

cept entries from skiers who do not have an Association card. Secure your USEASA membership by sending \$1.50 to Margaret Woods, Waterbury, Vermont.

#### Excursions

We are continuing our policy of sponsoring conducted Sunday tours to different areas in the Mt. Mansfield region. Notices of these will be posted at the Toll House.

#### NOTES AND COMMENTS

Henry Simoneau won the first race of the season at Sun Valley this month. The Sun Valley Ski Club sponsors a series of silver ski races during the winter, and by winning the first one Henry already is the proud possessor of a trophy.

Recent news from Henry says that he has never been so tired and has never had such work-outs as he is getting each day in his training course.

There is absolutely no snow at all in Sun Valley proper. All of the skiing so far has been done on the upper half of the Baldy Mountain race trail designed by Durrance. If it weren't for the new chair lift built on that mountain this past summer, it would just be too bad for the skiers.

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J. N. Cooke, who initiated the movement to send Henry Simoneau to Sun Valley, has been able to have Norman Richardson of Newport accepted for the training course. Norman, who is a member of this Club, will be remembered as star of past interscholastic races on Mt. Mansfield.

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Three other Club members, Marilyn and Barbara Shaw, and Mrs. J. N. Cooke recently distinguished themselves in the international giant slalom at Mt. Tremblant. Marilyn won, Mrs. Cooke was third, while Barbara (who is 13) came in twelfth. These girls are all trained by Sepp Ruschp.

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Sepp Ruschp now has a complete staff of USEASA certified instructors assisting him in his ski school. These men are Otto Hollarus, Kerr Sparks and Lionel Hayes.

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Send your Finnish Fund Contributions to the Club Treasurer, D. F. Ryder, Waterbury, Vt.

# MT. MANSFIELD SKIING

PERIODICAL BULLETIN OF THE  
MT. MANSFIELD SKI CLUB

Edited by A. W. Coleman

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## POWDER IS PERFECTION

The writer has just returned from an afternoon's skiing—a wonderful three hours of pioneering in powder, during which time no tracks were followed but many were made. And he is so thoroughly imbued with spirit and sheer joy of blazing his own route down the side of an undeveloped mountain that he finds it impossible to refrain from bursting forth with something like this: "You may have your packed trails and your table-smooth, tow-serviced slopes if you'll leave me on top of almost any mountain, and allow me to scroll my definition of the intimate in skiing on the powdered avenues leading to the bottom."

### A Challenge

Now don't misunderstand me. I have no quarrel with the packed trail and the tow slope. That type of running has a place in any ski development, and just as surely it always will have its following. But here's a challenge. Climb one of the less frequently used trails such as the Bruce, Steeple or the Merrill any time when there is a generous surface of untracked powder. After a rest push off and make a no-fall (or nearly so) descent. Then tell me that it was anything less than "simply marvelous."

Right here you may remark, "But I can't turn in deep powder snow." Well, hellsbells, you probably couldn't turn even on that perfectly conditioned slope until you'd spent hours of practice—and the same goes for deep snow skiing. I wouldn't for worlds attempt to outline a technique for this type of running, because beyond the fact that I personally get more thrills and less spills from deep powder, I probably don't know any more about it than Balam's jackass. However, a few observations have led me to believe that among other things one shouldn't try to look particularly pretty. In other words, it shouldn't be considered a cardinal sin if a trace of light shows between your feet, or if you find the going a bit easier by putting ever so slight weight on your heels.

### The Final Achievement

You may well ask if this misinformed bloke considers a run on the Steeple as being cross country. The answer is

"No!" To me cross country skiing is the final achievement in the sport. The other phases—jumping, downhill and slalom—while definitely important and to some extent possibly self sufficient, nevertheless combine to equip your complete skier with the ability to start from a given point and follow a compass course to a distant point, taking all obstacles in stride. My point is this: learn to run moderately fast on a narrow and interesting trail like the Bruce in deep powder, and you've gone a long way toward making yourself fit for the delightful and ever-changing hazards that, thank goodness, you may depend will crop up both suddenly and frequently during a day's tour of a new slice of cross country.

And so, fellow skiers, if you've been in the habit of running the same slope or the same trail day after day, and the routine begins to pall—take a fling at cross country. And unless I'm the number one wrong guesser, you'll not only find your interest in the sport rejuvenated but increased beyond your fondest expectations. I promise you—powder is perfection. —Arthur Goodrich

(Art Goodrich of Northfield, Vt., is no mere theorist. Although possessing a Class A downhill racing classification, he has renounced active competition to pursue his own personal ideal of the ultimate in skiing.—Ed.)

#### NEW DEVELOPMENTS

A new intermediate class trail was opened earlier this month on the eastern side of Mt. Mansfield and has been named in honor of Charles D. Lord, President of the Club. It is located between the Toll Road and the Nose Dive, starting at the stone hut and finishing in the open slope at the Forest Service parking area, with a descent of slightly over 2000 feet in about two miles. This trail was designed for recreational downhill skiing, and is one of the several runs that will be served by the chair lift to be built next summer.

A novice class trail now is under construction by the C. C. between the Charley Lord Trail and the Nose Dive. This will commence at the half-way station of the chair lift, and end at the Forest Service parking area. It is expected that this trail will be open within a few weeks.

Another new trail completed last fall deserves particular mention. It forms a connection between the foot of the Corkscrew on the Nose Dive and the upper Perry Merrill Trail, thus providing an interesting high level touring route across the eastern face of the mountain.

#### TAKE IT SLOW AND EASY

Many people become discouraged with real skiing because they find climbing difficult. The tow slopes are overrun with

skiers whose genuine feeling for the sport has been nipped by the unfortunate experience of trying to thrash their way uphill. Now climbing can be an exhausting nightmare, but also it can be an extremely pleasant part of the day's outing.

Like everything else, climbing on skis takes a little learning. It is not just a matter of brute force and ignorance. If you have a long climb ahead it will pay to use skins, but even with skins you cannot walk on the ceiling. If touring use wax, but take time to find an application that will work and you will save yourself a lot of grief. And do not forget that your poles have a function other than to make little round holes in the snow.

On an open slope one can traverse back and forth at the easiest climbing angle. Even on a trail this often is possible by going out into the woods on either side. But if traversing is not feasible, it will be less tiring to side-step up a steep bit than to herringbone. The main thing is not to fight. Do not fight improper wax or steep slopes or deep snow. And above all, do not fight to keep up with someone who can climb faster than you.

Next time you start a climb remember two things: if you go just fast enough so that you do not perspire, you will not get cold; and if you go fast enough so that you can breathe normally and your heart beats normally, you will not get tired. Set your own pace—and take it slow and easy.

#### RECORDS OF THE CLUB

An extremely successful New Years dance was held by the Club in Stowe, under the direction of Mrs. Healy Bashaw. The committee assisting Mrs. Bashaw was Dorothy Warner, Alice Hayden, Fred Pike, Dick Fenton, Phil Kaiser, Warren Warner, Earl Grue and Clyde Chase.

#### Memberships

If you have not yet paid your dues for 1939-40, will you please do so at once. Members in arrears after this Bulletin is sent out will be removed from the mailing list.

#### Competitions

Our first races this winter are the Vermont State Downhill and Slalom Championships scheduled for February 16 and 17. Because these dates conflict with a meet to be held by Middlebury College, we intend to request the USEASA for a postponement of our sanction. Definite news about this is not yet available but will appear in THE SKI BULLETIN.

Those of you planning to enter races or time-trials sponsored by the Club should realize that you also must belong to the U. S. Eastern Amateur Ski Association. We will not ac-