tree because the soil is loose and thin and Roy Temple's small tractor merely hooks on with a drag line and jerks them out by the roots.

### **Logs For Shelter**

The volunteer workers then are put to work lopping off branches and burning them, after which the larger logs are hauled to a cold deck where they will be stored for

SEE VOLUNTEER STORY PAGE 2

*(Continuation, Page 2, column 3)*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

cutting up into firewood after the better sticks have been sorted out for building a temporary shelter house.

Dr. Gullion has advanced enough money to keep Roy Temple and his tractor crew busy on the clearing job through the week so that by Sunday there should be nearly 1,000 feet of the slope ready for cleaning up and dressing up into ski runs.

The tract selected by the government foresters is only about 200 feet from the main road on the summit of the Willamette highway where there will be parking for hundreds of cars. A screen of trees will be left bordering the highway, but paths will be cut into the area.

The playground tract itself is marked out 1200 feet wide and runs east more than a mile toward the summits of two low buttes, the larger of which the group has "named" unofficially for District Ranger C.B. McFarland, or Oakridge, who is one of the most enthusiastic workers.

### **Run Cleared Out First**

"The forest service people have advised," says Mr. Korn, "that we first clear out this main ski run. Then as the use of the area develops it will be possible to build additional runs or variations all the way to the top of the two buttes and the saddle in between and the bowl or meadow at the base can be widened out to suit the requirements as they develop. There are a couple of small lakes or ponds in this bowl which already used for skating.

"This development is intended mainly for the average skier, the average man, woman or child who likes the winter sport but doesn't pretend to be expert. Later on we may get to the opening up of the Diamond Peak area which should be as fine as the best in the world, but this area will be good for a long time and it has all the advantages of being easy to reach at all times.

Herdershott's, Babb's and Troeh's have offered bulletin board space for the signing up of work parties at the weekends and the committee reports a cordial response to its efforts.

### **Many to Take Part**

Although a good attendance of volunteers is expected next weekend, the committee recognizes that the Homecoming Weekend may deter many, so elections and final organization will probably be held off till Sunday after next. In the meantime, all towns interested are being urged to send workers and delegates.

"We are limited only by time and the chances of good weather as to how much of this area can be put into shape for immediate use," says Mr. Hamlin.

An interested visitor next weekend will be Bradley Adams of Portland, one of the best known skiers of the Mount Hood area. He has expressed interest not only in the Willamette Summit development but in a scouting trip to the Diamond Peak snowfields six miles south.

There was an 8-inch snow cover at the summit last Sunday, the committee reports, just enough to have lots of fun and not enough to hamper the clearance work.

## **One On Every Summit**

"A playground on every road and every summit," is the slogan adopted by the volunteers. They point out that Hand lake on the McKenzie is open till the road closes and that after that the White Branch area on the McKenzie road is usually good for a few weeks each year. Those who want a more developed area can get to the Hoodoo Bowl in the Santiam which is only 110 miles distant. The new Willamette Summit playground they say merely fits into the whole picture.

Workers last Sunday included: C.B. McFarland, district ranger, Oakridge, Dr. Omar Gullion, Dorr Hamlin, Roy Temple, George Korn, Allen Elliott, Stub Adams, George Jones, Bob Jones, Lloyd Helikson, Donald Temple, Edna Temple, Trilla Korn.

Register-Guard

November 28, 1941

Page 1

## **Victory Bonfire Scheduled Sunday at Willamette Summit**

No matter who wins the Big Game Saturday, there will be one of the biggest Victory Bonfires in history Sunday at the new Willamette Summit Playground when clearance crews get to work on the trees pulled out of the new ski runs this week by Roy Temple and his "cat."

Reports from Mr. Temple to Dr. Omar Gullion, Dorr Hamlin and George Korn, the acting leaders of the Willamette Summit Group, say that close to 1,000 feet of ski run will be ready for the volunteer loppers and trimmers whose part of the job is to pile up and burn the brush.

Sign-up board posted at Hendershott's, Babb,s and Troeh's show only a small registration of workers asking for transportation to the new sports area, but many have indicated they will go in their own cars, as soon as they wind up the last of the Homecoming festivities.

A big year for winter sports in the Eugene area is indicated by the responses from Cottage Grove, Creswell, Oakridge, Westfir, Gilchrist and all the communities convenient to the Willamette Summit area, according to Mr. Korn, acting secretary.

Forest service officials have suggested that Sunday, Dec. 7, shall be set apart for a big organization meeting and "open house" at the new area, election of officers and the placing of appropriate signs to follow the weekend work. The following proposed agreement between Willamette National Forest and the new associations will be submitted for approval:

"WHEREAS, certain winter sports enthusiasts of Eugene, Oakridge, and other localities are desirous of initiating and developing a winter playground adjacent to the upper Willamette highway, and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service is not able to make any financial commitments at the present time and is without funds to apply on the work,

Now, therefore it is mutually agreed as follows:

That in consideration of the granting by the Forest Service of the privilege of doing certain clearing work looking toward the creation of ski slides and runs by the aforesaid winter sports enthusiasts, as yet unorganized, hereafter known as the UPPER WILLAMETTE WINTER SPORTS ORGANIZATION, the organization agrees to contribute labor and pay all costs incurred in connection with such preliminary work as is mutually agreed upon. The Forest Service agrees to assist all possible in necessary survey and location work with available personnel and to assist in planning and other directional work to the best of their ability. The organization further agrees that no clearing and (or) construction work will be initiated except with the approval of the Forest Service by the officer in charge."

King Lytle, of Roseburg, district engineer for the state highway department was in Eugene Thursday and expressed interest in the project at the Willamette summit and said he would suggest that the department do all it can to improve the parking facilities and traffic handling at the Willamette summit adjacent to the new area.

Mr. Lytle also said that so long as ordinary equipment could handle snow removal on the McKenzie travel to the Hand Lake playground would be permitted for those who prefer that winter sports area. He also indicated that if there is enough snowfall for use of the White Branch playground above Lost Creek ranch he would endeavor to keep the road open to that point.

The policy of the department, he pointed out has always been to cooperate with every community in the state so far as its resources and equipment permit, but at many points it is too costly to maintain rotary plows and “full dress” snow removal, especially because such operations add tremendously to repair and maintenance costs in the spring.

The McKenzie road, he said, would not be closed till such time as travel appears unsafe, but he pointed out that storms in that area are very violent and dangerous and that on several occasions the department has had to go in and dig out parties which were too optimistic about their ability to cope with blizzards.

Register-Guard

17 Dec. 1941,

Page 12

### **Obsidians Schedule Sunday Work Trip**

In preparation for winter skiing the Obsidian club and Willamette ski patrol will take their annual play and work trip next Sunday to clear trails. The ski patrol will also make a special defense survey at the same time.

Wives and families of the members are invited to attend as it is planned to make this a social as well as working trip.

The Obsidian

December, 1941

Page 1

### **Obsidian Program for War-Time**

By C. K. Stalsburg

(See Appendix A for full column 1 article, continued on page 6. Note Plan Items Nos. 2 & 3:

2. Training of individual members in order to comply with the qualifications of the National Ski Patrol.
3. Organization of additional ski patrols to work in cooperation with local organizations.

The Obsidian

December, 1941

Page 1

### **Willamette Pass Ski Area**

By Dr. O. R. Gullion

Last winter on two occasions a number of Obsidians made a trip to the Willamette Summit to study the possibilities for skiing. On the whole these parties didn't recommend the area for skiing, mainly because of the timber everywhere present. Never the less, the Willamette Summit is right in our front yard, can be reached in one and a half hours, over a beautiful wide straight road which is kept clear of snow all winter and is thus the nearest and easiest ski area to reach.

The elevation is 5,000 feet up to 6,500, depending on how far

*(Continued on Page Six)*

### **Willamette Ski Area**

*(Continued From Page One)*

one goes up McFarland Butte with the ski area. The Sand Hills are about 5,200, Hand Lake and Hoo Doo (sic) about 4,800. The depth of snow last winter was approximately that of Hoo Doo. (sic)

The timber is just itching to be cleared. A chocker (sic?) is placed around a tree twelve inches in diameter and the little cat says (Come on Mr. Tree" and the tree comes cracking and popping down and out at the roots. It is bucked up and piled neatly on a heap for wood in the coming winter. The timber is smaller as the altitude increases, so clearing becomes more and more a real pleasure. You will be surprised when you see how rapidly the clearing has been progressing.

An area has been set aside for teaching where those taking lessons will not be disturbed by curious onlookers. Then, too, those who want a real thrill and are sure they can manage the slats may go by tow to the top of the trail and come down, turn right, turn left, stem and turn till they sail out upon the broad open spaces below. There will be a shelter called the Willamette Shelter, with a stove for warming your baked beans. The Highway Commission has indicated they would attend to the parking area.

An organization, called the Upper Willamette Winters Sports Association, has been formed to contact the Forest Service, attend to the business nad (sic) development of the area, and encourage the participation of the public in winter sports. The membership will consist of those using the area. Directors will be chosen from each of the more or less adjacent communities, and they will conduct the business of the Association. The officers this coming year are: Dr. O. R. Gullion, President; Roy Temple, Vice-President; Ed Clark, Secretary-Treasurer.

The Obsidian  
December, 1941  
Page 3

### **WE'RE IN THE ARMY NOW!**

Sterling Behnke reports that the Willamette Ski Patrol, composed entirely of Obsidians, has become part of the 87th Infantry, Mountain Brigade, Medical Detachment. They are subject to call in the field of first aid.

\* \* \* \* \*

Maris Note: An additional bit of research will be to find out about the area and patrol activities in this lapse of the war years. (Hoodoo Ski Lodge did not operate for three years during WWII.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Register-Guard  
February 26, 1942  
Page 7

### **Upper Willamette Snowsports Group Celebrates New Sign; Camera Enthusiasts Invited**

The Upper Willamette Winter Sports association last Sunday celebrated installation of the forest service's new rustic sign designating their ski playground at the summit as the "Willamette Pass Recreation and Ski Area." The sign, at the left hand side of the highway just at the summit, will mark the 300-foot trail to the ski area for Eugene skiers. The slide is not visible from the highway as the forest service wished to retain a 300-foot wall of big trees for scenic purposes. Parties of skiers wishing to sample the summit snow have in the past had difficulty in finding the place.

This coming Sunday will be a big day at the area, which will be host to the Cascade Camera club members and friends. They will bring their specialized photography equipment and spend a field day snapping fast-moving skiers, and for landscape scenes, the heavy snows and big trees and nearby Odell lake and Diamond Peak will be handy.

The snow bus on which the party will make the trip will stop at Salt Creek Falls about 9:30 a.m., giving the photographers benefit of the long morning shadows. The bus will also make other picture-taking stops.

### **Bring Filters**

Frank Coen, of Brighter Homes store, secretary of the camera club, suggests that all members bring their filters to cut the blue shadows on the snow, and try for new spectacular scenic effects. Pictures taken on the trip, suitably matted, will be displayed at later club meetings and probably in downtown store windows. Anyone having a camera, either a super-duper miniature or a 98c box camera, is invited to join the group; advice and equipment will be freely exchanged, and newcomers and beginners made welcome, says Mr. Coen. All are asked to speak for a seat on the bus as soon as possible to assure themselves of space, by calling



Mr. Coen at 1237, Hendershotts, 151, or the Greyhound bus depot, 461. Late-comers will be accommodated if possible. President indications are that a second bus may needed to handle the crowd.

Both sections of the Cascade Camera club, the movie group and the still group, are to make the trip. The movie group meets Friday evening at the Brighter Homes store and members may register at that time.

### **Powder Snow**

Last Sunday, the Willamette Pass ski area had five feet of snow with an extra six inches of powdery new snow on top. Misty sunlight contrasted strangely with a constant fall of fine snow. The temperature stayed below freezing, just right for warmly clad skiers. Reports from the summit are that the excellent conditions are continuing.

Prospective visitors to this newest and interesting ski slide this coming Sunday should bring a hot dish to be heated at noon on the shelter stove. Mrs. Roy Temple will have sandwiches, coffee, and soft drinks available at the lunch bar to supplement, and there is a table inside the shelter where lunchers can watch the skiing while they eat. The ski two (sic) will operate all day, and members of the recently formed Upper Willamette ski patrol (not to be confused with the Willamette ski patrol) will be on hand to offer instruction and assistance.

The snow bus will leave the Greyhound bus depot at the usual 7:45 a. m. hour, Sunday morning, returning, at 6:00 p. m. Passengers will be picked up at 8 a. m. at the College Side Inn, and when passing through Oakridge. The charge from Eugene, round trip, is \$1.75, and from Oakridge, 75c. It is expected that Art Hendershott and his violin, Glenn Snyder and his accordion, and other musicians will make the bus trip, and the usual praises will be sung to "Rose O'Day," "Gentil Alouette," and "Beer Barrel Polka" and the "Obsidian Song."

Register-Guard

March 6, 1942 (First mention of Upper Willamette ski patrol as part of the main organization Willamette Ski Patrol.)

Page 1

### **Trip to Willamette Ski Area Reveals Snow, Scenery, Fun**

By Margaret Thompson

Just one mile above the ocean, exactly at the point where the summit of the Cascade range, the Willamette highway, and the famed Skyline trail meet and cross, lies the skiing and recreation area that has been much in the news this winter, now designated officially by the forest service as the Willamette Pass Ski and recreation area.

Nearby lies Odell lake, and Diamond Peak is six miles to the south. The snow is deep and dry, and ski tow is efficient and speedy, the scenery oversize, the company jolly, the coffee good, the fun terrific.

This writer went along on a recent trip as a guest of the sponsoring group, the Upper Willamette Winter Sports Assn. just to see what a day of Willamette skiing is like. We "dedicated" the new forest service sign just installed to guide the skiers to the place. And as a loyal old McKenzie lover, it really ought to pain me to report that I had a swell time and I'm crazy to go again. But somehow it doesn't. The Willamette summit country grows on you – the deep dry snow, the lakes, the big trees, the easy, short drive from Eugene through spectacular scenery. And then there's a pioneer spirit, a camaradie about these Willamette skiers, for they literally created their playground themselves, by hand and tractor, all in a few weeks of last fall, tearing out the trees by the roots and cutting up the brush by hand. So far they've only made a beginning. But it is a good one."

Log of the Day: Up betimes and into my woolies, and down to the Greyhound bus depot to join the ski bus crowd. Some have their own skis and some rent 'em.

We are supposed to leave at 7:45 but driver Johnny Erickson good-naturedly waited a few minutes until a couple of late ones showed up. This bus trip is one of the real pleasures of the day, and it is something that American will grow more to appreciate as bus travel increases with war time. The heavy bus rides like a dream. It is air-conditioned, and you can see much more scenery from your

SEE SKI STORY PAGE 2

*(Continuation, P-2, Columns 1 & 2)*

Willamette Ski Area Shows Great Promise

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

higher seat than from a private car.

Dr. O.R. Gullion distributed the Obsidian club song books, and from then on it was every tune for itself. Glen Snyder's accordion led the voices.

### **Shelter is Cheery**

Only 72 miles from Eugene to the ski area, with stops at Oakridge, and Salt Creek Falls, and we arrived shortly before ten. The skis came out of a big compartment in the side of the bus and everybody glided off through the big trees a hundred yards or so to the ski shelter. They tell me this was built last winter after two feet of snow had fallen, by volunteer labor, members of the Upper Willamette Winter Sports association. Anyhow, Mrs. Roy Temple (Mr. Temple is vice-president of the UWWSA) is on hand with plenty of hot coffee, hamburgers, hot dogs, candy, cookies, soft drinks, etc.

There is a big open fire and a stove to cook your own dinner on, tables where you can sit in warmth and watch all the skiing. Everybody gets a little bit of red ribbon – that's to show you've paid your four bits to ride the ski tow all day. People save their ski tow ribbons, a different color each Sunday, and some have an imposing spread.

The main ski slide is not long, about a block and a half from the top of the tow on down to the shelter, but it is a sporty little trip. Olaf Ulland, former world record holder, in ski jumping, recently visited the place as a guest of Roy Temple and was favorably impressed, particularly with the possibilities for the future. Many of his ideas and suggestions are in the plans of the Upper Willamette Sports association.

### **Mile Long Slide**

The tract is 1200 feet wide and 1¼ miles long, rising from the shelter the full distance to the top of "McFarland Butte," with twin summits. And when the ski run is cleared and tows installed the full distance, they will have a ski thrill that will rank with the best.

The association insists on calling the as yet (officially) unnamed butte for C.B. McFarland, district ranger at Oakridge, because "Mac" has been one of the best boosters and has cut and piled many a cubic yard of brush. The forest service believes in the Willamette Pass development as a skiing area for large numbers of people, not just a few experts. And although they have no money appropriated for expensive construction, they are backing the project with personnel and all possible cooperation.

The tract really lies in the Deschutes National forest, but since administration is more convenient from Oakridge, and Oakridge and Eugene people so much interested, the Eugene office made arrangements to have the administration of the ski area included in the Willamette National forest.

### **Volunteers Built It**

Eugene has this ski area now, simply through the efforts of a small group of volunteer skiers and mountain lovers, mostly affiliated with the Obsidian club, who saw the advantages of the location and through sheer hard work have created it, practically with their bare hands, and all since October, 1941, when the forest service gave them the "green light" to start clearing operations.

These are some of the people who started last fall from "scratch" giving their actual labor: Roy Temple of Cascade Summit; Dr. O.R. Gullion, Dorr Hamlin and George Korn of Eugene; C.B. McFarland and Ed Clark of Oakridge; C.H. Barrell of Gilchrist; M.J. Hammersley of Crescent lake; Fred Cuthbert, U. of O., landscape expert, who is laying out the projected long runs; J.R. Bruckart, supervisor, and Roy Elliot, assistant supervisor, Willamette National forest. The original 1939 surveying party included Roy Elliot, Luis Waldorf and Bill McCracken of the Obsidians, Leo Paschelke, Skilaufers (sic.) George Korn and Roy Temple of Cascade Summit.

"The hardest part is over," said Dr. Gullion. "We have cut out most of the big trees. As we ascent the steep slope, the trees become smaller and fewer. And there is little or no underbrush. We have a big pile of logs with will make a fine big shelter." They estimate they have had 1400 skiers and spectators in the eight weeks the area has been in use this winter – every week the crowd is larger. It is 2½ mile to Rosary lakes, a 1000 foot climb, two hours there on skis, back in 30 minutes. Or to Eagle Point, it's ½ mile, half hour round trip on skis. Or around end of Odell lake to lodge and railroad depot, and return, two miles, two hours on skis.

Or down the old detour road, on skis, to Salt Creek falls, six miles, a half day trip and suitable for all but beginning skiers. It the only area in the whole Cascade range accessible both by railroad and highway. It is only 72 miles from Eugene on an easy road, and they tell me they have three months of skiing.

On Diamond peak is a skiing area rated with the very best in the northwest – if they could “jist git to ‘er.” But It’s only six miles and what with these motorized snow sleds with which the army is experimenting – well, says George Korn, just wait ‘til after the war. In the mean time, there’s plenty of skiing and plenty of fun.

### **Cost Is Modest**

What does it cost a beginner to ski at Willamette Pass? Well, you don’t need a fifty dollar outfit and a Scandinavian accent. If you don’t mind a little snow on your ankles you can just wear slacks to start with. You can rent boots, skis and poles, everything you need for \$2. Then \$1.75 for the ski bus round trip, 50c for the ski tow, a coupleanickles for coffee and hot dogs, and that’s all. The bus brings you back to Eugene at 6 o’clock with your Sunday evening still ahead of you, 10 hours of grand entertainment behind you.

A part of the main organization called the Willamette ski patrol, the Upper Willamette ski patrol is always on duty at the ski bowl, ready to instruct beginners on the practice slope – where only beginners are allowed – or to give first aid. Fortunately, so far there have been no accidents except a few sprains, no broken bones. But complete first aid supplies are on hand.

Roy Temple is patrol chief for the area; Hazen Olsen, secretary. Other members are Harvey McFarland of Oakridge, Reg. Marco of Eugene, and many others.

(Photo with title and caption.)

### **At Willamette Pass Summit**

**WHO WOULDN'T LIKE** to be Joan Diane Marco with a brawny Dad to take you over all the bumps and jumps on skis. The larger picture shows how Reg. Marco, of the Willamette Ski Patrol totes Joan on his shoulders going up the ski tow. The inset picture shows how they come down the slide with Joan riding her own skis between Dad's skis. Joan is only 5. She can ski all by herself quite well. Why not? Both Mother and Dad are strong skiers, "grew up o skis" back in Canada. Mr. Marco is an expert saw maker at Spear and Jackson's. (Paul Deutschmann photos, Wiltshire engravings.)

The Obsidian

April 1942

Page 3

### **Now It's on the Map** (Second mention of formation of Willamette Pass Ski Patrol branch.)

By Dr. O. R. Gullion

An attractive sign carved in relief on two massive cedar logs fitted together has been place at the Willamette Summit. This officially puts the new ski area on the map. It was made at Mt. Hood and reads:

Willamette Summit  
Recreation and Ski Area  
Willamette National Forest  
Service

The men, women and children who pulled out the trees, piled the logs, and burned the brush are so proud of the sign that they may be expected to swell up and burst any minute. Yes and when one stands in front of the Willamette Shelter by the good warm log fire and sees a skier sliding down the run about every ten seconds all day long, he just can't help thinking that after all it was worth while to clear the trees away. Some of us can hardly wait until fall comes again so we can get at more clearing.

The ski run is just one of the attractions of the area. The skiers are beginning to make trails of their own down east of the run where they must keep well under control and skillfully turn to get between the trees. Still further over the woods are alive with those just learning to snow plow. Some of these are said to do considerable plowing with their noses but all have a rip roaring good time.

"If there is a cross country hike today count me in," says one of the persistent tow riders. "Well a group goes on the Skyline Trail to Eagle's Rest" yells the leader. Or he might say "All aboard for beautiful Rosary Lakes". Both hikes give a grand view and a swell ride out.

Help! Help! Cries out a boy who has wrapped himself and skis around a hemlock sapling. Just a minute answers the near by ski-patrol man and here he comes with toboggan, leg stretcher, two emergency relief kits and plenty of helpers. So far there have been only three disabling accidents – just twists- no fractures. **Thanks to Harold Trotter, President of the Willamette Ski Patrol, who organized a branch patrol for us several weeks ago,** we are prepared to take care of accidents. Harold says "As a ski area the Willamette Summit is a good place to throw snow balls". Well you know he is regular Treasure Island for jokes.

A big Greyhound bus was run for us seven Sundays. The bus trip was a big part of the fun. The first trip everybody was as quiet as a mouse. Next time and somebody started a song, and then it was "sing, sing, for the song that is inside you". Added to that, Glen Snyder went along with his accordion and did we have music. Glen is a regular fellow and should be called the accordion mocking bird.

\* \* \* \* \*

Maris Note, *The Obsidian Bulletin*, beginning with the February, 1943 issue, throughout the war years, begins to regularly list all members in the armed services, including their detachments, assignments, accomplishments, and what information for each as could be released. These included Thomas and Charles Wiper who were both aviators. These continued up to the Korean War years.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Obsidian  
December, 1944  
Page 3

#### **Aircraft Rescue Unit**

An Aircraft Rescue Unit is being organized in Eugene by the Willamette Ski Patrol at the request of the National Defense Council. These are being formed thruout (sic) the country by the various branches of the National Ski Patrol.

Dorr Hamlin is chairman of the unit and Ray Sims representative for the Obsidians. Various groups of high school ski clubs, University Forest cooperators, woodsmen and outdoor people are to participate.

The object is to act as search and rescue units in this area when planes are reported down. Members of the club may be asked to be on alert to be called. Practice skiing and compass work trips may be arranged and gasoline provided.

Planes downed or in trouble are to be reported to Ray Sims, Ed Thurston, Kenneth Shoemaker and Tony Vogel.

This kind of service is right up the alley of the Obsidians and similar to the emergency in which the club was organized.

The Obsidian  
March, 1945  
Page 4

#### **Aircraft Rescue Unit**

The Aircraft Rescue Unit, under supervision of the Willamette Ski Patrol, have had several practice ski trips to Mary's Peak, Hoodoo, the McKenzie and Willamette areas. On some of these trips, the Army (Engineer Corps) cooperated by furnishing transportation. The Engineers have now left Eugene, so this will no longer be available. Some extra gas is being allowed by meeting certain requirements. An "incident" for the whole Oregon Cascade area is being arranged for the near future. Any members who would like to serve in this unit should contact Dorr Hamlin, Tony Vogel or Ray Sims.

## SECOND RUN - AFTER THE WAR

Register-Guard  
November 19, 1945  
Page 3

### **Sports Group, Students Ski In Willamette Pass**

The U.S. forest service at Eugene reported Monday that some 20 high school and university students and members of the Willamette Pass Winter Sports association were skiing at the pass Sunday.

J.R. Bruckart, forest supervisor, revealed that Roy Temple of McCreddie Springs has leased the concession to operate a ski tow and restaurant at the sports area. Officers of the sports association, formed for the promotion of sports at Willamette pass are, Dr. O.R. Gullion, president; George Korn, secretary, and Roy Temple, vice-president.

The Obsidian  
December 1945  
Page 1

### **Santiam Pass Lodge To Open December 15th**

Bob Lyon

The big skiing news of this season is the reopening, after three winters of inactivity, of the Santiam Pass Lodge which will make it possible for the skiers of the Willamette and Deschutes valleys to have hospitality and comfortable accommodations when they ski at the Hoodoo Bowl. (Article continues but not included herein. See Appendix A.)

The Obsidian  
December 1945  
Page 1

### **Upper Willamette Winter Sports Area**

OMAR GULLION

The Upper Willamette Winter Sports Area embraces about 40 acres on the southwest side of McFarland Butte, and lies both in the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests, north of the highway. The elevation runs from 5,200 to 6,500 feet with all degrees of slope.

In 1940 one ski run was cleared by public cooperation. Roy Temple, then of Cascade Summit now of McCredie Springs, with the help of two good men, pulled out the trees and piled the logs. Men, women, boys and girls from almost every town in the county came to help burn the brush on Sundays. There were fifty present one day. The run is roughly 1,000 feet long and about 70 feet wide at its widest place. Well it's steep enough when you have to figure on missing two big trees in the upper portion.

A ski tow is in operation after December 1st about 600 feet long. A small lunch room and a shelter with heat make your resting periods comfortable. Many skiers have remarked after a day's skiing there, "I have had the best time of my life."

The Obsidian  
December 1945  
Page 4

### **Willamette Ski Patrol Organizes**

At a meeting called by Dorr Hamlin, Nov. 28, the Willamette Ski Patrol began its organization for the coming season. Tony Vogel was elected president and Harold Trotter, sec.-treas. The eleven men present will form the nucleus of the patrol which expects to expand to a membership of about thirty. The next meeting will be held at the Community Center at 7:30 December 10.

Register-Guard  
December 9, 1945  
Page 22

### **Willamette Ski Patrol To Meet Here Monday**

The Willamette Ski Patrol, affiliated with the National organization and one of the finest outdoor service clubs in the area, will hold a meeting at the downtown YMCA Monday night, starting at 7:30 o'clock.

Tony Vogel, president of the Willamette group, announced that the meeting will be open to all interested in the work of the patrol which has been working with the U. S. army as a crash patrol during wartime.

Many younger skiers have become members during the war and now returning servicemen, former members, will rejoin the group first formed about eight years ago at Mt. Hood.

Chief purpose of the ski patrol is to furnish first aid for injured skiers and the Willamette group will be responsible for this area, particularly the Willamette and Santiam ski areas. The safety work of the group also provides hazard warnings at the various ski runs and inspects equipment of other skiers. Some instruction is provided for novice winter sports enthusiasts.

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(Maris Note: This article is apparently not aware of the formation of the Willamette Ski Patrol, December, 1938, jointly between The Obsidians, Eugene Ski Laufer, and backing of Lane Red Cross. Willamette Pass Ski Patrol was branched out and organized with assistance of Harold Trotter during March and April of 1942. No tie to the Mt. Hood ski patrol has yet been found as of this writing, other than the above, unsubstantiated statement.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Register Guard  
January 9, 1946  
Page 8

### **Ski Patrol Booked At Hoodoo Sunday**

The Willamette Ski Patrol will be in charge of safety and first-aid at the Hoodoo ski bowl in the Santiam area next week-end, according to President Tony Vogel. The local patrol has been requested to take on the responsibility by the Upper Willamette Ski council.

Vogel has requested all members to report to Glen Stoner of the Willamette national forest at Santiam lodge either Saturday or Sunday. The forester will be in charge of registration of the ski patrolers (sic).

With excellent skiing conditions anticipated, a large attendance is expected to the ski bowl over the week-end, including two bus loads of University of Oregon Ski Club members.

Vogel reports considerable new snow and the operation of two ski lifts at the bowl.

Register Guard  
January 9, 1946  
Page 11

(Photo and caption. Included just for interest.)

**SKIMOBILE CLIMBS MOUNTAIN** – a skimobile ascends Mount Cranmore, near North Conway, N. H., taking skiers to the top of a 2,052-foot rundown. They also can jump off at the half way mark. In the distant background are the White Mountains.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Maris Note: The system appears to be an elevated timber structure with two rails mounted on a wooden deck, similar to a childrens' roller-coaster at a fair. The skier, is provided a low "car" to stand on with their skis standing beside them, leaning against a hand rail across the "car." It is not clear if there is a bench behind the hand rail or not. The rail deck appears to be four or five feet above the surface of the snow.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Register-Guard  
January 11, 1946  
Page 4

### **Eugene High Students Making Ski Excursion**

The ski council of Eugene high school is sponsoring a trip to the Santiam ski area Sunday, Jan. 13.

A school bus driven by Braden Lewis has been obtained for the trip. Mrs. Lewis will also accompany the group. Thirty-five students will make the trip.

The Willamette ski patrol will be on duty in the ski area. Dinners are served in the lodge and hot dogs will be on sale in the bowl. However, those making the trip area advised to take a lunch.

Time of departure is 6 a. m. from the city hall, Eleventh and Willamette. The bus will leave the Santiam lodge at 4 p. m. and stop in Sweet Home for supper, arriving in Eugene about 8 p. m.

Register-Guard  
January 20, 1946  
Page 9

### **First Aid Course Offered Ski Patrol And Interested Skiers**

The Willamette Ski Patrol will sponsor a Red Cross first aid class for all members of the patrol and all interested skiers, with the first class scheduled for 7:30 p. m. Thursday at the Community Center, 1076 Willamette Street. Lester McPherson, member of the patrol, will be instructor.

All members of the ski patrol must hold a first aid certificate. The patrol works in the Santiam and Willamette pass ski areas, and all members give their time gratis.

It was pointed out by Tony Vogel, member of the patrol, that this work is especially important in the Santiam area, where the distance from the ski areas to parking areas is considerable. Persons injured in the ski areas must be transported by trained persons to their cars, and also must often be given treatment on the spot, Vogel said.

Members of the patrol with first aid cards in good standing will be given the opportunity to take an advanced course in first aid which will qualify them as members of the National Ski Patrol, of which McPherson is also a member. Plans for starting the advanced course will e discussed Thursday at the meeting. All persons who plan to take the course will register at the first meeting Thursday evening.

The Obsidian  
February, 1946  
Page 1

### **Cross Country Ski Trip**

The grandeur and beauty of thick fir limbs drooping under the weight of heavy snow and the silent rail that the nine Obsidian skiers traveled over on that "much publicized" trip that Harold led, was worth all of the sore muscles that appeared the next day.

Upon leaving the Willamette playground at straight up noon,  
*(Continued on Page Six)*

### **Cross Country Ski Trip**

*(Continued from Page One)*

the skiers slid down the highway to the Gold Lake road, but then turned South, connecting with the old detour road, now called the Abernathy trail, and soon were high on the ridge, looking down on the railroad, and in the deepest snow in the entire region.

A number of creeks were passed which were recognized but not open because of the deep snow and the going was tough on the leader, so he would only lead for ten minutes, then drop behind and the second in line would be the leader and so on, as all but the leader had good sliding.



Abernathy was reached by two o'clock and lunch was eaten on those wind-swept tracks of the S. P. It was here that our leader brought his "store boughten" four-inch stove. Well, enough has been said. Skiing down the tracks again until the detour was crossed, and Salt Creek Falls and the Skyline trails were crossed, and soon as slightly down hill was noticed, creek after creek began to open but yet the trees still were heavily laden.

It was crossing some of the creeks that proved to be the time killers, as more than once some one would "douse" his skis; thus of course necessitating a new waxing, or the skis would pick up "everything in sight".

Nearing Cruzette the railroad was again above, and a number of trains rolled down the canyon. Also the real down hill riding was beginning. A number of fine grades and soon we seemed to reach the bottom, but not for long, as a bridge over a very large creek was passed, then down some more.

Now it was getting dark, and as mile after mile was passed, and an occasional dip down, (one just trusted there would be no holes), it took very good judgment to stay on the road. It was real dark when another large creek was crossed, and Butterhorn Korn said Salt Creek was next.

Salt Creek WAS next, AND IT HAD A BRIDGE OVER IT, that was as good as seeing the lights of two cars, WAITING for us.

The skiers making the trip: Harold Trotter, George Korn, Paul Lafferty, J.W. McCracken, Walt G. Banks, Loyd Gust, Bill McCracken, Bud Nasholm and Ray Sims.

As an annual event, next year, starting at "sun up" we want to see every Obsidian who has skied at the Willamette Playground this year, on the cross country trip.

Note: The author of the following SKI DATA articles, Ruby Frazier, was a member of the Willamette Ski Patrol and mentions her response to some incidents at Willamette Pass and Santiam ski areas in some articles.

Register-Guard  
February 3, 1946  
Page 19

## **SKI DATA**

By Ruby Frazier

A lot of hopeful individuals have been calling up this week, asking for recommendation on ski areas "a little closer to Eugene" than Santiam, the Upper Willamette and White Branch on the McKenzie.

As far as we can figure out, it can't be done. But here is some encouraging information that should coax some of these timid souls out:

**Hoodoo Bowl**, at Santiam is about three hours drive from Eugene. And worth it, too. There are two ski tows, runs suited to skiers of every degree of ability, dormitory accommodations at the lodge for those who want to make a weekend of it, good meals, and even a complete ski shop. Ed Thurston, Eugene, operates the ski tows. This area is rated by experts as one of the best in the northwest and is worth more than the six-hour round trip. Tony Vogel, Eugene, gives ski instructions there each Sunday morning.

**The Upper Willamette area** is located on the mile-high summit of the Cascades at Odell lake, approximately 70 miles from Eugene, or about two hours drive. The ski run is close to the highway, with a ski tow (a new type, starting this week) operated by Roy Temple. There are many ski trails to Rosary Lakes, Eagle Point, Gold Lake, Salt Creek Falls, and others. The "snack shack," also Temple-operated, offers coffee, sandwiches, hot dogs, chili, and so on. As we have pointed out before, this area is still in its infancy, and everyone has big plans for its future.

**The White Branch** playground, 65 miles up the McKenzie, is being used again – as of last Sunday when a group of Obsidians went up for the day. They reported that nearly two feet of new powder snow made the area look like "old times." With the recent heavy snows, the state highway department has been clearing the highway to White Branch to facilitate driving. The area was built by the forest service in the 1930's, but cannot always be used because snow does not always "stick" that far down the river. Several cars full of skiers are at White Branch today. Some of those going up today are taking axes to clear part of the runs, which have been partially overgrown through disuse.

**Ha!**

Ski-laff of the week is aimed at Ray Simms, who got so carried away Tuesday that he played a game of ice "hockey" at the ice arena on skis. Ray was a member of the Lions club team that took on the Junior Chamber in a broomball match at the polio benefit game. We think it might prove a little hard on the skis not to mention being hard on Ray.

### **How Good Are You?**

And now here is something for you to clip out, tuck in your parka pocket, and test yourself with this Sunday or next. The United States Eastern Amateur Ski association has organized some basic ski proficiency tests. Following are the fourth and third degree tests. After reading these over, if you still think you are pretty hot stuff on skis, just remember that the first class test is still being formulated.

