





GOOD BINDINGS ARE IMPORTANT—Since good skiing is based on control of the skis, good bindings, properly aligned, and good boots are possibly the two most important items in ski equipment. Leather bindings stretch and allow the boot to become loose in the toe irons, causing loss of control. Select a binding similar to the above. Skiing with improper bindings may be compared to driving a car with a very loose steering wheel and bad brakes. You'll need to stop or turn whenever you wish. You can't do it with faulty brakes or a loose steering wheel.



CHOOSING SKI ACCESSORIES — Poles of bamboo are easily broken; that's why you should select steel or cane. As for clothing, light wind-resistant, moisture-resistant cloth is best Skiing is exercise and you'll usually find yourself shedding instead of putting on more clothing. Avoid the fuzzy type of clothing. It picks up snow which later melts, then freezes. And don't overdress because you'll perspire, chill later, and possibly catch cold.



CARE OF EQUIPMENT—Ski equipment will last many seasons if it is properly serviced and cared for. Now is a good time to shellac the leather soles of the boots to prevent them from becoming water-logged and mushy later, and wax the uppers. Always keep the bare wood of your skis covered with varnish. It's hard to keep camber in a wet ski. A wet ski also loses its springiness.



WHAT'S WITH WAX—Wax serves many purposes. Put on in a certain way, it helps a downhill racer come down faster. Put on in another, it helps a cross-country skier climb up more easily, yet slide down rapidly. There are different grades and textures, the proper use of which only comes with practice or instruction. Let me suggest that you settle on one brand of ski wax and experiment with the uses of the different grades.



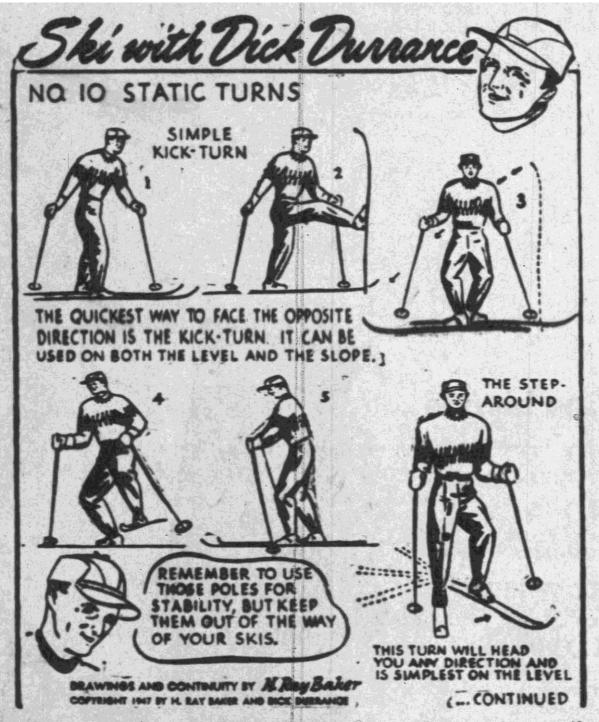
LET'S GO SKIING—Ready to go? Skis waxed? Bindings properly fitted? O.K.! Then let me remind you about the commandments of good skiing which appeared in the first of this series. The ultimate enjoyment of skiing will only come after you have learned the fundamentals one at a time—and in order. Your final skiing ability will rest on how well you learn the fundamentals of skiing.



USE OF THE SKI POLES—Like ski wax, ski poles serve many purposes. They aid forward motion when walking on skis because the thrust of the foot causes the ski to slide backward lightly. The bracing use of the poles checks the backward motion. They also help maintain balance while sliding downhill. (They should never be put between the legs and sat on to provide a braking effect.) They are also used as a brace when making kick turns and for stability in the pole christic. (Optional: A bound volume of Ski with Dick Durrance for easy reference on the slope may be obtained by sending 15 cents in stamps or coin to this newspaper.) (Wednesday: Walking On Skis.)



When you remember that you're only learning to walk with a much longer foot and that you glide with that foot, much as in dancing, using the poles to check any backward slide, then walking on skis is easy. It only takes practice. While you are learning to walk with them, you are also becoming accustomed to their weight and maneuverability. This is a fundamental. Learn it well before undertaking the next one.



