

POTOMAC VALLEY

SKIERS



Happy Anniversary

TOOT

Hank Thomas

TOOT is the official organ of Potomac Valley Skiers, Inc., a non-profit organization devoted primarily to furthering ski interest and education. TOOT is published monthly and distribution is limited to the active membership. TOOT is written for skiers, by skiers. Its views and opinions are unofficial, unless otherwise labelled. TOOT is wholly supported by the PVS membership but subsists chiefly on the love and enthusiasm of its readers. TOOT has an address: c/o Potomac Valley Skiers, P. O. Box 19047, Zip Code 20036.

This anniversary issue of TOOT is also your November release, that is, the same old bugle blowing just a bit louder and longer. It differs from the regularly monthly issue in these respects:

- it is bigger (more long winded).
- it is a holiday issue. It assumes a general festive PVS mood.
- it is a group effort. Except for a dab here and there by your editor, the articles have been contributed by you and you and you.
- it marks the passing of a successful club year devoted to vigorous and constructive ski enterprises, sports activities, and social adventures in an atmosphere of congeniality and warm camaraderie.
- it notes the prevailing optimism of the membership, particularly their enthusiasm and dedication to going programs as well as those in the making.

Indeed, the future of PVS looks bright. But the whole aspect shines most brilliantly when YOUR voice is heard, when YOU participate, when YOU volunteer to help, even if just a little bit. This year, my fellow PVSer, is YOUR big year. Plan soon to step forward to ask, and then to ask again, what can I do for my Club.

ON THE ORIGIN OF PVS

It was at the April 1965 USEASA convention in Atlantic City that Dick King and I first talked seriously about organizing a new ski club. There certainly was room for another ski club in the area. SCWDC was then in the throes of a serious organizational problem. Its burgeoning membership was becoming more and more permeated by large numbers of social minded non-skiers. Although SCWDC had a hard core of enthusiastic skiers, it was a comparatively small part of the total membership. Dick and I had already

decided on forming a new club when some SCWDC members tried in vain to sift non-skiers from the club ranks by requiring each member to pass the basic USEASA ski test. As it turned out, the formal resolution which would make the basic ski test a condition to membership was defeated at the September 1965 SCWDC meeting. This made us even more determined to form a club of true ski enthusiasts, participants in the sport in every respect.

During the ensuing months an ad interim PVS executive committee (Dick King, Bill Stecher, Packard Anderson, Hank Thomas, Penny Sayre, Brooke Armat and Mike Rura (with Doris Hege as Recording Secretary) met often to discuss organizational problems and to draft by-laws. Once the foundations were laid for the new club, now known as Potomac Valley Skiers, a name suggested by the then President pro tem, Dick King, the group took legal steps to incorporate. The above mentioned seven ExCom members were the original signatories on the document formalizing PVS incorporation under the laws of the District of Columbia. This was done one year ago today, on November 16, 1965.

This day then is the first anniversary of our founding. As your president, my most ardent wish on this occasion is that PVS continue to prosper, but that in so doing, it does not lose sight of its main purpose--a sincere dedication to "educational, social and athletic pursuits with particular reference to skiing." Implicit in this purpose is a devotion to this most wonderful of all sports, a devotion best expressed by SERVICE AND COMMITMENT to the PVS cause. Many happy returns!

Bill Stecher

STATE OF THE TREASURY

During our first fiscal year, which ended on June 30, the principal PVS income was from membership fees. Membership renewals were well over 90% with the fairly negligible losses attributable to regional or overseas job transfers. New memberships more than counter-balanced these losses.

Our expenses up to June 30 were chiefly administrative and organizational and, if projected at the rate of the first 8 months of our activity, would have run about 85% of our total income. Happily, the months since June 30 have shown reduced club outlays. Our hosted meetings during the summer, for example, instead of decreasing the treasury by \$10.00 every time we assembled at Arnold's, actually not only saved us \$40.00, but enriched our coffers with an additional \$20.00, thanks to our enterprising Entertainment Chairman. There was also some small profit from the recent Lobster Fest for which we are grateful to Pat Calef, Aina Hertelis, Bill Jarrett and the many others who helped.

