



Celebrating and Preserving the History and Heritage of Maine Skiing • Winter 2016

SKI MUSEUM OF MAINE

Camden Snow Bowl builder Sonny Goodwin to be honored February 10

By John Christie

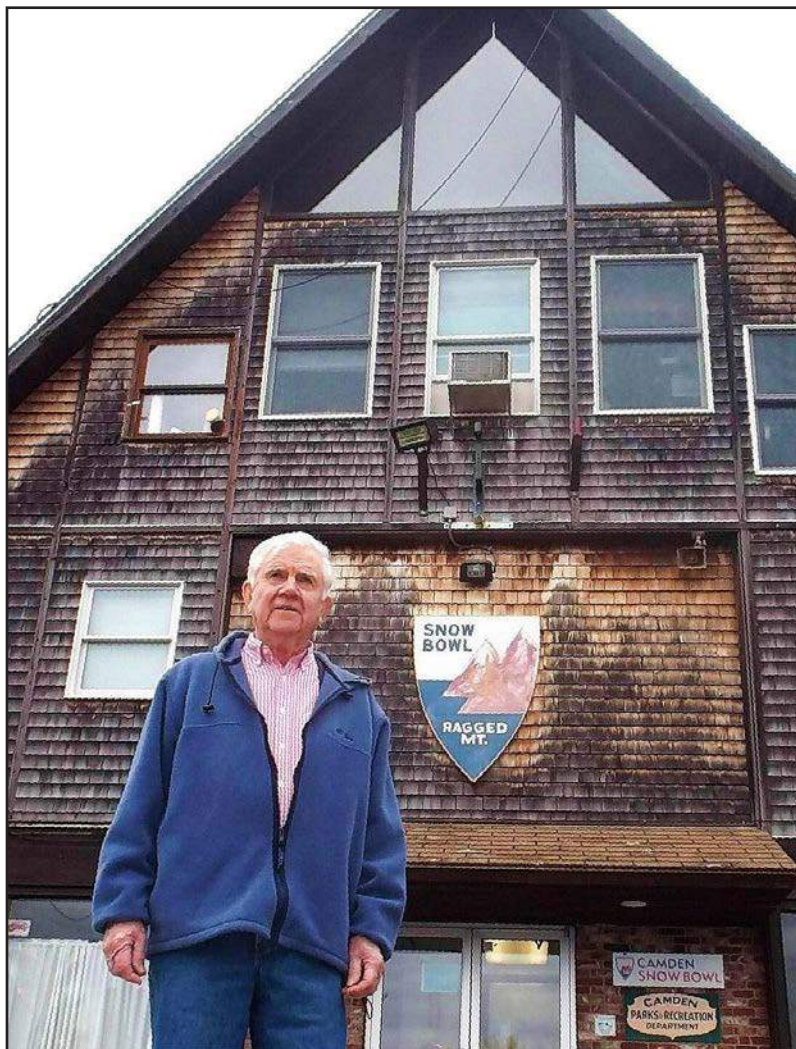
Former president, *Ski Museum of Maine*

Hammer and nails, heart and soul: That's what built the Camden Snow Bowl in the 1960s and 1970s.

Orman "Sonny" Goodwin, a lifelong skier, was a partner in the construction company that transformed Camden's little rope tow hill into a significant community ski area that boasted a long T-bar, a chairlift, snowmaking and a distinctive base lodge.

Details of his various Snow Bowl construction projects can be found in his soon-to-be-published memoir, *Tales From the Life of Sonny*. On February 10 the Snow Bowl, the community of Camden and the Ski Museum of Maine will honor Sonny and his many contributions.

Sonny has been skiing for eight decades, beginning as a small boy growing up in Camden. His love affair with our sport began on a little incline in his backyard.



