



ANGORA

HIKING

CLUB



ASTORIA

OREGON

Founded on July 4, 1920, the Angora Hiking Club of Astoria, Oregon, is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The club began when members of the local Knights of Pythias Lodge decided to celebrate the July 4th holiday by climbing near-by Saddle Mountain. Appreciating both the climb and the view, they decided to form a hiking club.

Members of the Angora Hiking Club at the Saddle Mountain Lookout Tower, 1922



At the time of the Angora's founding, hiking clubs were growing in popularity throughout the Pacific Northwest. The Mazamas were founded in Portland in 1894, the Mountaineers in Seattle in 1906, and the Klahhane Club and the Olympians, both located on Washington's Olympic Peninsula, formed in 1915 and 1920, respectively. The Obsidians would be founded in Eugene in 1927, and the Chemeketans would start in Salem in 1928. The proliferation of hiking clubs would lead to the formation of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs in 1932.



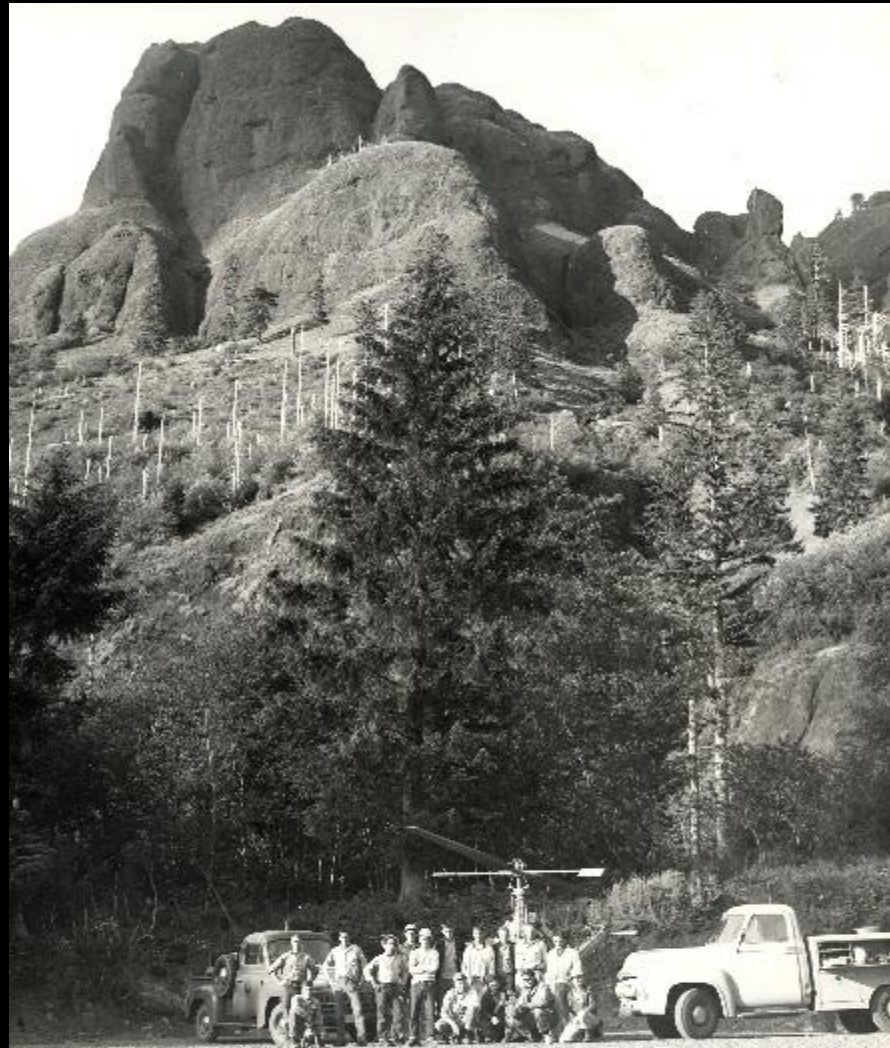


Saddle Mountain, 1922

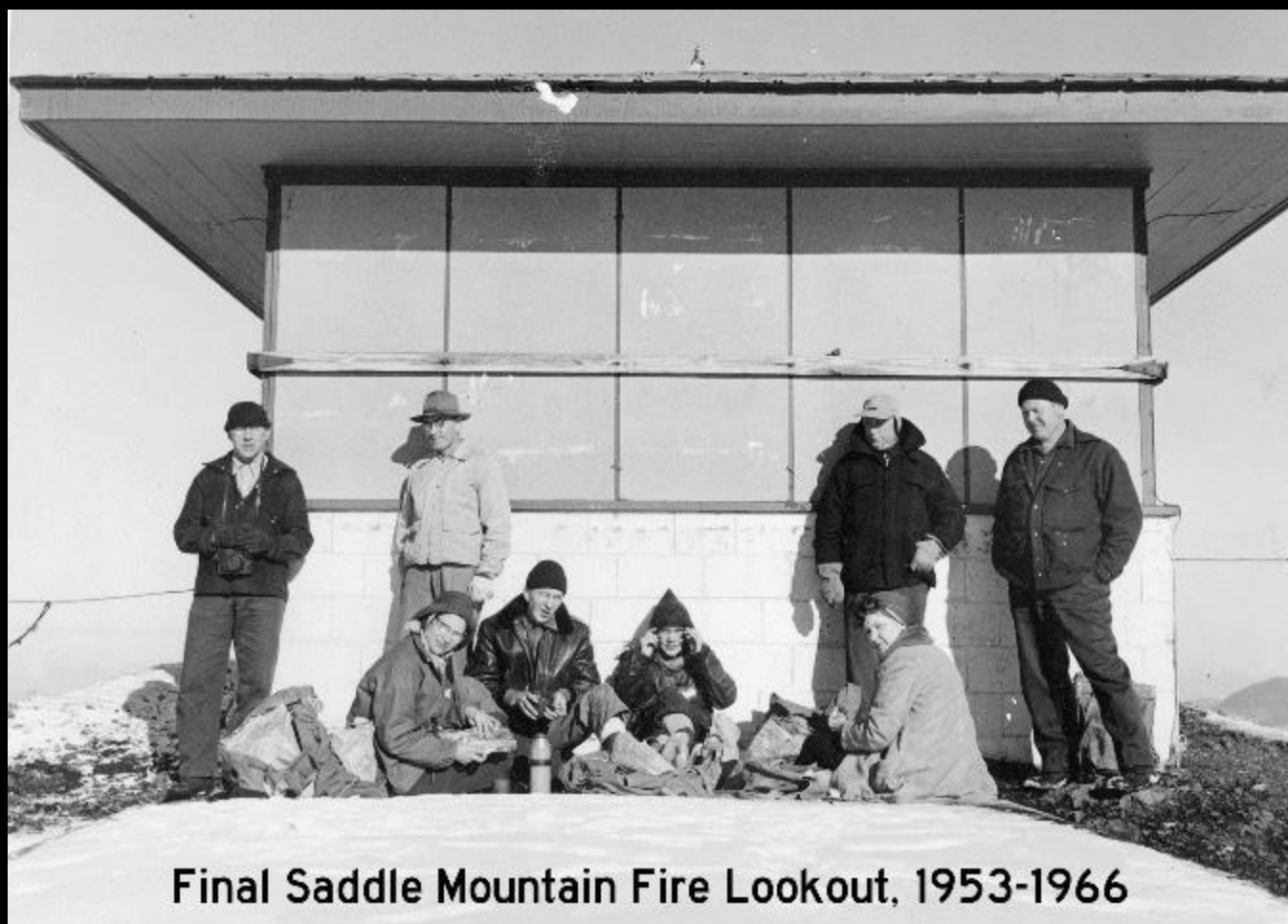
Angora Hiking Club members Esther Jensen, Hazel Gustafson, Jo Roach, Esther Juntti, and John Cornilsen approaching the summit of Saddle Mountain







A new lookout tower atop Saddle Mountain was built in 1953. Workers utilized a helicopter to transport building supplies to the summit. Saddle Mountain had some manner of fire lookout station from at least 1913 until the final tower was destroyed in 1966.



