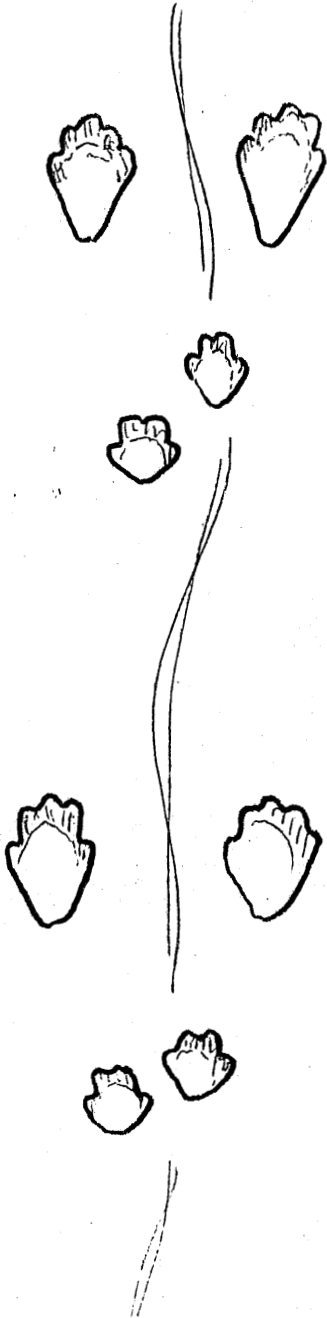


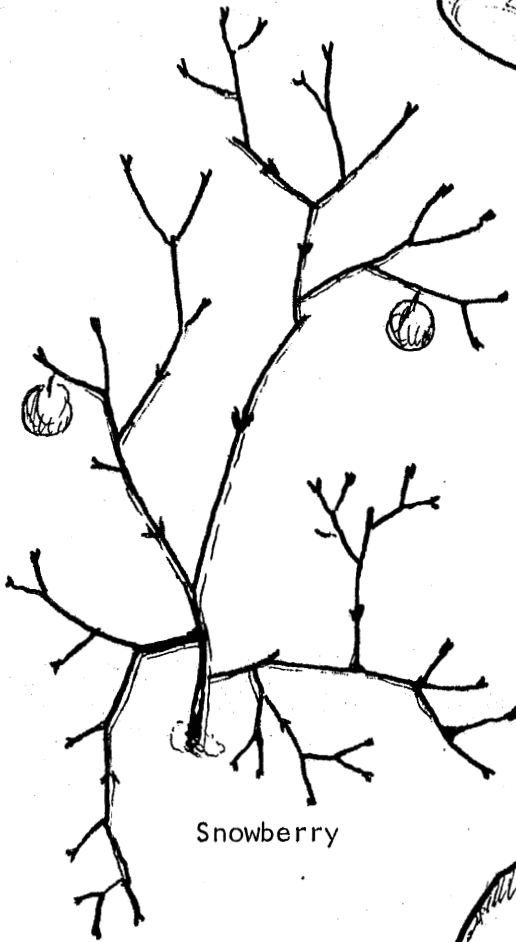
# Mountain Ear

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEERS  
OF WESTERN MONTANA

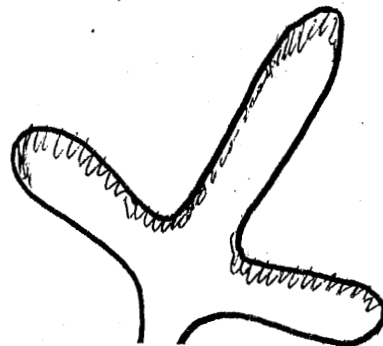
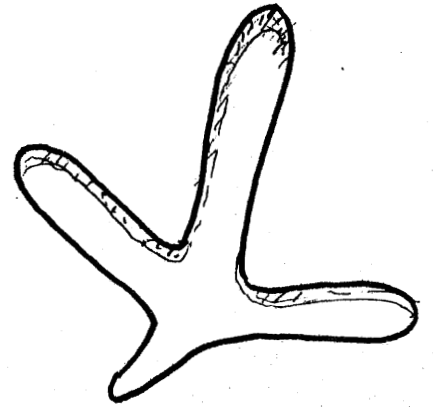
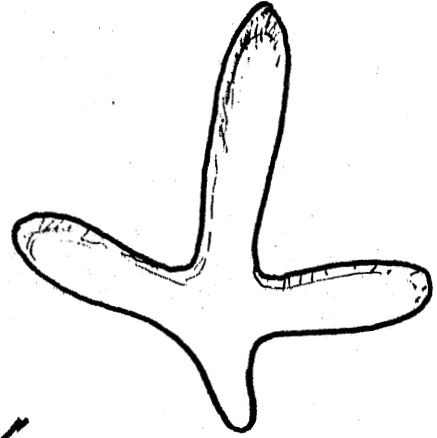
Vol. XV No. 45  
February January 1976



Mouse Deer Mouse, about life-size,  
drags tail



Snowberry



Grouse, about life-size  
(Ptarmigan's feathered feet leave  
"fuzzy" print)



Newsletter of the Rocky Mountaineers of Western Montana- a group offering activities in the out-of-doors - hiking, camping, ski-touring, snowshoeing, bicycling, technical climbing, river floating. Subscription by membership \$4/yr. single, \$5/yr. family, \$2/volume to out-of-town address. 8 issues.

MEETING FEB. 11 7:30 PM

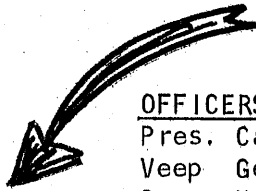
W. Fed. Savings & Loan, Hwy. 93 S at Time/Temp. sign.....

Bill Beaufait, Regional Silviculturist, will present a Sight & Sound lecture on "German Forestry in a Cultural Context."

Refreshments  
Trip announcements

OFFICERS

Pres. Carol Butterbaugh...728-9166  
Veep George Howe.....543-4200  
Secy. Kaye Lyons.....549-1507  
Treas. Myra Howe.....543-4200  
Subscriptions....Raelen Kaag,  
Stevensville, Mt. 777-5745  
Editor ...Virginia Vincent  
Sketches...Mona Frangos



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SCHEDULE OF TRIPS

- Feb. 7-8 Spring Gulch Ski Tour - overnight or day - meet 8 AM Eastgate  
