

❖ MT. MANSFIELD SKIING ❖

The Periodical Bulletin of the Mt. Mansfield Ski Club

Vol. XIII

STOWE, VERMONT, DECEMBER 16, 1946

No. 2

WHAT A RAT RACE

There is more to skiing than just riding and sliding, says

OPENING OF THE SEASON

Both the chair lift and the alpine lift at Mt. Mansfield will swing into action before Christmas for what will be THE BIG season and the beginning of a new era in skiing.

As usual, the Toll Road is providing the best early skiing. It started off with a snowfall on Oct. 1, and although this soon went off there has been skiing for the past two or three weeks.

The alpine lift trails, because of their smoothness, will be skiable before any of the mountain trails. The latter are all brushed out, as is most of the touring network.

SKI SCHOOL READY

Starting his eleventh season at Mt. Mansfield, popular Sepp Ruschp has his expert staff on the mark for all comers who want to get started in skiing or improve their technique. Sepp's instructors this winter are: Otto Hollaus, Kerr Sparks, Clem Curtis, Henry Semineau, John Clement, Stan Gosnay, Roger Paige, Gerald Fisher, Kjell Torke-Haagen, Casey Jones and Frances Harrison. The Sepp Ruschp Ski School, with headquarters at the Toll House, will operate both on the Toll House slopes and at the new alpine lift development.

TOURING AND MOUNTAINEERING

An effort will be made this winter by the Club to promote the enjoyment of ski touring and mountaineering in the Mt. Mansfield region. This activity is under the leadership of Erling Strom, Rolf Holtvedt and David Burt. Mr. Strom made the first ski ascent of Mt. McKinley, the highest peak in North America.

Mt. Mansfield and the mountains surrounding it offer many interesting opportunities for touring. Parts of this region are accessible by ski trails, while others have yet to be explored in winter. For the skier who wants to get off the beaten path occasionally, guided trips are being planned. There is a possibility that other clubs may join some of these tours.

JUNIOR PROGRAM

With a view to providing activities for junior skiers, the Club will inaugurate this winter a tentative program of events designed to interest the younger skiers in the area. In charge of the program will be Langdon Cummings of Barre, John Moody of Montpelier, and Roger Burke, physical education director at Stowe High School.

WEEKLY SKI DANCES

The Club is joining with the Stowe-Mansfield Association this winter to sponsor weekly ski dances in Stowe. These will be held every Thursday evening. The music will be furnished by Hubert Brooks and his Orchestra, which the cats say is really groovy. All Club members are urged to make the first date, Jan. 9, to get the dances rolling in good shape.

Walter Hard, Jr.

There has always been disparaging talk by a small group of skiers about the slope-dopes and the tow-hill addicts, but not enough of it apparently.

It isn't enough that several thousand skiers pack themselves on one mountainside and churn the slopes into a morass of rocks and shaved ice. Now everyone is expected to race, become a competitive skier, run time trials, win little gold stars and be neatly classified and graded.

It is true, of course, that with the necessary cash and abetted by a ski lift you can get in 3.1416 times more downhill runs per afternoon than by climbing. You can also meet all the skiers from Greater Boston and metropolitan New York, show off your latest technique and your \$75 boots.

Trying to run the "Bonecrusher" you can well believe you've been caught in a downtown subway rush. And if you survive the waiting line you can freeze to death riding the lift back.

You can also forget what real skiing is like — that is, if you ever knew.

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Touring skiing doesn't necessarily mean two hours of herring-boning with a fifty pound pack. It entails alternate climbing, downhill and cross country. It means you see the winter countryside and ski under natural conditions.

Both climbing and running you learn to choose the best terrain. You find that waxes aren't just something to talk about at the bar, and that skins have a better use than to be wrapped picturesquely around the waist.

You find that tight jackets were dreamed up by a fashion designer, not by a skier; that short poles look graceful in a sweeping stem-christie but aren't much help in a two-step.

