WHAT COMES DOWN MUST FIRST GO UP, BOBSLEDDERS LEARNED BEFORE TAKING RIDE
Jimmy, 5, Karen, 10, Dick, 16, Kathy, 20, and Mrs. Olson helped Olson carry sled

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Engineers' Course Cut Year at 'U'

By CAROL HONSA
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents shortened the university's engineering program for bachelor's degree students from five to four years today.

The regents cut the fifth year of engineering study on the recommendation of the faculty of the College of Engineering, the School of Mineral and Metallurgical Engineering and the Department of Chemical Engineering.

The university has had a five - year engineering program for the bachelor's degree since 1946.

President O. Meredith Wilson said the change will probably increase enrollment in the Institute of Technology, one of the few university schools with ample room for undergraduate students.

Standards Kept

The shortened engineering program will not mean any change in admission standards, according to William G. Shepherd, vice president for academic administration.

An argument frequently used by supporters of a second public university for Minnesota has been that the university's five-year engineering program seriously held back the output of engineers in the state.

Shepherd said the fifth year of work formerly required of bachelor's degree students had been equivalent to work done by students working for master's degrees in other colleges.

Industries pay more for engineers with master's degrees than for the university students with five years of training behind their bache-

BOBSLED MAY BE REVIVED

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City Man Boosting Sport

By RALPH THORNTON
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

The traditionally American sport of bobsledding may stage a comeback in this country with an assist from a former Canadian who lives in South Minneapolis.

He is Geary McKinnon, who moved here five years ago as a representative for a Canadian germicide firm.

He soon found he missed the bobsledding popular around his native Winnipeg, where bobsled clubs and races are a regular winter activity.

McKinnon, who lives at 5029 Russell Av. S., made three bobsleds in his basement, testing them on the slopes of Glenwood Hills and Theodore Wirth Park.

The reactions of his five children, especially those of his sons Ronald, 15, Geary, 13 and Bryan, 12 — plus interest shown by people who saw the sleds in action — convinced him the sport would catch on here.

Quit Germicidal Business

He quit the germicide business and began to look for a manufacturer to make the sleds.

Early this year he met Robert Hofmeister, president of Milhoff Steel Products Co., Bloomington.

Hofmeister, an executive whose interest in sports runs to racing his own motorcycle and tackling such production jobs as building 10-man bicycles, liked the idea.

They teamed up as Canusa Manufacturing Co. (named for Canada and the USA, McKinnon explained), and are shooting for an output of 1,000 sleds this year.

Sketchy information exists regarding the origin of the bobsled, they found. It is known to have been used in New England more than 100 years ago as a work vehicle for farmers and loggers.

As for the sports model, "perhaps some farmer made a miniature bobsled for his children, who undoubtedly preferred it over their old fixed-runner wooden sleds," McKinnon said.

The name is variously traced to the two "bobbed," or shortened sleds coupled under its frame, or to the bobbing of the riders' bodies to gain momentum in racing.

Bobsled racing became popular in Switzerland around 1890, largely under the influence of American tourists. It has been part of the winter Olympic Games since their inception in 1924.

Speeds up to 100 miles per hour have been clocked at the two best-known bobsled runs in the world—at Mount St. Moritz, Switzerland, and Mount Von Hoevenburg, Lake Placid, New York.

Most of today's competition sleds—the two-man "boblets" and four-man "bobsleighs"—are made in Italy.

Sleds in Three Sizes

The Minnesota-made Canusa sleds, seating four to six persons, are sold in three sizes weighing between 67 and 81 pounds.

They range in cost from $79.50 to $119.50.

Several ski hill operators in the Mankato, Shakopee, Burnsville and Forest Lake areas have shown interest in having bobsleds available to rent to non-skiers on their slopes.

Some even plan to rig a rope tow to pull the sleds and their riders uphill, or to draw them behind gasoline-powered snow sleds, thereby taking the work out of getting to the top.

Among those trying the bobsleds at Moon Valley ski area, near Shakopee, recently was the Kenneth Olson family, of 9845 Morgan Av. S., Bloomington.

"We had a ball," said Mrs. Olson. "This is one thing the whole family can do outdoors together in the winter. We like it."

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BLOOMINGTON FAMILY DESCENDED HILL IN A SHOWER OF SNOW
Bobsledding's 'a ball' to the Kenneth Olsons