

Ski Scribblings

BY "TAP" GOODENOUGH

Teeming with trams, tows, and trails; offering a variety of facilities in the most compact area possible; a Shangri-La for skiers,—that is the Belknap Recreational Center at Laconia-Gilford on Lake Winnepesaukee, N. H.

Visiting this "Spot for Sports" for the first time since it has been developed, we were more than delighted with what we found for skiers. At the six-hundred acre Ski Center in Gilford that cost \$750,000—built with Belknap County and WPA funds—there are slopes, trails, jumps, tows, toboggan chutes, as well as a recreation building and warm comfort stations.

Also at The Area is the longest Chair Tramway this side of Sun Valley. It ascends 3200 feet into the clouds, affording a view of ribbon-like trails and satin curves below, with a vertical descent of 714 feet. Two hundred people can ride on this tram per hour.

And our first trip up on the Chair Tramway was truly a thrill. Each chair comes along slowly, allowing the skier to settle into it gently. Then off you go into space, swaying and dipping gaily in supreme joy and safety. Your feet, weighted with skis, feel a bit lost as they dangle in the ether, but one merely has to lean back, relax, and keep the tips up. The sensation is that of suspended animation on wings . . .

From the summit, the run down the Try Me Trail with our gallant band was grand fun. This trail is not dangerous, being wide, yet fast enough for Intermediate skiers. One novice said he came down in "six sittings."



FRED NACHBAUR
Winnepesaukee Ski Chief

Staying at the Arlberg Inn in Gilford, we found real skier's congeniality and that atmosphere that permeates the Alps in an abundance of living and good-fellowship. Here is a haven for all "kanonen!"

Skating on Phelps Open Slope Saturday night, we enjoyed one of the best flood-lighted hills we have ever christied. The illumination on this slope was perfect, and no deceptive shadows were cast. Landscaped and graded, the terrain was transformed into a veritable Fairyland by the lights, while flying figures stippled the snow in glowing ecstasy . . .

SKI PORTRAIT: One of the first seven professional instructors in the U. S. to be certified at the initial tests in Woodstock, Vt., given by Charles Proctor and Walter Prager, was FRED NACHBAUR, who has directed the Winnepesaukee Ski School for three successful seasons.

Fred's parents own the Arlberg Inn. He is now 23 years old, but much older in experience. Born in New York city, he went back to Austria with his folks in 1929, where he lived for seven and one-half years, only 15 miles from the famous region of St. Anton-Arlberg, then the abode of Hannes Schneider . . .

Fred is a self-taught skier and a finished expert. While very young he competed in International Meets, and proved his ability to be prolific by placing high in jumping, as well as in slalom, downhill, and cross country races . . . He was educated at a Teacher's College, which combined Preparatory school work as well . . .

Mountain climbing is this lad's first love, and he has conquered the mighty JUNGFRAU. He says the most difficult work is ice climbing, two precipitous peaks being the PIZ BADIILE and the NORD-KANTE.

The most harrowing experience he went through was on the DURSENFELUH, when he and his party lost the route. Dressed only for summer, they were forced to crawl in a rock crevice below the summit and spend the night shivering as the temperature went below freezing. Came dawn, they clambered dizzily downward, just as a

rescue expedition was getting ready to go after them!

Fred states that such climbing is excellent exercise. It also brings one a sense of philosophy and makes you think about the wonders of nature. There is a thrill involved because of the danger element; yet anyone can climb with help . . .

This ski expert gets more genuine pleasure out of developing a novice into a skier than in actually skiing himself. He believes that anyone can learn to ski if that person has plenty of enthusiasm and patience.

Maestro Nachbaur is very talented in other lines. His photographs of mountain scenes in Austria are the best we have ever seen, being complete in composition and detail. He paints with a camera! He can also yodel in grand voice, rendering skiing songs of his beloved mountain regions . . .

Fred's sister, Irma, studied art for several years. The walls of the Inn are brightened by her blue and white oils of rugged landscapes . . .

Assistants in the ski school this year are Bertram Herbert, John Anketell, Ray Pressey, and Gordon Batchelder. They will also give free lessons to the high school lads and gals of the region.

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CHIPS OFF THE OLD ROCK

Penny Pitou - Olympic Medalist

by Del Brandt
Contributing Writer

it already, that she was indeed world class. It was a foregone conclusion, especially in the minds of her trainer-father, Gus Pitou, and coach Gary Allen, that she would be one of the United State's big hopes in the events four years hence. The Gunstock trails were her training grounds.

When the winter games of 1960 arrived, Penny Pitou was at the Peak of her game. She had proven herself to be a natural athlete, having participated in sports dominated by boys as early as age 13. Membership in the Gilford Outing Club further sharpened her skills and refined her physical conditioning.

On the eve of the 1960 Olympics, Penny was the "toast of the town." Appearing before the New Hampshire Legislature, she was given a rousing send-off by state officials. And the laurels kept coming.

That Penny Pitou and her entourage were headed for a place called Squaw Valley, California, instead of Innsbruck, Austria, for the 1960 international extravaganza, was turned from sheer fantasy into reality by one man - Harvard-educated and New York socialite, Alec Gushing. He, with the backing of some wealthy friends back east and the political support of Golden State power brokers, convinced the Olympic Committee to hold the games there even though the backers worried each day that a thaw would ruin their carefully thought-out plans.

As if by magic, the site, with the help of Walt Disney, creator of nearby Disneyland, was transformed into a snowy fairyland.

Pitou was one of four U.S.



Penny Pitou - 1960 Olympic Silver Medalist.

the most points, followed by Sweden. The United States, thanks in part to Penny Pitou's sterling performance, finished third overall, ahead of Germany, Finland, and Norway.

There was life after the Olympics for Penny Pitou, a full, eventful and successful career in the private sector with her sports as a sideline, but still an important component.

The flashing image of an intense young woman skier, braving the world's best competition on the treacherous slopes of glittering Squaw Valley, and returning home with two Olympic medals pinned to her ski suit to show for it, will be long remembered.

Penny Pitou will always be a role model for young skiers who have joined local clubs, possibly with an eye toward achieving Olympic status in the future. It would be nice to have another, say in the year 2000 or 2004.

downhill speedsters who carried America's hopes in the first square-off with the specialists from foreign countries, who were already making their presence felt.

Three of the four girls from the U.S. suffered spills on a booby trap at the third gate from the bottom. The lone survivor of this unfortunate mishap for the Americans was Penny Pitou. She stayed on course

and qualified for the first of her two silver Medals by finishing second to Heidi Biebl of Germany.