On a long climb you learn to take it easy, to remove a few layers of clothing and mitten liners. You find out how to turn in deep snow, and if your technique isn't as graceful as on the custom-packed slope you will still get a kick out of it — even though a few hundred aren't looking on in admiration.

You may find that langlauf steps are fun and that jump turns have more uses than for a photographic subject. Even bushwhacking shows its points in time.

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Back in the middle thirties, when skiing was just getting under way in Vermont, the winter sports clubs did the pioneering. In several areas they laid out and cleared dozens of miles of touring trails and some downhill runs. But then came the rope tows and later the big commercial developments that brought a tide of commuter skiers. As the dollars poured in, the amateur touring trails in most areas grew up to brush, and skiing for many Vermonters became just another profitable tourist attraction.

(Continued on page 4, col. 1)

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Mt. Mansfield Ski Club

Edited by A. W. Coleman ♦ ♦ ♦
♦ ♦ ♦ 25 Liberty St., Montpelier, Vt.
Associate Editor - Huntley Palmer

Vol. XIII DECEMBER 16, 1946 No. 2

SKIING OVER THE COUNTER

In his article appearing in this issue Mr. Hard touches on a rather vital problem when he speaks of ski clubs becoming parasites of the big commercial developments. Whether or not "parasite" is just the word, he nevertheless raises a question which we believe faces many of the older amateur clubs located at what have become, largely through their pioneer efforts, major ski centers.

Commercial enterprises, though providing facilities obtainable by no other means, are not entirely an unmixed blessing to a club operating at a large center and trying to retain its individual amateur existence. Skiers who formerly needed the cohesion of volunteer group effort now can obtain their skiing merely by paying for it over the counter.

The majority of skiers, in the East at any rate, are exclusively interested in lift skiing. As a result, their dependence upon clubs decreases as lifts and other commercially financed downhill facilities increase. The commercial enterprises, presumably, require an amateur club of some kind to sponsor activities such as races controlled by the amateur ski associations, and when the amateur skiers fail to provide such an organization it becomes necessary for the commercial enterprises to subsidize one.

Fortunately, so far, the Mt. Mansfield Ski Club has been able to cooperate closely with the commercial agencies at Stowe on various projects without losing its status as an independent organization. The aim of the Club has been to represent the customers, and to use whatever influence it might have to promote facilities and activities in all forms of skiing. It has become one of the stronger and more successful Clubs in the U. S. Eastern Amateur Ski Association.

As the older workers inevitably drop out of Club participation, however, and as the demands for augmented programs increase, there is discernable a lack of willingness among the younger skiers to assume any responsibility for the continuance of a voluntary effort. Strange as it may seem, it is the out-of-state visitors who apparently understand most clearly the desirability of maintaining a strong amateur Club and show this by lending valuable moral and financial support. But if the Club is to continue as a purely amateur organization, it also must have the interest and work of the local amateur skiers.

WHY DOESN'T SOMEONE INVENT an eyebrow defroster, so that the loss of visibility and stability resulting from icing conditions will be eliminated. Additional attachments could be devised to thaw out mustaches and beavers.

CLUB RECORDS AND NOTES

The annual meeting was held in Stowe on Oct. 4, 1946, having been postponed from May.

The following officers and directors were elected for 1946-47:

President Abner W. Coleman
Vice President Luther S. Booth
Secretary-Treasurer J. Carpenter Brock
Directors — Rogers B. Adams, David Burt, Clyde B. Chase, N. Paul Chase, Langdon S. Cummings, H. P. Egleston, Albert W. Gottlieb, Herbert Harrington, A. Kenneth Hoyt, Lanou A. Hudson, Jerome A. Lawrence, William V. Mason, George P. Morrell, Huntley Palmer, Parker Perry, Dan F. Ryder, Edwin H. Steele, Warren Warner.