Nobody has been more closely identified with the Camden Snow Bowl than Orman "Sonny" Goodwin, who erected its lifts and constructed its base lodge in the 1960s and 1970s. Sonny is pictured above with the Snow Bowl's distinctive A-frame lodge in the background. (Scott Andrews photo)

Please turn to page 6



Ski Museum of Maine
Snow Trail
Scott Andrews, Editor
Winter 2016

www.skimuseumofmaine.org
 info@skimuseumofmaine.org

P.O. Box 359
 Kingfield, ME 04947
 (207) 265-2023

Founded in 1995, the Ski Museum of Maine is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization established with the mission to celebrate and preserve the history and heritage of Maine skiing. The Ski Museum exhibits artifacts, photographs, artwork and documents at its location in Kingfield, conducts educational programs to ski clubs, schools, libraries, historical and civic organizations, and hosts social events and activities throughout the year.

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Upcoming Ski Museum Events

Saturday, January 9

2nd Annual Vintage Ski Fashion Show
 Bethel Inn Resort
Bethel

Wednesday, February 10

Camden Celebrates Sonny Goodwin Day
 Camden Snow Bowl & Waterfront Restaurant
Camden

Saturday, February 13

9th Annual Maine Ski Heritage Classic
 Sugarloaf Inn
Carrabassett Valley

Saturday, April 16

2nd Annual Skee Spree
 Barker Mountain Lodge, Sunday River Ski Resort
Newry

Monday, June 6

4th Annual Ski Maine Golf Classic
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From the president ...

All of us who attended the 13th Annual Maine Ski Hall of Fame Induction Banquet at Sunday River left the evening with a stronger sense of fellowship with our Maine skiing friends and family. I had the chance to visit with friends whom I hadn't seen in 40 years. We recounted stories from Sugarloaf's "That 70's Show," when we were young, invincible and invulnerable.

Fellowship is a community of interest, activity, feeling or experience. Skiing certainly meets all four criteria. Fellowship can also mean the admittance or membership to a church. Skiing has become a religion for me and perhaps for many of you. Why else would we be skiing on our Sabbaths -- Saturday and Sunday? I remember my mother justifying my not attending Sunday school: "Dear, you are nearer to God at the top of the mountain."

As marketing manager at several Maine ski areas it was my responsibility to organize

the annual Easter sunrise service atop the mountains. I recall Reverend Rust's insightful words at the summit of Sunday River's Barker Mountain:

"Recreation is spelled the same way as Re-Creation."

We can all rejoice in our fellowship of skiing. Taking liberty with a favorite Police song, written by Sting in 1983: "Every run we take, every turn we make, every trail we skate, God is watching us."

Wende Gray
President, Ski Museum of Maine



Wende Gray
President, Ski Museum of Maine

SECOND ANNUAL VINTAGE SKI FASHION SHOW



*A benefit for the
Ski Museum of Maine.
Preserving and
celebrating the
history and
heritage of
Maine Skiing*

**Saturday
January 9, 2016
4:30-6:30 pm
Main Dining Room
The Bethel Inn Resort**

**\$25 includes hors d'oeuvres
Full cash bar available
Lots of Door Prizes**

**Tickets on sale in advance
at The Bethel Inn Resort
and online at www.skimuseumofmaine.org**



From the executive director..

The fall has been great for the Ski Museum. Our two main events that are hosted each October — the Maine Ski Hall of Fame Induction Banquet and the Ski Season Launch Party — were outstanding successes. Special thanks to Greg Sweetser and Bo Bigelow of the Ski Maine Association for an outstanding job planning and executing them.

The 13th annual Induction Banquet was held at Sunday River for the first time in its history. The Sunday River team did an outstanding job with the social hour and banquet venue. The lobster rolls were a big hit! That was a nice touch on the part of Sunday River president Dana Bullen and food and beverage vice president Jim Largess. The stories told by this year's inductees during their acceptance speeches were both amazing and inspiring.

The annual Ski Season Launch party hosted by Ski Maine to benefit the Ski Museum was held at DiMillo's in Portland. Well over 100 people attended. It was a great evening of story swapping and sharing plans of each other's upcoming ski season. New England Ski Museum came this year with a display which added greatly to the evening. The theme of the



Three officers of the Penobscot Valley Ski Club posed for a photographer sometime in the 1940s at King's Mountain in Orrington. From left: treasurer Francis Head, president Horace Chapman and vice president Louis Hatch. (Courtesy Steve and Patty Forrest)

evening was “Where did your skiing experience get launched?”