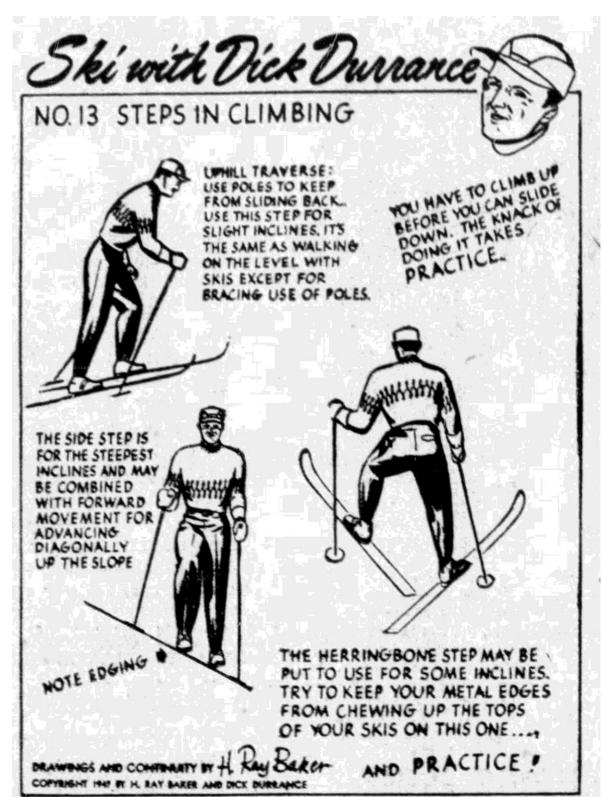
STATIC TURNS—The step-around is fine when you're on the level; but a kick turn will be needed on the slope. Might as well learn it too while you're on the level. It's faster than the step-around and consequently more useful. It's not as difficult is it may appear, either. Just remember to place your poles as illustrated so that you won't trip over them while they serve as a brace when you're standing on one ski.



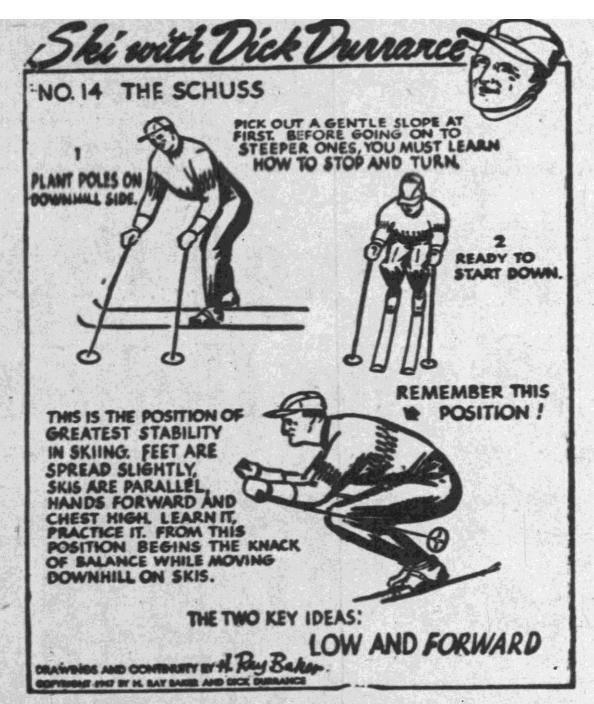
FALLING DOWN AND GETTING UP—Let's start off slowly and learn how to fall correctly. You may as well, because you're going to fall—even when you least expect it. The big trick in getting up is to bring the skis parallel to each other and at a right angle to the fall line below you. Use the poles as illustrated to push yourself up. Simple, isn't it?



SKI RUNNING—The steps in ski running may be compared to dance steps in that they are gliding steps and in rhythm. The poles and their coordination with these steps are important. Practice them, if only to learn what they are. In spite of the chair lift, you may someday have to make fast time cross-country. Besides, they're fun to do.



The easiest way to climb a slope is to advance across and up it diagonally (or in traverse) then kick-turn and take the opposite tack like a mountain road. The herringbone step is the most tiring and often causes damage to the tops of your skis where the metal edges sometimes touch. Remember that the proper use of the poles is even more important than in walking because there's apt to be more backward slip.