Leader: Bill Kerling, please contact, 543-4885 or Main Fire Sta.
- Feb. 14-16 Elkhorn Hot Springs - ski touring, snowshoeing, downhill ski.  
There may yet be a spot so contact Raelen Kaag, 777-5745  
or 243-2982.

HELP! WE NEED WINTER TRIP LEADERS! If you are willing to lead a trip or can suggest an area for a snowshoe, ski, ice skating, camping, etc. trip, please contact Dave Hohl, the winter trip coordinator, at 549-5396.

MORE TRIPS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE NEXT MEETING!

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NEW MEMBERS

Jeanine Byrne, Lincoln R.S., Lincoln, MT 59639  
Larry Clawson, 1755 S. 8 W., Missoula, MT 59801 - 721-2608  
Aza Libskind & family, 522 Garnet Ct., " " - 728-2035  
Marian McKay, 328 Pine, Missoula, Mt. - 728-8718  
Milo & Lynn McLeod, 621 N. 5 St., Missoula, Mt. -

RENEWED MEMBERS

Don Baty, West Fk. Rte., Darby, MT 59829; Ben Engelking; John McCabe, 645 N. Michigan, Suite 510, Chicago, ILL. 60611; Dick & Del Wolff, Don & Wendy; Bill Worf & family, 406 Whitaker Dr., Missoula (728-2892).

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AS A SERVICE... to ski-tourers and others that use cable-bindings, the club has advanced the where-withal to Jerry Kogan to lay in the means of repairing and re-building broken cables (such as found on Silvretta bindings). He will work with galvanized cable for \$.75 ea. Take your problems to him at: 1700 Cooley, Trailer #27 (south of the tracks) or call, 543-3771.



