

Winding Trails: by Al Hobart

Thursday, January 18, 1968
Illinois Valley News

Downhill Skiing At Mount Ashland

I think I understand what the great man meant when he said all things are relative. A man 10 feet tall wouldn't seem tall at all unless there were 6-footers for him to look down on. Conversely, a midget would seem huge if the rest of us were only half his size.

In order to attach a meaningful value to any object or act we have to be able to see or call to mind something similar for comparison. Candy would no doubt taste sour if all other food were a hundred times as sweet; and, how could we brag about how clever and handsome we are if we'd never been exposed to those less favorably endowed?

What led up to this line of thought was an experience I had the other day on Mt. Ashland's ski slopes. My

performance there wasn't real good, but it didn't need to be to make me the happiest skier on the slope. This was only my second trial at alpine, or downhill, skiing, my first and only other experience at this type of skiing having been on these same slopes during the winter of 1964-65. That was also my first experience on skis. The two winters between then and now I have done nothing but cross-country, which is a much different type of skiing and, for best results, requires somewhat different equipment.

That first year at Mt. Ashland (and practicing by myself here in my own mountains) I acquired just the first fundamentals of riding the bucking snow broncos. By desperately pulling leather I got so I could stay in the saddle for at least 10 seconds. Most of the time I spent decorating the slope with sitzmarks, mopping up the surface and learning to extricate myself from my

frequent ski-tangles.

So now when I boast about what made me so happy on the slope the other day I hope I'll have made my listeners understand that my accomplishment was not necessarily good, but that compared to my last attempt to downhill it was excellent indeed – I could actually ride 'em down, after a fashion, in the prescribed zig-zag manner.

After we arrived at the lodge – the Latusick family of four, Len and Mark Ramp, Bill Sloan and I – the resort was being assaulted by a 16-degree blizzard, a driving wind with alternating fog and light snow. To further complicate matters for the more advanced skiers a tree blew down across the power line and neutralized the whole lift set-up for a couple of hours; all except the rope-tow, which is operated independently of the main power supply.

The rope-tow, intended primarily for beginners, is just what it sounds like – a smooth

rope an inch or more in diameter and suspended a few feet above the snow, which runs at a moderate speed continuously up the slope. Even this simple device can be tricky to negotiate if you're inclined to be careless, but if you approach the thing with caution and respect, being sure your skis are lined up with the rope and then slipping your clutch a trifle before clamping down on the moving rope, there's nothing to it. On this particular tow you grasp the rope with your right hand, then, with both ski poles dangling loosely from your left wrist, you reach behind with your left hand and grasp the rope for further support.

Up you go. When you get to the top, unless you want to run on through the pulley or get run over by the towee behind you, you just turn your skis, let go of the rope and skate off to the side – and there you are at the top of the run, all ready to sacrifice your pride and provide a laughter-

provoking spectacle for all those people watching you through the big slope-facing lodge windows, or so you self-consciously imagine.

I started down the steep slope (all slopes are steep on Mt. Ashland). I heard Joe shout, "Give a little hop and jerk 'em around!" I did, and to my surprise and delight it worked. I zig-zagged joyously down the slope, in my state of super-exhilaration; imagining I was coming down out of the sky leaping lightly from cloud to cloud. But the last few clouds were loaded. I guess I was making my traverses a little too steep; when I bit the ice and mini-moguls near the bottom of the run I was going so fast all I could see through the blur was certain disaster ahead. But miraculously I wound up right side up at the bottom of the tow, ready for another exciting round.

When the power outage was remedied I made two successful circuits on the longer, somewhat steeper,

pomalift. In all my skiing that day I had only two or three minor spills. But, after all, it's important to learn to fall properly, and you can only learn by practice – you keep telling yourself.

The more experience I have at skiing the more confused I become. I go off on a wonderful cross-country tour with the gang and immediately thereafter enthusiastically notify the world at large that there is only one kind of skiing worthy of the name – cross-country. Then I find myself at the resort break-necking down the slopes with a few hundred other zanies – and having so much fun I forget there's any other kind of skiing. The truth is, of course, that both types of skiing are grand sport; so I've just thought of a dandy New Year's resolution: henceforth I'm going to cultivate my delightful state of confusion and just alternate between the two.

