

Ottawa Ski Club News

CANADIAN SKI MUSEUM
MUSEE CANADIEN DU SKI
457a SUSSEX DRIVE
OTTAWA K1N 6Z4



MARCH 7, 1940





LAY-A-WAY FUR SALE

- BE ONE JUMP AHEAD OF RISING PRICES BY SECURING YOUR FUR COAT NOW.
- PUT A FINE QUALITY RENFREW FUR COAT AWAY FOR NEXT WINTER.
- PAY A SMALL DEPOSIT ON IT AND TAKE ALL THE TIME YOU WANT TO PAY THE BALANCE.



PHONE 2-4207

'Sno Use



stem or turn where you will
—you will find no finer

SKI NEEDS

than those in our Sports Shops

*Grenfell and Fairway
Cloth Clothing*

*Hannes Schnieder and
Attenhoffer Equipment*

*Accessories with
a swiss flavour*

Charles Ogilvy
— Limited —

SEE US

FOR YOUR SUMMER
SPORTS REQUIREMENTS

•
Fishing Tackle, English
Rods, Reels and Flies.
Slazengers Tennis Rackets.
McGreggor Golf Clubs,
Bags and Shoes

•
Grenfell Jackets

•
Johnson Outboard Motors
Peterboro Boats
and Canoes.

PLAUNT HARDWARE

Ottawa Ski Club News

VOL. 20—No. 5

MARCH 6th, 1940
SEASON 1939-40

Published by the
Ottawa Ski Club

Snow conditions.—Still A1 and still improving as these lines are being penned. This has been by long odds one of the most pleasant and obliging winters that has held sway over the Gatineau hills for several years, and if it only keeps true to form until the end of April, it will be universally acclaimed as the best ever. There have been colder winters and winters with more snow, like the one of 1934-35, which was ushered in by three feet of snow and 17 below on October 23rd, and kept up at the same rate until May 1st, with temperatures down to 40 below at times and so much of the white stuff that our lodges had to be dug out every week-end, but that was almost too much of a good thing and the Club nearly went bankrupt over its expenditure of cord wood alone. There has been only one pessimistic note so far; it was struck by the Editor of the ski column in a contemporary, who, after attending a little dance at Camp Fortune and presumably partaking too freely of the spring water there, had a number of falls on coming down Dunlop trail — of all trails! On Feb. 23rd, he wrote that ski conditions looked and felt "very unfavourable" for the coming week-end, but that gloomy pronostic did not have the slightest effect on plank hoppers who came twelve hundred strong as usual the following Sunday and found as usual marvelous sliding, — thanks to a little snow storm in the meantime.

The more you ski, the longer skiing will last.—Ski riders may not realize to what extent the maintenance of good skiing conditions depends on their activity or inactivity during the winter. Well packed trails, hardened by the continuous passage of thousands of blades, stand of course very much longer under the warm sunshine of March and April than hills covered with loose, unpacked snow. Years ago, when the Ottawa Ski

Club was made up of a dozen jumpers who lived under the shadow of the Rockcliffe Tower, a couple score "rooters" who chered but skied not, and a dozen or so hardy and adventurous souls who painfully ploughed every other week-end or so, through deep snows, over the long trail Kirk's Ferry-Ottawa, the ski season seldom extended beyond the first week in March, unless in an exceptional year. After that, the snow had no bottom, no matter how deep it may have been; it became loose throughout and one sank through mud or water underneath. Every day after March 1st was a day of grace for which one had to be deeply thankful, whereas, to-day, quite a contingent of spring skiers pay their fees after March 1st, knowing that they still have at least six weeks of enjoyment ahead of them. The Editor's diary of years ago reveals that March 10th was the average date when skiers took leave of the Murphys who then held the fort at Kingsmere and where the "ski gang" always stopped for lunch.