**Fourth Class Test:** 1. Demonstrate ability to ski correctly on the level with both the one-step and two-step and show proper use of ski poles. 2. Demonstrate left and right kick turn on the level. 3. Demonstrate side-step up steep slope. 2. (sic 4.) Herringbone up a 10 degree slope for 50 feet. 5. Traverse up a slope of 100 feet using kick turn between traverses. 6. Breaking speed 50 feet on 15 degree slope with a double stem from a standing start. 7. Demonstrate connected snow plow turns. 8. Demonstrate straight running in downhill position for not less than 50 feet on 10 degree slope.

**Third Class Test,** consisting of four parts to be passed in one season: 1. Make four continuous stem turns on hard snow, on a slope of not less than 15 degrees. 2. Make a right and left stop Christy on hard snow. 3. Do one of the following: a) A right and left jump turn to a standstill from a direct descent through a minimum angle of 90 degrees on a slope of not less than 15 degrees using one or two poles and a speed of approximately 3 miles an hour, or b) a right and left Telemark to a standstill from a direct descent on a light covering of loose, soft snow. 4. Do one of the following (but not until first three have been passed): a) The descent of approximately 800 vertical feet in not more than a mile on a recognized course, within a time limit fixed by the judges on the basis of not less than 30 not more than 45 seconds for each 100 feet of vertical descent according to snow conditions. That is, for 800 feet the maximum limits are 4 to 6 minutes, depending on snow conditions. (Confusing, isn't it?) b) The descent of a slalom course without a fall. This course must contain sufficient gates so that at least ten continuous running turns, both stems and Christies, are made. A vertical drop of approximately 150 feet in not more than 1,000 running feet. This should be a fair test of ability to run a slope under control.

Space is running a little short, so we will get the second class test for you next week, and see if we can get more information on the first class test as well. Maybe someday there will be some skiers in Eugene qualified to pass candidates on these tests, and then we can all wear little buttons showing how good we are. The Obsidians might consider this as a good project for next season.

Register-Guard  
February 4, 1946  
Page 3

### **Overdue Ski Party Finally Arrives**

Nine veteran skiers started out Sunday noon from the Willamette ski area on a skiing trip. Somewhere along the way, ten miles of cross-country turned into 16 miles. And with two hours of skiing still ahead on their return, darkness fell.

A busload of skiers was waiting at Heather for the party making the Abernathy trail trip. After night fell, motorists coming down from the summit reported heavy snow falling. The waiting party began to worry.

At 7 p. m., after waiting two hours for the "lost" Obsidian party making the cross country trip, the ski bus was taken to McCredie Springs, where it waited. Two private cars stayed at Heather to wait for the skiers.

The bus had not been at McCredie Springs long before the door opened, and the ski trail party walked in.

"There are going to be nine guys in Eugene Monday morning who will know they skied (sic) 16 miles yesterday" said Harold Trotter, member of the party. "We thought it was about ten miles when we started out, and now I think it was more like 20."

The trip was made over 15 to 20 feet of unbroken snow, with the best downhill skiing form Cruzette to Heather done in the dark.

Making the cross country trip were Harold Trotter, George Korn, Bud Nasholm, Lloyd Gust, J. W. McCracken, Bill McCracken, Jr., Walter Bands, Paul Lafferty, and Ray Sims.

Register-Guard  
February 10, 1946  
Page 25

(Photo and caption)

**NINE OF EUGENE'S SKI** enthusiasts took a 16-mile cross-country trip last Sunday down the old Abernathy trail from Willamette summit. Left to right are: Paul Lafferty, Walter Banks, Bill McCracken, Jr., Lloyd Gust and Harold Trotter, Bud Nasholm, Bill McCracken, Sr., George Korn and Ray Sims were others. The trip was made over unbroken snow, with the last two hours traveled in the dark. (Ray Sims Photo, Wiltshire engraving.) (Note only black silhouettes of five of the skiers appear in the microfilm and copy.)

## SKI DATA

By Ruby Frazier

The "lost battalion" of skiers on last Sunday's Abernathy trip have asked us to convey their sympathy to the bus-load of kids who had to wait in the dark at Heather for more than two long hours. It was ok boys. Everyone took it the right way, and we were more worried about you than we were upset about not getting back to town. And to the worried parents of the long overdue skiers – you can be sure it won't happen again.

Some of the fellows on that trip blamed their late arrival on the late start, and some on ice that froze to the skis after fording creeks. And some blamed it on the picture-taking of George "Butterhorn" Korn. And some on Harold Trotter, who took along a six-inch square cookstove, fueled with aspirin tablet-sized pellets, melted some snow, dropped in a tea bag, and served tea at lunch time. Oh well. First thing you know they will be putting lace on ski breeches.

Glad to see Paul Lafferty out again. Paul, an ardent skier in pre-war days, was a lieutenant colonel in the ski troops until his discharge not long ago- and was a lot of good to the boys on the Abernathy trip, they say. Ralph Lafferty, also a former ski-trooper, is in New York now, but will soon be back out west.

Officers for the year were elected at a recent meeting of the Willamette Ski Patrol. **Toney Vogel** President; **Ed Thurston**, vice-president; **Lester McPherson**, patrol chief; **Dr. R. E. Walstrom**, first aid chairman; **Harold Trotter**, secretary-treasurer. These fellows are handy to have around at the ski areas. Last Sunday they were called on once at Willamette area to bring out a Springfield gal who twisted her knee pretty badly. All skiers should know about this organization and support it – you may be the next victim.

Looking for rides to Santiam or Willamette next Sunday? Or have you extra space in your car for a couple of skiers? In either case, sign up on the skiers bulletin board at Hendershott's.

Santiam bowl must have looked like "old home week" to Eugeneans last Sunday – with 33 kids from Eugene high there for the week-end, as **John** and **Zella Kjosness**, **Ray Wooley** and **L.A. Wooley**, and **Midge McKenn-Smith**, of Springfield. **Miss Bessie Kamarad** and **Mable DeVos**, teachers, chaperoned the Eugene high gang.

**Jeane** and **Melda Germaine**, of Eugene, spent last Sunday at Santiam, too. They went up with **Art Johnson** and **Mr. Gerald Johnson**. Jeane, who works here on the Guard, brought back a very enthusiastic report of the Santiam ski area. It was her first time up. She reports that the Hooper's club from Oregon State, the Helinski ski club from Corvallis, and a group of boys from Chemawa Indian school were all out in force, and that a capacity crowd spent the entire week-end at the lodge. (When spending the night, you sleep in a dorm, and can bring your own blankets or rent them from the lodge.) Meals, Jeane says, are served cafeteria style, and are "wunnerful."

Found out last Sunday from a bunch of Springfield high students up Willamette that there is a ski club at their high school. However, there are not enough active skiers in the school to warrant running a ski bus. If Springfield and University high could just get together, I bet they would have enough students signed up each week to run a bus – and then some. Because lots and lots of the Uni high skiers are out every week. Among them last Sunday were **Jackie Moore** and **Elizabeth Kratt**, both of whom were doing nicely.

Here is the second class ski proficiency test we promised last week, perfected by the Eastern Amateur Ski Association: 1. Four continuous stem turns on hard snow on a slope of not less than 15 degrees. 2. Make a right and left stop Christy on hard snow. 3. Do one of the following – A right and left jump turn to a standstill from a direct descent through a minimum angle of 90 degrees on a slope of not less than 15 degrees using one or two poles and at a speed of three miles an hour, or a right and left Telemark to a standstill from a direct descent on a light covering of loose or soft snow. 4. Do one of the following: The descent of 800 vertical feet in no more than a mile on a recognized course, with maximum limits of 4 to 8 minutes, according to snow conditions or the descent of a slalom course without a fall. Course must contain sufficient grades so that at least ten continuous running turns, both stems and Christies, are made. A vertical drop of 150 feet in not more than 1000 running feet. This should be a fair test of ability to run a slope under control.

Bring your ski news and names, please. See you next week.

The Obsidian

February, 1946

Page 6

### **Ski Patrol Drive**

Sunday, February 17th, was the date for the initial ski patrol drive for associate and sustaining members. This is a cooperative venture in which the three patrols which serve the Santiam Pass area participate. The slogan for the drive is: "No Ski Costume Is Complete Without a N.S.P.S Button". Your contribution of a dollar for associate membership or five dollars for sustaining membership is your way of giving support and appreciation for the work of the men and women who voluntarily devote their time and efforts in the public interest for safe skiing and aid to the injured. You will receive an attractive button or pin to show that you are behind the ski patrols.

Forty percent of the amount collected goes to the national organization and the remainder stays with the local patrols. By agreement among the Willamette, Bend and Santiam patrols, thirty percent of the total will be turned over to the Central Cascade Recreational Council for purchase of first aid supplies and equipment to be kept and used only at the Santiam area. The Forest Service will have general care of these supplies and will issue them to the patrol on duty. The remaining 30 percent will be split three ways, 10 percent of the total going to each of the three participating patrols.

The drive will be continued following Feb. 17 by each individual patrol in their own community and local ski areas. Your contribution is good insurance. Many Obsidians are working on this drive.

The Obsidian

April, 1946

Page 1

### **Ski Patrol Fares Well**

Harold Trotter reports that a total of \$417.00 was collected in the recent Ski Patrol Drive; \$199.00 at Hoodoo, \$97.00 at Willamette, \$70.00 here in Eugene, and \$51.00 by other clubs of the Council, the Tekenas, Suskis, and Hellonskis. 40% of the \$199.00 goes to the National Ski Patrol. 60% of it goes to the Central Cascade Recreational Council, half of which the Council keeps to purchase first aid equipment at the Santiam Ski Area, and half of which is divided three ways among the Santiam, Bend and Willamette Ski Patrols.

\* \* \* \*

The articles from 1947 describe WPSP patroller Gene McMurphey and Elizabeth Gullion who sought permission to form ski schools at Hoodoo and Willamette and then became the first two certified ski instructors; with McMurphey at Hoodoo and Gullion at Willamette. It is well documented and from telephone calls with Jim Harrang, John Quinner II, Orville Caswell, and Bill Temple, that WPSP members patrolled regularly at Hoodoo as well as the Sand Hills, and Willamette Pass.

\* \* \* \*

Register-Guard  
October 21, 1946  
Page 2

### **Rain Doesn't Dampen Ski Fans Work Ardor**

In spite of rain, 12 persons cleared and burned brush in the Upper Willamette Ski Area Sunday, Roy Temple reported Monday. Temple is vice-president of the Upper Willamette Winter Sports Assoc. and operator of the ski tows in the Willamette area.

A good deal of brush was disposed of, and another work party has been planned for next Sunday, Temple said. All persons interested may register for the trip at Hendershott's.

Register-Guard  
October 23, 1946  
Page 7

### **Large Turnout of Skiers Seen As Indication of More Interest**

An increased interest in skiing this winter was evidenced Tuesday night by a large turnout of more than 40 persons for the first fall meeting of the Willamette Ski Patrol, many of them boys of high school age interested in becoming Junior Patrol members.

President Tony Vogel announced that Gene McMurphey will teach first aid, a patrol requirement, to all those interested in joining the patrol who do not now possess Red Cross first aid cards in good standing. The dates will be announced soon. All Junior Patrol members in need of the training must attend.

### **First Aid Cards**

Patrol members who have first aid cards have been asked to contact Harold Trotter, patrol chief, so that they may be registered correctly.

Vogel also pointed out that some women are needed on the patrol. They are asked to see Trotter for information on joining.

The purpose and work of the patrol was discussed for benefit of new members, and it was announced that the Willamette patrol has been asked to patrol the Santiam Ski Area every fourth week of the season.

### **Maintain Patrols**

A patrol will be maintained at the Willamette Area each Sunday and an attempt will be made to have a small patrol on duty at the Willamette Area Saturdays.

The need for ski patrol first aid installations at both ski areas was discussed. Appointed to a committee to contact the Forest service in relation to the first aid shelters were Trotter, George Korn, Ruby Frazier, Roy Temple and Bob Lyon.

The next meeting of the patrol will be announced later.

Register Guard  
November 1, 1946  
Page 1

### **Severe Snowstorm Enforces Closing of Mountain Roads**

A severe snowstorm, unusual for so early in the season, closed the McKenzie Highway Friday shortly after midnight, closed the West Diamond Lake Highway, and made mountain travel hazardous in all parts of the state.

Highway department crews were busy Friday morning pulling cars out of four and five foot drifts on each side of the McKenzie summit after motorists failed to heed warnings and attempted to cross the summit without chains. Total snow depth at the summit was 18 inches, but high winds caused bad drifting.

Because the closure is in the Bend district, State Highway Department officials in Eugene were reluctant to say when the highway would reopen, but said they expected it would be "sometime Friday afternoon."

“We hope this is a temporary closure,” one highway official said Friday morning. “Last year the highway was permanently closed Nov. 10, so this makes it pretty early in the season. If it keeps on snowing, though, it might possibly be closed for the season.”

Still open despite the storm (which is expected to blow itself out sometime Saturday) were the Santiam and Willamette highways.

Friday morning’s reports said it was still “snowing and blowing hard” at both summits, with 20 inches of snow recorded at Santiam summit and nearly that amount at Willamette summit.

Chains are absolutely necessary for all cars attempting summit crossings, it was announced by the highway department. Roads are exceedingly slick, and the storm has hampered sanding and salting operations.

Because of too much snow at Hoodoo Bowl the Upper Willamette Ski Area, work parties scheduled for this Sunday have been cancelled. Members of the ski patrol had planned to build a first aid shelter in the Santiam area Sunday and Obsidians had arranged a trip to the Willamette area to collect and burn brush.

Register-Guard  
November 8, 1946  
Page 12

Ski patrol members and other skiers who can help build a first aid shelter at Willamette Ski Area this Sunday are asked to register at Hendershott’s for transportation. The decision to build the shelter was made when it appeared that there would be little snow at the summit Sunday.

All materials for the shelters at Willamette and Santiam areas have been furnished and cut to measure by the Forest Service. The shelter at Willamette will be eight by ten feet and one at Santiam will be ten by twelve feet.

Roy Temple will supervise building at the Willamette area Sunday, and has planned to put the shelter next to the “snack shack.”

It is expected that the Santiam will be built a week from Sunday if weather conditions are favorable.

Register-Guard  
December 3, 1946  
Page 7

### **Ski Shelter Work Planned**

Although bad weather has twice caused the building of the Santiam ski area first aid shelter to be postponed, final plans for building the ski patrol shelter at Hoodoo Bowl have been made, according to Tony Vogel, president of the Willamette Ski Patrol at Eugene.

The shelter will be build next Sunday, and all regular and junior members of the patrol will be asked to be on hand and give some time, Vogel said. Material has been furnished by the forest service, and has been cut to the proper size. The materials will be taken into the bowl and put together there.

Although the job is not expected to take long, Vogel asked that all patrol members, especially those with a knowledge of carpentry, be there to assist. Jack Saubert, ranger for the Santiam area, will supervise.

Assistance from any other skiers will be welcome, Vogel said, as the shelter will be used for all skiers who may need it.

Register-Guard  
December 4, 1946  
Page 9

### **Skiers Asked to Help With Shelter Building**

All skiers who use Hoodoo Bowl at the Santiam summit will be asked to help build the ski patrol shelter Sunday, according to Bob Lyon, president of the Central Cascade Recreational Council. A council meeting will be held Saturday at 8 p.m. at the lodge, and members expect to get some work done Saturday, Lyon said.

Tony Vogel, president of the Willamette Ski Patrol, announced Wednesday that he has been informed the Willamette Patrol will be on duty part of the time Sunday.

He urged that all patrol members and other skiers interested be on hand to help put up the patrol first aid shelter. Skiers of high school age, whether members of the patrol or not, are invited to help, he said.

Lyon added that all members of ski clubs represented on the council will be asked to give some time to building the shelter which will be urgently needed this winter for treatment of injured skiers.

Register-Guard  
December 13, 1946  
Page 9

### **Ski Patrol Discusses Winter Season Plans**

Plans for the ski season now opening were discussed by members of the Willamette Ski Patrol at a meeting this week. President Tony Vogel announced that the patrol will be on duty each Sunday at the Upper Willamette Area and every third weekend at the Santiam area. Schedules will be made out soon.

Membership cards for 1946-47 were issued members, and first plans for the annual button sale at the ski areas were made. Named to the committee to plan the sale were Blaine McGillicuddy, Mrs. Norman Proudfoot, Mrs. Leo Paschelke, George Souza, Gilbert Sprague and Dale Tyler.

It was announced that the date of the P.N.S.A. meeting at Santiam has been changed to March 16, as a jumping contest has been planned at Mt. Hood for Feb. 23, original date of the meet. Obsidians are sponsoring the tournament at Santiam.

Regular meetings of the patrol will be held each month during ski season, members decided, with the date to be announced later.

Register-Guard  
January 12, 1947  
Page 21

### **SKI DATA**

By Ruby Frazier

**It is my personal prediction that by the end of January, the available ski areas out of Eugene** will be so crowded on weekends that we will all be ready to pay a visit to the Forest Service and urge enlargement of the existent areas to about four times their present size.

Everyone that skied last winter saw this coming. The merchants in town certainly saw it, and their sales of ski equipment this season have soared out of sight in comparison with other years.

Although the ski boom has mushroomed almost too fast for the Forest Service to keep up, the bureau here has certainly done a lot this year to help out.

A certain amount of clearing has been done at Hoodoo Bowl, and a third tow has been added behind the lodge. A first-aid shelter has been erected in the bowl by the Ski Patrol and the Forest Service. The lodge has been enlarged to accommodate 115 overnight guests, and the lunchroom in the bowl has been greatly improved. The only trouble is that the bowl is still the same size, and if you think it was crowded last year, then just wait a couple of weeks. You haven't seen anything yet.

**Ed Thurston reports some of the biggest crowds since he has been operating the tows.** Every skier I've talked to is planning weekends at Santiam, and where they think they will stay is beyond me. Timberline Lodge was booked through April many weeks before skiing began and that is a fair indication of what to expect.

At the Willamette area, a good deal of clearing has been done, and there will be two tows this year instead of one. A ski school will start there in the immediate future under direction of Beth Guillion, who has been teaching for Hannes Schneider.

Gene McMurphey has been certified as an instructor this year also, and will teach at Hoodoo. Contact him there or at home for arrangements.

Van Purdy, University of Oregon skier, has left school and gone to Snow Valley, Vt., to teach with Wally Clark. Wally wanted three instructors from here, but as far as I can find out got only one.

Ski buses are again running to the Willamette area, with tickets on sale at the usual place. George Korn has been working hard on the development of the Willamette area all summer, and reports it is much larger this year. All they need now is some snow. Seems the logging operator pulled out when snow began to fall and left a few big logs lying here and there across the runs. Skiers who have been up there this season say the main run is quite usable even without much snow, however.

**The Willamette Ski Patrol is back on the beam this winter, with a good turnout of youngsters from high schools to boost membership.** They will patrol weekly at Willamette and each third weekend at Santiam. Last we heard the Bend patrol pulled out of Santiam to patrol their own Tumalo.

The Obsidian Ski Committee, headed by Paul Lafferty, is really going beyond itself to bring Lane County skiers three good events this winter.

For just a peek preview, the first will be a fine John Jay film very early in February. The second will be a ski movie and style show at a downtown theater. And the third, of course, will be the big All-Oregon PNSA downhill and slalom event for men and women at Hoodoo Bowl, March 15-16. Make your reservations early.

Register- Guard  
January 16, 1947  
Page 11

### **Ski Classes Announced**

Skiers who have long wanted to take lessons in their favorite sport will be able to do so this winter for both areas serving Lane County skiers.

Gene McMurphey, former member of the ski troops, was recently certified as an instructor, and will teach at Santiam. Classes will be held at 9:30 a.m. behind the lodge, and 1:30 p.m. in Hoodoo Bowl. Those wishing instruction may contact McMurphey Sunday mornings either in the lodge or behind the lodge where the class will be held.

In Hoodoo Bowl, a sign will be put up to designate the ski school area and skiers may register on the spot.

At Willamette area, Miss Elizabeth Gullion, former instructor under Hannes Schneider, will lead the ski school. Registration there may be made at the ski school building at the entrance to the area.

Rates for class and private instruction will be the same at each area.

Register-Guard  
January 19, 1947  
Page 19

### **Ski Data**

By Ruby Frazier

(Column one has the opening words of all lines obscured and talks about skier turnout at various ski areas and transportation. The top of the Column 2 continues with skiing coverage in Time magazine.)

(Column 2, paragraph 3)

University of Oregon ski club is going again. A meeting was held Thursday night. New clubs organized or reorganized by George Korn, mostly, are those at Cottage Grove, Junction City and Gilchrist. George deserves a lot of credit for the effort he has put into advancing skiing in Lane County.

(Column 2, paragraph 5)

Understand that Ed may put in another tow at Hoodoo almost right away after recent crowds waiting for the small tow formed a double line from the tow shack nearly to the warming shelters. Two more would not be too many.

Two busses ran to Willamette area last week instead of the one per Sunday that was chartered last winter. Pack Rats at Eugene High School sponsored a bus to that area yesterday. Willamette is bulging at the seams also.



Both areas now have ski schools, incidentally, Gene McMurphy (sic) will have one at Santiam, with classes at the lodge at 9:30 a.m. and in the bowl at 1:30 p.m. Signs will designate the areas, so you can find Gene and register.

At Willamette, Elizabeth Gullion will teach, aided by a crew of instructors. Script books for lessons may be bought at the area shelter or at Hendershott's. The school here is sponsored by the Upper Willamette Winter Sports Assn., and classes will be held at 10:30 a.m., noon, 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. – A single group lesson will be a dollar at both areas and arrangements may be made with the teachers for private lessons. Ski patrolmen will be given instruction without charge at Willamette.

Register-Guard  
February 2, 1947  
Page 19

### **SKI DATA**

By Ruby Frazier

**Next thing on the program, even before the big Obsidian show at the McDonald Theater Feb. 20, is the junior Obsidian ski meet scheduled for Feb. 16 at Hoodoo Bowl.**

John Skillern swears the course will be easy enough "even for novices and kids who have only skied a few weeks," so there should be a lot of entrants. To enter, a boy or girl must be a member of the Junior Obsidian group or must sign an application blank to become one. Blanks are available at Hendershotts or from Bob Lyon at Eugene High School.

There will be no entry fee for the race, but there will be six cups given for the combined downhill and slalom event. Three for boys and three for the gals, and worth trying for, I'd say. John will have more details on the race later when he gets them from Paul Lafferty, chairman of the Obsidian Ski Committee who is managing the event.

**The program the Obsidians will put on at the McDonald Theater Thursday, Feb. 20, should be quite a good variety show for all skiers.** As I get it, the main attraction will be a re-run of "Sun Valley Serenade," said to offer some good ski sequences. There will also be a style show of the latest in ski wear, music, and so on. Obsidians will have the tickets and more on this later, also.

Our thanks to the Obsidians for being willing to sponsor the John Jay film, the ski show and the PNSA race coming up in March. It is cheering to know we have a group in town that is able to stand back of rather big deals like these and make a go of them.

**There will be a ski patrol meeting Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center, President** Tony Vogel has announced. Among other things, plans for the N.S.P.S. membership drive will be discussed. The drive is planned for the near future, and will need the support of every skier.

**Mary Thurston reports that despite a "rotten day" there were about 1200 at Santiam last Sunday,** while George Korn reports that weather at Willamette area was the "best ever," and there were 200-300 skiing up there. Anyway, the new tow at Santiam should take care of some of the surplus, as Ed declares it will run better than twice as fast as the old tow going up the canyon, and will carry more skiers. Whee!

Register-Guard  
February 4, 1947  
Page 4

### **Willamette Ski Patrol To Take Part in Race**

The Willamette Ski Patrol will enter at least one team in the Northwest Ski Patrol Toboggan Race at Timberline March 9, according to President Tony Vogel.

Each patrol in the area may enter several men's and women's teams of two persons each in the race, Vogel said. The Willamette Patrol may possibly enter a women's team also. This is the third such race to be held, and the second to be run at Mt. Hood. The first was held at Snoqualmie Pass, Wash.

Register-Guard  
February 5, 1947  
Page 4

### **Ski Patrol Sets Dates of Membership Drive**

The annual drive of the Willamette Ski Patrol and the National Ski Patrol System will be Feb. 15-16 and Feb. 22-23, members of the local group decided Tuesday night.

As last year, associate membership buttons will be sold for one dollar and supporting membership buttons for \$5. The latter membership carries with it a year of Ski News or the Ski Annual.

"All skiers are asked to support the patrol by becoming associate members," Patrol President Tony Vogel declared. "The patrol exists for them in order that they may receive proper and immediate care when injured. We depend on these funds, 60 percent of which remains with the local patrol, for the purchase of new equipment for use in ski areas."

Vogel pointed out there are hundreds of new skiers from Lane County alone using the Willamette and Santiam areas this winter, and that patrol members have cared for many injuries already this season.

Assisting in the drive will be the University of Oregon Ski Club, the Eugene High School Packrats (sic) and members of other Lane County ski clubs. Buttons will be sold at both areas and at other places in town to be announced later. A ski patrol display will be set up in the lobby of the McDonald Theater for the Obsidian Ski Show Feb. 20, and patrol members are planning a skit to be presented at the show in conjunction with the style show.

Chairman of the drive is George Souza, and George Korn is contacting out-of-town clubs.

Register-Guard  
February 10, 1947  
Page 10

### **SKI DATA**

By Ruby Frazier

**Only one more week before the Obsidian junior downhill and slalom meet at Hoodoo. Only a week and a half until the Obsidian Ski Show Thursday, Feb. 20 at the McDonald Theatre. And only a little more than a month and the All-Oregon Class "B" meet will be staged at Hoodoo – also sponsored by the Obsidians, natch.**

Post all these dates on the calendar. (sic) And in between, don't forget the ski patrol drive and button sale Feb. 15-23. Each skier will have a chance to pay a dollar for his own protection at either Santiam or Willamette over the two weekends. It's a darn small price to pay for the protection received. Support the patrol! Then next time you break something you won't feel so cheap when a patrol member comes around with the faithful toboggan.

**Sunday, Feb. 2, was a wet one, alright. Where did everyone go to get out of the rain? About 400 –** according to the forest service – turned up at Willamette in spite of the shower – showers, that is – and the gang that went up the McKenzie was highly disenchanted because it poured up there, too. Ed Thurston told me at the John Jay show Saturday night he thought he would take the day off last Sunday – couldn't get to Santiam anyway as the road was closed.

When Harold Trotter opened his ski shop last Monday morning there was a long line of people waiting to rent equipment. By Monday night it was all gone. Keith Fennel up on the campus was all out by Tuesday, and at least one gal I know of bustled out and bought herself a pair of costly boots just so she could go today. There is surely a shortage of rental equipment, although Joe Gordon's hardware store sold their entire stock of skis to Fennel to be used for rental purposes. The guy who answered the telephone at Gordon's said he estimated a hundred pairs had changed hands – and added that Gordon's would probably stock more ski equipment next year.

**The Obsidians hope to have Gretchen Fraser, Portland, who doubled for Sonja Henie in the “Sun Valley Serenade”** ski scenes on board for the first annual ski show of the club Feb. 20. As you know by now – or should know – this will be held at the Mac, and doors open at 7:30 p.m. Features of the program will include three excellent ski shorts, a stage presentation, a short ski drama, a style show featuring some new ski togs that will be on the market next season, the feature movie, and a movie entitled “The Bowery” which Harold Wyatt is throwing in to end the evening. Something to please everyone, we feel.

Watch the paper for announcement as to where tickets will be on sale, as the Obsidians will attempt to sell all or most of the tickets in advance. Funds will be used for the All-Oregon PNSA meet at Hoodoo March 16, so its for a good cause.

**For those who have been calling the Register-Guard Saturday morning to ask for weather forecasts at ski areas – please ask for me from now on.**

We get reports here at the Guard on Friday morning and Saturday morning usually around 10:30 a.m. They come directly from Santiam and Mt. Hood. The weather bureau has not been able to find anyone at Willamette summit willing to send a weather forecast and snow conditions in each week. If anyone knows of such a person living at or near the summit, please call me. The weather bureau would like to make some arrangements.

Register-Guard  
February 18, 1947  
Page 9

#### **National Ski Patrol Drive Will Continue**

The National Ski Patrol System membership drive, being conducted in this area by the Willamette Ski Patrol, will be continued over next weekend at Santiam and Willamette ski areas, and will be a feature of the Obsidian Ski Show at the McDonald Theater Thursday evening, according to patrol members,

All skiers are being urged to buy membership buttons to support the local patrol, members of which treated three broken legs and at least six sprains and other injuries at Santiam area alone last Sunday.

“It’s the cheapest type of insurance for skiers,” George Souza, member of the drive committee, declared. “The patrol is on duty at the ski areas for just such emergencies as arose last Sunday at Santiam. It needs the support of all skiers.”

Besides the display in the McDonald lobby, a window has been donated by Montgomery Ward, and one may be donated by the J. D. Penny store, Souza said.

The Obsidian  
February, 1947  
Page 1

#### **Ski Schools In Session**

Ski instructors certified by the Pacific Northwestern Ski Association are now operating ski schools at Santiam and Willamette areas under Forest Service permits. Both Gene McMurphey of the Santiam School and Elizabeth Gullion of the Upper Willamette school have received temporary sanction from P.S.N.A. president George Henderson. This certification was granted to enable these instructors to start their respective schools immediately. Both ski teachers plan to take the certification tests as soon as they are announced by the P.N.S.A. ski instruction certification chairman, Ken Syverson. These two instructors have both had previous experience – Mr. McMurphey instructed in mountain troops and Miss Gullion taught in Hannes Schneider’s internationally known ski school.

The Obsidian  
February, 1947  
Page 1

### **Pack Rats Are Active**

The Pack Rats are continuing to organize ski trips for Eugene high school students with the use of school district busses. Recent trips have included a Saturday-Sunday trip to Santiam on January 11 and 12, and a Saturday trip to the Willamette on January 18. Senior Obsidians accompanying the group to Santiam were Gene McMurphey, Jim Harrang and Bob Lyon. McMurphey provided instruction for junior Obsidians and other interested students. Willis Caldwell of the Willamette Ski Patrol and a Mazama went with the gang to the Willamette. Trips were also made to the Willamette on February 1 (returning in ample time to enable the skiers to see the John Jay movie) and to Santiam on February 8 and 9.

The Obsidian  
February, 1947  
Page 3

### **Join the N. S. P. S.**

The National Ski Patrol drive which is being organized in this area by the Willamette Ski Patrol under the chairmanship of George Souza will get off to a start early in February. This campaign to raise funds to take care of the increasing demands for ski patrol work will center at the Santiam and Willamette ski areas, but will also be carried on by the ski patrols and cooperating clubs in the communities. Associate membership buttons will go to those who contribute one dollar and supporting membership pins to those who make a donation of five dollars. Keep in mind that this is the best insurance you can buy for your protection while skiing. No ski outfit is complete without a NSPS button.

Register-Guard  
March 2, 1947  
Page 23

### **SKI DATA**

By Ruby Frazier

**Snowfall in the Cascades has been way below normal this winter, as most skiers are beginning** to realize. Last winter snowfall was as much as 30 to 40 per cent greater than normal. This winter it is about 20 per cent less than normal – even more, in some places.

All of which begins to look as though the ski season will be shortened considerably. Up Willamette way, a ski trip down the old Abernathy Trail today will be ended at Salt Creek Falls because there isn't enough snow below that point. Up the McKenzie, there isn't enough snow at White Branch to operate a tow. Better do your spring skiing early.

**Plans for the Obsidian winter camp have more or less been made, with Santiam Pass Lodge** settled on. There is reason to believe the camp might still be held at Mazama Lodge on Mt. Hood as originally planned. Final arrangements and dates will be announced later.

**Willamette Ski Patrol will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center, and all skiers,** members or not, are invited to attend. Willis Caldwell will show more of his slides – of which he has hundreds. A discussion on the patrol membership drive will be held.

Speaking of the drive, George Souza has been doing a grand job. Last week he went to Corvallis and Albany to publicize the event and try to get cooperation for a project which seem to be left mainly in the hands of the Willamette patrol.

All skiers (sic) who have not paid their dollar for a button should do so at once. The patrol needs the money for more equipment, particularly for chemical heating pads and other first aid materials. Patrol members said that accident victims have sometime gone into shock after breaking a leg because of the absence of heat.

Remembering that any one of us may be the next to need the patrol, let's all get behind this drive and buy our buttons – quick.

**Here is a lot more dope on the race March 16 at Hoodoo. A loud-speaking system will be set up** in the bowl by George Korn and Rex Gunn to keep spectators informed. Course setter will be Hjalmer Hvan, assisted by Bryan Ryan, Eugene. Timers will be Hal Lamén, Gilbert Sprague and Wayne Bailey. Tony Vogel and members of the Willamette Ski Patrol will police the course. Miner Hamlin will be flag-setter, and Dorr Hamlin will be recorder. Ola Skjersaa will prove the course, and Duane Brown will be Starter. Bob Wilson will act as calculator.

The downhill races will start at 10:30 a. m. Sunday, March 16, with men running first in the Class "B" event. The slalom will be run at 2 p. m., with men running first. Drawing for places will be held at 8 p. m. Saturday, March 15 at Santiam Pass Lodge, and numbers will be given out at 8 a. m. in the lodge.

All entry blanks for the race must be in the hands of Sterling Behnke, 127 North Lawrence St., Eugene, by Wednesday, March 12.

Members of the Obsidian Ski Committee, sponsors of the first PNSA-sanctioned meet to be held at Hoodoo, expect some entries from every ski club in Oregon. All told, the committee hopes to register at least 50 entries before March 12. Entry blanks were mailed to Oregon ski clubs last week.

Register -Guard

March 16, 1947

Page 23

### **SKI DATA**

By Ruby Frazier

(Beginning in 3rd paragraph of column 2.)

**Four members of the Willamette Ski Patrol (two teams) entered the Northwest Ski Patrol** toboggan race at Mt. Hood last Sunday, and came away with fourth and sixth places. Some patrols entered three or four teams in the competition which representatives from Snoqualmie, Tollgate, St. Helens, Mt. Hood, and other patrols. Awards were given for six places in the race.

Members of the team placing fourth were George Souza and Gene McMurphey, Jim Harrang, University of Oregon student, and Gilbert Bissell, who is only 15 and was the youngest competitor, made up the team placing sixth.

The racers started from the top of Otto Lang Hill, took their toboggans to the lodge, and there administered first aid to a "patient" who was "so badly injured we should have dug a hole and buried him in the snow." And I quote George Souza. The patients were then loaded on the toboggans and taken to the end of the course down Pucci's Glade. Judging was on speed, safety, first aid ability, and all that. Souza and McMurphy (sic) were the second team to start and the first to finish, while Bissell and Harrang were fourth to start and second to finish. Teams were started at five-minute intervals.

**First six teams placing were St. Helens, firsts; Tollgate, second; Snoqualmie Pass (who took first last year) third; Willamette** patrol fourth; Mt. Hood Patrol, fifth (surprise); and Willamette Patrol, sixth. Willamette Patrol was the only one to place two teams, and in addition to being a relatively small patrol was competing over terrain entirely strange to the team and using second-rate equipment loaned them. So there. We think they did real well and deserve a cheer.

Show your support by buying a ski patrol membership button. The drive will continue through this month.

Register-Guard  
May 14, 1947  
Page 8

### **Upper Willamette Ski Area Use Increased 250 Per Cent in Year**

Use of the Upper Willamette ski area the past ski season showed an increase over the 1945-46 season of almost 250 percent, officers of the Upper Willamette Winter Sports Assn. were told at a meeting of the organization this week in Oakridge.

Roy Temple, operator of the ski tows and lunch room at the area, reported that 7280 persons had used the area the past winter from Nov. 30, 1946 to March 23, 1947. Tows were in operation on weekends during that period. Persons using the area during the week or on weekends when tows did not operate were not counted.

#### **Increase Seen**

George Korn, secretary of the association, pointed out that only 3000 persons (by Forest Service count) used the area the previous season.

Ski buses were operated from Eugene to the summit on 13 weekends, with two buses run on two heavy weekends. A total of 600 persons were taken to the area by this means, Korn reported.

A ski school, new this year to the area, was organized by Miss Elizabeth Gullion. She was aided in teaching by Bea Hall and Vicki Gullion.

#### **Tell History**

A history of the association and the ski area was given by Korn and by Dr. Omar Gullion, association president.

