

GROUSE MOUNTAIN SKI CLUB

SHADES of all the publicity bureaus from the Equator to the North Pole! How they would have excelled themselves in describing the weather conditions met by the Grouse Mountain clubs during their 1932-33 season!

September, October and November were months of glorious sunshine, dismal fog, rain and snow. During January, February and March snow fell almost continually, until a final height of eighteen feet was chalked up at the cabin. Every type of ski-ing was enjoyed, from powder snow to frozen surface, for we even had rain in the middle of winter. April, May and June were months of beautiful sunshine, with wet, though otherwise perfect, ski-ing conditions! In July and August the Weather Man once more excelled himself, giving us a little rain, but mostly fine, clear week-ends.

An enthusiastic Executive was elected at the General Meeting, held September 9. The preceding year's work was reviewed, and plans were made for the coming season.

The succeeding five or six weeks were spent in rebuilding the jump and making a number of improvements to the clubhouse. These included the building of an enclosed passage to the ski house and the laying of a neat dance floor. Our winter wood was also cut and hauled by members.

On Thanksgiving Sunday we held our annual trip to Camel Mountain. An exhilarating hike over four mountains, which was led by L. Loutet, brought us to our ultimate destination. Those daring enough to climb The Camel changed to running shoes before attempting the perilous piece of rock-climbing, for a single slip is followed by a drop of several thousand feet with no feather mattress to land on. Upon returning from the hike the party enjoyed our annual Thanksgiving dinner. The party was a typical skiers' turnout—six men to every lady. Did the ladies enjoy themselves?

An innovation in our Fall programme was a Mystery Hike. The members assembled at the clubhouse, and under the leadership of M. Steele, left for a trip to the unknown. The hikers were taken to Lake Kennedy, which lies like an emerald, set in a hollow between two mountains. A stiff climb from the lake led to Cotton Meadows, and from there back to Camp Telemark.

October 23 saw the first pair of skis donned. There was a mad scramble to be the first, the honours going to R. Nield and S. Body.

The following weekends saw the more ardent skiers packing their skis to Dam Mountain where the snow was over two

feet deep. By the beginning of December the season was in full swing. Forty or fifty people would be staying at the clubhouse overnight in order to be on skis first thing in the morning. Practically every other member would be up early Sunday to get his or her quota of hours on the slippery boards. This enthusiasm lasted well on to the middle of April.

Ski-ing had a real boost this winter when our Club had the pleasure of entertaining such internationally famous jumpers as Nels Nelsen, his brother Ivind, and Bob Lymburne. In their efforts to emulate these experts, our jumpers made great improvements in style and distance.

Club competitions were held all winter, terminating with the Club Championships held during March and April. By winning the Consolidated Cup for Class A jumping, the Casselman Cup for cross-country racing, Class A, and the Claman Cup for the combined event, Arne Watu proved himself the leading club skier. Other cups for combined events were awarded to S. Body, Class B; G. Loutet, Class C; and D. Brown, Junior. The ladies' cups for cross-country racing were won by Miss L. Cunningham, Class A; and Miss R. Walker, Class B. A new feature this year was the competition for the Brown Cup, donated for Junior Slalom Racing. It was won by G. Howard.

Slalom racing took a firm hold on our members. The Grouse course, as laid out by the Winter Sports Club, is lightning fast and very tricky. While this sport is new to us, we hope that we will soon have competitors who will compare favourably with the best in the country.

In international tournaments we were well represented. Although our skiers were out-classed by the stars from the States and from other Canadian clubs, they always made fighting efforts to do our club justice. Together with the other leading Vancouver clubs, we organized and conducted the Annual Northwest International Ski Tournament and City of Vancouver Championships on Good Friday, April 14. Despite bad weather and poor attendance, an excellent programme was well carried out.

During the winter season our mid-week activities centred around bowling and basketball. Three teams were entered in the Skiers' Bowling League, where they gave a good account of themselves. The basketball team, playing in the North Shore League, placed well among the leaders.