Open burning in the I.V. do's and don'ts

Iris Chinook
IVN Contributing Writer

The rainy winter season in the Illinois Valley is a time for open burns, but does that mean we can burn everything? No. Homeowners need a permit to burn yard debris and other legally burnable materials and there are many materials that are prohibited any time of year. The State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) defines any type of outdoor burning as "open burning" which is subject to strict regulations.

The following is a list of facts regarding the harmful effects of burning household waste, especially in burn-barrels:

Did you know that burning your trash can lead to adverse health effects such as cancer, deformed offspring and reproductive and immune system failure as well as a myriad of respiratory ailments?

According to the DEQ, many items commonly found in household trash, such as bleached paper products and some plastics containing chlorine which, when burned, creates dioxin. Dioxin exposure is linked to cancer and birth defects as are the heavy metals released by burning slick colored papers and synthetic inks.

Many products contain chemicals such as hydrochloric acid which are known to irritate skin, eyes and lungs. Other toxins include carbon monoxide, benzene, styrene, formaldehyde and furans as well

as very small breathable particles which embed into lung tissue and enter the bloodstream. Virtually all of the toxic pollution from burning is released into the air close to ground level where it's easily inhaled and eventually ends up back on the ground and in the water where it builds up to dangerously high levels in plants, animals and people. The toxic smoke is particularly unhealthy for small children, pregnant women, and older adults. Uncontrolled open burning releases 10,000 times more dioxins and 1,000 times more furans than a municipal incinerator for an equal volume of waste burned.

Katherine Benenati, DEQ's public affairs spokesperson in Eugene, encourages people to think about reducing their trash in

general by buying products with less packaging, reusing plastic and Styrofoam containers and recycling what they can. The recent suspension of plastics recycling programs around the state will no doubt increase the amount of plastic burned. "We always discourage the open burning of household waste," said Benenati. "We've been working with communities to address the discontinuation of plastic recycling programs." She urges people to have their garbage picked up by a licensed waste removal company or to take it to a licensed disposal facility.

Oregon DEQ regulations prohibit the open burning of any material that creates dense smoke or noxious odors. This includes the following materials:

- *Plastics, foam cups, meat trays, egg containers, Saran Wrap.
 - *Construction debris like carpeting, carpet padding, PVC pipes, vinyl flooring, asphalt roofing, tarpaper, wire insulation, treated wood, asbestos, and fiberglass.
 - *Tires or other rubber products.
 - *Waste oil and other petroleum products, automobile parts and frames.
 - *Dead animals.
- Burning prohibited materials can result in serious fines of up to \$10,000 per day of violation. Call your local fire department to report an open burn complaint. For more information on this topic check out www.oregon.gov/DEQ and go to the Air Quality Division or contact Meghan Fagundes at 541-776-6089.

Illinois Valley

Caring Community

Learn more at:
www.Facebook.com/CJCaringCommunity

DID YOU KNOW...

If you see bullying and do nothing, you're part of the problem.

Instead:

- Be kind to the person who was picked on
- Tell someone who can help them.

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/kids/what-you-can-do/#stand>

We are more than locals, we are your buds!

THE ONLY OMMP CLINIC ESTABLISHED & RESPECTED FOR OVER 14 YEARS

28267 REDWOOD HWY CAVE JUNCTION

Medical Marijuana Certification • Primary Care

SOUTHERN OREGON ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

CALL US FOR AN APPOINTMENT
541-779-5235
WWW.SOALTMED.COM

SEASON 10
REAL PAPER REAL INK
Paying only The Best Attractions

REAL NEWS

Illinois Valley News

Subscribe Today!
541-592-2541

Our Happy New Year message for you:

No rate increase in 2018!

Redwood Terrace

Assisted Living

541-471-9543

3111 Canal Avenue, Grants Pass, Oregon
www.redwoodterracealf.org

Restrictions apply. Rate increase refers to an increase in same-level service. A resident may experience a rate increase in 2018 if his or her care needs increase.