THE SCHUSS—This is what you've been waiting for. The schuss is a straight-down-the-hill run and is one of the most exhilirating phases of skiing. But before you go further, remember that you must also learn to stop and turn whenever you wish or must. That's why you should choose a gentle slope with a level run-out to start with. As soon as you have learned elementary balance while skiing downhill, you should start learning the snowplow.



While you're learning to schuss, pick out a gentle run with a few bumps and dips. Keeping low and forward, learn how to use your knees like a spring to maintain stability. Incidentally, control of bumps and dips is one of the major things the downhill racer has to contend with. When you hit a bump, your tendency will be to straighten up and fall backward. That's only another reason why you should always try to keep low and forward. A bound volume of SKI WITH DICK DURRANCE for easy reference on the slope may be obtained at Ski Club headquarters at Kistlers.

Ski with Dick Durrance

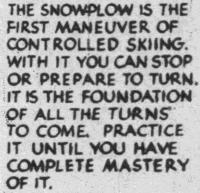
NO. 16 THE STRAIGHT SNOW-PLOW

LEARN IT WELL!



SCHUSS POSITION (ON A GENTLE SLOPE AT FIRST)

SKIS FLAT





FALL LINE OR STRAIGHTEST COURSE DOWN SLOPE

FORCE THE HEELS
OF YOUR SKIS OUT,
YOUR WEIGHT
EVENLY DISTRIBUTED ON BOTH SKIS.

VERY SLIGHT, EQUAL EDGING OF SKIS.



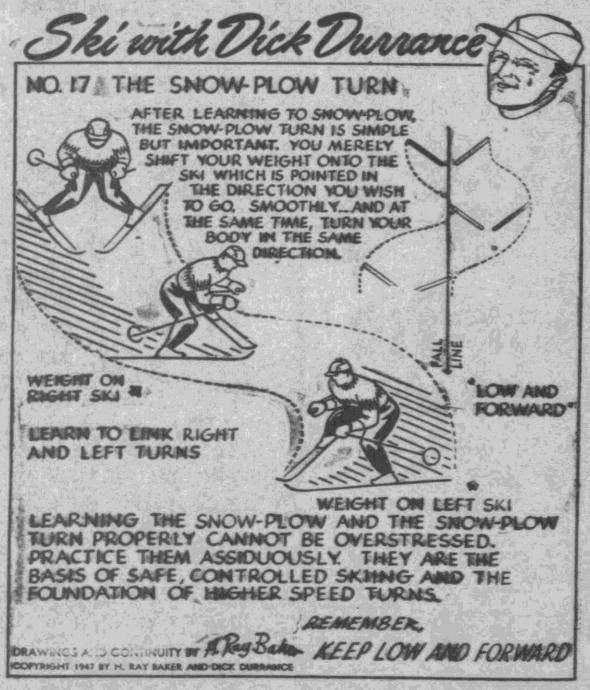
BY INCREASING EDGING OF SKIS YOU COME TO A STOP.

PULLING THE TOES IN ...
PUSH THE HEELS OUT
AND ...

KEEP LOW AND FORWARD

DRAWINGS AND CONTINUITY BY H Ray Bakes-COPPRIGHT INT BY H. RAY BAKER AND DICK BURBANCE

THE STRAIGHT SNOW-PLOW — This is the beginning of controlled skiing, the only kind of skiing to do. The snow-plow can be compared to the brakes on an automobile — and you wouldn't drive an automobile without brakes, would you? To try it first, schuss down a moderate slope, then with very slight edging on the inner sides of the skis, force the heels out so that your skis make a fairly wide "V." Then by increasing the edging gradually, you come to a stop. Follow this series in The Item. A bound volume of Ski With Dick Durrance for easy reference on the slope may be obtained by sending a 3-cent stamp to this newspaper.



Just as a straight snow-plow is used while skiing straight down the slope, the snow-plow turn is made while skiing straight down the slope. You assume the same position that you do for the straight snow-plow, then by gradually shifting your weight to the ski which is pointed in the direction you wish to go and turning your body in the same direction, you turn into the same degree that the ski is pointed. That's controlled skiing! A bound volume of SKI WITH DICK DURRANCE for easy reference on the slope may be obtained at Ski Club head-quarters in Kistlers.