Now we are gearing up for another great season that is loaded with Museum events, among them a vintage fashion show in Bethel on January 9, an event honoring Sonny Goodwin on February 10 in Camden and our annual Maine Ski Heritage Classic on February 13 at Sugarloaf.

I mentioned in an earlier *Snow Trail* the pictures we received of King's Mountain in Orrington in the 1940s. These were a gift from Steve and Patty Forrest of Hampden. One reason these pictures are of such historical importance is because they show some of the major players in the early days of the Penobscot Valley Ski Club. One picture I have included gives us the faces and names of the officers of the Club in 1947.



Five members of the Penobscot Valley Ski Club demonstrate their turning skills for a Bangor newspaper photographer in 1946. From left: Dick Felloves, Paul Colburn, Louis Hatch, Horace Chapman and Dick MacDonald. Having the names of the subjects of vintage photos is especially valuable for the historical record. (Courtesy Steve and Patty Forrest)

Another from a 1946 Bangor newspaper story shows the turning style of the 1940s, The Arlberg technique as it was called, and gives us the name of the men in the photo. This is great from an historical perspective because many times when we get old photos,

no one can identify the people in them.

These photos are a rare find and treasure for the Museum's archives.

Bruce Miles, executive director
Ski Museum of Maine

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(continued from page 1)

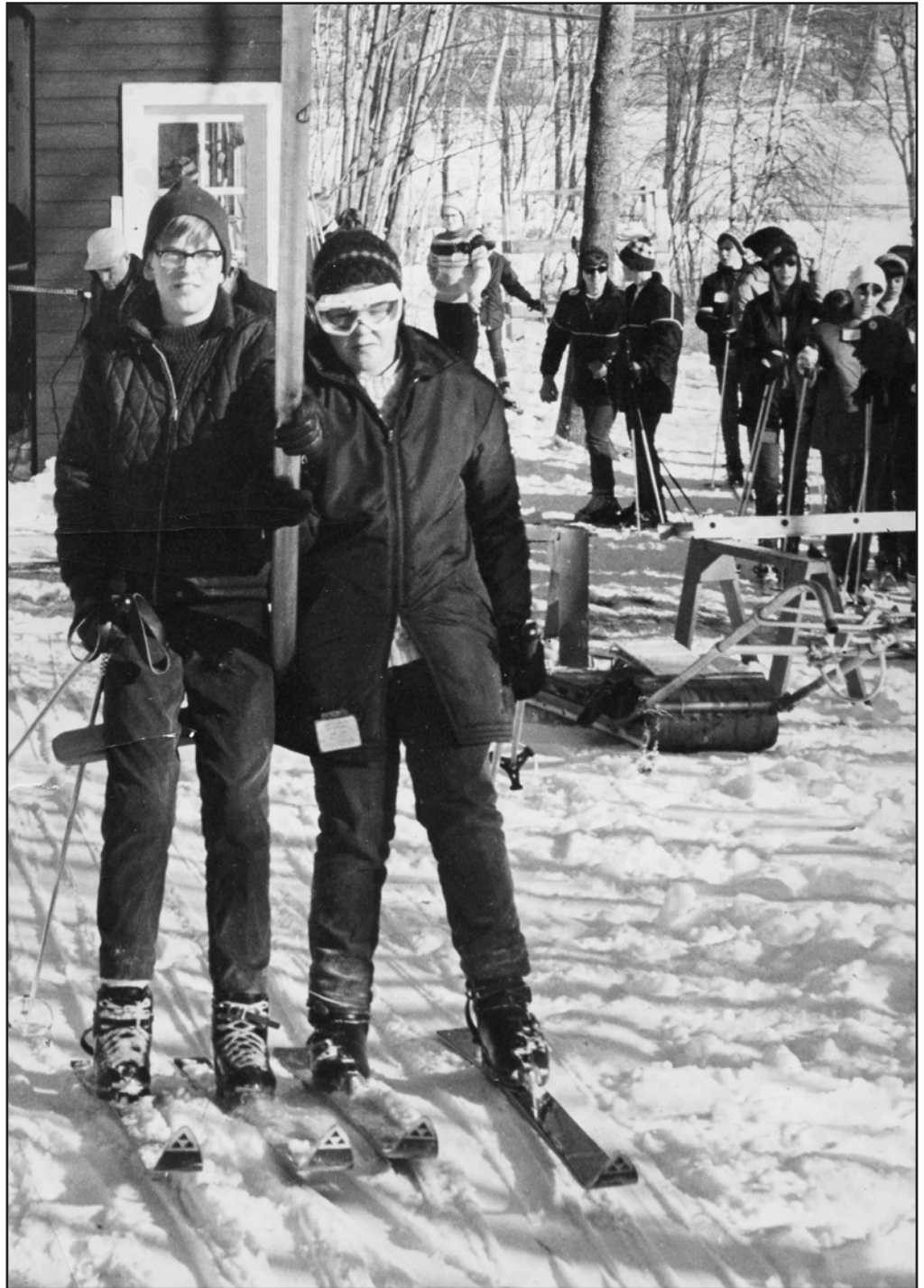
Here's how it started, as captured in his soon-to-be-released memoir, *Tales From the Life of Sonny*:

