

# MICHIGAN OUT-OF-DOORS

## WINTER SPORTS SEASON OPENS WITH CUP RACES

Michigan's winter sports season gets away to a flying start Jan. 4 and 5, flashing skates of competitors in the annual Michigan Cup skating races at Wyandotte setting the tempo.

Schedule of carnivals and competitive events for skaters, skaters and hockey teams is expanding rapidly. Most important exhibitions are Petoskey's winter carnival, the weekends of February 7-9 and 14-16, and the fourth annual upper peninsula carnival at Marquette February 20-21. A Michigan winter queen will be chosen at Petoskey January 30 and a "queen of the north" will be crowned at Marquette. Events scheduled to date include:

January 4-5—Michigan Gold Cup skating races, Wyandotte.

January 11—Annual novice skating meet, Saginaw.

January 11-12—Skating meet, Bay de Noc Skating club, Escanaba.

January 13—Central Michigan championship skating races, Flint.

January 17-18—Carnival, Grand Rapids.

January 17-19—Carnival and Michigan championship speed skating meet, Alpena.

January 22-25—Carnival, Ishpeming.

January 24-25—Carnival, Grand Rapids.

January 24-26—Carnival, Saginaw.

January 26—Carnival, Ionia, Carleton Place, Fullerton, River.

January 26-27—Carnival, Crystal Falls in upper peninsula.

January 29-February 1—Carnival, Houghton and Hancock joining.

January 30—Selection of Michigan winter queen, Petoskey.

February 2—Carnival, Trout Creek.

February 7-9—Michigan winter carnival, Petoskey—February 7, coronation of Michigan winter queen—February 8, Michigan state high school ski meet—February 9, snow scooter derby races.

February 9-9—Carnival, Silver Valley park, East Tawas, Carnation, Gaylord.

February 9—Carnival, Iron Mountain in upper peninsula. Ski meet, Crystal Falls-River-Caspian-Stambaugh, Carnation, Newberry.

February 13-15—Carnivals,ault Ste. Marie, Negaunee, Escanaba (all in upper peninsula).

February 14-16—Carnival and ski tournament (ski events last day) Munising.

February 14-16—Michigan winter carnival, Petoskey.

February 20-23—Carnival, Ironwood (tentative dates).

February 20-21—Fourth annual upper peninsula carnival, Marquette (selection and coronation "queen of the north").

February 23—International ski meet, Ishpeming.

Cadillac, Traverse City, Ludington, Newago, Charlevoix, Pentwater and Rochester park locations.

and snow trains will be running this week end, according to present plans.

## DEER GO ON DIET AS PART OF FEED EXPERIMENTS

There will be about 75 deer on a diet at Cusino state wildlife experiment station near Mellen in this winter. The deer—bucks, fawns and does—are "guinea pigs" of the fifth season of tests to find out what deer can and do eat—tests which are the first step in the conservation department's game division's attack on the problem of wholesale winter deer starvation.

After a summer of freedom, semitame deer about the station were coaxed back into the corral by attendants with handfuls of corn. Other deer have been received at Cusino from several state game refuges where they were reared from orphan fawns. On three occasions during the deer hunting season, a night watchman kept hunters from bagging any of the bucks inside the fence.

New feature of this year's feeding experiment is the comparison of deer and domestic sheep in their ability to utilize food elements in the forage they eat. A number of deer and a few sheep will be tested first with browse, the natural winter food of deer, and then with materials commonly fed domestic livestock.

About 50 of the deer will be subjected to the controlled feeding and weighing in small pens, and the remainder will be confined in one-acre plots to test the carrying capacity of natural browse areas.

Feeding tests with two cow and two bull moose are continuing.

CCC Camp Cusino is furnishing labor for the feeding experiments, which are under the direction of A. M. Steiner and his assistant, Ford Kellum.

