

# The B.C. Mountaineer

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## THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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### SKI SECTION ACTIVITIES

On Sunday, December 5th, a few of the members went up to the club room and built numbered ski racks, etc., in preparation for the official opening on the 13th.

Sixteen members and guests attended the opening and, after a morning of practice, they were led by Dick Shaich on a short trip to the Devil's Leap, returning over the Plateau. Everything went well until they were travelling among the trees, and then the ups and downs commenced. When they finally arrived at their destination the trail looked as though a herd of elephants had crossed it, and "The Old Boy" after watching their nose dives and convulsive leaps must have come to the conclusion that he was outclassed, and left for the day, as they did not see him. Les said that he felt quite devilish though, which remark made quite a hit with the ladies. The return trip was uneventful but for the antics of some who tried to walk straight uphill. Everyone enjoyed the trip and is anxious to go on another.

The snow was very icy on the following Sunday and no one did much ski-ing, but on the twentieth ski-ing was good in spite of falling snow.

We now have thirty-one members and a few more are expecting to join after the New Year.

On the New Year's week end two members were the guests of Dick Shaich and the Alpine Club on Mount Seymour. Seymour is a ski-ing country without peer on the North Shore, few trees and long roll-

ing slopes. The party greeted the New Year on the trail, driving happily through three feet of powdery snow. They were unable to reach their destination that night and they stayed in a convenient hut. In the morning they donned their ski and found that in spite of heavy packs travelling was quite easy. The party made several trips towards the summit of the mountain, enjoying some glorious runs in both directions. One in particular of practically a quarter of a mile reduced the writer to a limp piece of breathless, stuttering enthusiasm, to the intense amusement of Dick who merely remarked "That was not fast; it is twice as fast in the spring!" Oh, well!

When packing out the party skied down as far as the snow would permit, following Dick, who seems to sense just where the smooth runs are and the pot holes aren't. Everyone voted the week-end the most enjoyable in nineteen thirty-two. Dick vowed that he had never laughed so much before in all his life.

—SKI COMMITTEE

### A GUIDE TO SKI-ING FOR MEMBERS OF THE B.C.M.C.

BY RICHARD SHAIKH

#### 1. Ski-ing on the level.

Push one ski ahead (do not lift it) follow up with the other one (without lifting) push them ahead in long gliding strides, bending the knees well. You should gain about five feet at every stride by bending the knees properly when pushing ahead.

#### 2. Turning on the spot (Kick Turn).

Put the left pole to the end of the left ski, and the right pole to the point

of the right ski and support yourself on your poles. Raise the left foot forward and place the end of the left ski at the point of the right ski, swing the point of the left ski outwards and backwards, place the left ski flat on the snow parallel to the right ski but pointing in the opposite direction, and bring the right pole round to its point. Then bring the right ski around lifting the point well out of the snow. Bend the knees well when in this precarious position.

The Kick Turn is the only one possible when traversing a steep slope and should be practiced facing both ways uphill and downhill. Be sure to have your ski in a proper horizontal position when making this turn, otherwise you may need help suddenly. I would advise every member who takes up skiing to become very proficient in making this turn as it will be essential on our forthcoming cross-country trips.

### 3. Side Stepping and the Herring Bone Step.

Go uphill as if you would go sideways up a stair case. Keep your ski flat and horizontal putting them firmly into the snow.

In doing the Herring bone put the points of the ski apart, keeping the ends together and walk uphill, stamping the inner edges firmly into the snow. Of course this exercise is only of value on short steep inclines.

### 4. Downhill running.

At the top of the hill, if the snow is deep put your ski well together and

away we go. (Chortles—*Ed.*) If the snow is hard, keep the ski a little apart to obtain a better balance. When going downhill, make it a rule to change from an upright to a crouch position and vice versa. This very exercise will help you to master the art of skiing in two thirds of the time generally needed.

### 5. The Snowplow.

Everyone who goes on trips should be able to master the snowplow. Start the downhill run by keeping the ski well together, gradually push the ends apart keeping the points together (three or four inches apart) and edge them inwards. The steeper the slope the more it is necessary to edge the ski in order to achieve the desired braking effect. Remember, keep the knees loose, slightly bent and the heels pushing the ends of the ski outwards energetically. Do not apply this kind of brake when travelling at a high rate of speed.

The next things we will talk over will be downhill curves, the Telemark and the Christiana (Christi). In order to have still more fun skiing we will analyze the Galandesprung (Galandeshproong) jumping over little mounds and hills with the help of poles. The jumturn on the spot, and last but not least the stop-jump on the flat, or on the slope to change the direction of travel.

You will tell me that this is quite a programme which will occupy all winter, I do not think so. The first four items you will have to know by all means, and then we will go on some first class cross-country

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trips, trips that will show you the mountains of this country in all their fascinating glory, and we will pledge ourselves to make it a second Tyrol, a second Switzerland.