The Board of Directors has appointed Sepp Ruschp, Erling Strom and Rolf Holtvedt as technical advisers; John G. Moody as auditor; Margaret E. Long as assistant secretary-treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP

The proposed amendment to the Club by-laws relating to classes of membership and annual dues was passed unanimously at the annual meeting. This was detailed in the Sept. 28, 1946 issue of the Bulletin, and further explanation was given with the dues notices.

Members who have not yet done so are urged to pay their dues promptly. Active senior members are missing the early issues of SKI NEWS by not having their Association memberships put through.

This will be the last issue of MT. MANSFIELD SKIING sent to members who do not pay their 1946-47 dues.

The Directors have voted that a Vermont resident who has joined the U. S. Eastern Amateur Ski Association through another club may deduct \$1.50 from his Mt. Mansfield Ski Club dues, providing that his USEASA card number accompanies his remittance.

The Directors also have voted to continue the policy of not charging dues to members serving in the armed forces.

Refer all membership matters to the Secretary, P. O. Box 393, Montpelier, Vermont.

DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

Smugglers Notch Lift, Inc., proprietors of the new alpine lift, are extending to all senior active and associate Club members an extra ride on their 10-ride book of tickets (\$3.00) and three extra rides on the 25-ride book (\$6.00).

The chair lift will continue to give an extra ride on the 10-ride book (\$6.00) for senior active club members who are residents of Vermont.

RACE PROGRAM

The Club has obtained sanctions from the U. S. Eastern Amateur Ski Association for the following competitions:

March 1 — Mt. Mansfield-Stowe Derby (cross country, open)
March 15-16 — Mt. Mansfield Merry Go Round (downhill, team)
April 26-27 — Mt. Mansfield Sugar Slalom (giant slalom, open)

Further details and information about these races will appear in the next bulletin and in SKI NEWS. Junior events will be announced later.

PROFICIENCY TESTS

The Third Class Proficiency Test will be given by the Club on Sunday, Dec. 29. Register with Mr. H. P. Egleston at the Toll House not later than 10:00 A. M. Entrants must be individual members of the U. S. Eastern Amateur Ski Association. Club members passing the test will receive their official test pins at no cost.

REVIEWS

By Les Collins

MT. MANSFIELD — CAPSTONE OF VERMONT.
By Llew Evans. (Copyright: Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston, 1944. Reprinted by permission. Second Edition 1946 \$0.50.)

Did you know that the Abnaki Indians called Mt. Mansfield Moze-o-de-be-Wadso, which means the Mountain with a Head Like a Moose? Well, the author, who spends his summers on Mansfield, has dug up a lot more historical information which probably will be new to you. This is a really complete story about the old rock pile, including its winter aspects. Originally appearing in the June 1944 issue of APPALACHIA, the second reprinting of the article contains some additional rare photographs of early days on the mountain. Copies of the pamphlet may be obtained in Stowe at Staford's Drug Store, Green Mountain Inn or Toll House.

VERMONT LIFE MAGAZINE — WINTER, 1946.
Edited by Earle Newton. (Vermont Development Commission, Montpelier, Vt. \$0.25 a copy, \$1.00 per year.)

The second issue of this new state quarterly undoubtedly will share the same fate as its predecessor last fall by being sold out within a few weeks. Featuring Vermont skiing, and containing an article by Ab Coleman, our club president, this winter number should be of interest to all Mt. Mansfield skiers. Profuse is the word for the illustrations, which include some splendid color shots.

WESTERN SKIING MAGAZINE. Edited by Jack Seabern. (Western Skiing, Inc., Los Angeles, Calif. \$0.25 a copy, \$2.50 per year.)

Although covering the western scene, this magazine seems to exert a strong appeal to eastern skiers, judging from the number of copies around these parts. For one thing, it's the only skiing magazine published twelve months a year. But can it be those western mountains are magnetized? The November and December issues this year have particularly interesting short articles (with more to come) on technique by Tyler Micoleau, whom I remember for an excellent piece in the 1937-38 AMERICAN SKI ANNUAL.

