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"A RAPSONY OF SKIING"

Tonight the Rensselaer Outing Club is presenting to the ski enthusiasts of RPI and the immediate vicinity a truly fine ski movie, "A Rapsody of Skiing." Produced and directed by Hans Thorner, a famous skier and ski instructor from Franconia, New Hampshire, The film assures its audience of one hour and twenty minutes of superb ski entertainment.

The movie is actually five films in one: "Riding the Hickories" stars Dick Movitz, Earne McLean, Florence Thorner, Peggy Taylor, Hans Thorner and the school children of Franconia; "World Champion Skier" is a magnificent study taken in the Alps of the Swiss ace, Eddy Rominger, three times world champion; "White Rapsody" stars the picture's producer and director, Hans Thorner, and is narrated by Ted Husing; "Parsem Symphony" recounts recounts to the accompaniment of a modern musical score a day's activities at the Parsem, world's longest down hill course; and "Skyward on Skis", the final section, taken with colored film high in the Rockies, tells a tale of unsurpassed action and beauty amid nature's ever-wonderful elements.

"A Rapsody of Skiing" promises to be an exciting and genuinely interesting film. We sincerely hope no one will be disappointed.

Dick Bailey '49

LOOKING FOR SKI TRANSPORTATION?

The Taconic Hiking Club of Troy has been running ski trips every other Sunday to nearby ski resorts. On these trips, however, their chartered bus has only been half full; as many as 20 seats were vacant on one trip. The T.H.C. extends to any RPI skiers an invitation to join them. Arrangements have been made for their bus to pick up any interested skiers at the '87 Gym at 8:00AM. The destination will be the same resort as that to which the ROC bus is bound. The cost will be \$2.50. The next T.H.C. trip will be this Sunday, February 15, if you want to go with them, please do not wait but sign the list tonight at the table where the IOCA BULLETINS are being sold. The bus will be cancelled if enough fellows do not sign up.

MT. MARCY CONQUERED

In case, in posterity, anyone should ever ask if the ROC has done anything hardy, future members may point back to the records of January, 1948, with pride. During that month a brave band of eight attained the summit of Mt. Marcy on skis in the middle of winter.

The 140-mile auto trip north to the Adirondacks began shortly after noon on Friday, January 29. At 8:00 the following morning when the thermometer read 25 below zero, the group started out from Adirondack Loj on what promised to be an absolutely incomparable day. Ahead of them lay the Van Hoevenburg Trail -- seven miles in length and involving over 3000 feet of vertical ascent. The previous week another party had broken out the trail somewhat, and although the going was not exceedingly difficult, at places it was steep; skis were a definite necessity. After a short stop for lunch at Plateau Leaite, the party pushed on to the summit, arriving there some six hours after the climb had begun. Mutual congratulations were passed around, pictures taken, and the superb view, due to a cloudless sky, greatly admired. After twenty minutes on the top, the party began the descent. Several spills occured on the way down due to the narrowness of the trail, and Bernie Chamberlin even cracked the tip of his ski. Checking for the most part was restricted to snow plowing. Everyone was pretty well exhausted at the end of the day's strenuous activity, and the comfortable lodge, hot supper, and "that ol' sack" were never more appreciated.

After struggling out of bed on Sunday those who hadn't taken too bad a beating (and whose equipment was still in good enough condition!) spent a very enjoyable morning on the slope and tow maintained by Adirondack Loj.

The participants of the weekend trip were Trip Leader Steve Randolph, Bernie Chamberlin, Canny Clark, Les McHerron, Tris Coffin, Franz Kohling, Furl Wilde, and Bob Woodbury who took 75 feet of colored movies to be exhibited as soon as processed.

Steve Randolph '48

BUSINESS MEETING

At the February meeting of the ROC, plans were laid for two future square dances. As part of the publicity campaign it was decided that a snow man, reflecting the spirit of a square dance, be built on campus and a committee was formed to build one. Nominations for the vacant offices of Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary were made. Elections will be held at the next business meeting. In addition, a motion was made and carried that the Club's annual elections be held earlier this year to facilitate sending next year's president to the IOCA Spring Conference.

On a return trip to Dartmouth last Fall Les McHerron's car hit a deer causing considerable damage to the car. It was felt that the club was partially responsible since it was an ROC trip, and \$25 was voted to Les to help pay for the repairs. In order to provide men who use their cars to transport members and non-members to the scene of ROC activities with a suitable recompense for gas, oil, wear and tear and other operating expenses, a plan for the standardization of rates to be paid to car owners was approved. Transportation costs would be figured at 5 cents a mile and all occupants including the driver would share the total cost equally.