The Editor's Diary—My Week-Ends
— The lengthening days, and the closer means of approach to the knoll of Camp Fortune, provided by the 9.15 a.m. bus — for which thanks are due to Vice-President Herbert Marshall — have given me an opportunity to get reacquainted with many old hills and trails that I had not seen for some long time. I explored the Merry-Go-Round and found the Big Dipper with its sharp upthrow at the bottom quite as thrilling and as wicked as ever, while "Dipper Junior" is still a worthy chip off the old block. The Ogo-pogos, father and pup, have grown a new set of biting teeth, while the Highland Fling, on the Highland trail, with its sea of bumps at the bottom, still constitutes the most severe test of skimanship of all



(Courtesy, Canadian National Railways)

**Coming down the hill, Tonquin Valley
Jasper National Park, Alberta.**

our hills. It is a pity the Merry-Go-Round has been cut short at the Kicking Horse Pass by alders tangled up by the ice storm early in the winter. There should be a great opportunity for useful work there on the part of the Night Riders, who appear to have nothing better to do just now than "tow" up the Slalom Hill and ride down on high, at terrifying speed, screaming like possessed the while and scaring everybody in sight. Those boys are fearless ski riders and deserve to be admired, but how much more interesting and useful they would be if they went over the trails with a machette or an axe once in a while, to remove the tangled up shrubs, or with a shovel and a rake to level off the bumps. No one grudges their skiing in day time, but what do they do at night? The Night Riders of old were never known to sleep. By the way, I must apologize to Bon Ami, on Little Switzerland, who really is not nearly so bad as I made it out to be in my last Diary. There is really nothing to it when it has been de-bumped and

covered with fresh snow — a mere ripple on the surface of the trail; one goes over it without noticing it almost. Apologies are also due to the Skyline trail for calling it the Skylight, although either name would suit this beautiful scenic trail. Next week-end, I must tackle the Western trail to keep company to Herbert Marshall who must feel lonely. They say the Western Lodge is the only one of our lodges where every one speaks to each other, probably because they feel lost there. On one occasion, having stored up an ample supply of anti-fall vitamins A, D and C, in the shape of pea soup at the Cafeteria, I made Pink Lake from Fortune in less than an hour, but at Wrightville street car, I met Eric Roy, an erstwhile champion runner, who claimed to have made it in 27 minutes the day before. Rumour has it however that Eric took his time at the start from Dave Penman's watch, at Fortune, and his time of arrival at Pink Lodge from Herbert McClelland, the caretaker there. I wonder if these two watches were synchronized? This re-

minds me that I once made the trip from Chelsea to Fortune, by the Canyon, Skyline and Switzerland, with a couple slides on the Slalom thrown in, in seven minutes, simply because I had forgotten to wind up my watch the night before. A tip in conclusion: leave the car at home next time, take the bus, and enjoy the slide home to Wrightville.

Ski hike and Dance on Friday, March 8, at 8 p.m.—Our genial and enterprising Cafeteria Manager, Fred Dixon, has arranged for a series of hike-dances; the first of the series, reported elsewhere in this issue, was highly successful. The next, planned for Friday March 8, will be much more elaborate, with a 6 piece orchestra, door prizes, and flare lights over Dunlop's trail and Traveler's hill. A small admission fee of 25c will be charged at the door to pay for the orchestra and the lights. You are advised to bring your dancing pumps; ordinary slippers will do however. The cafeteria will be open for the occasion.

No return bus from Kingsmere.—It appears that a certain young man bought a return ticket from Kingsmere, and when he found no return bus there, wrote an irate letter to the manager of the bus company, demanding a refund. It should be definitely understood that the bus takes passengers to Kingsmere in the morning at 9.15 and 11 but does not go back for them in the afternoon. The experience in the past has been that only one per cent of the skiers back from Fortune stopped at Kingsmere for the

THE
Standard Drug Store
J. W. Garneau
Cor. Rideau & Nicholas Sts.
Phone 3-5603
Ottawa, Ont.

Joseph Healy
CHIROPRACTOR
Phone 3-4112 102 Bank St.

bus; the others kept right on to Chelsea, as the two miles and a half continuous slide from Kingsmere to Chelsea can be covered in a few minutes and is very enjoyable.

