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VOLUME 1 • NUMBER 1 • DECEMBER 15 1936

THE MAGAZINE FOR SKIERS

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# TRACK!

"TRACK!" is a magazine devoted to ski-ing in the Ottawa and Gatineau Valleys—the Gatineau Zone of the Canadian Amateur Ski Association. It is the official organ of the Ottawa Ski Club and of all other ski clubs in the Zone that wish to make free use of its pages for the publication of club news and announcements. The editors welcome contributions, submitted gratuitously, of articles, short stories and sketches, poetry, photographs, cartoons and descriptions of new ski equipment—of interest to skiers.

Editor . . . . . R. G. LEWIS  
Associate Editors . . . . . C. E. MORTUREUX and HERBERT MARSHALL  
Business and Advertising Manager . . . . . DON RUNGE

VOLUME ONE

OTTAWA, DECEMBER, 1936

NUMBER ONE

## "TRACK!" Replaces The Ottawa Ski Club News

FOR ALMOST fifteen years the Ottawa Ski Club has published a weekly magazine devoted to Club news and announcements and well provided with general material of interest to skiers. As a magazine "The Ottawa Ski Club News" is now being replaced by "TRACK", the new official organ of the Ottawa Club and other clubs in the Gatineau Zone, but this article is not to be considered as an obituary, in any sense of the word. The *News* still lives and thrives but under a new name and with a new purpose. The Club will still continue to circularize its members by means of brief, mimeographed bulletins containing information of interest to Club members only.

The editor of "The Ottawa Ski Club News" from its inception to the present day was Charles E. Mortureux, President of the Ottawa Club. In his own inimitable style, scintillating with wit, bubbling with humor and weighted with wisdom, "Mort." produced a quality of ski news unparalleled in any contemporary effort. It would be a matter of deep regret were these contributions to the literature of ski-ing in Ottawa to be at an end.

Fortunately this is not the case. "TRACK!" represents an effort to enlarge the scope of "The Ottawa Club News" as well as to relieve "Mort." of some of the burden which he has so unselfishly borne in the past. "The News" widens the scope of its vision to take in activities and ski-ing enthusiasm in the whole Gatineau Zone taking for a new title the term common to all skiers: "TRACK!". The new enterprise starts with the mutual advantage of having Mr. Mortureux on its editorial staff thus ensuring continuity with the past in an outflow of ski news which has created for itself a field of

influence far beyond the immediate vicinity of the Capital.

Most of us have been in the habit of taking "The Ottawa Ski Club News" as a matter of form. Few of us have realized just how much effort has been required to keep it going and still fewer of us have known anything about its history.

"The Ottawa Ski Club News" made its first appearance as a weekly on November 30th, 1922. There had been odd circulars before that, to urge the recruiting of members, announce competitions or the opening of new trails or new lodges, but no attempt at a regular publication had been made before that year. The opening paragraph of the new circular was so daring and revolutionary that it was reproduced in most of the dailies of the time. Instead of shedding a tear, as had been the immemorial custom, over the passing of the "Good old summer time", the editor greeted the coming of the winter in this fashion:

"The long summer is over at last, and things are fast coming to life again under the invigorating influence of the blasts from the North . . . . The rough surfaces of the land will soon disappear under a smooth covering of snow and we can once more enjoy gliding swiftly over the hills . . . .

"What a change our glorious sport of ski-ing has wrought! Far from restricting our activities as in the past, the first snows bring to us unlimited freedom; they open the way to the Great Outdoors, to a wondrous fairyland, practically inaccessible at any other time of the year, to a fountain of perpetual youth and happiness. The winter is no longer the end of things, but the beginning of all things.

## The Ottawa Ski Club's Programme

THE FIRST item on the programme is to make it easier for average skiers or beginners to get to places like Camp Fortune, where they can find hills and fresh snow and lots of good clean rolling bush ground to roam around in, under shelter from the cold winds. To spend a couple of hours there, sliding under the pines, in the bright sunshine is heavenly, but if one has to risk life or limb to get there—either be engulfed in the sinister jaws of the Canyon or shaken to pieces over the bumps of Little Switzerland and do a lot of painful climbing and more perilous skiing to get back home, then the game is hardly worth the candle. One does not mind having to ski a mile or so to get there however, if the going is enjoyable and safe.

There are about two hundred excellent ski riders in the Club, who can take any hill, no matter how steep or bumpy, and enjoy it. There are five or six hundred others who are getting to that stage, but are still a bit shy; there are thousands of others, non-members, who would gladly join the Club to-morrow if safe and easy trails could be offered to them. Some of these trails have been made; others are in the making. The trail of the Rising Sun, starting from the Meach Lake road, near Dunlop's, is one of the best for beginners or people who are in a hurry to get there; it offers a very easy gradient and is only about a mile and a quarter long. The trip to the Camp can be made in about twenty-five minutes' easy skiing, and the return trip, to the Meach Lake road, in about ten or fifteen.

Those coming from Kingsmere will have two easy ways at their disposal: the Pleasant Valley trail, inaugurated last year, but vastly improved, with the sharp curves taken out, and

the "Trail of the Morning After", starting from the Top of the World and going down an easy valley to join the last slopes of Switzerland.

Hill development work is the next item on the programme. New practice grounds, offering all sorts of slopes, have been made by thinning a part of the bush near the main lodge of Camp Fortune; the entrance to this new skiers' paradise is about a couple of hundred yards southwest of the Camp. These grounds will be gradually enlarged. The Slalom hill has been widened to provide more leg room and elbow room for skiers.

