

Lodge 'Proceeded Right Out Highway 14' to Twin Valley Hill

# Madison Schussboomers Make Their Own New Area for Skiing

By JEAN CLAUSEN

**D**ID YOU EVER see a Lodge walking? Well, I did! This "dream walking" was the old lodge from Camp Wakanda, Madison YMCA camp on the shores

of Lake Mendota. With the assistance of a couple of 2½-ton trucks and members of the Madison Y Ski Club, it proceeded many mot t ago right out Highway 14 to the Twin Valley Ski

Hill, midway between Middleton and Cross Plains.

While the wooden lodge used to sit idle all winter with the snows drifting around it, now it sleeps in the sun at the foot of the ski hill all summer. But with the first good snow fall it comes to life as Schussboomers and Snowbunnies gather around the warm stove between trips up and down the hill.

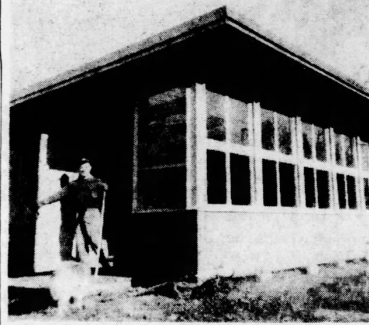
Summer of 1957 saw a few skiers, nucleus of the infant Madison Y Ski Club, out at Wakanda painstakingly dismantling walls, roof, and floor. The roof had to be sawed up a bit, but walls and floor were loaded onto trucks in 16-foot sections.

One truck, piloted by Bud Patnack and Tom Wright, was flagged by a State Trooper at 4 p.m. on a Sunday. The officer explained that the 16-foot height of their load was four feet over the legal limit to move on the highway without a permit.

Unable to obtain a permit on Sunday, the two men, using hand saws, spent about four hours balanced precariously 12 feet in the air, sawing off the top four feet of their load. Probably none of the hundreds of Sunday drivers who passed by recognized one of the sawing men as R. R. Patnack, president of the Commercial State Bank.



While families went out on Saturdays and Sundays to work. Here Kristin Clausen, 7, carried brush off the newly-cleared expert ski run. She proudly displays the arm patch, designed by Paul Graven, which members wear on their ski parkas.



This is the lodge that was transported from Camp Wakanda and rebuilt by members of the Madison Y Ski Club. Ray Tomlinson, Madison attorney and first president of the club, is shown coming out the door of the Lodge on a fall Sunday when members of the club went out to work on the hill and the lodge.

## All Around The Town

By Alexis Baas

**N**OT SO LONG ago the Pan-American Coffee Bureau of 120 Wall Street, New York City, got out a booklet entitled Coffee Drinking In The United States, a copy of which fell into my hands. It lies open before me on my desk and it contains a great deal of interesting information. I am assuming that many, if not nearly all of the readers of All Around The Town are coffee drinkers. At all events there are enough of them to justify a column devoted to their pet habit — or petty vice. "You pays your money and you takes your choice." So far as this writer is concerned let me state at once that he wouldn't give a plugged nickel for all the coffee in the United States — and that he detests the stuff and that a single cup of this liquid poison gives him the jitters for the next three hours. Not that he has the slightest objection to the coffee habit as it affects the rest of humanity. He is perfectly willing that the human race should drink itself coffee crazy.

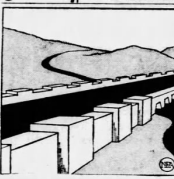


The Pan-American Coffee Bureau's 1958 survey of coffee drinking shows that "during January and February consumption reached 380,000 cups per day. This is an average of 2.87 cups for the entire U.S. population 10 years of age and older." The Bureau undertook its first survey of coffee drinking in 1950.



Jerry Cotter is shown nailing up ceiling board in the interior of the lodge, with an Aspen Skiing poster for inspiration.

## Matter of FACT



Under the direction of Architect Paul Graven, the new Twin Valley Lodge exterior was completed late in 1957. The N. M. Isabella and Madison Wrecking Companies had loaned trucks. The Padgham Co. donated four gallons of paint, and Brookwood supplied hardware at a substantial discount.

Meanwhile the Y Ski Club was growing in numbers and enthusiasm under the dynamic leadership of Ray Tomlinson, first president, and Bill Sims, Bill Warren then the YMCA secretary in charge of adult activities. He was from Arkansas and had seldom seen snow, much less skied in it. In spite of this, many members feel that it was his great interest and persistence that helped the club to accomplish so much in its first two years.

They sponsored nine bus trips for a day of skiing at Wausau and one to the Kettle Moraine ski area. Thirty-five to 65 skiers made each trip.

"About half of those going on the trips are beginners," says Tomlinson, "and I think it will always be that way. Enabling and encouraging new people to learn to ski is one of our prime purposes."

"To promote recreational and competitive skiing for the enjoyment of the membership and the public at large" is also a part of the purpose of the club as stated in the articles of incorporation. Accordingly, the first annual Winter Carnival was held on Feb. 16, 1958. Despite sub-zero temperatures and a sharp wind, there were 110 contestants and about 150 spectators.

Lighting the original slope for

night skiing was accomplished, entirely by volunteer labor, during the 1957-58 ski season.

"In this part of the State our best skiing is often after the sun has gone down," observes Tomlinson. "Soft or sticky snow will recrystallize and be ideal."

If the best snow conditions occur during the week, night lighting enables many more people to take advantage.

All of last year's projects were paid for by the proceeds of a color movie, "Anyone for Skiing?", produced and narrated by Warren Miller. Another Warren Miller production, "Are your Skis on Straight?" was shown at West High on Dec. 15. Arm chair as well as actual skiers say they are alternately thrilled and amused by Miller's unusual photography.

The new president, Roy Haase, has big plans for the future. A new expert slope has been cleared, mostly by the sweat and muscle of members. Addition of a beginner's slope and tow, another coat of paint for the lodge, and completion of the interior are scheduled for 1959. So is lighting for the tow and the new areas. Already organized is a ski school with free lessons for members under the leadership of Ed Collins, experienced instructor.

Retiring President Tomlinson summed up last season in a letter to members at the beginning of this season:

"Last year was our driest and most snowless winter in 85 years, but we had lots of fun and at least a few evenings of choice skiing. However, 'Old Man Winter' is bound to return and let's be ready for a good year of skiing."