Bill Cummings district ranger for Willamette National Forest, announced that an extension has been granted Northwest Forest Products Co. for removal of timber, but that highway department ruling prevented trucks from operating on the Willamette Highway until after Aug. 1. A map showing development of the entire area was presented for discussion.

#### **More Tows**

Temple reported that by next season he hopes to have two more tows in operation.

During the past season, Korn reported, ski clubs were organized at Cottage Grove, Junction City, Springfield, Gilcrist, and Oakridge.

Forest service representatives attending the meeting were Cummings, Ralph Crawford, Deschutes supervisor; Newell Corey, new district ranger at Crescent; and D. C. Hein, Deschutes general foreman.

Register-Guard  
August 3, 1947

### **CAP Flights And Obsidians**

Beginning early April with (obscured) Three-Fingered Jack trip made by the Obsidians, members of the Civilian Air Patrol have flown companion trips to nearly every climb made this summer by the local outdoor club.

Twenty-five pounds of food and supplies were dropped to the group on "Jack" April 13, and 50 pounds of material to hikers on top of Diamond Peak, May 4. Forty pounds of supplies was dropped (obscured) 18 on the top of Cap Hagen, and 35 pounds to climbers on Eagles Rest May 25.

On June 15, food was dropped to hikers on Hardesty Mt., and on July 13, 120 pounds of material (including two homing pigeons) were dropped on Diamond Peak to a group of 41 hikers.

Trips yet to come include the North and South Sister, a Willamette Ski Patrol picnic on Mary's Peak, and possible (sic) others.

Pilots who took part in the various trips were Bob Pfeiffer, Glen Dotson, Marvin Jensen, Jack Smith, and Claude Walker. George Korn accompanied Pfeiffer on one trip.

Members of the CAP use the trips as practice flights in air rescue work in the mountains.

### **Skiers Race On Grass, Crown King Winter at Mary's Peak**

Under a hot sun which sent temperatures zooming to 89 degrees, approximately 200 ski enthusiasts from Oregon, California and Washington gathered at Mary's Peak over the weekend to hold ski races and the crowning of King Winter.

(obscured) ski races, conducted by the Willamette Ski Patrol, were run over long grass which covers the peak just below the ranger station. Winners were awarded bolognas, runners-up got large sausages and third place winners received wieners.

Barney McNab, Northwest Division Ski Patrol chairman from Portland, was crowned King Winter in a colorful ceremony at the speaker's platform

### **Seven Planes**

Preceding the races, seven airplanes from the Civil Aeronautics Patrol in Eugene threw out corn flakes, sacks of flour and dry ice at random. They were supposed to make snow by sprinkling the dry ice through a cloud, but there were no clouds.

Also dropped through the air were Homer and Cynthia, the famous ski patrol pigeons, who took a short rest, and then led three "recruits" to the Corvallis airport.

### **Winners**

Winners of the races were: Virginia Tompkins, girl's singles; Paul Hosner, men's singles; and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wiese, couples.

Arrangements for the meet were handled by George Korn, Regional director of the National Ski Patrol; Harold Trotter, president of the Willamette Ski Patrol; and Ralph and Midge Proudfoot, vice-president and secretary of W.S. P.

(Obscured line followed by) organizations represented included: Santiam Ski Patrol, Bend Skyliners, Mount Hood Patrol, Trail's Club of Seattle, Mazamas of Portland, Helonskis of Corvallis, Suski from the University of Oregon, Chemeketans of Salem, Takenas from Albany; East Linn, Lebanon; Packrats (sic), Eugene High; Wye-East Club, Portland; Obsidians, Eugene; the California Ski Association; the Catholic Youth Organization, Eugene; the Crater Lake Club, and the Seattle Mountaineers.

Rex Gunn, University of Oregon student, served as master of ceremonies.

### **Ski Patrol Jamboree**

The first All-Oregon ski patrol jamboree and picnic was held at Mary's Peak on Sunday, September 21 under the auspices of the Willamette Ski Patrol. The affair attracted better than 200 ski enthusiasts including more than thirty Obsidians. The program under the direction of Ski Patrol Section Chief, George Korn, provided fun and thrills for all. Feature event was the flight of seven CAP planes from Eugene which exhibited remarkable skill in dropping parcels on the target. Fun a-plenty was had from the up and down hill slalom ski races. First place in the women's division was captured by Virginia Tomkins, Obsidian; in the men's division Paul Hosmer, Suski, took first; and the first place in the couples race was Mazamas and Wye-east Clubs. Cynthia and Homer were also there and won by Eleanor and Ralph Weise of (typed as printed with missing words) took off on an "instructional mission in the principles and techniques" of homing for the benefit of two new members of the roost. Featured guest of the program was L. B. McNab, Chief of the Pacific Northwestern division of the National Ski Patrol System, upon whom was con-

*(Continued on Page Three)*

### **Ski Patrol Jamboree**

*(Continued from Page One)*

ferred the honor of being crowned "Old Man Winter". Barney spoke in behalf of the good work in accident prevention being carried on by the ski patrols and put in a plea for greater financial support.

Willamette Ski Patrol officers for 1947-48 skiing season are: Harold Trotter, President; Bob Lyon Vice President; Midge Proudfoot, Secretary-Treasurer; Ralph Proudfoot, Patrol Chief, and Dr. Richard Walstrom, First Aid Chief.

\* \* \* \* \*

(A question that Rich Maris asks, is what the conditions were to make ski races possible on September 21, 1947 at Mary's Peak? How did they race on grass?)

\* \* \* \* \*

Register-Guard  
October 15, 1947  
Page 3

### **Volunteers Clear Ski Areas for Opening of Winter Season**

Volunteer workers began Sunday to clean up the Willamette (obscured) area and to prepare the runs (obscured) winter, George Korn, secretary of the Upper Willamette (obscured) Sports Assn. announced (obscured) week.

(obscured) workers will be needed (obscured) Sundays until snow halts the (obscured) Korn said. Sunday's operations included blasting out stumps (obscured) burning out debris left by (obscured) logging operations.

(obscured) of the timber on (obscured) and the large area to (obscured) has been completed, and (obscured) area now beginning to clear (obscured) beginners' area and the ski (obscured) slopes to the right.

### **(Obscured) Cleared**

The McCall Lumber Co. has (obscured) working in the area for the (obscured) six weeks with permission (obscured) the Deschutes National Forest (obscured) has been hauling logs to (obscured) at Crescent.

(obscured) Western Forest Products Co. (obscured) Oakridge which cleared some (obscured) area last year now has a (obscured) caterpillar at the area cleaning out debris left last year when snow ended operations.

Persons interested in helping clear the area are asked to bring axes, gloves, and their lunch each Sunday.

### **Tows to Run**

Roy Temple, Willamette area tow operator, will run at least two tows this winter and Mrs. Temple will again operate the Snack Shack. The ski school will be under the direction of Elizabeth Gullion, and ski buses will run during the season.

Summit Lodge, at the west end of Odell Lake, will be open for overnight accommodations this winter for the first time, and a large boat will take guests across the lake when the road is blocked.

McCredie Springs and Cresdell Lodge also will provide overnight accommodations for skiers this year, Korn said.

Register-Guard  
December 20, 1947  
Page 6

### **SKI DATA**

By Ruby Frazier

**"Safe Ski Month" plans are coming along nicely, and staff heads for the three areas are organizing instructors. Willis Caldwell will head the staff at Santiam, Tony Vogel at McKenzie, and Elizabeth Guillion at Willamette.**

The school (free) will continue for three Sundays, and I certainly hope that a lot of the new skiers who turned up at Hoodoo last Sunday will take advantage of it.



Sunday at Hoodoo was a great success as far as the race went – although the course was too stiff for most of the juniors – but from a safety angle it was a total loss. The ski patrol was kept fairly busy hauling people out on toboggans, and it was only through the mercy of the Almighty that they weren't a lot busier.

One youngster felt real brave, and rode the tow to the top of the draw. Once up there, he pointed his skis downhill and let nature take care of the rest.

He was going at a pretty good rate when nature and the law of gravity claimed their own, just halfway down the hill. As I took his skis off he grabbed for his twisted knee and said "Guess I was just going too fast. After all, this is the first time I've ever been skiing."

It is my fervent hope that this lad and all the others up there Sunday just like him will have these free lessons. Only redeeming feature of the day was that I did not recognize many of these eager beavers, and so I do not think too many of them were from Eugene.

- MAIL-A-BUCK -

**Ski Oregon license plates are being sold through the Obsidian Club, and are nice for autos or just to have around. Sponsored by the Oregon Winter Sports Assn., they show a skier schussing a mountain, and are good publicity for the state. Buy now for a dollar and boost Oregon skiing.**

- MAIL-A-BUCK -

**The state highway department is planning to send a photographer to the McKenzie area soon to take some pictures, which will be sent out as publicity shots. Some of the local gals have been contacted to act as models in ski scenes. Should be a good boost for the McKenzie.**

A man representing a famous line of ski wear was in the office not long ago, investigating the possibility of putting on a style show like the one at Timberline last year. Timberline had movie stars as models and all kinds of big names in attendance. Something may come of this, but I doubt it, since he had to be informed of the limited facilities at one ski lodge that might be utilized in this area. Say what you will, we have nothing like Timberline to attract the starlets.

- MAIL-A-BUCK -

**Since the Boy Scouts and Obsidians are both planning winter outings at Odell Summit Lodge between Christmas and New Year's the Willamette area should have a busy holiday. Also open for the vacations will be Santiam Lodge – and of course, the McKenzie is always waiting at the end of a short drive.**

The Friday ski forecasts show skiing should be good over this weekend, with some snow flurries to be expected. Tows will operate in all areas. Buses will run to Willamette and Santiam. Persons driving to the areas should at least carry chains, just in case. Lunchrooms will be open at Santiam and Willamette. Exams are over on the campus, and this should be a good week.

Register-Guard

January 8, 1948

Page 12

### **Free Skiing Schools Scheduled for Sunday**

All skiers who wish to register for free lessons at local ski areas Jan. 11, 18, and 25 may pick up registration blanks at once from George Korn at Hendershotts.

The free lessons, which will feature basic fundamentals, will be sponsored by the Obsidian Club, U. of O. Ski Club and the Willamette Ski Patrol.

### **Bend to Aid in Teaching**

Buses will run to Santiam and Willamette Sunday, and those wishing to use this transportation are asked to buy tickets early.

At Santiam, Phil Peoples, Bend, and his staff will aid in teaching. Willis Caldwell and Stan Arthur will head the Eugene instructors.

Elizabeth Gullion will head the staff at Willamette aided by Gene McMurphy, (sic) Stan Tonkn Jack Meissner, Virginia Tomkins, Beatrice Hass, Dick Sterns and Bill Workman.

### **All Ages Invited**

Persons of all ages are invited to take advantage of the free lessons, sponsoring groups said.

Current plan are to run busses to both areas every Sunday during the safety ski school, and probably after that until the season closes.

\* \* \* \* \*

Maris note: Virginia Tomkins was to become Jack Meissner's wife about a year after the completion of his 300-mile trek in March of 1948.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Register-Guard  
January 10, 1948  
Page 6

## **SKI DATA**

By Ruby Frazier

**Skiing has been hitting the big-time in some of the nation's better known magazines, and all of them go to show that those who put their money into the skiing industry a few years ago are not exactly starving to death now.** The January issue of "Pic" magazine has a good article on skiing on a budget, and takes in ski areas over the country including our own Timberline. The last issue of Sat Eve Post delves into the workings of Mt. Tremblant in Canada, and the article makes excellent reading. A good many of the women's fashion magazines have had sections devoted to the newest in ski clothing, and that is okay if you can afford it. Eugene, we find, does not go in for the high priced ski wear featured in places like Saks Fifth Avenue.

And in the field of books, John Jay's new "Skiing the Americas" is out, and should be on sale in Eugene. If you can't get it, tell your book dealer it is published by the McMillan Co., and might be you can have it ordered. Full of John's famous colored pictures, it should be interesting reading and looking.

Another new book just out is "Invitation to Skiing" – practically guaranteed to improve your skill. It has more than 175 pictures and diagrams, is written by Fred Iselin, a Swiss champion and instructor, and is designed primarily for beginners. Published by Simon and Schuster.

-MAIL-A-BUCK-

**We haven't said much about the Ski Patrol this year. We all know they have been on duty each Sunday at Willamette, and every two or three Sundays at Santiam, picking the injured out the drifts.** These men give up time they might be using for fun to tend to the injured skiers, and to patrol the slopes. Next time you see someone being carted off on the toboggan, remember the men who are giving their time and skill for free. All patrol members are skilled in first aid and are capable skiers. They have helped hundreds at local ski areas the past few seasons.

All this is to remind all skiers that the National Ski Patrol membership drive will be coming up soon, and when it does, don't gripe when they ask you to buy a button. Just buy one, and remember the next victim they haul out might be your.

-MAIL-A-BUCK-

**In line with this boost for the ski patrol, remember that free ski lessons start Sunday at Willamette and Santiam areas from 10:30 to 12:30 at the areas.**

Registration blanks were not done in time, but any persons interested in the lessons can sign in at the areas tomorrow. That's all there is to it. Sponsored by the Obsidians, Willamette Ski Patrol and U. of O. Ski Club, the lessons will be free. There will be bus transportation to each area for the three Sundays the lessons will be given, there is food at each area, rental equipment available at Santiam if you didn't get it here, and four tows should be in operation at Santiam this Sunday instead of the usual three.

Local skiers are giving their time to teach the free lessons, and all are good teachers.

The local ski patrol is interested in finding out if this instruction will cut down on the accident rate among the novices. They are anxious to show the difference between safe skiing and having fun – and reckless skiing and the possibility of hospital bills. This will also give the patrol a chance to see if any part of the instruction fails – and what needs to be added to the agenda.

The safe ski school should have gone off well at Willamette Saturday also, as a full bus left Eugene for the area Saturday morning.

Regular registration blanks will be in the hands of George Korn at Hendershotts next week, and late comers can register there.

(Note that during the post-war years, local sporting and clothing business regularly ran ski clothing and equipment advertisements, often filling entire pages with the various ads. It is interesting to read these for the types of fabrics and clothing styles, accessories, and ski equipment together with the prices of those years.)

Register-Guard  
February 10, 1948  
Page 12

(Photo of two patrollers running a rescue toboggan, each in a snowplow straddle stance.)

(Caption reads:

**AN INJURED SKIER** is helped down the slopes at Willamette area by two members of the Ski Patrol . . . and is only one of the many that area helped each weekend by patrol members who give their time free to protect other skiers. The patrol, which will participate in a nation-wide membership drive in the near future, is on duty regularly at Willamette and Santiam areas. Only identified man in this unposed picture is George Korn, at the back of the toboggan. (Pfeiffer photo, Wiltshire engraving).

Note: Jim Harrang, an active patroller in 1948, has said that the front skier/patroller reminded him of Jack Meissner, who regularly skied and worked at Willamette. Harrang also independently identified Korn in the rear. Meissner would have been 28 years old at the time. This date is prior to his 300-mile trek in March from Government Camp to Crater Lake.)

Register-Guard  
February 12, 1948  
Page 1

### **Mountaineer Delays Trip**

PORTLAND – (AP) – Jack Meissner, who decided to heed a forest service warning against a solo ski trip along the Cascade range from Government Camp to Crater Lake, still is looking for a companion.

The experienced woodsman, who ran a trap line on skis last winter from his home at Cascade Summit north of Crater Lake, said his plans for starting the 30-day trip Friday were definitely postponed. He added, however, that he had an indirect inquiry from a California skier and might be able to get a companion for the trip in a few days.

Register-Guard  
February 13, 1948  
Page 1

### **Partners Study Trip** (Title partially obscured.)

Portland – (AP) – A 300-mile trip into the Cascade range wilderness will be attempted after (obscured)

Jack Meissner, 28-year old (obscured) from Cascade Summit, (obscured) found a partner willing to (obscured) the journey over the wind-(obscured) mountains and forests from (obscured) Hood to Crater Lake.

(obscured) Ernest Pentheney, 20, Mal-(obscured), a ski instructor at Mt. (obscured)

(obscured) plan to leave next Wed-(obscured) on the estimated 30-day (obscured)

(obscured) twice will they touch civ-(obscured), each time to replenish (obscured) in the 50-pound packs (obscured) will carry. They expect to (obscured) the additional rations at Santiam highway on the 10th (obscured) at the Willamette High-(obscured) the 20th day.

(obscured) Meissner earlier announced he (obscured) try it alone, but the forest service advised him to get a (obscure) to cut down risks of the (obscured)  
Additional Story Page 7

Register-Guard  
February 13, 1948  
Page 7

### **Young Skier Tells Plans for Venture**

(See Page 1 Story Also)

Jack Meissner, Cascade Summit, Friday was prepared to start a 300-mile trip on skis from Government Camp at Mt. Hood to Crater Lake to pioneer a route that someday may be developed for the use of all skiers.

The 28-year old woodsman plans to make about 10 miles a day, and unless he finds a partner will travel alone.

Jack's idea did not spring up overnight. He has been thinking of such a trip for two or three years; a born woodsman, he has worked trap lines and served as a guide in the Cascade country for years, and knows much of the territory as few others do.

The young skier will carry 55 pounds with him, including his sleeping bag, dried food, first aid kit, chocolate bars, camera, a small axe, and a small amount of extra clothing.

### **Studied Maps**

The local CAP and Willamette Ski Patrol have studied the maps of his route with him in preparation for possible emergencies, and the CAP will drop him supplies at Sunshine Shelter or James Creek. They will also attempt contact at Jefferson Park,

Jack's original plans were to reach Santiam about Feb. 23, Willamette ski area about March 5, and Crater Lake about March 13. En route, if he has time, he will climb the South Sister, Olalie Butte, and Diamond Peak.

### **Pigeons to Drop**

The Obsidians are hoping to drop their two carrier pigeons, Homer and Cynthia, to Jack somewhere along the route. He will be able to jot down a message and send it back. The pigeons are being trained for this excursion.

Jack's itinerary will be as follow, (sic) with his 24 campsites set in parenthesis:

Start from Government Camp at Mt. Hood at noon, follow the Skyline Trail to Cooper Lake (1), then continue on the Skyline Trail to Rock Spring Summit (2); then leave Skyline trail and continue to Lemiti Ranger Station (3), and follow Skyline again to Olallie Lake (4), then on to Jefferson Park (5) where he will camp on north slope of Mt. Jefferson, and where the Eugene CAP will attempt to contact him.

He will continue to Pamela Lake (6), then to Marion Lake (7), and then to Duffey Lake Shelter (8). He will go next to Hogg Butte on Santiam, and stay at Santiam Lodge (9), then to southwest slope of Mt. Washington (10), then to Craig Lake (11), and to Sunshine Shelter (12), another possible CAP contact point.

### **Campsites**

The skier will continue next to James Creek (13), then to Horse Lake Guard Station (14), then to the east slope of Pack Saddle Mt. (15), and then to a camp near Irish Mt. (16).

His next camps will be made at Charlton Lake (17), Betty Lake (18), and then to Willamette Summit (19). He will then follow his trapline, climb north slope of Diamond Peak and ski down the south slope and camp at Summit Lake (20). Then he will camp at Windigo Pass (21), Maidu Lake (22), on west slope of Mt. Thielsen (23), and finally at Desert Ridge Camp (24). His 25th camp will be at Cater Lake.

Local skiers may accompany Jack part of the way, and Portland concerns have equipped him with clothing and skis.

\* \* \* \* \*

Note that Jack Meissner is the same age as Gene McMurphey, WPSP and ski instructor who died on 11/14/1948, in a Eugene bridge repair accident.

Note also that Bob Pfeiffer, WPSP and Obsidian, frequently mentioned in articles during next few years and Chairman of the Gene McMurphey Memorial Shelter Building Committee, was a CAP member and pilot. He was involved in a CAP re-supply mission to Jack. See Register-Guard, March 11, 1948, Page 20; also RG photo Harold Trotter and Jack Meissner, March 11, 1948, Page 1; and Carrier Pigeon (Cynthia) article March 12, 1948, Page 2.

\* \* \* \* \*

Register-Guard  
February 14, 1948  
Page 8

## **SKI DATA**

By Ruby Frazier

**Lots of stuff this week, so I will make this as terse as possible. First, the All-Oregon downhill and slalom combined at Hoodoo for men and women in Class C and junior division will be Sunday, Feb. 29.** Sponsored by the Obsidian Club, and PSNA-sanctioned, this will be the biggest meet in the history of the bowl.

Entry blanks have been sent to more than 35 Oregon ski clubs, and skiers from all over the state are expected. At the request of the council of college ski clubs the Obsidians are allowing these clubs to enter teams of five for the sake of some intercollegiate competition.

The races on the 29th will be open to amateur men and women who are members in good standing with PNSA and who hold valid 1948 competitors classification cards, and to junior men and women who were not 18 on Jan. 1, 1948, and who are members in good standing of PNSA clubs. Unattached amateur skiers may enter at the discretion of the race committee upon payment of an additional two dollar fee. Signed entry forms accompanied by fee of two dollars (four for unattached) must be in the hands of the race committee by noon Wednesday, Feb. 25.

Each competitor will register at Santiam Lodge Saturday night or by 8 a.m. Sunday. A club may enter a team of five racers in any one class. The downhill will start at 10 a.m., with class to run first to be announced by the race committee. The slalom will follow the downhill immediately.

Twelve cups will be awarded to first places, 12 silver medals to second places, and 12 bronze to third places.

This is a no-host tournament, but a special rate of one dollar will get a bunk at Santiam Lodge for contestants who bring their own sleeping bags. Write to Art Boeschen at the lodge for reservations. Cabins furnished with bunks, stove and cooking utensils are available at Suttle Lake for groups at reasonable prices. Only six miles from the bowl, too.

All skiers are most cordially invited to attend the meet that Sunday at Santiam. For those who have never watched a tournament, it will be educational, and for everyone it will be interesting. The Obsidians did a fine job last year, but have tackled a still bigger one this season with the addition of the junior event.

## **-MAIL-A-BUCK-**

**Even before the meet this month there is another big event scheduled here in Eugene. Three ski movies, all in color, will be shown Feb. 24 at Roosevelt Junior High School. This school was chosen to accommodate University of Oregon students who may want to attend. The pictures will be "Ski Pro's Holiday," "Mount Bulyea," and "Rhythm on Snow." All were filed by Luggi Fogger, internationally known ski instructor and photographer, and were done in the Canadian Rockies near Banff. Such top-notch skiers as Tony Matt will be shown. The most spectacular film will be "Mount Bulyea," a ski-mountaineering picture which will show some excellent avalanche and glacier skiing shots. This will be the first Oregon showing of these pictures. The public, of course, is invited to attend. Time and so on will be announced later.**

## **-MAIL-A-BUCK-**

**For your schedule: There will be a cross-country meet at the Upper Willamette Ski Area March 14. More details on this will be released later. Also, the National Ski Patrol System 1948 membership drive is due to start soon. Dates for this will be announced shortly. I have on my desk a sample identification plate, which may be attached with ease to skis – and it seems to be this is a much better investment than the button**

given in previous years for your support of the patrol, but it has a space where your name can be engraved or scratched, making it that much harder for some unprincipled serf to walk off with your skis. Good security, this investment, in more ways than one.

Register-Guard  
February 21, 1948

Page 8

## **SKI DATA**

By Ruby Frazier

**Looks like Hoodoo is going to be one crowded place a week from tomorrow, with entries pouring in for the meet scheduled there for that day.**

Eugene is entering plenty. Already listed are Phil Porter, Gilbert Bissell, John Kerns, Joe Gardner, Jack Napper, Bruce Chase, Don Demis, and Cecil Andrus, all juniors. Entering under Class C for women will be Gloria Johnson and Doanne Edblom. Class C men entered include John Quiner, Tom Donahue, Blain McGillicuddy, Allen Anderson, Ward Haynes, and Lynn Bucklin.

Colleges will race six-man teams instead of five, as previously announced, and I understand the Portland clubs are really coming in force. George Henderson, PNSA president, will be head timer, and Rosemary Young, executive secretary, will be recorder. Olaf Skjersaa, Bend, will set the course.

Something in the way of special buses up to Santiam for the meet is being worked out, so watch the paper for details. There will be plenty of transportation. The Obsidians are doing a lot of work on a man-sized job to make this meet a success, and all skiers should lend their support.

**Starting Sunday will be the annual ski patrol membership drive. There's not much point in going over the list of good things the patrol does for you. The girls and boys selling identification plates at Willamette and Santiam the next three Sundays know more about that than I do. Chloe Owens will have charge at Santiam, and Virginia Tomkins at Willamette. Support you patrol. It is a mighty cheap kind of ski insurance.**

**From the way the snow is piling up in the mountains, a fair amount of good spring skiing is practically assured. Just ask those who skied in the storms the past couple of weekends. And more snow is forecast for this weekend. The weather bureau says the snow will be heavy during the nights and along towards evening. Skiing was reported generally poor Saturday. May improve Sunday.**

**Things to keep in mind: The All-Oregon cross-country championship for Class C and juniors March 14 at Willamette Pass.**

**The three ski movies Tuesday, Feb. 24 at Roosevelt Junior High.** There will be two showings, 7 and 8:45 p.m., the Obsidians are sponsors, the movies, in color, are entitled "Rhythm On Snow," "Mt. Bulvea," and "Ski Pro's Holiday." The films were made in the Canadian Rockies by Luggi Foeger. Admission charge? Yes, but not much.

**Jack Meissner finally got off Wednesday on his 300-mile trip from Mt. Hood to Crater Lake.**

Register-Guard  
February 25, 1948

Page 1

## **Skiers Get Supplies by Plane**

### **Homing Pigeons Maintain Contact**

Cynthia and Homer, homing pigeons, are winging their way back to Eugene with a message from the two skiers who undertook a self-imposed 300-mile trip along the summit of the Cascade Mountains.

Civil Air Patrol and Ski Patrol members from Eugene made aerial contact with the youthful skiers Tuesday and were informed via flag signals that all is well.

**Although a day behind schedule, due to storms over the weekend, the boys have covered approximately 50 miles in their four days of travel on the Skyline Trail.**

Persons acquainted with the area, or desirous of taking an aerial peak (sic) will find the lads on the north slope of Mt. Jefferson on tableland north of Jefferson park, according to Howard Meyers, CAP member who first spotted Jack Meissner, Cascade Summit, and Emery Woodall, of Arlington, Va., who is making the trip with him.

With fresh supplies dropped from CAP planes, it was considered likely that the skiers would take it easy on the west slope of Mt. Jefferson Wednesday.

#### **Foot Powder Too**

Fresh eggs, canned milk, fruit, canned meat, 10 pounds of frozen steaks, bananas, oranges, apples, two loaves of bread, a weeks supply of newspapers and foot powder (requested before they began the trip from Government Camp a week ago Wednesday) were pushed overboard from CAP ships.

Tony Vogel of the Ski Patrol was flown by Bob Pfeiffer in one of the ships while Norman Jensen piloted the second ship with Meyers and John Smith, Springfield, aboard.

The second aerial contact will be attempted in 10 days.

Register-Guard  
February 28, 1948  
Page 1

#### **One Skier Said Back in Camp**

Press service stories from Portland late Saturday morning reported that Emery Woodall returned to Government Camp Friday night. Jack Meissner was reported to be continuing the Cascade ski trip alone. The story gave no reasons for Woodall's return.

Local skiers assumed from the story that the two must have reached Santiam Friday, since this is the first point where transportation back to Portland would be available. Meissner may remain at Santiam over the weekend.

Register-Guard  
February 28, 1948  
Page 8  
**SKI DATA**  
By Ruby Frazier

**Talk about going like hot-cakes – the new issue of Life did just that. All copies on Eugene newsstands were bought up almost as soon as they hit the streets – by skiers, I suspect. I finally cornered a copy at a local ski shop and found the pictures (in color) of Timberline. Wonder how long the photogs had to sit up there before they found all that good weather for those gorgeous shots?**

**Unless they come home soon, it looks like curtains for Cynthia and Homer, The CAP definitely saw the birds rise and circle, after they had been dropped to Skiers Jack Meissner and Emery Woodall on Mt. Jefferson Tuesday. The fliers assumed the pigeons started their return that Tuesday afternoon. At this writing they have not arrived. Some unfeeling persons have suggested that hawks are usually hungry this time of year. The little birds have shared so many adventures with the Obsidians, too. Others say they may have decided to stay over at Santiam for the races. We should give Cynthia and Homer a couple of more days before we start thinking in terms of obituaries and tombstones.**

**Drawings have been held for the Sunday All-Oregon meet at Santiam, and all entries are closed except for Class C and junior women. Only a few of the gals signed up, but others are expected down for the weekend and will be able to enter then. As of Friday, 79 Class C men, 51 junior men had entered. Drawings were held Thursday. In Class C men, first five places were drawn by Fran Goodrich, University of Portland; Jack Tavenner, Anthony Lakes; John Quiner, Obsidians; Saul Zaik, Obsidians; and Mel Hofsetter, University of Portland.**

Racing in first five places for junior men will be Jack Symons, Bend Skyliners; Don Dennis, Obsidians; Kick Duncan, East Linn Club; John Reeves, Santiam, and Harold Goheen, Santiam. Drawing for women will be Saturday night at the lodge.

In order to make the elaborate figuring of results a little easier, Richard Link, a math student, will be on hand with a calculator, and many others will be on hand with pencils and paper. The race committee says the scope of the meet has forced a most thorough organization of all phases, so everything should go smoothly. And pray for good weather!

**Once this meet is over we can breathe easy for a week, then start planning for the All-Oregon Class C and junior cross-country event up Willamette say. This will be Sunday, March 14, with junior men and women starting over the three-mile course at 11 a.m., and Class C men and women taking off on the six-mile course about noon.**

The race will start at the ski area, and cover a course in the Odell Lake region. The altitude will not vary more than 500 feet on the course. Bud Nasholm will set course, and George Korn will be race chairman. The first six places in each event of the PNSA-sanctioned meet will merit cups and medals.

The junior divisions will be two – one for kids from 12 to 16; one for those in the 16-19 age bracket. The boy and girl winner in the 16-19 age group will have their names engraved on a perpetual trophy donated by George Korn. This meet will be an annual event, and two names will be added each year.

**This will be a wonderful weekend to get yourself an identification plate and a membership in the National Ski Patrol System. Willamette Ski Patrol members will be on hand at both areas Sunday to sell same for a buck.**

BULLETIN: Cynthia has returned. For details see Page One.

\* \* \* \* \*

Maris note:

Third paragraph for All-Oregon meet at Santiam: Saul Zaik, listed as a Class C racer from Obsidians, was a University of Oregon architecture student who later becomes a well recognized architect, in Portland, Oregon. The following extract is from *Oregon Quarterly, The Magazine of the University of Oregon*, Spring 2010, Page 31. It also provides additional background information for the University of Oregon Ski Team.

“A snow skier since high school, Zaik also raced on the UO alpine ski team coached by none other than 10th Mountain Division veteran Bill Bowerman '34, M.Ed. '53. Zaik remembers that many team practices involved running along far behind the track guys.

Zaik graduated in 1952 – his thesis was the plan and drawings for an imagined ski resort lodge at Diamond Peak in the Cascades – and returned to Portland in an energetic era full of growth and promise.”

\* \* \* \* \*

Register-Guard  
February 28, 1948  
Page 1

### **Cynthia Returns; Homer Missing**

Beaten by blizzards, and in “rather poor shape” according to Owner Joe Maughn, the female half of the pair of homing pigeons released on Mt. Jefferson Tuesday finally returned to her loft bearing a note from Skiers Jack Meissner and Emery Woodall, who are attempting a trip from Mt. Hood to Crater Lake.

Cynthia could not tell what happened to mate Homer, but Maughn thinks now that he may come dragging in later. It was Cynthia who bore the note on her leg, however that proved the skiers were in good shape. She and Homer were dropped to them Tuesday by local CAP members.



Register-Guard  
March 11, 1948  
Page 1 Photo Caption

**JACK MEISSNER**, now in the Cascade range on his 300-mile solo venture, was making good use of information gleaned from Harold Trotter, Ski Patrol president, during a briefing in Eugene. Trotter, left, will accompany the next aerial group to contact the skier. Meissner was observed from the air Wednesday five miles south of the South Sister.

Register-Guard  
March 11, 1948  
Page 20

### **Skier Signals CAP Pilots That No Trouble Encountered**

(See Page 1 Picture)

Jack Meissner, young skier who is making a 300-mile trip from Mt. Hood to Crater Lake was well along his second leg of his trip when contacted Wednesday afternoon by three planes from the local Civil Air Patrol unit.

Bob Pfeiffer, one of the pilots, reported Meissner was found skiing in perfect weather about five miles south of James Creek. Local skiers assumed he might have holed up during recent snows in the Cascades, as his original plans called for reaching James Creek Monday.

#### **No Troubles**

Meissner signaled the planes that he was in no trouble. Food was dropped [to] him, as well as Cynthia, homing pigeon who was dropped to him on Mt. Jefferson near the beginning of (sic) the trip.

The skier left Santiam Lodge last Wednesday, and has traveled more than 50 miles since then. The chance that he will reach Willamette Ski Area Sunday in time to take part in the cross-country races seemed remote this week.

He still had about 40 miles to go Wednesday afternoon from the point where the planes located him. His route will be downhill to Horse Lake, and a good part will be downhill to Waldo Lake.

#### **Will Rest**

Upon reaching his home at Cascade Summit, Meissner will spend a few days resting at the home of his step-parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Adkinson. He will then leave on the last part of his trip, with Crater Lake as his destination.

Part of Meissner's reason for making the trip was to test new equipment. While staying at Santiam he made the following observations, based on his experiences:

**1. Everything should be waterproofed.** He has been soaked through twice, and when wet just keeps on walking rather than court illness or freezing by stopping.

**2. By making hot cakes at suppertime** the night before, he saved time and a second fire-making ordeal the next morning. He eats the cakes cold.

**3. The nylon and wool half** of his ski pants withhold water longer and dry faster than the wool half. He has a two tone outfit with half of each pair of pants sewn together in the middle. He is testing these for a Portland ski-wear manufacturer.

**4. The poncho, a rain-cape,** is the best garment to wear.

**5. His original 10-miles a day** schedule is too tiring. Seven or eight miles a day is plenty. Meissner is, of course, forced to break his own trail all the way. Much of the journey he has had several inches of new snow to break.

\* \* \* \* \*

Note: See Register-Guard, Feb. 21, 1954, for article on Jack Meissner's mother, Florence Adkinson, and description of their home area at Cascade Summit.

\* \* \* \* \*

Register-Guard  
March 12, 1948  
Page 2

### **Famed Pigeon Brings Note From Skier**

Cynthia, the carrier pigeon dropped to Jack Meissner Wednesday south of James Creek in the Three Sisters area returned to his owner, Joe Maughan, on Thursday, bearing a note from the skier.

The note was lengthy, Meissner wrote that he had been forced to dig in for three days because of bad weather, and that going was rough. He said he hoped to make it to the Willamette summit by Sunday for the cross-country races.

### **Waited for Planes**

Meissner said he waited some time for the planes on Wednesday, knowing the CAP pilots would probably make the trip that day because of good weather. He feared that if he continued, he would get into heavy timber and the planes would be unable to drop the food – all of which reached him Wednesday in good condition.

The skier, who is making the 300-mile trip from Mt. Hood to Crater Lake alone, said he had taken a short side-trip Wednesday to a small lake in the area, and had written the word “back” in large letters in the snow so that planes could see it in case he was out of sight and remain in the area till he arrived. Pictures taken by passengers in the three CAP planes Wednesday showed the words written in the snow very clearly.

Register-Guard  
March 13, 1948  
Page 8

### **SKI DATA . . . .**

**My good friend Maurice Arkin out at the weather bureau says Sunday should be a pretty good day for the races at Willamette, with “little if any precipitation” and “probably sunshine most of the day.”** If anything goes wrong, blame him.

This sounds good for the 40 or so cross-country racers who will take part in the Class C and junior events Sunday, and for the spectators who will be on hand to watch them.

Bror Nasholm and a crew of six marked the three-mile trail along the Skyline Trail and snow bound forest roads Saturday with red crepe streamers, and the first skiers will take off at 11 a.m. Racers will leave at one minute intervals, and Class C men will cover the course twice. Other classes will race shorter distances.

**The race committee is still hoping that Jack Meissner will arrive at the area in time to prove the course – but the possibility seems slim.**

Deadline for entries in the event will be 10 a.m. at the ski area.