Another young man who has been in Toronto for over three years and greatly misses the Ottawa winter skiing, wrote to his father as follows when a snow storm visited the Queen City lately:

"This is a hurried note to say (a) that I am surprised to hear there is a spare pair of skis (b) that I am delighted to hear same, and (c) that I can use same this very Saturday for a day on the hills if you can ship them to me. And let there be no argument about the cost of

SKI TOGS
 and Skis

Murphy-Gamble
 Limited

Thirst knows no Season
DRINK
Coca-Cola

shippage, cartage, postage or what not-age.

"I have no boots. But I had boots. Somewhere there are boots. There must be boots. Il faut que oui, mais vraiment, sans doute, mille tonnerres, j'espère. If you do not have boots, alas then I may not have boots neither, but it shall be well, it must be better that I shall find somehow the boots. Isn't it? There shall be of my friends to have the boots, some boots, any boots, it makes nothing. Only that I to have the skis that one attaches to the boots, it is all.

For "I must go down to the skis again,
To the wandering gypsy life,
To the hill's way and the trail's way,
Where the snow's like a whetted knife;
And all I ask is a deep drift
And the soft snow snowing;

And a padded chair at the trail's end
And a warm fire glowing'.

P.S.—Confucius says: Only upright young man make good skier.

A dance at the Chateau on Friday, April 19th.—The young element of the Club — and in skier's parlance, this means every one who can still take a fall and not be grumpy about it — will hold a supper-dance in the Jasper Room of the Chateau on Friday, April 19. Tickets will be given away for \$3.50 a couple if purchased at McGiffin's, 80 Sparks Street, **before 6 p.m. on Thursday April 18.** After 6 p.m. April 18, they will be sold for \$4.00 a couple. There could be no better day of closing an extremely enjoyable season. You are advised to buy your tickets early because the number is limited to 250. Remember the date, **April 19.**

"SOLILOQUIES OF A SKI-RIDER"

Emerging from a steaming-hot tub after a perfect day at Camp Fortune, I lay on the Chesterfield sipping a hot grog and relaxing while the delicious smell of roasting beef wafted in from the kitchen. "This is the life", thought I; and then, almost falling over that thought, came a second, more sombre one as I recalled stories of the cruel warfare now continuing in Finland, and I fell to thinking how happy indeed is our lot when con-

trasted with that of our fellow skiers and their miserable, unfortunate enemies in that far-away northland. We who return to our warm comfortable homes, our hot baths and our good meals, can we imagine what it must be like to spend endless days and nights in that wild country with 50-below temperatures and wicked blizzards, with death and destruction reigning all around? Bad enough for the well equipped Finns; but the lot of the half-starved, ill-clad ignorant Russian masses doesn't bear thinking about. Ever had your hands and feet so cold while skiing you could almost cry? Add hunger to that and, well, —


But such gloomy thoughts could not be allowed to spoil a grand day, so while in this mood of thanksgiving I began to wonder if we members of the Ottawa Ski Club are half appreciative enough of all the time and hard work, both mental and physical, that our Club officers and committees give, year after year, absolutely free, for no other motive than that they

LAROCQUE

*Look smart—even after a
sitzmark—
in ski togs
from
Larocques.*



See It In Your Club Library!



**SKI-ING
FROM A—Z**

By the famous skier
Walter Amstutz—\$1.50

Your own movie of movement sequences in skiing—a book made up of 450 film shots of everything the novice or expert wants to know about skiing, from herringbone to tempo turns . . . (clear explanations at the side to take the place of the sound track).