The executive is planning to give every one in the Club, from six-year-old tots to non-agenarians, a chance to learn the rudiments of skiing, so that they may, from the start, enjoy their outings, and gradually become real good skiers. This is not difficult, it is merely a matter of acquiring the proper balance, of learning to check, to turn, etc. This instruction will be given by experts on Dome hill at Ironsides on Saturday afternoons and also at Camp Fortune. This matter is dealt with at greater length in another part of this magazine.

There will be competitions every week-end at Camp Fortune—Slalom racing, downhill racing, cross country, jumping, etc., and the prizes will be given to the winners on the spot, immediately after the contest. It had been customary in the past to wait until the end of the season to distribute the prizes, but this is not satisfactory.

*Night hikes.*—The Thursday night hikes will be revived, starting early in January. The night hikes were at one time one of the most popular outings of the Club, and there is a general request from members to have them reorganized.

*Long distance trips.*—The Club will try to arrange a few long distance trips later in the season; these trips will be advertised in the newspapers, and any one who cares to join will be welcome.

*Visits to other Clubs.*—A close contact will be maintained with other clubs in our zone, such as the Seignior Club, Buckingham, Hawkesbury and Renfrew. It is hoped that excursions at a reduced rate may be arranged from time to time.

Lastly, it is hoped that the whole Club will go to the Dominion Championship at Banff, on March 4th. The return fare, including ten days at one of the main hotels in Banff, will be only \$85. Definite information will be given in the next issue of this magazine.

The Trail Leads  
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## Where are Your Skis?

**W**HERE AT this particular moment are your skis and the rest of your skiing equipment?

You put them away carefully last spring—cleaned off the winter's accumulation of ski wax and gave them a good coating of raw linseed oil—clamped them together and stood them up carefully on their tips or fastened them to the wall.

Yes, you did!

The chances are that they were thrown in a heap along with a lot of miscellaneous sporting goods, crippled furniture and the empty cartons that the housewife thinks will come in handy some day—in a corner of the back shed or the attic. We all make these pious resolutions around the beginning of the winter and plan to put the ski equipment away in ship-shape order right after the last trip of the season. The trouble is that we never know in this interesting but fickle climate of ours just which individual trip is going to be the last and before we realize it, summer is upon us again. We are busy polishing golf clubs, restringing tennis raquets and binding up the joints of fishing rods that have probably received the same sort of treatment during the winter that the ski equipment has received during the summer. We are all human and prone to error.

While we are breaking the cherished living-room ornaments, chandeliers and furniture with trial swings, cuts and casts, the welfare of last winter's ski equipment has no more place in our minds than the ultimate disposal of yesterday's mashed potatoes.

Well, now is the time to make amends. Give the hickory wings of the modern Mercury the well-known once over to-day. Clean them up and inspect their fittings. Look to the poles. Get the boots out from the cupboard under the stairs and try to soften them up with a little leather dressing. Pick the moth balls out of the sweaters, windbreakers, socks, mitts and other woolenware and give them an airing so that the first trip in the car or bus won't be the usual gas attack. Repair anything that is repairable, then have a look through the local sporting goods stores and see what's new in the way of equipment, and replace anything that is missing, or beyond repair. Have everything ready for use at a moment's notice for this is going to be the gala year in the ski history of the Ottawa Valley.



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### "TRACK!" Replaces News . . .

*Continued from page 1*

At first mimeographed, "The Ottawa Ski Club News" came out in printed form in 1924; in 1926 it was published as an 8-page magazine; the number of the pages went up to twelve in 1929 and came down to eight again and even four during the dark years of the depression. For several years, the folding and addressing of "The Ottawa Ski Club News" were done by volunteers who met once a week, after hours, in the President's office. When the circulation passed the thousand mark, the work had to be handled by paid help.

For fourteen long years, "The Ottawa Ski Club News" kept urging the people of Ottawa to come out and look for that treasure "hidden in the Gatineau hills", for that abounding measure of health and happiness that ski-ing gives. How well it succeeded is shown by the increasing membership of the Club—from 30 in 1920 to 2,300 in 1928. The membership went down during the depression but it is again soaring now.



Courtesy of PAUL HORSDAL

## The Ruapehu Ski Club

**M**OST OF US are more or less familiar with ski-ing activities in various parts of Europe as well as in North America, but a great many do not realize that there is much ski-ing enthusiasm in other sections of the British Commonwealth far removed from the Northern hemisphere. We have received the twenty-second Annual Report of the Ruapehu Ski Club of New Zealand and some copies of its Ski Bulletin. From these, vivid glimpses of ski conditions in this sister Dominion can be obtained.

When the Ottawa Ski Club moved its Eastside lodge from Tenaga up to the present site where it is known as the Western lodge, it was thought to be a creditable performance, as many difficulties had to be overcome. The building of a new Ruapehu Ski Club hut makes our effort pale by comparison and is an excellent example of the results of co-operative effort among club members.

*"The Club Hut.*—The outstanding achievement of the year was the erection on a commanding site near Glacier Hut of our long discussed mountain home. This is a fine structure 36 feet by 21 feet, with iron roof and walls lined with insulating board, and containing a large living room and women's room with six bunks in each, a clearing or equipment room and a porch. The interior appointments include a Dover stove, a sink, and ample cupboards and lockers.