Skis, as you'll notice, have side camber or are curved in toward the boot on each side. Naturally, if you ride one edge or the other, the ski will describe a long arc when riding down hill. For shorter turns, however, the ski must also be pointed in the direction you wish to go and the weight of the body shifted to it, initiating skid which pivots around the point. It's that simple.



THE STEM TURN—The stem turn is hardly more than a snow-plow turn from the traverse rather than the fall line. While traversing, maneuver the lower ski into snow-plow position. Then briefly shift your weight to it while you place the upper ski into snow-plow position. Shift your weight back, then, to the upper ski and turn, just as with the snow-plow turn.



Because the skis only are illustrated in the upper panel, we must point out that the body must also be turned in the direction of the turn. Each motion should be coordinated smoothly and with rhythm. Jerky, abrupt shifting of weight may cause a spill. Remember to keep low and forward. Don't bend from the hips; bend the knees too. A bound volume of SKI WITH DICK DURRANCE for easy reference on the slope may be obtained at Ski Club headquarters at Kistlers.



When the slope becomes steep enough that you can't stop or turn when necessary, it's wiser to traverse because it's safer. The angle or pitch of the traverse will determine your speed. Because traversing at one time or another is always necessary, that is why you should learn the stem turn as a basic part of your skiing enjoyment. A bound volume of SKI WITH DICK DURRANCE for easy reference on the slope may be obtained at Ski Club headquarters at Kistlers.



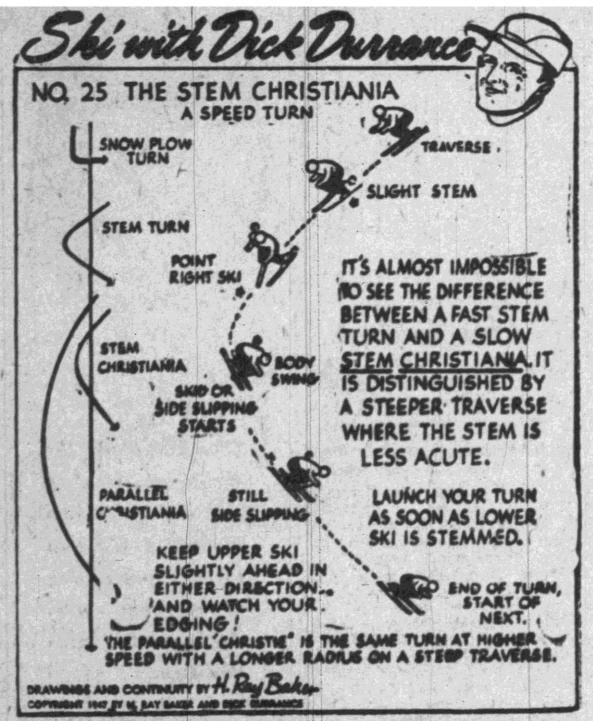
"COCKING"—Cocking helps you to shift your weight to the proper ski at the proper time and helps you to keep facing the direction of the turn. Lunging is important also because of the different angle your body takes in reference to the slope when you plunge into the fall line from the traverse. Lunging keeps your skis from running out from under you.



SLIDE SLIPPING—In any kind of a turn, even the snow-plow, you'll encounter skidding of one ski or both. In the higher speed turns both skis while traveling down the fall line must skid to prevent too sharp a turn. It's wise to learn how to side slip by practice first so that you can use it to advantage later. Let us repeat that side slipping is only controlled skidding.



SKID TURNS—Since the snow-plow and the stem turn are steered turns at comparatively slow speeds, skidding at higher speed turns plays an increasingly important part. Skidding is controlled by both momentum and the amount of edging you use. The amount of edging may vary with snow conditions. That's why you should practice every step in skiing until you learn what you and your skis can do safely.



THE STEM CHRISTIANIA—The above illustration is self-explanatory. Remember back to the lesson where the reasons "why a ski turns" is explained? Have you noticed that on various turns the different elements come into play? On the snow-plow, for instance, steering or pointing the ski is probably most important. As you progress you encounter faster timing, cocking and lunging. You'll depend more on side camber of the ski for directional change, with less stemming. But don't forget, slight stemming is still necessary for all high speed turns.