HUNTER RAISES  
HIS BEAR RECORD  
TO 103 KILLS

A bear-shooting career begun nearly 70 years ago when he was six years old has enabled Art Jackson, aged woodsman of Rosecon county, to put his total of bear kills to 103. It is believed doubtful that any other Michigan hunter can equal his record.

Jackson, who lives beside the Dead Stream swamp in the newly established Dead Stream game area, administered by the conservation department's game division, made his 103rd bear kill in a part of the swamp which lies in Missaukee county. The bear weighed approximately 250 pounds.

Now past 70, Jackson finds bear hunting as exciting as when he shot his first with a muzzle loader when he was six years old. It might not have happened, he says, if he had not, against parental orders, taken a gun along with him in search of a stray calf. "After that all I wanted to do was hunt bear," Jackson says.

So far as Jackson is concerned, 500 and 600 pound bears do not exist. Northern Michigan has bagged this far weighed 450 pounds, he says.

The first references to the existence of copper in Michigan are made in a book published by LaGuardia in Paris in 1638.

## OLD VINEYARDS TO BE CLEANED UP TO CHECK PEST

Because damage to Michigan's grape crop by the Grape Berry Moth, an insect pest of grapes, has been increasing steadily during the past few seasons, Agricultural Commissioner Elmer A. Beamer announces that steps are being taken to keep this insect in check and to clean up old neglected and abandoned vineyards.

"A special appropriation was granted by the Little Rock Legislature for this work," Beamer said, "in addition to a cash donation by one of the large grape juice manufacturers."

The Entomology department at Michigan State College has conducted several experiments in eradication of the insect and the department of agriculture has made a survey of vineyards in Van Buren county, one of the state's largest grape producing areas, and where it was specified that the money be used.

The vineyards were classified into three groups: semi-neglected, neglected and abandoned, indicating serious insects were present. A total of six hundred and thirty vineyard inspections were made in the county and consisted of 7,700 acres approved and 1,650 acres condemned. Growers were notified and requested to either clean up their vines for them or eradicate the vineyards.

Beamer pointed out that growers have been very cooperative on this project, and the department has been working two full crews pulling vineyards, pulling the ground, designed back to the general vineyard grape roots out of the vines which insures the death of the vines.

He said that over 500 acres of diseased and abandoned vineyards had been eradicated in cooperation with the growers' cooperation.

The cash value of Michigan's 1940 grape crop totaled \$1,422,000.

## HEAVY SNOW ON ICE MAY CAUSE DEATH OF FISH

While snow, when it is deep enough, can make things "dark" for fish in Michigan's smaller and shallower lakes—just how "dark" the conservation department's institute for fisheries research is working to determine in a third season's study of winter fish life.

A heavy snow blanket on lake ice, the institute explains, effectively cuts off sunlight. Without sunlight, water plants which were consuming carbon dioxide and producing oxygen, stop their operation, but oxygen consumption by decay of vegetation continues. In shallow lakes the natural supply of oxygen in the water may be exhausted before the snow cover melts off, and for lack of oxygen, fish die of suffocation.

Sportsmen finding examples of winter kill are urged to report the location to the conservation department's fish division, or its study agency, the institute for fisheries research.

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## Cut-In

By RICHARD HILL WILKINSON

Released by Western Newspaper Union

"LOOK here, Bert, you know about everyone at this party, don't you? Most of the out-of-louers!"

Bert Townsend grinned as he perceived the eagerness on his friend's face.

"I guess I can fix you up, Ted. What particular woman have you got in mind?"

Ted Harper winked confidentially. "Good old Bert. Knew I could depend on you. First you invite me down for a week-end, hold a dance in my honor, and now you agree to fix it up for me with the best looking girl in the hall."

"Your description of the girl," Bert grinned, "is only one of my guests. Her name is Betty Spear. That's the new."

Bert pointed to a girl who had just danced by in the arms of a blond giant. No one would have disputed Ted's description that "she was the best looking girl there."

Ted Harper was conscious of a feeling of jealousy, even at this early stage.

