

Henry Simoncau to the race training course at Sun Valley, this member also would give \$75. Special rates were being offered by Sun Valley to promising young racers who were unable to afford such advantages. The proposition to me was made because it was felt that the Club might be interested in having a Stowe boy represented in the course.

As the time in which to make a decision was short, the matter was discussed with those few directors who could be reached quickly. It then was decided to contribute \$75 from the Club treasury, with the understanding among us that if the members as a whole did not approve this action, we who were directly involved would pay back the money appropriated.

If the details of this matter have not been clear to you, it is because I failed to make a proper statement in the beginning. Besides the \$150 obtained as mentioned above, we were able to secure an additional \$75 by popular subscription. As has been stated, however, the Club treasury will be reimbursed if this action does not receive your approval.

Charles D. Lord

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Mt. Mansfield skiers will find it very worthwhile to visit Pico Peak at Rutland before the winter is over. Sunset Schuss is to my mind a perfect all-purpose ski trail. The lower two-thirds can be enjoyed by novices who have mastered the stem turn, and at the same time is interesting for average skiers, while the steep, sweeping curves on the cone of Pico are demanding enough for the more proficient. The name is an inspiration, and the view from the top is as magnificent as from any ski mountain in New England. And, incidentally, if you are a cameraddict, don't look at the superb photographs in the ski hut unless you are prepared to throw your camera away.

Norman Richardson had the misfortune recently to break his leg in a practice run at Sun Valley. Apparently snow conditions have been poor this year, and he was thrown on a badly rutted trail. It is tough luck that he cannot finish the training course, but Norman is not exactly an old man, and there will be other winters ahead with plenty of races for him to win. And you may be sure that he will win some.

Henry Simoncau is doing all right for himself in the West. He has just won the Sun Valley S. C. downhill race, and missed winning the combined by a fifth of a point. Henry writes that the training course is a hard grind, and that the boys are so tired by six o'clock that they hardly can eat any dinner.

MT. MANSFIELD SKIING

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AS WE LOOK AT IT

Not a little apprehension has been expressed by some skiers over just what the proposed chair lift will do to Mt. Mansfield. It is feared that possibly the hitherto unspoiled atmosphere of the region may become tainted with the kind of high pressure commercialism so much in evidence at certain other winter sports centers.

During the past ten years the eastern side of Mt. Mansfield has developed slowly and normally. Today it is an example of what can be achieved by harmonious and intelligent cooperation between enthusiastic skiers and community and State interests. By maintaining a strictly non-promotional policy our Club has been able to concentrate on the actual development of skiing facilities from the skier's point of view, leaving the promotional phases of the problem to those whose business it properly is. This purely sporting policy on our part, together with the restraint maintained by the various commercial enterprises, have combined to produce an extremely pleasant atmosphere that has gone further toward attracting genuinely interested people to the region than any amount of tub-thumping would have done.

So far as the proposed chair lift is concerned, the Club welcomes it as the culmination of our dreams for a completely realized skiing area. We do not feel that a lift will spoil Mt. Mansfield for the skiers who may not care to use it. Undoubtedly skiing conditions on those trails serving the lift will be changed, though not necessarily for the worse; but there are many other excellent trails which will remain unaffected. As skiers we believe that a lift will add immeasurably to the versatility of the region's skiing facilities, and also that the Town of Stowe and the State of Vermont will benefit each in its own way from the presence of a lift.

It should be understood, however, that this attitude on our part toward the proposed lift is based solely upon the physical aspects of the project. The Club is not disposed to support any threat to the existence of those intangible qualities possessed by the Mt. Mansfield region as a result of its healthy development. Nor will we look with favor on any scheme that seeks to exploit or infringe upon the rights of the allied enterprises and organizations with which as skiers we have been so happily associated.