Many hours were devoted by the Hut Sub-Committee, Messrs. R. Syme, T. A. Blyth, H. R. Holt, E. A. Marchant, G. D. G. Plummer and W. S. Rennie, to designing the building and planning its erection, and the Club is specially indebted to Mr. Plummer for drawing the various plans. The first step towards achieving our objective was the formation of a tractor route to the top of Upper Scoria Flat by a working party in June, 1935. At the beginning of September a 400-gallon square iron tank was hauled to the site; in October the first timber was delivered to the end of the motor road; on December 29th the foundation stone was laid

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by Mrs. T. W. Mitchell, of Australia; and at Easter, 1936, the building was complete.

Transport of materials was effected by tractor and sledge, packhorse and manual labour. Bad weather, sundry breakdowns of the tractor and sledges, loss of material in the February hurricane, and pressure of time increased the cost and cast heavy burdens upon members, particularly those (chiefly from Hawke's Bay, Wanganui and the King Country) who were able and willing to spend short week-ends at the Park, and the Club is under a debt of gratitude to these for their strenuous efforts and sacrifices week-end after week-end.

During the Christmas vacation the heavy concrete foundations were constructed, the transport of cement and collection and mixing of ingredients being undertaken by a large party of members, and entailing many laborious days. Transport of materials continued throughout January, February and March, and by March 7 the builders, Messrs. R. Gray and C. Rouse of Napier, were able to commence. They were favoured with better weather conditions, but our troubles were not yet over. When the building was nearing completion early in April, Mr. Rouse had the misfortune to meet with a severe accident to his wrist which necessitated the completion of the work by his partner alone, who worked night and day to this end. The Club was indeed fortunate in its builders, and the Committee takes pleasure in recording here appreciation of their efforts.

At Easter a large Club party assembled, members of which, in addition to transporting the stove and mattresses, painted the exterior woodwork of the hut and constructed a system of drainage trenches. The painting of the iron and some details of equipment have still to receive attention, but for all practical purposes our new habitation is complete. The cost has exceeded the amount contemplated, partly on account of the untoward factors already indicated, and partly by reason of improvements on the original design, but it is considered that members will find the result ample justification for the expenditure."

The hut is located at a height of 6,000 ft. on Mt. Ruapehu. This fact, and some details regarding that "February hurricane" mentioned above, give a clearer idea of the difficulties encountered in its erection.

"Hurricane conditions on the Saturday afternoon hampered the work considerably and during the early hours of Sunday culminated in the storm itself. When the weather abated sufficiently for members to visit the hut site, they found that sheets of iron which had been transported there by packhorse during the two preceding days had been hurled down the mountain and, although many of them were recovered, they were too badly damaged to be of use for building purposes. Fortunately sixty

sheets of 10' iron carried to the site at the previous week-end by another party escaped damage. The loss to the club is estimated at twenty to twenty-five pounds. A number of working parties will be necessary before the hut can be completed".

However, the work of building the new hut was interspersed with gay events. But let the *Bulletin* tell the tale in its own racy fashion:

"On Sunday, the R. S. C. climbed 'en bloc' and enjoyed a marvellous run down Whakapapa glacier. An afternoon's solid work was followed by the most meritorious effort of the whole trip—an event probably unparalleled in the history of the mountain—a Ball in Salt Hut. The ballroom was gaily decorated with gaudy shirts, ski-caps, scarves and handkerchiefs, and in lieu of balloons, apples dangled cheerily from the roof. The ball officially commenced with the Grand March (in Saul), the long column being headed by a prominent Vice-President and his temporary sparring partner. Gay scenes followed with bewildering rapidity, the climax being reached when a Te Awamtu-Auckland combination gave a dynamic rendition of an Apache dance. The Salt Hut trembled—but not as much as did the exhausted dancers after their strenuous performance".

**NOTE**

The cafeteria at Camp Fortune Lodge will be open for business December 13th, under the same management. The same good food will be served.

\* \* \*

Lady members of the Ottawa Ski Club should not fail to note that their fees have now been reduced from \$4 to \$3.

\* \* \*

**WARNING**

Beware of the treacherous stones! Trails and hills are really safe only after the snow has been packed by a thaw, and the surface of stones, etc., underneath covered by a layer of ice. Do not take any chances so early in the season. Better walk down an unknown and dangerous bit of slope than lie in a hospital bed for the rest of the season.

\* \* \*

**SKI EQUIPMENT**

A pamphlet on ski-ing equipment has been prepared by the committee which is arranging for instruction classes. Since this publication represents the combined experience of outstanding Canadian skiers, it will be found to be very useful by those who are looking for hints on the subject. It may be obtained free on application at McGiffin's store on Sparks Street.

**Checkup on Your Style**

**N**O MATTER whether you are an expert skier or just a duffer you should check up on your ski-ing ability by trying the Official Ski Tests of the Canadian Amateur Ski Association. The gold, silver and bronze badges of efficiency may or may not appeal to you as personal ornaments, but you'll get a lot of satisfaction out of the knowledge of just where you stand in comparison with other skiers. The tests are more than mere gauges of your present ability, they form a systematic, graduated, progressive course in the art of controlled skiing. If you practise each manoeuvre in its proper chronological order and make yourself proficient in each one before going on to the next you will soon realize how carefully they have been designed and arranged. If you can pass the Third Class, Bronze Medal Test you can venture on any of the ordinary trails, and take most of the hills, in the Gatineau Zone. If you plan going further afield or trying the more difficult hills you should make a stab at the Silver Medal of the Second Class. If all our Canadian skiers who go in for competitive slalom, downhill, cross-country and jumping trials were entitled to wear the Gold Medal of the First Class, Canada would undoubtedly make a much better showing at international competitions.