The winter social programme consisted of two major dances and a big New Year's Eve Party. The dances were well attended and

voted a success by all. For the New Year's Eve Party the clubhouse was literally filled to overflowing, with the dance floor taxed to capacity. The orchestra and the cooks certainly made themselves popular with the members. Aside from the major functions, informal parties were held at club headquarters every weekend during the winter months.

Spring activities featured ski-ing in bathing suits, a goodly coat of tan being collected by the enthusiastic members still ski-ing. It became customary to gather a party Saturday afternoon, go for a swim, then drive to the cabin to pass an enjoyable evening. Torchlight jumping was held on many evenings. Sundays were passed in ski-ing trips in the same outfits used for the swims. These trips often included picnics to Thunderbird Ridge and Dam Mountain.

The ski-ing for the season was completed with jumps by V. Poulter and L. Loutet on July 4. What a season!—ski-ing from October 23 to July 4. Can any other part of the British Empire equal that record?

Two outstanding events took place in the Spring Season. The first was a tournament held on May 24. Excellent performances were given by visiting and local jumpers and slalom racers. Under the guidance of Nels Nelsen, competitions were also arranged for school children. These were so popular and successful that they will probably be arranged annually. The other event was a Hard Times Dance, sponsored by the Associated Ski Clubs. It was so successful that people are still talking about it.

The glorious summer sunshine sent our members to the beaches and mountains. Some swam and some hiked, but all collected healthy tans, and became more and more impatient for ski-ing to start again.

Our annual picnic held at Bowen Island was enjoyed by all.

Looking forward to another such successful season, we extend a sincere invitation to members of all organized clubs to visit us this winter. All visitors will be given a true skier's welcome, and we will do our utmost to make their visit really enjoyable.

R. HODGES.

VANCOUVER SKI CLUB

LAST winter will be remembered for the exceptionally heavy snowfall, and more particularly for the outstanding success of our skiers in outside competitions.

There has been as much snow on the higher levels in the past, but last year the snow was very low on the mountains, and as our ski-ing is done on the more open and less heavily wooded areas, from 3,000 to 4,900 feet, the lowness of the snow was a hindrance rather than a benefit. The spring months were cold and backward, so that in June there was plenty of snow in the vicinity of the Clubhouse, and even in September snow could be found in the shaded spots. The first new snow for the coming season was reported on September 23.

We were represented by a team comprised of Tom Mobraaten, Henry Sotwedt, Finn Fladmark, and Fred Finckenhagen, at some eight competitions held in Washington and Oregon. Between them and Nordahl Kaldahl, of the Hollyburn Pacific Ski Club, all the first places, with one exception, were annexed. Tom Mobraaten won the Pacific Northwest Combined Championship in Seattle, placing second in the jumping, three-tenths of a point behind Kaldahl, the winner. Some of his other outstanding victories include first in jumping at Leavenworth, Wash., where his longest competitive jumps of 183 and 192 feet were made, first in jumping and second in combined, at

Portland, Oregon, finishing the season by winning the Vancouver City Championship at the Easter tournament held on Grouse Mountain.

Henry Sotwedt, was close behind his team-mate all winter, placing third to him in Seattle, with leaps of 174 and 178 feet, second at Leavenworth and Portland, and by winning the British Columbia Championship for jumping at Princeton, B.C. Finckenhagen and Fladmark also made a very creditable showing, and helped round out a very well balanced team.

Another of our skiers, Alf. Johannsen won the British Columbia Combined Championship at Princeton, B.C., which was the only outside event in which he competed.

Due to the difficulty of attracting any large crowds to our ski-ing grounds to witness jumping competitions, only club competitions were held. These were very successful, and the interest shown by both competitors and spectators was most encouraging. The ladies turned out in increasing numbers for their racing events, and the juniors also showed much promise.

Olaf Hanson was the winner of the Fletcher Cup, emblematic of the Club combined championship, with third place in both jumping and racing. Henry Sotwedt was a runner up, winning the jumping, and placing well up in the race. Mickey Mitchell, one of our young and very promising skiers, won