Most of the racers entered are Obsidians, with a few from Blue Mt. Ski Club at Tollgate, and some from the Riders at Oakridge, one from Junction City Ski Club, a couple from Bohemia Ski Club, and a few others from scattered clubs near this area.

Winners of the junior boys and girls events will have their names engraved on the Jack Meissner perpetual trophy. It is the hope of the race committee to promote more interest in ski touring.

George Korn, race chairman, says that two buses will run to Willamette Sunday. Both will leave at 7:30 a.m., but one will be back at 6:30 p.m. and the other will return following a 5 p.m. banquet at McCredie Springs.

Needless to say, tows will be operating at the area, and the lunch room will be open. Plenty of parking space, and roads in good condition with chairs not needed. Icy spots have been sanded.

**The Ski Patrol will enter at least one team in the annual ski patrol toboggan races at Mt. Hood in the near (sic) future. Team personnel has (sic) not been decided as yet. If I remember correctly, the local teams did pretty well last year, and with all the practice members have had this season, should do even better this year.**

It's not too late to join the patrol, and any members can give you information on how.

Register-Guard  
March 15, 1948  
Page 6

### **Oakridge Youth May Join Skier on Trip Over Cascades**

When Jack Meissner starts the third and final lap of his 300-mile trip on skis from Mt. Hood to Crater Lake Wednesday, he may have a companion in 16-year-old Don Temple, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Temple of Oakridge.

Meissner arrived at Willamette ski area Sunday about 3:30 p. m. after making about 15 to 17 miles that day from the north end of Waldo. He will visit his Cascade Summit home for three days and then will take off on the last 75 or 80 miles of his trip, with Crater Lake as the destination.

### **Not Definite**

Don's father said Monday he would not know definitely until Tuesday whether or not his son will accompany Meissner. He said Meissner feared it might be "a little rough" on the boy, but said he was sure his son could make the trip.

"Don was raised in that country and couldn't get lost," Temple said. "I'm not scared about his going."

### **Knows Territory**

The Oakridge boy is already an accomplished woodsman, and for sometime has been taking trips through the rugged country around Willamette Summit by himself. (sic) Sunday he won the junior boy's division of the cross-country races at the Willamette summit ski area.

Meissner said he dd (sic) not know how long the last leg of the trip would take, pointing out that "it depends on the weather, and then there area a couple of mountains I want to climb on the way." He will probably take about two weeks.

### **Rougher Stretch**

The second section of the trip, which he finished Sunday, was much rougher than the first, he reported. The snow was icy in the timber and he had to wait over three days in a snow cave he made when storms struck.

A snow cave, he finds, is not nearly as warm or comfortable as the small Army tent he carried with him. The country was rough and unfamiliar, and he declared that his compass and contour maps turned out to be some of his most valuable equipment.

### **Eating**

Although Meissner started out with a 65-pound pack, he found the weight lessened rapidly as he ate the food he carried. He also found that he ate lots more when he was holed up waiting for the storm to blow over than when he was moving.

The 28-year-old woodsman traveled more than 40 miles since Civil Air Patrol planes form Eugene contacted him last Wednesday five miles south of James Creek. He is already planning to enter the national cross-country races next winter at Tollgate ski area in eastern Oregon.

Meissner's mother, Mr. Ed Adkinson, was at Willamette ski area Sunday when he arrived. She spent the day waiting and helping Mr. and Mrs. Temple, who operate the ski tows and lunchroom at the ski area.

*1895 Oregon's Magazine*

Winter 2010 – Winter Adventure Issue

Pages 41-45

### **Oregon's Greatest Ski Adventure**

An unrepeatd 300-mile push from Mt. Hood to Crater Lake belongs to Jack Meissner

Written by Annemarie Hamlin

Photos from Meissner's scrapbook

(Extraction from Page 45. See Appendix I for full article and photographs.)

### **Cascade Summit to Crater Lake**

For the final leg of the trip from Odell Lake to Crater Lake, two teen-age boys asked to join him. *The Oregonian* reported that a member of the Civil Air Patrol also traveled with them for a few days before

splitting off. They started on March 18, but soon returned to Cascade Summit discouraged by a storm that gripped the mountains. As much as ten inches of snow fell in eight hours at Crater Lake and wiped out power to much of Klamath County.

The young men proved their strength in a side trip climbing Diamond Peak, but Meissner said that the boys, Don Temple and Gilbert Bissell, both 17, lacked some important skills for outdoorsmen. "I could see those kids making mistakes – the way they would chop wood and wanted to keep going and not stop before it got dark." Meissner decided he needed to send them home, so he skied with them to Crescent Lake and put them on the train. He then went to the store at Crescent Lake, bought and ate a can of peaches, then headed back into the mountains.

Register-Guard

March 15, 1948

Page 11

### **All-Oregon Cross Country Ski Meet Inaugerated (sic) Sunday**

By Ruby Frazier

The introduction of cross-country skiing at Willamette Pass for local skiers and representatives from several other Oregon clubs got off to a good start Sunday with the first annual all-Oregon cross-country event.

Sponsored by the Obsidian Club, the PNSA-sponsored event drew a large field of racers, the bulk of them in the Class C and junior men's divisions. Ideal snow conditions and mostly-fair weather combined with efficient management made the tournament a success. About six clubs sent representatives.

Class C men ran the grueling three mile course twice, with Class C women and junior men running it once. Junior women and juvenile divisions ran shorter distances.

Race chairman was George Korn, and Bob Lyon doubled as chief timer and course prover. Bror Nasholm set the course.

Don Temple, Oakridge, took first place for junior men, and Lucile Gilson, Obsidian, for Junior women. First place for Class C men went to Marvin Anderson, Blue Mt. Club, and for Class C women to Virginia Tomkins, Obsidians. Jill Kerns won the juvenile girls event, and Gordon Porter, unat., won for juvenile boys.

A banquet at McCredie Springs Resort followed the races, with 62 attending. Honor guest was Jack Meissner, who arrived at the ski area about 3:30 p.m., after skiing about 15 miles from the north end of Waldo in one day.

Jim Popp, who took third in Class C men, made the first circuit of the three mile course (many racers swore it was more than three miles) in 50 minutes, the best time of the day for a single run of the course.

Perpetual trophies will be engraved with the names of the skiers winning the junior men and women classes.

Cups were given to winners of first three places in each event, and medals to the next three places. In the divisions where number of entries was small, only the first three winners have been listed:

Summary:

(See Appendix A for full listing. Note that junior men winner, Don Temple, 0:56:42, was son of Roy Temple ski area's first owner; and Gilbert Bissell, second place, 0:59:31.8, was Willamette Ski Patrol member. Also note that Jack Meissner, was on a three day break in his 300-mile trek from Mt. Hood to Crater Lake. Jack stayed with his mother at Cascade Summit before completing the last leg. See prior RG article, 3/15/48, Page 6.)

The Obsidian  
March, 1948  
Page 5

( **SKI NEWS**, First Column, beginning with the second paragraph)

The National Ski Patrol annual roll call is on. All skiers should contribute and secure the NSPS contributors identification plate. Sixty percent stays for use in this area. Chloeann Owens is general chairman for the drive here.

Buy a "Ski Oregon" plate for your car. 25c from each plate sold goes to your club. The rest will promote highway and ski area improvement.

The "battle of the McKenzie" was lost again. After strong representation at the Highway Commission meeting, they promised little and after a feeble effort to keep it open the highway was closed, being open only to White Branch.

Some day they may realize what an asset they have in Hand Lake, Sims Butte and the Sand Hills and the dry Powder snow and glorious open ski country toward the Three Sisters beyond.

(See appendix for full text of next in sequence, fund raising article, that mentions, "Special mention is deserving to Sterling Behnke, Ralph Proudfoot and George Korn for bringing in the money on the raffle tickets. . . .

(Bottom third of second column)

The ski school inaugurated at both the Willamette and Santiam areas have been meeting the urgent need of getting new comers to the slopes sold on the idea that the taking of competent instruction is a big asset both for making skiing more enjoyable and more safe. The program was launched by the Willamette Ski Patrol as a safety measure and under the chairmanship of Tony Vogel. The cooperation of Obsidians, University of Oregon Ski Club, the Willamette Ski School, Central Cascade Council and the Korn-Hendershott ski bus service were coordinated into a working system. Elizabeth Gullion and Gene McMurphy (sic) organized the classes at the Willamette area and Phil Peoples was selected by the Cascade Council to handle the lessons in Hoodoo Bowl. The culmination to the January "safe ski month" program at the Willamette was the Obsidian "country ski fair" at which the PNSA fourth class skier proficiency test was given under the direction of Tony Vogel, Bryan Ryan and the Willamette Ski School staff.

The Obsidian  
March, 1948  
Page 1

#### **Cross Country Meet Mar. 4**

Plans are well underway for the first cross-country race for these parts in many a day. Sparking this old time Obsidian activity is George Korn who is general chairman of the meet. PNSA sanction has been secured for this sequel to the downhill and slalom affair for March 14 at the Willamette Area. Borg (sic) Nasholm has been studying the terrain and promises to set real nifty courses for both Junior and Class C racers.

\* \* \* \* \*

Note: Borg (sic) should read as Bror Johan Nasholm who was the father of John Nasholm. He is more often referred to as Bud Nasholm.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Obsidian  
March, 1948  
Page 4

(SKI NEWS, Column 2, paragraph 2, extraction: Presently known WPSP members among ski racers. Jack Meissner recognized.)

(Note: Underlines of WPSP members added by Maris.)

A large delegation of Obsidians showed up at Hood for the all-class Portland Day Trial Races sponsored by the Portland Jaysees (sic) on January 4th. Twenty Obsidians in all raced. In the Class B men's event were Jim Popp, Phil Edblom and Jim Harrang. In C Class were: Ward Haynes, Tom Donahue, Blaine McGillicuddy, Bob Moffit, Jack Meissner, Al Davis and Saul Zaik. Virginia Tomkins and Doanne Edblom were in the women's Class C with Doanne pulling in the only trophy – a third place cup. Eight juniors – all boys, raced the course from Timberline the Government Camp. They were Bruce Chase, John Kerns, Cecil Andrus, Gilbert Bissell, Joe Gardner, Jack Napper, Tom Temple and Don Temple.

-----  
A small group of Obsidian Class C races (sic) entered the Vanport College slalom race at Government Camp on January 25th. Competing in the large field of men racers were Blaine McGillicuddy, Tom Donahue, Ward Haynes and John Quiner. In the women's we had a repeat performance from Miss Doanne Edblom. She took the medal for third place.

(Underline of WPSP members added by Maris.)

Register-Guard  
May 9, 1948  
Page 6

#### **Ski Patrol Banquet Scheduled Thursday**

Date for the annual Willamette Ski Patrol banquet has been set as Thursday, May 13. The informal event will be at 7 p. m. in the Osburn Hotel Oriental room, according to the patrol president Harold Trotter.

In accordance with an agreement entered into before the recent patrol races held at Santiam Pass, members of the Santiam Patrol will be dinner guests. The Santiam patrolmen won the races and a free dinner.

Reservations for the dinner may be made at Hendershott's or at the high schools, where registration sheets will be posted.

The Willamette patrol will elect officers for the coming year and discuss future activities. Entertainment has also been arranged.

Register-Guard  
May 14, 1948  
Page 11

#### **New Ski Patrol Officers Voted**

George Sousa will head the Willamette Ski Patrol next season, and Bob Hansen will act as patrol chief, following elections held at the annual dinner of the organization Thursday evening. Gene McMurphey was elected vice-president, and Virginia Tomkins will serve as secretary-treasurer.

About 40 persons attended the dinner meeting which honored members of the Santiam Ski Patrol who won the patrol races at Santiam earlier in the season.

The group decided to hold a pre-season jamboree for all patrols in the area in September.

The program consisted of talks by Jack Meissner, cross-country skier, and Bob Pfeiffer, Civil Air Patrol, accordion music by students of Chester Pietka.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Maris note: About a year later, Virginia Tomkins weds Jack Meissner. See *The Obsidian*, February 1949, Page Three.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Register-Guard  
November 15, 1948  
Classified Death Notices 115

**McMurphey** – Eugene McMurphy of 1466 West 8th Ave. was born June 29, 1920 in Eugene, Oregon and passed away as the result of an accident on November 14, 1948 in Eugene, Oregon at the age of 28 years. He is survived by his wife; Betty, two children, Michael and Sally McMurphy; his mother, Leora T. McMurphy of Eugene. His father, Robert S. McMurphy of Los Angeles, Calif. The deceased was a veteran of World War No. 2. funeral services will be conducted at the Simon-Lounsbury Chapel Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 3 P.M. with Reverend Wesley Goodson Nicholson officiating. Internment in Westlawn Memorial Park.

(Maris note: ERG captioned photo, February 20, 1951, Page 5, identifies cause of death, “. . . was killed in an industrial accident. . .” Note that Eugene (Gene) McMurphey’s name spelling shows up as both McMurphy (death notice in ERG has entry name McMurphey, then changes to McMurphy for all of the relatives. The accident article uses both spellings. Obsidian Bulletins and Eugene Register Guard use both depending upon who the writer was. McMurphey is more common. The dedication sign uses Gene McMurphey which has been verified as correct by Obsidian member, and history/genealogy buff, Mary Ellen West. She called on 1/30/2010, to clarify that Gene was killed by falling off of a high bridge doing repair work. She said that he broke both of his legs and was reported as dying of shock and pneumonia. Hemorrhagic shock is the most likely cause as he is reported as dying the same day as the accident. Mary Ellen also corrected the obituary and following short article, using the incorrect spelling of Gene McMurphy, which is correctly spelled McMurphey. His grandmother resided in the Shelton, McMurphey, Johnson house, in Eugene, until her death. Mary Ellen also confirmed his WW II military service, teaching skiing to the Mountain Troops in Colorado; she also said that Gene’s wife, Betty, was a nurse in the hospital.)

Register-Guard  
November 15, 1948  
A few pages before Classified Death Notices

**Eugene McMurphy**

Funeral services for Eugene McMurphy, 28, 1466 – Eighth Ave. W., who died Sunday at a local hospital, will be Tuesday at 2 p.m. at Simon-Lounsbury Mortuary with the Reverend W.G. Nicholson officiating. Interment will be at Westlawn Memorial Park.

Mr. McMurphy, a veteran of World War II, is survived by his widow, Betty; two children, Michael and Sally; his mother Leora T. McMurphy, Eugene; his father, Robert S. McMurphy, Los Angeles.

Register-Guard  
December 25, 1948

**SKI DATA**

By Ruby Frazier

Might as well start right off this week with the forecast for Sunday. There doesn’t seem to be much else going on:

Timberline: 145 inches of snow; none new; surface powder on (obscured) . . but chains needed. Forecast, partly cloudy with light wind.

Santiam: No report.

Willamette: Likewise.

How do you like that? Anyway, skiing should be good over the weekend with these low temperatures prevailing. Tows will operate at both Santiam and Willamette from Christmas Day through New Year’s weekend.

**Roy Temple, at Willamette area, said this week he hopes to have the new 900-foot tow running by this Sunday. If not, it will be in operation very soon, and definitely by New Year’s.**

Buses will run this Sunday. There will be one to each area, with the new low vacation rates in effect. Persons who have not purchased tickets are assured of plenty of room. Skiers going to Santiam will leave at 7 a.m. from Hendershotts or Fennells. Those going to Willamette will leave at 7:30 a.m. from in front of either of these stores. Tickets may be purchased on the bus Sunday.

Don't forget that the Cotton Bowl and Rose Bowl games will be broadcast next weekend at Willamette. At 11 a.m. the Cotton Bowl game will go on the air, and the Rose Bowl tussle will follow. You can ski New Year's day and not miss a play.

**How is this for free advertising? Aetna Life Ins. Co. has a new 22 minute sound and color movie on skiing, with prints available for specific showings. Can be had by contacting any company representative or writing the company's Public Education Department, 151 Farmington Ave., Hartford, Conn.**

The movie is entitled "Ski Tips," and is narrated by Lowell Thomas. It gives skiers pointers ranging from the use of sunburn cream to avoiding accidents, and was filmed in cooperation with the National Ski Patrol System in New Hampshire.

This film sounds like a real good deal for the ski patrol and for all ski clubs in the area. The patrol could probably use it for publicity in advance of the drive.

Enough for now. See you next week.

The Obsidian

February 1949

Page 1

### **Winter Trip Schedule**

All Skiers, attention!! Now is the time if ever, for you to satisfy that urge to test and develop your skill. The mountains are fairly groaning with loads of snow; the frost-covered firs are beckoning a welcome. Our indefatigable ski chairman, George Korn, and assistant, Phil Edblom, have worked out some wonderful programs for you. Read these carefully, and make your plans.

#### **WINTER SCHEDULE OF SKI TRIPS**

(See Appendix A for full schedule.)

The Obsidian

February 1949

Page 3

### **Mr. and Mrs. Meissner . . .**

Jack and Virginia were married Sunday afternoon, January 16, at the Congregational Church in Eugene, with many Obsidian friends present to start them off on a long and happy life together. The bride wore a white satin gown which had been Jack's sister's wedding gown, and carried a bouquet of white carnations centered by an orchid. She was escorted down the aisle by her father. Jack's mother, and Virginia's were also present. Her attendants were Mildred Vaughan, Lucile Gilson, Betty Stewart, and Phyllis Morris. Gilbert Sprague's little girl, Marilyn, was flower girl. Jack's brother-in-law served as best man. Immediately after the ceremony a reception was held in the Wheeler room of the church, and pictures were taken by Hubert Phillips, Bob Pfeiffer, and Ralph Proudfoot. Assisting at the reception were Dorris Sims, Trilla Korn, and Judy Egge, Mary Castelloe, and others of Virginia's friends. An arch was made with ski poles for their grand exit, which drew plenty of rice. Virginia tossed her bouquet from the stairway, after removing the orchid to wear on her new blue going away coat. Somehow some rice managed to get into her suitcase too. She and Jack spent a week at Anthony Lakes – just skiing! - - - and are now at home at the Cascade Summit, where they are – yes, you guessed it - - - skiing every day! May they ski through life with never a spill!



## NEW CHIEFS AND PRINCESSES

During the month of November the Princesses and Chiefs held their respective initiation parties at Obsidian cabin - - Alice Kingman became the newest Princess, being named, "Snowy Owl". Alice is now attending Oregon State College. The six new chiefs were christened: "**Parachute**" - - **George Korn**; "Soft Shoe" - - Jess Hayden; "**Eagle Feather**" - - **Bob Pfeiffer**; "Mountain Goat" - - Duane Brown; "Spark Plug" - - Geary Worth; and "Eager Beaver" - - Jack Kerrebrock.  
(Bold font added by Maris 12/09 for recognized members of WPSP)

The Obsidian  
February 1949  
Page 4

### THE PERSONNEL OF THE SKI COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS: \*

George Korn, Chairman . . . Phone 151

<i>Sterling Behnke</i>	<i>Robert Lyon</i>
<i>Earl Britton</i>	<i>John Quiner</i>
<i>Frank Eaton</i>	<i>Bryan Ryan</i>
<i>Phil Edblom</i>	<i>John Skillern</i>
<i>Miner Hamlin</i>	<i>Harold Trotter</i>
<i>Paul Lafferty</i>	<i>Tony Vogel</i>
<i>Norman Lee</i>	<i>John Watt</i>

### SUB-COMMITTEES APPOINTED:

#### WINTER SCHEDULE

*Harold Trotter*

*Phil Edblom*

*Frank Eaton*

#### SAFTETY SKI SCHOOL

*Tony Vogel*

*Miner Hamlin*

*Norman Lee*

#### TOURNAMENTS

*Robert Lyon*

*Sterling Behnke*

*John Skillern*

#### MOUNTAIN LODGE

*Paul Lafferty*

*Bryan Ryan*

*John Watt*

\* (*Italics indicate identified members of Willamette Ski Patrol and/or WPSP by Rich Maris 11/09*)

<http://www.obsidians.org/bulletin/Issues/1949-2:1>

Register-Guard  
February 12, 1949  
Page 8

## SKI DATA . .

By RUBY FRAZIER

\* **Work has started this weekend on the big PNSA cross-country race at Willamette. Entries are coming in well, George Korn, race chairman, has announced.**

Saturday the course setters lay out Class C, junior and juvenile courses, and on Sunday will lay out the Class A and B courses. Bror Nasholm heads the crew.

Next Saturday officials will lay the final course, and drawing for position will take place at Cascade Summit Lodge at 9 p.m. Instructions will be given contestants at that time. The course will be proved Sunday before the race, and after the race there will be a 5 p.m. dinner at McCredie Springs for awarding trophies.

Entry blanks for all classes are available at Hendershott's and Marley's Sport shop.

\* **Next week will be a busy one for skiers, with meetings and social events planned all through the week. This Sunday Obsidians and anyone else interested will take a trip to Odell Butte from Willamette**

area. Monday will be the Obsidian Valentine party and at the community hut, 19th and Lawrence St. There will be a potluck supper, dancing, slides, and games.

Tuesday the Willamette Ski Patrol will meet at the Campus "Y," with Earl Hunter, Instructor. The fourth week of the first aid course will be given. The patrol will meet again Wednesday evening at the home of Norm Richards for instruction in patrolling the cross-county race and in working with the forest service radio communications.

The Obsidian ski committee will meet Thursday at the "Y" Center to plan final details of the PNSA meet. All members have been asked to attend.

\* **At Hoodoo this Sunday, providing the highway is open, free ski instruction for university students and others interested will be offered by the University of Oregon Ski Club, beginning at noon.** Classes will include beginners, intermediate and advanced. The latter will be for skiers interested in racing.

Emphasis will be placed on safe skiing and technique, according to John Carson, who will supervise. Five members of the club will assist with instruction.

Four members of the University of Oregon Ski Club left this weekend for Mt. Hood to take part in the University of Portland invitational Class C giant slalom Sunday at Government Camp ski bowl. It will be the second race of the year the Oregon club has entered. In the Portland Day downhill John Carson tied for first, and Matt Vranzan and Saul Zaik place further down. These three will race, with Jack Sill making up the quartet.

\* **The snow depth in the Cascades is now the greatest in history, and road conditions are about the worst in history. Better check with state police Sunday before leaving for Hoodoo, as those slides just keep coming down.**

At Timberline 198 inches of snow were reported by Friday morning, with more expected. Odell summit has about (or had earlier this week) about 168 inches. There has been no recent report from Santiam. . . .

Proficiency tests for fourth-class PNSA badges, scheduled for last Sunday, have been postponed until later due to adverse weather conditions. The date will be announced.

\* \* \* \* \*

Maris note: Saul Zaik was an architecture student at the University of Oregon, together with fellow students Jim Harrang and Gilbert Bissell, and Bryan Ryan, a UO art professor serving on the Willamette Ski Patrol.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Obsidian

March, 1949

Page 1

MORE ABOUT SKIING

If you are a reader of the other Eugene newspaper (Register Guard) you will have read about the PNSA events which came off at the Willamette area, under the supervision of George Korn, Phil Edblom, and Bob Lyon. All reports indicate it was a wonderful show.

Page 4

CARAVAN TO MARY'S PEAK

On Sunday, March 13, Ray Sims will lead a trip to Mary's Peak. The area is about 15 miles west of Corvallis. The Helonskis will be on deck with their row set up, and if it is a nice day, you will see one of the finest views in the valley. All you need is a pair of skis, climbers or some straps around your skis; then just walk up. The terrain is suited to anyone's speed, and best of all is the long ride down. Sign up at Hendershott's so we can pool transportation.

Register-Guard  
May 5, 1949  
Page 2A

### **Skiers Plan 25-Mile Hike**

Twenty-four skiers have registered for the 25-mile cross-county trip from Santiam to McKenzie Summit next Sunday, the Obsidian Club and Willamette Ski Patrol announced this week.

Leaders will be Mel Lindley and Everett Alford, Junior Obsidians and students at Springfield High School. They scouted out the trip two weeks ago.

The group will stay Saturday night at Santiam, and leave at 5 a.m. Sunday. Cars will bring their equipment back from Santiam, and will meet the skiers at 7 p.m. Sunday at Alder Springs. If weather is bad, the group will stay at Santiam Pass to ski.

The route will follow the Skyline Trail part of the way, traversing Hoodoo Bowl, Big Lake, Mt. Washington and Belknap Crater.

### **Obsidian Directory**

August-September 1949

(List of identified dual members Obsidians/Willamette Pass Ski Patrol and Willamette Ski Area as identified by Rich Maris 11/09. There are most likely others not recognized and need to be added.)

Behnke, Sterling	127 North Lawrence
Bissell, Gilbert	493 East 15th
Caldwell, Willis T.	Rt. 2, Box 298, Salem
Edblom, Phil	835½ F. Street, Springfield
Gardner, Claudette	741 Olive St.
Gullion, Dr. O. R.	272 West 11th
Hamlin, Dorr (Honorary)	1570 High
Harrang, James P.	Foster, Oregon
Korn, George	1452 Sylvan Drive
Korn, Trilla (Mrs. George)	1452 Sylvan Drive
Lafferty, Paul	Thomason Lane
Lafferty Ralph	Thomason Lane
Lee, Dr. Norman	527 West 12th
Lindley, Allen	1966 Park Avenue
Lindley, Donna (Mrs. Allen)	1966 Park Avenue
Lyon, Bob	2090 Kincaid
McCracken, Bill	259 West 23rd
Meissner, Jack	Cascade Summit
Meissner, Virginia (Mrs. Jack)	Cascade Summit
Pfeiffer, Robert W.	Rt. 3, Box 504
Phillips, Hubert J.	142 East 13th
Quiner, John	751 West 12th
Richards, Norman	2222 Willamette
Ryan, Brian	Rt. 4, Box 470
Sims, Ray	2181 Washington
Sims, Doris	2181 Washington
Temple, Roy	Oakridge
Temple, Bill	478 West Grant, Lebanon
Trotter, Harold	770 Willamette
Van Rysselberghe, Pierre	2223 Olive

The Obsidian  
October, 1949  
Page 4

### **WORK PARTY**

Work trips are being held every Sunday at the Willamette Ski Area, in order to complete the Gene McMurphey Memorial – The Ski Patrol First Aid Hut. Bob Pfeiffer, Chairman of this project, has announced that any and all help will be welcomed. Jack and Virginia Meissner have issued an invitation to all helpers to come up on Saturday night, bringing sleeping bags and food, the weekend of October 22 and 23. There will be dancing and games in the boathouse.

### **SKI**

The snow fell and the Obsidians played. We turned six months into interesting meets and tours. A bigger and better 1949-50 Ski Season in the offing. Bob Pfeiffer is the Obsidian Ski Chairman. Rest of the Ski Committee to be announced later. Look for the big ski issue next month. Wax those slats, Get the woolies out and grease the booties. Snow is comin'. Are you ready? Thanks everyone for all the help you gave to make the ski trips and meets a success.

George Korn, Past Obsidian Ski Chm.

Register-Guard  
October 2, 1949  
Page 7A

### **Workers Requested at Ski Area Job**

Workers with hammers and saws are needed at Willamette Ski Area weekends (sic) to help with construction of the new Gene McMurphy (sic) Memorial Ski Patrol Shelter.

Persons willing to help with the construction, which is already underway, may come to the area anytime Saturdays or Sundays. The ski patrol is hoping to finish the structure so it may be used this season.

Register-Guard  
October 10, 1949  
Page A3

(Photo and caption reading:)

**THE REAL THING?** No, just a model of the new ski patrol shelter at Willamette Ski Area, currently under construction. Bryan Ryan built this model, and Bob Pfeiffer (sic) has been named chairman of the building committee. Volunteers are needed the next few weekends to help get the structure finished for use this season. Even the most amateur carpenters will be welcome to turn up with hammers and saws and help out.

Register-Guard  
October 12, 1949  
Page 1

(Photo captioned:

**AMERICA'S SKI CHAMP**, Hans Holaas, who holds the national cross-country championship, is currently making his home in Eugene. The slight Norwegian, holding ski, (obscured) his companion, Nils Norman, left, of Sweden, now reside in the John Eklund home. (obscured) chair, George Korn, center, PNSA's regional director and Eugene Sports pro-(obscured) discuss merit of a Norwegian racing boot with the men. Holaas, 25, is employed (obscured) Danebo mill while Nils, 28, works for a local housing contractor.

## **Champion Skiers Move to Eugene**

By R. Harlow Schillios

A last-minute decision to enter a ski tournament brought America's cross-country ski championship to a Norwegian who has since decided to live in Eugene.

What's more, the slight Scandinavian who has a penchant for taking the gold cups brought a companion to Lane with him who may prove his only serious local competition.

In toto, Hans Hoolaas, Norwegian, and Nils Norman, Swedish, plan to continue their winning ways under Eugene colors and are a tested threat for anybody's competition.

Hans took the air route from Oslo to London-New York-California in September 1948. He stopped in Modesto and there met a young Swede (Nils) who had sailed four months earlier for America.

**The Norwegian and Swede became fast friends and a pair to beat on the ski front.**

As an exchange student, Hans carried the Modesto (Calif.) Junior College banner and planned to compete for the school in the Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Ski Union at Yosemite. There was a slip in getting him registered, however, so friends talked him into entering the Blue Mountain, Ore., meet where America's national competition was being held early this year.

**Hans, who had placed seventh in the Norwegian national 50-kilometer race and previous winter, deplored the fact he hadn't run a race longer than five miles since his arrival in America.**

His moral support came from Norman who traveled with the Norskie to help him prepare for the meet. Norman had not intended himself but Bud Nasholm, George Korn and the late George Wickstrom, all of Eugene, were so impressed with the Swede's ability that they urged him to enter the Class B event.

In slacks and sports shirt, Nils donned borrowed boots, skis (sic) and poles and won. Even though as a late entry, Norman was forced to break trail as the first man away, he streaked across the finish line a full two minutes of his nearest rival.

A protest was lodged on Nor-

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### **SKI CHAMPS**

*(Continued on Page Six)*

#### **Ski Champs**

*(Continued from Page One)*

man's eligibility (he wasn't properly registered in an American ski club) and he was forced to relinquish the top award and take a special prize.

**Some 10,000 bystanders gaped in awe the next day as Hans, a student of refrigeration engineering, put the chill on a field of 14 to win the National cross-country ski championship.**

The Norwegian whipped around the 11 mile (18 kilometer) course in one hour and 20:35, topping Don Johnson, America's Olympic team member who was second with a time of 1:22.36.

Hoolaas' victory "made up in part for the race committee's decision that Nils was ineligible after had had already won the race." The slight, dark Norwegian collected a silver tray; bowl and 12 goblets, valued at \$400, and a 14-caret gold medal.

Before you could say "Bra gjort, Pojkar!" Hans and Nils were invited to the first Donner Trail Memorial Race, staged to commemorate the valiant attempts made to rescue the Donner Party.

Hans won the 25-mile grind from Donner Summit to Emigrant Gap in three hours, 31 minutes and 24 seconds, about eight minutes ahead of his nearest competitor. It was Nils, the Swede, of course, who came in second in that race by almost 12 minutes over the third place winner.

**Eugene's Wickstrom, Nasholm, and Korn did some fast talking to the Scandinavian victors and the young men have since agreed Eugene's a pretty nice place to live.**

The grooming for championships began long before California relatives urged the lads to come to America.

Hoolaas' proficiency reflects a difference in skiing between American and Europeans. Neither lads had done much of the downhill skiing so popular here. At home, they took cross-country trips out of town on Sundays and did their skiing on undeveloped hillsides.

In fact, Norman had never used a rope-tow before arriving here.

With snow falling in Oregon mountains, the lads are now checking over their ski equipment. Said Nils to Hans, "It's time to get in condition. Maybe we should sell our car and start running to work."

(See Appendix F, Nils Norman, for some personal information and photos taken in his home, February 2010, with a few of his cross-country skiing and a water ski race trophy.)

Register-Guard  
October 30, 1949

Page 7B – Note: Left side first column obscured. Assumed words place in parenthesis. Totally obscured words noted as (observed) without assumption.

### **Pass Boasts \$5000 Ski Development (New) Runs Built At Willamette**

(Observed ) handful of men and women (observed) the interest of all skiers at (observed) and the vision to look ahead (observed) make the Willamette Pass a (observed) ski area have pushed a (observed) development in the area the (observed) two months. The area is three (observed) its size last winter.

(The) work, which began soon (observed) George Korn of Eugene (observed) the tow right at the area, (observed) began years ago when the (Ski) Laufer and Southern Pacific first began to schedule snow (trains) to the Willamette area. Roy (Temple), of Oakridge, has had tow (observed) at the area the last nine (years) or so, and did a great deal to (develop) it.

(However), Temple runs a sporting goods store at Oakridge, and (observed) that the double demands of (that) and the ski area are too much. (Because) he and his wife could not (observed) enough time to both ventures, (observed) decided to sell the rights to (observed) who has pioneered and (observed) the development of the area (for) many, many years.

(When) the first snow flies this (winter), skiers who make the 70-(mile) trip up Highway 58 to the (observed) will need to spend the first (few) hours looking around to (observed) all that has been done.

The Forest Service area platted (for) the ski development, developed (observed) about one-third up to last (observed) is now totally developed.

The following changes and developments have been accomplished.

### **(Observed) BOASTS \$5,000**

**(1.) A new area across the highway.** The beginner's tow has been (moved) across the highway to what (is) now known as the quarry site. (observed) ski school will operate there (this) year, thus keeping the students from under the feet of skiers on the other slopes. The area (is) ten acres of gentle slope. There (observed) public warming shelter, 20 by (observed) feet, taken over from the E.C. (observed) Construction Co. This will (be) heated and floored, there will (be) limited ski rentals, and refreshments will be available for (observed) parties. A toboggan area is (observed), and sanitary facilities are (observed) in.

(A) ski school tow will also be (observed) at the quarry area. Beginners and students will not have to use the same tows.

**2. Parking area.** The parking space, off-highway, has been trebled this year through work by the State Highway Department. The area will be maintained and plowed by the department. Additional space for more expansion is available for later.

**3. Main area.** The snack shack has been remodeled and painted, is about twice as large since the back room formerly used by the ski patrol will not be needed this year. The patrol will have its own building, which is nearing completion under direction of Bob Pfeiffer, chairman of the Willamette Ski Patrol building committee.

Pfeiffer said this weekend that the exterior is almost completed, and that interior work will be finished soon. More than 750 man hours of work have gone into the shelter this summer.

The building will be a memorial to Gene McMurphy, (sic) a prominent and active member of the patrol, and will be dedicated later in the season.

**Further developments at the main area have gone along at a great rate. The old ski school area has been designated as a tournament area, and will be used for the races, for time trials, and junior meets.**

**It is about six times the size of the area last year. A tow will be put in on the south run later. The beginners' tow which formerly served it, has gone across the highway.**

The old ski shelter will be used hereafter as a tournament headquarters. Willamette area will be host to at least two major meets this season.

**The center run at the main area has been smoothed to the point where it can be skied on with only six inches of snow. The same tow as used last year will serve the area, but the motor has been moved to the top of the hill to increase the capacity and speed. The rope will also be pulled up higher by this method, Korn believes. The run is the same length as last year.**

The north run has been cleared of stumps and slashings, and widened at the top so it is the same width all the way. It has been lengthened, giving a run of about 1100 feet. The north tow that serves this run has been extended up to 1060 feet, and motor of this tow has also been moved to the top.

**4. Highway development,** Highway 58 will be much better this year than in the past. The highway has been rebuilt from Goshen to Lowell, cutting out what were the worst curves. Resurfacing has improved long stretches from Oakridge to McCredie Springs, and from the tunnel to the summit. Average driving time from Eugene to the ski area is now estimated at less than two hours.

**5. Ski school. Van Purdy,** formerly of Eugene and more lately head of the ski school at Snow Valley in the East, will probably head the Willamette Ski School this year. Married to a girl who is also a ski instructor, the pair will probably share school duties.

Korn announced this week that Jack Meissner will have charge of operating the tows this winter.