It now appears likely that the first calendar year's operation will show our expenses to be less than 60% of our income, omitting therefrom dues collected for the second fiscal year. The exact amount of income from these dues and the general condition of the treasury will be reported in full at our next meeting.

While PVS is in a state of healthy solvency, we must strike a note of caution. Our first year has been marked by exceptional generosity and a shortness of memory on the part of many PVS officers, activity leaders, and meeting hosts. Sums expended for postage, long distance phone calls, travel expenses to distant meetings, some of the refreshments and incidental expenses at activities and parties have been absorbed by members. Similarly, PVS boat owners, who added so much to the fun of the summer, have picked up the sizeable upkeep tab without so much as a murmur. TOOT so far has cost us nothing. It is clear from this that our administrative and general activity expenses of the past year do not reflect the real charges which are actually much higher. While the generosity of many of our club members is admirable and was given enthusiastically, we cannot reasonably expect that it will continue or that future PVS hosts, activity leaders, delegates, committee members and officers will be similarly free-handed. This is why treasury strengthening efforts such as the Fifty-Fifty Club and other similar endeavors that you will encounter during the coming year will need your unflagging support.

Brooke Armat

YER DARN TOOTIN' !!

Just one year ago a small group of seasoned skiers created a new club, a small club, a purposeful club, embodying many talents and with an actual skiing membership. This is PVS, a club with extraordinary potential, not in terms of size but significant achievement. During the coming year we want this great potential to come to fruition, to become a reality. And it will.

We are now launching the programs that aim to fulfill the PVS purpose--which is SERVICE to the sport of skiing through active participation. PVS members with lots of skiing experience and know-how are behind these programs.

The PVS Competition Program was one of the first to be fully endorsed by ExCom. Competition, in fact, is the first PVS on-the-hill program to get started and through this program PVS can quickly and decisively establish its reputation as the leading club of serious skiers in the area.

Bruce Harstadt is developing a club racing program. Max Bunnell is laying the groundwork for PVS participation in the USEASA racing schedule. Hank Thomas is pulling together people who will conduct not only PVS club races, but also is organizing a corps of trained officials to help other ski clubs run first class racing programs. PVS contributions to organized skiing will extend far beyond the interests of our own club. These men will be inviting you to work with them this year. They will give you a chance to expand your knowledge of the more formal, but very exciting competitive aspects of this sport. And maybe we can pick up the Pennsylvania Governor's trophy in the process.

Jack Fox

SKI INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

The goal of any club instruction program should be improvement of the general skiing proficiency of its members. Achievement of this goal is realized through a number of activities. Among them: Showing instructional films at meetings; encouraging and assisting members to go skiing; encouraging them to take professional instruction; offering "qualified amateur" instruction where permissible; qualifying members as amateur instructors. PVS now has a half dozen or so QAIs, and another half dozen or so interested in qualifying. The only local qualification exam currently scheduled is a 4-day affair, Dec. 27-30, at Wisp, Oakland, Md. Any PVS members interested in taking this test should contact the professional examiner, Warren Gilbertson, on 762-1471, as soon as possible. Dates for another exam, probably a 2-dayer, are being negotiated. Information on amateur tests scheduled by other USEASA clubs has been requested from Littleton, but the computer has not yet answered.

If you are interested in qualifying for these qualification exams, you should: watch ski movies, go skiing, take lessons, volunteer to teach, and memorize "The Official American Ski Technique" text.

Ron Fett

SKI PATROL TRENDS

The Ski Patrol is a nationwide organization, primarily volunteer, dedicated to safety in skiing. This concept, now 28 years old, is as valid in this era of release bindings and break-away ski poles as it was with bear-traps and cane. However, the emphasis is changing. No longer is the duty of the Ski Patrol merely one of providing first aid on the hill and transportation from it. "Prevention" is now equally important. Our favorite winter activity has been maligned as "dangerous" and often is represented by a lower leg sheathed in plaster. The unusual always is noticed, and broken bones--even in skiing--are not common.

