

Ottawa Ski Club News

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THE SPIRIT OF THE CARNIVAL

In a few days King Carnival will reign in our midst. He is a most popular monarch whose dominion is not limited to any country, race or climate. Whether he sets up his throne amid northern ice and snow or beneath smiling tropic skies, he is always sure of homage, for his regime of prosperity, gayety and *camaraderie* appeals to all sorts and conditions of men. He is an opportunist who adapts his policy to his surroundings and therefore his court is always staged against a background of local colour.

Since the popular conception of our fair country (in the eyes of a considerable portion of our neighbours to the south and our friends abroad) is that we are a land of perpetual ice and snow, populated by polar bears, huskies, mounted police, *coureurs des bois*, Indians and golden-haired heroines who pursue each other incessantly on snowshoes, skis and toboggans through trackless forests and snowy wastes, it is of course fitting that we should emphasize these unique characteristics for the benefit of carnival visitors. While the latter are "roughing it" at the Chateau, they will of course hope to be entertained in the picturesque style which the movies have led them to expect.

Looking at the matter from a purely selfish viewpoint, we skiers have little need of a carnival or any other special occasion to stimulate our enthusiasm. Every winter from December to April is one long carnival for us; all we ask is lots of snow and an open trail to the hills. Unfortunately the full measure of our enjoyment cannot be shared with our carnival guests, unless they are prepared to come trekking with us. It is not possible to bring our hills and trails to them. Our brethren of the snowshoe and the skate perhaps have an advantage in this respect. The picturesque costumes and gallant bearing of the former, and the skillful grace and daring speed of the latter can easily be demonstrated before an audience within the confines of the city; and it may also be remembered that snowshoeing and skating are traditional sports in this country which visitors come prepared to enjoy, either as participants or spectators; whereas skiing is a comparatively recent importation which requires a little practice before it can be regarded as really enjoyable. It has been suggested that a skiing parade be staged, but it is doubtful whether such an event would be effective. There would be nothing particularly impressive in a mass formation of skiers filing along city streets, where even plain sliding would be hindered by sand and slush and bare pavement. We have been obliged, to a large extent, to sacrifice picturesqueness to efficiency in the matter of costume; and while our ski togs are eminently suitable for the great open spaces, they are not nearly so striking or typical of the theory of winter sports as the models displayed in shop windows. A city street does not offer any scope for display of the qualities which have made cross-country skiing what it is—a game unequalled for daring, skill, endurance and good fellowship. The only object of a parade would be to demonstrate our numerical strength, and this can be adequately demonstrated during the carnival days, as it is every other day all winter, by the prevalence of skis and skiers on our streets at all hours, intent upon their own affairs. Spectators might be directed to stand on the Plaza on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning and count the skiers who pass en route to trains, buses, street cars, taxis, etc. This would be the very best illustration of the popularity of skiing in Ottawa, without any trouble of organizing a parade.

The spectacular aspect of skiing, viz., ski-jumping and ski-joring (or "driving" or "kjoring" or "towing" or what you will) will, of course, take a prominent place in the carnival programme. Jumping especially is always sure of a large and interested audience, for there is no sport which offers a better combination of daring and grace or a greater thrill for the onlooker. We skiers naturally will be more interested in these events, although the number who can take part is necessarily limited. However, whether we can take active part or not, we must all do our best to make the carnival a success. If we cannot contribute to the carnival spirit in the role of performer, we can, in the role of spectator, offer generous support and hearty applause to the activities of others. We can make it a point to extend all possible courtesies to the strangers in our midst, whether their interest lies in skiing or in any other line; for the carnival movement is a progressive measure in the advertising of our city and our country. If successfully carried out, it should do much to increase the prestige of "Our Lady of the Snows" by showing how we have converted into a proud asset our hardy winter climate which heretofore has been regarded in many quarters as a handicap to our development.

