



The Official Publication of the Mt. Mansfield Ski Club

Vol. XVI

JULY 4, 1950

No. 4

Chair Lift In Summer - - -

BY CHARLES D. LORD, MANAGER, MT. MANSFIELD LIFT

Our summer customers are basically of a different type than we get in winter. They are *not* skiers back for a summer ride as we get very few skiers. They are a much older group with a considerable number of elderly people (the oldest known passenger was 86). Geographically, they cover a wider area for they come from all over the U. S., but in the winter our patronage is drawn 98% from New England, New York and Pennsylvania. For many it is the first time they have seen or ridden a chair lift in contrast to our winter customers who are repeaters to whom the ride is an old and familiar story.

We run the Lift much slower in summer (60%) which makes for a longer ride duration, smoother and quieter, than in winter. The volume of summer business is never at any time more than 25% of winter with the season average considerably less.

Summer riders are vociferous in their praise of the ride and about 99½% thoroughly enjoy the Lift ride. A great many questions are asked concerning the Lift, the trails and the mountain. Our customers, being mostly round-trippers, require loading and unloading twice. Not being familiar with the ride, plus their being older, means greater care and caution on the part of the personnel than in winter. So, in order to give the best service, almost as many attendants are needed as in winter.

WHAT THEY DO ON TOP

We find that some of a group will ride the Lift while others may drive up the Toll Road and meet at the Octagon. Then perhaps they will swap around with those who drove up. When the weather is favorable a large number walk up to the Summit House and sometimes to the Nose or Chin. Some bring lunch and spend most of the day exploring. Some ride up and hike back down; a few hardier souls hike up and ride down. Occasionally we have riders who are going to stay at the Summit House.

In this case they are met by the Hotel taxi at the top of the Lift. Quite a number of the Summit House guests make the trip in reverse, or some just sit on the Octagon porch and watch the activities.

GETTING READY FOR SUMMER

After the Lift closes for the winter we do considerable maintenance work such as checking rollers, towers, chairs and engine. We believe in keeping the Lift in first-class

operating shape, not only to prevent a shut-down on a busy day, but also to establish a reputation for reliability on which our customers can depend.

THERE'S SILVER IN THEM THAR HILLS

There is no organized searching of the trails after the snow goes for lost articles. However, some local people spend quite some time going over the trails just after the snow has gone and they do find some money and odds and ends of ski equipment. (Charlie: If you find a quarter with teeth marks on it, it's mine.—Ed.)

SUMMER BUSINESS ON THE INCREASE

Our summer business is of course way under that of winter. But each year it is slowly increasing. By more extended publicity and "word of mouth" advertising, it is expected that eventually it will reach a much larger volume. Now that the Toll Road, Summit House and the Lift are all under one management, there are greater promotional possibilities.

End



UP THE TOLL ROAD IN SUMMER

When people think of Stowe they think of snow. But long before the first skier climbed the Toll Road Stowe was well known to a large group of summer visitors as a quiet little village where one could find rest and relaxation among congenial surroundings. With certain changes and modernizing influences, the same conditions prevail today.

Better than fifty years ago a carriage road was cut from the main Smugglers Notch highway up Mt. Mansfield and a small building known as the "Halfway House" was constructed. Parts of the building and foundation are still extant. Later the carriage road was extended to the summit—a point just below the Nose, to be exact—and a hotel, now known as the Summit House, was built. The Summit House, with some reconstruction and modernization but still clinging to the remnants of a Victorian era, operates today. Here, under the general management of Sepp Ruschp, Clem Curtis, winter manager of the T-Bar, sees to it that each guest finds that for which he is looking, be it mountain climbing or just complete rest. Clem, like all of Sepp's managers, is versatile. He plans and helps execute construction work; he can also take time out to help select a book and an easy chair for an elderly guest.