**Final Saddle Mountain Fire Lookout, 1953-1966**





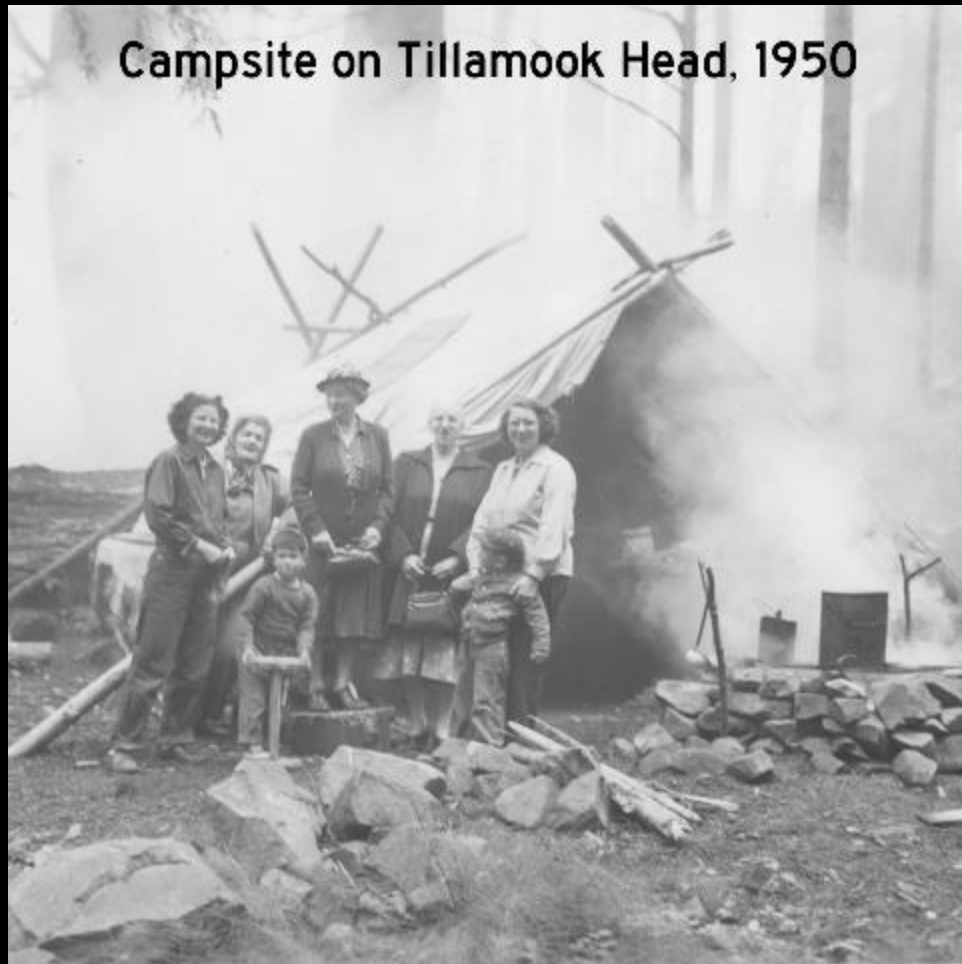
August Hildebrand made these cutout, wooden mountain goats in the 1930s



In 1942, the Angora Hiking Club purchased 40 acres of heavily-wooded land on the north slope of Tillamook Head with the plan of eventually building a cabin on the site. Actual construction began in 1950 and progressed slowly over the next five years. Logs for the cabin walls were cut and peeled on site using hand tools, as there was no electricity available. Use of the cabin was unfortunately short lived as vandals struck repeatedly, breaking doors and windows and throwing their furnishings down the hill. In 1964, the Angoras sold the land to the State of Oregon who incorporated it into Ecola State Park. The Hiking Club used the profits from this sale for several charitable endeavors, including purchasing books for the Astoria Public Library.



