

traverse hillocks and hollows en route to the cottage and frequent freezings and stoppages and burst pipes might have been expected. But no! At the bottom of each dip and at the top of each rise a small hole is drilled, the former to drain the line in the event of a stoppage and the latter to release any air-lock. The pipe is continued past and below the cottage, plugged and another hole drilled. With the good head of pressure,

water sprays high into the air and not even heavy snow affects the outlet. As a drift developed last year, water saturated the snow and froze, until a mound of ice some 12 feet deep rose over the outlet. Still the fountain flowed, forming (on top of the ice-mound) a column of ice which tapered from about 2 feet in diameter at the base to 2 inches at the top, the column varying in height with thaw and freeze.

## Summer Slalom

Charles Anton

ON December 29, more than thirty skiers, representing nine ski clubs, competed for the Albina Summer Slalom Cup. Competitors included Australians, Austrians, Czechoslovakians, Poles, an Hungarian, and a team of Norwegians.

The race was organised by the Ski Tourers' Association, and the Association's Lake Albina Ski Lodge, the highest ski lodge in Australia, was headquarters for the race committee and some of the competitors.

There have always been a few inveterate skiers who have explored the summer drifts, seeking an illusion of winter in the heat of summer, but since the building of the Ski Tourers' lodge last year, dozens of skiers have learnt the thrill of following the snow to its last refuge among Australia's highest peaks. Ski tourers enjoyed fine ski-ing from their lodge all through the late spring and summer, and concluded their season at the end of the year with the slalom race.

Spectators and racers travelled from Sydney, Canberra, and Cooma for the race. From the Kosciusko road at Seaman's Memorial Hut spectators crossed to the course in trucks, jeeps and on horseback, and on foot. Members of the Snow Revellers Ski Club, working on their ski lodge at The Perisher during the holidays, took the day off to compete in the race, and drove right to the course in a small utility truck.

The race was held on a huge drift of snow about half a mile long running down a southern gully from the summit of Mt. Northcote.

The various coloured flags set on the glacier-like course of glittering snow, bordered with pink, blue and white mountain wildflowers, made a spectacular show. From the

race course Australia's highest peaks could be seen with long drifts of snow glistening between the rocks like small glaciers.

Nearly one hundred visitors lined the course to enjoy the unique spectacle of some of the State's best known skiers racing through slalom flags under a hot summer sun on perfect crystalline snow, some shirtless and wearing only shorts.

The course wound down the mountain in an ever-narrowing drift of snow, and the finishing flags were placed just above the creek fed by the drift.

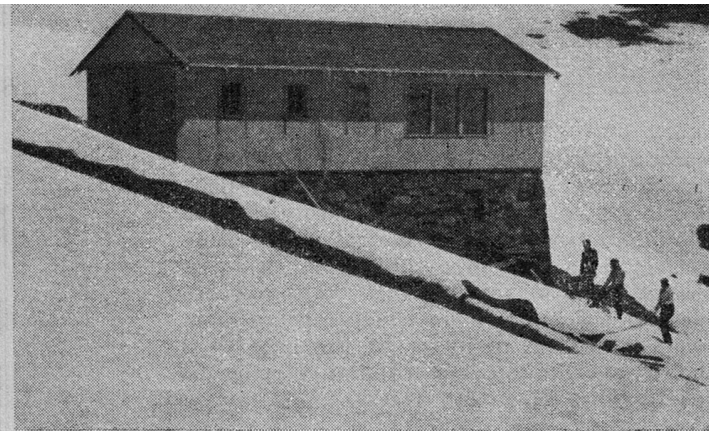
The course, with 30 gates, was set by Toni Sponar (Chalet instructor) and had a vertical descent of about 450 feet. Fine clear weather made snow conditions excellent, and the race was run at midday on good crystalline snow.

Jack Rozdale (Chalet Ski Club) won the

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Slalom on Mt. Northcote, 29 Dec., 1951  
Photo. G. R. T. Ward.





Albina Lodge, November

G. R. T. Ward

race with two runs averaging 76.2 seconds, followed by Danny Coleman (Snowy River Club) with average time of 76.7 seconds, and Norwegian Ingvar Karlson with runs averaging 77 seconds.

The Norwegians, employees of a Norwegian firm working with the Snowy Mountains Authority, who arrived in Australia only recently, were amazed to find snow here in

summer. They were striking figures on the course in their white cotton ski pants, actually designed for langlauf racing, but perfectly adapted for summer ski-ing. The Norwegians have already formed a ski club, and plan to build a jump at the Blue Cow.

Results:—

Average time for 2 runs.	
J. Rozdale (Czechoslovakian) .....	1.16.2
D. Collman (Australian) .....	1.16.7
I. Karlson (Norwegian) .....	1.17.
J. Godowsky (Poland) .....	1.17.6
J. Solar (Aus.) .....	1.18.4
A. Kolve (Norway) .....	1.19.1
A. Lillejurd (Norway) .....	1.20.9
C. Anton (Aus.) .....	1.23.8
A. Neidol (Nor.) .....	1.23.8
D. Albrechtwich (Pol.) .....	1.31.7
A. Retter (Aus.) .....	1.35.6
G. Tacheci (Czech.) .....	1.35.7
Best time for any run:—	
A. Neidol .....	1.9 sec.
Hors Concours—	
T. Sponar .....	0.56.5

## The Kunama Hütte

G. R. T. Ward

**M**ANY casual passers-by on the alpine lakes trail at the end of February of this year have been astonished to see a new building in the basin below Mt. Lee and Mt. Northcote. An observation made earlier in mid-February would have given no indication whatever that a building project was about to start. "How could a building spring up overnight?" might well be the thought of a casual observer. The answer to that question is that the magic wand used was careful planning and organisation followed by an all-out effort by the sponsors of the Kunama Hutte project to assemble the building on the site.

Before the new addition to mountain structures is described the writer ventures to insert a brief history. In August, 1951, the scheme was first envisaged by Charles Anton, President of the Ski Tourers Association. On November 5th, the site was selected under snow conditions by a site selection party, and later confirmed by summer inspections made by the State Park Trust. In January, the building and fittings were prefabricated at Dee Why to a plan by the writer. On the

week-end of February 9th, the prefabricated materials were transported by the State Park Trust to Mt. Northcote. In the subsequent fortnight the entire building, with all its fittings and stores weighing eleven tons, was manhandled down 600 feet of precipitous mountainside by the builder-sponsors and working parties, and the construction of the shell of the building was completed.

Kunama Hutte has a Swiss style ridge roof of zinc anneal tiles, and walls of round backed weather board. The building houses eight persons in comfortable two-berth units

Kunama Hutte, 1st March, 1952

Photo. G. R. T. Ward.