E. O'C.

The week-end of Jan. 25-26.—It was a gusty and jumping week-end. They started jumping at 3 p.m. on Saturday, at Rockcliffe, and they kept it up until Sunday night, when Bambrick, helped along by a gust of "Nor'-Wester" broke all records with a 148 foot leap, while a multitude of Juniors and Juveniles were making 50 and 60 on the natural hill, by the side of the great tower.—They were also jumping all day Sunday, some 2000 of them, over the hard bumps of the trails, all over the mountain, with varying luck.—Twenty below at nine a.m. and the fears of hard packed trails, were responsible for several buses going out only partly filled, but the crowd grew, as the sun rose higher, and by one p.m. the lodges were pretty well filled.—In the early morning your Editor, always in search of real news, followed Joe Morin and a bunch of the Night Riders from the Phillips and Plant Lodges over the windswept Barren Lands, the slopes of Little Switzerland and Desolation Valley; he experienced the keen enjoyment of removing his mitts one hundred times or so to tie bunting on the trees; at 11 a.m. he was ordered to bring out the occupants of the Southam Lodge, which proved to be the hardest task of the day; these boys seem to think that the lodges are for the purpose of playing cards all night and sleeping all day; with the help of Bill Harding he cleaned the Cork Screw Slopes, which were not, however, to be used for the race after all. In the afternoon he followed Joe over a long exploring tour over new grounds and new hills which are soon to be added to the Canyon Trail, in order to "Jazz up" the trip from Chelsea; he arrived in Old Chelsea just in time to see the six o'clock bus disappear in the darkness, leaving some fifty skiers behind, and he would have perished if he had not found warmth and refreshments at the Laurentian hut (The old schoolhouse on the left, facing the hill, which has been converted into a first class stopping place by our friend Bambrick, and which should be patronized by all our members); he kept on, always at Joe's heels, to the station where he took the down train at 8.07 p.m. calling it a day.—We need new snow; the old one is too hard

The Third Class tests could not be held at Camp Fortune last Sunday, on account of lack of time. They will be held this Sunday at 1.30 p.m. Please phone your entries to Bryce Gillis C. 4144-W.

The night hike will be held on Thursday as usual, from Wrightville (8 p.m. to the Glen Lea Club house). The wind played havoc with the lanterns last time, and the lanterns were poor anyway. Better ones will be set on the trail.



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General information and Tid-bits.—A party of thirteen led by Secretary Herbert Marshall coming from Cascades paid a first visit to the McCloskey's house that has just been rented by the Club. They found it very comfortable. The party skied through to Wrightville. Dick Guy and McHugh were disqualified because they took a short cut at Blanchette's.—"How is it," asks Mabel, "that there are no longer the howling mobs there used to be at Camp Fortune. Is the membership of the Club dwindling?" (Not at all Mabel, it has never been so high, but the general opening of hills around Camp Fortune induces more people to stay out. There are at all times now a couple of hundred people ski-ing on Traveler's, Mile-a-Minute, the Great Divide etc. Is not this the way it should be? Of course the checking of visitors has also helped some).—Bare headed and in his shirt sleeves a gentleman from Athabaska came up freely perspiring when it was 20 below at Camp Fortune. He was used to 63 below. He didn't get any sympathy from your Editor who was just thawing out a frozen hand.

Ski Jumping.—On Thursday, Feb. 6th, during Carnival Week, at Rockliffe at 3 p.m., The Ottawa Ski Club (not the Ottawa Ski Clubs, as the Carnival Programme has it) will stage a special ski-jumping meet with the co-operation of the Norsemen Ski Club (New York) the Nansen Ski Club (Berlin, N.H.) the Montreal Ski Club and a couple of score of local jumpers. Five prizes will be given. The outside competitors are among the best in America. **Admission free.** A ski-joring competition will be held after the meet.

Carnival ball. On Thursday, Feb. 6th, a dance will be given at the Chateau Laurier by the Business Men's Association. This is to help defray the expenses of the Carnival, and the whole city should be there. A number of tickets have been reserved for the Ottawa Ski Club and may be had at McGiffin's. \$3. the ticket. Call Q. 2501. This is a supper-dance, equal in every way to the New Year's Eve Dance.