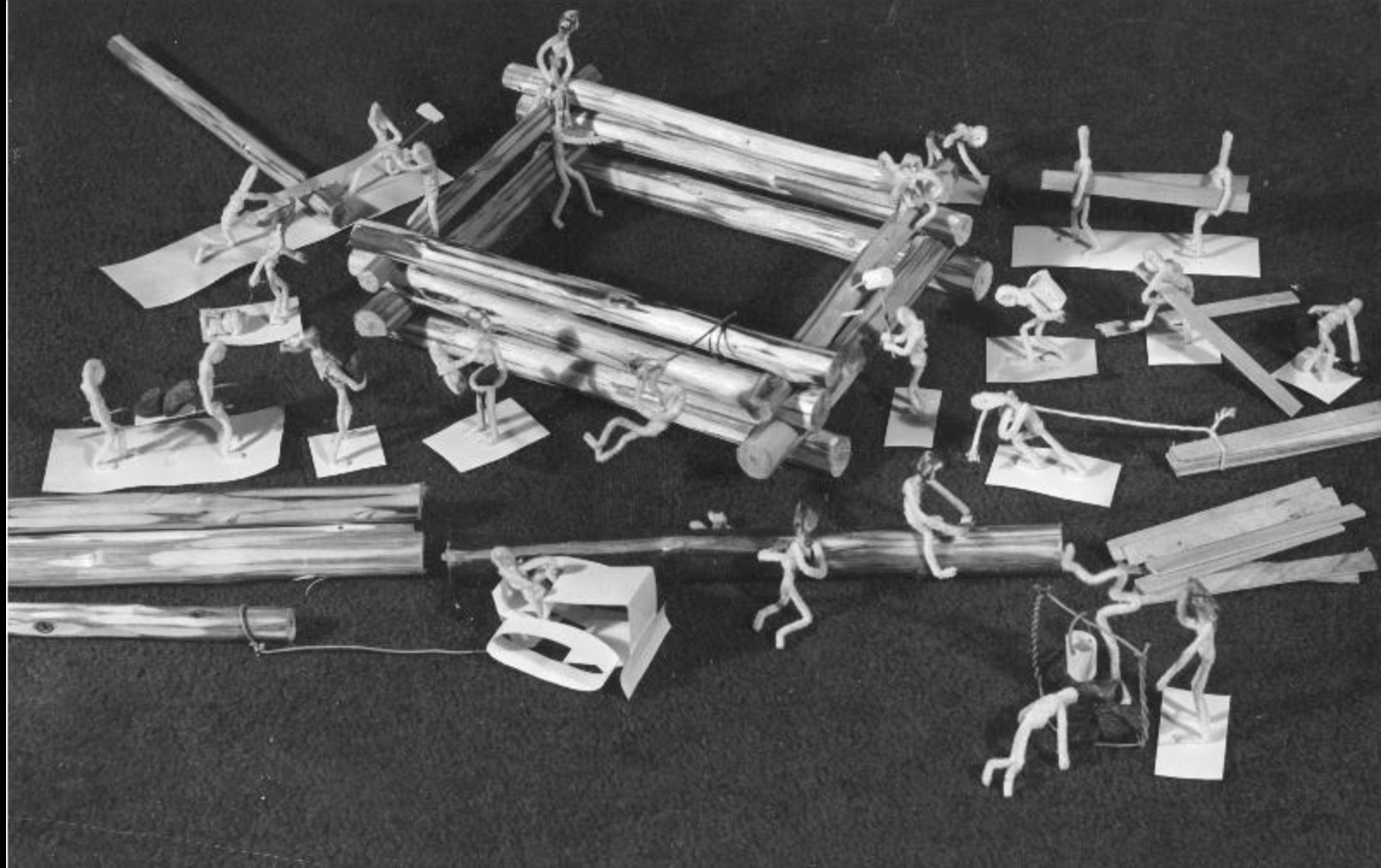
Campsite on Tillamook Head, 1950





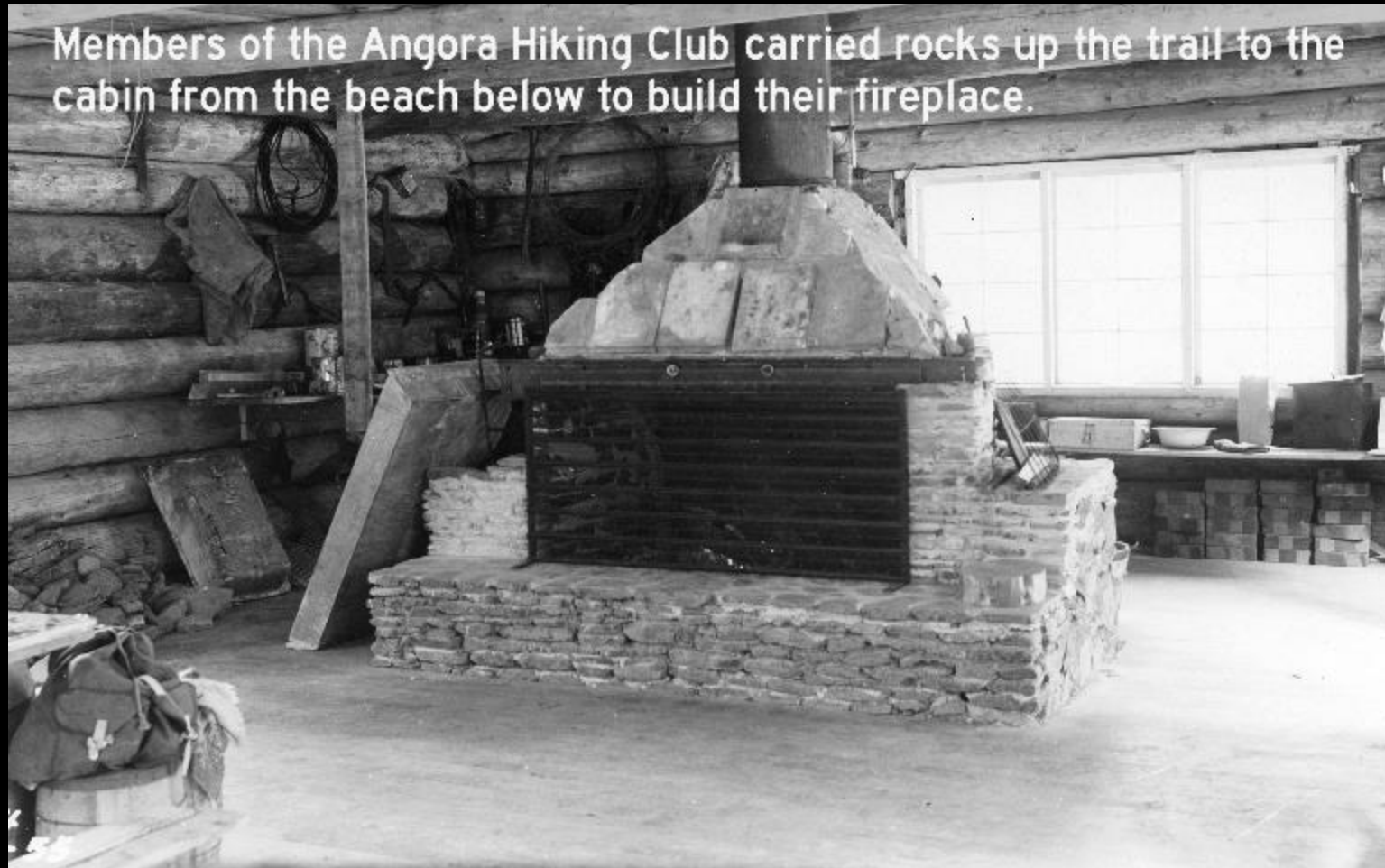
The cabin's foundation and the first logs were laid in 1950. In 1951, club members finished the exterior log walls and put up the roof rafters.

Scale-model depicting the construction of the Angora Hiking Club's cabin on Tillamook Head made and photographed by Reuben Jensen. Jensen also created the pattern for the cast bronze topographic map of greater Astoria now on display at the Astoria Column. The Angora Hiking Club presented the bronze map to the City of Astoria on September 10, 1966.





Members of the Angora Hiking Club carried rocks up the trail to the cabin from the beach below to build their fireplace.