Injuries are still a reflection on the safety aspect of skiing and to eliminate them we must know why they occur.

There are two principal ski accident causes: either or both are present in 98% of all injuries. (1) Insufficient control by the skier. (2) Insufficient (poor) physical condition of the skier. It is these two problems that the Ski Patrol is trying to solve. Superficially it seems simple--get in condition and stay in control. In reality it is a difficult challenge and the Ski Patrol is meeting it. Graded trail markers, safe skiing slogans, and rules of the slopes have been prepared with the assistance of the Ski Patrol. Ye who have skied, read! Take heed!

The original purpose of the Ski Patrol has not been discarded. Skiers still are injured, and help comes quickly. First aid and transportation procedures are being made uniform and the already high standards are being raised. The patrolman is tested at several stages and constant training is employed to upgrade his service to skiers.

Safety in skiing is also the responsibility of the skier. You can help by keeping yourself and your equipment in good condition; by following the rules of the slope; and by skiing according to your skill. You can help the Ski Patrol by promoting ski safety in your talk and actions; by donating time and money, and especially by skiing to avoid injury.

Larry Pease

SKI PATROL FIRST AID REFRESHER

As is its custom in the fall of each year, the Washington, D. C. Ski Patrol on October 29 broke out its rescue equipment, backboards, splints, traction gear, blankets, bandages and big bag of assorted ski patrol rescue techniques and in a long day of feverish training activity tested and bolstered the ski patrol know-how of its ranks. This was the Annual Ski Patrol First Aid Refresher, a pre-requirement to registration in the National Ski Patrol System for the current year. The activities included both instruction and examination. Admission to the refresher was based on qualifications already established: up-to-date Standard and Advanced First Aid Cards; a completed 185 question "pre-test" involving an exhaustive review of the Red Cross First Aid text; and the general formalities of registration.

On that bright and brisk October morning the program started at 8 a.m. with a participating group of about 50. There was a full morning of lectures, discussions and films covering the entire

gamut of first aid skills. The afternoon session at Battery
Kemball Park featured six major test stations where ski patrol-
men were tested and schooled individually and in teams to
improve their ability to handle typical on-the-hill ski accidents.
Several PVS members participated in the exercise as leaders
and instructors. As First Aid Chairman of the Patrol, Mike Rura
was in charge of the refresher. Ann Jones was general secretary.
Jack Fox, Assistant Patrol Leader, delivered several first aid
lectures and manned one of the on-hill stations; Dick Harsh,
assisted by Craig Ballinger, conducted the training on the use
of prefabricated and improvised backboards for neck and back
injuries; Bill Jarrett lectured and ran the station on quick
splints; Bill Stecher provided some interesting first aid movies
on fractures and otherwise played the role of a qualified on-the-
hill observer. PVSers Bob and Shirley Lowe contributed on many
counts, particularly with the supply problem. Larry and Billie
Pease were also there in both official and unofficial ski
patrol capacities. By any criteria, the refresher was a success
even if it left many patrolmen with the feeling that there was
still lots to learn.

Mike Rura

THE PVSer of 1984

What will skiing be like in 1984? George Orwell does not
enlighten us on this subject so we must give vent to our
imagination. It can be said with certainty that in the years
to come skiing is in for some radical changes. In the late 20th
century skiing will probably bear small resemblance to the
sport as we know it today. For one, it will be a highly
developed sport practiced by a larger percentage of the
population, regardless where they live. Skiing might one
day overtake in popularity baseball and football, both as a
participating and spectator sport.

More than likely, next generation skiing will be a year-round
activity practiced in high indoor SKIARAMAS. Such ski palaces
might conceivably tower as high as the Empire State Building
and their enormous slopes, supported by masses of structural
steel, will offer the finest in tricky slalom courses, long
schusses, tailored moguls, high and low jumps and runs of every
dimension and difficulty, to suit novice, intermediate and
expert. The U.S.A. will be dotted with thousands of small but
efficient SKIARAMAS for those with limited time for exercise or
training. Some of the more enterprising of these establishments
will feature moveable moguls which will be differently placed
from week to week and many of the skiing platforms will have
undulating and eccentric surfaces that will test the best of
skiers.