"That's the girl," he told Bert. "That's she all right. Think you can arrange an introduction?"

"We'll see," Bert said. "I'll cut in on her, tell her there's a dashing hero on the sidelines interested in joining the ranks of suitors now groveling at her feet."

"You can step up and do your stuff," Bert grinned.

"Capit!" Ted was enthusiastic. He worked his way to the very edge of the stag line and waited for Bert Townsend successfully perform his cut-in act. He saw him talking to the girl and nodding toward the stage. Then other dancers shut off his view.

Ted waited expectantly, watching for Bert's momentary appearance out of the maze of dancers. But he waited in vain. Bert had either forgotten or was quite satisfied to claim his partner for the remainder of the dance.

Defeated Ted strolled out on the veranda and stood leaning against the railing, his back to the dance floor.

He heard a step from behind and turned to confront Bert Townsend, a guile-looking and forlorn Bert.

"Well!" said Ted, and waited, his attitude ominous.

Bert seemed a little embarrassed. "If you're old man," he began, "but Betty—well, I pointed you out and she refused to be introduced. That is, she made me take her out on the veranda so you wouldn't have an opportunity to cut in."

"Oh, she did, did she? Well, what's the matter with me, I'd like to know? Might think I was hard to get along with or something. Why excuse did she give for not wanting to meet me?"

"None. She just said she didn't like your looks, and if I didn't mind would I take her out on the veranda for a breath of air. There was nothing else I could do, was there?"

Ted paused abruptly. A girl had suddenly appeared in the doorway of the ballroom and stood looking at them. She paused there a moment, accustomed her eyes to the darkness. And then as recognition came, she turned and would have re-entered the room.

Ted, with an angry gesture, strode hurriedly across the veranda and caught the girl by the arm.

"Look here, Betty. You're going to listen to me, whether you like it or not." He pulled her not too gently out onto the veranda and into a corner.

Bert, watching from the railing, became alarmed. He decided at length that Ted had had one drink too many, and that the girl was in danger.

Bert entered the shadow and found Ted with his arms about Betty's waist. She was struggling to get away.

"Look here, Ted, you can't do this sort of thing. Not at my home, at any rate."

He reached out and laid hold of Ted's shoulder. Ted whirled, saw that Bert was in earnest, and dropped his arms.

"Bert," he said quietly, "Betty is my wife. We were married a month ago, kept it a secret and intended to announce it tonight at your party. Yesterday we quarreled. I've been trying to get Betty to talk to me all evening, and conceived the idea of having you introduce me to her, in the hopes she'd see the humor of the thing and let me explain that I was sorry, and ask her forgiveness."

He looked furtively at Betty. And Betty suddenly began to laugh. She was laughing at the bewildered expression on Bert Townsend's face.

"I can't see anything funny about it, Betty," Ted was saying. "It strikes me as being rather a serious situation when a man's own wife won't speak to him."

"But don't you see, darling," Betty bubbled. "Bert didn't know I was married to his best friend, and when we were dancing he proposed!"

"Well, I'll be—Then he didn't tell you I wanted to cut in?" Ted whistled in sudden anger. But the space behind was empty. Bert had fled. And Ted decided not to follow, for he felt a soft warm hand creep into his own, and heard a sweet whisper at his ear.

## Sure Cure for Surface Fires



Few persons have seen this odd looking machine at work because it is "hidden away" by forest fire fighters of the Michigan department of conservation who must invent as well as build their equipment. Pictured is the "booster" unit which smothers grass and forest-floor fires with a foglike spray produced at 250 pounds pressure. Twenty of these are now

poised at strategic stations in the forest fire danger zone, for swift suppression of fires before heavier equipment becomes necessary. Like the department's rig that drills shallow wells in a few minutes and the plows that clear fire lines in a single operation, the "boosters" have brought inquiries from such far places as Argentina and Australia.