A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SKI...NO, OF THE SHOWSHOE  
WELL, REALLY, OF THE SKI...  
The one would encompass t'other.

One has often heard that "skis" were originated in Scandinavia where 4000 year old preserved specimens from bogs have been found. But where did this idea come from? The specimens are considerably like very recent forms of the ski.

There is some evidence of implements for snow-travel being used during man's pre-history. It is felt that the early tribes coming out of Central Asia used "snowshoe boards". These people are traced to the Altai Mountains in the Northwest corner of China, along the present-day Russian border. The Samoieds and Tunguses migrated north and east into Siberia and the Aryans and Finno-Ugrians moved west and northwest into Europe and Scandinavia. It is considered possible that these people first used a "grass shoe" woven of reeds. Of the "wooden shoes", short stubby ones were used in mountainous regions while in the hard snow conditions of unforested areas the implements were more like the snowshoe we know. It appears that these two types were pretty constant until 500 B.C.

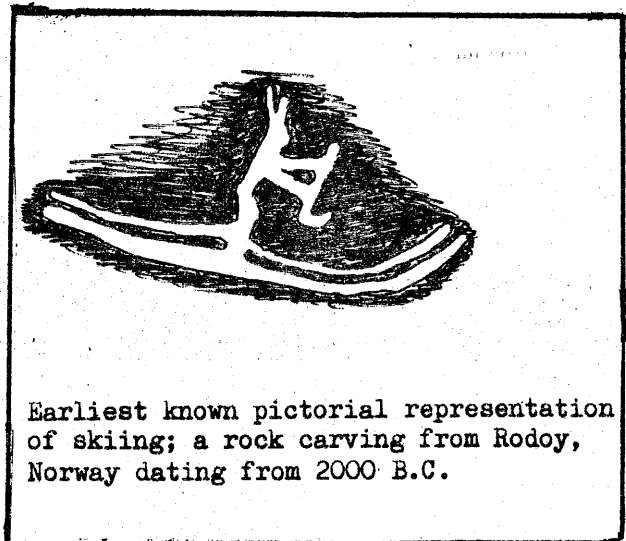
Linguistically the names applied to snow-travel footwear by these many migrants all lead back to the language common to the early tribes of Central Asia.

Though the "ski" was not mentioned in literature until 1200 A.D., the Greeks and Romans do write of snow-travel. Xenophon, Athenian historian and general about 400 B.C. wrote that Armenians put enlarged shoes on horses while traveling over mountain passes. A later Greek writer notes that Caucasian peoples around 18 B.C. used rackets of wood and pigskin. Roman literature mentions Armenians fastening rings on their feet for snow-travel as did a Byzantine king.

Ski, as such, did not receive mention until a monk wrote a few lines in 552 A.D. about "schretenfennae" or "scherefennae". A few years later a Byzantine mentioned "gliding Finns". (Some of these early historians got around, I'd say!) Written history of skiing began only about 1200 A.D. A Persian who died in 1318 wrote about the Mongols describing their winter hunts on wooden boards, called "sana" or "hana", fastened to their feet with straps. They pressed a staff against the earth in order to glide as in a canoe! The Archbishop of Upsala (Sweden) authored a book in 1555 which is illustrated with pictures of hunting on skis. The use of skis was spoken of as a matter of course. There are Runic Stones considered to be from the 11th century which bear figures using ski-type foot gear.

There were three kinds of bindings: simple toe straps, a rope binding of twisted bark, and a thong-like binding. Some old skis have a hole at the tip so that a rope threaded through and hand-held helped to steer the ski.

(The above info. was gleaned from Sixty Centuries of Skiing by Charles M. Dudley, Stephen Daye Press, Brattleboro, Vt. 1935. Poorly written tho' it has interesting tidbits. The bibliography is full of references in German!)



Earliest known pictorial representation of skiing; a rock carving from Rodoy, Norway dating from 2000 B.C.