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The Official Publication of the
Mt. Mansfield Ski Club

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Printed by
 The Leahy Press Montpelier, Vermont
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VOL. XVI JULY 4, 1950 No. 4

AROUND THE ROUND HEARTH

On a recent tour around the circuit during which we called on members of our stable of writers, we dropped in at the Round Hearth. The Round Hearth, most of you will recall, is hosted by Charlie and Blanche Blauvelt, Gil and Peg Gilcrist. After the usual "What do you know?" business, the boys got to talking shop, about the Round Hearth, naturally. It seems that by the time you are reading this they will have opened for business (July first). And then we got to talking about food, food as served at the Round Hearth.

This year as in past seasons, they are featuring SALAD PLATES for luncheon and supper selections. At the present writing with a beginning heat wave, it sounds like a swell idea. Hot weather and salad. They go together like ham and eggs. And speaking of ham and eggs, Round Hearth serves a hearty breakfast beginning at eight A. M. The closing hour for dinner, so they told me, is 8 P. M.

And if ever we happen to be in Stowe on a summer Sunday evening, we most certainly shall try the Round Hearth Buffet Supper. From what we have heard about them they are even worth a considerable drive to sit in on. Of course snacks are available on short notice and group luncheon, bridge and supper parties can be arranged by reservation.

All this may sound like an advertisement for the Round Hearth, and we don't care much if it does. For we do like to give a boost to a place where we have been entertained courteously and where we have eaten with enjoyment. We do feel that way about the Round Hearth, the place where you get a square deal and meal.



ABOUT THE FOURTH OF JULY SPECIAL

Last December we said we would give you four issues of *Mt. Mansfield Skiing*. We didn't do it; we couldn't. We too were effected by a very poor season. But now we find it possible to bring to you a small fourth issue dated, appropriately enough, July FOURTH.

We have tried to pack it with enough about skiing to set you thinking about next season. We have also tried to tell you something about Stowe in summer, what a nice place it can be in which to spend a *summer* vacation too.

We think you will like Bill Mason's piece about Ski Sport skis. For a long time we have been after Bill to write something about how skis are made. But he has always evaded us. This time he came through in grand style, not about the actual manufacturing process (we intend to get that later), but to tell us something about the evolution of the Ski Sport model skis. Didn't that prose-poetry touch of the "animated laminated of limber timber" give you the feeling of effortless flight in bottomless powder snow? And now if Bill can invent an "automatic hydramatic of plastic perfection" the days of skiing will have reached heir zenith. —This guy is good. He can sell skis on the Fourth of July!

Our "regulars"—Charlie Lord, Gil Gilcrist and Ab Coleman—came through with their usual sound writing after only the normal use of the rubber hose. Slug McEvers we picked up off the streets. He tells you what he didn't like about SNOW SLIDE. Now everybody will want to read it.

And what did we do about all this? Nothing, of course, except pump the old peppo-zeppo and a touch of whambo into those who do all the work. We don't do a thing, really —except to see that the damn thing gets out.

BOOK REVIEW:

Held out due to lack of space; to be run next issue.
—The Staff



SKI SPORT SKIS—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

By WM. V. MASON, PRESIDENT,
DERBY & BALL, WATERBURY, VT.

By the natural coincidence of the personalities involved, the time table of the development of the manufacture of skis by "Derby and Ball" and the development of the Mt. Mansfield Ski Club are very similar. At one time there was even a Nose Dive ski, so-called after the famous trail. We are sure that all of you would have understood this name but as the skis became distributed more widely throughout the country there were a few who chose to object to the suggestion contained in such a name for a ski.

Perhaps it is another natural coincidence that our accomplished maestro, Sepp Ruschp, features in both developments. Without him, we are sure that we wouldn't have had the courage to make such an animated laminated of limber timber so suited to the modern type of skiing. It seems fitting to us that the ski bears his name.

The long-time well known name SKI SPORT has been associated with our skis for many years. This firm was one of the first to offer expert total service to skiers; its products have been designed and controlled by Olympic and expert skiers since the days that down mountain skiing first came to this country.

There will always be shifts in the popularity of certain characteristics of skis, and while we believe that basically the smooth controllability of the more flexible ski has the most universal appeal to the most people, we are glad to make other models to suit special demands. We now have a model of the firmness popular in Europe and with racers lately.