SKI TRAIL STANDARDS

Here in the East it is customary to classify downhill ski trails as novice, intermediate and expert according to a theoretical notion of the proficiency required to run them competently. Generally the basis of this classification is steepness of slope; novice trails, for instance, being those more or less of what we often call the touring type with mild grades, while intermediate skiers are supposed to be able to handle with comfort runs having pitches up to say twenty degrees. So far as the trails themselves are concerned, continued use of these terms have made them roughly informative. They become of little practical value, however, when we attempt to apply them to skiers.

There are several factors governing the difficulty of a trail from the skier's standpoint. Steepness is one of them, but steepness in itself is not so important as might appear. So far as the design of a trail is concerned, it is the relationship between grade, width and alignment, rather than any one of them, that determines how difficult it may be. But aside from design, snow condition is equally pertinent. And because snow condition is extremely variable even on a packed surface, it is manifestly impossible to formulate any hard and fast rules for classifying a trail on a basis of skiing proficiency alone.

Possibly, within broad limits, a skier should choose a trail classified within what he considers to be his ability range. But if he finds himself unequal to his choice, he undoubtedly will be more correct to ascribe his trouble to an over-estimate of his prowess rather than to a misleading trail classification. On the other hand, if he welcomes difficulties in striving for increased ability, he should be free to use any trail he wishes, so long as his courage and determination are tempered with the proper degree of intelligence. We should, therefore, consider the generally accepted trail standards as of informative value only—not as excuses for our shortcomings, nor as a means of restricting the actions of our fellows in a free sport.

A. W. C.

COMPETITIONS

This month the Club will sponsor the first closed Vermont ski championships to be sanctioned by the U. S. Eastern Amateur Ski Association. Entrants must be legal residents of Vermont or the dependents of legal residents, or students at Vermont universities, colleges, schools or institutions. Minors living outside the State but dependent on legal residents will be eligible.

There also will be held this month the Vermont State Downhill and Slalom Championships for men and women, entries for which are not restricted to residents of the State.

The schedule of the competitions follows:

March 9: Closed Vermont Cross Country Championship, 18 kilometers. Start 2 P. M. at the Toll House.

March 10: Closed Vermont Jumping Championship, 30 meter hill. 2 P. M. at the Club jumping hill on the Morrisville Road in Stowe.

March 16-17: Closed Vermont Downhill and Slalom Championship for Men and Women, combined with the Vermont State Downhill and Slalom Championships for Men and Women. Downhill race Saturday at 2 P. M. on the Nose Dive. Slalom Sunday (two runs) on the Nose Dive between stations 13 and 25, first run starting 11 A. M.

Competitors in all events must be members of the USEASA, and must hold classification cards, although each event is open to all classes including "unclassified." (The fee charged by the Association for a classification card is twenty-five cents, and can be paid through the Club at the time your entry is made.)

Further information regarding these competitions can be obtained from Howard H. Prestwich, Essex Junction, Vt., or Miss Margaret Nugent, Stowe, Vt.

H. H. P.

DEVELOPMENTS

A new novice trail has been completed between the Forest Service parking area and station twenty on the Nose Dive. It is amply wide and has easy grades, and near the top passes what is to be the halfway unloading station of the proposed chair lift.

A new intermediate run also has been completed to the halfway lift station, and is being continued higher to join the Lord Trail near the upper lookout point on the Toll Road. This upper part will be expert in character.

In order to discourage skiers from using the Smugglers Notch highway for skiing, a touring trail has been located parallel to the road between The Lodge and the Chin Clip. This has been named the Roadside Trail, and was cleared at the suggestion of the State Highway Commissioner.

Plans to extend the touring network in the Mt. Mansfield region are underway with the commencement of a scenic trail from the vicinity of Lake Mansfield southward to the Little River Dam. Eventually it is hoped that a connection with the Bolton Mountain ski developments can be made.

A. G.

RECORDS OF THE CLUB

The following communication to all members has been received from the President:

Last December a proposition was made to me by a member that if the Club would contribute \$75 toward sending