



THE OLD SKI JUMP AT ANNIE CREEK is shown here in this picture taken sometime in the 30's. At one time the site was famous for its annual Crater Lake Ski Club winter tournament which drew hundreds

from the area for the big event. The club has since disbanded and the jump was torn down during the war years.

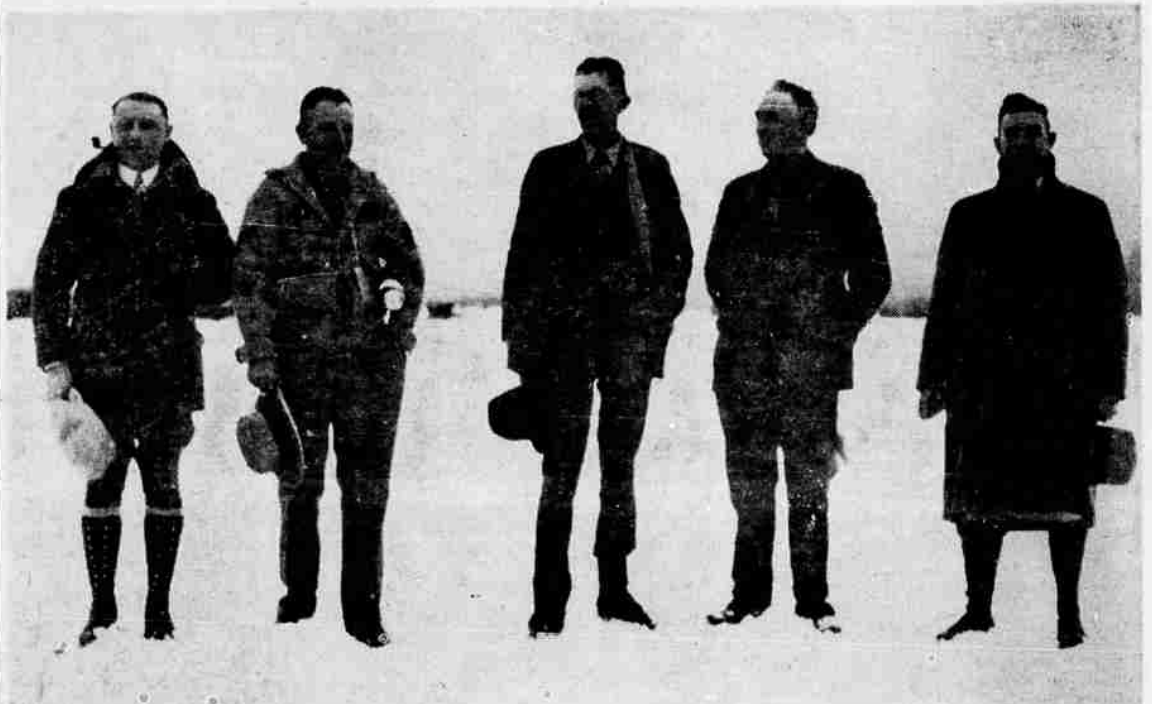
Fort Klamath Ski Tourney Now Memory

By MYRTLE WIMER

FORT KLAMATH — Starting in 1927 and continuing through 1938, to the people of Fort Klamath the date of February 22 meant much more than a day commemorating the birthday of George Washington—for in 1927 the first Fort Klamath winter sports tournament was held on Washington's birthday, and on each succeeding year thereafter. In 1938 the last ski meet was held and the program abandoned, due to several contributing factors.

The late John Mahen had been caretaker for the winter at Crater Lake Lodge in Crater Lake National Park for several years, and it was he who instigated a winter sports tournament in Fort Klamath. A community club was formed, headed by the late Linsy Sisemore and Alfred B. (Tony) Castel as president and secretary, respectively. (Later the name was changed to the Crater Lake Ski Club.) Working in cooperation with Ernest Rostel (also deceased) of Crater Lake Park, the club was supported by the entire community, and the first venture in the field of winter sports was held February 22, 1927.

The main feature was a 42-mile ski race to Crater Lake and return, starting at a point on the Sisemore ranch west of Fort Klamath, going to the rim of Crater Lake and returning by the same route. The first year \$1,000 in cash awards was given the winners in the various events, and later, prizes consisted of trophies and merchandise awards.



EARLY DAY SKI ENTHUSIASTS were always on hand during the 30's for the annual Crater Lake Ski Club tournament at Fort Klamath. Among the founders of the club were

Tony Castel Sr., second from left, and Linsy Sisemore, center. Joe Hessig is standing to the left of Sisemore. The two men at either end in this picture were not identified.

The first long race was won by Manfred Jacobson in seven hours, 34 minutes; W. Nordquist was a close second 21 minutes later, and Nels Skjersaa came in third. An estimated 500 persons attended the first ski tournament, many remaining to enjoy the dance given in honor of the winners that night in the community hall. Ski gear and informality featured the jolly affair which climaxed each annual tournament.

As the winter sports tournament

became publicized, bigger crowds attended each year. Entrants included members of ski clubs in California and Oregon and were the best skiers in the Northwest.

In 1928 Manfred Jacobson was again victorious in the 42-mile race, with Emil Nordeen, veteran skier of the Bend Skyliners, coming in a close second. A keen rivalry developed between these two expert skiers, and in 1929 Nordeen captured first place. In 1930 it was Jacobson again in

first place by a margin of 34 seconds only, and 1931 saw Nordeen the winner in five hours and 32 minutes.

By 1930 a 74-foot high ski jump had been built by the late Henry Gorden at the Annie Creek playground north of Fort Klamath near the south entrance to Crater Lake Park. Ski jumpers from all over the country then came each year to compete in the ski jumping contests, with the first year seeing John Ring the winner in

the Class A Division with a 72-foot jump; the Class B contest was won by Ray Oistad with a 64-foot jump.

In 1932 the race was shortened to 34 miles. This year neither Jacobson nor Nordeen competed, and O. K. Puckett of Keno won the race in four hours, 36 seconds. Pete Hedburg of Modoc Point (now of Klamath Falls) was a close second, and in 1933 was vic-

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