The snow on these man-made ski courses might be machine-made
or artificial. Highly efficient snow machines will deposit

a new layer of powder, shallow or deep, in a matter of minutes. The "powder" might be something other than frozen mist, maybe faster and of better texture than actual snow itself. The SKIARAMAS of tomorrow will have ingenious ways of bringing skiers to the top of the ski platforms. Large centrally located elevators will whisk a hundred skiers to the top of the slopes in a matter of seconds. Or there will be single chair lift arrangements that will glide you through a panorama of exciting winter scenes from all parts of the world. Or you might be slowly propelled along continuing window displays where you can get some ideas on your next day's shopping. At any rate, snow problems won't exist at SKIARAMAS, at least not as we now know them. Perfect skiing temperatures will be maintained at all times on these extraordinary skiing premises.

We won't even mention "apres ski." Some of us already may think this can hardly be improved upon. In 1984 the skier will be more pampered than ever, on and off the slopes. After you hang up the boards for the day, you will be able to choose your own special brand of relaxation, exhilaration, or intoxication. In the heated swimming pools, saunas, solariums, and health stations, you will choose between rehabilitation or debilitation. What the facilities won't do, the special vitamins and pep pills will. You will "wirg" (the frug of '84, of course" until three and roll out of the hay at seven feeling better than you do after eight hours of sound repose on your best posturepedic. And because many PVSers will be past 40 when 1984 rolls around, latest findings of our "Institute of Geriatrics" will be available to you to keep you in the running.

And what about equipment? It will be so fancy in 1984 (as it already is) that you may not be able to afford it. The fact is you won't want to buy it anyway, partly because of its high rate of obsolescence, partly owing to your desire to have the latest, but mostly because outright buying of durable goods as we now do it will be no longer practical. In any event, what you really want from any purchase is the right of unlimited use at the lowest possible cost, and no responsibility for upkeep. In twenty years or so you will lease your whole ski outfit, use it until it shows signs of wear, then get a new lease package (the best available), all this at a cost more reasonable than today's attractive car rentals. SKIARAMAS will have ski equipment rental arrangements to meet every pocketbook.

There's no telling what your equipment will be like in 1984. Actually, the basic ski form has not changed much in the last 60 years. The same goes for poles. Boots and bindings are another matter. From lace boots, to clip boots, to molded plastic, to fibregalss--most of this has happened in the last 10 years. What the next decade or two will bring in this fast moving field is hard to imagine. But you certainly will see the passing of the conventional leather boot, clips and all; to

obsolescent oblivion will also pass the fancy gadgetry that now surrounds the basic business of fixing man to ski. What may win out ultimately will be a boot and binding arrangement that is simple, efficient, and light, but not necessarily cheap. In the United States, status is still equated with an ability to pay the higher price.

As for ski clothes, we can only surmise what the direction will be. We're moving fast toward the utilitarian one-piece stretch type suit. In 1984 such easy slip-ons will be in dashing colors and patterns. Look for ski suits in silver, gold and pastels, especially for men. The male skier of tomorrow will have that streamlined futuristic look. Not so for the girls. Here (I think) it will be just more of the same--a decided accent on the already accentuated positive.

MJR

READ ALL ABOUT IT

The Official Card Catalog of the Library of Congress contains 400-plus entries for books and filmstrips on skis and skiing. There are books in at least 13 languages, including one in Chinese.

