

Bruce's Bruises

Skis: Just A Touch Of Terror

BY
BRUCE PARRISH
MAC News Bureau

(First of Seven Weekly Column)

MONTREAT — Ah, the slopes touched by the lithe skier — those poles pumping furiously down the mile-long hill. A spraying cloud of snow signals the 60 m.p.h. descent has ended abruptly. That was my idea of skiing. I emphasize, was.

Montreat-Anderson College offers a seven-week ski course for its students each winter. I thought as one of the college staff I would see what they experienced annually at Sugar Mountain in Banner Elk.

About 80 sold-out ski enthusiasts were born our first lesson. Thankfully, our spirits are tempered, not broken, by the perils on one day on the slopes. In other words, we're as hot on skiing as a little child is on Santa Claus.

My first sighting of the slopes, though from afar, sent me on my feet. My neck craned toward one slope and naively I thought I soon would be one of the skiers swooping down that slope.

However, the beginner's slope had not yet caught my gaze nor tripped my ski.

Once in the ski lodge, my

excitement heightened and I chuckled at the Frankenstein-like walk of everyone in those clunky ski boots. I became oblivious to any thoughts of ski accidents or a rough time.

Out to the slopes for a one and a half hour lesson from the instructor, Sam. The foreign accents of some instructors often make them difficult to understand. But fortunately, Sam's speech was understood easily and his command of the group excellent.

His first instructions presented no problem. The students and I learned to clomp sideways uphill.

And then we began skiing slowly down the beginner's slope where the humble spirits dwell. Our first assignment — learn to ski with our skis parallel, our bodies forward and our rumps parallel to the back of our heels. Whoopee.

One girl, however, added an occasional touch of levity and havoc to our group of 13. Instead of skiing straight like Sam said, she continually veered into us which sent a few novices sprawling.

More comic relief came our way from the girl who always had trouble getting up after a fall. Camels have risen more gracefully. "Well," she mused, "That's the way Sam told me to do it."

Key points, Sam told us,

were knowing how to snowplow or stop and how to turn. I'd just like to note that the fence at the end of the beginner's slope proved mighty convenient and sturdy for stopping.

A harder student than I and a novice too, Bill Buchanan, of Spruce Pine, soon convinced me to assault the intermediate slope with him. Neither of us knew what to expect from the ski lift or the slope which we had seen earlier when approaching Sugar Mountain.

We lined up for the chair lift having no notion whether it would run us over or drag us up the mountain. The lift swept us off our feet with a rude smack to the rumps. The jolt knocked one of Bill's skis off. No sweat — he'd just fasten it when we got off the lift.

There we sat; Bill's ski dangled; and suddenly, our predicament came to light. We would have to ski off the ramp at the hilltop.

It's not hard to clamp a ski to a boot, unless it is done in mid-air from a precarious perch on a chair lift. Fortunately, we were blessed and our combined efforts met with

Balsam Grove Youth Club Reorganized

BY
RUBY WUESTHOFF

The Balsam Grove Youth Club met and reorganized Thursday night, Jan. 23.

The Youth Club was split into three individual groups: the youth group ages ranging from 13 to 19; the junior youth group ages ranging from 6 to 12; and the preschool group ages up to 6 years.

Officers were elected: Wanda Owen, president; Ricky McCall, vice president; Sherry Lawter, secretary and Bonnie McCall, treasurer.

It was decided that meetings will be held on every other Thursday at 7 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday night, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m.

The Youth and Junior youth will be holding their meetings

success . . . just in time!

The ramp rose sharply before us and neither of us knew what to do. I jumped, then Bill. I was shouting in relief and then in hilarity when I saw Bill sprawled on the ramp with a ski off. His time came later when I bumped the ramp wall and the the ground. I also lost a ski.

Just a touch of terror threatened as the speed of my descent caused me to leave most of my senses behind. To execute a snowplow or a turn never entered my mind. The speed increased and then I met my first mogul. That's ski talk for small bumps or hills. After hitting a couple, I became a tumbling mass surrounded by a man-made blizzard. I finally stopped and found myself encrusted with wet, freezing snow.

Well, the first run ended with only one other fall. But the succeeding times proved to be more glorious and less frequented by falls.

THE KEY: Lean forward, snowplow and turn, and above all, beware of the moguls.

My hope for next week's lesson lies in finding the same trail which saw me down several times without a fall.