Two days later, Pitou finished second to Yvonne Rued of Switzerland in the giant slalom to capture her second silver medal. Her two runner-up finishes succeeded in adding enormous prestige to the American effort.

In the final tabulations, The Soviet Union corraled

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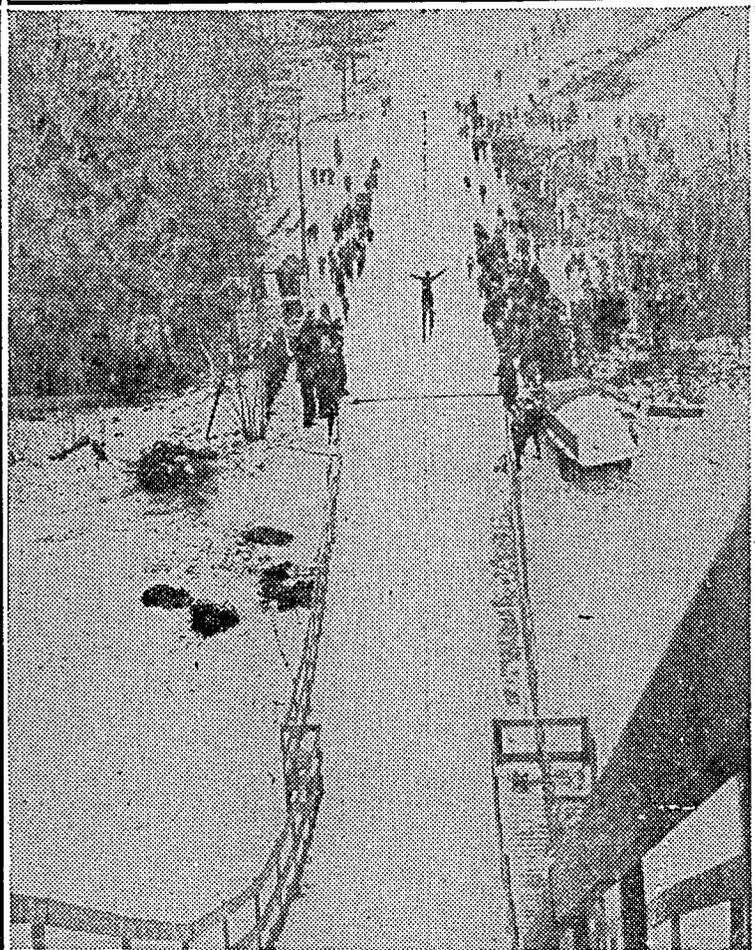
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HAPPY LANDING!



The daring young man on the flying hickories offers a preview of that spectacular sport, ski jumping that will soon be thrilling winter sports enthusiasts. The above jump was made at Laconia, N. H., which has the distinction of having three completed jumps in the Balknap Mt. region with a fourth one under construction.

Men Behind Skis Merit Attention

First Snow Train Went to Gilford--- Famous Nansen Club First Group in New England

BY KATHARINE TOLL

Skiing news is always written from the point of view of the skier. What about the man behind the sport? All a skier has to do is say what he wants. Who makes it come true? You can find out, analyzing any one of the great New England ski centres. Just for instance, take Laconia, Gilford—the Belknap Region, New Hampshire, where three-quarters of a million dollars have been spent on the area for outdoor sport within three years.

STARTED AFTER WAR

Laconia first got interested in 1919, right after the war. They gave a snow carnival, one of the earliest in the East, mostly skating and dog-sledding, of course, but some skiing, and it got them so interested they organized a club and got an instructor sent down to the Laconia Tavern, yes, the Tavern that still goes strong on skiing, from the Nansen Club of Berlin, N. H., that famous ski group of New England. They like to recall those early days. The Norwegians introduced ski pants and thick woolen caps, everybody wore them. Then along came the Alaskans, and people took to knee boots and bright sashes. The Austrians came—gabardine and sun glasses. Every new influence has left its impression. Today some of the Laconia ladies do their daily marketing in ski suits, and that isn't wholly for utility. Ski clothes have done a lot to vary New England. The very first snow train out of Boston went to Gilford. People like to recall the number of walkers and snow shoers who headed for the hospitality of the Laconia Country Club hills. The original reason the train came to Gilford was an Appalachian Mountain Club trail right in the region of the Belknap recreational area. That trail shaped skiing history.

Raise Fund

More than \$750,000 has been spent on the area. Five years ago the Eastern Amateur Ski Association wanted a ski jump, a good one, where they could hold annual competitions. Rowe Mountain here was obviously a good hill. A group of men got together and decided to raise \$13,000 or \$14,000. It began as simply as that. But that was in 1935. There was a relief problem in the country, 300 men to be put to work. The national government, in addition, was giving out loans for regional development. One thing led to another, perfectly logically, until suddenly the region had a nationwide achievement on its hands. It was at that point that the enterprise changed character.

From an almost private sport, skiing has been recognized by fundamental government planning. To be sure, the area includes a protective swimming pool, tennis courts, and endless open-air fireplaces, but it's five months too early to interest anybody in that. What matters now is that there are tows on Phelps slope and Cobble Mountain, a chair lift to the Try-Me and Stonebar trails, Fletcher Slalom Slope, 3600 feet long, and half a dozen other trails in the region.

The jumps hold an international distinction. There are, or there soon will be, four of them, 10 metres, 20 metres, 40, and 60. They're the best training unit in the world. George Martin, director of the great meet here, March 3 and 4, sponsored by the United States Eastern Amateur Ski Association, is particularly enthusiastic about the 60-metre jump. This is the optimum, he says. You can, if you like, get jumps up to 70 metres, 80 metres, and have them work, even 90, but first thing you know you begin killing off your jumpers. Sixty is the best, not only for distance but also performance.

The 10 and 20 were used last Sunday for the first time this year. It was an active day anyway, in fact the biggest in area history. Twelve

hundred chair lift tickets were collected, actually 6745 rope tow. One thing stood out. Despite the usual number of whizz-bums the average standard of skiing was high.

We started to tell what makes Belknap tick. One of the reasons is Freddy Nachbaur's Winnepesaukee Ski School. Skiing is a reasonable art. With five instructors to explain it, after all, and a private slope right on the area to demonstrate, why shouldn't the average standard go up?

Another is the people who run the inns. There's King's Grant, where 12 individuals at one whack were added to the staff last Sunday—sponsored by the Duchess. She takes some pride in the fact, first because she's a colle dog and second because she's their mother. There's the Arlberg Inn, with two white cats who parade the snow like the original, invisible Finnish ski patrol. There's the Holliday House, where Wrinkle, the high-bred Great Dane lost five pounds when his master went to Florida for a month. In Meredith, just across the border, at the Loch Haven, one morning a fox made a complete double loop around the pasture, followed by a hound baying and baying, with rather more excitement than success.

