PENINSULA Times
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WRN WESTERN REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS
OUTDOORS, HUNTING and WINTER SPORTS
MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENT
Week of October 15, 1973

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B.C. skiing soars to new heights with improved facilities, 'copters

British Columbia's ski vacationland has jumped from a few scattered spots a few years back to 63 registered areas at present and more still being developed.

These ski areas cover practically the entire area of B.C. from Stewart in the northern section of the province to the Okanagan and Kootenay resorts in the south, and from the Vancouver Island runs in the west to the high ski areas that run the length of the Rockies, Selkirks, Monashee and Purcell Mountain ranges. And the Cariboo area in the interior of B.C.

Today skiing is the "in" sport for the outdoor set and tens of thousands of skiers of all ages take to the slopes every weekend to enjoy the thrills of skiing.

Helicopter glacier skiing, the newest adventure on skis, is really coming to the front this year. It is expanding rapidly. whole family can enjoy the sport of skiing.

Lift facilities at these resorts cover a wide range from gondola, aerial tram, chair lift, Tbar, Poma lift, handle tow, rope tow and cable tow.

They also have ski schools, ski patrols, day lodges, ski shop rentals, coffee bars and many have special after ski activities such as sing songs and dancing. The larger resorts have overnight accommodations and all of them are situated only a few miles from towns or cities where there are motels and hotels.

Some of the ski lodges have dining lounges, baby sitting services and even swimming in hot mineral pools such as at Harrison Hot Springs, close to Hemlock Valley, Radium Hot Springs or Fairmont Hot springs.

The unique adventure on skis is helicopter glacier skiing. There are several areas in B.C. where the skier is transported by helicopter to powder snow areas on glaciers. Many of them have never been skied before others have spectacular runs laid out that can vary from two to 10 miles and vertical drops of more than 6,500 feet.

Here is an abbreviated rundown of helicopter glacier skiing that is available in B.C.

Hans Gmoser will be continuing his operations of flying skiers into the Bugaboo Mountains that he started in 1965. The Bugaboos are located in the rockies. He also operates on the Cariboo Mountains in the Rockies at Valemount, B.C. and also to the Monashee Mountains out of Revelstoke and Mica Creek dam.

Mike Wiegele will also be operating helicopter glacier ski tours on an expanded basis this season in the Cariboo Mountains from Valemount where there is accommodation.

Radium Hot Springs this season is offering Radium Glacier skiing. A jet-powered STOL (Short Take Off and Landing) aircraft based at Radium Hot Springs will fly skiers into the Southern Bugaboos by the day.

At Smithers there is helicopter skiing on Hudson Bay Mountain and adjacent mountain ranges. Horst Saferak of the Family Sports and Ski Centre is combining with Okanagan Helicopters to make helicopter skiing available to nearby mountains.

Garibaldi's fabulous Whistler Mountain also has helicopter skiing, a challenging sport in which you ski the massive glaciers of Garibaldi and the adjacent 1,000 square miles of the Pacific Coast Range. There is also the Whistler May Carnival, usually held on the May 24 (Victoria Day) weekend, which features international aerobatic, aerial and Hot Dog Championships. And the Canadian Downhill championships will be at Whistler Jan. 7-11.

All the details of the 63 ski areas are covered in the B.C. Four Season Vacationland booklet, also entitled Ski Beautiful British Columbia. It is put out by the B.C. Department of Travel Industry at 1019 Wharf St., Victoria. It can also be picked up at local tourist bureaus.

Many of the resorts have been busy this past summer preparing for the ski season ahead.

Lars Fosberg's Troll resort at Quesnel will

(continued on page two)