Plastic bottoms and plastic top edges serve a definite purpose for those who find them attractive, and your favorite ski can be so delivered to you. Ask us some time about the Akumpucky plastic base. Temporit bottoms are also very popular.

In the offing is a plastic enclosed ski. Don't rush us on this. You will see them being proved out before they are sold.

Always remember the ski with the flex appeal.

End

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CHIT CHAT



By G. A. "GIL" GILCRIST

(Round Hearth)

STOWE GOES WET

At the Town Meeting held last March Stowe went wet for the first time in many years. Now the out of town guests and the local residents can order and sip their favorite drinks at several local establishments. Grocers are well supplied with beer, too.

SIDE BET

Henry Simoneau and Neil Robinson, popular Stowites, bet on the outcome of the liquor vote and Henry lost. He had to push Neil in a wheelbarrow from Spruce Peak warming hut to the Toll House—and furnish drinks for the trip. A large crowd gathered to watch the progress of the happy winner and the not so happy loser. Never a dull moment in Stowe, you know.

CHUCK SAVAGE ON ROAD TO RECOVERY

Chuck Savage, genial proprietor of Logwood, last year's race chairman and present Veep Mt. Mansfield Ski Club, is recuperating from a very serious spinal operation in a Boston hospital. This column knows that club members would join in a wish for Chuck's speedy recovery.

TIME

Through the combined efforts of Bill Hazelett of the Tick-Tock Shop in Burlington, Sepp Ruschp and Dick Fearing of Stowe, the Mt. Mansfield Ski Club is now the possessor of three new split-second Longine stop watches for the timing of races. Our thanks to these gentlemen for their generous contributions.

STOWE ADDS GOLF TO EXISTING SUMMER SPORTS

The Stowe-Mansfield area, in a bid to become a summer as well as a winter vacation area, has been successful in the formation of the Stowe Country Club, Inc.

With the purchase of the Wait Farm, directly back of and across the river from Stowe Center, work has gone forward rapidly in the construction of what promises to be one of the sportiest and most picturesque courses in the east. The course, which will be ready for play in July, will be open to the public at a nominal greens fee. Stock in the club (\$25 a share) which entitles the owner to membership and no greens fees for one year, is available through Chuck Savage, Logwood... Incidentally, most ski lodges and inns will be open for guests this summer and fall.

BARBER NEEDED

People are wondering just how Larry Hess is going to cut the grass on the roof of his new showplace, Stowhof, which Roger Adams has just finished sodding in true Alpine fashion.

(Why not wait and burn it off in the fall? —Ed.)

GOING UP

The Chair Lift will operate seven days a week during July and August for the first time.

GOING DOWN

The town of Stowe is building a new bridge over the spectacular flume at Bingham Falls.

SPRUCE PEAK

Work on improving and enlarging the Spruce Peak area is now under way. Full coverage on the work done will be given in our first winter issue. *End*



UP THE TOLL ROAD IN SUMMER

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The Summit House is reached by way of the Toll Road, the original road cut up the mountain, now widened, well gravelled and with grades which the average driver can negotiate with ease. There are "lookoff" points on the way up from which the visitors may gaze at either the White Mountain or Adirondack ranges. And the beauty of the everchanging green of the upland forest remains as a treasured memory. Hundreds of people each year take this drive just for its scenic aspects, especially in the fall when the foliage makes its riotous change.

The Toll House, which started out as just a small building to house the tollkeeper, has been enlarged and completely reconstructed into an ultra-modern lodge. Here Wilfred Vanesse acts as manager and host. The Toll House is centrally located so that tennis, swimming or fishing, or golf, are in easy walking or driving distances. The Toll House management charges its guests for the first thip up the Toll Road but all subsequent trips are free, which seems to be a very gracious gesture.

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Author Lord In Summer Training (Posed?)

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET 'LIFE?'

We mean, of course, an Honorary Life Membership in the Mt. Mansfield Ski Club. How? By designing the most acceptable idea in sketch or written form for a new ski club emblem suitable for use as a badge or pin.

