

Edwards

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the finish line at the bottom of a "modified slalom" course. Slalom courses are narrower and marked with flags.

An Olympic-class pro has already raced your race, sort of "calibrating" the track, and this is done daily because snow and ice conditions will differ each day. Thus the results, measured against the pacesetter pro time, are the very essence of fairness.

In Edwards' group of 70-79 year olds there are about 150 entrants statewide, with many more nationally. The program is offered at 180 ski areas in 32 states...Montage has it, so does Camelback.

There is said to be a ski bug in America, infecting both young and old. Symptoms are based on "man against nature" but cause much more than plain outdoor fun. There is a powerful thrill to speeding downhill, and a freedom of spirit which no other sport can match. No wonder the bug finds easy prey.

Mr. Edwards' bug bit his son Ralph first, at the age of twelve. When they went to a ski resort, instead of watching Ralph, Edwards went to Sears, got himself outfitted, and joined his son on the slopes. The infection worsened. Time for such a winter sport was a snap...the Huntsville

Nursery shut down as soon as the ground froze!

One might think Bucky's 30-plus years on skis would have resulted in a covey of injuries. Not so; the sport, contrary to popular opinion, is not dangerous. The two broken ribs he endured came while standing still...he tripped over his own feet and landed smack on a camera case!

But Bucky says, "It also helps to keep in condition all year round. You can't swing in a hammock all summer and ski the next winter. We play tennis a lot, go hiking, I help out in the nursery, and I've taken up golf. It all helps, especially your legs."

Wife, Jean, a former Renshaw from Idetown, enjoys sharing most of his activities. And the Edwards just celebrated their 50th! Their three children are: Richard, 49, who owns a tool and die plant in Cortland, NY and has two sons, Eric, 18 and Brent, 16; Ralph, 45, with two children, Erin, 16 and Meredith, 10; and Carolyn Tardiff, 40, who lives in Dallas, Texas, with husband Joe and son Tommy, 5. (Bucky says son Ralph was smarter than he was, he has a home away from the nursery so he doesn't get bugged by customers at all hours as does Bucky, who lives right next door.) And about all those offspring...guess

what? They all ski!

It should be noted the Edwards way of life included one more outdoor sport not yet mentioned...fishing. For 11 straight years, Bucky has joined buddies Hanford Eckman, Richard Pearsall and Ken Baylis, flying to the province of Saskatchewan, where just about every other fish is a trophy fish. Pictures of their catch would make local anglers, used to 12-inch bass, extremely ill.

There is undoubtedly a payoff to the Edwards crowded calendar. He is probably in as good condition as he was during WWII when he got out of Officers Candidate School to ferry Liberty ships for the Army Transportation Corps. His hair is greying but it's all there. His figure is trim, his eyes clear, his incisors intact, and - lookit there - a pair of natty suspenders! Bucky says, "They're coming back, didn't you know? Of course the ones I used to hold my ski pants up are a lot wider!"

You now have the impression here is one busy guy, but his son Ralph has an explanation. He says, "My Dad has the basic 'zest for life.' He thoroughly enjoys every minute to the fullest." And he is probably going to go on forever!



TOP STUDENT - Attending Lake Silkworth Lion's dinner for Student of the Quarter Tina Sidonio were, from left, club secretary, Tony Stefanowicz; Gabe Sidonio, brother; Tina Sidonio, Tina's Aunt Lois, John Feher, first vice-president.

Tina Sidonio named top student

The Lake Silkworth Area Lions recently honored Tina Sidonio as "Student of the Quarter" at Lake-Lehman High School.

Sidonio and her family were guests at the Red Rooster Restaurant where she received a savings bond and a certificate in recognition of outstanding school and community achievement.

Sidonio is a member of the National Honor Society, Foreign Language Club, Students Against Drunk Driving, Student Council, Knightlife (school newspaper) staff writer, International Foreign Language Club, Who's Who Among

American High School Students, Xerox Award as Most Outstanding student in histories and humanities, participant of the Junior Leadership of Wilkes-Barre, Youth Salute and representative of United States to Australia as People to People Student Ambassador Program.