“My father built us a ski mound at the back of our house, on top of the small banking. So my father and Alice Roper [Sonny's next door neighbor] and all the kids would ski in a straight line down into the field where the beehives were. We didn't have bindings on our skis, just a strap and boots that we wore outside in the wintertime. My mother would turn on the back light so we could see.

“It wasn't a good idea to get out of the track, for you were sure to come out of the skis and fall down. There were one pair of skis that my father and Alice used and a pair that all of the kids used. We could almost reach the brook, but not quite.

“Every time someone went a little bit further in the track it gave the next person a chance to go further, but because the height of the mound was limited we could go just so far. Each night my father would put more snow on the mound because we would wear it down from all the skiing we did the night before.

“This is how I started to ski, not even a ghost of an idea that this sport would become such an important part of my life. One of the many things that my father taught me about having fun in life.”



Installing a T-bar nearly a mile in length was one of the first major projects that was undertaken at the Camden Snow Bowl by the construction firm owned by Sonny Goodwin. Installed in 1966, the T-bar pictured here was used through the 2014 season. (Courtesy Walsh History Center of the Camden Public Library)



The original base lodge at the Camden Snow Bowl burned in 1967. Above, Sonny Goodwin (left) and Snow Bowl general manager Ken Hardy examine the ruins. Goodwin's construction company, Monroe and Goodwin, would build its replacement. (Courtesy Sonny Goodwin)

He was hooked, and skiing has been a huge part of his event-filled life ever since. Again, from his memoir:

“When I was seven or eight I started to become aware of the Snow Bowl. At that time the main interest was in skating and tobogganing. Skiing was in third place, as far as John Q. Public was concerned.”

The Snow Bowl's original iteration was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. and it consisted of a couple of ski trails plus a log lodge on the shore of Hosmer Pond. That spot was several hundred feet distant from the rope tow they had installed on the northeast side of Ragged Mountain. (Ragged Mountain is the official geographical-geological name for the Snow Bowl.)

The Snow Bowl operated as a joint venture between the town of Camden, which owned it, and a group of loyal and dedicated townfolk comprising the Camden Outing Club that essentially maintained, improved and operated it.

As a high school boy Sonny became a club stalwart, helping cut brush in the fall, boot-packing snow in the winter and even organizing the area's first ski patrol. Over the years, after he returned to Camden following graduation from Wentworth Institute and going into the construction business, he was the steadying influence who kept the place open during lean times. When the time came for a major expansion in 1966 with the installation of a T-bar lift, he and his crew from his bustling firm installed the lift.