We, editorially speaking, have always advocated these tests among fellow skiers, at club meetings, by means of the printed word and over the air. We are publishing them in this, the first issue of "TRACK", not merely for the convenience of those who are already interested in trying them but as a bit of bare-faced propaganda. We intend to keep hammering away at it till every young and active skier, in this zone, is qualified to wear at least the Third Class badge and has some definite measure of his efficiency and his right to clutter up the trails. And incidentally, in spite of advancing years and the only too evident signs of the inevitable middle-aged spread, we intend to try the tests ourselves one of these days.

(see page 10)



## Instruction and Training

IT IS A well-known fact that Ottawa skiers have created a very high reputation for cross-country running and their record in ski-jumping, though less sustained, is extremely creditable. Up to the present our prowess in slalom racing leaves much to be desired. However, this seems well on the way to being remedied. Last year there was a spontaneous movement in the direction of acquiring a greater mastery in the technique of turns at high and slower speeds. So great was the enthusiasm that there were times when the slalom hill was too congested for comfort.

Everything possible should be done to encourage this movement, not in order that we should win slalom races—though that objective is commendable—but because a mastery of turns is the hall-mark of an expert skier. It is the same with ski-ing as with any sport, the greater the degree of mastery attained, the more intense is the personal satisfaction. But in ski-ing, mastery yields greater thrills than other sports with few, if any, exceptions because a combination of high skill and courage permits breath-taking performances of grace and speed on slopes which to the novice seem impossible or even suicidal.

Last winter the executive of the Ottawa Ski Club laid plans to furnish every possible facility for the development of ski technique. The plans included the clearing of hills for open hill practice and the possibility of importing a ski-instructor was discussed. At present it does not appear to be practicable to bring over an instructor from Europe. Fortunately, we can have first-class ski instruction without having to resort to the drastic procedure of importing a

teacher. We have in the club first-class skiers who are highly capable of imparting their knowledge. We have Hal Heggveit and John Taylor, winners of Dominion championships in cross-country running, and experts in downhill and slalom racing. Arrangements have been made with these and others to teach the ski-ing turns at Dome Hill during the winter.

Under the management of Fred Brown, this will become a regular feature of the club activities. The importance of this step should be fully appreciated by our members. It means that there will be available without any extra charge whatever ski-ing instruction of as high a quality as can be secured in the environs of Ottawa. The tempo turn will be taught, though of course beginners and novices must remember that it is necessary to learn to walk before you can run. In short, this development means that members of the Ottawa Ski Club, if they so desire, may learn the most up-to-date methods in ski-technique without any additional charge on the ordinary membership fee. It is hoped that from time to time arrangements can be made to have exhibitions given by outside experts as well. It is felt that this move will add greatly to the mastery of ski-ing in Ottawa.

"The more one skis, the greater happiness does one draw from dominion over one's body, and the less pleasure does one get from the purely physical thrill of speed."

PETER LUNN.

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## A Bigger and Better Slalom Hill

A FEW YEARS ago members of the Ottawa Ski Club and those interested in the advancement of ski-ing purchased about 4,000 trees in the neighbourhood of Camp Fortune, at 25c. a tree. The land was, apparently, thrown in. We have since discovered that we bought too many trees and not enough land. However, in consequence a scheme has now been evolved whereby we are offering to those rightful owners of these beautiful birches and maples their choice of trees. In order to procure your tree you are asked only to come to the Slalom Hill any Sunday before the snow gets too deep, cut down your tree or trees and carry them home. Of course you might find them a little heavy to carry, in which case an alternative is offered to you. You will be allowed to cut your tree into sections and trim and place it in the hollows to improve the ski-ing there. We would strongly recommend that you follow the latter suggestion.

A few of us have spent the last few Sundays clearing the Slalom and the arrival of deep snow should see this hill about fifty feet wider from top to bottom. The great majority of this work has been directed by four stalwart members of the Club, namely, Howard Bagguley, Hubert Douglas, Courtney Bond and John Taylor. They have had some very welcome assistance from Gerry Rath, Art Robertson, Suddy Ashfield, Pete O'Connor, Joe Oliver, Hal Heggtveit, Newt Barry, Francis Heggtveit, Carlyle Heggtveit, Baden Farrell, Jim Leslie, Donnie Runge and Gerry Larocque and five young ladies, namely, Alice Johannsen, Jackie Larocque, Kay Larocque, Freda Runge and Phyllis Wright.

We feel that in order to improve our technique and to raise the standard of ski-ing in Ottawa to a higher level, more open hills are needed. For years people in Ottawa have been ski-ing over trails and experience shows us that this does very little to improve one's ability in the art of turns. The popularity of the Slalom Hill last year has proven that the members are realizing this fact more and more, with the result that the hill will certainly not be nearly wide enough to accommodate all those desiring to practice their stems and turns there, unless the members themselves are willing to lend a hand.

It is difficult to conceive the amount of time and work needed to make this hill from forty to fifty feet wider. It is still too narrow for the average skier to use and although we have

repeatedly asked for them we have not been exactly swamped by volunteers. Unfortunately the ground might be covered with snow by the time this article reaches you, in which case the proceedings will have to be postponed until next year. However, don't think for a minute that the job is finished, and if you have shirked in your duty this year you certainly will be allowed to redeem yourself next fall.