Sometimes even the people take an interest. The Baraks, and Batch's Barn, those two snug New Hampshire bunk hotels, the Stoddard House, they didn't just spring into being. They're run by people who believe in skiing.

Small Playground

In the centre of Laconia there's a small playground, Wyatt Park. It has two tennis courts, and in winter a skating rink, but it needed swings, bars, other equipment as well. The neighborhood people, as private individuals, got together, gave carnivals and bridge parties, raised money, and presented the equipment to the town. Which illustrates one point about community spirit.

Even business in the Belknap region takes on a sporty cast. Gordon Langill in Gilford makes custom-built hickory skis in his own shop. In Laconia—superlatives do keep piling up—is operated the largest ski factory in the world. It's as clean as an operating room. And simple as a ski or a ski pole may seem to the general public, it takes 150 concerns to ship in every produce necessary to their manufacture. The bamboo poles come from China, and to get past the Japanese customs, they're carried by coolies all the way into French Indo-China, wrapped in bundles of hand-woven Chinese rush matting.

Even the Chinese get rung in. But these are some of the people who keep New Hampshire ticking.

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Gilford Center Proponents Point to Big Accomplishments in Answer to Spe

Further Development of Area Under Consideration

Declared to Be Most Complete Recreation Center in East, with Facilities for Both Summer and Winter Enthusiasts

Special to The Union.

LACONIA, May 1.—A half million dollars have been spent, or are being spent on the Gilford Recreation Center, and from it Belknap county and the state of New Hampshire has received—what?

Summarized, the following will show what is on hand, to date:

1. The "model" WPA project in all New England.
2. Layout for probably the most complete winter and summer recreation center in the entire East.
3. A means of solving a steadily-growing county relief problem.
4. The nucleus of a rapidly-developing winter sports business.
5. Some voiced opposition to a continued spending program at the area.

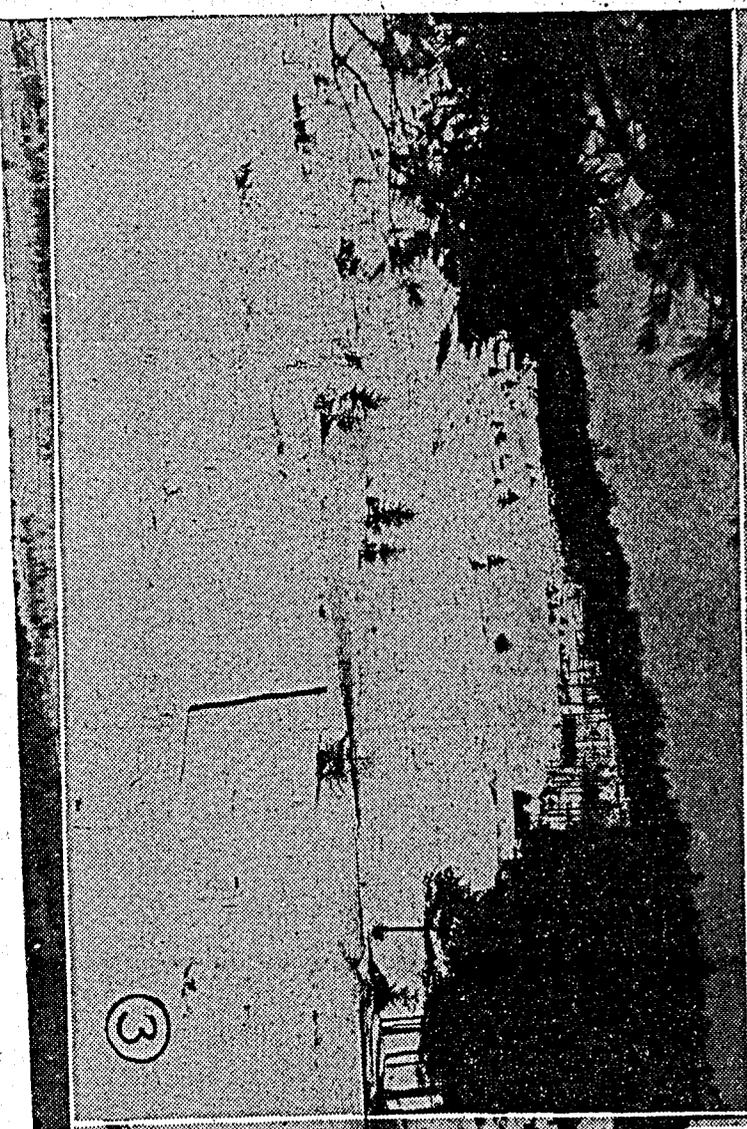
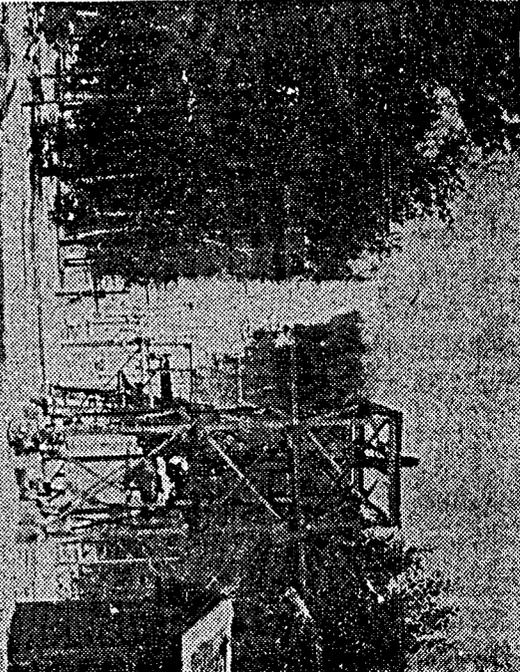
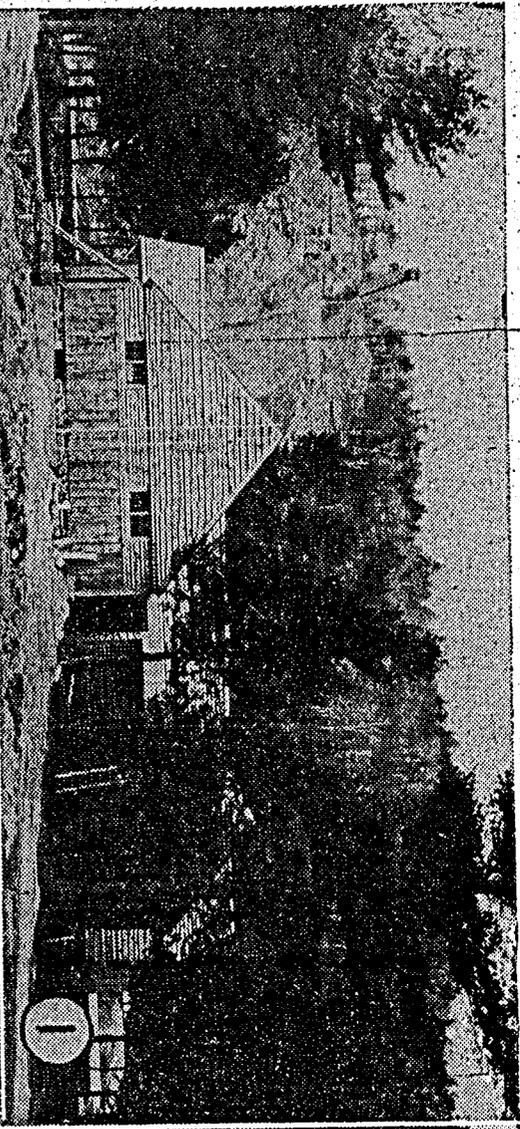
Started As Ski Jump.