The Camden Snow Bowl's new base lodge, built by Monroe and Goodwin, was a three-level A-frame building. The view here, dated 1968, shows a busy day, with the line for the T-bar stretching across much of the base area. (Courtesy Walsh History Center of the Camden Public Library)



The photo above shows the Camden Snow Bowl in 1968, with the lift line for the T-bar running straight up the mountain, trails flanking it on both sides and the new base lodge at the bottom. A chairlift was still years in the future in this vintage view. (Courtesy Walsh History Center of the Camden Public Library)

Then, after the original base lodge burned in 1967, he was the obvious choice to build a new, substantially larger building over at the base of the ski area — a building that serves to this day as a year-round center of activity.

About a decade later, the next big threshold in the development of the Snow Bowl was crossed when a chairlift and T-bar were moved from abandoned Bald Mountain in Dedham to Camden. Sonny, of course, undertook the entire task of disassembling the lifts, moving them from Dedham to Camden, and re-installing them at the Snow Bowl.

With the vagaries of the coastal Maine climate, snowmaking is essential, and Sonny

installed the original system.

Over the following decades, his calm demeanor and engineering acumen were the bedrock for the continuing operation of the area, as he provided counsel and assistance to a succession of area managers and town officials.

And all of this was done, Sonny insists, because of his love of two of the most important things in his life: skiing and the town of Camden.

I've been a close personal friend and skiing companion of Sonny from our childhood days. And of course I'm a Camden boy who benefited from not only his friendship and guidance, but from the results of his tireless efforts over the years at the Snow Bowl. ❄️

Camden Celebrates

SONNY

Wednesday February 10, 2016

10:00 am - 8:00 pm

Skiing and riding at the Camden Snow Bowl \$29

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Book Signing of "Tales from the Life of Sonny"

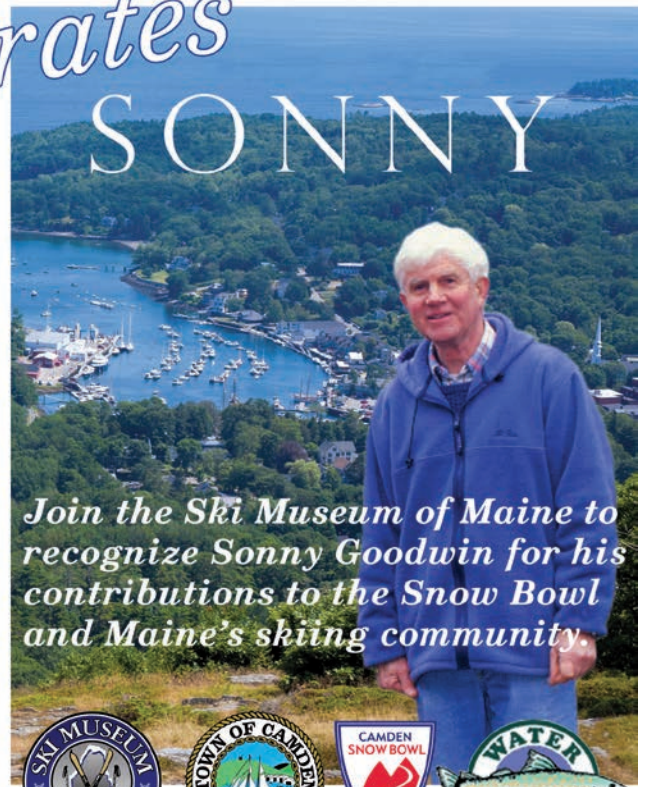
**Round Trip chairlift rides with Sonny -
Recount his many adventures \$100**

5:00 - 8:00 pm

**Cocktails and dinner at the Waterfront Restaurant
Tribute to Sonny hosted by John Christie
\$50 includes munchies, salad, entrée and dessert,
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*Join the Ski Museum of Maine to
recognize Sonny Goodwin for his
contributions to the Snow Bowl
and Maine's skiing community.*



Demise and rise

Winter carnivals were all the rage during the 1920s in Maine, providing the principal venue for the general public to witness and participate in the nascent sport of skiing. Ski jumping was the marquee attraction for spectators and the media, while cross-country competition invited broad participation.