MOUNTAIN NEWS. Official Organ of the Stowe-Mansfield Association, Inc. Edited by Parker Perry.

This monthly mimeographed bulletin was started in August as a medium for disseminating information among the members of the Stowe-Mansfield Association. The Association, you should know without being told, represents the commercial agencies in Stowe and handles such things as advertising, housing, transportation and the like. You will find copies of this bulletin at your favorite hostelry, and you will find it interesting. Mr. Perry's inimitable style gives it an extra kick.

DON'T SHOOT YOURSELF if you haven't yet got a Christmas present for Uncle Bud and Grandma. Give them memberships in the Mt. Mansfield Ski Club, and they surely will remember you in their wills.

The Secretary will send their cards directly to you, but be sure and tell him their mailing addresses. And you must work fast on this, because its only a week to Christmas and the mails are jammed.

WITH THE SKI PATROL

By Luther S. Booth

When I retired as active patrol leader, to the relative obscurity of committee chairman, I thought that the most writing I would have to do would be for an annual report. But now I'm not only chairman but, apparently, a back columnist. The editor of MT. MANSFIELD SKIING simply reaches for the phone and orders ". . . so many pages and the deadline is . . ." Like you used to order steak — so thick and forty-something cents a pound. Now the only difference is that the editor gets ham and I don't get the forty cents.

PAUL CHASE AGAIN HEADS PATROL

Yes, Paul is back for another season. There were doubts for a while and it took some cajolery, honeyed words, exhortation and thinly veiled threats to get an affirmative answer. When we threatened to make him chairman and writer of this column he gave in without further adieu. Stout feller, Paul.

LINDY BACK TOO

Erwin Linder, who has been with us for the past two years in charge of the paid patrol, has signed up for another season. Lindy will have two assistants this year, for with the opening of the new alpine lift we will have much more territory to cover. We are very glad to have Lindy in there pitching for us as he is not only reliable and dependable, but smart as a fox. And that's not hyperbole, as he is champion fox trapper of Vermont. Some day we may set him to trapping beavers, just for the hell of it.

NEW EQUIPMENT

This year we are adding four sleeping bags to our transportation equipment. We believe that they will aid greatly in the preservation of body heat and thus lessen the degree of shock to victims who must be transported for long distances under severe weather conditions. They will also keep out snow which will inevitably seep into the best blanket wrappings. These bags are strictly for emergency use and will not be loaned to over-night skiers — so don't ask. We have on order fifteen new army surplus toboggans, which also are for emergency use and not to rest fannies on while bellies are getting a sun tan.

NSPS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The National Ski Patrol System is starting its annual membership drive at an early date this year. We seriously hope that you will give generously to make this campaign for funds a success. And don't forget that 60% of all funds collected remains for use of the local patrol, one very good reason why we should give this worthy cause a helping hand.

1947 COMING UP

The date and the deadline reminds me that the good old give-and-take-what-you-get season will soon be here — and then it will be New Year's. How the years fly by . . . A word of advice: Don't shoot Santa Claus. It might be your Old Man with those new skis you ordered. And don't forget to leave him a drink: Santa Claus has a tough job and he doesn't belong to any union.

That's all there is, except to extend best wishes on behalf of the Mt. Mansfield Ski Patrol for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year — with lots of good skiing.

By Ergo

It is now time for skiers seriously to start their pre-season training. At least two or three days of conditioning absolutely are necessary before one can hope to ride a tow or lift creditably. Even though you may have been sitting down all summer, skiing strains are difficult to anticipate unless the mind as well as the body is on the alert.

I have had my pupils on road work for a week, alternating a short automobile ride every third day with a blackboard session and a twenty-four hour rest period. This is considerably more strenuous a regimen than the average skier will submit to, but the extra effort will pay off when he hits the snow.

Some teachers recommend a special diet, but it is better to wait until you reach the hospital where there are trained personnel to supervise such things. Increase your cigarette consumption and decrease your sleep gradually over a week or so rather than suddenly on your first day in the north country. Wear plenty of warm clothing around the house and go easy on the bathing if you intend to prepare yourself for more than a weekend on location.