Angora Hiking Club Cabin on Tillamook Head, 1952

**Working under the motto, “We blaze the trail,” the Angora Hiking Club actively cleared hiking trails, including the Tillamook Head Trail between Seaside and Cannon Beach and one between an existing logging road and the summit of Onion Peak in South Clatsop County.**





Members of the Angora Hiking Club resting on Mt. Adams in Central Washington, July 1923



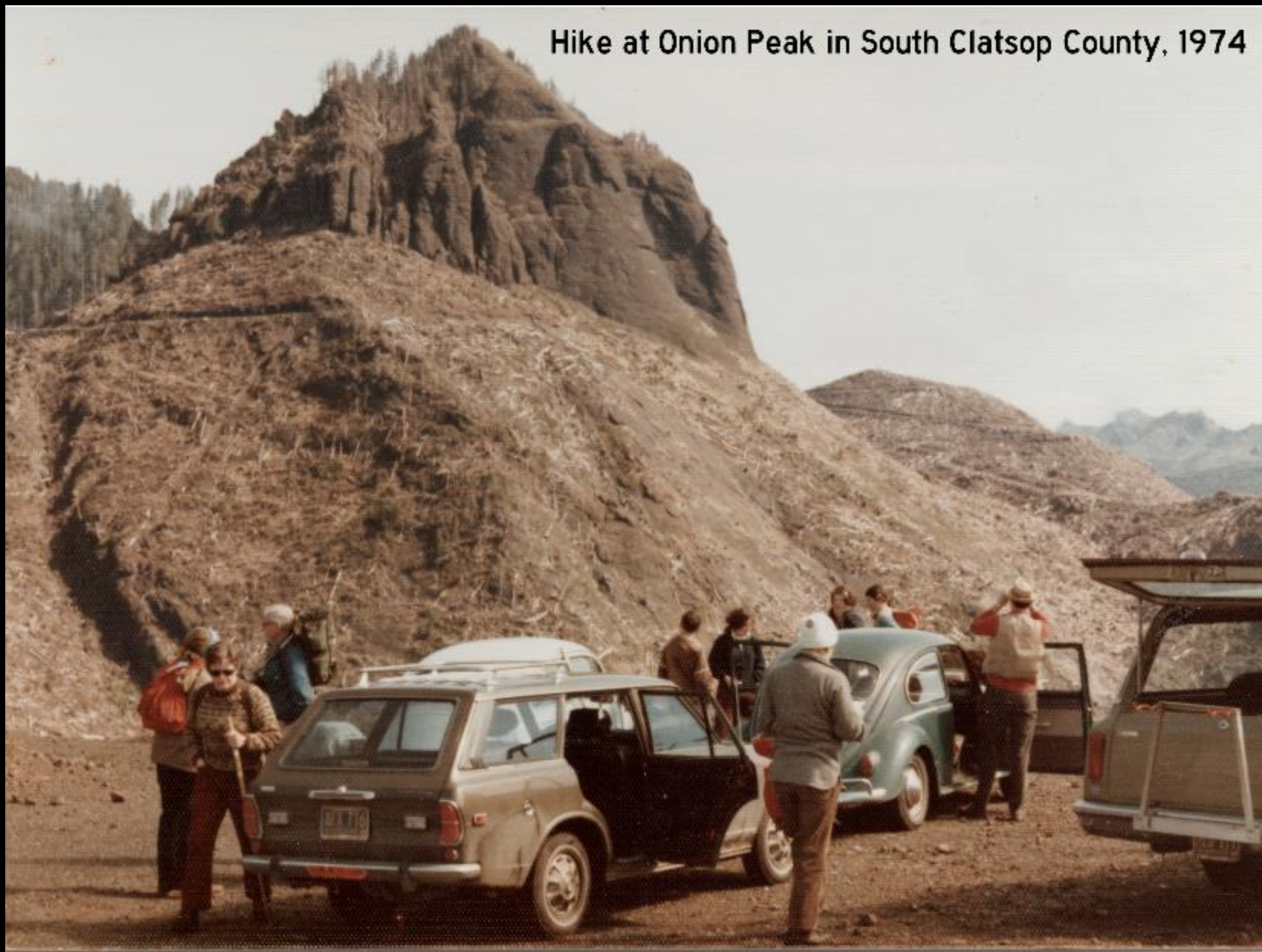
Angora Hiking Club Members on Mt. Hood, 1938





Camping near Bogachiel Peak in the Olympic Mountains, September 1949

Hike at Onion Peak in South Clatsop County, 1974







Angora Hiking Club Members in  
the Willapa Bay Nature Preserve