For the Historian:

The earliest entry: Paa ski over Grønland, en skildring of den Norske Grønlands - Ekspedition, 1888-1889. [1890]

60 [?] Centuries of Skiing, C. M. Dudley, Brattleboro, Vt. [1935]

For the Instructor:

How to Ski and How Not To, Vivian Caulfield [London], [1914]
Manual for Ski-Babies, Fritz Heinrich, London, [1935]

For the Sociologist:

Schuss Cuties and Spill Billies, Max Barsis, [1947]
The Englishman on Skis, Sir Arnold Lunn, London [1964]

For the Potential Criminal:

Escape on Skis, Brain Meredith, London [1938]

For the Ski Patrol:

Annual Reports of the National Ski Patrol System.
How to Get to the Bottom, Roland Huntford [1955]
Sliding on Ice and Snow, N. McCorica, [1950]

For the Consumer:

Ski Happy, 14 min. film by J. C. Penney, narrated by Penny Pitou.

(Note: Yes, they have our favorite, Ski with Buick...)

For Us All:

The Ski Bum, Romain Gary [1965]

Lilo Kinaman

TOOT, ever mindful of new skiing horizons for its membership, consulted its Baltic stringer for a close-up on skiing in that far away land. Here is her report:

SKIING IN LATVIA

This Baltic country, now part of the USSR, is about the size of West Virginia. My impressions of it date back 20 years when I was still a child. There was deep snow everywhere from December to April and skis were a "must" for getting around.

I recall one day when the snow fall was especially heavy and still coming down at school time. The school house was two miles away and the trip was cross country--on skis. (Latvian schools never closed because of snow because in winter it snowed all the time.) The school building was situated on a turn in the road which was at the top of a steep hill. The visibility was so poor that morning that I skied past the school house and all the way down the hill before realizing what had happened. It took me an hour to get up the hill again and, of course, I was scolded for being late for class.

After school the ski fun started. Sometimes we would try skiing blindfolded, or just use a single ski, or try to jump over a creek as part of a schuss. When the skiing was over we would head home for Mom's ham and bacon rolls and camomile tea sweetened with honey.

There are no high mountains in Latvia and I never saw a chair lift or rope tow until I left the country. The highest peak in Latvia is about 1000 feet. Today skiers from Riga travel to this area by train for their ski fun, that is, if they can afford it, both politically and financially.

Aina Hertelis

PENDING MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for Peggy Lacey and Bob and Shirley Lowe will be voted on at the December meeting. If any of you have not met these people, step up and say hello to them tonight.

WESTERLIES, TRADES AND DOLDRUMS

Fair winds or foul (or none at all), PVSers had an active sailing summer on the Chesapeake. During the several expeditions, there was no end of talent, and ingenious methods were devised, for example, to use the water closets on the rented Rainbows, which were installed sideways. Highest expertise was in handling the job. Yodeling Bill Jarrett's brute strength proved useful in pushing off sandbars. Russ Kinaman had a little trouble managing a Mustang when it was discovered that the rudder fell off. Wire and a handy tool kit proved useful.

Is Pete Lang still looking for wind????

It happened that ten PVSers and guests ventured down the Bay in two boats on that blistering, windless weekend of July 4. While camping on shore, everyone feasted on meals planned and prepared by Dick Harsh and his friend Jim Key. Mosquitoes, in turn, feasted on us. Incidentally, the excess supply of cookies is dwindling slowly. Jack Fox endured it all by reading "The Dirty Dozen" while Dick Harsh waited in vain (in his red shirt) for the sight of an albatross.

Don't despair mates; more to come next summer!

Russ Kinaman

GO WEST, YOUNG MAN -- and Mademoiselle!

The assorted cloth plaid suitcases--approximately 43-7/8 pounds each--make a colorful sight at the airport along with the rows of skis and various "carry-ons" which accompany the happy PVS members ready to board one of the jet flights--Direction WEST! They have every reason to be happy; they can hardly go wrong. After being catered to in the air for several hours, they arrive in Denver, gatepost to the West. From there it's but a short trip via bus, rented car, or what have you, to some of the most delightful skiing you'll find anywhere. The mood is casual; excitement high. There's something for everybody--as much or as little challenge as you might want--wide open slopes all over the place--short lift lines--and deep, deep powder (the kind you've always wanted and now that you've got it you-don't-know-what-to-do-with-it kind of stuff.)