Fellow members in arrears.—To pay your fees or not to pay them: that is the question which most of you are now considering—a question of small moment to you but of vital importance to us. You have not resigned; by all the ethics of the game you should pay. It does not matter how little or how much you have been ski-ing. We were counting on your support; we have incurred expenditure that we would not have incurred if we had not felt that you were behind us. To pay your fees is simply acting fair towards your club and doing your share towards the promotion of ski-ing, and that is the least you can do. Those who do the work of the Club as well as those who only stand or ski, pay fees. Believe it or not, your Editor has paid his subscription to this circular over which he spends many of his spare hours. Every cent of the money we get from our members, after paying for our running expenditure, goes towards the promotion of ski-ing, the development of our trails, the securing of permanent rights-of-way; every fee that we get helps in making this place a better place for skiers. Don't you want to have a share in this? Don't you want to help along in this work, whether you ski or not? Come across with your fees and stop considering whether you will join or not this year. Be one of the three thousand!

THE POOR ELDERLY SKIERS!

"Joe," said the President, "a complaint has been paid against the Trails Committee."

"Shoot," said Joe. "I have just heard the racers' laments after the race. One complaint more or less really does not matter."

"They say that in laying your trails, you are not giving sufficient consideration to the elderly people, that you are thinking only of the younger element, the young devils, you know, who are after break-neck speed and thrills all the time."

"The elderly people! Who the Sam Hill cares about the elderly people! Do you want me to flatten out the Canyon for the sake of a few old cronies who will be resigning from the Club in two or three more years?"

"Oh, I did not mean the nonagenarians, Joe, I mean the people up in the forties, like you, who still look to twenty-five or thirty more years' active ski-ing, but who, for some reason or other, have never acquired the confidence that is necessary to take a hill like Mile-a-Minute or the Canyon."

"Why don't they come by Little Switzerland in that case? Or why don't they re-open Cooper's trail, or the Kirk's Ferry trail. No perilous descent to that, surely. Do you expect me to spend my time laying flat trails for people who can't ski? Ski-ing is a game of speed and skill; if they can't get into it, let them stay out."

"Now be sensible, Joe, there is a very large proportion of our members who do not enjoy the very steep trails. They have to check all the way, and checking is painful. They would enjoy, however, long smooth easy slides. These members are, after all, the mainstay of our Club; they pay Senior fees, and are always ready to help with their time and money. Don't you think they are entitled to a little consideration?"

"You must have been listening to Fred Baillie. He gave me an earful about those poor people. I guess he is thinking of number one. However, I will tell you what I will do, but I forbid you to put it in the circular. In my wanderings, I have discovered a long roundabout way, a short distance from the Canyon, with about as easy a grade as one could wish for. This means, of course, cutting more trees, and you will have to arrange for it, I don't want to go to jail again, once is enough. But I'll just bet you that when that new trail is open, no one will want to take it except in a dark night; they would feel insulted."

"Open it up, Joe, I will take it if no one else does."

"I thought you were talking for yourself."

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OTTAWA WINTER CARNIVAL . . . FEB. 1ST TO 11TH

ON CHECKING SPEED.

Checking admittedly robs us of much pleasure. We are not thinking here of the checking of visitors at the lodges, although that also is a nuisance, we mean that process of checking by which one reduces one's speed at the beginning of a steep hill so as to avoid a crash on the rough bottom. Better far, to be sure, ride a trail on high, sailing over the holes and bumps and enjoy at the end that glorious feeling of exhilaration born of dangers overcome. Skis are made for speed, they fret under restraint, like high spirited horses, and to control them by checking requires quite a lot of strength and is at best a painful process. But there are days when one does not feel quite up to the mark; they are days also when the bumps at the bottom are abnormally high, and they may be curves on the trail that cannot be taken on high except by a very expert skier. A skier who does not check under those circumstances is foolish; a skier who cannot check has no business being on the trail at all. It is not absolutely necessary that one should be so master of his skis as to stop dead on any fast descent by a neat jump turn—which is about the only practical stop on many of our narrow trails (No Joe, we are not referring to the Canyon)—but it is indispensable to know how to check and those of our members who have not yet mastered the art are urged to do so at the first opportunity. It may save them a sprained knee or ankle on many occasions. Checking may be done by stemming or snow-ploughing. The description of the stemming position has already been given more than once in this circular but it will bear repeating. Practise it on the flat at first, and be sure of your position before you venture to try it on a hill.

