

MT. MANSFIELD SKI CLUB BULLETIN

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For some weeks now I have been making a point of asking all my friends and acquaintances what kind of a winter they think we are going to have. At first I did this merely to allay somewhat the excitement that always begins to grow as the skiing, season approaches. But so earnestly has everyone been about answering my queries, and so sure have they seemed as to the authenticity of their forecasts, that I have ended by taking the whole matter pretty seriously.

While the results of my poll are not complete, I think there is sufficient data to provide some rather confusing statistics. It is unbelievable, once one gets into such a study, how many factors there are governing the nature of our seasons. Not only do the actions of the befurred and befeathered woods creatures have a distinct bearing on the case, but such portants to mankind as aching limbs and buzzing sounds in the head also enter the picture in a no uncertain manner. Then, too, before Vermont's most recent Republican landslide it was noised about that if the Democrats ever should get a foothold in the green mountains we would be in for a tough Christmas. And so, all things considered, it is not surprising, that when I classify my notes I find the answer more or less evenly divided between a long, cold winter on one hand and a noticeable continuation of warm rains and no snow on the other.

If these findings mean no more to you than they do to me, we can pass along to certain less controversial material before that ringing in my ears starts again.

Ed.

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RANCH CAMP

The Ranch Camp is open and ready to entertain Club members and other guests. This year the host and hostess are Mr. and Mrs. Tremaine Conkling (Trim and Bert), both of whom are experienced campers and enthusiastic skiers. They have been in the Ranch for over a month now, getting acquainted with the camp and surrounding trails, and making ready for the rest of you.

Bert, who has a degree in domestic science from the University of Vermont, is taking a post-graduate course in camp methods. The cooking must be savory, because a good-sized black bear scratched his back on the Bruce Trail sign not long ago. Trim is recently from a city insurance office, but is showing increasing proficiency in the use of an axe, and will have firewood and hospitality for all comers. Both Trim and Bert have completed the advanced course in first aid, so will be ready for every emergency.

Ranch Camp is intended to be your home while you are there. The three well heated bunk houses provide comfortable lodgings for both men and women, and hot showers are available in the new wash house built last year. Heavy work will be handled as in the past by men and boys experienced in lumber-camp ways. Trim and Bert promise good cheer and camp life with just enough comfort.

Craig O. Burt

COMPETITIONS

The list of competitions which were sanctioned at the annual meeting of the U.S. Eastern Amateur Ski Association for the eastern side of Mt. Mansfield are as follows:

Edson Memorial Race (Slalom Championship of the Eastern Division) and the USEASA Downhill Championships are to be run on Feb. 4 and 5.

Vermont Downhill Championship are to be run on Feb. 19.

It may be an interesting piece of news to members that the Italian Ski Team will be in this country for part of the skiing season, and Mr. Will Brown of Dartmouth has arranged with me to have them present for at least the Edson and USEASA races.

F. E. Griffin. Chairman
Senior Competitions Committee

SKI PATROL

The Ski Patrol Committee this year has prescribed as the minimum requirement for new patrolmen that they must pass the standard first aid course of the American Red Cross. Present patrolmen who have not taken this training will be encouraged to do so at their earliest opportunity, with the idea that by another season the entire personnel will be qualified in first aid.

At the present time a standard twenty-hour course is being conducted in Montpelier by patrol director Luther Booth and Ralph Kelly his assistant in charge of first aid. Out of the class of a dozen, at least eight are either patrolmen or prospective candidates. It is hoped that other Club members who recently received instructor's certificates from the Red Cross may be able to conduct courses this winter.

Patrolmen are advised that all communications and instructions regarding the patrol will be sent them directly from the committee.

REVIEW

American Ski Annual 1938 (Stephen Days Press \$1.00) Official yearbook of the National Ski Association, edited by Nathaniel L. Goodrich

An after-note by the publishers, making a plea for more material for next year's issue, concludes with the statement that a ski annual can be only as good as articulate skiers make it. From the tone of this note, and the contents of the Annual, I get a distinct impression that the editor was up against something. Although excellently produced, the general standard of the articles is not as interesting as the sport or the Annual deserves.

At least half of the book is devoted in one way or another to competitions, which is a subject requiring a gift such as Arnold Lunn's to be at all readable in large doses. Descriptions of tours or regions likewise need a more lively imagination than the average if they are to exert any appeal, although the fine photographs minimize this deficiency. Among the pieces which I can recommend are "California Pioneers on Skis" by David C. Mills and Ted Coomara's "East and West". But where, may I ask, are such names as David Bradley, James Laughlin IV, H.B. Burton, Tyler Micoleau, Charles Proctor, Alex Bright, and others who have distinguished previous annuals? Where is C.G. Suits whose experiments with equipment appeared in 1934 then no more? And, finally, why is Mr. Goodrich cutting down on his editorial comments which have such an engaging slant on things?

Even a very casual association with skiers would not lead one to characterize them as exactly inarticulate. Yet for all the stuff being printed in this country about skiing, the greater portion is pretty dull. The American Ski Annual, however, should not be dull. It is fortunate in its editor and publisher, so let us hope that they get a break next year from their contributors.

A. W. C.

SKI TEAM

At the present writing quite a number of replies have been received to my notice in the last Bulletin concerning the formation, of a Club ski team. However, I occasionally hear mention made of other skiers who are going to join the squad, yet no word comes personally from them. It will be appreciated tremendously if prospective racers take the trouble to drop me a line so that I can get some idea of the probable turn-out.

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GIFT MEMBERSHIP

If you have a friend who is not a Club member, but who skis on the eastern side of Mt. Mansfield, why not give him a gift membership for Christmas. Simply send his name and address with the dues to Miss Margaret Woods, Waterbury, Vt. and the card will be returned directly to you. After Christmas of course his name will be placed on our regular mailing list. However, don't forget to mention that a gift membership is desired, or the card will not be sent to you.