—SKI-HAIL

### THE NEW MOVEMENT

Climbing, ski-ing, and hiking has come into its own; everyone is beginning to realize that British Columbia's outdoor playground is well worth visiting. We of the old guard are not a little perturbed at this encroachment, for we have learned to appreciate the utter silences of the seldom travelled woods and the more distant peaks. We thrill to the roar of the waterfall, the wind, and the avalanche, but we like to visit their home either alone, or with picked companions.

Seven years ago it was possible to visit the peak of Hollyburn or Grouse and be alone; now it is impossible to be alone on Crown Mountain and not probable on any North Shore peak. How will things be in another seven years?

Our only protection is for us to use our additional stamina and experience and go further afield. In the summer we can take a tent, but in the winter we need huts. In most of the districts we like to visit there are huts, but to whom do they belong? Are they being kept up? Will they be there in seven years' time?

The one at Norton Lake will not be. The one at timberline in the Lucky Four will not be unless someone is keeping it up. The one in the Golden Ears will be, as it is being kept up. There is no hut in Garibaldi Park, and we haven't even found a cheap way to cross the Squamish River to the Tantalus Range.

Are you interested? Some of us are, and we hope to have an opportunity to do something about it soon.

What better boost could the B.C.M.C. have than for people to see this sign "This hut is being kept in good condition by the B.C.M.C. You are welcome, but use it as if it were your own, and help us preserve it."

### THE KANCHENJUNGA ADVENTURE

F. S. SMYTHE

The author's frank, impartial treatment of his subject should make this book a splendid guide to Himalayan climbing, although it must be admitted that the party broke every rule of travel and mountaineering ever made, and a number of others that they were not aware of until after having broken them. In view of this, it is a miracle that they only lost one man, and it is unfortunate that it should have been Satan Chettan, a veteran porter of two Everest and several Kanchenjunga attempts.

The ice wall that offered the only hope of an ascent from their side would have caused the average mountaineer to weigh his chances very carefully before committing himself to the menace of its flaking ice for an hour in the ascent, and an hour in the descent on a climb. They, though it can't be said cheerfully, spent a whole week in fashioning a staircase up it. The whole face fell as they were taking a party to its summit to establish a camp. That it only caught one was a miracle. Had they been ten minutes earlier or later the whole party would have been wiped out. Had they reached the top and established the camp, porters would have had to traverse the route daily with supplies, and had they been equally lucky, the climbing party would have had to concentrate all their efforts on climbing down before they starved.

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It took another avalanche, wiping out a camp that they had vacated, to convince them finally that they were not safe from avalanches while within a mile of the mountain.

The whole of the party cheered up when they turned their backs on the mountain, and the thrill of the accounts of Schneiders' ski-ing put new life into the story.

They climbed several worth-while peaks before they left for home, notably the Ramthang Peak, and the Jongsong Peak; the latter is the highest summit ever attained, although men have gone higher on Everest.

Surrounding the whole is a most interesting account of travel in India, and the author mentions hundreds of little incidents, humorous and otherwise, that permit the reader to don his old clothes and jog along with the expedition, and laugh, worry, philosophize, feel the aches of defeat and the thrills of success with them.

It is a real adventure story in every sense of the word.

#### A VOICE FROM A FAR COUNTRY

India survey authorities have wisely decided to adhere to native nomenclature in the Himalayas.

They are justified in doing this by the fate that has overtaken the American and Canadian Rockies where anyone with any pretensions to fame and sometimes none at all has dubbed his name, or it has been dubbed by admirers, to inoffensive mountain peaks.

Only in exceptional cases is this justified.

—From the Kanchenjunga Adventure

It is gratifying to note that the peaks in Garibaldi Park named by the B.C.M.C. are among the few Canadian Peaks undefiled in this way.

#### SPECIAL NOTICE

The Mount Seymour trip of January 9th was postponed on account of rain. It is being run on Sunday, January 17th, 8.20 ferry. Leader, A. J. O. Cooper; endman, Roy Howard.

#### THE MOUNTAIN IS TIME TURNED INTO STONE

The passion that teems in the fields  
Is not for the mountain,  
Which is sober and used to the winds;  
Its slopes of rugged conceit  
Are the lazy magnificent flanks  
Of unchallenged power  
That take what befalls them  
Aloof to the succulent promise  
Of tillage and harrowing wealth.

The mountain is time turned into stone,  
Clothed by the tireless winds through  
the seasons  
With a stout and absolute garb,  
Full bearded with moss and hoary with  
lichens.

A sage grown wise from dreaming,  
Grown tawny with strength  
Under the drenchings of an extravagant  
sun.

The mountain is time turned into stone,  
A selfish unquenchable thrust into space.

—CARL MAGG.

#### CHEER UP EVERYONE, YOU STILL HAVE TWO CHANCES

You may like ski-ing,  
You may not;  
Even if you like ski-ing  
You still have two chances.

You may fall,  
You may not;  
Even if you do fall  
You still have two chances.

You may hurt yourself,  
You may not;  
Even if you do hurt yourself  
You still have two chances.

You may die,  
You may not;  
Even if you do die  
Well, you still have two chances.

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