**Korn complimented the work of Edgar Roberts Logging Co. of Oakridge. It has removed more than 300,000 feet of timber from the area during the past three or four weeks. Roberts' interest in the project and in making a better ski area for the children of Westfir and Oakridge is largely responsible for the good job of clearing done the past weeks, Korn said. The Forest Service cooperated in the timber sale, and Hines Lumber Co. at Westfir helped by taking the timber.**

In the light of future developments, Korn announced that the Forest Service at Eugene is planning a contour survey of the present area and the quarry area in the near future. The survey will be used in considering the planning of more land on both sides of the highway for development next year. Under present plans, the main area cannot be expanded further, since it has reached the boundaries on all sides.

**A preliminary survey made this year to the top of the ski butte behind the area shows a run of more than a mile from the top to the bottom, Korn said. The top of the butte is 6700 feet above sea level with a 1600 foot rise in elevation. The upper one-third of a lime of the butte has a grade of 60 per cent or better.**

The area that Korn and his friends want to develop fully may someday take in the butte, and then the area will offer both trail and open slope skiing.

Work parties have been helping at the area the past several weekends, with many families and individuals putting in hours of clearing, burning and carpentry work.

Among helpers on the ski patrol shelter are Jerry Churchill, president of the patrol, Gale Roberts, Springfield contractor, Bryan Ryan, who built the model, King Haviland, Eugene High School ski club and ski patrol members, and Norm Richards Ski patrol.

Outstanding workers on the area have been Don Nacker, Howard Carroll, Bryce Thalman, Leo Paschelke (who will be doing some blasting this Sunday), Jack Meissner, Shirley Couch, and others.

Register-Guard  
November 10, 1949  
Page 10C

#### **WORK PROGRESSES TO MAKE WILLAMETTE AREA POPULAR WITH SKIERS**

**NEARLY 1000 MAN HOURS** have been put into construction of the Ski Patrol quarters at Willamette Ski area by volunteer workers. Claudette Gardner "mans" a hammer on steps while cross-country ski champs Nils Norman and Hans Hoolaas wield tools in background. Allan Lindley rips through a board with his saw while Piere Van Rysselberghe hammers a window frame into place. Some 30 firms have donated in some way

to the building. Among workers who have donated several weekends of labor are Don and Al Lindley, Jerry Churchill, Norm Richards, Virginia Bloom, Gale Roberts and Al Rommit.

(Upper left photo caption reads:)

**The Ski Patrol Quarters** (lower right) at Willamette are rapidly nearing completion and look much like this model covered in soap chips and photographed by Hubert Phillips. Bob Pfeiffer, with lumber on shoulder, is chairman of the Willamette Ski Patrol building committee. The structure will be a memorial to Gene McMurphy (sic), a prominent and active member of the patrol, and will be dedicated later in the season. Donna Lindley and Virginia Bloom carry lumber sign which marks area. All other photos by Shillios.

(Wiltshire Engravings.)

(Upper right photo caption reads:)

**TWENTY TIMES LARGER** than a year ago is the proud boast of George Korn of his Willamette Ski Area on which work (sic) has progressed throughout the summer. The Pass now boasts in its \$5000 worth of improvements, a new area across the highway from the general ski area. The state highway quarry site – 1. indicates its approximate location – will be a ski school area. Rising above the ten acres of gentle slope is Diamond Peak. A public warming shelter, 20x30 is a new addition. Cameraman Schillios aimed his camera from (1) towards the opposite direction to two of the three expanded ski slopes beneath (text obscured) which rises one mile above Highway which (text obscured) two areas. Off-highway parking is a new feature (text obscured) The snack shack in the main area has been remodeled, expanded, and painted. Highway 58 itself has been (text obscured) this year with the Goshen to Lowell area rebuilt (text obscured) surfacing improving stretches from Oakridge to (text obscured) Springs. Plans for future expansion consider a ski (observed) [lift?] to the top of Ski Butte.

(See Appendix A for newspaper collage of photos, captions, and article to match text with photos.)

**To Make Willamette Area Popular With Skiers.**

The Obsidian

November-December, 1949

Page 3

### **SKI TRACKS**

Bob Pfeiffer, Obsidian Ski Chairman – George Korn, Ski Patrol Section Chief, and Norm Richards, representing the U. of O. Ski Club, attended the PNSA Annual Meeting, recently at Mt. Spokane, near Spokane, Wash. The model of the Gene McMurphy Ski Patrol Shelter, which is under construction at the Willamette Ski Area, made quite an impression. Bob Pfeiffer, building Chairman of the Willamette Ski Patrol, displayed the model. George Korn, presented a plan, whereby scheduled ski tours should be sanctioned by the PNSA as are races. Stripes or emblems would be awarded to people completing the tours. This proposal was granted and the tours will begin next spring. John Litchfield, of the Sun Valley Ski School, was elected President and will devote all of his time to this position. George Korn was again elected to the executive board. The next meeting will be held next April in Walla Walla.

The Obsidians will sponsor four PNSA sanctioned races this season; two at Willamette and two at Santiam. The schedule will include two cross-country meets, one junior slalom, and one giant slalom.

George Korn, new operator of the Willamette Ski Area, attended a meeting of the Oregon Winter Sports Assoc. in Oct. in Portland. The Association is planning to make up a map covering all Oregon Ski Areas, which will be distributed to travel bureaus, chambers of commerce, service stations, ski clubs, and others.

If you're interested in becoming a ski instructor and feel that your proficiency needs only an instructor's card, read this: George Korn, local PNSA official, has received notice from the PNSA stating that instructor's certification examinations will be given at Stevens Pass near Seattle, from Dec. 2 to 4, and at Sun Valley from Dec. 8 to 11. Tests will be for elementary, amateur, standard, and renewal amateur, standard, certifications. Van Purdy, Local Ski instructor, is planning on the trip and Don Temple and Gilbert Bissell may also attend. Anyone who is interested

*(Continued on Page 4)*



“SKI TRACKS” (Continued from Page 3)

can get further details by contacting George Korn.

“SKI TRACKS” humbly pays tribute to Bob Pfeiffer, for his hard work to make skiing safer. Bob has put in countless hours of work on construction of the “Gene McMurphey Ski Patrol Shelter” . . . Bryan Ryan is responsible for approximately 250 hours on the blueprints, designing and the two models. Not forgetting Don Nacker and Howard Carrell, - we mention the fine job they did on drawing up a contour map of the ski butte at Willamette. Nacker is now spending his weekends marking cross-country trails for races, around the area. These are only a few. It would be impossible to mention them all, but their work is deeply appreciated.

Eugene skiers have several good sources of up-to-date ski news, this year – Marley’s have a broadcast, each Thursday evening at 10 PM on KASH which features approximately 5 minutes of current ski news. The operators of the Willamette and Santiam Ski areas usually feature a special interview on their program, each Friday night at 10:15. Representatives from Eugene High Ski Club, the Obsidians, Willamette Ski Patrol, and other have been interviewed by Dolph Janes – who uses the remaining part of the 15 minutes for regular ski news. Eugene High has a special ski column in the EHS News and Ruby Frazer will soon be starting “Ski Data” in the Register-Guard. She is waiting, however, until “the snow lasts at least a week in the mountains.”  
-- Shirley Couch

## A NEW DECADE AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The Obsidian

January 1950

Page 1

### SCHEDULE OF OBSIDIAN WINTER SKI TOURS

January 29 to May 28

Bob Pfeiffer, Chairman of the Obsidian Ski Committee, has announced the following Ski Tours scheduled for the winter season: (The imminent publication of the Bulletin required some quick work on the part of the Ski Committee - - and so the tentative positions of the leaders herein printed may be subject to change)

Jan. 29 - WHITE BRANCH SKI AREA  
Louis Waldorf..... Leader

Feb. 19 - WALDO LAKE – One Day Trip  
Ray & Doris Sims ..... Ldrs

Mar. 19 - CRATER LAKE – One Day Bus Trip  
The Castellones..... Ldrs

Apr. 2 - JACK BUTTE  
Ray Cavagnaro..... Leader

Apr. 16 - SANTIAM TO MCKENZIE  
Don Nacker &  
Bob Pfeiffer..... Ldrs

May 6 & & SUNSHINE SHELTER - - Overnight  
Trip – Supplies to be dropped  
by planed if desired.  
Leo Paschelke ..... Leader

May 28 - MT. HOOD  
Harold Trotter ..... Leader

### A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The present Board of Directors, after discussing the competitive angle of skiing at many monthly Board Meetings with the Ski Chairmen of the past 3 years, Bob Lyon, George Korn, and our present Chairman, Bob Pfeiffer, came up with a final decision, which we sincerely believe will be for the best interests of the club.

The club at present has a membership of approximately only 150 paid up members. There, financially it has been impossible to carry out a successful competitive ski program in an area such as Eugene embraces. However, under such fine leadership as Bob Lyon Paul Lafferty and George Korn the past 3 years the Obsidian Club has been able to offer a program to those skiers who were interested in skiing competitively, although each year the Board was aware that financially it was not a success.

The following motion was made effective December 12, 1949: Motion: That the Obsidians, Inc. decline to take an active part in competitive skiing. They recommend that a separate ski club be formed in Eugene; that the Ski Committee continue to promote tours, etc., and to carry out all other aspects under Section 4, Article VI, as far as financially able.

It was a difficult decision for the Board to make, knowing we had sent our Ski Chairman earlier in the year to the PNSA meeting with the authority to schedule meets under our sponsorship.

The four meets scheduled have therefore been cancelled, and a letter to the Secretary of the PNSA, Baker Ferguson, has been delivered stating the action of the Board relative to our ski program.

The club, however, is still paying classification fees for its members who apply, and Obsidian skiers desiring to enter meets in the name of the club will be given an opportunity to do so and will receive financial support with the discretion of the board.

(Continued Page 2, Col. 1)

MESSAGE (Cont. from Page 1, Col 2)

With only this one phase of skiing, - - that of competition - - deleted from our ski program, our present Ski Chairman, - Bob Pfeiffer, has scheduled tours, cross-country and ski bus trips to areas little known by the ordinary skier. Skiers of all ages may participate in and enjoy this type of skiing and may thrill with the winter scene from some high vantage point. Charles Hessey, Jr., co-author of "The Cascades", stated in a letter to one of our members that skiing was in an extra special class of human activities - - and that nothing was more satisfying than cutting a fresh set of tracks on a steep, deep, snow-covered slope.

Board members at their last meeting gave assurance that new ski club would receive whole-hearted support from the Obsidian Club. And such a club would have access to our ski equipment such as bamboo poles, flags, and numbers which are necessary to carry on ski meets.

Register-Guard  
January 15, 1950  
Page 9A

### **Funds Sought to Send Eugene Skiers East**

Hans Holaas, Eugene's national cross-country ski champion, and his highly-regarded Tri-Pass Ski Club teammate from Eugene, Nils Norman, may be sent to the national championships at Berlin, N.H., where next Saturday it was hoped that Holaas would be given an opportunity to make a title defense. Holaas won the Pacific Northwest title last week and Norman won the class "B" title and now has an "A" classification.

Because the Tri-Pass club has only recently been organized the Eugene group is not financially able to sponsor the two.

George Korn, one of the leading ski enthusiasts, is hoping to direct a lightning campaign to make possible the trip. A \$500 fund is needed, for air passage via tourist. The two skiers will assume their own living costs and if they make the jaunt would remain for an extra week to compete in the world's championship at Lake Placid, N.Y.

Korn said that nearly \$10 has already been donated without local sports followers being aware of the project, and he believes the Sons of Norway will aid in the campaign. Both are former Norwegians.

[Maris' correction; Nils Norman is Swedish, born in Hammarstrand, Jämtlands län, Sweden.]

Those interested in donating to the fund can contact Korn at Hendershott's.

Register-Guard  
January 20, 1950  
Page 9

### **Local Athletes Return Home, Will Miss Track, Ski Meets**

Four local athletes, all expected to figure prominently in sports contests of nation-wide interest Saturday, have been weathered away from Boston, Mass., and Berlin, N. H.

George Rasmussen, pole-vaulter and Dave Henthorne, sprinter, were scheduled to compete in the Knights of Columbus indoor meet in Boston Gardens Saturday night – the first University of Oregon trackmen to vie in the east since Oregon's George Varoff set a world's record with a vault of 14 feet, 4 5/8 inches in Boston in 1937.

Hans Holaas, the "ignored" National cross-country ski champion, and Nils Norman, recent "B" class winner in the Pacific Northwest meet at Snoqualmie Pass, both members of the Tri-Pass Ski Club of Eugene, were scheduled to vie in the national tournament sponsored by the Nansen Ski Club at Berlin Saturday.

All four were scheduled to take off from Portland just before midnight Wednesday, but at 3:30 a.m. Thursday the flight was cancelled. They speculated on the possibility of traveling as far as Spokane by rail and boarding a stratocruiser – but eventually all plans for the two trips were cancelled.

If a sufficient guarantee is provided, Rasmussen, one of the nation's top vaulters, will enter the Melrose Games at New York's Madison Square Gardens. Both Rasmussen and Henthorne, who returned home Thursday night, were assured financial backing from the university for two games, but a single jaunt to New York wouldn't make ends meet. Coach Bill Bowerman is negotiating with the Melrose Games director regarding Rasmussen.

Holaas and Norman, extremely disappointed in not being able to represent Eugene and Oregon in the nationals, remained in Portland for the weekend and will return to their jobs here next week – Holaas to a sawmill; Norman to his job as a carpenter.

Holaas was critical regarding the manner in which the National Ski Association scheduled its meet. As champion, winning the title at Tollgate, Ore., last season, Holaas believed he should have been informed of the tournament dates a month or more in advance. He was never officially notified and learned of the meet in a round-about way a week ago. Otherwise the two Eugene skiers would have planned to leave at an earlier date – and would have reached the New Hampshire course in time for trial runs as well as the competition.

Register-Guard  
January 21, 1950  
Page 8  
**SKI DATA . .**  
By Ruby Frazier

Editors Note: We reprint here in full a copy of a letter for an outraged Eugene ski fan. Copies have been sent to the Portland papers. The American Ski Annual and Skiing Journal, Barre, Mass., (the latter the official publication of National Skiing Assn. of America) We believe this is of interest to all skiers who attempted to help send Eugene's champions back east.

\* **Sports Editor Walter E. Mullen,**  
**MANCHESTER SUNDAY NEWS,**  
**Manchester, New Hampshire**

Tell us, Mr. Editor, how the National Ski Association now enjoying an alleged meeting to decide the American Ski championships at Berlin, N. H., gets that way.

It so happens that Eugene, Oregon, is the present home of America's cross-country ski champion, Hans Holaas, a comparative newcomer – two years – to America. Hans, a crack Norwegian skier, is defending champion, winning the title at Tollgate, Oregon, last season. He has since won the Pacific Northwest class "A" championship at Snoqualmie Pass, Washington.

Eugene is also home to Nils Norman, the Pacific Northwest class "B" champion. Norman won the "B" class title at a meet this year. Both were figured here as strong contenders in the national meet.

Now Hans is a pretty quiet, self-effacing champion who would never say anything about this. But it so happens I was one of those who helped a little bit in a lightening (sic) campaign here to raise enough money to send Holaas to Berlin to defend the title he won in Oregon last year.

We succeeded. We raised the funds and got Holaas and Norman all set to leave two days after word of mouth had it that you were holding the contest. Then a blizzard struck the Northwest and the plane transportation grounded not only Holaas but probably his closest competitor for those laurels, Nils Norman, a Swede whom we were also sending.

Holaas is about to lose his title this Saturday in New Hampshire because:

- 1. The National Ski Association or/and the hosts for this meet did NOT notify the defending champion that the meet would be held this Saturday. UP to the time his bags were packed he had not received an invitation to attend. He was informed two days before the meet of its being scheduled by someone who had heard a radio report, who told someone else, who told Holaas.**
- 2. Without proper notification, there was not sufficient time for us to properly conduct a campaign to raise his expenses.**
- 3. If he HAD been able to fly out of Oregon he'd still have been under a very serious handicap because he had not been forewarned sufficiently to train for this meet. Too, if his plane had been**

**able to leave Portland he would have arrived travel-weary with no time to make a trial run over the course.**

It so happens that Oregon held this national contest in 1949 and Oregon thought enough of the competitors to send letters to all skiers who were qualified to attend and to their ski clubs. If anyone was overlooked it was certainly not because the Pacific Northwest Ski Association which did everything to make the contest a success.

**Frankly, I'm very disappointed in the manner in which this amateur contest is being conducted.**

There may be a new American champion as a result of that New Hampshire meet but I'll still reserve my use of that title for Hans Hoolaas, a 26-year-old lad in Eugene.

Bye-the-bye, just how far could one go in promoting a national championship contest in ANY other sport without notifying the title holder that his honors were on the block?

May it interest you, Mr. Editor, to advertise the ski official at Berlin, N. H., or from whatever other corner they come to hold their national competition, that a ski club of Norway invited Hoolaas to race under their banner in the world championships which are due shortly at Lake Placid.

Come, come. Berlin. Whitherbound is skiing in America?

If, New Hampshire names two American cross-country title winners at Berlin on Saturday, then New Hampshire and or the home of the co-champions in the "A" and "B" classifications should send them, fare paid, to Eugene, Oregon for a fair match against Hoolaas and Norman.

I'm just one ski fan who'd like to see this sport kept as clean as the snow it's played on.

R. Harlow Schillios,  
Eugene, Oregon.

**\* A special free safety ski instruction program, endorsed by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation, and with the Eugene Active Club donating \$100 for professional instruction will begin soon.**

The four-week program for all school pupils who want to learn to ski correctly will be held on Saturdays, with the first session planned Feb. 4 at Willamette Ski Area. Special buses will be chartered at reduced rates since all school charters are tax free. Registrations will be handled by recreation representatives in each school, and sign-up sheets will be posted.

Students wishing to take part should register at once at school or contact George Korn at Hendershott's.

**\* The next meeting of the Tri-Pass Ski Club will be this coming Wednesday at 8 p.m., Roosevelt Junior High School. Ski movies will follow the business meeting, and memberships in the new PNSA-associated club will be available. Members present will draw for membership No. 100, and the lucky person will have his dues refunded.**

**\* As far as we can find out, the giant slalom sponsored by Tri-Pass Club is still set for this Sunday at Hoodoo Bowl. The no-host meet will be open to Class C and junior men and women. Norman Richards is chairman of the race committee. Registration at Santiam Lodge must be completed by 8 a.m. Sunday morning.**

Register-Guard  
February 4, 1950  
Page 8

## **SKI DATA . .**

By Ruby Frazier

**\* It is probable that heavy snowfalls in the valley the past few weekends have cut down on attendance at local ski areas somewhat. The daily attendance at Laurelwood Golf Course, at least, would indicate that many skiers have been staying home and enjoying the sport.**

George Korn, operator at Willamette area, said this weekend that crowds at his area have been good, and that snow this year has been better than most years. He believes bad weather and roads may have hurt attendance at Santiam more than at Willamette.

The weather has forced postponement or cancellation of some scheduled meets, but regardless of what happens, the Class C and Junior cross-country event for men and women will go on Feb. 12 at Willamette area. Norm Richards will be race chairman of the PNSA-sanctioned all-Oregon event.

The meet will be sponsored by the new Tri-Pass Ski Club, which has recently plunged right into this business of putting on meets. Don Nacker will set the course. The club does not expect a huge number of entries, exactly, because of difficult travel conditions.

\* **The club's ski fund got a good boost this week after a showing of Frank Scofield's new film, "Allo Henri." Scofield spent a day in Eugene, and joined other skiers at Laurelwood Golf Course** where he filmed Hans Hoolaas' cross-country technique and Van Purdy's instruction technique for use in forthcoming film. Not only that, but the dean of Canadian ski instructors may return in the spring to film a ski tour in the Cascades. Currently, he is off in Europe.

\* **A ski bus will run this Sunday to Willamette, but there will be no bus to Santiam. Announcement will be made when Santiam busses resume trips. Junior high and high school students Saturday** started a four-week session of free classes at Willamette, with Van Purdy instructing.

That is a good deal for students, since the area is not so crowded on Saturday, and since they get real special round trip bus rates. No cost for lessons. The Eugene Active Club is footing the bill for instructions.

Understand also that the regular Sunday ski school, run by Purdy and his wife, is doing very well indeed.

\* **Speaking of skiers, there will be a new one at Willamette area before too long. Jack and Virginia Meissner became parents of a daughter last Sunday at Salem Memorial Hospital. The couple** live in Cascade Summit, where Jack helps operate the ski area. Both are well known to all skiers around here.

And speaking of more skiers, remember Crosby Perry-Smith who, with his brother, came to Eugene a couple of springs ago to practice jumping on Diamond Peak? He placed ninth in the world competitions at Lake Placid a few weeks ago, with 212 points. Jumpers from other nations outclassed the American team, but Perry-Smith topped the list of American entries, which was something. His closest competitor on the American team was Paul Wegeman of Sun Valley who placed 13th.

The Friday ski report said everything was lovely at both Santiam and Willamette, with roads and skiing excellent. That was before the Friday afternoon sleet and rain started, however, and we can't say what the situation will be by Sunday.

Register-Guard  
February 5, 1950  
Page 7B

### **Eugene skier Keeps Title**

(Caption under photo of Hoolaas holding trophy.)

**STILL HIS** – Han Hoolaas, national cross-country ski champion, looks over the trophy symbolizing the honors he won last year Tollgate, Oregon . . . A re-check shows that the "uninvited" Hoolaas didn't lose his title in Berlin, New Hampshire, recently, as was first presumed . . . Also shown in the picture are other trophies won by the famed skier since coming to America.

### **Hoolaas Wasn't Dethroned of National Crown**

By Harlow Schillios

Eugene's Hans Hoolaas, winner of America's cross-country ski championship in 1949, will retain his title according to the editors of Rocky Mountain Skiing, the nation's only ski newspaper with nation-wide coverage and distribution.

A question was raised two-weeks ago in Eugene over the national competition held at Berlin, New Hampshire, of which the Associated Press reported: "Olavi Alakulpi, formerly of Finland, an army sergeant stationed atop Mt. Washington with an equipment testing unit, today won the 11-mile national cross-country ski championship."

## COMBINED EVENT

Editor Richard M. Wilson stated in a letter to the Register-Guard reporter that "The story by the Associated Press out of Berlin, of which both Hastings, the publisher and editor of RMS, and myself saw several different versions, is fairly easily explained – they simply made a mistake in their reporting. We both were surprised but not amazed."

"The meet at Berlin, N.H., named the National Classic Combined Champion," noted Wilson. This combined jumping events with cross-country and an entry would have to compete in both divisions to win.

Eugene's Han Holaas, a jumper as well as a cross-country expert, and his double-threat companion, Nils Norman, also a local lad, were not invited to the Berlin competition, provoking a query from a Eugene ski fan.

## NEXT YEAR

"There is no such event scheduled for this year," (obscured) with reference solely to the cross-country match.

"Theoretically, Holaas still retains the title!" reported the Denver, Colorado editor.

"Until another National Cross-Country championships (sic) is scheduled, both Hastings and I maintain Holaas still retains his title.

"According to the National race schedule and advance notice, the event was listed as the National Classic-Combined. There was no title at stake in the individual events, but a title for the winner of the combined!"

Holaas won the national cross-country title in the "A" event at Tollgate, Oregon, and will hold the crown without a challenge until the next meet in this classification probably in 1951.

Register-Guard  
February 13, 1950  
Page 8

## Eugene Sweeps Ski Meet; Olav Brunsvik Champ Misses Couch, Gardner Win Women's Titles

By Harlow Schillios

WILLAMETTE PASS, Feb. 13 – Tri-Pass Ski Club of Eugene, sponsors of a PNSA-sanctioned cross-country meet Sunday at Willamette Pass took four firsts in the Class C event to sweep the meet and keep the gold cups at home.

Competition for Class A and B skiers was cancelled to permit a few contenders now at the FIS (world championships) in Colorado to attend. These events are slated for Hoodoo Bowl in March.

Olav Brunswick (sic), an 18-year-old Tri-Pass entry who left his native Oslo, Norway, only ten months ago, took first in the C Men's division over a six and one-half mile rourse (sic) in one hour, three minutes and six seconds.

## WAGNER WINNER

Lee Miesen, of Lewis and Clark College, Portland, came in second with a time of one hour, four minutes and 51.4 seconds.

In the class C, Junior event, Bob Wagner, another Tri-Pass entry who arrived in Eugene from Drammen, Norway only eight months ago, took first over a three and one-quarter mile course in 31 minutes and 40 seconds. Carl Fritner, Seattle Ski Club, received second place honors in 33 minutes and 20 seconds. His teammate Richard Riar, was clocked at 34 minutes, 15.4 seconds for third place.

Shirley Couch, Tri-Pass girl, topped the Class C women with a time of 40 minutes, 51.3 seconds over the latter course. Beatrice Anderson, another Tri-Pass entry, took second in 49 minutes, 6.4 seconds. June Hauger, Helsonski club, took third in 49 minutes, 13.2 seconds.

## MISS GARDNER WINNER

As the only participant in the C Women's Junior division, Sharon Gardner, Tri-Pass, was awarded the first, second, and third places. Her time of 38 minutes, 58.1 seconds was good enough to give her a theoretical fourth in the Junior Mens' division.

With Olav's victory, Eugene was presented a unique trio of champs who could conclude skiing is "as easy as ABC." Interestingly enough, Eugene's ABC's of skiing all live under the same roof at 777 West 10th.

A titlist is, of course, Hans Hoolaas, the 1949-50 national cross-country champion and current Pacific Northwest champ in this division.

B honors go to Nils Norman who had the best time in the national race of '49 but was disqualified because he did not belong to an American ski club at the time. He is, however, this year's Pacific northwest cross-country champ in the B division.

C honors went to their roommate Sunday, a handsome, kinky-haired Norskie whose future is highly regarded by both Hoolaas and Norman and the competition which met him at Willamette Pass.

### **FIRST COMPETITION**

It was Olav's first American competition but the prediction of his winning by roommates was well borne out. Olav's college-trained competition, a six-man team accompanied by Coach Ring Thoreson of Lewis and Clark, Portland, was in good condition but befuddled in finding a wax suitable for the course.

A new snowfall had covered the Cascades earlier but warm sunshine blanketed the area most of Sunday melting topmost flakes and forming a thin, watery top.

Olav's closest competitor, by-the-by, was a Portland All-city football player for two consecutive years. Lee Miesen gave up football, however, to seek laurels on the ski fields.

With Eugene's 1950 prominence in skiing, the Northwest might well consider the ABC boys of Eugene in the coming races.

Register-Guard  
February 24, 1950  
Page 9

### **Eugene Skiers Decline Mt. Hood Meet Invite**

An invitation to set the course on Mt. Hood Friday for the National four-way combined championships there has been declined by Eugene's champion cross-country skiers. They'd lose a day enroute to the North American Championship, in which they'll compete in at Banff, Alberta, March 1.

Both Hans Hoolaas and Nils Norman are reportedly in good condition and anxious to get on the Canadian snow course to condition themselves to the altitude and terrain.

The competition at Mt. Hood is a combined meet and the local lads feel their own downhill running and jumping are much too rusty for the keen world competitors who'll be in Portland.

"We'll do our best in one event – cross-country," Hans and Nils agree. The Canadian National title and the North American title in this event will be sought by a goodly host of skiers.

Austria's Karl Martitch, college four-event champion of Austria, and Fred Tschannen, Swiss jumper who holds the world's distance jump record of 393 feet, are already in Portland for the Mt. Hood event.

Meanwhile, the skiing spotlight is focused on the North American Championships at Banff. According to officials, teams from Italy, Austria, France, Canada and the United States will compete. "The field looks formidable," Hoolaas observed, adding, "we'll do our best though."

Register-Guard  
March 3, 1950  
Page 9

### **Hans Hoolaas Wins Canadian and North American Titles Eugene Skier Wins at Banff**

#### **Nils Norman Fourth in Cross-Country Race**

Hans Hoolaas the 26-year-old sawmill worker who came to the United States from Norway two years ago, added the North American and Canadian National cross-country crowns to his National champion over a rugged 11-mile course at Banff, Alberta, Canada, Thursday. The member of the Tri-Pass Ski Club of Eugene outclassed the 15-man field, finishing five seconds less than four minutes ahead of second-place Claude Richer, one of the six army skiers from Ottawa University.



Holaas, who won the national title at Tollgate, Ore., last season, still claims the United States championship despite a meet earlier in the season at Berlin, H. H., in which Holaas was not invited and was unable to attend because of impossible flying conditions in the Pacific northwest a few days before he learned of the meet. Some of the nation's ski authorities rate Holaas as present champion despite the so-called U. S. cross-country meet staged at Berlin.

#### **Norman Fourth**

Nils Norman, the 29-year-old Eugene carpenter who came to this country from Sweden two years ago, finished fourth in the event in his first class "A" competition. He recently won the "B" class Pacific Northwest title at Snoqualmie Pass, Wash., when Holaas won the "A" title.

Norman was only a minute and a fractional second out of third place – taken by Gosta Lindgren, who had won the Swedish title 11 consecutive times and was a member of the 1948 Olympic cross-country team. Lindgren was the pre-meet favorite, but could do four times were: Holaas 1.9:59; four times were: Holas 1.9:59 (retype of repeated text as printed); Richer 1.13:54; Lingen 1.15:33; Norman 1.17:7

The performances of Holaas and Norman were all the more remarkable because they did not arrive more than a few days before the met and did not have the advantage of favorable training conditions in this area – and the competition was tops. Many of the world's finest skiers were at Banff, with teams from Italy, Austria, Canada and the Scandinavian countries represented.

Register-Guard

March 5, 1950

Page 1

#### **Public Invited to Honor Eugeneans**

#### **Ski Enthusiasts Ready to Greet Hans and Nils**

By R. Harlow Schillios

Eugene's champion skiers, Hans Holaas and Nils Norman, who Thursday projected this city into international ski prominence, will be welcomed home Wednesday at a dinner at 7:30 p.m. in the Del Rey Café.

While the Tri-Pass Ski Club is sponsoring the dinner, a special invitation is extended to the Sons of Norway lodge and the Obsidians, Atty. Ralph Johnson, president of the club, announced Sunday. The public is invited; arrangements to seat 125 guests have been made.

Hans Holaas, Eugenean of Norwegian extraction, brought the United States a North American ski championship Thursday by winning two titles at Banff, Alberta. By streaking over an 11-mile course in one hour, 9 minutes, and 59 seconds, Hans added the North American Cross-Country Ski Championship and the Canadian National Ski Championship to his string of firsts since his arrival from Tunsberg and Trondheim, Norway.

#### **Nils Fourth Among 15**

In his first "A" class competition, Nils placed fourth in the Canadian meet Thursday among a field of 15 contestants who represented the best contenders from several nations.

Since his arrival in America, Hans has placed first in every competitive ski event he has entered. At 21, he placed seventh in the Norwegian cross-country national meet. This marked him as a skier to keep an eye on, and Norway sought the lad's talent this year to race under that country's

#### **SEE SKI FOLLOWERS**

*(Continued on Page Nine A)*

#### **Ski Followers Ready To Greet Champions**

*(Continued from Page One)*

colors at the World Ski Meet. He is now 26 and weighs 147 pounds.

#### **Holds Donner Trail Trophy**

Besides holding his latest titles, Hans is the 1949-'50 American Cross-Country Ski Champion, the Pacific Northwest Cross-Country champion, and the holder of the Donner Trail Memorial Race trophy. The latter is a

25-mile grind from Donner Summit to Emigrant Gap, California, which the Eugene lad covered in 3 hours, 31 minutes, and 24 seconds. Nils Norman had the best time in the "B" class in the same event.

**Never before told is the miracle that either of these lads is able to ski, let alone top some of the finest skiers in the world.**

Three months before leaving his native Hammarstrand i Jampland, Sweden, Nils fell from the third story of a house he was building and landed on a concrete basement floor.

"I had to get well in a hurry," Nils said, "so I could go to America. I removed my casts. When the immigration official took each of my fingers and rolled them over the fingerprint blotter I thought I should die. My wrist was broken, you see. But I could not let him know it hurt. I should go to America if I die!"

Nils is now a powerfully-built 179-pound Eugene carpenter whose prowess on skis is somewhat of a marvel.

#### **Hans Employed at Danebo**

Hans Holaas was a woodsman in Norway and once accidentally sank an axe into his foot. He fortunately recovered use of this foot with careful nursing. He is now employed at a Danebo mill and only recently had a narrow escape with a gang saw. His foot became caught in the mechanism and a heavy sole on his shoe was credited with saving his foot from being crushed. He also required medial treatment recently when a sliver ripped from a log and struck him on the head.

Holaas' victory in Canada last week was decisive. He led his nearest competitor by a full four minutes at the end of the 11-mile course. Claude Richer, Canada, gained second-place, while a Swede, Gosta Lindgren, came in third. Nils Norman was fourth.

**Wednesday night's "Welcome Home Champs" dinner will be a colorful affair, with many representatives of the Sons of Norway lodge appearing in costume. Joan Carlson will play Scandinavian and American music.**

Mayor V. Edwin Johnson will welcome the lads on behalf of the city. Thelmer Nelson, Sons of Norway representative, will speak. The master of ceremonies will be Dolf Janes of radio station KORE, which will record speeches at the dinner for rebroadcast at 10:15 p.m. Friday on the "Ski Notes" program.

Reservations may be made for the dinner by calling Hendershott's Sporting Goods store, telephone 4-9324, or calling George Korn.

(See Appendix F, Nils Norman for more personal information and photos taken in his home, February 2010, with some of his cross-country and a water ski race trophies.)

Register-Guard

March 15, 1950

Page 11

#### **Eugene Skiers Race Sunday**

Five members of the Tri-Pass Ski Club of Eugene will compete in the annual Donner Pass memorial cross-country race Sunday, traveling from a summit out of Reno toward Sacramento over a 25-mile course, nearly all down-hill.

Three of the local skiers will be in the interscholastic division – Shirley Couch and Sharon Gardner were enroute Tuesday evening; Conrad "Bob" Wagner was enroute Wednesday.

Hans Holaas, winner of the "A" division in the same race last year, and Nils Norman, who won the foreign division in the California event in 1949, were to leave Thursday. Holaas and Norman finished first and fourth, respectively in the recent North American and National Canadian meets at Banff, and Gardner and Wagner won the Pacific Northwest junior championships the same weekend.

Register-Guard

March 19, 1950

Page 15

### **Eugene Skiers Compete Sunday**

Five Eugene Skiers have been training since Tuesday in California in preparation for entering the Donner Trail Memorial Races Sunday at the pass.

Tri-Pass Ski Club members sent to represent the club are Hans Holaas, Nils Norman, Conrad Wagner, Shirley Couch and Sharen (sic) Gardner.

The cross-country event, which all five are entering in various divisions, will begin at the summit and run about 25 miles to the west. Most of the course is downhill or on the level, with only about the last mile being uphill.

The meet is sponsored by 40 lodges at Donner Pass, and a large field is expected to compete.

The Bend Bulletin

March 20, 1950

#### **4 Skiers Win at Donner**

Donner Summit, Calif., March 20 (UP) – Four Eugene, Ore., skiers won honors here Sunday in the 25-mile Donner trail ski marathon.

Hans Holaas won the event by running the course in three hours, 15 minutes and 17 seconds. His teammate, Nils Norman, won second place with 3:34:29. Both represented by the Tri-State Ski club of Eugene.

Among women contestants, 17-year-old Sharon Gardner placed 14th with 4:24:09. Shirley Ann Couch had 4:56:25 and was the second woman to cross the finish line. Both are Eugene residents.

The skiers raced along the backbone of the Sierras, encountering pouring rain at lower altitudes and finally coming into brilliant sunshine as they neared the finish line at Emigrant gap.

Register-Guard

March 24, 1950

Page 10A

#### **Ski Titles on Block**

##### **Tri-Pass Ski Club Books Meet At Santiam Pass**

##### **PNSA Cross-Country Races in 3 Divisions**

Three Pacific northwest cross-country championships will be at stake Sunday at Hoodoo Bowl in the Santiam ski area where one of the largest fields in local history is expected to vie in the six-event program being sponsored by the Tri-Pass Ski Club of Eugene.

Both the men and women's class "C" and the women's junior events will have PNSA classification. The class "A" and "B" men's and men's junior cross-country races will be all-Oregon, with the Jack Meissner trophy going to the men's junior winner.

Distance of the races will range from the three-mile route for juniors to the championship 11-mile distance for the men's "A" and "B" events.