You can be your own instructor with this book! Order from your club or your bookseller or direct from

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
480 University Avenue — Toronto

enjoy good skiing themselves and want as many mortals as possible to enjoy it with them. Think, for instance, for how many years the *Ottawa Ski Club News* has made its appearance regularly each winter mailed to our homes, without a cent of extra cost. It would be difficult to estimate the value of the time and unflagging interest that has been spent on this delightful little publication; the editor, who is also our president, "Mort", with his gay banter has always set the keynote to the Club. (By the way, how nice it looks this year, resplendent with its pictorial reproductions.) Or think of the hard physical labor cheerfully expended by our trail makers, and the men who mark out the race courses, maintain the jump, haul in supplies to the lodges, give instruction to beginners, as well as those thankless routine jobs connected with membership, collection of fees, and so forth.

It was my first trip this year to Camp Fortune, and the day had held many surprises for me. First of all there was the bus, which at long last has decided to continue its somewhat uncertain way as far as Kingsmere, thus cutting out that long uphill grind from Old Chelsea. Next I was delighted to find that the trails are

now plainly marked with their fascinating names, for in the past I never knew on what trail I was travelling — I just followed the leader and eventually arrived at the Camp. And that brings me to the next surprise — the clubhouse's gay new dress of scarlet and white which strikes an alluring note as you emerge from the wooded trails.

But *the* big surprise and thrill of the day was the SKI TOW. Not being a slalomer I never previously could get stirred up about the ski tow, but one glance at it gave me the inspiration to start for home that way, and never again will you see me clambering laboriously up the steep hills at the beginning of the homeward trails when, for the paltry sum of 5 cents I can scale the heights in this exciting manner. Incidentally I don't believe there is another ski tow in operation as cheaply; the lowest rate I found in the Laurentians was 10 cents per trip. Yes, I am completely "sold" on the Ski Tow. *But*, when Mr. J. P. Taylor states that "a level piece has been built at each starting point" (*O.S.C. News*, Feb. 1/40), all I can say is — it all depends on what you call level, Mr. Taylor.

I believe there was a record crowd at Camp Fortune that day, and surely I saw a ghost walking among them — not a frightening sort of ghost, but a lovable, smiling one who was delighted to see so many people gathered in the hall which

Harry Mulligan
Bobby Alston
Golf School

299 BANK ST.
Over Beamish Store

now bears his name — Tweedsmuir Hall, and enjoying the beautiful outdoors which he had himself so enjoyed; for it is a heart-warming sight, to see the hundreds of happy faces — the fine bronzed young men and the clever damsels, attractive in their gay ski attire. To my mind the young people of today are much better and more graceful skiers than those of the push-off-at-the-hilltop-and-reach-the-bottom-when-and-how-you-may era, and the skill with which even the girls negotiate difficult stops and turns is little short of amazing and must be an enormous advantage when traversing narrow and winding trails beset with obstacles. I am afraid I cannot join in the doleful tune intended by Bryan White who so despondently lamented the decadence of present and future skiing (*O.S.C. News*, February 1/40). That skiing is a young and growing sport is proved by its continually developing technique which makes its devotees keep constantly up to scratch. Neither am I one to decry the use of the motor car; for the very fact that with its aid skiers can spend more time on the hills without tiring themselves out getting there and back has aided tremendously in promoting the general skill and pro-

ficiency everywhere visible among skiers today, and it must not be supposed that slalomers never do anything else but. Not everyone can spare the time for those long cross-country trips, and anyway, Confucius say: "too much strenuous exercise at week-end velly bad for sedentary office worker", to which dictum no doubt all bosses will subscribe.

I shudder to contemplate the sad condition of a man who at the early age of 40 has already reached the stage where he is harking back to the "good old days" — it's a sure sign of old age creeping on; or perhaps it's the result of sitting on a horse for seven years and letting it do all the work. (Wonder how the horse feels about it?). So long as you ski you will never grow old; you may add to the number of your years your heart will always remain young, for skiing has so exhilarating an effect on one that no one will ever think of you as an "old" person.

W.M.P.R.