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## CLUB NEWS

### THE SEIGNIORY CLUB

**T**HIS WINTER of ours must soon justify all the hopes entertained for it and let loose enough snow, ice and blue sky to make good ski-ing and the other winter sports possible at the Seignior Club where some important ski competitions will be held this season. The snow will be welcome. It covers up so much that is unsightly, creates a new and beautiful world, makes the Great Outdoors we talk so much about seem cleaner and more spacious.

At the Seignior Club this winter the major week-end events are many and varied. But they will never be allowed to overshadow leisurely sports for members and their guests. It is in the plans of the Sports Department here to make the beginner get quite as much real fun as the expert and at the same time have the spectacular exhibitions that hold everyone's interest. The skating rink on the dining room terrace, the ski school classes and ski trails covering all types of country, the toboggan slide ending far out on the ice of the Ottawa river, will be available every day if weather permits and of course there's curling, weather or no, on the indoor artificial ice rinks and swimming occasionally in the glass-enclosed pool near the Log Chateau. Then, for those who take their winter sports more cautiously there's snow shoeing, much maligned since everyone became ski conscious, but still peculiarly Canada's own.

The following is the Club's tentative winter program:

1936

#### DECEMBER

- 12-13 Opening Curling Bonspiel.
- 24 Christmas Eve. Trimming of the Christmas Tree in the Log Chateau Lounge.
- 25 Christmas. Children's party at Sports Club House. Motion Pictures in Ball Room.

- 26 Ski Hike, supper dance in Log Chateau Dining Room.
- 27 Ice Gymkhana. Motion Pictures in ball room and Curling Competition.
- 28 Children's Hockey Game and Curling Competition. Bingo Games.
- 29 Ski Competition at Valley Farm for Mackenzie and Common Trophies. Downhill and Slalom Races.
- 30 Habitant Day. Ski races for Village School Boys. Dog races. Torchlight parade, carnival.
- 31 Ladies' and Men's Spoon Curling competition; New Year's Eve party and entertainment.

1937

#### JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day. Curling competition; children's sleigh drive and tea party. Torchlight Ski Race with bean supper at Sports Club House.
- 2 Ice Hockey Game, guests vs. staff, fancy skating.
- 30-31 Ladies' intercity ski meet.

#### FEBRUARY

- 5-6-7 Rankin Trophy Men's Curling Bonspiel.
- 18-21 Women's Curling Bonspiel for Sewell Trophy.
- 27-28 Third Annual Inter-Scholastic Ski Meet.

#### MARCH

- 6-7 Mixed Curling Bonspiel.

### RENFREW SKI CLUB

**T**HREE YEARS ago the Renfrew Ski Club built a 16 x 20 ft. lodge a few miles from Renfrew. It has been enlarged twice until it is now 16 x 40 ft. This indicates the increasing popularity of ski-ing in the Renfrew region.

Club members are anxious to improve their ski-technique and part of their winter program is to arrange for ski-ing demonstrations by Ottawa experts.

There is evidence here of a live and progressive organization.





### HAWKESBURY SKI CLUB

This organization had 65 members last year. It is planned to erect a lodge north of Calumet. The ski jump has been improved and lengthened.

Plans for the coming season include erection of a lodge north of Calumet, improvement and lengthening of ski jump, and construction of a downhill racing trail. Plans for new trails are also to be made.

The club looks forward to an excellent ski-ing season.

### BUCKINGHAM SKI CLUB

THE BUCKINGHAM SKI CLUB got away to an early start in organizing for the coming season. The Annual General Meeting was held on Friday, November 6, 1936. Officers for the coming season were elected as follows:—

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Honorary President</i> .....  | REV. DONALD NICHOLSON   |
| <i>President</i> .....           | ROGER D'AOUST   |
| <i>Vice-President</i> .....      | PEARL MORAN   |
| <i>Secretary-Treasurer</i> ..... | HENRY CLEMENT   |
| <i>Organizers</i> .....          | J. E. (Red) WALKER<br>MABEL MORRISON                          |
| <i>Trail Blazers</i> .....       | HOWARD FRENCH<br>JOHN HORNE<br>STEVE QUINN<br>HENRY LADOUCEUR |

The officers feel quite confident that the membership will greatly increase this season. Last year's membership being one hundred and two members.

### FORWARD, THE LADIES

PLANS OF THE Ottawa Ski Club for the coming season include special contests for the ladies quite apart from the men's events. The program will make provision for contests for novices as well as the more expert skiers. Under able management we plan to develop among our lady members, trained and

fully qualified experts capable of holding their own with the best in other clubs.

The Montreal and Toronto Clubs have made great strides along instructional lines. Our own backwardness has no doubt been due to some extent to the lack of adequate training grounds, but this has been satisfactorily remedied. We now have, around Camp Fortune, cleared hills that are eminently suitable for this purpose. In addition to the facilities for self-instruction and practice instruction in ski technique will be given free by qualified expert teachers.

In view of these advantages we look forward to growing enthusiasm among the ladies for the development of highly skilled skiers and for more recruits for the slalom and downhill events.

### BAD NEWS

YOUR EDITOR has been advised that John Blair, one of the outstanding exponents of ski style and technique of the Ottawa Ski Club and the Gatineau Zone, is leaving the city. Editorially and outwardly we must of course be gracious about it. We must say that what is Ottawa's loss is Quebec's gain or something equally platitudinous, but personally and inwardly, we are pretty sore about it. However, in both capacities we wish John every possible success in his new location, both in ski-ing and business.