The exploring, mapping, and photographing of caves was discussed and three bulletins from the National Speleological Society were purchased for the Club's library. On a volunteer basis a class was formed to study First Aid with the primary purpose of preparing ROC'ers for membership as patrolmen in the National Ski Patrol System. If the class is large enough it is hoped that the Red Cross will give the course which requires thirty hours for completion.

Harry Van Dyke '49

ATTENTION ALL IOCA BULLETIN READERS:

Upon recent receipt of a letter from Clay Perry, author of the article "Meet the Spelunkers" on page 6 of the Winter 1948 IOCA BULLETIN, it was pointed out to me that several errors were made in the geographical location given to a number of caves. I wish to apologize publically to Mr. Perry for these errors, to assure him that there is no basis for anyone to consider him an ill informed spelunker or an undependable authority on cave locations, and to list the caves in question with the necessary corrections.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CORRECT LOCATION</u>
Clarksville Cave	Clarksville, <u>Albany County</u>
Kompy's Cave	Kysorike
Mitchell's Cave	Sprakers
Sellock's Cave and McPail's Hole	Not in <u>Albany County</u>
No Pottom Pond and Cave	Austerlitz
Stone Church Cave	Dover Plains

For those who are interested, Mr. Perry is the author of the American Cave Series, published by the Stephen Daye Press, New York City. Volume One is entitled "New England's Buried Treasure"; Volume Two, "Underground Empire - Wonders and Tales of New York Caves." Mr. Perry is currently at work on a third volume, descriptive of the caverns in the central Adirondack Mountains. Together with his son, Paul, a sophomore at the University of Massachusetts, he spent two months last summer exploring many caverns in this area, some of prodigious size.

Dick Easley, 419
IOCA BULLETIN Editor.

NATIONAL SKI PATROL SYSTEM*

Hamstrung by lack of funds, the National Ski Patrol system may have to go out of business this year. The volunteer organization, which for nine years has bandaged the skier's wounds, splinted his fractures, and tobogganed him down trails and slopes, is on the verge of collapse because a small minority is carrying the financial burden. According to Linet Dole, Chairman of NSPS, a minimum budget of \$51,000 a year is necessary to carry on the work of preventing accidents and caring for those who are injured. The maximum ever contributed in one year is slightly under \$15,000. All administrative work and all but a few patrols are voluntary. Hence this amount covers only the most vital necessities. It has been suggested that every skier who might ever be in a situation to need NSPS help (that leaves out mighty few!) contribute 50 cents a year. A more drastic solution, one constantly suggested by numerous parties, would be the institution of a plan whereby a skier who makes a contribution and becomes an associate member of NSPS for the year will receive NSPS service without charge wherever they ski in the United States. On the other hand a non-member skier requiring toboggan evacuation would receive such aid and then be billed \$25. The NSPS, however, is most anxious to keep its services on a volunteer basis.

Should suspension of activities become unavoidable, the most serious results would be cessation of patrol growth and national patrol coordination, deterioration of standards of training for ski patrol members, and abatement of accident prevention methods. Since NSPS does so much to insure skiers' safety and enjoyment, all ski fans are urged to do whatever they can to rectify the situation. All suggestions on how to solve the financial problem of NSPS will be gratefully received. Write to: National Ski Patrol System, 115 Lexington Ave., New York City. If you wish to become an associate member for \$1.00 or a supporting member for \$5.00, send your contribution, name, and address to the same address. The need is urgent. Do it now!

*Condensed from "Ski News".

RPI SKI TEAM

RPI's newest varsity sport, Skiing, is here to stay! After last week's showing, there won't be much doubt as to whether RPI is a threat to the somewhat evenly matched Western Division of the Intercollegiate Ski Union.

The Ski team grew out of some RPIOC Skiing activity in 1936 and was coached by Henry Kumph. Its activity was more or less limited, by the lack of extensive skiing spirit, to the Dartmouth and Middlebury Carnivals, where its showing was not too remarkable. However, its first incentive was given by the first Team Captain, Francis Sertl, of Schenectady, who, in 1938, won the New York State Downhill and Slalom races. The sport decreased somewhat in popularity during the war to the extent that no team was forwarded, but last year, through the efforts of Coach Henry Kumph, and also the Outing Club, we entered a team in the Skidmore Carnival and took first place. Due to a then renewed interest on the part of the school, the Outing Club, in conjunction with the ski team, sponsored a meet on Mount Greylock, and M.I.T., Williams, and Syracuse were among the teams that entered. M.I.T. won, but RPI was on the skiing map at last. As a result skiing was voted to be a conditional varsity sport by the Executive Committee of the Ronsselaer Union. This means that for two years skiing will be a varsity sport if interest is shown. If, at the end of this time, there is still sufficient interest shown, it will become a full varsity sport.