Located seven miles from this city, in a huge natural bowl on the sides of Mts. Rowe, Gunstock and Cobble, the area has been slowly growing for three years, and growing very much like "Topsy."

It all started as a ski jump, proposed permanent location for the annual United States Eastern Amateur ski jumping championships, and has not only achieved that goal for the past two years but has also grown to become a small community in itself.

Visitors to the area are universally impressed by the size, layout, accommodation and prospect for development of the 600-acre site.

To list the larger accomplishments: Two-mile network of roads through the area; 60-meter ski jump, tower and hill; 3,600-foot giant slalom hill; parking lanes to accommodate 2,200



County Commissioners Joseph Smith, John Morrison and Fred Friend do not commit themselves definitely now to what may be done in the future, because allotments for future work will not be made until after July 1, when the new federal fiscal year opens, but supporters of the area see a considerable number of possibilities there.

Among the more outstanding projects suggested for the future are: Construction of a community club house, for use as a swimming headquarters, ski warming house and possible convention hall, construction of a three-acre swimming pool and erection of a 40-meter jump ski jump.

None of these latter jobs has as yet been approved, but plans are ready as soon as word is received to go ahead. Whether the opposition which has developed in the county to spending of money will prevent that approval no one will predict.

The voters of New Hampton "Instructed" their representative, Mrs. Elsie Linn Smith, at the March town meeting, to vote against appropriations for additional projects at the Center, but no other community in the county has gone that far, although unofficial reports come in that residents of towns further away from Gilford—Center Harbor and Barnstead, for example—are not universally in back of the project.

Booster Rody Named

Under the guidance of Capt. Edward L. Lydiard, development director for the project, representing the commissioners, a "Recreational Advisory council" has been created, as a sort of booster body, has held several meetings at which opportunity has been given to ask all manner of questions in regard to the project and at which attempt has been made to make clear what the commissioners are trying to do there.

Captain Lydiard believes that the council may help to explain to county taxpayers where their money has gone and for what, and aid them in realizing what a huge development the county has on its hands.

Proof that the project has literally grown like "Topsy" is contained in a section of the report of a county delegation meeting in Concord June 9, 1937, in which Mrs. Elsie Linn Smith, as secretary of the delega-

tion to their report for 1937, which contained the following passage: "The development is of a twofold importance to the citizens of Belknap county. First: It provides an opportunity for men released from industry and in poor financial condition to earn a moderate living by merit of their own effort; thus keeping up their civic pride and moral standing until the time when they can again establish themselves in private industry. The great value of this opportunity for earning a living must not be overlooked or underestimated. It has been proven by work done that these men are grateful for this opportunity. The most of them have worked hard and cooperated readily in consolidating their efforts to turn out a good piece of work.

"Most Complete" in East

"Second: Equally important is the fact that Belknap county will have, when finished, the most complete winter and summer recreation center in the East, consolidated within an area of 600 acres.

"The commissioners feel that each step which they have taken as pioneers in this new enterprise of recreational development by a county has been justified, and firmly believe that it will be a worthwhile endeavor both for this generation and for posterity. Each citizen of Belknap county should be grateful that the Belknap Mountains were chosen by WPA officials for the location of a development of such proportions."

More than that, the commissioners state that if it had not been for this project, the county tax would, undoubtedly, have been higher than it has been, that if men now employed at the center had been unable to find such work, the direct relief bill would have been greater.

At the present time some 330 men are employed at the job, split in two work crews of approximately 165 each. The men are all engaged in completing work started during the fall or winter, clearing ski trails, smoothing the banks of roads, ways, completing the pipe line from the reservoir to the rest house, painting buildings and smoothing the sides of the big ski jump.

Supt. Herman E. Olsen and Engineer Edward Willey who are in charge of operations there, admit that even with the tremendous crew

typically the first income the project that at which county residents pointing out that other income-creating developments should be installed, so that eventually the area can be self-supporting. All agree that this winter the tows had no real test, as neither was completed until the bulk of the ski season had gone. A sizable income is predicted for next year.

As far as land cost is concerned, the county has come off easy, the commissioners report, having spent approximately \$8,600 for some 600 acres. With the acquisition of a plot on top of Rowe Mountain, it is believed that the purchases would be completed.

As for use of the area, there are some figures compiled last summer, from July 13 to August 16, in which time 2,320 persons set their names down in a book located, not within easy reach of all visitors, but at the top of the ski jump tower, where all signers had to climb in order to be counted. It is granted that visitors to the whole area greatly exceeded the average of 52 per day registered there.

