

conscious insists upon a right turn. With a little persuasion now you can talk yourself into really wanting a right turn, and before you know it you will turn left. The important thing is to have at least a vague idea of what you do not want to do, before you do it. The edging of the skis, which is stressed by other schools, is relatively unimportant, since the skis have the edge on you every time.—Anonymous.

(The author of A Practical Technique remains adamant in refusing to divulge his identity. Perhaps it is just as well. He promises next to tell you how to become a Ski Patrolman. Ed.)

RECORDS OF THE CLUB

The Toll House will be the Club's headquarters at Mt. Mansfield. All notices about races, excursions and other activities will be posted in the warming room. Information always can be secured from Sepp Rusehp.

Competitions

Some confusion exists with regard to our entry restrictions in the several Closed competitions scheduled for this winter. The following will be eligible to enter:

(1) Adults who vote in Vermont, (2) Minors whose parents vote in Vermont, and (3) Students at Vermont universities, colleges and schools.

These competitions are being held in response to the many requests made last year. The interest shown in the four events during the season will determine whether or not such competitions are popular enough to be continued.

NOTES and COMMENTS

Several prominent Club members are raising a fund with which to send Harry Simoncau, The Stowe Cannonball, to Sun Valley to train for the U. S. Ski Team. Other members who wish to contribute should send their donations to D. F. Ryder at Waterbury, Vermont.

A ski paper recently carried the following item, with reference to early skiing at Mt. Mansfield:

"A number of National Ski Patrolmen were seen, but none had much to worry about for the crowd was a well-behaved and a friendly one."

I hope the daring patrolmen don't become over confident. Even friendly natives are dangerous until thoroughly cowed by the white man's bang-bangs.

The other day Charlie Lord and Warren Warner, who are supervising CCC ski trail construction on the mountain, skied down in full winter kit at the end of the day's work. Petrified city dwellers at play on the slope thought that a detachment of Russians was escaping from the Finns.

MT. MANSFIELD SKIING

PERIODICAL BULLETIN OF THE

MT. MANSFIELD SKI CLUB



Edited by A. W. Coleman

Vol. VI

Stowe, Vt., Jan. 1, 1940

No. 2

SAME MAN—DIFFERENT COSTUME

A dozen or more years ago it was the habit among the few serious skiers in these parts to utilize odds and ends of old clothing for winter sports apparel. The fellow who first put zippers on the pockets of his form fitting tuxedo trousers was a sissy. Later, for a few seasons, the grab-bag costume was the badge of the Old Timer, whose appearance was overlooked because he could talk louder and faster than the more self conscious neophytes. But now that skiing has arrived, it definitely is infra dig. for anyone to appear on the snow unless his tailor has given him a thorough going-over.

And so with this Bulletin. We feel that the prestige of our Club demands something a bit less haphazard in the way of a publication. Perhaps now some of you even may send us contributions, if you know that your pearls will be displayed in a more appropriate setting.

THROWING STONES

A tendency has been observed of late among skiers to criticize unduly their fellows. Let one come a cropper, and remarks are heard to the effect that that bird should be kicked off the trail. Let some unfortunate break a leg, and immediately we are told that he had no business skiing at all. Terms such as schuss-boomer, sitzmark-artist, and the like are used not in fun but to register extreme disapproval of others who are having a good time. "Don'ts" for skiers are more in evidence than "Do's". We are becoming too damn self righteous for our own good.

Naturally when many people ski on one trail or slope, certain practices must be observed which would not otherwise be so necessary. We must think of others as well as of ourselves. But there is no excuse for a holier-than-thou attitude in skiing. Rather let each of us strive to attain perfection before assuming the mantle of divine judgment. A. W. C.

SEPP RUSCHP SKI SCHOOL

It is great news to Sepp's many friends to know that he will be permanently at Mt. Mansfield. The Club is honored to sponsor his ski school, and we urge you to take advantage of the opportunity of obtaining the very best instruction you can get anywhere.

This winter Sepp will be assisted by two fine ski teachers, Otto Hollaus, an Austrian State Qualified Instructor, and Kerr Sparks who is certified by the USEASA. The school program provides for a two hour lesson period every morning commencing at ten o'clock, and a two hour period every afternoon at two o'clock. The rates are \$1.50 for a half day, \$2.00 for a whole day. Groups will be divided into beginners, intermediate and advanced pupils, with instruction given both on the practice slopes and the trails.

Competent instruction is the key to your skiing enjoyment. You will find that a course taken with Sepp and his assistants not only will open up new and unexpected interests in the sport, but also will give you the pleasure of very inspiring friendships.

RANCH CAMP

Ranch Camp is intimately associated with the Club. It was started as a ski camp the first winter that the Club was organized, with the one and only George Campbell presiding over the bean pot. This season, as it was last, the Ranch is being managed by the popular Mr. and Mrs. Tremaine Conkling, who are carrying on the tradition of hospitality, good food, and comfort. The rates vary from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per day, with a ten percent discount from the daily rate to Club members.

The ski trails in the Ranch Valley are unbeaten by the horde. There you may tour through a peaceful region unspoiled by extroverts and orange peel. Or you can run the Steeple and the Bruce in genuine powder snow. Ranch Camp has become the meeting place for many skiers who are rediscovering the real delights of skiing.

REVIEW

In a recent issue of SKI NEWS, Hal Burton the well known skier, and a frequent visitor at Mt. Mansfield, urges a more informal attitude toward skiing. He maintains that by their grim absorption with hardpacked downhill trails, skiers are missing a lot of enjoyment. "We should do something about touring," writes Burton. "It is unfashionable now—yet it offers joys above and beyond those of a perfect run on the best of our downhill trails."

I cannot but feel that the proponents of cross country skiing are wasting their time trying to popularize it. Some things just have not got what it takes to be universally popular, and touring is one of them. Touring, besides its appeal to the true skier, requires imagination and a certain appreciation of solitude, which the majority of people do not have and do not want. It is a phase of skiing to be enjoyed by the few, and they should be glad of this.—L. K.

A PRACTICAL TECHNIQUE

In our previous discussions of technique we were concerned principally with methods of stopping or controlling motion without too much injury to the skier. Let us now consider the more advanced skiing turns as used either for the purpose of changing direction or for just the hell of it.

Classification of Turns

Turns of this nature may be classified simply by whether they are carried out in the vertical plane or in the horizontal plane. The former, which include head-springs, cartwheels and somersaults, will be dismissed briefly, since they serve no particularly useful purpose other than to impress that blonde over there in the red parka. They are ridiculously easy to master and can be added later to the skier's bag of tricks, although we do not guarantee that they always will have the desired effect on the blonde. Horizontal turns, on the other hand, require practice but are very necessary unless you are content to remain a stop-and-go skier all your life.

Turning on the Trail

If you are whisking down a trail and have no urge to continue on a toboggan, it is essential that you turn precisely when the trail does rather than before or after. Even if you are a rugged individualist, you should not be too stubborn about this. There you are, going like anything, with the bend in front of you. Direct your course toward the inside of the trail, and when about fifteen feet from the corner (a friend can pace this off for you) throw your weight resolutely on the intended inner shoulder. Your skis then will swing around unweighed, and can be resumed when they point in the desired new direction. At first you will have some trouble shifting your weight back from shoulder to skis, and in practice this can be overcome by utilizing some convenient tree as a pivot. Use such an aid sparingly, however, because many skiers find it impossible to break the habit once acquired.

Turning in the Open

Let us suppose you are running from left to right across an open slope, and wish you were going from right to left. Your mind is all set for a snappy left turn just like a picture of Durrance you saw the other day, but invariably your sub-