Start filling your piggy bank now for next year's flight. All you really need is money. And it's the best investment in an assured good time that you'll ever make.

***** Trudy Lemke

CLAMS AND LOBSTERS AND PVS

Although the real eating potential (by volume) of the membership has never been tested, we now know that PVSers are old habitués of the oyster and clam bars here in the area, and every now and then also toss down a lobster or two. The Lobster Fest (for some, the Lobster Test) on October 22 brought together some 55 members and guests who collectively consumed 72 lobsters, 350 steamer clams, ten pounds of butter, and an undetermined amount of Maine seaweed, assorted salads, desserts, and really too many cans of prepared malt and hops. At lock-up time, the only thing left was one nickel of profit and about six smashed clams. We understand that some of the tyros made away with considerable quantities of the inedibles (clam necks and skins, lobster lungs and livers, possibly a claw or two) and even relished them. The front desk at Cardinal House had five fire calls about a supposedly overcharged incinerator which we find a bit hard to understand (sic).

Many people worked hard to make the Lobster Fest a success. Pat Calef not only engineered the idea, but handled the difficult arrangements right down to cooking that last animal for ubiquitous Bill Jarrett who produced the drinks on time but then hied himself away for five long hours while each steaming lobster bemoaned his ~~absence~~ absence. Carol Parmenter and Aina Hertelis did a large part of the telephoning and otherwise worked like troupers. At departure time Hank and Edna Thomas found themselves heading the clean-up committee and did an extraordinary job. Besides being grateful to all others who extended a helping hand, our special thanks go to prospective PVS members Marvin and Louise Stevens who arranged for the Cardinal House room where the event was held. Also a special PVS bow goes to Brooke Armat who picked up all 160 pounds of those succulent fruits of the sea at the airport.

SWAP SHOP

Susan Fleig's first Swap Shop display at the Stechers in September has elicited some curious responses. One wiseacre called up Susan and asked if her skiing odds and ends could fully outfit a scarecrow that he planned to put up on his north forty next spring. A more serious customer phoned Byron and, in heavily accented English, asked, "You found dat coat in Pleznyensk Bazar 1956, No?" Undaunted by all this, Susan has pushed on. She announces several "new" Swap Shop Items:

- 7 foot Northland skis with tops, bottoms and edges
- a vast Larry Pease ski pole collection
- a long (really useless) Larry Pease rope

- small Billie Pease size leather gloves
- Al Fleig size ski sweater
- waxing cork remnants
- debrecziner downhill braking wax
- assorted mutzes, czapkas, kachulas, and pullis, condition and national origin unknown

What else Susan? Tell us on November 16.

CULINARY CORNER

The Irish rebellion allegedly failed because the insurgents ate too many potatoes and not enough meat. Well-fed PVSers, all rebels of sorts, are less concerned with the problem of calorie and protein balance and put the accent on taste. To them we suggest this hunter/skier thick soup delight.

Bring to a slow boil in one quart of water six medium sized potatoes, cut into one half inch cubes. Add salt. With 6 heaping tablespoons of flour, one raw egg, and water make up a heavy German knodel batter. Spoon batter into potato-water combination and continue slow boil. Chop 4 strips of bacon and one medium sized onion into frying pan. Fry bacon and onion until light brown. Push bacon and onion to one side of frying pan. Make soup seasoning gravy stock by browning two tablespoons of flour in frying pan. Add one cup cold water. Stir mixture, bacon and onions included, then add to potato-knodel combination. Season well with pepper and salt. Serve hot with buttered pumpernickel and a glass of chianti.

CLIMATOLOGY

PVS is oriented toward the future and the issue of where and on what we will ski--this year, next and beyond--is on top of every member's mind. TOOT is most distressed to report in this regard that the new PVS "Division of Climatology" recently uncovered some disturbing data on long range weather prospects in the northern latitudes. The source is the distinguished American naturalist Rachel Carson (author of "The Silent Spring" and other books). In "The Sea Around Us" Carson sounds a low climatic note for snow crystal gazers:

"Now in our lifetime we are witnessing a startling alteration of climate. The frigid top of the world is very clearly warming up. It is now established beyond question that a definite change in the Arctic climate set in about 1906, became astonishingly marked about 1936, and now is spreading into sub-Arctic and temperate regions."