\* \* \*

LOUIS GRIMES, who has taken such an active interest in the Ottawa Ski Club activities for many years, particularly in the field of competitions, will be missed during the coming season. The construction industry requires his presence in Trenton for several months. We hope he will find some hills in that vicinity where he can demonstrate the joys of his favorite winter sport. His absence is a distinct loss to the Ottawa Ski Club executive and to ski-ing in general.



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## Official Ski Tests

### GENERAL

1. The official ski tests are under the jurisdiction of the Technical Board of the Canadian Amateur Ski Association. The Secretary of the Association will keep a record of all successfully passing the tests, and their names will be published in the official Year Book of the Association.

2. There are three official tests: First Class, Second Class, Third Class.

3. The tests may be taken only by members in good standing of clubs holding membership in the C.A.S.A. A charge will be made for the official ski test badges as follows: Gold, First Class, \$5.25; Silver, Second Class, \$3.25; Bronze, Third Class, \$1.25.

4. Clubs desiring to conduct tests will, through the Secretary of the Association, notify the Technical Board, who will appoint official judges for the same. Full instructions as to their duties will be furnished all judges. No one can qualify for a test unless two officially appointed judges are present, and only after formal application has been made to and approved by their Club. Upon the successful completion of a test, a Certificate to this effect, signed by the two officiating judges, will be sent at once to the Secretary of the Association, accompanied by the badge fee, if desired.

5. Generally, no one may take the Second Class Test until passing the Third Class; and the First Class is contingent upon passing the Second Class Test. The Technical Board alone may change this rule, and they alone may award badges at their discretion.

6. Three trials only will be allowed in any one part of a test, and all the parts of a test should be passed on the same day before the same judges, if, in their opinion, conditions so warrant; all parts must be passed in the same season.

### FORM

The judges will consider the form of the candidate as well as speed and execution. The distinguishing points of good form are: an easy, supple balance without dependence on the sticks; proper control of the ski at all times; execution of the turns without apparent haste or effort; and appearance of confidence and a resilient position.

### SNOW

For the purpose of these tests, Hard Snow may be considered hard unbreakable crust, or well-trodden snow from which all traces of soft

snow have disappeared. Soft Snow, a good layer of powder snow, or hard crust softened by the sun, but not breakable.

#### STEM TURNS

Stem Turns must be done slowly and under control. They must be carried through by steering action and gradual outward weight shifting only. Both ski must be weighted throughout and remain in stem position. There must be no lifting of either ski and no spinning around on the outer ski by body swing—nothing, in other words, approximating the Christiania finish. The real test is that the stem angle shall not diminish until the outer ski has reached the new direction of traverse, and then shall not do so abruptly. The sticks must be clear of the snow throughout the turn.

#### TELEMARK

In the Telemark the back ski should drop behind and the bend of the back ski should not be ahead of the ankle of the leading foot and should not be allowed to come forward until the turn is completed. Candidates who start this turn with a mixture of ordinary stemming should not be passed.

#### CHRISTIANIA

This turn may be done either by separating the points of the ski and completed by bringing them parallel—"Open Christiania," or by keeping the ski parallel throughout and jerking them around—"Jerked Christiania": or by a slight stem, the ski being immediately brought parallel after the turn has started—"Closed or Stem Christiania." In every case the essence of this turn is that the swing should be rapid and the preliminary stemming or diverging of the ski as slight as possible. A turn started by pronounced stemming and completed as a Christiania should not be passed.

#### JUMP TURNS

This is primarily a stick turn and must be made as such. The following are the essentials of good form: Skis parallel, knees well bent, weight on the toes, inner stick held firmly in the hand, jump on the stick with an easy, confident spring well off the snow, knees in contact throughout, jump landing well below line of traverse.

#### CONTINUOUS TURNS

These are the same as Downhill Turns. They are to connect up one turn with another, and differ from Stop or Uphill Turns in that the turn is made down the slope. Candidates must not stop between Continuous Turns, a momentary stop between Jump Turns excepted.

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## STICKS

Candidates must carry sticks throughout the tests, but the sticks may not be used to reduce speed, nor to assist a turn, Lifted Stem, Christianias and Jump Turns excepted. Sticks are not to be carried in the Jumping Tests.

## CROSS-COUNTRY TESTS

Are to demonstrate all-round proficiency, steadiness and form rather than speed and stamina, although all these factors will be considered by the judges in their decision. The judges, depending upon local conditions and circumstances, will set a time limit for each test, within which all runners must finish, and this time will be given the candidates before starting.

## JUMPING TESTS

Are to demonstrate balance, confidence and form and not proficiency on a standard Jumping Hill. Touring ski will be used in all the jumping tests. Improvised jumps will be built to give a fair test of balance, confidence, and landing, and all these factors will be considered by the judges in their decision.

## THIRD CLASS TEST

1. Four continuous Pure Stem Turns on hard snow under complete control, on a 15 degree slope.
2. A Right and Left Telemark from a descent on soft snow, on a 15 degree slope.
3. A Right and Left Christiania from a direct descent on hard snow, on a 15 degree slope.
4. A Right and Left Jump Turn to a stop from a direct descent, on a 15 degree slope.
5. A Cross-Country Test against time of one mile in length laid out to show all-round proficiency in climbing, on the flat, and downhill, over bush trails and open country.
6. A Jump of 10 feet.

## SECOND CLASS TEST

1. Four continuous lifted Stem Turns on hard snow on a twenty-five degree slope.
2. Four continuous Telemark Turns on soft snow on a 25 degree slope.
3. Two Stop Christiania Swings Right and Left on hard snow from a direct descent on a 25 degree slope.
4. Four continuous Jump Turns on a 20 degree slope, finishing with a stop Jump Turn.
5. A Cross-Country Test against time, of two miles in length, laid out to test the candidate's all-round proficiency and particularly steadiness and form in downhill running through bush and open country.
6. A Jump of 35 feet.