##### **SATURDAY DEADLINE**

Exact personnel of the field will not be determined until 5 p.m. Saturday, deadline for entries at the Santiam Lodge. Drawing for numbers will be held at 7 p.m. and instruction on rules of the races will be given at 8 p.m.

Skiers from Oregon, Washington and California are expected to compete. Charlie Moore of the Seattle Ski Club, winner of the Meissner Trophy last year, will be competing in class "C" men's and the favorite for the junior crown will be Bob Wagner of Eugene, PNSA junior titleholder.

Sharon Gardner, recent winner of the 25-mile event at Donner Pass, will be favored in the junior women's event and the Eugene girl's strongest competition is expected to come from Marcia Skjersa of Bend. Shirley Couch of Eugene will be a strong contender for the PNSA class "C" women's championship and one of the top contenders will be Ruth Raastad, a Norwegian representing the Ice Lakes Club in California.

While the class "A" men's events will not carry PNSA titles – the championships having been held at Snoqualmie Pass earlier in the season, the 11-mile event will be watched with interest. The racer is certain to be Hans Holaas, Tri-Pass Club members, recent winner of the North American, National Canadian and Donner Pass races. Leading competition will come from teammate Nils Norman and Stig Bengtar of Ice Lakes. Bengtar is determined to beat both Eugene skiers, after finishing third to Holaas and Norman at Donner Pass last weekend.

#### **FINE CONDITIONS**

Weather reports indicate excellent snow conditions for Sunday and earlier in the week there was a new fall of 12 inches of snow.

Norman Richards is general chairman for the meet and Bror Nasholm will be the official PNSA course setter. Chief course setter will be Bob Pfeiffer. Chief timer will be Dick Strite and chief recorder, Virginia Bloom. The U.S. forest Service and Santiam and Willamette ski patrols will be on hand.

Accommodations will be available at both the Suttle Lake resort and the Santiam lodge.

The race will get underway at 10 a.m. following a 7 a.m. breakfast. A banquet, with presentation of awards, will be held at the Santiam lodge about 5 p.m.

Photo of Hans Holaas with following caption:

**EUGENE'S FAMED SKIER**, Hans Holaas, will take a back seat in class "C" and junior women skiers at Santiam Sunday when the Tri-Pass Ski Club of Eugene holds a six-event cross-country meet. Holaas, however, will vie in the class "A" all-Oregon race. He is shown here after winning the North American and National Canadian titles at Banff recently.

Register-Guard

March 27, 1950

Page 10

#### **Ski Crowns Go to Miesen, Raastad**

#### **HANS HOLAAS WINS CLASS A**

#### **Sharon Gardner, Bob Wagner Junior Champs**

By Ruby Frazier

Register-Guard Ski Writer

HOODOO BOWL, Santiam Pass, March 27 – Several inches of new snow and a continued snowfall all day Sunday hampered skiers entered in the Tri-Pass Ski Club's cross-country event here. Skis of many racers iced up badly, causing them to drop out of the race, or stop and rewax frequently on the course.

Hans Holaas, Tri-Pass, took first place in the "A" men's division. His time was 1:26:09 for the 10 ½ mile course. Stig Bengtar, Donner Trail Ski Club, Calif., was second with 1:30:38 and Nils Norman, Tri-Pass, was third with 1:53:38.

#### **NO CLASS "B"**

No class "B" event was held for men because of lack of entries.

PNSA championships went to winners of the Class "C" events. Ruth Raasted, Donner Trail, took home the trophy for Class "C" women. Her time for the 3 ½ miles was 39:17. Shirley Couch, Tri-pass, was second, with 40:32, and Marianna Kearny, Mazamas of Portland, was third with 1:02:09.

Lee Meisen, Lewis and Clark College, captured first place in the "C" event for men with 1:18:58 on the seven-mile course. Wynn Killian, Donner Trail, was right behind him with 1:20:54, and J. B. Ferguson, Lewis and Clark, took third with 1:21:30.

In the junior men's all-Oregon, Bob Wagner, Eugene, took first place and with it the Jack Meissner trophy, held the past year by Charles Moore of Seattle. His time for the 3 ½ - mile course was 35:02. Bill Temple, Tri-Pass was second with 44:06, and Dick Duncan, Obsidians of Eugene was third with 44:19.

Sharon Gardner, winner of the junior women's event, beat the time of the winning Class "C" woman skier (Miss Raastad) with her time of 35:39. She was way ahead of her closest competition, Clara Skjersaa, Bend Skyliner, who finished with 49:12. Beverly Jarvis, Tri-Pass, was third with 2:07:00.

## SKIERS HAVE TROUBLE

Biggest field was Class "C" men, with eight racers. There were four entries in both the "A" men and "C" women, and three in the other divisions.

Because of heavy snowfall over the course the past few days, Norm Richards, race chairman, decided not to have the "A" racers use the 11-mile course which had been marked out. Instead, all racers used the same course, running three times.

Five California skiers from Donner Summit ran into trouble Saturday on their way to Santiam Pass when their car was demolished in an accident. Only Ruth Raastad received slight injuries, a strained knee, which did not prevent her from racing. The accident ruined three pairs of cross-country skis, and the Californians borrowed skis from Eugene for the event.

Believing the meet was a host affair, the Californians are now in Eugene without sufficient finances for the return trip. Their meals and lodging were furnished by the Suttle Lake Resort and by the Tri-Pass club. They are without funds and without transportation.

Photo of winners with caption:

**HERE ARE THE WINNERS** in Sunday's Tri-Pass Ski Club sponsored meet at Hoodoo bowl that saw three Pacific Northwest Ski Assn., titles won. The winners, left to right, on sofa, Hans Holaas, 1st Class A men, Ruth Raastad, 1st Class C women, Wynn Killian, 2nd Class C women (men), Sharon Gardner, 1st junior women. In rear, Stig Rengstar, 2nd Class A men, Lee Miesen, 1st Class C men, Bob Wagner, 1st junior men, Nils Norman, third Class A men.

Register-Guard

April 21, 1950

Page 3A

(Photo caption)

**SKIERS BANQUET** Saturday night at the Del Rey Café will have Mr. and Mrs. Gene Gillis, Eugene, as guests of honor. Tri-Pass Ski Club's president Ralph Johnson, right, will MC the event. The Gillis duo races in downhill and slalom events. Eugene's noted cross-country skiers, Hans Holaas and Nils Norman will also be feted.

\* \* \*

(Main Article)

### **Saturday Night Celebration To Honor Prominent Skiers**

By Shirley Couch

Two international downhill and slalom champions will be honored guests, Saturday night, at Eugene's biggest celebration of racers and ski club accomplishments since Gretchen Fraser visited here in 1948. United States and Canadian Olympic teams, will be welcomed to Eugene at the first annual Tri-Pass spring ski banquet, scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Del Rey Café.

Mr. and Mrs. Gillis recently moved to Eugene so that he could attend the University of Oregon.

Rhona Wurtele Gillis, one of the famous Wurtele twins of Canada, has been pulling in titles for 10 years, the foremost of which include the North American, Canadian Dominion and United States National Championships.

**Rhona and Rhoda Wurtele were the only women on the Canadian Olympic team at St. Moritz, Switzerland. They were both married in November, 1948, and Rhona raced in the F.I.S. World Championships for the United States, in Aspen, Colorado, this year.**

In 1944, the twins were awarded the "Rose Bowl" for being Canada's outstanding women athletes of the year. They were runner-ups to a football player as Canada's outstanding athletes in 1946.

Gene Gillis not only breaks records on skis, but with his bones as well. Just before the Olympic tryouts in 1947, he broke an ankle but landed a berth with the team on past records, anyway. His chances in the Olympics were ruined at St. Moritz, due to further injuries. Last year Gillis broke his leg in seven places and cracked some ribs when he ran into a tree, during a high speed downhill race at Sun Valley.

**Each year a junior slalom and downhill meet is held in memory of the two boy's father, Gere Gillis, who was very active in the promotion of junior skiing. A large wooden plaque also in memory of Gere Gillis, has been placed at the north end of Hoodoo Bowl by the Bend Skyliners.**

The banquet will be well attended by champions in every field. The Gillises will represent the Alpine events of downhill and slalom and Eugene's own racers will uphold cross-country, including Hans Hoolaas, National Champion.

The main business of the annual meeting, which will follow the banquet, will be the election of next year's officers and the presentation of special trophies. Among the trophies to be presented will be the "Gretchen Fraser Golden Skis" perpetual ski trophy, to be awarded to the boy and girl who have contributed the most to skiing in Eugene High School. Other awards include the Jack Meissner Junior cross-country trophies and the "Broken Bones" and "Hard Luck" trophies.

Reservations for the banquet can be made at Hendershott's and should be made as soon as possible, since space is limited. Attendance is not restricted to club members and the public is invited.

Register-Guard

April 23, 1950

Page 16A

### **Eugene High News**

(Beginning with paragraph 6)

The names of Sharon Gardner and King Haviland have been placed on the Hendershott Perpetual Ski Trophy for having contributed the most to skiing in Eugene high school during the "49-50" ski season.

Miss Gardner was selected for her achievements in racing and leadership as captain of the E.H.S. ski team. King Haviland is a member of the ski team and safety chairman of the E.H.S. Ski club as well as being an active member of the Willamette Ski patrol, the Obsidians and the Tri-Pass Ski club.

Register-Guard

October 19, 1950

Page 14A

### **SKI FLASHES**

By Schillios

**\* The Pacific Northwestern Ski Association will convene at Santiam Pass October 28-29. Ski clubs – 84 strong – of Idaho, Washington and Oregon will send some 150 delegates to the conference,** according to George Korn, member of the executive board.

All facilities of the Santiam Pass area will be utilized for the two-day conference. Dates, locations, of forthcoming ski meets and a host of other decisions on winter sports will result.

Host will be the Central Cascade Recreational Council, an organization of combined clubs which frequent Santiam Pass and include: Salem Ski Club, Salem; Tahkena, Albany; Helonskis, Corvallis; Oregon State Mountain Club; Bend Skyliners; Obsidians, the U. of O. and Tri-Pass, Eugene.

C.C.R.C. met Wednesday with the Albany Chamber of Commerce to arrange details for the convention.

**\* Here's the rosy Oregon skiing prospects for 1950-51 direct from the Oregon state highway commission's travel information department:**

Officials of Mount Hood's Aerial Tramway, the \$750,000 "Skygoing Busline," are optimistic about being in full operation for early season ski crowds. The new tramway, plus the chairlift to Silcox hut, a mile further up the mountain, will give the skier a spiningtingling four-mile run down the open slopes and through snow-covered forests.

A new two-lane, all weather highway from Government Camp to Timberline Lodge will be completed and opened to the public the latter part of September, reports the U. S. bureau of public roads. This modern macadam highway, six miles long, will cut two and a half miles off the old route.

Multipor Hill, the class A, B, C and D jumping hill in the Government Camp ski area on the south slope of Mount Hood, is adding a new 1600-foot, T-bar lift, plus a beginners' rope tow to the two tows in present operation.

Tom & Dick Ski Bowl, Windy Hill and Summit ski areas, also on the south slope of Mount Hood, report complete reconditioning of all present facilities.

Construction of the North Slope Ski Club's Lodge at Cooper Spur Bowl was completed this past summer. The lodge has special dormitory sleeping accommodations.

Special interest in the central Oregon ski areas is centered around the Hoodoo Ski Bowl on Santiam Pass and the new 4000-foot chair lift being installed there. The chair lift is designed to carry skiers to the top of Hoodoo Butte, approximately 1200 feet above the bowl itself. The new lift will bring to four the total number of tows operating in the bowl.

**\* Hoodoo Bowl area will be much more accessible this year due to completion of the road from the Santiam Highway. This one-mile road from Santiam Pass to the bowl area has recently been** rocked, oiled and rolled. It is now in a condition suitable for operation of snow removal equipment. J.R. Bruckart, forest supervisor, Willamette National Forest, advises that the completion of this project is the culmination of joint efforts by the forest service and several winter sports groups.

Willamette Pass, at the summit of the Cascade Range on state highway 58, is fast becoming one of Oregon's major ski areas. An off-highway parking area for approximately 100 cars was completed this summer by the state highway department. Three rope tows are scheduled for operation in the pass this season. They are a 400-foot beginners' tow, and 800 and 1200-foot tows for the advanced skier. Also, ground work has been started on a new T-bar lift, which when completed, will open a new ski area described as a plateau – a mile high, a mile wide, and a mile long.

Officials at the Tollgate-Spout Springs area in the Blue Mountains of Northeastern Oregon area reported to be reconditioning present equipment and facilities.

At Crater Lake National Park, facilities are limited to weekend skiing. The National park service requires that all tows be taken down at the end of each weekend. The lodge is open for the comfort of skiers. No overnight accommodations are available during the winter season.

Register-Guard  
October 26, 1950

Page 15A

## SKI FLASHES

By Schillios

**\* More than 260,000 attendees yearly at Oregon's 18 major ski areas . . .** that's what the Forest Service annual report shows.

Any perennial visitor to the ski fields realizes how increasingly popular the sport is becoming and 1950-51 promises to be another soaring ski season.

The National Ski Association of America uses Forest Services figures as a barometer of what is happening in skiing. Their estimates for the past two seasons place Oregon-Washington forest areas in the number one notch. Here it is:

1. Oregon-Washington (1949-50) ..... 349,140
2. Idaho-Wyoming-Utah-Nevada..... 241,386
3. California..... 231,508
4. Colorado ..... 175,000
5. New England..... 52,220
6. Montana-Idaho ..... 37,300
7. Arizona-New Mexico..... 16,457

Sun Valley accounted for about 44,000 visits alone while Aspen, Colorado, which this past season was the scene of the 1950 World Ski Championships of the FIS, had about 30,000, or a numerical increase of more than 20,000 over the figure of the previous season.

\* **How popular is skiing in this area?**

A 1949 survey made by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, with the assistance of Roy Elliott of the Willamette National Forest, revealed 30,000 visits to McKenzie, Willamette and Hoodoo Bowl ski areas. Total estimated expenditures by these enthusiasts was conservatively placed at \$1,365,000. Bear in mind that that yardstick is a year old.

Here's a fresh eye-opener on Oregon tourist business, however, which indicated Oregon rates high touristwise (sic). And don't think skiing isn't one of the tourist activities. It's not uncommon for devotees of the "schuss" to follow the sport from one continent to another.

In September of this year tourist business already had passed the \$113,000,000 mark for a new all-time high, so said the travel information bureau of the state highway department. They didn't guess but stopped out-of-state cars at 14 major points in Oregon to tabulate this info.

Secretaries at our chambers of commerce tell us that they answer out-of-state queries on the ski picture in Oregon with inviting letters and travel folders on Mount Hood's facilities. No folders for distribution exist which tell potential skiers about Willamette, McKenzie, or Hoodoo Bowl!

\* **For keenest enjoyment of skiing, the smart blades** exercise and strengthen the muscles most subject to strain BEFORE the first snowfall. Our hat is off to Teresa Janes, who took to water skis this summer with amazing ease. Fern Ridge Lake was the enjoyed location and many followed suit.

By-the-bye, Teresa invited Nils Norman to try skimming the water. He did and took top honors a week later from regatta competitors. His pluck (second time on water skis) and skillful balance amazed the judges. (Photo captioned Nils Norman shows him standing, holding a pair of skis at his right side.)

Nils is a personable cross-country expert who is aiming for a good year at the finish line. It's quite likely that while Hans Hoolaas goes in one direction to take first in a meet, Nils will attend a contest elsewhere to bring another first place cup home. The boys are just too good in outpacing Northwest skiers for one first-place trophy.

\* **George Korn has just completed arrangements with Frank Scofield**, dean of Canadian ski instructors, to bring the movie "Skiing Saints" to Eugene, Wednesday, Nov. 8. His film captures the plunging excitement of the slalom, the elegance of top skiers, and sensational downhill runs. New Roosevelt Junior High (South Hilyard) auditorium will open its doors for the showing. Public invited.

Harold Trotter is new prexy of Central Cascade Recreational Council. The eight-club organization will be host to the PNSA convention in Salem Saturday.

Orchids to Dolph Janes for making his popular "Ski Notes" program over KORE Friday nights a "repeater." He's on the air at 8:30 p.m. but during basketball season will rebroadcast his 15-minutes on winter sports at 10:30 p.m.

Cruising Eugene police took a dubious view recently of a man running into the city from Springfield. They sounded an abrupt halt to the night runner.

"Just getting into conditions for the ski season," explained Olav Brunsvik. Among credentials he showed: A Tri-Pass Ski Club membership card. The Norwegian lad, 20, is an up-and-coming cross-country racer with a girl friend in Springfield.

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow . . . .

Register-Guard  
December 7, 1950  
Page 15

**SKI FLASHES**

By Schillios

\* **The Essence of Skiing:** As always, when he was alone in the mountains, he rediscovered why it is that he is a skier, why he had chosen this kind of living. The knowledge was deep, sure but real, nonverbal. It was a sense of being and not of doing, a sense of partaking not of creating, the most completely selfless state that he knew of or could imagine, a voluptuous sense of awe and silence and at the same time joy. Traveling in this way with the rhythm of his body capturing most of the consciousness of his mind, he felt



strongly that he was a man who belonged just where he was. It was a deeper feeling than the active feeling of pleasure he experienced in skiing down the slopes, although that was sharp enough. But up here, traveling as he was . . . there was nothing, nothing at all except being. – From “Snowslide,” by Carl Jonas, Little, Brown & Co. Add to the pleasure of skiing the sense of being beautifully removed from the world crisis. Ephemeral that it is.

\* **First 40-passenger Willamette-bound ski bus to leave Eugene** this year will leave at 8 a.m. Sunday from in front the Lane courthouse. A pickup will be made at Fennell’s on the UO campus. Tickets (\$2.50 roundtrip) are available at Hendershott’s. Buses will leave the area at 4:30 p.m. and be in Eugene 6:30 p.m. Saturday bus runs will not be made until after Christmas.

More than 100 Oregon Trail Council Explorer Scouts will encamp at Willamette Pass ski area December 27-29. Thursday: orientation. Friday: instruction. Saturday: tournament.

Skiing conditions are getting better with each passing week at both Santiam and Willamette Ski areas. Nils Norman described skiing at Hoodoo Bowl last Saturday as “the best I’ve ever seen it.” Sunday it rained a trifle. Ed Thurston’s lunch counter is in operation in his massive lodge.

Mary’s Peak ski area will not be open this year due to lack of funds for snowplow operations.

This is the first opportunity we’ve had to run a picture of the new prexy of the Pacific Northwestern Ski Association. Buster Campbell, University of Washington ski coach, was a member of the U.S. 1950 FIS team. He’s a lang-laufer.

\* **Confirmation of Mount Hood’s selection as site for the second annual National Intercollegiate Ski championships**, to be run off at Mount Hood March 29-31, comes from Campbell.

University of Portland Pilots will be host. A total of 10 teams will participate in the national meet, and will include eight American division champions and two from Canada. Teams figured to compete are Dartmouth, Middleberry, British Columbia, University of Alberta, Denver, Washington, WSC, California, Nevada and Portland. The Mt. Hood meet will mark the first time that the National Intercollegiate has ever been held in the Pacific northwest. Oregon’s new ski team will probably be added to the roster.

Thursday is the deadline for entries in the Arnold Lunn downhill race, Mount Hood’s first major tournament of the season. The race is open to Class A and B men and women and will start from a point near Lone fir Lookout behind Timberline Lodge at noon next Sunday. Alan Fischer of Portland is defending champion, having edged out Karl Stingle of Seattle by .2 second.

\* **Ski classes begin this weekend at both Willamette and Santiam areas and are again under the able supervision of Glen Purdy.** Plucky Purdy has doubled his teaching staff to accommodate students and assure personalized instruction. From Sun Valley and Bogus Basin, he has pulled Sam Winn and from Seattle snowfields, George Nottingham. Glen and his wife will continue as instructors themselves. The enlarged staff will assure classes of having two instructors in each area where morning and afternoon classes will be given. The experienced and certified instructors will open the morning classes at 11 a.m. and afternoon instruction will begin at 2.

“We’ll teach everything from beginners through intermediate to the advanced. From those who don’t know which ski goes on which foot to races,” said Glenn (sic). A two-hour period of instruction comes for \$2, or you can take both sessions, four hours, for \$3. Coupon books are available – eight lessons for \$10, utilized any weekend. The coupons are available at lunch counters in the local ski areas.

For newcomers, here’s a thumbnail background on Glen. He’s packed 19 years of skiing into his 26 years, which means that he began at the tender age of seven. He was director of Snow Valley Ski school at Manchester, Vermont, for three years and also taught there for one year. He has also coached eastern school teams. With his wife, equally talented in instruction and a student of top skiers, he operated ski schools in this area last season. Glen is having adequate signs made for the snow slopes. Purdy, who had a recent brush with a hospital bed, will be taking it easy for awhile and probably concern himself more with beginners this season. There are four Purdys in the phone book. Don’t call them all. Glen is at 4-2749.

## SKI FLASHES

By Schillios

**\* Those 52 anxiously awaited double chairs were not only installed late Sunday but cruised serenely to the top of Hoodoo Butte with 30 excited skiers aboard!**

Among the volunteers for the first unofficial passenger run was an expert who heartily endorsed Ed Thurston's lift as "just as good as anything at Sun Valley." Incidentally, the mile run was negotiated in one minute and 17 seconds by a Kanonen who made the weekend snow at Hoodoo "look like greased lightning."

Installation and operation of Thurston's lift (sic – lift) is probably the most important boost to skiing in southwest Oregon this season.

The lift takes a leisurely ten minutes to reach the summit and will probably transport 360 persons per hour. Harold Trotter, among the first riders, termed it "a very smooth operation with comfortable chairs which were 35 feet above the present snow at times."

All equipment necessary for completion (there are minor parts to be adjusted) is on hand, and it appears that the lift may be in operation for the Christmas season. Dependent, too, on when the forest service and insurance company engineers give the final green lights to the operation. Final clearance is expected momentarily.

Because skiers will want to be oriented with the lift, Ed says he'll not operate the 4000-foot long skyway at full speed for a while. The actual vertical rise is 1028 feet.

**\* There's more good news for Lane County skiers. Willamette Pass Ski Area begins "Holiday Week" with another new tow extending the skyway another 900 feet.**

It's time for a summary of what is available in way of facilities at Willamette: George Korn has been busier than the proverbial cat and expanded the "family ski area" to accommodate all classes of slat riders. The original forest service shelter has been floored and a king-sized pot-bellied stove added. No longer are you likely to slide down those icy steps to stand in melted snow. The snack shack has been raised above snow level and puts the coffee pot conveniently within reach. It's also been enlarged – windows looking out to the busy slopes.

A new building has been erected for ski rentals and service, with an attendant. The Ski School building is neatly set beside the beginner's slope. These structures are in addition to the Ski Patrol shelter, which is one of the finest in the northwest, constructed last season.

The beginner's tow will escort you 400 feet up in a graceful slope protected from the mad flights of skiers zooming off higher levels. An intermediate tow makes use of the central clearing and is good for a 600-foot hoist up the hill. This tow seems the most popular. Now comes the experts' tow (400 feet up the first leg and 900 feet up the second step) which opens a ski run of 2300 feet.

Willamette Pass Ski Area is termed a model ski operation because of its location only 70 miles from Eugene. There are few ski areas where you can find the ski slopes a few steps off a major highway. The state highway department keeps a 100-auto parking area cleared. (You no longer have to climb that high bank.) This parking area is apt to be doubled in '51.

**\* The rapid development of Willamette puts the spotlight on its long-range importance.** When George's lifts attain the top of this butte (6600 feet as compared with an elevation of 4950 feet at the base) it will mean that southwest Oregon will have achieved a ski area higher than touted Timberline Lodge and will thus extend the season a month earlier and a month later than at present, by reason of making deeper snow more accessible.

By-the-bye, the forest service architects are now laying out plans for the area's future, which includes a lodge site. Also futuristic is Korn's hope of using the area in summer months for tourists coming through the pass up to Ski Butte's top to see such things as the Three Sisters, Diamond Peak, Crater Lake rim, Waldo Lake, etc., all within immediate view from the top.

**\* Circle January 14 on your calendar. That's the Sunday selected by the Central Cascade Recreational Council for a giant slalom at Hoodoo Bowl. This event will be modified so we Snow-**

bunnies can enter. In short, it's a funfest and specifically aimed at those who are not in the racing classes! Minor trophies will be awarded and the whole area sounds like fun for the average skiers.

CCRC also voted to extend its functions to cover McKenzie and Willamette Ski areas. They also extend a hearty welcome to Oakridge, Gilchrist, and others to join the roster. CCRC is an excellent clearing house for such things as dual arrangement of ski meets, if one club feels sponsorship is too much of an undertaking.

**\* Pert Margaret Walker is home for the holidays from college in Colorado and reports skiing there "very good." . .**

**Don't forget the Tri-Pass Christmas party. Bring a 50c gift.** Santa Hubert Phillips and Dolph Janes, who'll MC "Twenty Questions," promise a lively time. Movies, too! Congregational Church, 7:30 p.m., Friday, December 22. See you there!

Register Guard  
December 31, 1950  
Page 10

### **Retirement Comes to Forester After 36 Years With Service**

Roy A. Elliott of Eugene, staff officer on the Willamette National Forest, has retired effective Sunday, after 36 years with the U. S. Forest Service. His successor has not been named.

Having served his entire forestry career on the Willamette National Forest, he has become well known to the area for his assistance in developing many techniques in the field of fire control, and has been an enthusiastic supported (sic) of recreational and wild life activities.

(Skip to paragraph five for partial extraction. . .)

. . . He has been well known in this area, . . . . honorary member of Willamette Ski Patrol . . .

The Obsidian  
February 1951  
Page 1

### **GENE McMURPHEY SKI PATROL SHELTER DEDICATION**

Scheduled to begin at 2:00 P.M. February 18, at the Willamette ski area, dedication services for the Gene McMurphey ski patrol shelter will be opened by the Willamette ski patrol. Dolph Janes, radio announcer and honorary member of the patrol, will preside as master of ceremonies.

Filling the speakers' chairs, will be: Van Purdy, local ski instructor; Bryan Ryan, designer of the building; Tony Vogel, on the purpose; and pinch-hitting for building chairman, Bob Pfeiffer, now in the army, will be his father, Carl Pfeiffer. A toboggan demonstration will be presented by two teams including Miss Virginia Bloom and Mr. Allen Lindley for the women and Jack Meissner and Chuck Honey for the men.

Gene McMurphey, a well known Obsidian, ski patrolman, certified ski instructor, and member of the mountain troops, lost his life in the fall of 1948. Chairmen of the dedication plans are Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Proudfoot, close friends of the McMurphey family.

Ground for the shelter was broken on Labor Day, 1949, and volunteers donated numberless weekends constructing it, under the supervision of Pfeiffer and Springfield contractor, Gale Roberts. All materials were donated by nearby firms.

By Shirley Couch

Register-Guard  
February 18, 1951  
Page 9  
(Photo caption)

**DEDICATION SERVICES** of the Gene McMurphy (sic) Memorial Ski Patrol Shelter will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Willamette Pass Ski Area. Dolph Janes will be master of ceremonies. Mc Murphy, killed in an industrial accident shortly after World War II, was a member of America's mountain troops and did much to promote skiing in this area. At a ceremony Wednesday night, the Women's Relief Corps presented the Ski Patrol with a flag for the building. Allen Lindley, president of the patrol, holds the colors which were presented by Mr. Ivan Parks (left) and Mrs. F. N. Morefield. Ralph Proudfoot, chairman of the dedication ceremony, displays the plaque which will be erected at the shelter Sunday.

(Second photo and caption)

**VOLUNTEER LABOR** built the Gene McMurphy (sic) Ski Patrol Shelter, shown above in miniature, which will be the focal point of dedication services Sunday at the Willamette Pass Ski Area.

Register-Guard  
February 20, 1951  
Page 5  
(Photo and caption)

**MRS. GENE McMURPHEY** unveils the plaque which honors her husband, an ardent skier who served with America's mountain troops and was killed in an industrial accident following World War II. The new Willamette Ski Patrol building was dedicated Sunday at Willamette Pass and the Forest Service marker attached to the shelter. More than 100 persons attended the ceremony.

\* \* \* \* \*

Maris Note: Gene's wife, Betty, was identified as a nurse "at the hospital" by Obsidian member, JoAnne Ledet. It is possible that she could have been on duty at the time of his accident and arrival at the hospital where he died. The memorial sign shown in the photo is now mounted on the east wall, lower level, of the building occupied by the WPSP beside the Patrol Day Room entry. (Installed during 2009-10 ski season.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Register-Guard  
March 19, 1951  
Page 11

### **Holaas Wins Donner Summit Ski Race**

#### **Norman Places Second in Run**

Donner Summit, Calif., March 19 – AP – Two youthful Eugene, Ore., millwrights Sunday posted top times in the Oakland Ski Club's annual 25-mile crosscountry (sic) race – advertised as the nation's longest.

Twenty seven-year old Hans Holaas covered the course in 3 hours, 4 minutes and 25 seconds, to win the race championship for the third time. He was followed by fellow-townsmen Nils Norman, 30, with a time of 3.11 25.5.

Tragedy marred the event only moments after the 35 men and nine women crossed the starting line. Toivo Aro, 58-year old Donner Summit trapper, veteran skier, and the race's oldest entrant, collapsed and died after traveling one mile.

Aro had entered the race in place of his son, Edvi Aro, who was sidelined by injuries from an auto accident.

Olaf Brunsvik, also a millwright from Eugene finished fifth in 3 hours, 33 minutes and .8 seconds. Sharen Bardner, (sic) another Eugene skier, was unable to compete in the race because of an influenza attack.

(Photo caption)

### **HANS HOLAAS Wins Ski Run**

The Eugene skier captured the Donner Summit lengthy ski race Sunday with a fellow Eugenean Nils Norman trailing Holaas in the race.

Register-Guard

April 19, 1951

Page 15

### **SKI FLASHES**

By SCHILLIOS

Entrants are coming in from all over the northwest and California for the John Craig Memorial cross-country ski race, to (obscured) April 29, and may see as many as 100 skiers seeking laurels.

Included in the listing to date are two of 1930's greatest long-distance champions, Emil Nordeen and (obscured) Skjersaa, Bend, who will be competing for the Bend Skyliners, (obscured) they did two decades ago when they beat all the racers the west coast could offer and national champions as well.

This will be their "last race," when they cross the McKenzie ridgeline, skiing in the veterans (obscured) 35) class. This will also be (obscured) year-old Nordeen's first race (obscured) 20 years – since he put away his skis after winning the huge (obscured) Klamath" trophy in the Fort Klamath-Crater Lake ski race in (obscured).

We're chagrined to have been (obscured) our head at the thought of (obscured) the 18-mile course. Now (obscured) Nordeen, with the enthusiasm of a teenager.

Of course, we'll be looking for Hans Holaas to turn in the best time – maybe a time that can stand the test of future years and the best skiers in the world can offer – but there are other entrants who should not be taken lightly.

**Many Californians were betting on a Swiss national champion to upset Eugene's Holass and Nils Norman on the (obscured) Trail Memorial Race. They were disappointed, not by the lack (obscured) Ottavio Genoni's prowess, (he's 26) but because 27-year-old Hans whittled his own time on that course by 11 minutes. Norman, now enroute to Sweden, came in seven and one-half minutes behind Hans and that lowered the Swiss to third place with Lard DeGeer, San Francisco, and Olav Brunsvik, Eugene, following.**

Incidentally, the betting itself angered Hans but the payoff came when someone stole his wallet containing \$60 while he sweated over the course! Add to that the cost of ski bums. Hans collected the trophies, though, and the plaque which bears his name only . . . three times.

We've yet to see a poor report on Hoodoo skiing for Bill Lauder-(obscured) of Santiam Lodge. For the coming weekend he promises "excellent spring skiing" on 88 inches of packed, granular snow. Chair lift operating, roads free of snow and plenty of parking space. "Come and get an early start on your summer tan."

**From R. A. Work, supervisor of the Western Snow Conferences North Pacific area, comes an appreciative letter on the recent snow survey stories the Register-Guard carried. But of more interest are comments by the man in charge of coordinating surveys made in Oregon to determine the water content of snow packs.**

There seem to be no "cycles" or "rhythmic trends toward either wetter or dryer conditions." While snow in its summer stages can cause millions of dollars worth of damage in the northwest, it is also one of our major blessings and one of our biggest crops – worth millions annually. It furnishes nearly 85 percent of Oregon's irrigation waters. It is a major factor in supplying our electricity - possibly 80 percent of Columbia's waters come from snow. We also drink it. Experts calculate its value at close to \$4 an acre!

We'd gladly but a few acres of it for our backyard at \$4 if that includes delivery. . . .

Reserve your copy of Ski West magazine. It's devoted strictly to this area in text and photo. On stands soon.

(Photo of Hans Holaas holding the John Craig Memorial cross-country race perpetual trophy plaque.)

Register-Guard  
November 6, 1951  
Page 15

### **Outdoor Clubs Plan to Clear Local Skiways**

While Lane County's autumnal days are sufficient to send the motorists over several local highways, the winter sports associations are combining that pleasure Sunday with projects intended to hasten the skiing season.

Tri-Pass Ski Club, the Obsidians, and the Ski Patrol will "join hands" at the Willamette Pass Ski Area to stage November bonfires from debris on slopes that will soon be the ski ways.

"This will hasten the ski season because we'll take the bumps out now and the snowfall won't have to be so heavy to make smooth sailing," according to Tri-Pass president Chuck Wiper. "Folks are invited to motor up Sunday."

"The drive up the Cascade slopes is spectacular at this time of year," notes Wiper, and adding "those who join our party will not be disappointed."

The Obsidian  
March, 1952  
Page 1

### **JOHN CRAIG MEMORIAL**

#### **Second Annual PNSA Ski Tour and Race**

Plans are rapidly taking shape for the Second Annual John Craig Memorial Ski Tour and Race across the McKenzie Pass April 27th. The Tour and Race are being arranged jointly by the Obsidians and the Tri-Pass Ski Club. The preliminary work on this event has been spearheaded by George Korn and Harold Trotter. They have attended two meetings in the last month, the first one at Sisters, where plans were laid for the finish of the tour and race with last year began at that point. A great interest was shown by the businessmen of both Sisters and Bend, who were the best of hosts last year to the skiers and officials at many events. Also present at that meeting was Virginia Bloom, Bud Nasholm and Clarence Bankhead, co-chairman of the Obsidian Ski Committee.

The second meeting took place at Helen's Chateau on Leaburg Lake which was the monthly dinner meeting of the Associated Businessmen of the McKenzie. In addition to George and Harold, Mike Stahl and Doris Sims attended. The four reviewed the highlights of last year's tour and race, at the same time giving the Businessmen an idea of what to expect on the weekend of April 26th and 27th. The Obsidian and Tri-Pass group asked the ABM to write to the Oregon State Highway Commission requesting snow removal from part of the upper McKenzie Highway to which they agreed. This snow removal will enable the racers and those who are making the tour to get much closer to the starting point of the 18 mile trek. As was agreed last year, the starting point will be reversed each year, this year starting at Alder Springs and terminating some distance east of Windy Point. It was hoped that the Highway Commission will make an area for parking for motorists who wish to see

(Continued on Page 4)

#### **JOHN CRAIG MEMORIAL TOUR-RACE (Cont.)**

the start of the event.

State Policeman, Gene Hulett was present and offered cooperation from his department, at the same time suggesting the "Walkie-Talkie" which was used last year be in better shape. It seems he shouted his head off trying to be heard from Alder Springs to Windy Point. Interest was shown by representatives from the Springfield Chamber of Commerce who attended the dinner meeting.

In addition to local plans for the race and tour, which will honor John Templeton Craig, pioneer mail carrier who lost his life in a blizzard on the McKenzie Pass on a trip from McKenzie Bridge to early-day Camp Polk, letters are going out to the various ski clubs informing them of the race and tour. Repeating last year's "Miss Ski Tour" Contest, the letter will ask the respective ski clubs to send their candidates to represent the ski

areas in the contest. The Obsidian Princesses and Chiefs have agreed to serve breakfast Sunday morning for the skiers with headquarters at the Obsidian Cabin and CCC Camp.