—♦—
Ski-Ways, a coloured Ski-film, at the Centre Theatre, March 13th. The management of the Centre Theatre announces that a coloured Ski film entitled "Ski-Ways", and including snap-shots of ski scenes in the Laurentian as well as in

SKI TOGS

A Specialty

SKI SERVICE

of all kinds at

BYSHE'S

223 BANK STREET

UNIVERSAL

RADIO SERVICE

SERVICE THAT SATISFIES

All Makes Repaired

J. R. Trembley, Prop.

Dial 3-4436

375½ Somerset St. W.

the Gatineau hills, will be shown for one week, starting March 13th. This is the first time we are told that a "colour" camera has gone skiing in Canada. Quoting from the circular announcing this event "As the scenes of crisp white snow sparkling blue sky, green woods and gay coloured costume skiers slid across the screen, it was realized that a new ski way has been added to the list".

February's Moonlight hike to Camp Fortune was a real success. More than 100 skiers trekked in from the Dunlap Parking Lot and found our White shack with the red shutters sound asleep in the moonlit hills. However, it wasn't long 'till Tweedsmuir Hall was resounding with cheery laughter and Chief Hike Promoter, Fred Dixon was looking after the needs of the hungry and thirsty ones. Fred had arranged a perfect moon for the occasion but it must be admitted he slipped a little in the matter of snow supply. The trails were definitely hard but far from impassable and the trail sliding was very fast and smooth. Traveler's hill was attempted by many but mastered by few and soon everyone had gathered in the lodge. Dancing proved more comfortable than high speed skiing although the phonograph gave out only indifferent volume. An orchestra has been promised by Fred for the next occasion and if the crowd is any larger, one of the wings of the lodge may have to be used as well as Tweedsmuir Hall.

Fine Furs

Men's and Women's

Apparel

Advantageously Priced.



More night hikes such as this one, and especially on moonlight nights, would lengthen our skiing season greatly and would give us more opportunities to visit our main lodge.—R. McG.

FINLANDIA!

Arrangements are being made by the Ottawa Ski Club to bring to the Capital, some time in March, a number of highly instructive films representing some of the most spectacular competitions held during the F.I.S. championships (F.I.S. means Fédération Internationale de ski). The proceeds of this show will be handed over to the Finnish fund, as a contribution to the valiant Finnish people in their present struggle. It is hoped that every one of our 1,500 members will purchase a ticket to help the Finns. Full particulars will be given in the newspapers as soon as the arrangements are completed.

ATTRACTIVE AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE RATES

For the party who uses his or her Automobile
for private purposes.

FIRE - AUTOMOBILE - ACCIDENT, ETC.

Community Insurance Agency

Phone 3-3327

Wm. T. TROY

Limited

Room 51, Canada Life Building, Ottawa

Ottawa, Canada.—Discovery of a pair of axe-hewn skis in the ruins of a railway construction cabin near Castle Mountain in Banff National Park, Alberta, indicates that skiing was introduced to the Canadian Rockies more than a half century ago. A search of early records to explain the existence of skis reveals that Swedish and Norwegian workmen, employed in the construction of the first transcontinental railway, disdained the use of Canadian snow-shoes and made for themselves the skis on which they had learned at home to travel so swiftly and surely. The ancient skis now hold a place of honour in the ski museum of the new Mount Norquay Ski Clubhouse.

The workmen who fashioned the skis

L. J. R. HOLDAWAY
CHIROPRACTOR
306 Booth Bldg.
165 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ont.
Dial: 2-7975—7-3174

were evidently skilled axemen, as the skis, even to the prows, were hand-hewn from a pine tree. For boot-plates and extra strength and thickness, an additional piece of wood was nailed to each ski. Evidently no camber or harness was used, but on the boot plate of one ski is a felt sole which indicates that the skier nailed the soles of his woodman's felt boots to the skis. The heel of the boot was left free, allowing the freedom of action provided now by modern ski harness.

PAST EVENTS

February 18—John Fripp captured the Journal Trophy emblematic of the men's Gatineau Ski Zone combined downhill and slalom championship, winning both the downhill and slalom. Eugene Heggteit finished in second place followed by Bruce Heggteit, last year's winner of the Trophy. Dave Hall captured the honours in Class B, Bob Stewart finished first in Class C.

