

Ottawa Ski Club News

PUBLISHED BY THE OTTAWA SKI CLUB
CIRCULATION 2400 COPIES

The week-end of Jan. 12-13—Two glorious days, a wee bit cold (25 below) but who cared? Record crowds were received at all the lodges. When are you coming out?

You may skip this if you have paid your fees—Listen folks, out of the three thousand who are expected to join or rejoin Ottawa Ski Club this year, there are still well over a thousand who have not yet shown us the colour of their money, although some have been out since the 24th of November and some have not been out at all, which is worse. We don't doubt that you have plenty of dough and that your fees will be coming sooner or later, but do you really think it is fair to keep your Club waiting so long for a paltry \$4 or \$5—just about what you would spend on a bum show any night of the week? The maintenance of our lodges in the expectation of your coming costs us a pile of money, and as we are opening up new trails, buying more land and building more lodges, we need help this year more than ever, so please come across with your fees. If you are in hard luck and must resign, we would suggest that you use the standard form of resignation on page 2 of this issue; it will save you the trouble of racking your brains over what to say and what not to say. Remember, there is only one place where fees may be paid this year—**McGiffin's Store, Sparks St., near the Royal Bank.**

The Plant and Southam Lodges—Twenty-five applications have been received, with only eighteen bunks available. Sorry we cannot accommodate more. The boys deserve congratulations for the splendid way they turn out to help on the trails. There is no lack of workers at Camp Fortune now, thanks to the generosity of Messrs. Southam and Plant. Occupants of bunks who have not yet paid their fees (\$2.35 with key) are requested to send them in to Lawrence H. Burpee, 22 Rideau Terrace, before Jan. 20th. Bunks not paid for before that date will be declared vacant.

The Gatineau Girls had their first outing on Saturday, Jan. 12th, and made Dome Hill Lodge, 30 strong, in record time. Next excursion will be to Pink Lake Lodge, leaving Hull Electric Station (Chateau Laurier) at 11 a.m. sharp, Saturday, Jan. 19th. For further information, apply Miss Belle Roger, Q. 936.

First night hike—The first night hike will be held this coming Thursday (Jan. 17). Place of rendez-vous: Dome Hill Lodge. Buses will be in attendance on the Chelsea Road for the return trip at 11 p.m. Menu: hot dogs, buns, sandwiches, ice cream, soft drinks, coffee and good music.

Winners of first Preliminary race (Jan. 12) Senior: B. Gillis (30 minutes). Junior: E. Burpee, (33 minutes 50 seconds). Novices: H. Worden, (34 minutes 20 seconds).—**Winners of Jumping competition:** Seniors: Roger Vincent, E. Fillman. **Intermediates:** Bob Wallace, J. Landry. **Juniors:** S. Tremblay. Longest Standing Jump: C. A. Bambrick, 106 feet. The second Preliminary race will be held this coming Saturday (Jan. 19) over same course; start from Wrightville at 3 p.m. Jumping competition at Rockcliffe. Competitors must wear their badges.

A standard form of resignation—"I want to send in my resignation" writes a correspondent, "but I don't know just how to word it, or where to send it. Is there any standard form that you could suggest? I want to put it as nicely as possible of course, because I hate to leave the Club and I hope to rejoin some day."

Form suggested for letter of resignation—

The Membership Secretary, Ottawa Ski Club,
C/o McGiffin's, Sparks Street, OTTAWA.

Dear Madam,

I deeply regret that circumstances over which I have no control compel me to sever my connection with the Ottawa Ski Club. I do not expect to do much skiing this year because I—

- (a) broke my spine in several places on my first attempt
 - (b) am still in a critical stage of double pneumonia, with little hope of recovery
 - (c) have put on fifty-one pounds avoirdupois (**This for girls only**)
 - (d) am serving a jail sentence (affidavit of warden to be attached)
- but I am enclosing the amount of my fees, as I would be ashamed to resign without paying at this late date, and I want to help the Club carry on.