Bud Nasholm, veteran skier, will break the trail and set flag markers for the 18-mile tour and race. He will be followed by members of the tour party, who will be carrying the memorial mail and starting at intervals. The varied starting times of groups of the tour party will enable them to be stationed at various points along the McKenzie Highway, in order to offer food and water or help if needed by the racers. The Ski Patrol, headed last year by Al Lindley, and this year by Ed Troxel, will be on hand for any emergency.

With so much cooperation and interest shown by everyone, this Second Annual John Craig Memorial Ski Tour and Race, sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Ski Association, will surely be a success.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Maris Note: Bud Nasholm, (Bror) as previously noted, was John Nasholm's, (National #2186, WPSP) father.)

\* \* \* \* \*

The Obsidian

January, 1953

Page 1

## **WINTER SPORTS**

### **COMING SKI EVENTS CAST THEIR SHADOWS BEFORE THEM AND THEIR SITZMARKS BEHIND THEM**

Looking for something to do? Ho Hum. Do you ever tire of riding the ski tows? Up and down. Up and down. DOWN and up. Have you ever longed to ski-tour Europe? Visit the Swiss Alps? Austria? Scandinavia? Or how about Sun Valley? Have you ever been to Aspen or Alta? Maybe you have never been to Timberline Lodge or Mary's Peak.

Well! Here is your chance. Ski Oregon first. Low expense trips. No Breakfast food box tops or radio soap opera quiz contests to win a trip to Hollywood. Just take your pick.

# YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ON THESE TRIPS

Jan. 25	Willamette – Eagle Rock – View of Odell Lake – By Bus	Apr. 19	Willamette – Waldo Lake – Warm up Tour
Feb. 8	Willamette – Odell Butte – Look Out View – By Bus	Apr. 26	McKenzie Pass – Obsidian Tour – John Craig Race – By Bus
Feb. 22	Willamette – Ski Mystery Trip – Surprise! ! !	May 3	Willamette – Maiden Peak – Via Rosary Lakes – By Car
Mar. 1	McKenzie – White Branch – Obsidian Cabin Pot Luck – By Bus	May 10	Santiam – Hayrick – Mountain-eering Class - By Car
Mar. 8	Willamette – Ski Butte – View of Cascades – By Bus	May 17	Willamette – Diamond Peak – Ski Tour – By Car
Mar. 15	Umpqua – Taft Mt. – Edelweiss Ski Club – By Car	May 24	Bohemia – Fairview – The Bohemian Mines – By Car
Mar. 22	Hood – Winter Outing – Obsidians- By Car	May 30-31	Bend – Bachelor Butte – Overnight Tumalo Cabins – By Bus
Mar. 28	Willamette – Saturday Night – Moonlight Ski Party – By Bus	June 7	McKenzie – Sunshine Shelter – Three Sisters – By Car
Apr. 5	Willamette – Easter Services - Golden Bunny Race – By Bus	June 14	Hood – Ice Follies – Portland – Leave Sat. p.m. – Golden Rose Tournament – Overnight at Lodge
Apr. 12	Crater Lake – Obsidian Sponsored – Trail Skiing		

\* \* \* \* \*

(Maris Comment: It is obvious that recreational and competitive skiing collected in this series of copied articles from the late 1920s through 1950s viewed skiing in very different light than the “up-skis, tows and lifts, followed by down-sliding” that became the accepted and expected form of recreational skiing that emerged from the post-war years through the 1990s when “back country” and “off-piste” again became popular and a strongly growing activity, beyond the ski area boundaries. What a fantastic way to spend the winter days in the midst of snowy forests, hearing the sound of the wind in the trees and your skis moving through the snow. Present day ski area patrons, in large, don’t know what they are missing as they pursue their round and round trips up and down the runs or through the trees to ride up again; most with iPod earbuds stuck in their ears.)

\* \* \* \* \*

The Obsidian

November, 1953

Page 4

1953-1954 COMMITTEES (Extraction for Ski Committee only)

Ski – Al Lindley, Ch. 4-5168

Due to late appointment – no committee chosen.



The Obsidian  
December, 1953  
Page 2

**MORE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS  
SKI**

Al Lindley, Chmn. Clarence Bankhead, Jean Banks

Note: This is the last listing of the Ski Committee that Maris found in The Obsidian. It does not appear in the Nov-Dec, 1954, bulletin or in the January, 1956. The mission and activities of The Obsidian Club appear to have taken new directions and focus activities. New committees form and emerge. The two following articles illustrate the involvement of Obsidian members in the Ski Patrol and two outings planned by the Ski Committee. The reference to the Ski Committee found in the Register-Guard, April 10, 1954, is the last mention found to date in this research.

The Obsidian  
January, 1954  
Page 1

(Column 1 cartoon of a skier “straddling and tree-hugging a fir with an NSP National Patch inset)  
Obsidians are very proud that among their members are many who serve the Ski Patrol.

Our National Ski Patrol is a voluntary, and non-profit organization of over 4,000 members, including some 800 women. All are trained in ski rescue work and are graduates of Red Cross first-aid courses. The patrol is financed by contributions from skiers.

The Ski Patrol serves in seven areas of skiing – Eastern, Midwest, Northern Rockies, Southern Rockies, Utah, California, Pacific Northwest. In each area, a chairman directs regional men, section chiefs, patrol leaders, and the patrolmen. The local patrolman is the key man of the organization – a skier [who] gives up much of his own ski fun to aid accident victims.

In a typical year, some 2 million skiers in the U.S. suffer only 15,000 accidents – less than 1 percent. Only about one quarter of these are fractures, but all require first-aid and rescue by toboggan.

The National Ski Patrol seeks to reduce even this low accident rate through safety education for skiers.

The ski season again is with us, so let us all try to help these Ski Patrolmen whenever we can. One best way is to use caution in our own skiing and on the trails.

The Obsidian  
January, 1954  
Page 3

**Just Released**

**OBSIDIAN SKI COMMITTEE SCHEDULE**

February 11-14 – HOODOO BOWL. This will be a do-as-you-please event. Take a cross-country trip, ski the trails, loaf around the lodge. Some events will be planned, depending on the weather and snow conditions. Get your friends together – and circle the date on your calendar – mark it A GOOD TIME!

In March we will have out Winter Outing – at Mt. Hood. March 28 – ODELL LAKE – Around Odel Lake on Skis. April 11 – CRATER LAKE – That wonderful traditional event that Greyhound takes us on. All these snow trips should be beautiful. In June-cross-country trip to Sunshine Shelter. Date to be announced.

### **The Mail Arrives at Cascade Summit**

(Four Photographs with caption. Florence Adkinson was Jack Meissner's mother. Jack would be 34 years old at this time.)

**AS SNUG AS A BEAR** IN HIBERNATION, the tiny post-office at Cascade Summit (upper left) is approached through a high-walled passage in the snow. Last Wednesday night and Thursday morning, an additional 14-inches of snow dropped on the area in 24 hours. Grandma Florence Adkinson is postmaster and her morning duty begins (upper right) with the arrival at 5 a.m. of the Klamath from Eugene. At the lower left, she descends a steep 50-foot snowbank on her way from the railroad to the post office. You can shovel snow all winter at Cascade Summit and still find the rooftops loaded at the end of March. This is a taken-for-granted chore which Grandmother Adkinson does in stride (lower right) as a resident of Cascade Summit.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Postoffice (sic) and Grocery Store for 35 Wintertime Residents.**

#### **Grandma Adkinson Reports Life Is Different Up There in the Snow**

By R. Harlow Schillios

Of The Register-Guard

She is six times a grandmother, and yet, following her on snowshoes convinced me she could win a cross-country race against teenagers.

Mrs. Elmer Adkinson is 54, postmistress of Cascade Summit, a Weather Bureau observer, and grandmother extra-ordinary.

When the SP's Klamath No. 9 eased to an earned pause at the Summit at 5:30 a.m. Wednesday, Mrs. Adkinson was the figure in blue ski clothes who pulled the mail sack off the train and lugged it to the station.

Through the light snow that fell and through the morning dusk strode Grandmother Adkinson, mail sack on her shoulder. Inside the station she sorted out a few newspapers and parcels for Cruzatte (sic), Abernathy and Fields, waypoints on the line. A section hand watched.

#### **BUSINESS IS GOOD**

The Klamath train was but a diminishing echo as the little lady crossed the tracks with her mail bag and started down the 50-foot snow bank to the post-office.

It's a postage-stamp-size office at the end of a high snow-walled entrance. It does a goodly business for the 35 wintertime residents and the 200 persons who enjoy the Summit and Odell Lake in summer.

Postoffice and grocery store are in the same snowbank, and a spur tunnel leads to the comfortable two-bedroom Adkinson home.

From inside you note that windows are partially boarded. It's to keep the heavy snow, which oft (sic) masses higher than rooftops, from pushing through the glass.

#### **LIFE IS DIFFERENT**

Life up here is a little different, says Grandma Adkinson. Snow makes that difference. It causes families to lay in a year's supply of food, oil and butane gas. Fresh meat comes in via Railway Express at \$1.85 per hundred pounds.

Grandma wears ski clothes and those snowshoes and skies in the hallway are well worn.

"Sometimes we wonder if people outside walk any other way than on skis or snowshoes."

"Virginia (Mrs. Jack Meissner) saw me in a dress on at her wedding in Eugene five years ago. Wearing dresses is a decided exception for us, it seems.

"During winter (September to May) we get to town maybe three times. Here we keep antifreeze in the car year round and it sits on blocks, while we're snowed in.

"We have physical checkups in the fall and lay in what medical supplies we just might need for emergencies," she said.

## **SOOTHING ELEVATION**

It was Elmer Adkinson's asthma which first brought the family to Cascade Summit. The 10,000 (sic) plus elevation is soothing for him and refreshing to Grandma. (Maris' note: Willamette Pass elevation is 5,128' and Diamond Peak is 8,744')

After breakfast, Elmer turned to the boathouses where tending craft and machinery is a full-time job, heavier work than recent operations should permit. He's a mechanic by trade and living at the Summit provides multiple outlets for his talent.

Mrs. Adkinson's after-breakfast task is a tour of the hygro-thermographs, weather bureau instruments, which record temperature and humidity.

She and the other volunteer Oregon observers form the backbone of what has been characterized as "one of the most extra ordinary services ever developed anywhere." A network of thousands of such observers dots the nation.

There are two such instruments under her care. One is atop a float on Odell Lake, the other on stilts above the snow at the Summit.

## **ROOFTOP PATROL**

Grandma Adkinson thinks nothing of hefting a man-sized shovel to remove rooftop snow. One year the snow depth reached 138 inches. On Thursday of this week a total of 14 inches of new snow had fallen within the past 24 hours. At least two of the 58 houses bordering Odell Lake have succumbed in time to the crushing weight.

The Adkinsons' and son Jack Meissner patrol lakeside homes in winter months, constantly removing rooftop snow.

Wednesday, Grandma had an extra chore on her daily list. There's a water intake box high on the hillside above the railroad tracks and she guessed the pine needles and snow ought to be removed to assure a free flow of stream water. This water moves by pipe to the Adkinson's hydro-electric plant. Electricity is free.

She strapped on her 60-inch snowshoes and invited me to make the hilltop climb with her. That's when I most fully appreciated this 134-pound woman's agility and endurance.

I confess that at one point she paused to offer me a helping hand on a viciously steep grade.

## **WASH BOARDS**

Incidentally, she saw that neighbor women were doing laundry by hand. "On a board mind you." So she has begun doing outside laundry with her electric power.

Odd chores are many. Emergencies are taken in stride. When a plane crashed into the lake in May, '48, Grandma rowed across the lake to transport the doctor and coroner.

Each day by 12:30 p.m. Florence Adkinson has her outgoing mail ready and at track side well before the Klamath's whistle sounds on its return trip.

On Saturdays Grandma snaps on cross-country skis for her two-and one-half run to Willamette Pass Ski Area. At the snack shack there she puts in a full day of tending skiers' orders for hot coffee, chocolate, soft drinks, and food. At dusk she makes that cross-country run back to her Summit home. On Sunday she repeats Saturday's schedule.

This little lady of Irish descent is mother of the lad, Jack Meissner, who made a cross-country journey from Mt. Hood to Crescent in 1948. Jack's wife and children, Julie, 4, Jane, 2 ½, Ernest, nine-months, are also snow enthusiasts.

The little girls ski very well and Ernie is a pack-sack baby, or as one wag put it, a "Ski-poose."

There's a very effective clincher used to spur these tots to excel on skis:

"Honey, look how easy Grandma does it."

The Obsidian  
March, 1954  
Page 3

SKI (n.) A wooden runner attached to foot for sliding on snow. Also used sometimes with aid of posterior of body for descending hill said body shouldn't have been caught on anyhow.

This is the Golden Anniversary of skiing. In 1904 or 50 years ago, the National Ski Assn. was founded. Skiing has progressed and Ski divisions have been formed. One of the seven is the Pacific Northwestern Ski Association. The National Ski Patrol system, Ski Clubs, Ski Tournaments, etc., and Obsidians have played a part in bringing up skiing where it is today. Old timers in Eugene concocted slats and trekked the barren slopes and the wooded trails. Sans tows and lodges, they explored the wonderland of the McKenzie in winter, and the lava beds, Three Sisters, etc. Then came the White Branch Ski area. Then Santiam and Willamette Ski areas, with their developments - - and ski trains to Crescent Lake, Obsidian sponsored ski meets, Ski tours to Waldo Lake, and the Ski bus trip to Crater Lake annually.

With skiing brought up to date and as the bulletin goes to press, word is that the John Craig Tour and Race, sponsored jointly by the Obsidians and Tri-Pass Ski Club will originate and end at Alder Springs this year so that skiers and observers will see the thrill of both the start and finish. Obsidians have made the John Craig Race a huge success by touring along breaking the trail for the racers, encouraging them over the lonely snow-bound McKenzie Pass.

My message today, Obsidians, is to plan this year to take part in some way honoring the 50th Anniversary of Skiing, honor a pioneer, John Craig, whose story you know. You can do this by coming up on April 25th, Sunday, and taking a ski tour or playing around and seeing this exciting race - at the same time seeing the pass in all its Winter splendor.

George Korn

Register-Guard  
April 10, 1954  
Page 8

### **Ski Slides To Be Shown**

Three Obsidian Committees, entertainment, ski, and climbing, have extended an invitation to the public, and especially members of the Tri-Pass Ski Club, Willamette Ski Patrol, and Natural History Society, to attend a showing of colored slides on skiing and mountain climbing in the Oregon Cascades.

The slides, taken by Jim Hosmer, will be shown Tuesday, April 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the downtown YMCA, 1076 Willamette Street.

Hosmer is a native of Bend, and has scaled most of the Cascade peaks several times to take his photos. He belongs to the Obsidians, Mazamas of Portland, the OSC Mountain Club, and the Bend Skyliners.

A collection will be taken to cover expenses. Refreshments will be served.

The Obsidian  
November - December, 1954  
Page 2

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

(For list, see Appendix A. Note that the list of committees does not include the Ski Committee from this point forward.)

The Obsidian  
January, 1955  
Page 3

#### CHIEF PACKHORSE LEAVES OUR RANKS

Our club has been saddened this past month by the death of our long time friend, Dorr Hamlin. The memories of these many years of friendship return, to remind us how much Dorr enriched our lives with his good humor, his fine advice and his untiring efforts on behalf of our Obsidian club that it would prosper and provide more fun for its members.

We like what the Eugene Register Guard had to say in an editorial paying tribute to Dorr. It said, "His life is the story of a good citizen." These words completely express the facts as we feel them in our hearts.

(See Appendix A for continuation of the four paragraph article. He was a significant part of the development of skiing and ski programs until his death. The Obsidian building is dedicated in his name.)

Register-Guard  
February 6, 1955  
Page 1 Section C

#### Willamette Pass to Host National Ski Event

(Caption under ski area and course map)

#### NATIONAL CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP SKI COURSES –

The above diagram drawn by D. O. Caswell, shows the overall Willamette Ski Area, where the 11-mile Saturday event and the 18-mile Sunday events will start and finish. The inset shows the overall courses, the smaller square within the inset, shows the location of the ski area proper. The full lines show the 11-mile course (5 ½ miles duplicated). The full lines are only part of the 18-mile course, the dotted lines showing the extension around Gold Lake and then returning to make one round of the short course. The 11-mile event will be held next Saturday and the 18-mile race next Sunday.

(Full article follows)

The United States Olympic committee will watch with interest the performances of some 30 cross-country skiers who will vie next Saturday and Sunday in the National event at the Willamette Pass Ski Area. The National championships are being sponsored by the Tri-Pass Ski Club of Eugene and will mark the first such event in this area.

The 11-mile event in both class A and B (18 to 20 years) will be run Saturday and the 18-mile event for class A skiers will be held Sunday.

Because the courses have been designed over rough terrain, spectators will be given an excellent opportunity to watch the rugged races which will start, pass the halfway mark and finish within the area proper.

Headquarters for the competition will be McCreadie Springs resort, 20 miles from the area, where drawings for positions will be made and the "awards presentation" banquet will be held – Sunday at about 6 p.m.

Sven Johanson, Swedish veteran representing the Anchorage, Alaska, Ski Club, will be the favorite in the 18-mile classic. The 30-year old flaxen-haired skier has competed here previously and recently annexed the North American classic at Minneapolis. Johansson, who will become a U. S. Citizen prior to the Olympics, has also won the Pacific Northwest title at Walla Walla this season. He won the local John Craig Memorial Trail event in 1954.

Erland A. J. Sunila, Tri-Pass Skier, is given a good chance to score an upset. He placed second to Johansson in the Northwest by a narrow margin, the winner 1:15.5 to Sunilla's 1:13:30. Mac Miller of Payette, Ida., (third in the PNSA at 1:16:53 is also an entry. Einer Helgestad, Walla Walla, is also considered a strong contender along with Don Nygaard, Duluth, Minn.

Darkhorse contender is Jack Meissner, veteran cross-country man whose home is along the Willamette Pass and is familiar with the course.

If snow conditions permit entrants will be allowed to view  
(Continued on Page 2-C)

### **Skiers Slated At Willamette**

(Continued from Page 1-C)

and practice over the two courses prior to the race.

Other known entries are John Haase, University of Washington; Fred Leissler, Washington State College; Chris Hoes, Beverly Hills, Calif.; Ron Neskimen, ex-University of Oregon now in the Army; Chuck Metzger, Eugene High, and Bob Johnson, Whitman College ski coach and member of the 1950 FIS squad.

George Korn will be general chairman and other officials of the competition will include Miner Hamlin, head timer, and Bud Nahsolm, course setter.

Additional entries are expected during the coming week.

The elevation, 5,300 feet, with the course varying some 600 feet. Snow conditions, with light powder to granular snow and sub-zero temperatures a rarity, are expected to be excellent.

Although the Nationals will not be classed as a final Olympic trials, those who place high are certain to be invited to train with the U.S. team and compete in the final trials at a site as yet undecided.

Register-Guard  
February 14, 1955  
Page 2B

### **Pulkkinen Wins Again**

(Photo Caption)

**FINNISH SKIER COLLECTS TWO TROPHIES** – Tauno Pulkkinen, third from left, is shown here collecting his 11 and 18-mile National cross-country championship trophies from George “Mr. Ski” Korn second from the left at a Tri-Pass Ski Club banquet, at McCreadie Springs Lodge Sunday night. At extreme left is Gustav Raaum, official of the National Ski Assoc. and at extreme right, Jan Onsrud, president of the Tri-Pass Club. The lower picture shows the Long Island Finnish Ski Club star racing across the straight stretch at Willamette Pass Area.

(Main Article)

### **Titlist Sweeps; Seconds Won By Johansson**

By Dick Strite Register-Guard Sports Editor

**CASCADE SUMMIT** – With the stamina of a foot-racing Nurmi and the shoulder strength of a javelin-throwing Nikkanen, a lean 31-year old Finish carpenter annexed his second straight National 18-mile cross-country ski championship here Sunday. Tauno Pulkkinen of Flushing, Long Island, also won the 11-mile title here Saturday for the Second time.

George “Mr. Ski” Korn estimated the attendance at 1,500 including dignitaries like Eugene’s mayor, Ed Johnson, at the Willamette Pass Ski Area.

Weather conditions for the spectators was excellent, with blue skies and sunshine, but the 11 contestants found thawing temperature some handicap and slow going on the last two laps of the three-lap race.

### **PAPERS NEEDED**

Pulkkinen, only two years out of Finland, captured his 1954 title at Ishpeming, Michigan, and he has been training for his defense weekends in New England since August – 800-mile weekend jaunts. The 6-foot 1-inch athlete is trim at 170 pounds, and he defeated the local favorite, Sven Johansson of Anchorage, Alaska, by two minutes and 53 seconds. He was fifth to start the race, about two minutes behind Johansson, who was the third starter behind Arne Borgness of Tri-Pass ninth in the race, and John Burton of St. Paul, Minn. Burton was fourth in the race and possibly the only qualifier for the U.S. Olympic trials because Pulkkinen and third-place teammate George Kurronen are not expected to qualify for citizenship in time to make the Olympic squad. Johansson, who recently won the North American title and was twice winner of the John Craig Memorial here on this course, has a chance to gain his citizenship before the U.S. Olympic squad is selected.

Johansson, the 29-year-old Swedish plumber, moved into the lead before the finish of the first lap, but Pulkkinen was only 12 seconds behind at the lap mark and caught the blond Swede soon afterward. The winner, who beat out Johnsson by one minute, 42.9 seconds in the 11-mile event Saturday, finished one minute and five seconds ahead of the runnerup at the finish line.

Kurronen, despite a shoulder dislocation in Saturday's race, finished a fine third only nine minutes and 50 seconds behind the winner. But he, too, cannot qualify for the S.S. Olympic team if selected. The Brooklyn, N.Y., watchmaker was a late starter, but finished the second lap in fourth place and was third at the final tape. The Finnish Ski Club member is the father of a son. The 30-year-old skier has been in this country five years and hopes to develop his son into a champion.

#### **OLYMPIC HOPES**

Burton is almost certain to make the Olympic squad, and Eugene's Jan Onsrud, president of the sponsoring Tri-Pass Ski Club who finished sixth, and Bob Johnson of Walla Walla, Wash., who finished fifth, have fair chances of making the Olympic training squad.

The Olympic training site has not as yet been selected.

Local ski followers were surprised at the wide variety of styles employed by the 11 entries. Type of wax used was important because the first run found the trail solid, but the final two laps the snow was in a thawing condition.

Both Johansson and Pulkkinen said the course for their victories at the North American in Minnesota and in Michigan last year were comparable to the Willamette Pass courses.

(obscured) the end of the race the only thing Pulkkinen could say in English apparently was, "Fine!" Johansson said, "Tauno is a fine racer. The best man won."

#### **Results**

18-mile (30 Klm.) Cross-Country Champion – 1. Tauno Pulkkinen, Finnish Ski Club, Flushing, Long Island, N.Y., 1 hour, 53 minutes, 10 seconds; 2. Sven Johansson, Anchorage Ski Club, Alaska, 1:34.17; 3. George Kurronen, Finnish Ski Club, 2:03.34; 4. John Burton, Minneapolis Ski Club, St. Paul, Minn, 2:09.29; 4. Bob Johnson, Blue Mountain Ski Club, Walla Walla, Wash. 2:12.20; 6. Jan Onsrud, Tri-Pass Ski Club, Eugene, Ore., 2:16.53; 7. Erland Sunila, Tri-Pass Ski Club, 2:17.21; 8. Jack Meissner, Tri-Pass Ski Club, 2:23.32; 9. Arno Borgness, Tri-Pass Club, 2:20.24; 10. Mead Schmoukel, Schnee Vogil Ski Club, Wash., 2:37.34; 11. Fritz Pederson, Kongsberger Ski Club, Wash., 1:39 two laps, scratched.

Register-Guard

November 24, 1955

Page D1

(Top photos collage and caption)

**SKIING SEASON UNDER WAY** – With heavy snows in all areas, the local skiing season has been launched earlier than usual this season. Here are some typical scenes: 1. This is the Willamette Ski Area hill and three tows lift skiers to the top. The view is to the south, showing Diamond Peak. 2. Marvin Beckman, University of Oregon skier and racer, is shown doing a galendesprung. 3. These skiers are riding the chair lift to the top of Hoodoo in the Santiam Ski Area. The view is to the north and shows Three-Fingered-Jack. At the bottom of the bowl, with Gillis Hill in the background, shows the beginners' tows and bottom of the headwall slope just visible at the base of the picture. 4. This is Hoodoo Bowl, the butte, chair lift to top and rope tow on right. Warming hut is at the right foreground. 5. This is a scene of the Willamette area from the bottom of the hill near the snack shack, ski shop and other buildings.

## **Oregon Winter Sports Growing More Popular Willamette, Santiam Areas Beckon Skiers**

By Pete Cornacchia of the Register Guard

Maybe it's hard for some loggers and others who must work in the snow to understand how anyone could find pleasure in the mountains during winter, but there's no doubt winter sports in Oregon are growing more popular each season.

Many different answers for those who wonder can be offered by the 658,560 people listed by the Forest Service as visitors to winter sports areas in Oregon last year. And nearly 31,000 were at one of the two ski areas close to Eugene.

Emerald Empire people who find what they seek in the snow on the western slopes of the Cascade range are blessed with a short drive over good roads to fine ski areas on the Willamette and Santiam passes. Closer of the two is the Willamette Pass Ski Area, about 75 miles from the valley floor. Hoodoo Bowl on the Santiam is 103 miles from Eugene, through Halsey and Sweethome but the trip will be 15.30 miles shorter when the Clear Lake cutoff is completed between the McKenzie and Santiam highways.

Hoodoo drew 20,650 visitors last season according to Willamette National Forest figures, while Willamette attracted 10,250.

Skiing and other winter sports have grown enough in Lane County to rate a "week" as a "growing recreational industry of importance." This final week of November, traditionally the opening of the winter-sports season, has been proclaimed "Ski Fair Week" by Eugene mayor Edwin V. Johnson.

### **FIRST SKI FAIR**

This week will be climaxed by Eugene radio station KORE's first annual Ski Fair Friday night at the Eugene Armory. The fair is intended, among other things, to promote winter recreational facilities in the area.

They'll have booths with exhibits from local organizations, motion pictures, skits, style shows, refreshments. And they'll crown a Snow Queen, elected among high school candidates. Olaf Ulland of Seattle, coach of the 1956 U. S. Olympics ski-jumping team, will be available at the fair for question-and-answer sessions. Gene Gillis, former Olympics squad member, now leading a city sponsored junior skiing program at Bend, will also be there. Gillis is a former University of Oregon football player.

What are these winter recreational facilities that the fair hopes to promote?

One of the men who has contributed most to skiing in this section is George Korn, whose efforts have improved Willamette Pass Ski Area into a popular attraction for 300 – 500 visitors each weekend. A 100-car parking lot at the 5,000-foot summit of the pass is provided for skiers who use a butte that reaches another 1,600 feet.

Other facilities include a snack shack, warming shelter, ski rental and accessories shop, Willamette Ski Patrol shelter, four rope tows, and three miles of ski trails. The tows are for beginners, intermediate, advance (sic), and toboggan.

Under construction is a 2 1/2-mile service road to 2,600 feet to also serve as a tournament trail, 1,000-foot sled and toboggan hill, and a Tri-Pass Ski Club jump.

Lodge accommodations are offered at McCredie Springs, 18 miles down the western side of the pass, and some skiers use motels at Oakridge.

On the Santiam, where Ed Thurston operates Hoodoo Ski Bowl at 5,000 feet elevation, skiers are carried to the top on a 4,000-foot chair lift or one of four rope tows. Installed in 1950, the 52-chair lift can handle 360 riders each hour. Its rise is 1,028 feet. Thurston recently installed a more powerful motor on the headwall to move traffic faster on the tows.

Other improvements during the past year include a new roof, paint, and interior work on the 31-room lodge and a better parking lot. In addition to the lodge, Hoodoo offers a ski shop and coffee shop.



Unusual early and heavy snow has hampered preparations but Thurston, early this week, hoped to have at least limited facilities ready for the weekend. Last year Hoodoo opened December 11 and continued each weekend until May 29.

#### **BUSES AVAILABLE**

Cars usually reach either area "bare-foot" but it's wise to have chains along in case of unexpected storms. Chartered buses to the Willamette area are available each weekend throughout the season. Saturday's bus is for high school and junior high students, while Sunday's service is open to the public. On a bus you leave Eugene at 8 a.m. and usually get back before 6 p.m.

Contributing much to the rapid increase in winter sports activity are organizations such as Tri-Pass Ski Club, Obsidians, Willamette Ski Patrol, and Eugene High School Ski Club.

Largest is Tri-Pass Ski Club with about 130 members. This club operates in summer as well as winter. When snow disappears in the hills, Tri-Pass members turn to their leased area at Fern Ridge for a busy water ski program. Their popular water shows

#### **Cascade**

*(Continued on Page 2-D)*

(Photo caption: **OPERATOR GEORGE KORN LOOKS OVER AREA** – George Korn of Eugene, who has done a Trojan's job in developing skiing in this area, is shown here looking over part of the Willamette Ski Area he operates during the winter months.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **Cascade Ski Areas Expect Busy Winter**

*(Continued from Page 1-D)*

are staged throughout the state.

Until recently, the club was mainly concerned with cross-country skiing, but now racing and pleasure skiing are the chief interests in winter. Several members are among the top competitors in races throughout the Northwest. Tri-Pass skiers figure to enter 10 or 12 races this season, according president Jerry Town.

This group sponsored the National cross-country championships last winter at Willamette. Only race the club plans now is a giant slalom February 5 at Hoodoo. This one will have Northwest skiers in competition for Classes B and C, Junior Expert, and Junior Novice. Several club races are planned, but no dates have been set.

Members will be offered a ski school this winter, including dry-land work during the week. The club has no instructor certified by the Pacific Northwest Ski Association but hopes to have at least three qualify this season.

Movies usually are included in club meetings on the second Thursday of each month at the Eugene YMCA. Yearly membership fees are five dollars for individuals, nine dollars for couples, and four dollars for students (13-18 years) and junior (12 and under) members.

#### **VOLUNTEER GROUP**

Willamette Ski Patrol is a group of male and female volunteers who donate their time to provide greater protection for skiers at Willamette.

The patrol now has about 20 senior or junior members according to president Oville Caswell. Senior patrolmen have passed Red Cross advanced first-aid examinations. PNSA ski exams, and take supplemental training during the winter. Junior members, who carry a standard first-aid card, assist seniors.

The patrol, one of six National Ski Patrol affiliates in Oregon plans a strong increase in junior membership this season in order to build a strong foundation for the future. In addition to their time, members pay a one-dollar fee each year.

The organization has built a shelter at Willamette and has at least four members on patrol in the area each weekend during the season. Usually the force includes two seniors and two juniors. Duties include operation of the shelter, continual search for dangerous spots on the hill, and other safety measures.

Serious injuries are rare, but the patrol is prepared to field treat all accidents. Most of the treatments are for sprains.

This year the patrol plans to offer a free two-hour safety course each Sunday at Willamette. George Souza is chairman of the program that will stress safety in fundamental ski lessons.

The patrol has developed a stronger organization during the past few years and now meets two to four times a month at members' homes.

Eugene High School Ski Club, like Tri-Pass, is affiliated with PNSA and has about 130 members.

The club doesn't enter competition but provides numerous activities and inexpensive training for prep skiers. Activities include charter-bus trips on Saturdays to Willamette, a weekend trip or two to Hoodoo, color movies of the group at both areas, spring picnic on the coast, and initiation with potluck dinner. Junior class members will provide the misery for incoming sophomores during initiation next Monday night at the high school cafeteria.

#### **MOVIES SHOWN**

Many movies on technique, safety, and expert skiing are provided for monthly meetings at the high school. President Stan Hayden attended the last PNSA regional convention and the club plans to send a representative each year.

Membership fee is one dollar for the season and members are required to take at least one trip to a ski area each semester. Col. Emrey Bruns, retired members of the National Ski Patrol, is advisor and chaperone.

This western world's idea of winter sports is "just mechanized amusement" in the opinions uttered by a band of Russian skiers. They were certain chair lifts and other conveniences block the realization of real enjoyment for a skier, who should sweat his way to the top in order to feel truly rewarded during his downward flight.

But apparently our mile-high Cascades offer ample reward as more people hear the call each winter and rise from beneath the blanket of fog in the valley.

The Obsidian  
December, 1955  
Page 4

#### **AN INTERESTING LETTER FROM BOB PFEIFFER**

Bob Pfeiffer is in Portland studying to be a Chiropractic Physician in between mountaineering summers and skiing winters.

(See Appendix for full letter of prior summer interning in Ketchikan, Revilagigedo Island, Alaska.)

The Obsidian  
January, 1956  
Page 2

#### **BOARD NOTES**

(Extraction with the relocation of Bob Pfeiffer, most likely to Portland where present day WPSP member, Jim Harrang, recalls he moved as a chiropractor. This is consistent with prior articles of his medical studies there.)

"Resignations were accepted from Bob Pfeiffer, . . . ."

Register-Guard  
January 25, 1956  
Section B, Page 1

**Skiers Meet To Discuss Chairlift Plan  
Willamette Area Location for Project**

A move got underway Tuesday night to form a corporation to build a chairlift at the Willamette Pass Ski Area and develop the area in to a major ski resort.

George Korn owner and operator of the ski area, said he will take immediate steps to file papers to establish a corporation to underwrite the financing of the chairlift.

**‘ENTHUSIASTIC’**

Korn met with about two dozen persons, mostly skiers, at the Eugene hotel Tuesday night and presented the chairlift plan. He said his audience was quite “enthusiastic” about the idea.

Korn said that as soon as corporation papers are received, stock will be sold.

He estimated the cost of the project at approximately \$200,000 including \$100,000 for the chairlift itself, \$50,000 for installation, and \$50,000 for working capital.

The corporation, he said, would be named Willamette Pass Chairlift, Inc. Korn said they hope to have the chairlift erected and in operation by the winter of 1956-57.

**MILE LONG**

The chairlift, he said would be a mile long and would convey skiers and sightseers from 5,280 feet to 6,700 feet.

Korn said representatives from the Tri Pass Ski Club, Ski Patrol, ski instructors and the Eugene Chamber of Commerce tourist committee were present at the meeting, and also persons from Junction City, Cottage Grove, Oakridge and Springfield.

Register Guard  
May 2, 1956  
Page 6A  
(Advertisement)

**now available . . .**

**8,360 Shares of Common Stock**

**Par Value \$25.00**

**Willamette Pass Chair Lift, Inc.**

Construction for a new chair lift at the Willamette Pass Ski Area is being planned for this summer. Willamette Pass Chair Lift Incorporated has announced that 8,360 shares of common stock are available and stock subscriptions are open to all interested persons. Par value \$25.00. The proposed Willamette Pass Chairlift will be one mile long from the summit of the Highway to the top of the Cascades. It will operate during the winter ski season for 5 months and as a tourist attraction for three months in summer. For complete information, or for a free prospectus, write or phone Willamette Chair Lift Inc., Eugene, Oregon and your request for information will be promptly forwarded.

**Phone DI 408168** for Complete information or send for a FREE Prospectus today.

- - - - -

Mail Today to the WILLAMETTE PASS CHAIR LIFT, INC. Office 941 Pearl St. Eugene, Oregon

- - - - -

(See similar printed Advertisement also published on February 18, 1957, Section B, Page 1.)

## **SNOW LINE**

By Jerry Uhrhamer  
of the Register-Guard

### **If Weather Holds**

#### **Good Skiing Seen This Weekend; Willamette Open**

**\* Predictions of very good skiing – if the weather holds – came Friday from both Hoodoo Ski Bowl and Timberline Lodge at Mt. Hood.**

Ed Thurston of Hoodoo reported that four inches of powder snow fell New Year's Day over a hard base – and all facilities, rope tows and chairlift, are scheduled to be in operation this weekend.

It was cold and clear Friday morning, Thurston said. Wednesday the temperature ranged from 2 to 45 degrees, and it was 8 degrees at 11 p.m. Thursday.

At Timberline, it was 17 degrees at 8 a.m. Friday with an old snow depth of 57 inches and clear skies. It snowed all day Wednesday, with another trace of fresh snow Thursday night. All facilities are scheduled to be operating – double chairlift, Magic Mile lift, Betsy tow, Otto Lang tow, and the Sno-Cats.

The report from George Korn is this: The tows will not be operating again this weekend because of lack of snow. Korn said six inches of snow fell during the week. However, even though he won't operate the tows, the ski area and facilities will be open, Korn said.

