

THE SLALOM GLADE

Under the above heading there appeared in the Dec. 17, 1937 issue of THE SKI BULLETIN an article by Mr. Roland Palmedo which is well worth reading. Your Trails Committee for some time in the past has been toying with ideas along similar lines, these gradually crystallizing into something tangible as a result of numerous excursions in the natural wooded sections on the eastern slope of Mt. Mansfield, especially that area adjacent to the Nose Dive at the bottom of the corkscrew (the first seven successive turns below the Toll Road) near where the Hazeltine foot trail crosses the run. Here the forest stand consists of mature hard and soft woods, the latter predominating. When the snow is deep in mid-winter, the undergrowth throughout this area is completely covered and the spacing of the bigger trees provides in a natural state a fair example of what Mr. Palmedo has in mind. With a small amount of work this area can be converted into a beautiful slalom glade or forest slalom, and it is the hope of the Trails Committee that this development can be made next year.

During the preliminary stages of laying out the new Merrill Run, it was planned to cut the usual type of trail--that is, to clear-cut everything within the limits of the trail proper. Further reconnaissance, however, showed that inasmuch as the trail would run through a mature forest stand, here was an opportunity to apply the basic principal involved in a slalom glade or forest slalom to an entire trail, and with this in mind it was so constructed. Due to favorable topography it was possible in general to locate the trail over a series of steps with intervening flats. Thus all the steeper places generally have a check section just above and below so that the speed of a descending skier will be retarded naturally, and this, coupled with the fact that the whole trail is designed along the lines of a glade slalom, provides that the necessary control during descent will be forced upon the runner by these features inherent in the design.

While the Merrill Run is essentially in an experimental stage, it is hoped that this winter's use will prove that fundamentally this type of trail is advantageous to the average skier in developing control, besides making for a truly enjoyable form of trail running. Furthermore, it is believed that such a trail will demonstrate the following ideas set forth in Mr. Palmedo's article,-- less initial construction expense, decreased maintenance costs, elimination of serious erosion, greater protection for the snow from sun and wind action, less danger of collision with climbing or stationary skiers, and lastly, less howls from nature lovers who constantly are bemoaning the fact that ski trails scar the mountainsides--a claim, incidentally, to which even the most rabid skier will admit an element of truth.

And so to all intermediate skiers or better we ask that you try this trail with the above thoughts in mind, and after due consideration please let the Trails Committee know your criticisms, constructive or otherwise. In this way we will secure a practical check upon the design and be in a position to intelligently correct any deficiencies.

C. D. Lord  
Chairman, Trails Committee.

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MEMBERSHIP

The payment of annual dues is lagging. According to our By-Laws, members in arrears on January 15th will be dropped automatically. If you have not done so, please send your remittance to the membership secretary (Miss Margaret L. Woods, Waterbury, Vt.) at once.

If anyone has not received his card, or does not get the Bulletin regularly, or is not correctly recorded on our mailing list, write to the membership secretary so that the error can be adjusted.

## RANCH CAMP

The Ranch Camp has been open for the past two weeks, most of the time entertaining the workmen who have been cutting the winter supply of wood. George, who has made so many skiers welcome at camp during the past four years, expects to spend this winter--what we may call his sabbatical year--in the South. While we will miss George, you may be sure that Ranch Camp's tradition of hospitality and good fellowship so ably inaugurated by him will continue.

The inside of the old barn has been taken out and a new roof installed to support the only chimney at camp. The barn is now named The Telemark, and is intended to be a recreation room and to serve as a utility bunk house for overflow groups. Just above the Tempo bunk house there is a new building that has running water and showers--modest in number and construction, but showers nevertheless. The years of wear from lumbermen's heel irons and skiers' boots at last proved too much for the cook house floor, and a new one has been laid. The old round stove that has been there since the camp was built, and was second-hand then, was patched so much that there was no foundation for further patching so it has been replaced. Two bunks have been taken from the cook house bunkroom, making room enough so that everyone bunking there can turn around at the same time instead of by lot as formerly.

Because of higher costs, it has been necessary to raise camp rates to \$3.00 per day or \$15.00 per week, with a discount of twenty-five cents a day for Club members of at least two weeks' standing. There also will be some reduction in rates for those who bring sleeping-bags or blankets. Single dinners at Ranch Camp are fifty cents.

Craig O. Burt.

## THE LODGE SKI SCHOOL

The Lodge Ski School opened Saturday, Dec. 18th, for the second year in charge of Jacques Charmoz who has just returned from South America where he is official ski instructor of the Chilean Army Andes Corps.

While M. Charmoz is at The Lodge primarily for the benefit of house guests, his services are available daily to anyone wishing to join his classes. On week days classes are held from 10 A.M. until noon and from 4:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. The charge for these two hour classes is \$1.50, or six lesson tickets may be purchased for \$7.50. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, classes will be one hour in order to take care of the larger number of pupils, and the charge will be \$1.00

M. Charmoz was a member of the 1935-36 French Olympic Team, three years a member of the French All Universities Team, three times champion of the Ski Club Alpine Perisien, is official instructor of the Chilean Army Andes Corps, trainer of the all Chilean Ski Team, and is licensed as a ski instructor by the French government.

R. C. Isham.

## MT. MANSFIELD SKI SCHOOL

Sepp Ruschp, Austrian state qualified ski instructor and Schneider graduate, will commence his duties as director of the Mt. Mansfield Ski School, with headquarters at the Toll House, on the day after Christmas. Rates for instruction will be five dollars for a course of ten lessons in classes of ten or more, while lessons for smaller groups, or for individuals, will be a dollar a person per lesson. Phone or write Sepp at the Toll House, Stowe, for further information or reservations.

Eddi Euler, who also is an Austrian state qualified ski instructor, will be Sepp's assistant in charge of the Underhill branch of the school. As a part of his duties Euler will direct recreational skiing at the University of Vermont.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL

The Club's annual New Year's Eve Ski Ball will be held in the Stowe Auditorium, with dancing from 9 to 1 o'clock. The music will be furnished by Jack Intham and His Orchestra. One dollar per person.

Help the social committee make this the best dance yet by rallying around, either in ski or dress clothes.