Winter carnivals were held at colleges, high schools and academies, innumerable small towns and the state's three biggest cities. The carnivals in Portland and Augusta in 1922-1924 were especially notable as early and spectacular exemplars of the format, largely due to the sponsorship of William Howard Gannett, the millionaire ski enthusiast who was also the publisher of those two cities' principal newspapers, the *Portland Press Herald* and the *Kennebec Journal*.

But by the late 1920s, the carnivals in the larger cities almost ceased to exist, while the mill town of Rumford, together with its Chisholm Ski Club, hosted Maine's biggest, most spectacular and most popular winter event. And by the 1930s, the Rumford Winter Carnival was recognized as tops in New England.

The crucial year of transition was 1925. Portland and Augusta suffered an unseasonable bout of warm weather that forced officials to call off their carnivals. The story is told graphically by the cartoon (*Portland Sunday Telegram*, February 22, 1925) reproduced on this page. A young lady,



Unseasonably warm weather caused the cancellation of the winter carnivals in Portland and Augusta in 1925. The story is graphically summarized in this cartoon from the Portland Sunday Telegram, February 22, 1925. The huge carnivals in those two cities were never resurrected.

fashionably clad and sporting the distinctive cloche hat of the 1920s, holds a pair of skis, snowshoes and ice skates. Tears fall from her big round eyes while a hot, smiling sun beams down upon her. The caption tells the story: "All dressed up and nowhere to go."

The historical record is unclear about what if any efforts were made to resurrect the Portland and Augusta winter carnivals in 1926 and beyond, but reading through the newspapers of those years suggests that whatever events happened after 1925 were

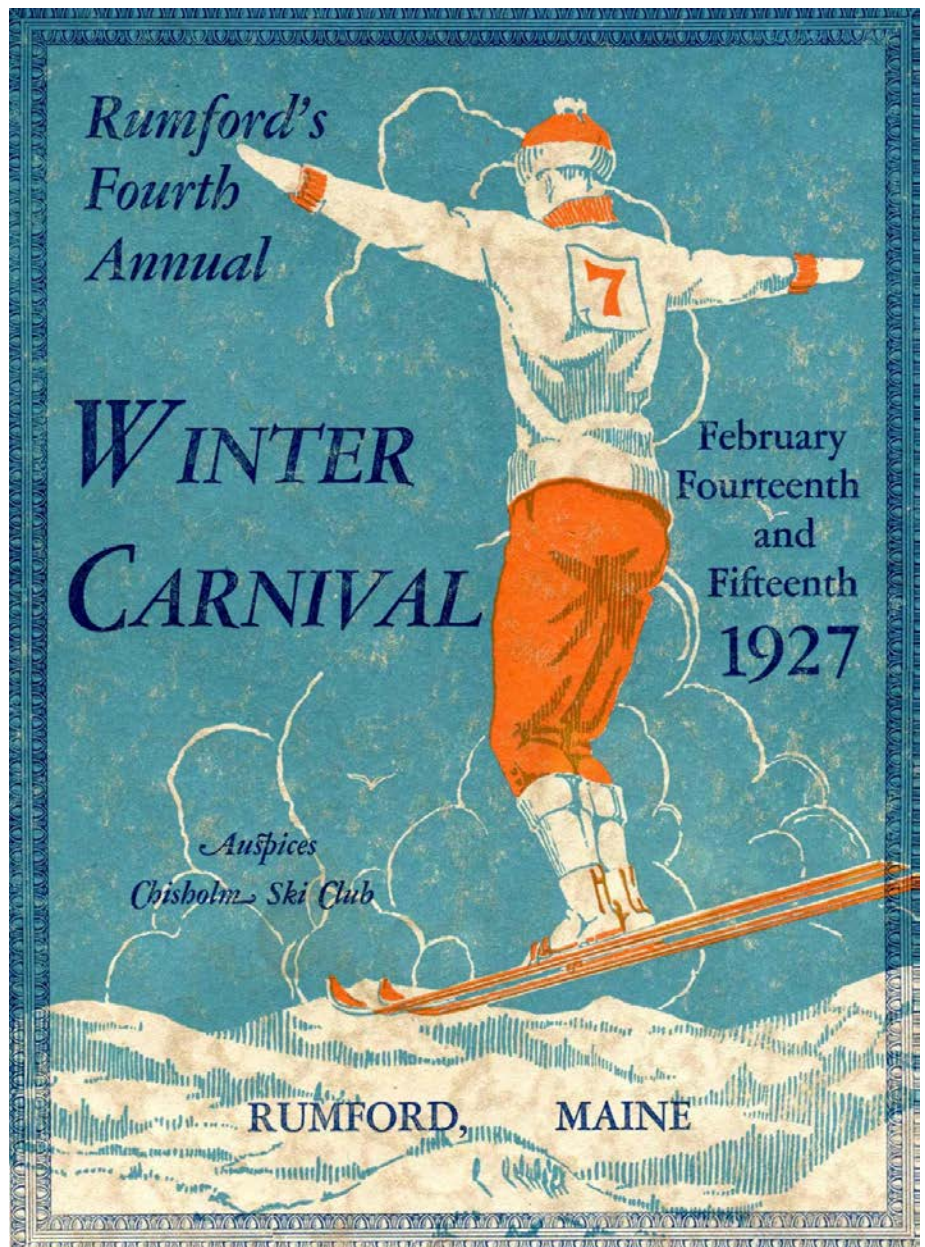
extremely modest by the 1922-1924 standards.