Stemming position.—“First take the weight off that ski which is to produce the stemming action. To do this **push the hips slightly over to the opposite side.** Then move the heel and point of the stemming ski outwards and let it slide forwards and sideways on the snow with the knee slightly bent. The ankle joint is kept quite straight so that the ski lies on its inner edge during the movement. The other ski, with its surface flat on the snow, carries the whole weight of the body, which

must be perpendicular to it, so that the stemming ski can be displaced or raised without disturbing the body or the balance. This lifting of the stemming ski is a good test of the distribution of the weight. The knee of the weighted leg must be bent and the more this knee is bent the more effectual will the stemming be—till you reach the position of sitting on your heel. When you wish to stop, transfer the weight to the stemming ski and let the other ski come around. You have made a stem-Christiana.”—The snow plowing is really a “Double Stemming Position.” The fundamentals of the Stemming position and the Snowplough position are: Points together. Heels apart. Ski on the inside edge for an outward thrust, skis on the outside edge to pull them inwards.

Your Editor came down practically the whole length of the Great Divide at Camp Fortune, from top to bottom stemming all the way, at a snail's pace, not that it was necessary, but he did it for practice. Stemming is rather hard, it is a strained position and requires quite a bit of strength, but it is well worth learning. Once stemming is mastered, all the other tricks in ski-ing come easy. Try it.

Jumping round.—This form of stop or changing course can hardly be indulged in when one carries a knapsack loaded with twenty-five pounds of eats for the week-end; at all other times it is thoroughly practical and could be easily performed by any of our members if they but try. Skis should never “cling to the snow”; the skier must at all times be ready to jump clear of it, whether to avoid obstacles, or to change direction or to stop. To start the jump: “Sink on your heels, without raising them till your hands are in the snow; then straighten up smartly, **turning the upper portion of the body in the required direction** and letting the feet follow. As you land, sink down again, till your hands are in the snow thus avoiding all shock. While you jump, you should hold a handkerchief between your knees.” Your Editor has seen jumping done at a high rate of speed. Practise it.

Results of Competitions—Club Championship Race, Camp Fortune, Jan. 26th, 1930.—**Senior**.—1. J. Currie 53.32; 2. H. Heggtveit 55.20; 3. J. Taylor 56.07; 4. H. Worden 56.33; 5. H. Bagguley 58.34; 6. H. Douglas 58.47; 7. S. Robbins 59.40; 8. B. Gillis; 9. G. Blyth; 10. M. Clark; 11. F. Hudson; 12. R. Vincent; 13. O. Boulay; 14. W. Channon. **Junior**—1. J. Veit 56.53; 2. L. Lagimodiere; 3. C. Darch; 4. F. Laflamme; 5. O. Barnes. Officials: Louis Grimes, A. B. West. The all-round championship was won by Howard Bagguley.

Ski Jumping, Rockliffe, Jan. 25.—Club Championship. **Senior**—1. J. Landry; 2. H. Bagguley; 3. C. A. Bambrick; 4. Wilf Poitras; 5. R. Vincent; 6. E. Filman; 7. Chuc Clark; 8. Bud Clark. **Intermediate**—1. P. Lefebvre; 2. J. Ewart; 3. K. Saunders; 4. S. Tremblay; 5. E. Arial; 6. M. Clarke; 7. A. Belanger; 8. J. Johannsen; 9. C. Williams; 10. J. Tache; 11. C. Reinbuerg. **Junior**—1. A. Morrisette; 2. J. Spears; 3. J. Terrieu; 4. R. Farley; 5. W. Hudon; 6. J. Vincent; 7. B. Farley; 8. M. Lefebvre; 9. G. P. Beaulieu; 10. P. Tasse; 11. A. Fillman; 12. A. Phillip. In the competition for Juveniles, there were 18 entries, J. Charron, B. Burke and C. Heggtveit were first, second and third respectively.

On Sunday, H. Bambrick broke all records for the tower with a leap of 148 feet. He nearly stood, but not quite.

Ski Exchange.—For sale, pair Palmer's boots, new, No. 8, \$5. Phone R. 3681. —Left, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, near bus stand at Old Chelsea, pair of racing ski poles, Sh. 5325.—Found at Pink Lake Lodge, Senior badge. Call at McGiffin's giving number of badge.—Could anyone give information to Mrs. Fleury, of Kingsmere, regarding the whereabouts of a German Police dog, which is believed to have followed skiers.

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Night hike to
Glen Lea Club House
from Wrightville
Thursday
Jan. 30
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