The Laconia Evening Citizen

V.F. Gilford

VOL. XII—NO. 14

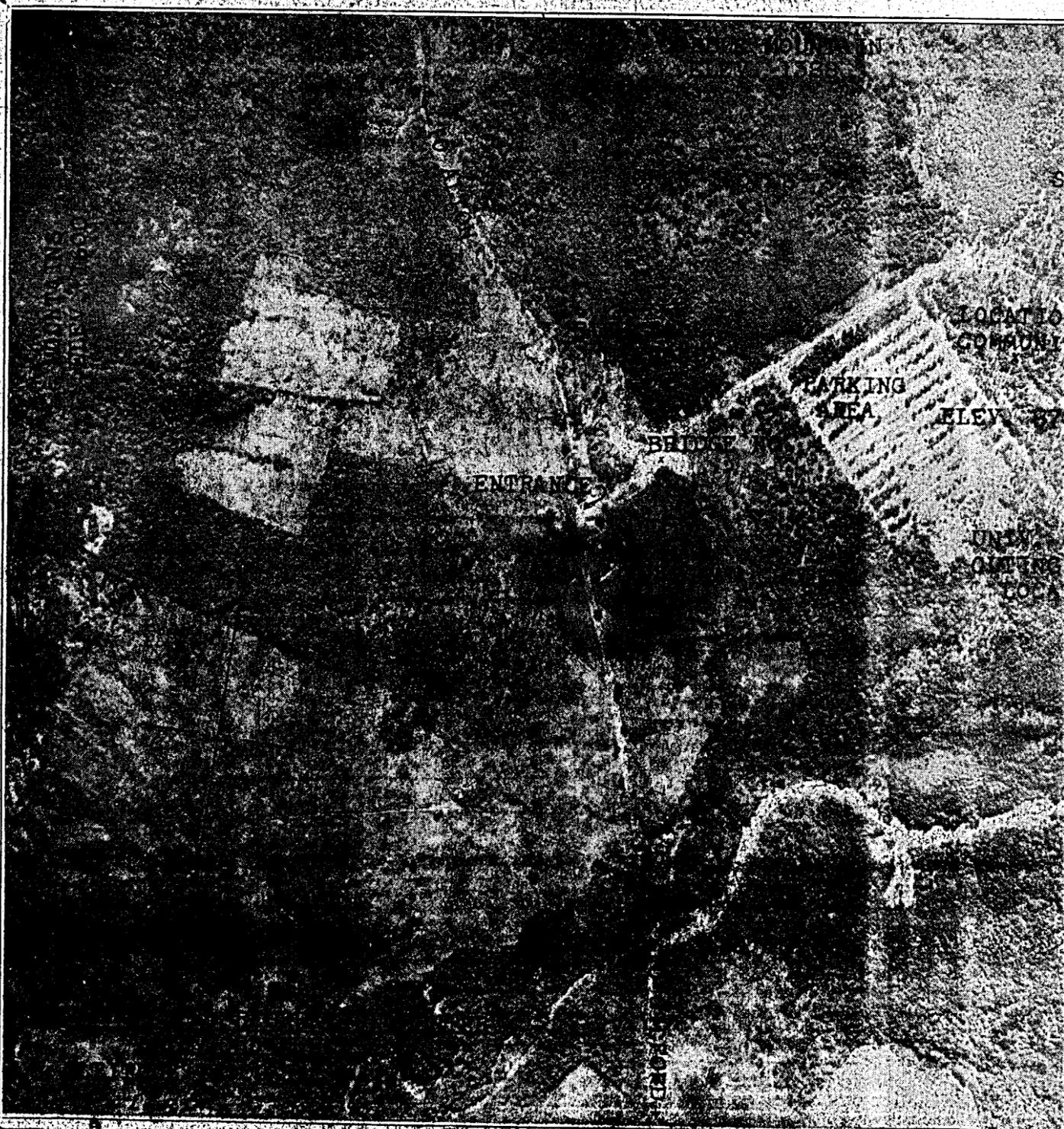
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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1936

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Resident Engineer Willey Gives Report on Progress of Nine Items of Vast Recreation Project in Gilford; New Set of Proposals Forthcoming.

The history of the Belknap Mountains Recreational Center, as compiled by L. E. Willey, resident engineer, in collaboration with County Commissioners Joseph F. Smith, John Morrison and Arthur D. Rollins, which follows in full, is by far the most comprehensive article yet written concerning this mammoth project.

The accompanying photograph was taken by Harold J. Piper of the U. S. Forest Service at a height of 14,000 feet from a plane piloted by Floyd Miller. It shows in detail the huge scope of the recreational project and covers an area of approximately 500 acres.

It is estimated that more than 5,000 persons, including summer residents from every section of the nation, visited the recreational center this summer. They received courteous attention at the hands of the WPA officials who patiently answered all questions and encouraged visits by interested persons.

ELECTION DAY BRIDE ALLOWED TO CAST ABSENTEE BALLOT

City Clerk Earl Flanders reported today that of the some 50 applications received at city hall for absentee ballots for the presidential elections he had received one that was especially out of the ordinary.

Miss Marguerite E. Dodds of Gilford avenue, who is to be married Nov. 3rd, election day, to Francis McGinnis of Lynn, Mass., yesterday made application for an absentee ballot. She explained that she was to be married election day and did not wish to call at the polls in her wedding costume. She also said that her name would be changed by the time the polls opened and if she called at the voting booth her name would not correspond with her name as listed on the checklist and she desired to

General Report
The article as written by Mr. Willey is as follows:

October 17, 1936.
Due to a great amount of enthusiasm created by the local ski club, and by the Eastern Amateur Ski Association, an investigation was started for the purpose of finding a site for a new ski jump, to replace the one which had blown down at Cotton Hill. For quite a long time this search was carried on by cruising parties from the local club and also from the Eastern Amateur, the University of New Hampshire and many more interested individuals.

After some time had passed, a location on the Northeast side of Rowe mountain, was unanimously agreed upon by all interested parties. This new location offered many ideal conditions for a ski hill. It had a good exposure (N. 69° E.) also a dense growth of hard and soft wood on either side to protect it from any side winds which are very disastrous to ski jumping on a large hill. The next progress made was to secure an engineer to run a grade on the site.

Aerial View of Belknap Mountains Recreation Area Made by Harold J. Piper from Height of 14,000 Feet in Plane Piloted by Floyd Miller

UNVEIL CORNERSTONE AT CONCORD SCHOOL

Reeves Schley, President of Trustees at St. Paul's, Conducts Ceremonies

CONCORD, Oct. 17 (AP)—The cornerstone of a new building at St. Paul's school recently provided for Edward Harkness of New York was unveiled today at a ceremony performed by Reeves Schley of New York, president of the board of trustees.

Anthony Duke of New York, president of the sixth form at the school, also took part in the exercises.

Trustees together with the entire student body and masters participated in the program.

Dedicatory prayers were offered by the Right Rev. John T. Dallas, bishop of the Episcopal diocese of New Hampshire.

The new building started last May will not be completed until next spring.

Harkness Gift

The affair was of especial importance, Dr. S. S. Drury, the rector said, because the building is designed to further an education program Mr. Harkness has been stimulating for several years.

Its aim is to establish smaller classes for instructing school boys.

The building has 27 conference rooms and quarters for the rector, vice rector, and masters in addition to reading rooms.