Back in the days when the heels weren't held close to the heel plate by the bindings, the Telemark turn was the thing at the end of a run. Now the stop-christie brings you to a halt at the end of the tow-line. It's only a christie, short and abrupt, that brings the skis at a right angle to the fall line. Knowledge of controlled side slipping again becomes useful to prevent too abrupt a halt. A bound volume of SKI WITH DICK DURRANCE for easy reference on the slope may be obtained at Ski Club headquarters at Kistlers.



THE POLE CHRISTIE—The use of the pole christie can be overdone. It is primarily for difficult snow and for additional help to cocking and rhythm. It's fine for slalom courses at times, too; but learn how to make a normal christie first before you supplement it by use of the pole. The reason for that is: until you have learned the other fundamentals thoroughly, a pole placed anywhere in front of you can be dangerous, particularly at high speeds.

Ski with Dick Durrance

NO. 28 THE DIXE DOODLE

ORIGINATED BY DICK DURRANCE

A FAST FALL-LINE DESCENT WITH NO TRAVERSE

ULTIMATE PLEASURE IN DEEP SNOW SKIING THIS STRAIGHT-DOWN-

A-STEEP-SLOPE MANEUVER IS FAR EASIER THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.

WEIGHT SHIFTS RAP-IDLY FROM ONE SKI

TO THE OTHER AS IN SKATING INSIDE

ARCS. WHILE YOU RIDE ONE SKI

OTHER BUILDS BANK

OF SNOW TO SUPPORT ! LUNGE

YOUR WEIGHT WHEN YOU SHIFT TO IT USE

RHYTHM, COCKING AND LUNGING.

IT'S EASY, FAST

AND FUN

RIGHT SKI AROUND

LUNGE

RIDING LEFT SKI AROUND

RIDING RIGHT SKI AROUND

skidding it BUILD UP A BANK OF SMOV

SHIFT WEIGHT TO LEFT SKI WHILE YOU. BY HALF SKIDDING RIGHT SKI BUILD A BANK OF SNOW W

KEEP ALTERNATING STRAIGHT DOWN THE HILL.

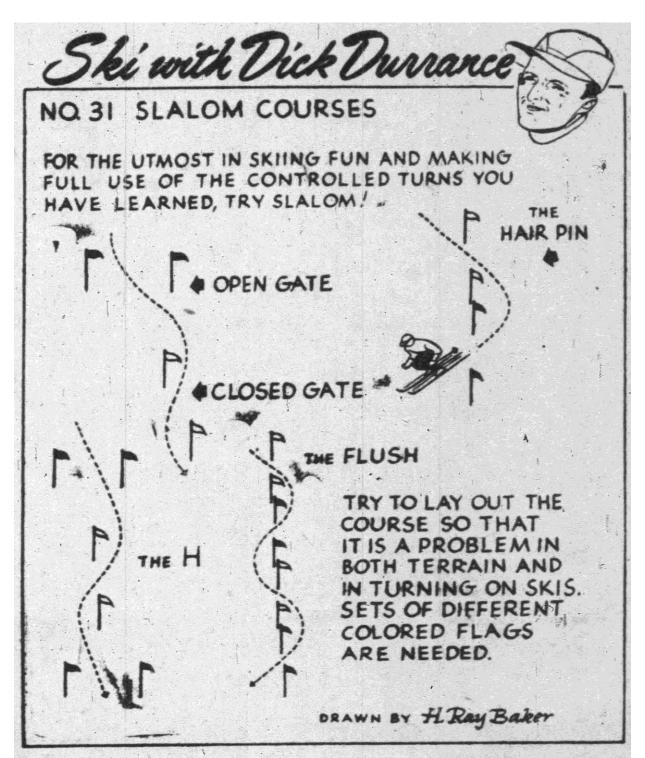
THE DIXIE DOODLE - This takes a little nerve and is for deep snow only. However, it's surprisingly easy and lots of fun. It's almost like a series of snow-plow turns except that you rapidly shift weight from one ski to the other and that you lift the ski you aren't riding. Follow this series in The Item. A bound volume of Ski With Dick Durrance for easy reference on the slope may be obtained by sending a 3-cent stamp to this newspaper.