At the last ski club meeting Mr. Frank Springer-Miller brought to the attention of the club members that currently very few members can be identified by a Mt. Mansfield Ski Club badge or pin. It was generally agreed that the creation of a new design would be one means of stimulating renewed interest in club activities. As it was Mr. Springer-

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UP THE TOLL ROAD IN SUMMER

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The Toll House, with its American Plan and reasonable rates, is the ideal spot for the active vacationist who wishes to get the very most for his time and money. Whether one stays at the Summit House, the Toll House, or just takes a trip up the mountain via the Toll Road, there is every facility available for a first-class summer vacation. *End*



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

BY A. W. COLEMAN

Last winter a great deal was made of the fact that during the eastern downhill championship race the Nose Dive record was broken by seven of the runners. It always sounds good, of course, to say a new record has been made, but actually the old mark of 2 min. 17.6 sec. should stand technically in the history book as unbeaten.

The Nose Dive of today is considerably improved over the trail on which Milton Hutchinson made his record run in 1940. Even so, it took nine years before anyone did better. Considering the present opportunities for nearly continuous straight running, and the topflight field of racers on hand last winter, someone was bound to step up the speed.

The record for the new Nose Dive course is 2 min. 3.2 sec. set by George Macomber of the 1949 United States F. I. S. team. Since the trail is virtually completed so far as improvements in line are concerned, we now can watch for a racer to come along and break 2 minutes.

The Nose Dive, by the way, has been the scene of five eastern downhill championships—in 1937, 1939, 1942, 1946 and 1949. The national men's and women's championships were run in 1938. That was the first national women's championship meet ever held, and the combined was won by Marian McKean.

Although the condition of the highway between Waterbury and Stowe was somewhat of a nightmare last winter, you can look forward to a very pleasant surprise when ski-time rolls around again. The new pavement will be completed in August, and also the rough section in Stowe village toward the mountain will have been re-surfaced. The state highway department is spending about \$450,000 on all these improvements.

Although geographically the peak of Mt. Mansfield—The Chin—lies in the town of Cambridge, and much of the western side is in the town of Underhill, the mountain spiritually is in Stowe. Everybody (except residents of

Cambridge and Underhill) think of Stowe when they think of Mt. Mansfield, and vice versa. That's what skiing has done. *End*



HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET "LIFE?"

Continued from page 3

Miller's idea, he was appointed to head a committee to solicit ideas. *Mt. Mansfield Skiing* opened its columns so that all members could have an equal opportunity to submit designs and ideas.

Mr. Springer-Miller thought that a contest would increase interest in this project and he has sent in some suggestions and rules for one which we are glad to print below.

1. Every member of the ski club is solicited to submit ideas, either in sketch form or in writing, for a new badge. No one should be embarrassed if he cannot draw; it is the idea that counts.
2. A new badge should be of striking design and should be different in character from most of the badges now seen. A smaller size (than our present one) is indicated. Ski clothes have become streamlined and stylish. If we want members to wear a badge or pin, it should be a decorative asset even to a glamour girl's one-piecer.
3. A new badge should look well on shoulder, breastpocket, sleeve, and on either parka or sweater; it should be something to be proud of.
4. The design should be adaptable to a pin or button as well as a badge.
5. It may not be necessary to spell out the full name of the club. This might tend to make the design too commercial in appearance. Initials would do, and a really *skiing*, original badge could do the job even without these.
6. Entries will be judged on adaptability of idea, not on art work.
7. Mail all entries to Frank Springer-Miller, Stowe, Vt., not later than August 15, 1950.

Here is a swell chance to get an Honorary Life Membership in the Mt. Mansfield Ski Club for just a few minutes of your time. Think of it! No more dues to pay—if your design is judged the best. And don't worry about the art work as our Staff Artist, Lee Jackson, has volunteered to assist in working any changes necessary to make a good idea adaptable. Better get busy while there is plenty of time.—Ed.



STOWE, VERMONT

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