

# Winding Trails: by Al Hobart

Thursday, March 30, 1967  
Illinois Valley News

## Skiing Crater Lake Rim – 2-day Trip – Part 1

No one can deny that one of winter's most attractive manifestations is the formation and display of icicles, those transparent, often colorfully translucent, cold, brittle, sometimes fantastically shaped structures of frozen water.

Being normally imaginative and appreciative of natural phenomena, I have always been fascinated by icicles. Always, that is, until last weekend, when Nature so far forgot herself as to hang a bevy of her precious icy stalactites on my gale-numbered chin and nose.

But being occasionally blizzard-whipped, with icicle-draped face and with fingers stiff and cold in spite of heavy protective mitts—all of the temporary discomfort of being exposed to the battering of the periodically rampaging elements is a minuscule price to pay for the privilege of being exposed to the

unbelievable beauty of Crater Lake's winter-locked Rim, a privilege granted to only a lucky few.

The 30-mile journey around the crater's 7,000 ft. high rim on skis, although no casual pastime for the faint of heart or physically unfit, is an inspiring, priceless experience for those capable of appreciating nature at its fantastic loveliest.

Hardy, experienced skiers can make the rugged trip in a single long day, but a more leisurely 2-day trip is endurance-testing enough, and much more productive of enjoyment of the out-of-this-world scenery on all sides of the tortuous undulating way.

To make this trip, especially in foul weather, without the leadership of a competent, experienced guide would be extremely hazardous and foolhardy. On our 7-man round-the-Rim ski tour last weekend we were led by Bill Pruitt, the Rim's own tour guide, who has made the winter circuit on skis 7 times, either guiding a group on a 2-day tour or making a record one-day run.

Early Saturday morning we started our ski tour from the lodge, on the Rim. The temperature was slightly below freezing, snow was

falling and a moderate wind was blowing. Visibility at times was limited to the near canyons, rocky prominences along the rim-top, and the gnome-like snow-loaded conifers that decorated the slopes. Our destination for that day was a little snow-bound cabin on the far side of the crater, about 14 miles distant.

Our skiing that day was done in falling snow, except for a period of little more than an hour, when the sun broke through and gave us a view of the crater's captive lake and the Rim's wintry fairyland sculpture that can only be described as breathtaking.

Many admire the view of Crater Lake from the lodge even in midwinter. But to view the lodge side from the far rim is an altogether different experience, presenting a picture that few are aware of or are ever permitted to enjoy.

To drive around the Rim road in summer is a memorable experience, but the deep snows of winter make a different world of the crater's rugged tree-studded rim. The road, for the most part, is completely obliterated. Where the summer road existed, now in places,

only an almost perpendicular wall of snow is found. Not even the versatile little flea-like snowmobiles, that are becoming a familiar sight on every winter landscape, can negotiate the Rim when winter has laid down its high-altitude mantle of deep snow, making the trip feasible only on skis, and not without hazards even then.

In the early evening we arrived at the little "half-way" cabin that sits on the rim overlooking the lake far below. The cabin lay buried in 9 feet of snow, and to gain the interior we climbed down a ladder inside a wooded "snow chimney" that reached well above the deep snow.

Inside this wee, wonderful shack we found a good fuel supply, some provisions and sleeping bags—and shelter. A 40 to 50-mile wind was blowing when we arrived and the temperature was 24 degrees, conditions that made that humble little shelter seem like a welcome crumb dropped from a heavenly table.

But before we settled down to warm, cheery comfort at last, we were scheduled for a minor but disquieting spot of trouble—the gale outside blowing down the chimney

filled the room with smoke so dense we were forced to retreat back up the escape hatch and out again into the icy wind. To keep from freezing I clung to the ladder inside the shaft and let my head hang out against the wall, my tongue hanging out and gasping for breath. While I was hanging draped over the sill, faintly trying to cough the carbon out of my tortured lungs (dying for all he knew), my sadist friend Len, a leather-skinned geologist who laughs in the teeth of icy gales, laughingly snapped my picture.

Bill, whose lungs must be made of rawhide, stayed down and fought the smoking stove till I thought he'd surely pass out. Dashing down the ladder now and then to help, my only contribution was to give Bill a few seconds of company before gasping my way back up the chute. Eventually the trouble was overcome, and a hot fire was drying damp clothes and filling the cabin with the appetizing aroma of sizzling steaks, on the heels of the vanishing smoke.

(Concluded next week)

### ROGUE VALLEY



### Food & Friends Menu

**FRIDAY – MAR 31**

BAKED CHICKEN W/  
SUPREME SAUCE

**MONDAY – APR 3**

BREADED BAKED FISH  
**WEDNESDAY - APR 5**  
ROAST TURKEY

**If you need meals delivered or want to volunteer please call 541-955-8839.**

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Sponsored by I.V. Wellness Resources

It is the mission of Illinois Valley Wellness Resources to support the health and wellbeing of the senior and disabled residents of the Illinois Valley.