Designed by James G. Rogers of New York the building is in the collegiate Gothic style.

No announcement of the cost was made by school officials.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Mrs. Harry Craig of Portsmouth announces the engagement of her son, Walter Wakefield, and Miss Catherine Sinclair, of Laconia. The wedding will take place in the near future.

FOX SHOT IN SANBORNTON

Carroll Ober of Sanbornton shot a large fox Thursday. It is the first fox shot in Sanbornton this season.

City Clerk Flanders assured Miss Dodds, cashier at Lougee-Robinson company that it could be arranged so she could vote at home.

Supervisors in Session

Supervisors of the checklist were in session at city hall today signing the check lists for posting today. They will also be in session to receive any changes, addition of new names to the checklist, from October 27 to November 2 inclusive. They will be at city hall from twelve o'clock noon to six in the evening.

Absentee ballot applications at city hall number 48.

Recent applications come from:

Alice Smith, Concord, Mass.

Dorothy Simpson Haggood, Fitchburg, Mass.

Alvin C. Effinger, Buffalo, New York.

George Carroll, Worcester, Mass.

Benjamin Collins, Sarasota, Fla.

Mrs. Clementine E. Calder, Sarasota, Fla.

Mr. and Mrs. Caleb J. Avery, Sarasota, Fla.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Davis, Sarasota, Fla.

Lincoln A. Pike, Sarasota, Fla.

Charles Hawkins, Washington.

Mrs. Phoebe Guay, 21 Elliott street, Laconia, who is confined to her home.

AT RALLY FOR CLUB LEADERS

Belknap County Women who attended the first annual rally of the New Hampshire 4-H club leaders yesterday at the Coos county Court House at Lancaster were:

Mrs. Elsie Amsden, Mrs. Arlene Heath, O. H. Amsden, West Center Harbor; Eleanor Currier, M. Pearl Colby, Lochmere; Gladys Whitcher, Sanbornton; Ruth C. Weston, Laconia; Cassie C. Smith, Lakeport; Alice S. Marsh, New Hampton.

WEATHER

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17, (AP)—

The weather forecast for New Hampshire. Showers tonight and possibly Sunday morning. Cooler Sunday and in the West and north portions tonight.

This was to see if it would be possible to secure a proper profile for a jumping hill, without a prohibitive amount of excavation and fill. This was done by Philip Hussey, recreation engineer.

Ideal Ski Profile Found

After plotting the results, it was found that an ideal profile for a 60 meter ski hill could be produced with a cut on the upper hill of 3500 yards and a fill on the lower hill of approximately the same. The matter was then dropped for quite a while. The ERA system started making it possible for communities to start projects to aid the needy persons by help from the Federal government. It was then that the project was brought to light and presented to the County Commissioners for their approval. They at once started the ball rolling, as we call it, by taking an option on the land required and making necessary arrangements with the Federal government for aid.

The project, known as the ski jump project, was then started on April 3, 1935, with a crew of 50 to 60 men under the supervision of Herman Olsen. The first part of the procedure was chiefly a wood cutting proposition, to clear the hillside for construction of the ski hill. This preliminary work gave a small amount of time to start plans and some of the more important parts of the field surveying necessary for the proper layouts.

After a few weeks things had progressed so that work was actually started on the construction of the ski jump. After the hill had been

(Continued on page four)

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TONIGHT!
"STAR FOR A NIGHT" — "EVERYTHING IS THUNDER"

As the spring months came and outside industry became more active, the crews began to reduce greatly. The minimum total number reached on all projects was approximately 120 men.

A great amount of progress has been made up to the present date. Most of this credit belongs to the men working on the project, who have taken enough interest, and realize that the finished product here will not belong to any one other than themselves, the people of Belknap County.

The following progress report written Oct. 1st 1936, will give an analysis of the operations and the state of completion at that date. This report may be more or less synonymous with the previous one. However some of the different items are described more in full.

Love of Snow

Sometimes I wonder if the majority of the people in the community realize the importance of the fact that winter is no longer a period of the year that people hibernate in and dread the thoughts of snow. They are rapidly growing to love it and enjoy it. Therefore are we not very lucky to be in on the ground floor with such a development as the Belknap Mountains Recreational Center? Winter sports is an industry in its infancy. We have an ideal location geographically, the demand is forever increasing, we need an industry to carry on through the winter months.

We have a large factory started and the men to turn out the finished product, so let's carry it on through to completion.

The County Commissioners are giving their time and their best ability to push the thing through to a completed state. Arthur Rollins has been very active in the whole set up from the very start and has been willing to help in every way possible for the best purpose of both the County and the job itself as have both Mr. Smith and Mr. Morrison. It has always been evident in their activities that they were acting for the people of Belknap County and desired to represent them as near 100 per cent. as possible.

This job will always be a monument, to my estimation, to these three men who have cultivated and sponsored such a large undertaking for the good of the people they represent.

Project was started April 1st, 1935 under the old ERA system and known as the ski jump project. The average crew was 30 men until July 1st, 1935 when the project closed. The accomplishments on the ERA system were: General survey of site, clearing and trimming of ski jump site, with small amount of grading on lower hill and run out, conditioning of a construction road into the ski jump, and cutting out much of the objectionable growth within the

out so as to facilitate a one way traffic system and if well plowed in short a time as one hour. This area is also designed so as not to mar the beauty of landscaping by dividing it into a series of terraces and snow areas. The parking area has 8 of the required 11 terraces completed to a rough profile and will be in suitable condition to park at least 2000 cars this coming winter. This is at present 60% complete.

No. 5, Drainage

The central area seemed to be a serious problem as stated by some of the old settlers who always considered this area as more or less of a bog. However, after cutting away a major percentage of the black fir growth and letting the sun in onto this damp soil, along with a series of deep ditches to drain the soil below the outer crust, we find that our ground conditions are very good. As an illustration we have a soil bearing test for the newly proposed stadium that shows a soil bearing value of 2 1/2 tons per square foot. The drainage is at present 70% completed.

No. 6, Toboggan Chute

This is only a small chute more or less for the youngsters, giving approximately a 600 foot ride on an average grade of 6%. This is all built of logs cut on the project and will be ready for use during the coming winter of 1936.

No. 7, Ski Trails

There are approximately five miles of ski trails to form a net work with the present trails on Gunstock, Belknap, and Rowe. At present we have completed the Stone Bar Trail which is considered a very well constructed trail both by amateurs and professionals. This is due to the fact that it has a good ground surface and is very wide in comparison with other trails in this vicinity. We also hope to have completed for skiing this winter a new trail from the top of Rowe mountain down by the head of the Slalom and into the central area.