COMING EVENTS

March 10—Ottawa Ski Club women's combined downhill and slalom championship at Camp Fortune.
Ottawa Ski Club men's Class B and C combined downhill and slalom championships at Camp Fortune.
The above events will be run together. The downhill will be held on the Cote du Nord starting at 12 noon and the slalom will take place on the Slalom Hill immediately after.

April 19—Ottawa Ski Club Dance. Last year's dance was such a success that the Club has decided to hold another one this year. The dance will take place in the Jasper Room of the Chateau Laurier and will be limited to 250 persons. For further information watch the next issue of the News.

This little magazine is published solely in the interests of skiing in general and of the Ottawa Ski Club in particular. Contributions in the shape of articles, stories, etc., will be gladly received by the Editor. One line notices about articles, lost or found, skiing equipment for sale or exchange will be published free of charge for our members. Address all communications to "THE EDITOR, OTTAWA SKI CLUB NEWS, 37 MARLBOROUGH AVE., OTTAWA, ONT.

**PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS AND WHEN MAKING YOUR
PURCHASES MENTION THE "NEWS"**



KEEP TO THE TRAIL —

VOTE

McILRAITH



Published by Ottawa West Liberal Association.

SKIERS FLY

to DOMAINE D'ESTEREL
STE. AGATHE GRAY ROCKS
MONT TREMBLANTE

\$15.00 per passenger,
returning next day

Laurentian Air Services

Phone
2-0058

LIMITED

Airport
7-4421

Café HENRY Burger

"The Original Henry"

Cuisine Française

Tél: 2-2071

MAIN and LAVAL HULL, QUE.

Mme Henry Burger, Prop.

+ Ski Hospital

Make an appointment with our
ski doctor for all types
of ski repairs

SKIS FITTINGS POLES CAPS
MITTS SOX WAX

THE SPORT SHOP

Frank I. Ritchie

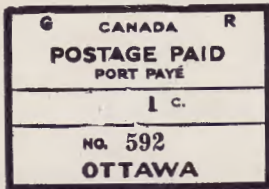
98 Bank St. (near Albert) 2-6278

THE NEW ROOF AND INSUL BOARD

for Camp Fortune and Pink Lake
Lodges was supplied by

**McAuliffe-Grimes
Lumber Co., Ltd.**

161 ECHO DRIVE Phone 7-5500



Mr. Eric A. Roy, Jr.,
6 Rock Ave.,
Ottawa, Ont.

"Superdiagonal" Gives You **"Vorlage" with Ease**



In the SUPERDIAGONAL we find the greatest improvement in modern ski equipment. The SUPERDIAGONAL is not intended to take the place of other ski bindings, but may be used with any existing type. It is particularly efficient when used with cable binding. Skiers who want to progress quickly and have the proper feeling of "vorlage" (forward position) will use the SUPERDIAGONAL.

SUPERDIAGONAL gives greater security against accidents because in falling, its easy and progressive action saves toes and ankles from sudden strains. The unique SUPERDIAGONAL pressure on and around your ankles keeps your heels down and facilitates "forward knee". Improve your "vorlage" and your ski-ing with SUPERDIAGONAL.

Manufactured by
THE ALLCOCK, LAIGHT & WESTWOOD Co. Ltd.
230 BAY STREET — TORONTO, ONT.

Price
\$1.95
Post-paid



Canada Pat. No. 459980-Nov., 1938. U.S. Pat. No. 241414.

A Warm and
Comfortable Spot
Right In The
Snow-Clad Hills



Drive Your Car
Right To The
Lodge —
(Parking Space)

The MOUNTAIN LODGE, Kingsmere, Que.

AN IDEAL PLACE TO SPEND A FEW HOLIDAYS,
ALL COMFORTS OF HOME — OPEN EVERY DAY

For Reservation: Dial 3-2746

A. METCALFE, Manager.