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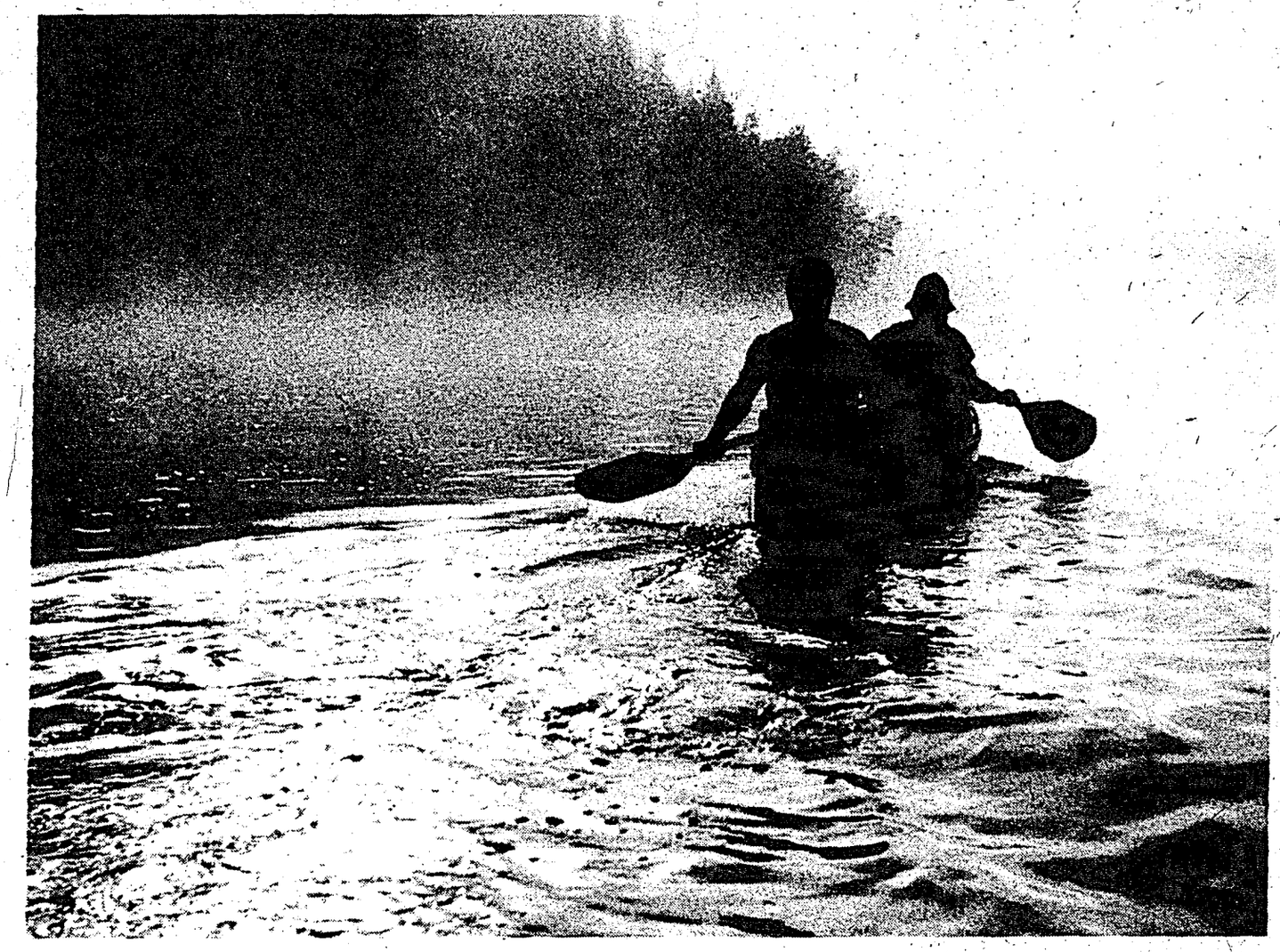

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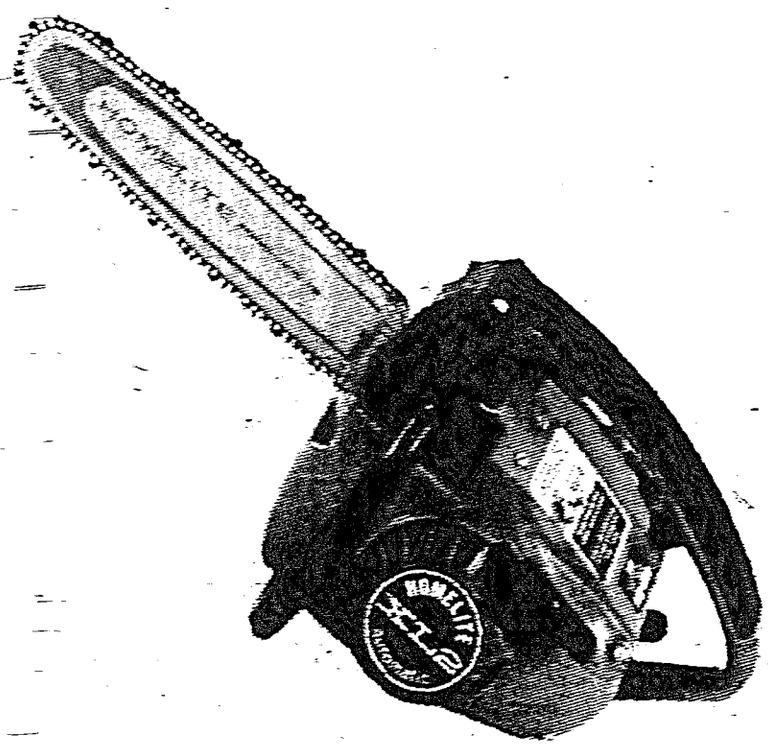

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MORE ABOUT . . .