## Geology Survey Maps to Aid Copper Miners

If demand for copper by defense industries continues to mount, upper peninsula producers, seeking new sources of supply will be aided by recent activity of survey parties sent out by the geological survey division of the conservation department.

The division is soon to publish maps which will correlate new information concerning location of copper bearing rock on the east side of Ontonagon county.

Increasing demand for copper may spur mining operations in Michigan, Arizona, Utah and Montana where too-high recovery costs in normal times have been reflected in declining production. The increased demand may boost the price of copper, permitting Michigan operators to finance necessary exploration work in opening up new sources of supply.

Shotgun Shell Traced  
To Game Law Violator

Tracing a spent 16 gauge shotgun shell as readily as the more familiar rifle bullet is traced in murder cases, state police ballistics experts assisted conservation officers in prosecution of a case of doe killing on a hunting club east of Vanderbilt. James Brennan, of Vanderbilt, is appealing to a circuit court his conviction before Justice Frank Libke and a jury, at Gaylord.

Brennan was traced through the license number of a car seen near the site of the doe shooting. A shell fired in his gun and a shell found by the dead doe, which had been killed with a shotgun slug, were sent to the state police laboratory. Enlarged photographs showed firing pin and breech block markings on the two shells.

State police ballistics experts assist conservation officers in several similar game law enforcement cases each year.

## Sandbar Blocks River Entrance to Lake

What to do about the sand bar across the mouth of the Platte river, at Lake Michigan, remains an unanswered question upon completion of a fisheries survey of Big Platte lake, Round lake, and the lower Platte river by the conservation department's institute for fisheries research.

The sandbar is not so great an impediment to the movement of fish as is generally believed, in the opinion of institute staff men.

"There is no doubt," the report declares, "that rainbow trout negotiate it, and probably some perch and bass."

Institute men declined comment on the feasibility of sealing reported concentrations of fish at the mouth for removal upstream, and had dredging operations too costly and impractical in situations of this kind.

Among the institute suggestions for improvement of fishing in the two lakes is the experimental planting of larger whitefish pike, and possibly shifting the lake to the pike classification to make a desirable reduction in the perch population and allow early fishing for rainbow trout.

State Has Over 1,000  
Game and Pet Fanciers

Renewals of conservation department permits and licenses required by January 1, reveal Michigan has more than 1,000 game breeders and wild-animal pet fanciers. The pet keepers are about as numerous as the game farm operators.

Of the 500-odd holders of game breeders' licenses, nearly 300 are mink farmers, add other fur farmers, keep muskrats, beaver and raccoons on their licenses raise deer. A few produce pheasants.

A dozen roadside zoos also must renew their licenses at the beginning of the new year.

## Heavy Forest Fire Loss Predicted for 1941

Increased forest fire hazard in 1941 as consequence of weather conditions of recent months which have littered forested areas with dead branches and flattened undergrowth, is anticipated by the conservation department's forest fire fighting organization.

Heavy rains of summer months and the Armistice day windstorms combined to strip trees of deadwood over large sections of northern counties. Topping of thousands of trees in the November windstorm will create slash hazards after felled timber is salvaged.

Last summer's rains, however, helped to hold the 1940 fire loss to a probable record low of 12,000 acres burned in 815 fires on the basis of reports covering 28 weeks of the fire season.

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## Rural Youth Get Diplomas on NYA Project



The picture shows Ralph Tenny, short course director at Michigan State College, presenting diplomas to 29 rural youth from the NYA resident work project at East Lansing. The diplomas climax six months of intensive work and training in agriculture which these boys have received in college barns and classes. The success of the project is shown by the fact that practically all of these youth were offered jobs starting the following morning on dairy and poultry farms, creameries and cheese factories, according to Orla W. Kaye, state NYA administrator. These boys are carefully selected from rural areas on the basis of agricultural ability and recommendations from county agriculture agents. Another project of a similar type is located at Balding, Youth Interested in receiving this type of training and experiences should contact their county agricultural agent, county NYA supervisor, or their local office of the Michigan State College.

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