Yours very truly,

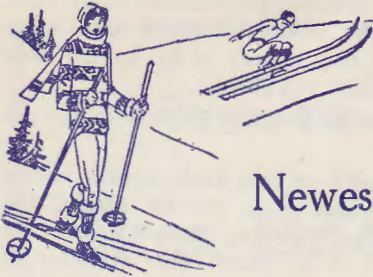
(Any other reasonable excuse will do provided a cheque is enclosed)

Keep fit, or you will go to jail.—The old excuse of not being able to come out on account of grip or some other infectious disease may do for a little while yet, but the time will soon come, we hope, when all people who fall ill in winter will be summoned to appear in Police Court, where something like this may take place:—**The Magistrate**—How did you happen to get the grip? **The Culprit**—I don't know Your Honour, it just came on . . . **The Magistrate** (touching wood)—You could not get the grip unless your vitality was lowered. How did your vitality come to be lowered? **The Culprit**—I don't know— **The Magistrate**—Do you ski?—**The Culprit**—Not yet, but I motor a lot in summer.—**The Magistrate**—Yes, I know your kind, you motor a lot in the summer, and stay in a stuffy house all winter, waiting for the summer to motor some more. You don't keep fit, you catch deadly diseases and spread them all around. You are a greater danger by far to society than a professional murderer.—**The Culprit**—I intend to ski, Your Honour. **The Magistrate**—There is a place paved with good intentions, where you will go some day if you keep on. In the meantime I sentence you to \$50 and costs, the proceeds to go to the Ottawa Ski Club. If you ever catch another cold, I will send you to jail.

What an influx of members there would be in the Ottawa Ski Club, if some sane legislation like the above, applied by an upright magistrate, were enacted!

Tid-Bits—There must be a lot of short-sighted people in this Club judging by the number of applications—some thirteen in all—that came in for that pair of spectacles that were advertised as found at Camp Fortune. The first applicant got them. Hope they fit.—To wear No. 13 badge and No. 13 shoes and attempt the Canyon on the 13th of January looks like defying fate, but nothing happened to friend Wetmore.—Four young men who set out from Old Chelsea for Camp Fortune in the storm of sleet and rain at 11 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 5th, got lost on the way and after wandering all night found themselves in an unknown village at 4.30 a.m. The unknown village proved to be Old Chelsea, where after a long search an hospitable house opened its doors to the half dead travelers. Morality: Never start on a trail at night.—The Night Riders are still talking about the size of the shovelfuls of snow handled by "Bobby" Lapointe on the Canyon, while D'Arcy McGee's unlimited capacity for pancakes made a vast and lasting impression.

The Jump-turn. How to do it and when—"Supposing I come down a slope full speed," says a correspondent, "Someone falls in front of me, there are trees right and left, no chance to turn, no chance to make a Christiania on account of the rough track. What can I do, except sit down?" **Answer:** The jump turn, called 'jelly spring' in some quarters, would be the best, and, under the circumstances mentioned, the only practical one. The jump turn requires a lot of practice



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however. The book theory appears simple but the actual performance is not easy. It is well worth mastering as it is one of the most serviceable of all turns under our conditions. The sit down, inoffensive as it may appear, is by far the most dangerous of all stops on a rough trail and, in fact, anywhere.

The jump turn should at first be practised on the flat, and the way to practise it is as follows:

Practise on the flat:—"To start the jump, sink on your heels without raising them till your hands are in the snow; then straighten up smartly, **turning the upper portion of the body in the required direction** and letting the feet follow. As you land, sink down again till your hands are in the snow—thus avoiding all shock before you resume the normal position. Keep your knees locked together; while practising you should hold a handkerchief between them."

Practise on a slope, with sticks, as follows:

1—(PREPARATORY)—Bring the skis abreast, and holding the intended inner (upper) stick pointed forwards at arm's length and just clear of the snow, sink to a crouching position—Both knees and feet in close contact. Knees well bent. Weight forward on toes but heels not lifted. Inner stick held like a baton with its top in palm of hand.

2—(TURN)—Drop the point of inner stick to the snow and jump round so as to face slightly uphill helping the spring by pressure on the stick.—The feet should land well below the line of traverse. Jump with an easy spring. Keep knees in contact throughout the jump and skis parallel.

On direct descent, crouch as low as possible.

