

One-Legged Skiers Discover Sport Is Ideal For Amputees

MT. HOOD (UPI) — Nine one-legged skiers skim down the snowy slopes of Mt. Hood these days, and nobody bats an eye. They've proved that skiing is the sport for amputees.

Using a single foot ski and a

pair of outrigger arm skis, they keep pace with the more experienced skiers as they ride the tow up and then come weaving and plummeting down the steeper slopes.

They are graduates of a special, perhaps unique, class.

At first apprehensive, they now want to tell amputees around the nation why they should take up skiing. In fact, amputees start out with some skiing advantages.

"It's great," says Jerry Hendricks, 22. "It's the one area

where you can really compete on equal terms."

"I'm able to get out with my boys again. It's brought us closer together," says Cal Andrews, 32. The group's instructor is Dick Martin, a former skier. The class

of eight ranges from 9-year-old Richard Lange to 45-year-old John Blaine. It includes one girl, Kay Hickman, 20. Blaine is from Seattle, the rest from Portland. Five never skied before.

The idea started when Martin lost his leg and heard of two Cleveland amputees who had learned one-legged skiing as practiced in Austria. Martin learned the technique, and improved on it, on Mt. Hood.

The real force behind the class is not an amputee. He is skier Lee Perry, a member of the Portland Jaycees, who one day saw Martin skiing.

The Portland Jaycees sponsored the project and supplied the special equipment: A single ski plus two 22-inch skis fastened to arm

crutches in place of ski poles. Perry rounded up the class.

Using films of Martin, he convinced them to give skiing a try. Since the one-legged skier has all his body weight on one ski, the friction is greater. Thus he needs a steeper slope. His outrigger arm skis automatically put him in the forward position that other skiers must learn. He

doesn't have to learn many of the control movements needed for two skis. And he starts out with "exceptional balance" and "more guts than average."

"We eliminate the first two years of skiing," says Martin.

The first day Martin took his class up the chair tow.

"We tricked them," he laughs.

Package Of Senate Bills On Fish Gets House Okay

SALEM (UPI) — A package of Senate bills overhauling commercial fishing, fish processing, and dealer licenses — and raising rates — cleared the House Monday.

Three go to the governor. The fourth must return to the Senate for concurrence in a House amendment.

One of the bills reduces the number of commercial fish processor and dealer licenses from 8 to 5. It increases fees 30 per cent.

Course Taken

MOUNT SHASTA—Four members of the Mount Shasta Forest Service ranger district have completed a special course given in Redding on recognizing radiation hazards and combatting radiation fires in vehicles and houses. They are John Marker, Larry Thunborg, Jack Sheehan and Charles Hall.

The men took the two-week course to enable them to handle peace time radiation if necessary, because of the great amount of radioactive material and equipment transported through the area.

BARELY PROPER

LAWRENCE, Kan. (UPI) — The Pacificans Club of California, a nudist group, will present a play entitled "Barely Proper" at the summer convention here of the American Sunbathing Association. The convention dates are August 7-11.

"We said, here's where we ski. They didn't know any better. They skied."

Amazing as it sounds, some were accomplished skiers after one day. Others have taken up to four full days to feel comfortable about it.

As for the steeper slopes, one says, "When it comes right down to it, we're so damn good that's all we want to ski on."

Some of the nine are thinking about entering competitions. A new class is being lined up. Perry is preparing a manual for other amputees.

If all the other skiers who flock

to Mt. Hood's resorts had sympathy at first for the amputees, it has changed to solid respect.

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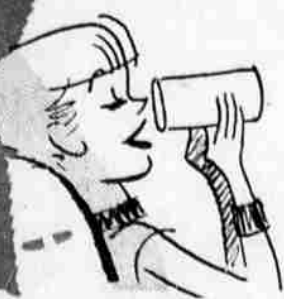
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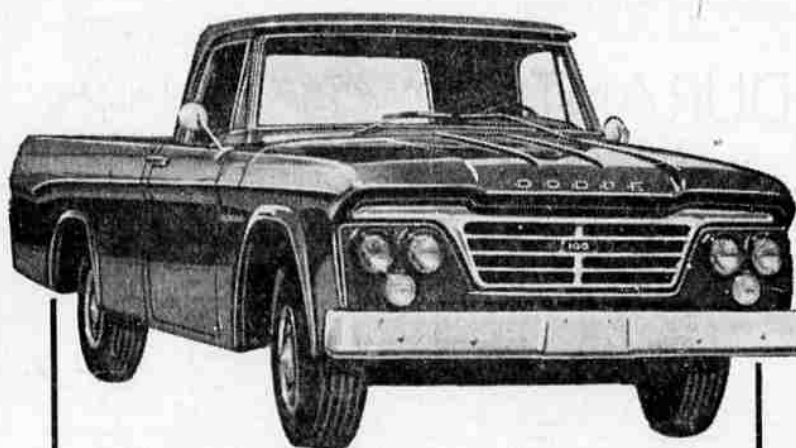
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