## FIRST CLASS TEST

1. Four continuous Christiania Turns on soft snow on a 30 degree slope.
2. Four continuous Telemark Turns on soft snow on a 30 degree slope.
3. Two Stop Christianias and Two Stop Telemarks, Right and Left, from a direct descent on a 30 degree slope.
4. Four Downhill Jump Turns on a 30 degree slope.
5. A Cross-Country Test against time, of seven miles, laid out over difficult country to test thoroughly the candidate's all-round proficiency under really severe conditions.
6. A Jump of 60 feet.

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## The Dome Hill Juniors

by THE EDITOR

YOUR EDITOR gets his fill of statistics during working hours and has no intention of taking on another census but he is curious to know just how many Canadian skiers learned the art under the tutelage of Mrs. Frank Semple as members of the Dome Hill Juniors. Mrs. Semple used to take them in hand as soon as they could climb over the side of the crib. She inculcated in their hearts a love for the grandest of all outdoor winter sports when they were at an impressionable age. As they grew older and became self-conscious (and much less attractive) they stretched their wings and deserted the Juniors on one pretext or another but they were replaced as fast as they left by eager fledglings. None of them will ever forget where, when and under whose care they first learned to ski.

Mrs. Semple has given us a brief history of the Dome Hill Juniors but it is far too modest and unassuming and touches too lightly on the efficient way in which the Juniors were organized and the enormous amount of hard work that was necessary to carry out this service. We have therefore exercised the editorial prerogative and enlarged on it.

Away back in the twinkling twenties when every child in Ottawa did not look on a complete outfit of ski equipment and clothing as a right rather than a privilege the original Dome Hill Junior shared a pair of ski boots with his mother. He soon mastered the slopes along the canal bank and in Rockcliffe and gazed lovingly toward the north where the Ottawa Ski Club had built its famous lodge at Ironsides. Mrs. Semple came to his rescue and gave him the thrill of his first real ski hike with the grown-ups.

Two more lads, barely able to stand on ski, joined the next expedition, the first of a long series of Saturday morning trips. Never was a shout given with more joy and relief than when the small but entrepid party, after hours of adventure, crossed the last gully and saw the smoke rising from the friendly fire-place at Ironsides.

A handful of school chums were, as a great concession, allowed to join the growing organization. Few of them could ski but, fired by the stories of the veterans, they strove manfully. Every climb was an achievement every descent a breath-taking adventure. Saturday piled on Saturday with the little group growing and spreading and with never a single accident. Three years slipped by before Mrs. Semple

realized that she had a going concern on her hands instead of a little experiment in service. Twenty-three junior members seemed quite a lot and seventeen on a trip must have been quite a handful—at first. A few girls, brave beyond the average, had joined the ranks and had surprised their parents by re-appearing at the Saturday supper table still in possession of their usual quota of limbs and features. Parents began to realize that their children were safer ski-ing on the hills with Mrs. Semple than playing around home.

Then one Saturday afternoon the editor of the "*Ottawa Ski Club News*" met the entourage returning to Wrightville and stopped long enough to marvel at the tender age and diminutive stature of this little army of embryo ski champions. The next issue of the *News* contained a notice that others would be welcome to join the organization. It all seemed so simple to him that he failed to realize just what such an invitation meant. Calls came in from all sides and for a time the organization was embarrassed with new recruits. But the editor's faith and optimism were fully justified.

Some people believe in controlling children and other animals almost entirely by corporal punishment or threats thereof, some use loud harsh shouting, some employ guile and some, promises of reward. There is also the newer school that depends on "Letting them develop their personalities", that usually results in the development of a particularly poisonous brand of spoiled brat. Then there is the understanding person, like Mrs. Semple, who has the happy faculty of being able to manage children—or rather teach them to manage themselves.

As the Juniors grew, other unselfish ladies offered to barter away their treasured Saturdays for no return other than the sight of shining eyes and the music of young voices around them all day. The Director of the Dome Hill Lodge struck on the happy name of "The Dome Hill Juniors" and the organization was so christened and launched on its way. Special badges were issued for this club-within-a-club for all understanding people know that children dearly love a distinctive and more or less exclusive badge.

The membership jumped almost overnight to over a hundred young skiers under twelve years of age and did not fall below this number as long as the organization existed. There were

always more new recruits seeking enrollment than there were graduates.

During this period, instruction became necessary and many of the best skiers in the Ottawa Ski Club volunteered their services. Fred. Brown, Jerry Loa, Arthur Pinault, Ken. Fosberry, Jack Bourgault and others came out to Ironsides in turn, early Saturday afternoon and were surprised at the ease with which the Juniors acquired difficult turns and other manoeuvres. When Bret. Pliski was giving instruction to Seniors on Dome Hill he also was surprised to find that many of the Juniors were entering his competitions and carrying off equal honours with older skiers of long experience.

Mrs. Semple says that the placing of a typewritten sheet of instructions in the hands of every child was largely responsible for the complete lack of serious accident during the life of the organization. How simple! Just a scrap of paper! But that sheet of paper was merely the token of the directing mind and hand. The Dome Hill Juniors were as well organized as an army of shock troops, each expedition ran as smoothly as a piece of well-oiled machinery and it took a lot more than a few typewritten sheets of paper to do it.