He added there is good sledding and tobogganing across the highway at the state highway quarry area.

The weekend's weather outlook is this – possibly some light snow beginning about Sunday afternoon.

**\* This week's recap: Skiers were sadly shaking their heads and muttering that it's a most unusual winter.**

Number one gripe, of course, is the lack of snow. And second is the unpredictable weather.

At Willamette Pass, some 45 Explorer Scouts went winter camping – but there was hardly enough snow to call it winter. With infrequent bursts of snow so far during the (obscured) temperature "inversions" that have caused warm temperatures above and low reading here in the valley, snow cover was sadly lacking.

However, George Korn said he and three other men skied from Rosary Lakes up the butte on the east side – the "ski bowl" – and said snow depth was measured at between three and six feet. "It's the old story," he said, "the snow is where the tows aren't."

Meanwhile at Hoodoo Ski Bowl the skiing was good last week – despite the skimpy snow depth – because of the clear, sunshiny skies. But last Sunday it rained and skiers without rain suits were soaked. Monday it was icy. But Tuesday it started to snow – hard. Of course, by that time most skiers had to leave to get back to their jobs and to school.

Similarly, Mt. Hood had fine weather last week – clear skies and spring-like temperatures that attracted an estimated crowd of 6,300 Saturday. And it was fine weather for the Portland Day trail race, which this year turned out to be a lightning-fast downhill on the slopes above Timberline Lodge. Usually the course is all the way down to Government Camp, but this year there was not snow down there.

Incidentally, Tri-Pass skier Loren Sears took second place in the junior novice event of the race Saturday.

But Sunday's events – the A, B, and junior men – were cancelled altogether when snow started falling followed by a freezing rain, cutting visibility to nil.

Thus B racers Jerry Town and Farley Maxwell from Eugene didn't get to race.

**\* Sunday, the Tri-Pass Ski Club starts offering free lessons to its members at Hoodoo Ski Bowl and at Willamette Pass ski area – if the latter is open.**

The lessons will be for beginners, intermediates, and advanced skiers, according to Theresa Janes, Tri-Pass president. Scheduled to act as instructors are Jan Onsrud, Don and Peggy Wiltse, Jerry Town, and Sandra Lohikoski.

The ski club is also offering "dry-land ski school" the first and third Thursday night of every month, with Jerry Town conducting the classes. The dry-land school – mostly for beginners – features exercises, conditioning and the basic fundamentals of skiing.

This season's dry-land classes got underway Thursday night at the Plymouth House. Those who attend must bring their own skis, boots and poles, according to Town.

Meanwhile, Tri-Pass has scheduled its January meeting for next Thursday night and the agenda includes discussion of plans for the Jan. 20 interclub races. The meeting will be held at the YMCA at 7:30 p. m.

\* **Notices have been sent out to all stockholders – some 50 persons – in the Willamette Pass Chairlift Corporation** that the first annual stockholders meeting will be held at 7:30 p. m. next Thursday in the conference room at the Register-Guard, 10th and high. Directors will be elected for the coming year and other business will be transacted.

\* **Eugene will be represented next weekend when Sun Valley, Idaho, stages its annual Sun Valley Open races** – that is, if the famous ski resort has enough snow.

"It was right down to the sage-brush and rocks the last two days we were there," reported Bill Carlton, 3990 Hilyard St., who with his wife Harriet, and their two sons spent Christmas at Sun Valley. They left Dec. 30, with clear skies above and no expectancy of new snow.

"The first part of the week it was wonderful," Carlton said, but added that capacity crowds soon wore down the snow cover to the rocks.

Anyway – depending on whether Sun Valley gets enough snow to hold the Open Jan. 12-13 – Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Town and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cozad are tentatively scheduled to leave next Wednesday for Sun Valley and the races, with Town and Cozad both scheduled to compete.

Town – who raced for the first time in the 1954 Sun Valley Open – last year took fifth in the downhill and third place in the slalom for a third in the combined. Cozad just started racing this year.

It's possible that Binky Drouet, another Eugene skier, may accompany the Towns and the Cozads to Sun Valley for the Open.

\* **A pretty young coed from Vancouver, Wash. – Sally Shaw – will wear the University of Oregon colors** when she competes against nominees from eight other colleges later this month for the title of queen for the first winter sports carnival to be held by the state schools.

The 18-year-old freshman who's planning to major in foreign languages was chosen before the Yule vacation as the U of O's queen candidate and the results of the contest were announced Thursday. She'll be competing for the queen title against coeds from eight other schools – Oregon State, Portland State, Reed, Marylhurst, Lewis and Clark, OCE, SOCE, and EOCE.

The winter sports carnival will be attended the weekend of Jan. 26-27 by collegians from all of the schools – it's estimated so far that some 2,000 students and their friends will swarm to Mt. Hood and Timberline Lodge for the weekend event. Featured will be intercollegiate racing and "fun in the snow."

A meeting to discuss final plans for the snow carnival will be held at the University of Oregon Saturday.

Miss Shaw, by the way, has long brown hair, brown eyes, is 5-7 tall, and weighs 134 pounds. Can she ski? Yep. But, she says, not in competition or anything like that.

(Photo captioned: SALLY SHAW UO Ski Queen Candidate)

Register-Guard  
February 21, 1958  
Page 3B

### **NW Teams to Compete**

### **Willamette Pass To Host Ski Patrol Toboggan Races**

By Jerry Uhrhammer of the Register-Guard

### **THE SNOW LINE**

\* **Skiers will have a chance this weekend to see some top-notch ski patrol work when the 13th annual Pacific Northwest Ski Patrol toboggan contest takes place at Willamette Pass Ski Area.**

John Quiner II, chief of the Willamette Ski Patrol which is hosting the event, said it's believed some 13 or 14 teams from throughout the region will participate, making the turnout one of the largest ever for the toboggan contests.

Toboggan teams registered so far are from Bogus Basin in Idaho, Snowqualmie Pass, Stevens Pass, White Pass, Mt. Hood, Santiam and Lakeview. Most of the visiting groups will have both men's and women's teams. Quiner said that the Willamette Ski Patrol will have one men's team, consisting of patrolmen Orv Caswell and John Nasholm, and perhaps will also field a women's team.

The teams are scheduled to practice on their special course at the ski area Saturday, have a banquet at McCredie Springs, then participate in the contest Sunday.

This is the first time the annual toboggan contest has been held at Willamette Pass, Quiner said.

\* **How does a toboggan contest work?**

**The purpose is to test the control,** ability and efficiency of a ski patrol toboggan team when it rescues and gives first aid to an injured skier on the slope.

The contest will start at the top of Willamette's third hill. A two-man team with a toboggan must ski down the hill to the location of the "victim." Two judges ski down with the team to see that the toboggan is under control. Also, the toboggan is timed in its run from the starting point to the "victim."

The timing ends when they reach the "victim." Then the team is given two minutes for a briefing on how the "accident" happened and the "symptoms" of the "victim."

With the judges still watching, the team is timed while it gives first-aid to the "victim" and puts him on the toboggan. The team is not timed when it brings the victim to the bottom of the hill and the end of the course, but two judges remain with the team.

At the bottom, a stiff test comes to an end when two more judges take the bandages, splints, etc., off of the "victim" and judge the quality of the first aid treatment.

\* **The University of Oregon ski team is one of eight teams scheduled to participate this** weekend in the two-day Pacific Northwest Collegiate Ski Championships at Snoqualmie Pass in Washington.

The slalom and cross country events are slated for Saturday and giant slalom and jumping Sunday.

Other teams entered in the meet area from Washington, Oregon State, Washington State, Wenatchee J.C., Whitman, the College of Puget Sound and Idaho.

\* **A proposed constitution for Eugene's new ski club is scheduled to be ready for a general** meeting next Thursday night. Time and place of the meeting will be announced later.

A 10-person steering committee which met Tuesday night chose a three-person subcommittee of Webb Russell, Bill Carlton and Sandra Lohikoski to draw up a proposed constitution and by-laws. Carlton said the subcommittee will meet Friday and model the constitution after those of the Eugene Yacht Club and Tri-Pass Ski Club.

Carlton said mimeographed copies of the proposed constitution will be ready for a general meeting next Thursday of persons interested in the new club. They will have a chance to look over the new document before another general meeting two weeks later at which the proposed constitution will be put up for acceptance.

The steering committee will review the subcommittee's work next Tuesday.

In regard to rumors about the new club being "exclusive," Carlson said the only membership requirements will be that prospective members must be persons genuinely interested in snow skiing and must be willing to help with club work.

\* **Here's a reminder for persons who dislike waiting in long tow lines. Thursday skiing started** the weekend at Willamette Pass Ski area, and about a dozen skiers showed up. It was a marvelous day, incidentally, with a hot sun beaming down although the snow was mushy.

\* **Congratulations to two Eugene junior racers, David Haffner and Scott McLagan.**

Haffner, racing under Tri-Pass Ski Club colors, took second place in last Sunday's downhill of the Silver Skis event at Mt. Hood with a 44.8 just .6 of a second behind the winner, Kalton Thomas of Wenatchee. McLagan, racing unattached, took third place in the downhill with a 45.2.

**Drudgery Eliminated:  
More Enjoying Winter Fun Every Year  
. . . ski areas note increased patronage**

By Jerry Uhrhammer  
of the Register-Guard

A few weekends ago, two skiers stood waiting in a long line of skiers, waiting for their turn on the chairlift for another trip up the slopes.

Eyeing the people of all sizes and shapes that made up the long line, one skier grumbled to the other: "Skiing is getting too darn popular. It's so bad you can't hardly get up the hill anymore."

The skier was voicing a half-serious complaint heard with increasing frequency in the Emerald Empire as well as the other regions of the nation where winter brings a blanket of snow.

Veteran skiers who for years have spent winter weekends driving into the Cascade mountains for outdoor recreation are now finding the once-uncrowded slopes filled with new converts to the sport of skiing.

Operators of the Emerald Empire's two main winter sports areas – Willamette Pass ski area at the summit of Highway 58, and Hoodoo Ski Bowl at Santiam Pass – are saying that this season may well be the biggest ever.

**Lines Are Longer**

A few weekends ago, for example, more than 2,000 visitors were counted at Hoodoo. And Willamette Pass, a smaller area, has also been enjoying better-than-ever crowds. Most skiers will testify that lift and tow lines are longer than ever before.

The skiing boom has meant an added shot in the arm for the Emerald Empire's recreation industry – and this economy. Skiers eat lots of hot dogs and hamburgers, meaning more business for the weekend trips, meaning added business for the gas stations. They need skiing equipment, a need that led to opening of a new sports shop in Eugene last fall. And the ski areas themselves provide employment for people.

But also important is this. The winter sports areas offer everyone the chance for healthy, outdoor recreation. And that doesn't mean skiing only, though it is the activity which challenges the great majority. Others find their recreational outlet in snowshoeing, tobogganing or sledding.

**Why the Boom?**

Why the boom in wintertime sport? Why has skiing been transformed from a sport for the hardy few who used to travel up the McKenzie for skiing sans lift, to a sports for the thousands?

One of the more obvious answers is the introduction of tope tows and chairlifts which eliminated the weary task of trudging uphill for a quick trip down on a pair of boards.

Less obvious answers include the increase in leisure time, better roads and automobiles that make weekend travel easier, and increased publicity about the values of recreation.

But perhaps the most important factor is this. Skiing is a snowballing sport Joe tries skiing and likes it. On the next trip he takes John and Mary, and they bring more friends on the following trip. And so on and so forth. When this process is repeated hundreds and hundreds of times during many years, the increasing multitude of skiers is inevitable.

(Caption associated with four photos.)

**WONDERLAND AND PLAYGROUND** - The Cascade Range, eastern boundary of the Emerald Empire, provides some of the finest skiing in the United States . . . for the experienced cross-country skiers, the slalom racing star, and for the novice. The view at left is in the Hoodoo Butte area, and that below at Willamette Pass ski area. The girl who has mastered the leg-stretching kick turn, right above, and the youngsters who find it fun to fall down, are among devotees of winter sport. Still others like to snowshoe through the white-clad forests.

Some try the slopes on sleds and toboggans.

(Photo caption: **DOWN THE HILL** – Vern Seather of Snoqualmie Pass men's ski patrol team. pilots a toboggan with "victim" aboard down the slope at Willamette Ski area Sunday in the Pacific Northwest Ski Patrol toboggan contest. Aboard the toboggan is Harry Picket of Eugene, a Willamette ski patrolman who served as "victim" in first aid and toboggan handling contest.)

\* \* \*

### **Local Team Patrol Champs**

The Willamette Pass Ski Patrol team of Orv Caswell and John Nahsolm triumphed over entries from the Pacific Northwest Sunday in the regional ski patrol toboggan contest. Both are of Eugene.

Caswell and Nasholm, both veteran members of the Willamette ski patrol, won the combined title by taking second place in first aid work and eighth place in toboggan handling. Combined standings are figured on the average of rankings in first aid and toboggan handling, with first aid counting 70 percent.

The 13th annual toboggan contest was held at Willamette Pass Ski Area for the first time, with 15 ski patrol teams from Oregon, Washington and Idaho entering.

But outside of the Willamette team's win, it was "Ladies' Day" in the toboggan contest.

Second place in combined was won by the team of Linda Dobson and Vickie Pond of Snoqualmie Pass, Wash. They took first place in first aid judging.

A women's team from White Pass ski area, Wash., Betty Christianson and Mary Milleneux, took third place in the combined standings.

Officials of the contest said it was the first time that ski patrol women have so dominated a toboggan contest. There were six women's teams entered as against eight men's teams and one man-woman team.

The teams were timed and judged as they brought their special first aid toboggans down a special course on the Willamette Pass slope to their "victim." Then, still being timed and judged, they had to give first aid to the "injured skier" whose symptoms were those of a dislocated shoulder and a laceration on the forehead.



\* \* \* \* \*

Maris Note: Conversations with John Nasholm, NA#2186, and Orv Caswell, NA#2201, winners of the 1958 Ski Patrol Toboggan Contest held at Willamette Pass Ski Area, (see photo) have produced some interesting remembrances. John is seen in the front handles of the toboggan. He said that the handles could pivot down and had projecting struts on the bottom that could be dug into the snow for braking. Orv said that the flat bottomed wooden toboggan did have metal runners on the bottom for tracking. In the photo, Orv has the tail rope. He said that he, "had never had a tail rope in his hands before and was not quite sure what to do. John took off downhill and just about pulled me over. I had to go air-born and get my skis pointing downhill so that I could snowplow." They won the competition but Orv said it was not a sure thing. The team from Mt. Hood had an Akia which gave them good competition. National Ski Patrol System Director, William (Bill) Judd was in attendance and saw their performance which was greatly instrumental in the invitation to John Nasholm, Orv Caswell, and John Quiner, II, NA#2121, to participate in the 1959 NSP Olympic Ski Patrol action in the North American Trials at Squaw Valley. (See Appendix B, John Nasholm, photos of 1958 toboggan competition and award banquet. Photo of awards banquet in Oakridge night following 1958 division competition shows NSPS Director, Judd, standing with white shirt colors over sport jacket, John Quiner, Standing to his right, John's wife seated at John's right, and Alan Lindley seated on Judd's left.

Also, letter of March 31, 1959 from William W. Stiles, M.D., Medical Director, Organizing Committee, VIII Olympic Winter Games)

At the 1959 North American Trials, the US Marine Corps was to boot pack the courses but couldn't accomplish the feat. The NSP Olympic Ski Patrol did such an outstanding job that a special patch was created in their honor. It reads, "NSPS Olympic 1959 YBYSBPAIA below a leather ski boot superimposed on a National Appointment symbol. The acronym is the reply to the question, "Are you an Olympic Ski Patroller?" with the reply, "You Bet Your Sweet Boot-Packing Ass I Am." (See Appendix B, photo of John Nasholm's National Appointment patch and numbers, the Olympic Ski Patrol patch, and the 1959 YBYSBPAIA patch. Also Olympic Ski Patrol letters and requirements. See also *Ski Patrol Magazine*, Fall, 2005, Pages 42-44 & 72. Photo of John Quiner, II at reunion, Flagstaff, AZ. Also *SPM*, Fall 2009, Pages 41-45.)

Letter to John Nasholm related to his selection, first as an alternate, then full patroller to the 1960 NSP Olympic Ski Patrol have been provided. See also the seventeen pages of information provided by the Organizing Committee to the Olympic participants, *Informational Material for the Olympic Family*.

John said that as patrollers they could attend all venues and events except for the ice activities. One of the patrollers assignment was an entry to the ice venue and told him, John Quiner, and Al Lindley, that they could pass through his station but he did not know them, they did not know him, and they had to keep away from other officials and were on their own. John Nasholm said that they saw a lot of hockey.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Photos and Captions)

**DIFFERENT ENDINGS** – Skiers display right and wrong ways to approach bottom of slope at Willamette Pass Ski Area. Several dozen skiers enjoyed packed snow on the shaded side of the lower slope Tuesday but only a few inches of snow remained Wednesday. Tows and other facilities will not operate until more snow falls.

**NEW LIFT** – Workmen are shown as they completed final installation steps on \$50,000 Pomalift at Willamette Pass Ski Area. The 3,000-foot lift is ready to carry skiers half way up the mile-long slope but will not be operating until more snow falls. From lower terminal, shown in foreground, skiers are elevated 750 feet as they straddle telescopic hangers attached to continuous cable.

**STEADY, BOY** – Eight-year-old David Morse gets moral and physical support from brother Steven, 11, as he gets acquainted with skis in the beginners area at Willamette Pass. The young skiers are sons of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Morse, 1555 Lorane Highway.

**HELPING HOUSES** - Photo shows some of the steadily increasing facilities available at Willamette Pass Ski Area. Buildings shown include, from left to right, Willamette Ski Patrol shelter, lunch room, forest service shelter, and ski shop.

(Main Article)

## **OUTDOORS**

By Pete Cornacchia, Register-Guard Outdoors Editor

### **New Lift Installed On Snowless Pass**

George Korn, operator of Willamette Pass Ski Area, was still waiting Wednesday morning.

For more than six weeks he waited while strikes delayed arrival of a \$50,000 Pomalift from France. The new lift finally arrived and was ready to operate Wednesday after being installed in a record-setting 12 days.

Now Korn and several hundred skiers are waiting for snow.

Less than one foot of the snow which fell at the start of the holiday season remained on the area's slopes Wednesday and this was disappearing rapidly under a warm sun. Korn, who has operated the Willamette Pass area for ten years and has been connected with skiing in the Cascade range twice that long, said this year's snow drought was the worst he has ever experienced in this region.

If and when skiers get enough snow, the 3,000-foot Pomalift will be ready to elevate them 750 feet up the main slope. Installed on the left side of the ski area, the new lift moves 15 feet per second and is capable of carrying 600 passengers per hour. Skiers may come down the open slope or follow trails through the timber at average grades of 13 and 26 per cent.

On the Pomalift, skiers will ride on witch-on-a-broomstick fashion on telescopic hangers which are attached to a continuous cable. The riders will sit on attachments to the hangers as they are towed uphill on skis.

Korn recently obtained a 60-horsepower diesel generator to furnish power for the lift until a 440-volt power line is installed from Crescent Lake.

The Pomalift at Willamette Pass is one of 96 now operating in the United States. About half of these are located on the Pacific Coast, including one at Bachelor Butte near Bend.

Its French inventor is Jean Pomagalski, whose son, Bernard, arrived at Willamette Pass a week ago to supervise the finishing technical work on the lift. While the Pomalift Company has headquarters at Denver, the lift is manufactured in France and the Pomagalski family also produces lifts in Italy.

Prior to young Pomagalski's arrival here, four local men waded through a mass of blueprints and diagrams as they completed most of the installation. Jack Meissner was in charge of a crew which included Elmer Atkinson, Karl Donaghy and Tim Delaney.

Three rope tows also will be available at the area, according to Korn. One of these will be a bunny tow, primarily for the use of novice skiers.

In addition to the Pomalift and power plant, other improvements which skiers will find this season at Willamette Pass include a ticket booth with ramps and a sun deck near the lower terminal of the Pomalift.

Other facilities at the area are a ski shop where accessories and rentals are available, lunch counter, Willamette Ski Patrol shelter, forest service warming shelter, and rest rooms.

Register-Guard

January 9, 1959

Page 2B

### **Hoodoo Race Due**

### **Willamette Pass Ski Season Starts;**

### **New Lift Greeted**

By Don Wiltse

Register-Guard Correspondent (Also member Willamette Pass Ski Patrol)

### **SNOW LINE**

**\* I knew if I kept talking long enough about skiing weather, we were bound to get some. Possibly my snow séances helped a little. Anyway, out in our neighborhood** I am referred to as "that idiot who lives up the street and prays for snow."

Since a rumor was floating about that possibly the new Pomalift might be in operation last weekend at Willamette Pass, we loaded up the old bus and headed up the mountain.

Saturday morning it was cold, not above 15 degrees all day. The snow had not quite covered all the rocks, stobs and little fir trees, but it was powdery and stayed that way all day. True to predictions the Pomalift operated and was a real treat, making a very enjoyable day of skiing under blue skies and bright sunshine.

Sunday was a good day also, but was overcast and snow fell almost all afternoon, not that nobody minded much, as the snow was still light and easy to maneuver in.

For all skiers who haven't made the trip up Willamette Pass to try out the new gadget, you will find that there has been considerable more ski slope opened for your use that I, for one, hadn't realized would be there. As it extends almost 3,000 feet with a vertical rise of 720 feet and a 26 percent average grade, it makes for very enjoyable skiing. Since the new lift carries 600 skiers per hour, there is not much waiting in line and you can make pretty regular runs.

Naturally there are some bugs to iron out in the equipment and possibly changes to be made in rules and regulations in riding but that's all part of the game. After getting pulled up the hill by a rope for so long, resulting in my left arm three inches longer than my right, I'm glad to see the Pomalift.

**\* Since part of a ski patrol-man's duty is to keep tabs on anything of suspicious nature** while on duty, I had occasion Saturday to do just that. While standing near the top of the lift, I heard a Swish! Rattle-Rattle! Splut! behind me and turned just in time to see something plummet into a small pine tree. The tree was undergoing some very animated gyrations so I wandered over to investigate.

As I pulled the branches apart I found myself staring into two beady little eyes topped by a black and white ski cap. What was it? None other than Web Russell, known by many in this area as "the swingiest shepherd of them all" when he was associated with a local radio station, prior to moving to the city of Portland.

After pulling the pine needles from his ears and mumbling something about trying to dodge a low flying duck, he skied off over the hill.

Web, his wife Shirley, and the Towns, Jerry and Eleanor drove down from Portland to spend Saturday at Willamette and then proceed on to Bachelor Butte at Bend Saturday night.

I saw a lot of other familiar faces during the course of the weekend, too numerous to mention. The mob included individuals and whole families, so the season seems to be officially underway.

**\* Attention racers! There is a big one coming up at Hoodoo Bowl January 25. It will be a giant slalom,** open, A, B, C, Junior expert, Junior Intermediate and Junior Novice.

Also, the junior race program will be getting underway shortly at Willamette Pass. If you are a junior and interested in receiving racing instructions, call Jan Onsrud at DI 5-6343 for further information.

\* **Apparently we are going to have some local talent serving at the 1960 Winter Olympics** at Squaw Valley. It has been announced that Al Lindley of Eugene, John Quiner of Roseburg have been selected to serve on the Ski Patrol, while John Nasholm of Eugene is an alternate.

If this rain in the valley has been snow on the mountains we should have some great conditions this coming weekend.

Ski bus trips to Willamette Pass area scheduled Saturday and Sunday, George Korn announced this week. Each day the bus will leave the Greyhound depot in Eugene at 8:30 a.m. and will leave the ski area at 4 p.m. Tickets will be \$2.75 for the non-stop round trip.

\* \* \* \* \*

Maris' note: These three patrollers hold National badges:

Al Lindley, #1334, 1952

John Quiner, II, #2121, 1959

John Nasholm, #2186, 1959

and Orv Caswell who was invited in 1959 but could not participate, #2201, 1960.

\* \* \* \* \*

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Register-Guard

February 13, 1959

Page 2B

## **SNOW LINE**

### **Danger Denied**

#### **Race Set Sunday at Hoodoo Bowl; Patrolmen Travel**

By Don Wiltse

Register-Guard Correspondent

(Maris' note: Wiltse was a Willamette Pass Ski Patrol member)

\* **While this weather has been eliciting gripes from some people, it has caused nothing but delight for skiers. The big snows and cold weather have combined to make** some of the best skiing conditions this writer has seen in several years.

And the snow is still piling up. From Sunday night until Monday night there was an additional 15 inches at Willamette Pass Comparative (sic) amounts have fallen at other ski areas along the Cascade Range. It snowed off and on last weekend at Willamette Pass with the temperature in the low twenties and the sun managed to break through at various times. Large crowds were there both days, including spectators and camera fans.

Jerry Town was down from Portland Tuesday and said skiing at Timberline has been real terrific. He skied under the lights at Multoppor last Saturday night.

\* **Attention racers! Don't forget the Santiam Giant Slalom at Hoodoo Bowl this Sunday, sponsored by Tri-Pass Ski Club.** Classes include open, B, C, Junior Expert, Junior Intermediate and Junior Novice. Drawing for race position will be at 8 p.m. Saturday at Hoodoo Lodge.

Racing numbers will be issued at the lodge between 9 and 10 a.m. Sunday and PNSA cards must be deposited with the clerk upon receipt of number. In lieu of PNSA card, a \$1 deposit will be required which will be refunded upon return of the number. Awards will be presented at the lodge as soon as official results are compiled. But no awards will be made in classes with less than three contestants.

Chairman Jan Onsrud can use all the help available for timers, recorders, gatekeepers, so Tri-Pass Club members turn out in force and give Jan a hand. There will be no race at Willamette Pass Sunday.

\* **Members of Willamette Pass Ski Patrol will be active in various parts of the country this weekend.** John Nasholm, Al Lindley and John Quiner are on their way to Squaw Valley for their initial three-week indoctrination course to prepare them for their jobs at the 1969 Winter Olympics as members of the Olympic Ski Patrol.

The two-man team of Orv Caswell and Bill Temple are en route to White Pass near Yakima, Wash., to defend the Pacific Northwest Ski Patrol championship that Orv and John Nasholm captured last year at Willamette Pass.

The patrol is well represented in these two events by very capable personnel and we wish them the best of luck.

\* **Continuing along the line of discussions pertaining to dangers in skiing which have appeared in various magazines recently, I suggest you read the latest issue of "Skiing," the international ski news magazine, entitled "More Fun Than Danger."**

In my estimation this is the best rebuttal to the hysterical cries of gloom spreaders that has ever been published. In all of these previous articles no mention has been made of the benefits derived from skiing. They have been devoted to all the possible calamities which are apt to befall followers of the sport.

On the beneficial side of the ledger are listed health, exercise, comradeship, challenge and enjoyment. From the avid skiers' point of view, although danger is present, it has been relegated to a last place standing.

Among the 1,000 to 1,500 skiers at Willamette Pass last weekend, we cared for one dislocated thumb, a minor cut, a wrenched knee and a headache. On the toboggan slope, out of probably 30 participants there were two broken backs. And some people are trying to picture skiing as one of the most dangerous sports!

\* **George Arnis has made arrangements with operator George Korn to operate the Pomalift at Willamette Pass at 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, an hour earlier than usual, for the benefit of Tri-Pass' Junior Racing class. Members of the class will ride the lift to the top and practice on the upper slope. The Pomalift won't operate for other skiers until 10 a.m.**

Register-Guard  
February 16, 1959  
Page 3B

#### **Eugene Skiers Top Hoodoo Slalom Test**

HOODOO SKI BOWL, Santiam Pass – Eugene skiers, members of the Tri-Pass and Falliners, walked off with most of the honors in the PNSA sanctioned giant slalom Sunday. The skiers had fine powder snow, but virtually a blizzard during the competition.

(See Appendix for full article and listing of racers' placings.)

Register-Guard  
February 20, 1959  
Page 3B

#### **Drivers Careful**

#### **Ski Patrol Team Receives Award;**

#### **Pass Area Busy**

By Don Wiltse

Register-Guard Correspondent

#### **SNOW LINE**

\* **Rain in the valley, snow in the mountains keeps the happy smiles on the faces of Northwest skiers. When we left the Willamette Pass Ski Area Sunday night it was a virtual blizzard.**

The trip was uneventful, except for a short slalom run through some heads of cabbage, lettuce and other assorted ingredients of a giant tossed salad from a wrecked produce truck at Hampton, but the trip down was a little hectic. After driving out of the parking lot and nonchalantly going straight across the road into a snow bank, we determined that it might behoove us to put on the tire chains.

This was done amidst the usual groans, choice remarks and skinned fingers but believe me I was very glad we had them on once we hit the downgrades. The highway was slick as a bobsled run, but everyone seemed to be driving with extra care so we managed to get down without a mishap.

The snow at Willamette was pretty much in common with that at other areas in the Cascades. It was light enough to handle easily at the higher points but as you worked your way down the hill it became the consistency of glue or freshly poured cement where it wasn't packed. It snowed all day but did not seem to dampen the spirits of the large crowd.

George Korn reports that Thursday skiing has shown a marked increase with about 100 skiers on hand last week for the largest crowd since mid-week skiing was inaugurated.

After several weekends off and on operation, the Pomalift operated Saturday and Sunday without a hitch, keeping a steady stream of skiers going up and down the hill. So it looks like the bugs are being ironed out finally.

\* **As you have probably read in the Monday edition of this paper, Eugene skiers captured most** of the laurels at the Giant Slalom held at Hoodoo Bowl last Sunday. "Tennis Shoe Ernie" Cozad and the Haffner girls, Carloine and Janet, won their respective classes. Chairman Jan Onsrud and his committee of Nils Norman, Hans Hoolaas and Dr. Wesley Haffner, timers. Chick Kingsley, D. Wojaknock and Dolph Janes and other hard workers ran off a successful race for Tri-Pass Ski Club.

Sunday also saw the windup of the big ski weekend at Mt. Hood, with the finals of the Collegiate Winter Carnival, the Far West Kandahar and the Oregon Centennial Jumping Tournament.

Anyone who hasn't had the opportunity to witness jumping competition is really missing one of the most interesting phases of skiing. The balance and graceful form exhibited by the participants is really something to behold.

Included in the team chosen to represent the Pacific Northwest in the North American Championships beginning this weekend at Squaw Valley, are two girls with whom many skiers in this area are acquainted, Joan and Jean Saubert. These two young ladies, formerly of Cascadia, now of Lakeview, are rapidly coming to the fore as competitive skiers.

(Maris Note: the North American Championships at Squaw Valley were the event where selected members of the NSP 1960 Olympic Ski Patrol took over boot-packing and preparing the race courses which the U.S. Marines could not accomplish. This effort earned them a unique and coveted patch with NSPS Olympic 1959 and bearing a snow coated leather ski boot and bottom rocker acronym: YBYSBPAIA (You Bet Your Sweet Boot Packing Ass I Am) which was the reply to the question if they were an Olympic Ski Patroller. See photo in Appendix B for John Nasholm.)

\* **The two-man team of Orv Caswell and Bill Temple, representing Willamette Pass Ski Patrol** at White Pass Ski area last week end in patrol competition, failed to bring back the trophy which was won last year at Willamette Pass.

They did however, win the sportsmanship trophy, which is a tribute to their ability and competitive spirit. Spokane won first, Snoqualmie Pass second and White Pass third in the competition which is judged on a combined basis of first aid and toboggan handling ability.

Bill had some trouble keeping his new safety bindings fastened while trying to maneuver in the deep powder snow and their sled was not equipped exactly for the steep terrain which is considerably different from Willamette Pass.

Orv reports that they have an excellent ski area but one of the places they had to bring the toboggan down was about like a cow's face when she is eating. In fact they had to blast it last year in order to get snow to cling to it so they could use it for skiing. Whew!

It has been snowing a little almost every night this week in the mountains so conditions for this weekend look quite promising. This may be getting away from the subject somewhat but may be interesting to those who like history. I found out what they called the seasick passengers of the Mayflower: "Illgirms."

**Fill Those Sitzmarks  
Willamette Pass To Open  
During Spring Vacation  
SNOW LINE**

By Don Wiltse

Register-Guard Correspondent

**\* I heard all kinds of descriptive phrases about skiing last weekend, such as crazy, knocked, like wow!, to mention a few. Most of that jazz is too far out for this writer but if it means great, then I will agree wholeheartedly.**

All of the slopes at Willamette Pass were well polished, quite fast and resulted in very enjoyable sport. Even the unpacked portions could be handled by maintaining a good speed and powering your way around in the turns. Good crowds were out Saturday and Sunday with the area taking on the resemblance of a giant ant hill at various times.

The sun manages to break through late in the afternoon, bathing the upper slopes in brilliant sunshine which made the running surface just that much better. Conditions also were reported excellent at other areas in the Cascades.

Some skiing friends from Sacramento, Pat and Peggy Garcia, arrived Saturday evening and spent Sunday with us at Willamette Pass. They drove up to Mt. Shasta with intentions of spending the weekend there but upon arrival discovered that the area was completely snowed in with no access to the ski area at all.

Since the snows finally started, Mt. Shasta has been plagued with an over-abundance of the stuff. They've had a tough battle keeping the highway plowed out.

**\* I would like to call your attention to something which is important not only to beginners but advanced skiers as well: "FILL YOUR SITZMARKS"!**

There seems to be a marked reluctance on the part of many skiers to take the time to do this much to the chagrin of a following skier who falls into the hole. In fact, after requesting some individual to do this, they ask "What is a sitzmark?" While peering out of a hole about the size of an elephant's bathtub.

I saw a young fellow last Sunday making his way down the beginners slope and you could mark his progress by the succession of depressions in the snow. It looked like someone with a pogo stick with a wash tub tied to the bottom had been on the hill. Fourteen holes were counted.

The usual explanation of the hole-filling procedure did not make much of an impression until on his next rip down he augured into one of his own sitzmarks. I have seen pretzels that weren't twisted up as bad as he was, but fortunately he was only shaken up. Willamette Pass now has one of the most conscientious hole filler-uppers you have ever. (seen. *ibid*)

So you fall down, so what? Everyone does at one time or another. Some just make bigger holes than others, myself included, but it doesn't put you out too much to take the time to fill up and smooth it out so someone won't get hurt. Besides, if your spills are anything like mine, you can use that time to get your eyes back in focus.

And nobody wants to be hauled in on a toboggan, for some of those ski patrolmen look pretty wild-eyed. Take for instance, the patrolman who was talking instead of listening Sunday when the operator pulled the lever on the Pomalift. Zilch! I'm still stiff and sore from that one.

**\* Willamette Pass Ski Area will be in operation from March 14 through March 23 in order to give those people idle during spring vacations an opportunity to get in several days of skiing.**

George Arnis says the Willamette Mountain Ski School also will be in operation during this time for anyone wanting to take advantage of expert ski instruction. You will be surprised at how much your skiing will improve if you are able to ski for several days in a row. I imagine other areas will be operating under similar conditions.

\* Haven't heard any reports from the local talent serving on the ski patrol at Squaw Valley during the North American championships but imagine they are being kept quite busy. Nils Norman and Hans Holaas left Sunday for their indoctrination training on the Nordic events, jumping, cross country, etc. I had considered filling out an application for a job there during the Olympic games until I found out where they wanted to put me. Seems they need some moving targets for the Biathlon event.

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(See Appendix A, end of Part 1 for copy of article.)

**CHARLES BRYAN RYAN – A Retrospective of a Curious Mind**

Known as Bryan Ryan to members of The Obsidians, Willamette Ski Patrol, and Willamette Pass Ski Patrol, he was a patroller, the designer of the Gene McMurphey Ski Patrol Memorial First Aid Shelter, and holder of a "National Patch." See scanned and re-typed bulletins of The Obsidian and references found in Register-Guard articles.

A link to a one-page summary of his artistic and teaching life is found in a pdf document titled, *Charles Bryan Ryan, A Retrospective of a Curious Mind*, by the Coos Art Museum.

[http://www.coosart.org/cbryan/CBRyan\\_GallBio.pdf](http://www.coosart.org/cbryan/CBRyan_GallBio.pdf)

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**Continued in VOLUME 2 - RESETTING THE COURSE**