This year brought a renewal of the hopes of many of the school skiers that they would have a place in competition, and forty-five fellows began practicing in November under the direction of Coach Roland Brown. The invitation for the first meet of the year at Lake Placid was received just before Christmas Vacation, and as a result an unprepared team entered competition, finishing seventh out of ten teams. Coach Brown, taking no chances on being caught again, held tryouts on Sheep's Hill on February 1. Fifteen fellows tried out and from them a team of six was picked for the New York State and I.S.U. meets which were held concurrently at St. Lawrence University. We began the meet by taking the downhill with Gunnar Sorkness doing the honors. Next came the Cross Country in which Queens and Cornell forged ahead, despite the fine showing of Claude Wiese. In the Slalom we again took the lead with Mel Hoagland taking first place and Dick Headly taking fifth. In jumping we managed to hold our own. Then, on final tabulation, it was found that R.P.I. had lost the I.S.U. Championship by only five points to Cornell. The scores were Cornell 359, R.P.I. 354.

There is no doubt now that R.P.I. is becoming one of the powers in intercollegiate skiing. Our next showing will be at the Syracuse Carnival on February 21-22. Also on February 21 we are placing entries in the downhill and slalom events at the Skidmore Carnival. Finally, on February 28, at North Creek, R.P.I. will hold its own invitation meet. The teams competing will be Union, Cortland, and Syracuse and probably Lehigh, Hamilton, Hobart, and Penn State, in addition to R.P.I.

Jerry Shea '50

OPERATION GREYLOCK

Under beautiful blue skies and a starry night with a snowy landscape seven ROCers spent the weekend of December 13 on Mt. Greylock. The light snow at the base of the mountain, which unfortunately was not deep enough for skiing, did not make hiking difficult, so the leanto on the west side of the mountain was quickly reached. Leaving their packs the group went on to the top where a strong cold wind was blowing. Despite the beautiful view not much time was spent there. The next morning proved to be as superb as the previous day so a short hike was taken to a ledge overlooking a valley at the base of the mountain. En route Deane Borden pointed out and explained many of the tracks in the snow. However, that over-present threat of a quiz the next morning forced us to lunch and make an early return to Troy.

Canny Clark '50

JUST NEWS

The recent Christmas and mid-semester vacations provided a field day for the out-of-door clan, Dick Bailey and Deane Woodward, planning on skiing at Tuckerman's Ravine between terms, were forced to remain at Woody's home in Maine when Dick wrenched his knee. Dick Rhyns, Dick Peters, Cliff Ostergaard, and Dick Larson, some of the many at Stowe, matched dinner table stories with Lt. Mansfield's famous ski patrol at the home of Mrs. Agnes Russel. Daytime activities included ski lessons, trips to the Octagon atop Mt. Mansfield and Toll Road skiing at night the sons of RPI saw duty at the Round Hearth and the Gables. ROCers were well represented at the Ranch Camp also. Among those present were; Harry and Miriam Whippo, Dale and Janet Brown, Lew Hill, Steve Randolph and Al Bartholmer. Said one of the crowd, "Stowe is tops for skiing. A swell 06 crowd, plus all you can eat and plenty of good skiing makes a wonderful holiday." No one seemed to know where Jed Liberty was staying, but he was all over, even skiing with his accordion at one point. (so the report goes) Five RPI men including Dick Yoder stayed at the State Ski Dorm at Stowe. They reported excellent food but very strict hours and regulations. Further south at Big Bromley and Snow Valley, Hal Pickering and Jack McLane spent a great deal of time on the hickory slats, as did Don Benthorn and Lars Erickson, before the latter banged up his ankle. According to Bob Woodbury ski conditions at Boya Slopes, Allegheny State Park (near Orlean, N.Y.), were excellent between semesters.

Harry Smidt and Herb Fithian spent an enjoyable if somewhat frigid, outing in Vermont during the break between semesters. From experience they can attest to the fact that the double unit mountain sleeping bag is plenty warm at 34 degrees below zero. They did some hiking in the mountains, made more interesting by the large number of animal tracks in the snow (mostly deer) which they encountered. Both skis and snowshoes were used and it was found that snowshoes are much better for uphill work, especially in powder snow, but of course the skis had the advantage downhill.

Much to the detriment of the Outing Club our capable treasurer and Membership Chairman, John Wall, has taken leave of absence from the sacred halls of RPI for the spring semester. We will certainly miss Peerless John since he was so adept at manipulating the books and so fearless a guardian of the cash box. We will do our best, however, to fill the vacancy that his leaving has created.