Authorities agree in stating that the jump turn can be used at low speed only, but all those ski books must have been written before the Ottawa Ski Club got into action because Ye Ed. has seen perfect jump turns done by our experts at a very high rate of speed. For instance on Saturday, Jan. 5th, when the night Riders were fixing the Speedway above the bridge, on the Canyon slopes, "one of them" took the Speedway from the top, in the dark, going at lightning speed, and to avoid going as far as the Hospital Corner which was unsafe, made a neat jump stop at full speed, right in front of the bridge. Practise and you will do likewise, thus saving the end of your spine.

Proficiency Badges. How to get them.—How many of our members are aware that the Canadian Amateur Ski Association has arranged for three classes of official ski tests, and that the successful candidates are entitled to very handsome gold (\$5.), silver (\$3.) and bronze (\$1.) badges for the First, Second and Third Class Tests respectively? There is no entry fee but the candidates are charged for their badges. The rules for these tests will be found on page 13 of the Canadian Ski Annual for 1927-28 to which candidates are referred. (Get it at McGiffin's, Sparks St.). A First Class Test will be held each year at the Annual Tournament of the Association, conditions permitting, but candidates who cannot attend the tournament may be judged locally by judges appointed by the Technical Board of the Association. These tests include Stemming turns, Telemarks, Christianias, Jump Turns and Continuous Turns. As the Secretary of the Association has to be notified at least one month in advance by the local clubs of the date on which they wish to hold their tests, those of our members who may desire to get the proficiency badge of the Association are requested to let us know at once of their intention. Get the Annual, look up the rules for the tests on page 13 and call up Sigurd Lockeberg (S. 3160), who, as a member of the Technical Board, is in charge of the tests.

ABOUT SKIS AND SKI-ING EQUIPMENT

In choosing skis three points are of prime importance: good wood, the right length and the proper width. Other features, such as style of grooving, curve at the tip, bevelled or flat edges, finishing colour and varnish, are of secondary interest,—like icing on a cake, attractive but not essential.

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Hickory is the wood **par excellence** and will always be the first choice of the seasoned skier. On account of its tough fibre it is exceedingly durable, and because of its close grain it offers an exceptionally smooth surface that insures long easy gliding. Being hard and close-grained, it does not readily absorb moisture and can withstand variable temperatures—sudden thaws and midday melting when the sun is at its height—much better than other woods. Hickory skis require wax only under exceptional conditions, and they stand up well under prolonged wear and tear on icy trails or in bush work. They are the highest in price, but they give service which amply repays the initial expenditure.

The ash ski has perhaps the largest patronage and its popularity is well merited. A good piece of quarter-cut, close grained, well seasoned mountain ash runs a close second to hickory; in fact it is preferred by many skiers on account of one advantage—lighter weight. Reduction in the weight of the ski is often an important consideration in racing, on long hikes or for less robust skiers. Ash, however, is more susceptible to surface conditions and when the snow is melting it requires careful attention in the matter of wax.

Birch is still lighter than ash, with a more open grain, and consequently a greater tendency to stick and to absorb moisture. However, the skier who knows his wax can, by applying the proper mixture at the right time, secure and maintain a surface on his birch blades which renders them quite as efficient as the more expensive woods. Birch cannot, of course, be expected to stand as hard usage as tougher wood, and it may crack or snap suddenly under strain.

Maple is heavy, but has a close smooth grain, and holds it own very well in average snow conditions. It has a drawback in that it warps easily and therefore is not so serviceable when the snow is wet. When maple skis become saturated with moisture, they should be handled very carefully and should on no account be subjected to sudden heat. They should be blocked to preserve the spring and left in a cool place to dry out gradually. This caution, indeed, applies to all skis which have become thoroughly wet.

The pine ski is a fairly recent innovation which is finding favour especially with the juniors. It has two very commendable features,—light weight and low price. Now that the younger generation take to skiing as soon as they can stand alone on toddling feet, a cheap ski is a boon to Paterfamilias who may have several young hopefuls to equip. Pine is not so durable as the other woods, but it is plenty good enough for the daredevil youngster who will probably smash two or three pair doing "jelly-springs" before he is ready to appreciate and take care of the finer grades.

—E. O'C.

Ski Exchange.—For sale: 6'6" ash skis with Hagan fittings, \$7.50, Q. 4882.—Lady's ski suit, tweed, cheap, C. 5674.—Found at Dome hill, scarf and one glove. Apply Caretaker.

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Edition No. 3

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