Many ski events scheduled

(continued from page one)

have a new beautiful rustic mountain lodge this year.

Hudson Bay Mountain at Smithers will have a new T Bar, 3,800 feet long by 900 feet vertical.

New base facilities are planned for Tod Mountain at Kamloops. A new village will include accommodation, dining and ski shop facilities.

A new chair lift, 4,400 feet long by 1,100 feet vertical will be ready this season on Revelstoke's Mount MacKenzie.

Salmo, in the Kootenays has added a new T Bar, 4,200 feet long and 1,100 feet vertical.

And also in the Kootenays, Kimberly is doing a facelift of the old Bavarian theme in the downtown area. This will give new life and add to the attractiveness of the highest altitude city in Canada and will certainly enhance it as a ski area.

In addition, the B.C. Department of Recreation and Conservation has made a grant of $24,600 for a lighting system for night skiing.

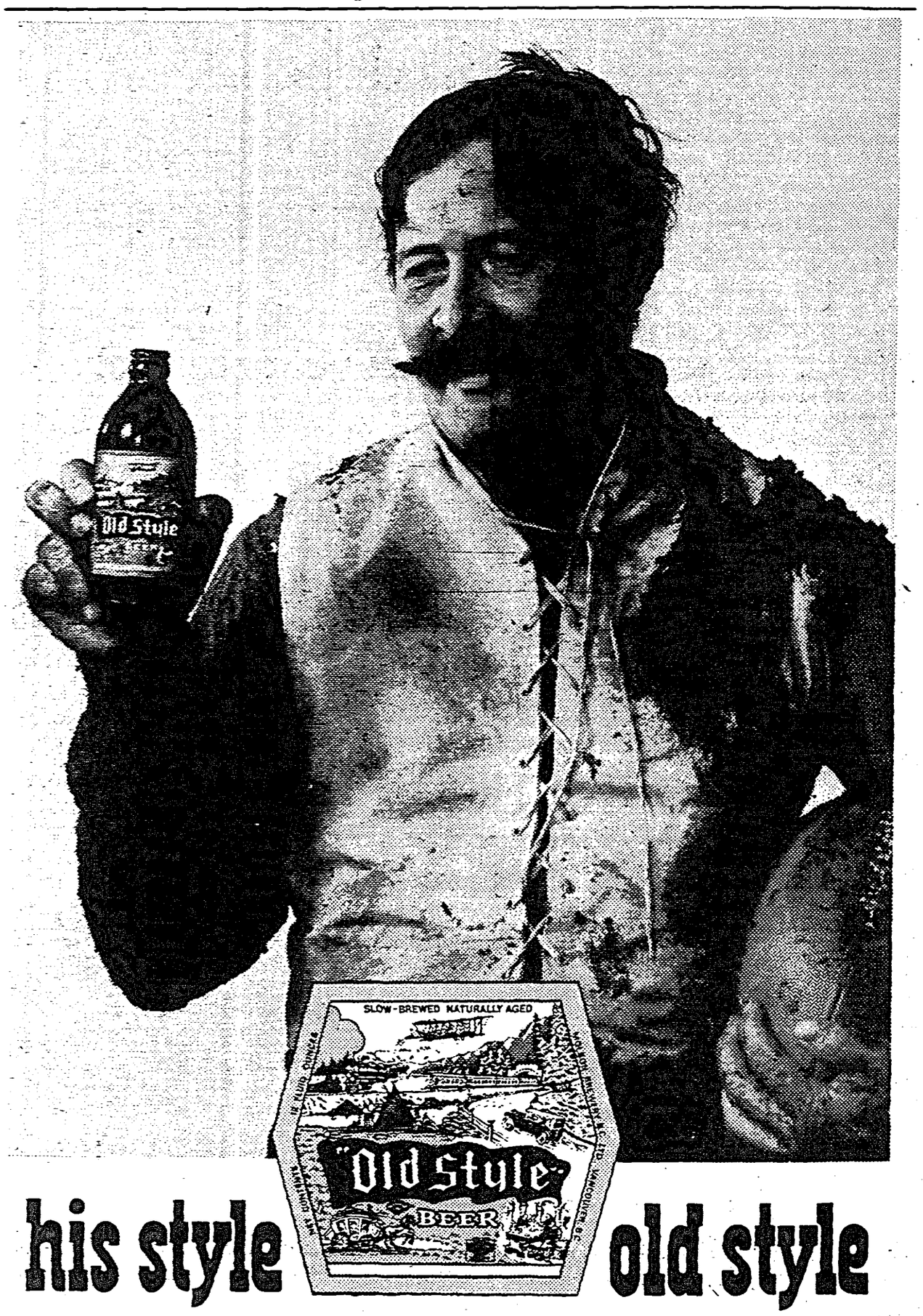
At Fernie, in the same area as Kimberley, the Snow Valley operation is going on a seven-day-a-week operation for certain periods this winter. They also have a rent-a-mountain plan. Write Snow Valley Ski, Box 788, Fernie, for details.

