

Because it is an important factor in determining human comfort, the weather is one of man's most infallible topics of conversation. But to the New England skier it is doubly important, for besides controlling to a large extent his physical well-being, the vagaries of the weather can dominate completely his spiritual outlook. Many a soul was so shattered by the appalling conditions last winter that even the superb spring skiing failed to restore its equilibrium. And this year the apparent reluctance of snow to materialize in any quantity again threatens even the most optimistic among us.

Despite the agreement of scientific opinion that our climate has remained pretty much the same for a good while, this fact is small consolation when we find ourselves in the midst of an adverse fluctuation. Even the assurance that these abnormal seasons will smooth themselves out in the general average does little to assuage the sense of frustration in us who have waited nearly ten months for the only thing that makes life worthwhile. The weather, however, is something that we cannot control, and while its manifestations often may be a severe trial, the philosophical serenity which we gain from even minor excursions over the snow should stand as a barricade between us and a complete breakdown.

We have had some good skiing at Mt. Mansfield this winter. Indeed, the eastern side of the mountain seems to be one of the few favored spots in New England during these troubled times. This is our good fortune, and of course when we complain it does not mean that we are ungrateful. But, after all, rain in Vermont in the middle of February is just grounds for some sort of a demonstration. Perhaps it is a warning to change our political affiliations. Vermont winters are a tradition which must be preserved whatever the cost. For the true enjoyment of skiing demands a harmonious combination of the physical and the aesthetic. But, if the scientists are correct, the average will be maintained, so we may look forward to the certainty of deep snows to come.

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NATIONAL RACES

As everyone knows, the National Downhill and Slalom Championships will be run on this year the Nose Dive under the sponsorship of our Club. The men's races are scheduled for March 4 - 5, and the ladies' on April 9 - 10.

Naturally these two meets will mean a great deal to the Club, to Vermont, and to Eastern skiing generally. Since the responsibility for financing such important competitions devolves upon us, and despite the fact that assistance has been offered from many sources, it was decided to handle the whole thing locally without taking advantage of the kindness of our friends or depending upon commercial advertising.

In order, therefore, to defray expenses, we have had designed a very attractive pin which will be given to those making a donation of \$1.25 to the National Races Fund.

You are urged to secure one of these pins by sending your donation to the chairman of the National Races Committee:

Franklin E. Griffin  
c/o B. Turk & Bro., Inc.  
Burlington, Vt.

It is hoped that all members will support this Club undertaking, which, as has been said, is a rather important one.

EXCURSIONS

Poor snow conditions throughout most of the countryside has interfered somewhat with the program of Club excursions which we will inaugurate this winter. These are not to be strenuous mountain climbing trips, but moderate tours around sections of the foothills which though traversed by ski trails are little visited. The object is to bring together congenial groups who enjoy cross country skiing, and introduce them to the really excellent terrain in the vicinity of Mt. Mansfield.

Each excursion will be conducted by someone who knows the country and the trails, and complete details will be given in advance. It is hoped that enough interest will be shown to make the excursions successful.

Excursion to Wade Pasture.

Date: Sunday, February 27th

Meeting Place: The Den, on the Smugglers Notch road about 1/8 mile above The Lodge at the entrance to the Bingham Falls trail.

Time: Start will be made at 10:00 A.M. sharp.

Leaders: C. D. Lord and A. W. Coleman.

(If adverse weather demands the cancellation of this excursion, word will be left at the Toll House).

Wade pasture is a large open area dotted with thick clumps of spruce, located on the Sterling ridge to the east of Mt. Mansfield. The round trip is six or seven miles providing all types of skiing, but involves no great amount of climbing. The pasture itself allows about a mile run through the spruces. Wonderful views of the mountains are present on all sides.

This excursion is suitable for skiers above novice classification who feel capable of a seven mile tour. Lunches should be carried.

SAFETY LAST

There are two kinds of persons who are a pain in the bottom on any ski trail. Though both are firm believers in individual rights, each manifests this belief in a different way.

The first is the self sufficient guy whose credo is that whatever kind of a mess he gets himself into is nobody's business. He feels perfectly capable of taking care of himself, and accepts without reservation the entire responsibility for his own actions. This attitude, he feels, gives him the right to do any fool thing that enters his head. Usually he is unconscious when the boys bring him down on the toboggan, so he can't assert his independence by getting off and crawling.

The other fellow is the militant individualist who intends to have his rights and a bit more. He is the noisy one who always can be heard complaining about something. He is the bird who walks up the middle of a trail, argues with patrolmen, and generally gives a fine demonstration of ill-breeding. He is the bird who should be shot and brought down on a rail, or left tied around a tree as a horrible example.

NOTES

Mrs. Gale Shaw, chairman of our social committee, reports that the Club was able to donate twenty-two dollars to the Infantile Paralysis Fund as a result of our benefit card party in Stowe.

An informal Club ski dance is announced for the evening of February 19th, to be held in the Memorial Building at Stowe.

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The Vermont State downhill championship race was held under rather poor conditions on the Nose Dive February 13th. The leaders were:

- |                   |          |         |
|-------------------|----------|---------|
| 1. W. W. Hinton   | Harvard  | 3: 03.4 |
| 2. A. Little, Jr. | Doc      | 3: 38.4 |
| 3. M. Brown       | Williams | 3: 40.2 |

Sepp Ruschp, director of the Mt. Mansfield Ski School, ran hours concurs in 2:55.4.

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