Lars Erickson has recently taken a part time job which causes a severe drain on his spare time. Hence he has found it necessary to resign as corresponding secretary, leaving this office vacant also. Elections to fill these offices will be held at the next business meeting.

CHARLIE HINE'S SKI TRAIL

As short a distance as thirty miles from the campus exists a ski trail reported as "a beauty." It is located in Petersburg on property owned by Charlie Hine, one of ROCs faculty advisors. The trail represents the energetic work of Charlie, Harry Whippo, ADKers and some ROCers. Its constructors rate it as intermediate with a little expert thrown in here and there. The trail is half a mile long, from twelve to fifteen feet wide and definitely requires skins for the ascent. There are still numerous rocks to be removed, shrubs to be cut down and several spots to be filled in as they tend to be slushy if the autumn is wet. With these improvements it would be possible to ski the trail with as little as four inches of snow. Charlie welcomes skiers from any organization with which he is affiliated. Additions to both length and width are under consideration if enough fellows can be mustered to play the part of woodsmen. It represents an excellent opportunity for ROCers or ADKers to get in an inexpensive day of skiing and provides ample inducement to hit the great outdoors and exercise flabby muscles in wild weather.

BOTTOMS UP!

How long has it been since you were skiing at one of the numerous New England ski slopes on a so-called novice trail and found yourself peering over what resembled a precipice? This sort of thing happens only too often and very often ends in a painful toboggan ride. Unfortunately there is no standard system for rating the trails and slopes. The men who lay out and rate these trails each seem to have a different opinion as to the degree of difficulty that each rating constitutes. As yet no skiing organization has standardized the trail ratings or listed a set of specifications to guide the rater.

Since a large percentage of accidents happen to skiers who are skiing on trails that are beyond their ability, standardization would undoubtedly reduce the number of accidents. Although relatively few skiers have taken one or more of the USEASA proficiency tests, most sensible skiers have a fair idea of their ability and limitations, and would hesitate to attempt a trail too rugged for them.

Perhaps several of the IOCA members, who are familiar with the more popular ski areas of New England and New York, would be willing to classify the trails into groups such as novice, intermediate or expert. If this were done, then anyone skiing in unfamiliar territory could compare the trails with more familiar ones. Such a list printed in next year's issue of the IOCA Bulletin would, I'm sure, enlighten many who attempt trails that are too difficult for them and, as a result spend an hour or so falling to the bottom or getting a more rapid ride on a toboggan. After all, it is bad enough to sit on one's ignorance but, it is much worse and more painful to break a leg through ignorance.

There is a definite tendency for a person who is just beginning to ski to classify himself as a novice. This assumption is entirely false since on practically all of the trails classified as novice, a person must be able to snowplow and execute a snowplow turn. Many beginners snow plow with a third ski but this is often a slow and hazardous method of halting one's forward progress. If beginners would remain on the practice slopes until they have mastered a few of the basic fundamentals of skiing, they would do themselves and others a big service.

Canny Clark '50

SKI AREA NEWS

In this issue we continue our recently established policy of imparting to ski fans the information we have about the ski areas to which the ROC will run trips this season.

Dutch Hill, in Heartwellville, Vermont, (about 55 miles from Troy) has five trails with ratings from novice to expert, serviced by an alpine lift. Lift rates are \$3.00 per day, \$.40 per single trip or three trips for \$1.00. In addition there is an excellent novice slope, uphill transportation being provided by a rope tow costing \$1.25 per day. Alpine lift tickets are honored on the tow. A cafeteria, lodge and ski shop are maintained at the base of the slopes. The tow and lift operate during the week for those fortunate ones who are free during the week.

Pico Peak, Rutland, Vermont (about 90 miles from Troy) has an Alpine lift serving expert and intermediate slopes and a novice trail. A rope tow services a novice slope. The lift fee is \$3.50 per day, or \$.40 per ride; the rope tow charge is \$1.00 per day. A ski shop and restaurant are operated at the bottom of the lift.

Additional news about Big Bronley--A new J-lift has been erected this past summer to service a recently completed long and wide novice slope which constitutes an excellent terrain for the novice who desires to improve his technique sufficiently to enable him to tackle a novice or intermediate trail with some degree of success. The lift rate is \$3.00 per day and the main lift ticket (\$3.50 per day) is also honored on this slope.

Al Ragati '50

OTHER OC NEWS

From our OC friends at Dartmouth the ROC has received an invitation to send four fellows to a gala IOCA ski weekend in the heart of the White Mountains. Twenty-three colleges will receive similar invitations to be represented at the DOC's Moosilauke Ravine Camp on March 5, 6 and 7. Those ROCers lucky enough to be among the chosen few include Dick Peters, Al Harthiemer, Steve Randolph and Dick Bailey.