

**NEW HORIZONS**

(Cover Picture)

By **Ernest A. Rostel**

In man's reckoning of time, the end of 1949 brought the close of the first half of the fabulous Twentieth Century, but to a tree that grows at Toll-gate in the Blue Mountains, the coming of 1950 is but another year.

Another year for it to give battle to the elements of the high country and to emphasize its will to live amid adversity against its kind. Somehow it stands there on the lone, bleak mountainside an example for humans who may become impatient with the ways of life and living.

When the Twentieth Century began, with nearly three-fourths of today's population yet unborn, the tree had already survived countless battles with ruthless elements of the uplands. At that time its trunk may have extended higher into the alpine air, and its branches may have been heavier with needles. Relentless winter storms, sudden lightning of summer, and high winds in between, relentlessly retarded its rightful growth.

With all its hard knocks, it stands there proud and erect in its fashion against a cloud-flecked sky of the New Year, a symbol of determination. Near its base two skiers, surveying forested and hilly terrain, are peering towards the horizons of the future, with things to come still unknown.

They know 1950 is bringing them 365 brand new days for their very own use. How they will be used is for each of his own choosing, and what they will bring forth depends much on how

deep is their determination and effort to make each day count.

If the tree could think, it would know it must keep fighting if it is to remain a living thing on the hillside, and man surely realizes he must do his consistent best in all his endeavours if he would emulate the success of the tree on the hillside.

I believe there is more satisfaction in patting a man on the back than in standing on his neck. I believe there is more fun in lifting a man up than holding him down. I believe happiness is bound up with helpfulness.

—Jerome P. Fleishman.

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