If you are a senior or disabled resident of the Illinois Valley and you are trying to find resources to keep you happy and healthy in your own home, please call us for referrals that have been pre-screened with background checks and references.

We can help you find the following:

- Caregivers
- Handymen
- Yard workers

- Firewood
- Housekeepers
- Pet helpers
- Computer skills
- Home Safety Evaluations
- Health & Social Services

Please call Laura Mancuso the Illinois Valley Wellness Resources program coordinator at 541-592-9781.

You can contact I.V. Wellness Resources at [www.ivwellnessresources@gmail.com](http://www.ivwellnessresources@gmail.com). Please like our Facebook page by searching for [ivwellnessresources](http://www.ivwellnessresources.com).



### WANTED

#### UCAN SENIOR COMPANIONS

If you would like to volunteer and become a senior companion that helps isolated seniors get the help they need in their homes please call Colleen at 541-492-3520.

#### FOOD & FRIENDS

looking for back-up drivers for Meals on Wheels, mileage reimbursement available. Must pass background check. Call 541-955-8839.

### SENIOR BULLETIN

#### FREE ADS

If you are a senior and want to place a FREE AD for a living or health care need call Laura Mancuso at 541-592-2541 or email [laura@illinois-valley-news.com](mailto:laura@illinois-valley-news.com).

#### CHAIR FITNESS

Classes FREE at Healthy U, Monday and Wednesdays from 2 - 2:45 p.m. 535 E. River St., Cave Junction Call 541-592-4888 or visit [www.healthyucenter.org](http://www.healthyucenter.org).

#### AARP TAX-AIDE PROGRAM

Providing free tax assistance for middle & low incomes. Tax counselors are IRS-certified. Call 541-592-6139 for a Wednesday appointment in Cave Junction.

#### ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION PROGRAM

Seventh-day Adventist Church in CJ Mondays at 6 p.m. Call Kathy for more information at 541-291-7016.

**BINGO FOR ALL AGES WEDNESDAYS**  
EARLY BIRD 6 - 6:30PM  
17 GAMES 6:30 - 9:30PM  
HAMBURGERS FOR SALE  
520 E. RIVER STREET, CJ  
IV SENIOR CENTER  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

ONE CALL DOES IT ALL, NO JOB TOO SMALL!  
CCB #189031

**SunValley CONSTRUCTION, INC.**  
541-218-5555

EXCAVATION, CLEARING, KITCHEN AND BATHROOM REMODELING, ROOFING, GREENHOUSES, FENCING, ELECTRICAL, PAINTING...

PROUDLY SERVING THE ILLINOIS VALLEY SINCE 1992

TAKE THE CRUD OFF YOUR HOUSE. GET RID OF MILDEW AND MOLD!

**PRESSURE WASHING**  
CALL NOW FOR AN ESTIMATE  
A house should be cleaned every 5 - 7 Years.

**WALT JUERGENS PAINTING**  
541-597-4136

**THE G SPOT**  
@ THE OLD STONED FRONT  
2409 REDWOOD HWY - KERRY  
541-592-3200/541-451-0401

**KELLY THIBODEAUX & ETOUFFEE**  
More Swamp Rock

**Saturday April 8th**  
8-11 pm  
Cover charge \$10-\$12

Must be 21 with Valid ID

**STUMP GRINDING**  
Any Size

Contact Terry 541-660-9880  
LICENSED and INSURED

**JP AUTO & METAL RECYCLING**  
NEW PARTS - USED PARTS  
-WE BUY SCRAP METAL-  
CERTIFIED SCALES

29910 REDWOOD HWY  
CAVE JUNCTION, OR  
541-592-3691

**CJ Coffee**  
MONDAY-SUNDAY: 6AM-8PM

**Senior Breakfast**  
1st Saturday of every month  
8 am to 11 am

ALL YOU CAN EAT!  
Open to the public

\$6 - adults  
\$3 - 12 & under

IV Senior Center  
520 E River St Cave Junction

**Art's Red Garter**  
Homestyle dinner specials  
Tues - Sat 5-9 PM in Lounge

**KARAOKE**  
Wednesdays @ 9 p.m.

**WIZ KRISA**  
acoustic covers  
Friday, March 31 @ 5:30

from Taylor's Country Store

**Wild River HANDCRAFTED FOOD & ALE**  
**GUPPY**  
Saturday the 1ST @ 6 p.m.

Every Wednesday  
Open MIC Night  
6 - 8 p.m.

**J Barley**  
Fridays @ 6 p.m.

**KARAOKE**  
w/ Steve - Off  
Friday, March 31 @ 9 p.m.

Saturday Pool Tourney @ 7  
Free pool on Sundays

**Sportsman Tavern**

**The G SPOT**  
Hump day Karaoke w/ Jammer Dave  
8-midnight

Open Mic w/ B  
Thursdays @ 7 p.m.

**BUCKLE RASH**  
Friday, March 31 @ 8  
\$10 at door

**PARTY OF FOOLS**  
Rosie Wittman & Dawna Crocker  
Saturday, April 1, 8 PM  
free show

@  
**McGrew's!**