In 1925 the Chisholm Ski Club hosted its second Rumford Winter Carnival. Chisholm's first, the prior year, was regarded as a modest success, and organizers extensively prepared for 1925 and well beyond. Mathias Nilsen and Einar Sorensen, a pair of native Norwegian ski enthusiasts who worked at the Rumford mill, secured the cooperation and sanction of the U.S. Eastern Amateur Ski Association. That blessing brought many top jumpers in the East to Maine to compete; many of these were Norwegian-Americans who sported the colors of ski clubs from New York, Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire.

They were topnotch competitors and they attracted crowds, photographers and reporters who spread Rumford's fame far and wide. For 1927, the Chisholm Ski Club built a new jump, touted as the biggest east of the Mississippi River. By 1929, the Rumford Winter Carnival was the venue for the USEASA championships in jumping, cross-country and combined.

Two local boy prodigies, Milton DesRoches and Aurele Legere, launched their competitive careers at the Rumford carnivals. The former attained the distinction of Maine's first Class A ski jumper, while the latter began a long jumping career that resulted in many championships and honors.

At the Ski Museum of Maine we tend to think of the winter carnivals in terms of skiing, but Rumford's success was also due



By the late 1920s, the Rumford Winter Carnival was tops in Maine, drawing thousands of athletes and spectators to a spectacular two-day affair that was produced by the Chisholm Ski Club. Elaborate programs exceeded 80 pages of event listings and advertising. The cover of this 1927 program clearly depicts ski jumping as the marquee event. (Courtesy Chisholm Ski Club)

to a huge roster of non-skiing events. These ranged from horse racing on the ice, figure skating demonstrations, snowshoe parades and elegant, elaborate evening festivities where carnival queens were crowned, and hundreds of celebrants merrily danced into the wee hours of the morning.

Scott Andrews
Historian, Ski Museum of Maine

Ski Museum awarded grant for pilot program in MSAD 44 schools

The Ski Museum of Maine was recently awarded a \$2,000 grant by the Sunday River Community Fund of the Maine Community Foundation for the purpose of creating an educational program for fourth-grade students in Maine School Administrative District 44, which encompasses Bethel and five surrounding towns.

The award will enable the Ski Museum to create a teaching unit in which skiing will be integrated into the longstanding fourth-grade Maine history curriculum and aligned with the Maine Learning Results standards.

This project represents a second step for the Ski Museum, which presented a two-hour program to 45 students at the Crescent Park Elementary School in Bethel last

winter. Participating were Ski Museum president Wende Gray and education/outreach coordinator Scott Andrews. The students were in classes of teachers Kasey Jerome (who is also a part-time ski coach at Gould Academy), Lisa Haines and Renee Charette.