No. 8, Slalom Course

Slalom course is 600 feet long with an average grade of 25%. This Slalom is approximately 60% completed and will be usable this coming winter. At a later date this Slalom will be extended over a length of 2600 feet and widened out to a minimum width of 200 feet. This will be a very beautiful spot to hold down hill and Slalom races.

No. 9, Series of Shelters

A series of shelters and fire places to be located at convenient places along our roadways, brooks and trails to accommodate both summer and winter parties. As yet no construction has taken place on this item, but locations have been chosen and plans started for same. It is hoped that a few of these will be available for the coming winter.

There are also many more small items covered in these old proposals such as observations, grading and leveling, landscaping, bridges, bridle paths and sled dog courses, spring developments, walk ways and a road

a series of items which seem to be necessary for the proper completion, and future operations of this development. Some of the more important items are:

1. A community house of log construction.
2. A bob sled run 1 mile long, with a total drop of 600 feet and several sharp hair pin curves.
3. Two ski tows to make a complete system of skiing and tows from one side of the mountain to the other without any up hill skiing.
4. Water system gravity supply for entire development.
5. Sanitary systems with comfort stations to accommodate summer and winter crowds.
6. Landscaping and reforestation of entire area.
7. A 10 meter junior pump running parallel to the large 60 meter hill.
8. A three acre swimming and skating pool with bath houses and skating shelters.
9. A first aid house and equipment.
10. A log ski hut for small gatherings.
11. Seating equipment on the 80 meter hill to accommodate 5000 persons.

If the new proposals are acted upon and the project carried out to a state of completion it will surpass anything of its kind in the United States. It really does not seem possible that any spot could offer so many opportunities for development of winter and summer sports as does the Belknap mountains.

L. E. WILLEY,
Resident Eng.

BELMONT LOCALS

Mrs. John Bryant is the guest of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis McKerley in Rutland, Vt.

Mrs. Harleigh L. Brown is visiting with relatives in Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Orlo Mudgett, and daughter Polly of Auburn, Me., were recent guests at the home of Mrs. Ella Mudgett.

Joseph LaFrance has returned to his home after visiting at the home of his son, Joseph Jr., in Gray, Me.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Perkins are rejoicing over the birth of a daughter at their home Oct. 14.

Giving Happiness

Be cheerful! Which will you do—smile, and make others happy, or be crabbed, and make everyone miserable? The amount of happiness you can produce is incalculable if you show a smiling face and speak pleasant words. There is no joy like that which springs from a kind act or pleasant deed, and you may feel it at night when you rest, and at morning when you rise, and through all the day when about your business.

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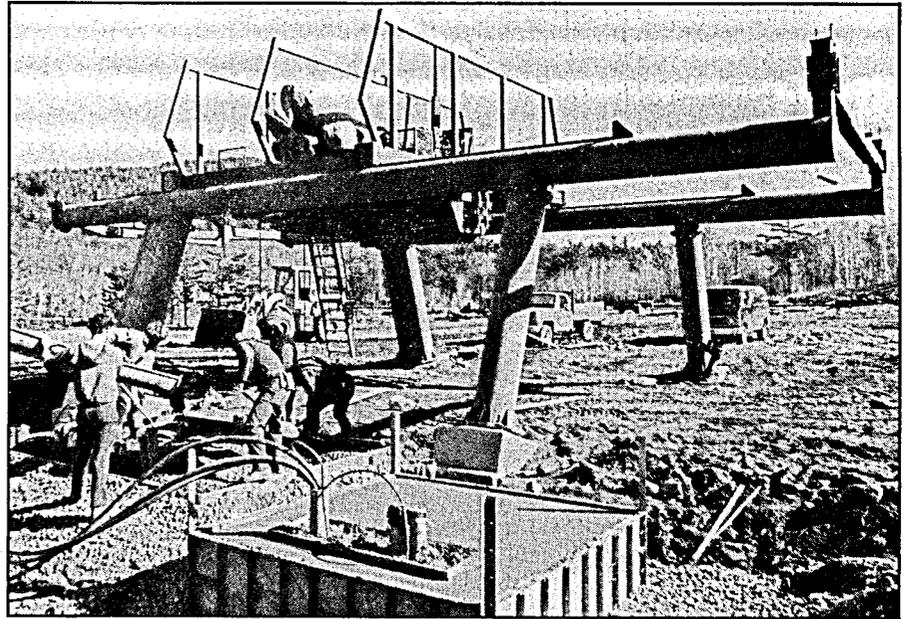
GAZETTE

GUNSTOCK GROWS WITH A TEN MILLION DOLLAR EXPANSION PROGRAM!

New Lifts, Trails, Snowmaking & More!

While the lazy, hazy days of summer are a time of rest, recreation and reflection for many, the scene at Gunstock during the solstice was far from such idyllic pursuits as the ski resort prepared to celebrate its 50th anniversary with a 10 million dollar expansion program. Instead of its usually pastoral mood, the slopes and trails at Gunstock were teeming with men and machinery literally reshaping the character of the venerable New Hampshire resort. Armed with chainsaws, dyanmite, bulldozers, and all the tools of their trade, craftsmen of every discipline created a new mountain that even Gunstock veterans will have to look twice to recognize. The first phase of the project included the erection of five new lifts, new trails, and snowmaking.

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ONE OF FIVE NEW LIFTS . . . Workmen from Eastern Lift assemble the new Summit Triple Chairlift base station. Three new chairlifts and 2 handle tows have been installed.



1930's SKI SCENE . . . Baggy pants, bear trap bindings and ridge top hickory skis were the rage when Gunstock opened for skiing in 1937.

GUNSTOCK...A RICH HISTORY & BRIGHT FUTURE

As suspicious of big government and outsiders as a New Hampshire Yankee might be there are damned few who would let a mere philosophical inconvenience stand in the way when the arm of the republic reaches out to give, instead of take.

It was just such a scenario, set in the wake of the Great Depression, that marked Gunstock's birth. The Lakes Region had been hard hit by the social and economic upheaval of the time and in 1935 the Belknap County legislative delegation sought some relief from its high unemployment rate in one of FDR's "New Deal" programs, the WPA or "Works Progress Administration". The lure of seven federal dollars for each local dollar invested was a strong incentive. Local political forces were unified in their support of the public works project and wasted no time in marshalling support from the state legislature, the governor's office and congressional delegation. The campaign met with almost immediate success and in 1936 the project was approved and site preparation began.