Also active in athletics Sidonio has a second degree black belt in martial arts (Tae Kwon Do/Hap Kido) and is a three-year State Champion in the Martial Arts, a 1993 and 1994 Pre-Olympic gold medal winner in the Martial Arts and a 1994 Olympic Silver Medal winner in Martial Arts.

America's ski craze began at Sun Valley

Skiing began as a way to hunt, hardly as a sport like today. Rock carvings 4,000 years old show hunters tracked their prey on primitive boards. Wooden skis shaped like snowshoes have been found in Northern Europe bogs and traced back to the Stone Age.

Vikings believed in "Skadi," goddess of skiing, hence the name Scandinavia. By the year 1200, skis were used in war by both Finnish and Russian soldiers. In Norway, mail was delivered on skis, and 19th century skis transported doctors, priests, midwives, and - of all people - undertakers!

Competitive skiing came in 1920 - the Olympics helped start interest - and in 1929 the first ski school opened in New Hampshire with lessons at one dollar per.

The third Olympic Winter Games in 1932 at Lake Placid, with veteran announcer Lowell

Thomas broadcasting events, brought the sport to millions who had never heard of it before. The craze was well under way.

Sun Valley opened in 1936, many movies centered around snowy slopes, ski pants became glamorous, railroads ran special trains to new resorts and off America zoomed on one of its pet binges. The new sport has never slowed down, gaining new devotees by at least 10 percent per year. Before WWII only a few thousand skied; today estimates range from 24 to 28 million.

Noted motivational researcher, Dr. Ernest Dichter, calls outdoor activities like mountain climbing, sailing, skin diving and skiing, "survival sports," that the benefit of skiing is that it puts a skier on his mettle. He says, "There is a feeling of immediate achievement. At a certain point skiing is self-

rewarding. You enjoy it while you are doing it. You know how well you did it. And you don't have to wait for anybody to tell you."

There is also an attraction in the challenge of skiing. This is unlimited, for there are trails and slopes of almost every type and with great variations in length, width, steepness and terrain. One cannot make the same run twice on the same trail, and the terrain is constantly being altered by wind, sun, and snow, and skiers themselves.

It is not uncommon to find many pursuing this sport well into their 60s and beyond. It never gets dull for any age...they all say, with their rosy cheeks and fresh air in their lungs (and probably copscules dancing around)... "Hey! It doesn't get any better than this."

by Jack Hülsher



Students collect items for food bank

The Dallas Middle School Student Council recently completed its annual food and fund drive for the Back Mountain Food Bank, netting 53 large boxes of food and a cash donation.

Members of the Food Drive Committee were, first row from left: Nikki O'Brien, Lacey Popson and Sarah Ruckno; second row, Mike Messersmith, Dana Marquis, Julie Eckert and Norah Krakosky.



Remodeled social room rededicated

The Shavertown United Methodist Church recently rededicated its remodeled social room, named The Swartwood Memorial Social Room in memory of the late George F. and Ruth Swartwood, former members of the church. A spinet piano and brass lamp were also dedicated in memory of the late Mary Davenport Kloeber, a former church member and a plaque donated by Robert Deeble and Gladys Chapple commemorating the occasion was unveiled.

New cabinets were built by Brian Karolchik as an Eagle Scout project. Trustees and other officials who planned the remodeling of the social rooms were, from left, Robert Deeble, Mary J. Crispell, Elfriede Turner, Faye Sandsbury, Thomas Festa, Brian Karolchik, George Parris, Gladys Chapple and Paul Rother.

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SKI TIP #15

by Sean O'Shea

Q. What is the difference between Water Proof and Water Resistant?

A. Water resistant will keep you dry in the snow. Water proof will even keep you dry in the rain. Most skiers find that water resistant clothing is fine.

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