The time was broken into three parts. A hands-on show-and-tell segment examined old-time ski equipment, an action video covered 21st-century ski and snowboard competition and a brief history of skiing in Maine, from 1870 to the present, was presented as a specially tailored Fireside Chat. Artifacts for the show-

and-tell session came from the Ski Museum and the Bethel Historical Society.

This year's effort will evaluate last year's program, refine it and deliver it to additional schools. A future third step will replicate the program in many other school districts statewide, according to Gray.



Last winter the Ski Museum of Maine conducted an education-outreach program for fourth-grade students in Bethel's Crescent Park Elementary School. This winter the Ski Museum has obtained a grant from the Sunday River Community Fund of the Maine Community Foundation to refine the program and bring it to more schools. (Alison Aloisio photo)

“The Ski Museum strongly believes that skiing -- its history, culture and economy -- is a crucial part of the Maine way of life and ought to be taught in the schools,” said Gray. “And in addition, creating this pilot program in the Bethel area re-emphasizes the Ski Museum's commitment to reaching out beyond our ‘four walls’ in Kingfield.” ❄️

Are you a teacher or administrator who would be interested in participating in the Ski Museum of Maine's in-school programming? Please call Scott Andrews at 773-9609 or email him at schussme@yahoo.com.

Thank you to Gleason Media

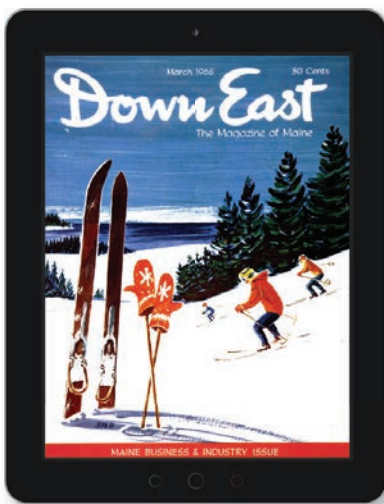
We wish to thank Dick Gleason of Gleason Media Group for his help in getting out the word on the 2015 Maine Ski Hall of Fame Banquet. Dick not only made time available for me to be interviewed on Z105.5 FM in Auburn, he also helped in getting the event posted on their web site and community calendars on his stations. In addition he donated 30 30-second commercials reminding skiers to make their reservations. This publicity through Z105.5 FM, WOXM 92.7 FM & 100.7 FM, WTME (Talk for ME) 780 AM & 1450 AM spread the word in Lewiston-Auburn, Norway-Paris and Rumford-Mexico and an area stretching from Rangeley to Fryeburg and into Androscoggin and Cumberland Counties. Our thanks go



The Maine Ski Hall of Fame Induction Banquet was highly successful last October. Pictured above, former Ski Museum of Maine president John Christie (left) presents the award to honoree Bruce Chalmers. (Bruce Miles photo)

out to Dick Gleason and his staff for this very generous in-kind contribution for the Gleason Media Group.

Dave Irons, Chairman
Maine Ski Hall of Fame Committee



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Down East Ski Club <i>Bridgton</i>	Lonesome Pine Trails <i>Fort Kent</i>	Smokin' Good BBQ <i>Bethel</i>	WSKI TV 17 Sugarloaf Maine <i>Carrabassett Valley</i>
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Mission Statement

"To celebrate and preserve the history and heritage of Maine skiing."



SKI MUSEUM OF MAINE

P.O. Box 359 • 256 Main Street
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SAVE THIS DATE!

February 13, 2016

Maine Ski Heritage
Classic at Sugarloaf

Details on page 14



The 1960s marked the culmination of the boom years that followed World War II, with many new ski areas opening in the U.S. and Maine. Bigrock was the biggest in Aroostook County. Shown here is a ski school lesson at Bigrock, shortly after the Mars Hill area opened in 1961. (Bigrock photo courtesy Travis Kearney)