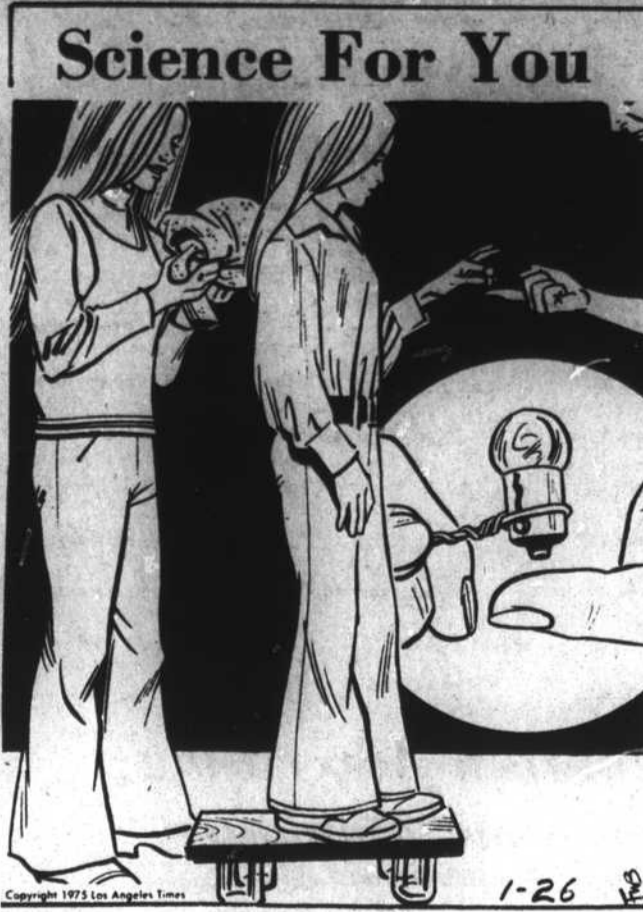
together. All other activities will be separated.

Anyone needing rides to the meetings contact Nancy Galloway at 655-2234.

The next V.F.D. meeting will be held Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. The action Club Meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m. We need your support for a better community.

Teresa McCall will be having a birthday Monday Jan. 27. We all wish her a happy birthday.

Diesel-powered tractors haven taken over the farm tractor trade. U.S. Department of Agriculture figures indicate that 80 percent of all new tractors are diesel, and this dominance over gasoline-powered machines is expected to grow.



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By
BOB BROWN

PROBLEM: High voltage.

NEEDED: A girl with long hair, a board, pint Mason jars, orlon acrylic garment, a neon lamp (Calectro NE-51 will do), two more people.

DO THIS: Make a platform with the board and glass jars. Have the long-haired girl stand on it. Have someone rub her hair downward to the waist with the acrylic. The third person may then draw a spark from the insulated girl's finger.

HERE'S WHY: Rubbing the hair puts a charge of electricity over the girl on the platform. The charge (or part of it) will jump as a spark to someone else. This works only when humidity is very low, usually only in cold winter in a heated room. But it is possible to get 10,000 harmless volts this way.

If the girl holds a neon lamp, and someone else takes the spark from the tip of the lamp, it will flash each time the spark jumps.

The jars must be clean and dry. The hair and the acrylic must be dry, and the rubbing must be done vigorously. Note how the hair tends to stand out—each hair takes on the same charge, and like charges repel.

It may be more convenient to hold the lamp bulb with a wire handle as shown, but this is not necessary. The high voltage involved is perfectly harmless; the electric current is very low. The effect of the spark may be felt slightly on different parts of the body, however.

This special "Science For You" feature is sponsored by Olin Corporation at Pisgah Forest in cooperation with The Transylvania Times.

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Citizens Participation Office Personnel Named

Mrs. James E. Holshouser, Jr., chairman of the Governor's Commission on Citizen Participation, today announced the staff appointments of executive director and assistant director for the Office of Citizen Participation.

Michael Robison, formerly of Washington, D.C. is the new executive director of the office. Robison was formerly with the Involvement Corps in Washington, and also has experience with the Bank of America as community liaison officer. He was also the president of the Los Angeles Community Action Center in California.

Ms. Marilyn Jean Calhoun of Raleigh, will be the assistant director of the office. She completed her undergraduate work at the University of North Carolina

in Greensboro in 1974, and also studied at Davidson College and Boston University. Ms. Calhoun has served as the intern for the commission since the establishment of the office in July.

Robison and Ms. Calhoun will be working to gather information concerning all of North Carolina's volunteer programs and review the coordinated volunteer programs which have been developed in other states. The office will be located in Raleigh at 301 North Blount Street.

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