The Gunstock, or Belknap Mt. Recreational Area project, as it was known at the time, was a unique departure from usual

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SPECIAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

HISTORY . . . continued from page 1

WPA practices and was designed as a four season recreational project with skiing as a primary function. Included in the original \$750,000 project, which the press had dubbed as the "Sun Valley of the East" were ski trails, a single chairlift, rope tows, cross country trails, toboggan runs, sliding hills, a campground, picnic areas, base pond, nature trails, an impressive base lodge, comfort stations and more.

The building of Gunstock brought a 300 person workforce to the mountain. While a few steam powered machines and several teams of oxen were used in its creation, the bulk of the project was accomplished by hand labor using pick and shovel, hammer and axe. The main lodge and other buildings were built of timber cut and stone quarried on-site, an ecological compatibility far ahead of its time.

While a project of this stature would not be unusual today, in 1937 it caused the same kind of stir one might experience today if a Disneyland complex were to be located in a rural New Hampshire town. The single chairlift, was one of only 3 in the east at the time and the lure of an exciting new sport drew growing legions of loyal enthusiasts all the way down the pike to Boston which was 3½ hours by auto and almost 3 by snow train.

The excitement of skiing, coupled with its relaxed social setting and dramatic winterscapes made Gunstock a popular destination in spite of the fact that, by today's standards, the trails were twisted and narrow, groomed only marginally by downhill traffic and done in boots, bindings and skis in which comfort and safety were but minor considerations. The blazing fireplaces in the base lodge were more than mere decoration. It took their best efforts to dry out soggy leather boots, wet socks and mittens to say nothing of heating a small circle in the drafty buildings.

A focal point of competitive skiing events in the east during its early years Gunstock hosted a number of national and international contests on its ski jumps and was once mentioned as a possible Olympic site. The ski jumps attracted the best talent in the world and a 70 meter hill record set by Norwegian flyer, Torger Tokle in 1942 stood for more than 3 decades until it was broken by a U.S. Ski Team member in 1976! A unique feature of many of the early ski contests at Gunstock that stands in contrast to today's athletic specialization, was that many

events required entrants to participate in jumping, cross country and downhill races!

Included in the roster of Gunstock skiers who made serious inroads in international competitive circles are Olympians, Penny Pitou of Gilford, who captured a silver medal in 1960 at Squaw Valley, Egon Zimmermann, a member of the Austrian Olympic Team and Heidi Pruess, a Lakeport resident who took a fourth place in the Womans Downhill event at Lake Placid in 1980.

The technological evolution that occurred to the sport in equipment, technique and style in the late 40's was paralleled by development in the art/science of snowgrooming, trail and lift design that made skiing easier and attractive to growing numbers of enthusiasts. Stretch pants were not the only thing new on the slopes in the early 50's as modest expansion saw the erection of a new T-Bar lift and trail improvements. Another building program in 1961 included the development of slopes, trails and a new double chairlift on Gunstock mountain. By the mid 60's another summit chairlift, a pair of T-Bars and new trails were needed to keep up with the demand. Less than a decade later, in 1970, Gunstock undertook its fourth major expansion, an effort that included the building of the Pistol Chairlift complex, a second base lodge as well as the installation of one of the first and most advanced snowmaking systems in the industry at the time.

In spite of the constancy of change that has marked Gunstock's 50 years its commitment and compatibility to quality family recreation has always been a central element of the Gunstock character. The Gunstock Ski School, over the years, has introduced well over 50,000 youngsters to the sport and it is not uncommon to find fourth generation skiers on slope and trail. The caring atmosphere of family at Gunstock and a mountain setting free of housing development and commercial intrusion is a refreshing departure from the usual and will continue to distinguish it from the contemporary.

Other than the initial \$70,000 seed money invested by Belknap County in 1936 to secure the WPA project no tax dollars have been used to support Gunstock's operation.



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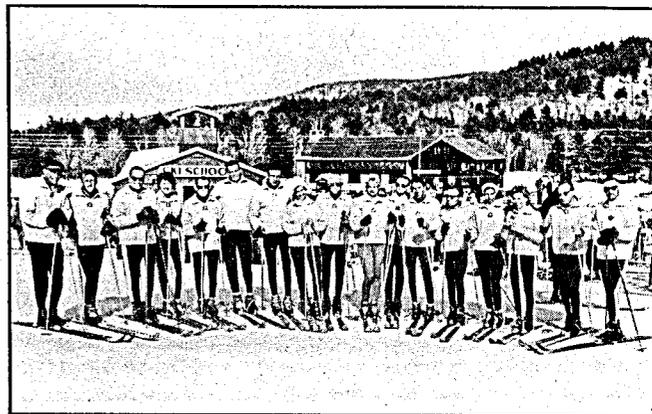
A PAGE FROM GUNSTOCK'S SCRAPBOOK



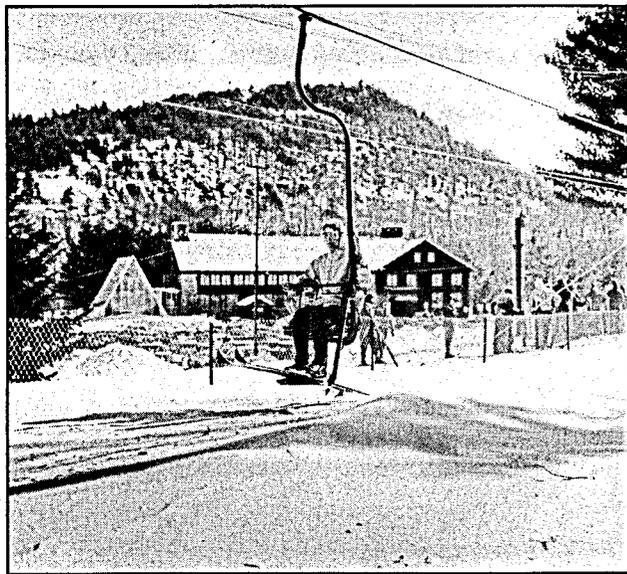
Olympic Silver Medal Penny Pitou, a Gilford native, grew up on the slopes of Gunstock and became a world class skier.



Norwegian ski flyer, Torgar Tokle set a jumping record at Gunstock in 1941 that stood for 30 years.



This Ski School photo taken in the late 50's heralds the arrival of stretch pants.



The single chairlift, installed in 1936-37, was a major attraction.



The dashing downhiller of the 1940's with a collegiate sweater and baggy pants cut a wide swath on the slopes at Gunstock.



Austrian Olympian, Egon Zimmermann raised Gunstock's technique consciousness in his 15 years as Ski School Director.



WPA workers built the main lodge out of wood and stone taken from the mountainside.



Gunstock was the site on many international ski jumping tournaments in the 1940's.