DONT'S—This is where you should refresh your memory from the opening panel of this series. Remember? Don't ski out of control. Keep poles pointed back when skiing downhill. Fill your sitzmarks. Don't ski when tired. These are possibly the four most important ways of avoiding accidents. Again, let us say that "Courtesy on the slope means safety on the slope." Follow this series in The Item. A bound volume of Ski With Dick Durrance for easy reference on the slope may be obtained by sending 3 cents in coin to this newspaper.



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SLALOM COURSE—You can make a slalom course as easy or as tough as you wish. To begin with, lay it out the easy way until you put all the turns you have learned to use. Then gradually increase the difficulty of the course until it is a problem in both terrain and in turning. Don't use short metal poles for gates. It's unsafe. Follow this series in The Item. A bound volume of Ski With Dick Durrance for easy reference on the slope may be obtained by sending 3 cents to this newspaper.



SLALOM TECHNIQUE—Probably the safest type of ski racing. Slalom demands not only your best in controlled turns, but smart planning in running the course. Remember that all the turns tie together and should be mapped in your mind so that you can take advantage of every bump and turn to be ready for the next in line.

Ski with Dick Durrance

NO. 33 DOWNHILL RACING

(FOR EXPERT SKIERS ONLY)



PRACTICE EACH
PART OF COURSE
UNTIL YOU CAN
HANDLE IT BEFORE
RUNNING FULL
LENGTH

DOWNHILL RACING IS RACING
AGAINST TIME. THE STRAIGHTEST
LINE IS THE FASTEST; BUT
MUST BE DEPARTED FROM
TO FIT TERRAIN AND YOUR
CAPABILITIES.

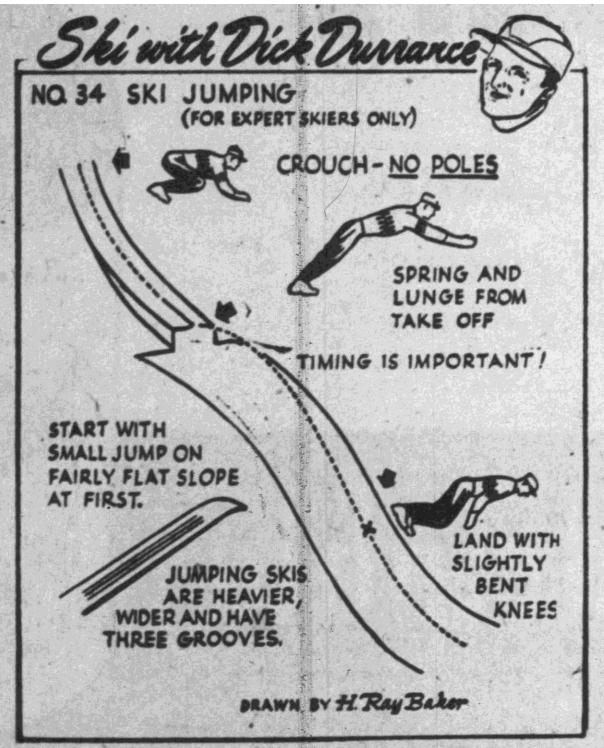


A LOW, WIDE STANCE IS THE MOST STABLE. IT'S FASTER TO GO SLOWER AND KEEP YOUR FEET THAN TO GO FAST AND FALL DOWN.

PACTICE BUMPS AND DIPS!

DRAWN BY H. Ray Baker

taken unless you have built up your stamina by steady, consistent training and practice. It demands courage and plenty of conditioning. Never try it until you have learned all the fundamentals of controlled skiing. Practice in controlling bumps and dips is especially needed. Follow this service in The Item. A bound volume of Ski With Dick Durrance for easy reference on the slope may be obtained by sending a 3-cent stamp to this newspaper.



SKI JUMPING—Ski jumping is not merely a leap into space. It demands timing, balance and a knowledge of how to put wind or air resistance to work. Beyond that, only experience can tell you how. You're likely to fall backward at first due to lack of lunge. That's why you should start off easy, no matter how good a controlled skier you are otherwise. That's all for this year. Have fun!