Author Carson backs up this theory with evidence of many recent glacial retreats. She notes, for example, that the Muir Glacier of Alaska has receded almost 10 miles in 12 years. She points out, too, that several polar seas are now navigable for longer periods during the year, and that the migrating habits of many birds and fishes are changing. Nearby anglers are witnesses to this last phenomenon. Last summer, off the coast of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, they were treated to large catches of a variety of tropical and sub-tropical species of fish never before encountered in these latitudes. The long term trend, Carson warns us, is toward a warmer earth.

The recent early snowfalls in the north and west seem to belie the Carson theory. On the other hand, the scant snow deposits of the past two years, especially in the eastern United States would seem to support it. The bright spot in the picture is that Rachel Carson sees her warming trend as a long range phenomenon, while the skiing mortals in PVS are a little more shortsighted--and optimistic. What's more, there's that SKIARAMA of the future.

Mike Rura

YODEL-LAY-DE-HOO

An unofficial "requirement" of full PVS membership is an unquestioned ability to yodel. To help members achieve this status, especially if they don't know a falsetto from an obligatto, we have asked the distinguished Hauptyodelmeister Wilhelm Yaaret (on PVS rolls as Bill Jarrett) to give the membership cost-free yodeling instruction.

Herr Yaaret's (he wants you should call him "Villie") special Yodelmetod was developed high, high in the Swiss Alps. "So you want to yodel", Herr Villie asks and then answers "that you must begin from the beginning."

What is the yodel and where did it start? Herr Villie says the yodel is a kind of warble, singing alternately with chest voice and head voice, from normal tones to falsetto and then back again. As for its origins, Herr Villie believes it began in the upper reaches of the Swiss Grisons. He identified the handsome Swiss herdsman Yodelzepp as the first real yodeler. When Yodelzepp was a young man, every day, snow or shine, he climbed the foothills of the Grisons with his flock of goats and a big alphorn. At 2000 meters he had difficulty blowing the alphorn which would toot only for those with good wind and barrel chest. One quiet evening after the goats were

bedded down, Yodelzepp strolled into the village of Appenzell for a small carafe of Döle. There he met a village elder named Schusser who, before the evening and four carafes of Döle expired, persuaded Yodelzepp to swap his alphorn for a pair of "foot sleds" and a long hickory steering and braking pole. He told Yodelzepp it was time he "got around". In the snowy months that followed, Schusser showed Yodelzepp how to use these appurtenances and there you have the origin of the sitzmark, stembogen, schneepflug and, possibly, the "eggbeater". But Yodelzepp missed that alphorn. One day he decided to try to imitate the horn with his voice. First a guttural TOOT, TOOT; then a falsetto TOOT, TOOT. Yodelzepp was astounded at the response of his flock to these new sounds. He gradually perfected them, and then and there was born the yodel. But the story does not end here.

For many months the melodic Yodel-lay-dee-hoo TOOT, TOOT continued to stir the crisp Grisons mountain air. So exciting and mellifluous were these sounds that blond-haired, blue-eyed Tesla Lauterbach, the most winsome milkmaid in Fier Cantonen, persuaded her father to visit the Grisons to hear the new and exciting music of the mountains. When Tesla and Yodelzepp met, they knew they were meant for each other. There was first the furtive glance, then the Bruderschaft, then the tryst at Schoenbruck, then nuptials at Hochenkirche. The marriage was blessed with a prolific progeny. Today big and little Yodelzepps and Teslas, descendants of that warbling couple from Appenzell, still yodel in the Grisons, Engadine, across the mountains in neighboring Zillertal, Oetzal, and Stubaital, and in far away Las Vegas and at the Red Onion in Aspen.

"So you still can't yodel?" Herr Villie asks. The answer is practice.

B.J.