The members were divided into groups of a dozen or so with an older child as a lieutenant over each group. On Friday night Mrs. Semple issued her orders for the next day's expedition to these lieutenants and each of them phoned or notified the members of the group. Lower temperature than 10 below on Friday night might mean no expedition on Saturday for children are careless about watching for frost-bite. Each child had to be properly clothed and equipped and provided with car fare and a proper lunch—every last detail was arranged beforehand and carried out to the letter. They met at the tram terminus and travelled to Wrightville en masse. Their ski trip to Dome Hill Lodge was conducted like the advance of an army into enemy territory.

They travelled in pairs and woe betide the one that deserted his or her trail partner. Certain hills were out of bounds and no one could stray from the regular trail. There was no safety precaution overlooked. The lady helpers took turns in forming a rear guard to effect emergency repairs on broken straps and other equipment and to help along the stragglers. In order to do this they had to travel as slow as the slowest and keep behind the very last of all the stragglers. Anyone seeking a hero's crown might try this rôle in zero weather in January.

The day's ski-ing at Dome Hill was divided into regular periods, so many minutes sliding or

instruction and so many minutes in the lodge playing table games or taking enforced rest. It wouldn't do to let them tire themselves out so that they couldn't make the return trip to Wrightville. And when they did arrive back at the car line they had all their gloves, and mufflers and car fare and everything else intact. If you think that is a simple matter, try herding fifty or sixty kids along the same course and see how much equipment you would leave along the wayside.

In spite of all this highly efficient organization and the strict regulations that are usually so irksome to the young of the species, the kids all loved it and came back for more.

"These years of sunny memories are woven into the lives of many of the present members of the Ottawa Ski Club. Loyalty and devotion to the Club have come as easily and unperceived as the unspoken love of one's childhood home, which lives deep and serene in the heart of every honourable man or woman".

After Mrs. Semple found it necessary to give up her active connection with the Dome Hill Juniors the organization struggled on for a while and then folded up. The Ottawa Ski Club has made several unsuccessful attempts to revive it and this winter plans to provide instruction for juniors as well as seniors in its new plans. We hope they succeed but we warn the executive that they will have a pretty tough time finding a fit successor for Mrs. Frank Semple.

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## Book Review

THE MEMBERS of the editorial staff try to read all the new books and annuals on ski-ing and related subjects but they can't cover the entire field. If you run across a new development in ski literature that strikes your fancy please send us a review. Don't forget to mention the author's name, the name and address of the publisher and—this is important—the price.

"THE SKI ANNUAL," Canadian Amateur Ski Association, to members, Five Cents.

THIS YEAR'S edition of the *Ski Annual* will achieve the highest level of excellence yet attained. Much praise is due Mr. Douglas, the editor, who has laboured for many years at the task of improving this publication. It is of the utmost importance to ski-ing in Canada that a first-class Year Book be published and it is, therefore, the duty of every club to encourage this enterprise. One form of encouragement is to promote its sale because the larger the circulation the more funds there will be to improve the quality of the publication. It is being offered to members of the Ottawa Ski Club and their friends at the ridiculously low price of five cents a copy, which will not quite reimburse the club for expenses incurred in connection with its distribution. Every member should secure a copy at McGiffin's, Holbrook Bldg., Sparks St., Ottawa, when it is available about the middle of December, and should see that their ski-ing friends have a copy. Do your bit to help put the Canadian Ski Annual among the foremost ski annuals of the world.

"*Washing the Hands*," by AIKEN. A. DEHAN, Toronto, McClelland and Stewart, \$1.00.

AT EVERY mixed gathering, whether a ski trip, a hike in the country, a long motor ride or a social evening of dining, dancing or bridge playing, you run across people who lack consideration for the comfort of others in the very important matter of washing the hands.

When you read Aiken A. Dehan's book on this subject you immediately think of several hosts and especially hostesses to whom you would like to send copies to give them a gentle, perhaps anonymous, hint to be a little more considerate of those of us who still retain a few shreds of modesty, false or genuine in these frank outspoken times. This humorous and sophisticated book is reminiscent of "*The Specialist*" by the late lamented Chick Sales but possesses perhaps a little more subtlety.

"*Ski Fever*", by J. B. EMTAGE, London, Methuen and Co., 5s 0d net.

A HELPFUL (?) book, sprinkled with Lewis Baumer's all too realistic action pictures. For those whose winter sport-lust is not dulled by repeated falls or worse, the author throws in hints on skating, curling, hockey, etc., that will greatly enliven European rinks for many winters to come. The setting may be European but skiers fall on both sides of the Atlantic and humor is cosmopolitan.

\* \* \*

### CONTRADICTIONS

"*Ski*.—We found it difficult to agree on a definition of this word. One of the authors whose youth was misspent regards ski as clumsy and perverse splints carried on the feet in case they might be useful, later, for some other part of the wearer's anatomy. The other author has difficulty in refraining from lifting his hat in reverence when the word 'ski' is mentioned. Somewhere between these extreme views may lie a fair definition of the word."

(Round Mystery Mountain—  
SIR NORMAN WATSON and E. J. KING).

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Were You a Member Last Year?..... Amount of Fees.....

This renewal form is to be used only by those who were members in good standing in 1935. Members rejoining after a lapse of one or more years should use an "application form for new members." If you are resigning, kindly give your name and address and write the word "resigning" across the face of this form. This form should be returned to "Secretary, Ottawa Ski Club, McGiffin's, Sparks St., City.

### Application for Membership

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### THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT

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