With the increased speeds of modern lifts, projecting skiers onto a trail or slope in a continuous stream, a certain nimbleness must be developed to keep you from being cut to pieces during the descent. Since for the average aficionado the object of sliding downhill is to get a ride back up, I recommend riding both ways occasionally in order to augment your score without raising your insurance rate.

WHAT A RAT RACE

(Continued from Page 1)

The high schools of the state, with a few notable exceptions, have failed to allow skiing to become a major recreational and team sport. A majority of the state's local ski clubs, presumably made up of skiers, have put most of their energies into social activities and the remainder into becoming parasites of the commercial developments. They have done little to help or encourage school boys and girls who lack well-to-do parents secure ski equipment and enjoy a made-to-order Vermont sport.

Vermont has neither the terrain nor the weather for the best skiing in the country, but it isn't much behind anything within two thousand miles. You won't find touring or downhill skiing here equal to that in the Cascades, the Tetons or the Rockies, but it can be better than the present tow-hill rat race.

Touring skiing can be fun even below timberline. The Norwegians have done it for years and like it.

(Walter Hard, Jr. is State House reporter at Montpelier for the Burlington Free Press and Rutland Herald. Last winter he wrote a ski column in the Herald. He served with the 87th Mountain Infantry Regiment in the Kiska and Italian campaigns. — ED.)

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

By Huntley Palmer

November 30: There's not much excitement around the mountain right now — just waiting for the Longest and Highest Aerial Chair lift in Southwestern Lamoille County to roll.

The First Snow Report: From the Journal of Samuel de Champlain, July 1609 "Continuing our course in this Lake I saw, as I was observing the country, some very high mountains on the east side with snow on the top of them. I inquired of the savages if these places were inhabited. They told me that they were — by the Iroquois . . ." There you have it — snow on the Teardrop in July, and probably Ergo was there perfecting the Iroquois System.

So the famous "Sycamore" at Shambles is back in the news again. It's a wonder the Forest Service doesn't do something about nomenclature. No doubt you will agree with Hal Burton that Ted Shane would do well to stick with his Cockeyed Crossword puzzles.

Dick Hinman and the dogs will soon be back at Ranch Camp, fat and sassy after a summer of loafing over in Newbury (the dogs, that is.) Next summer Dick can maybe train them to hunt ribes and thus have them in good condition for the holiday traffic up Fette Hill. If you're wondering what is a "ribe", stop in at the Ranch and inquire.

Ski Patrolman Egleston will be heading for Switzerland, no new country to him, in January if travel conditions permit. But perhaps he'll miss those long, exhilarating toboggan runs on the Toll Road.

Sunday, October 27th, was a beautiful day on the mountain and the 35 or 40 who turned out for the Trail Clearing Bee seemed to have a good time in spite of the blisters. Even the group that went up the Merrill Trail with Charles (Slave-driver) Lord had fun. Rogers Adams kept their morale at a high pitch until they staggered into the Toll House at dusk with barely strength left to raise an elbow. That was a good feed, too.

The combination of fox-trapping, sugar-on-snow, duck hunting and you-know-what at the Stone Hut on the night of March 23rd was quite a fitting climax to the 1946 season. At least the Editorial Staff, with Dave Burt and Lindy, thought so. And in the duck blinds people talk about skiing, they say.

This will be the winter of the Big Blue Snow — the one infallible sign points to it. Trappers at Lake Memphremagog report that the Fur Bearing Trout are migrating again after a two-year frolic in Hudson Bay (not Lanou's). So there will be a Merry-Go-Round and there will be a Sugar Slalom and don't say "I told you so" on April 27th. It is expected that the 3rd Annual running of the Whiskey Derby will have to be postponed because of too much snow.



A Very Merry Xmas and A New Year
with Ten Feet of Snow

