

The last operation before being stored away or being shipped out is branding. The maker's name and the length of the ski is branded into the wood with hot iron dies. If the skis are to be stored they are put in a place where the variations in the humidity of the air are slight. Everything containing cellulose will vary in shape to a greater or less degree with variations in the humidity of the atmosphere. It is, therefore, just as necessary to keep a pair of skis in a press as it is a tennis racket. Most manufacturers put their skis in a press as soon as they have been paired.

Minor operations such as mortising, heel reinforcement, and decorating are done at various

points throughout the manufacturing operation.

Successful ski making requires the utmost care and skill from the time of the selection of the standing tree to the branding of the length on the finished ski.

Skis are subjected to great strain and exposed to all kinds of weather conditions. Every precaution should be taken to keep them in good condition when not in use. They should be kept in presses well oiled and never allowed to come in contact with extreme heat or be stored in a damp cellar and if given the same care as golf clubs, tennis rackets, or other sporting equipment, they will last indefinitely.

## The Development of the National Ski Association of America

*By Harold A. Grinden, Secretary*

SKI-ING in the United States dates back to 1840 when Norwegian pioneers first introduced the sport, and many stories are told of the early days. One Thompson who used ski in the "49 Gold Rush" days; Knut Simeon who travelled on ski from Glenwood to St. Cloud in Minnesota during the civil war period; The Vikings who first promoted ski-ing in Minneapolis, Minn., in 1885; Carl Conradson who skied across the Brooklyn Bridge and up to Herald Square during the famous blizzard of "89" in New York City. It was not, however, until 1886 that a group of men at Red Wing, Minnesota, formed the first ski club while another group organized at Altoona, Pa., the same year. The first ski tournament of record in the United States was held at Red Wing, Minn., where the Hemmestvedt brothers, fresh from Norway, introduced the art of ski jumping.

Ski-ing became organized when the National Ski Association was formed on the evening of February 21, 1904, by a handful of men at Ishpeming, Michigan, and the first National Championship was held the following day. Five charter member clubs made up the original Association and by 1907 fourteen clubs in all had joined. Askel Holter, secretary for fifteen consecutive years of the National Ski Association, has written an interesting article of the early days and struggles of the Association—"Inspiration—Work and Attainment." The gradual development from 1840 up to the Olympic Games at Lake Placid is an interesting story. First, the use of ski for travel only, then the sporting angle of racing and jumping, and recently the combined, slalom and down mountain activities, and the growth of ski clubs from five in 1904 to over one hundred and twenty-five organized clubs in 1935. The pioneer work of the early days and the fine

instructive and constructive efforts of our enthusiasts all culminated in the Olympic Games at Lake Placid, an occasion ever to be remembered by we who were there. And now today, 1935, a great Association, an organized sport, a ski-ing nation and thousands ski-ing in one or the other branches of the sport, and while the competitive angle still has a firm foothold, of far greater interest is the thousands of men, women and children, throughout our entire snowbelt, getting out on skis over week-ends and through the fun of ski-ing, building for themselves stronger bodies, becoming mentally keener and more interested in what the sport holds for the human race.

The National Ski Association now comprises five divisional ski associations—the U.S. Eastern, the Central U.S., the U.S. Western, the California and the Pacific Northwestern, all interlocked through the National and all working in harmony towards a greater development.

The year 1935 was supreme in National Ski Association history. Local club tournaments, divisional association championships, a great National Championship at Canton, South Dakota, divisional Olympic try-outs, the final cross-country and combined Olympic try-out at Lake Placid, the final Olympic jumping event at Salt Lake City, Utah, all ending up with the National Championships and Final Olympic Try-Outs for the slalom and downhill at Mount Ranier. The American Olympic Ski Committee are now selecting our American Team for Germany in 1936, and I know we will be most ably represented. To all those in Canada who have done so much to promote and organize ski-ing in your great Dominion I extend my congratulations and best wishes for a still further development in the future.