

As New England swings into another winter, there is noticeable a distinct current of skiing enthusiasm spreading through Vermont. It has been a long time appearing, but it was inevitable. And one of the gratifying things about this movement is that it seems to have come as much from within the state as from without. A sad thing it would have been if Vermonters, with their marvelous skiing terrain, had waited torpidly to be forced by others into one of humanity's supreme experiences.

Members of the Mt. Mansfield Ski Club, whether from this or another state, well may feel that they have done some bit for Vermont skiing. Because of the great interest centering around Mt. Mansfield, it was the first region to be developed for winter recreation by the Vermont Forest Service. Judging from the eagerness with which skiers already have attacked the trails, State Forester Merrill's early faith in our hysterical claims was not misplaced. To have been among the initiators of what has now become a state wide movement should afford a certain amount of personal satisfaction to all of us.

DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

Since last spring a considerable amount of improvement work has been done by the Civilian Conservation Corps on existing runs and trails in the Mt. Mansfield region. This work has consisted principally of brush and stump removal, widening certain of the narrower sections, corduroying wet spots, and cutting short relocations to improve the down run. The Nose-Dive in particular has been thoroughly gone over, with the result that all but the mental hazards of last winter are eliminated. While there are many more necessary improvements to be made on the entire trail system, skiers will find it in better shape than it was previously.

Through private labor supplied by Mr. Burt and Mr. Griffin, several old logging roads have been opened up between Luce Hill and the Toll Road, which add variety to the possible touring loops available in the Ranch Valley. Mr. Iskam of the Lodge has cut several trails between the Toll Road and the Houghton Trail, and in the vicinity of Bingham Falls; besides developing practice slopes adjacent to the highway.

Of interest to cross country skiers will be the new Overland Trail which was built by the Underhill Camp of the Civilian Conservation Corps. This trail leaves the Bruce Run near the old Davis Camp, climbs westward over the main Green Mountain ridge at the Devil's Dishpan, and runs down by easy grades to the Stevensville School near Underhill Center. Indeed, the whole trail system in the Mt. Mansfield region is admirably suited for ski touring because of the fact that excepting the Chin-Clip Run, the Smuggler's Run and the new Sterling Trail there are no dead-ends, and it is possible to choose at least six completely different, circuitous, all-day tours through a variety of trails and scenery.

Probably the most outstanding new development on Mt. Mansfield is the stone ski hut which has just been completed by the Vermont Forest Service at elevation 3550 feet near the junction of the Toll Road and the Bruce and Nose-Dive Runs. This hut is located on the site of last year's temporary wooden structure, and will be appreciated by skiers as a place to rest and get warm preparatory to the down run. Eventually it will contain bunks and a cook stove for those hardy persons who crave over-night accommodations nearer heaven.

This winter the Smuggler's Notch Road (route 108) will be plowed by the Civilian Conservation Corps as far as the Mt. Mansfield State Forest picnic area, which is beyond the foot of the Chin-Clip Run. Moreover, Harlow Hill will be kept well sanded by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

VERMONT WINTER SPORTS FOLDER

With this issue of the bulletin, we are sending a copy of the winter folder recently published by the Vermont Publicity Service. In it you will find a detail map of the Mt. Mansfield region, together with descriptions and maps of other centers in the state. Duplicate

copies may be secured by writing the State House at Montpelier.

RANCH CAMP

George Campbell, the hermit of Ranch Camp, after months of secret experimentation, sends word of certain marvelous refinements in his baked bean formula. Bean addicts who may shudder slightly upon hearing the term refinement applied to their particular solace -- preferring, rather, a definite hint of biliousness in the concoction -- are assured that the refinements were designed to increase one's consumption without destroying in any way the quality.

The 1936 rate schedule, though somewhat involved, nevertheless reflects slightly larger discounts to Club members than formerly. Lodging in the new bunk house is \$1.25, less 20% for members; in the old bunk house, \$1.00 less 25% for members; all bunks being equipped with spring mattresses. Members who bring their own blankets and food will be charged only fifty cents, and George will cook their food. Meals will be \$1.00 a day for everybody, although single meals (except breakfast) are 50¢ for members and 65¢ for non-members. For periods of over three days, a rate of \$2.00 per day is available, less 10% for members. Special rates may be available for groups, and inquiry about them should be made directly with George.

OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS

The total number of persons who can be lodged in the Mt. Mansfield vicinity is about two hundred and sixty. This includes accommodation in The Green Mountain Inn and The Fountain at Stowe, The Waterbury Inn at Waterbury, the Lodge, Barnes' Camp Inn and Ranch Camp at Mount Mansfield, together with tourist homes in the Stowe vicinity. A survey is being prepared for publication in the Bulletin giving rate and accommodation details.

COMPETITIONS

The Club's first informal downhill race of the season was run on December 22nd, over the Toll Road from the ski hut to the foot. The track was hard packed, and fast enough for the winners to average twenty miles per hour down the four mile drop of 2550 feet. Among twenty runners, the first three places went as follows:

1st.	(Charles Smith (Buchanan	12:00	Green Mt. Ski Runners University of Vermont
2nd.	Coomara	12:38	Green Mt. Ski Runners
3rd.	Ricker	12:46	University of Vermont

Other informal competitions will be held on forthcoming weekends. Information concerning them will appear on Thursdays in the Burlington Free Press' winter page, or in the Bulletin.

INSTRUCTION

The foundation upon which rests ski-ing enjoyment is control, and proficiency is governed by the degree of control. Jim Trachler, the Club's popular instructor, is back again this winter to teach members how to obtain the most enjoyment from their ski-ing. The extremely low rate of four dollars for a ten lesson course makes it impossible for anyone to miss the opportunity.

Jim will be available to give lessons not only at Stowe, but in any of the surrounding communities where classes may be formed, and where dates can be fitted into his schedule. Members desiring to form classes are urged to contact him through Frank Griffin, telephone Burlington - 604 or Stowe - 75.

NOTES

On New Year's eve, the Club will hold a Ski Ball in the Community House at Stowe. An eight piece orchestra will play from eight o'clock until closing. Couples \$0.99. Bar and buffet supper, the across the street, at the Green Mountain Inn. Skis not allowed on the dance floor.

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The long threatened annual business meeting and Club dinner definitely will be inaugurated sometime during late February or March. Because of the general summer apathy, together with the rather sudden onset of the ski-ing season this fall, it was deemed advisable to carry on with our present organization until there were less management details in the air for immediate attention. Before the close of the season, however, while ski-ing is still a major issue, a general meeting will be called. Meanwhile, any member who craves a more active part in the Club's affairs will be welcomed with open arms.

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Skiers who damage their equipment or their faces when tripped during the down-run by the thoughtless wallow of some trail pedestrian, may be pardoned for feeling rather resentful toward the cause of their misfortune. There is something about a foot hole that has a peculiar affinity for ski-tips. Although under certain conditions climbing on foot may be easier or quicker than on skis, the greatest care always should be taken when walking to use the extreme edge of a trail.

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Whenever large groups are planning to visit Ranch Camp, word should be sent to George through Mr. Peterson - telephone Stowe 4 ring 4.

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Members who have not done so are requested to send their 1936 dues to Mr. W. V. Mason at Waterbury as soon as convenient.

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Communications which members desire to have printed in the Bulletin should be addressed to A. W. Coleman at Montpelier. Contributions, whether informative or argumentative, will be welcomed.

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Word has just been received that on Sunday, December 29th., the Club will hold an informal downhill race on the Toll Road for high school students. The start will be made at 2:30 o'clock from the ski hut. This race is open to all high school skiers. Entries will be made to the starter.

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