A new chair lift has been completed and is in operation at Forbidden Plateau, near Courtenay on Vancouver Island. Forbidden Plateau is planning a regional Hot Dog and exhibition ski competition championship during the B.C. Festival of Winter Sports this season.

Big White Mountain, near Kelowna, will host the World's Ragallo (Delta) Wing Kite Flying Championship on Jan. 26-27. It is also a B.C. Festival of Winter Sports event.

Silver Star at Vernon will host the Canadian Gelande Sprung Championships on Feb. 4. This B.C. Festival of Winter Sports event will be the opener of the Vernon Winter Carnival which runs from Feb. 4 to 11. The slalom SIS Derby will also be held at Vernon on March 1.

Other events that are coming up this winter include: The Pontiac Downhill races at Rossland Jan. 31 to Feb. 3. The Pontiac Cup event at Mount Baldy, Osoyoos, on Feb. 2. (This date is tentative.) Other race dates were not set at press time.



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Right winter clothing vital in wilderness

By THE SPORTSMAN

Snow camping in Canada is the growing thing. The Canadian-invented snow tractor, or snowmobile, is transporting thousands of outdoorsmen, including hunters, ice fishermen, snowshoers and skiers, into the snow-bound wilderness to spend a night or a weekend.

Here are some hints on what to wear on a winter safari.

Modern fabrics, materials and technical know-how, in conjunction with scientific studies of the Eskimo have removed much tooth - chattering from cold-weather fun.

"Why does an Eskimo make his parka with the fur turned in to his body?" It traps pockets of dead air to form perfect insulation.

Wolves ruffle their coats and birds puff their feathers in cold weather for the same reason. New, light, layered clothing follows this trapped-air principle.

Ventilation is vital. Your head and hands are your best radiators. Pull off your hat or mitts, or undo your coat at the neck for a few moments and you will soon reset the heating balance. When buying winter clothing, buy it thick. Thickness can be achieved by layering.

Down-filled cloth is the premier material for winter parkas, bedding and the like. It is light, bulky and resilient. It can be rolled to an amazingly small bundle in the case of sleeping bags, but bounces back to its former thickness when unrolled. That's important-bulk for insulation.

Synthetic fill, such as Dacron may do the job, but be sure you have the weight recommended for the temperatures you'll endure. Wool is great for shirts or sweaters under that parka, but don't buy a wool sleeping bag. They lump and get cold.

Pick a heavy-duty pair of trousers made from some tightly woven windproof twill. Nylon snowpants and snowmobile suits are great for what they are designed - sitting facing a frigid blast. However if you plan to be active, they don't breathe too well and can get very warm.

"What good are those kooky-looking longjohns? They look like Swiss cheese with all those holes." Believe it, those holes in mesh-style longjohns help keep you warm.

Wear two pairs of socks, inner cotton and outer heavy thick wool, again for ventilation.

Boots can be the regular hunting variety, but there is nothing wrong with shoepacks or snowmobile boots, depending on what you plan doing.

Mitts are the best cold weather hand protection. Gloves are out! Separating the fingers merely chills them faster. Wear two pairs of mitts. The outer should be waterproof, the inner - a light wool.

Your hat should cover your head under your parka hood - toques are ideal.

A new shelter for snowmobile

If you're looking for all - weather protection for your snowmobile the MacMillan Bloedel firm has come up with an A-frame shelter that can be used both winter and summer.

Drawbridge doors at each end; make it possible to drive the snowmobile from the snow or from the ground, depending on the season, right into the shelter.

The plan was drawn up by an MB technical staffer in response to pleas from building supply dealers, snowmobile clubs and individual owners.

The structure, measuring eight feet square, uses a minimum of space and materials. The main material is low-cost, indoor - outdoor Aspenite panelboard. There are four pieces of 4'x8'x3/8" for side walls and five pieces of 4'x8'x1/2" for floors, doors, gussets and shelves.

The lumber is mainly Western Red Cedar and ranges from 2x6s, 2x4s and 2x2s down to 1x8s, 1x6s, 1x4s and a few smaller pieces. Some hinges, locks, screen, nails and paint complete the material list.

The wedge - shaped building provides a snug, ventilated garage with handy shelf space for tools and accessories.

Door height is adequate but the driver who is wise as well as tall will keep his head down entering or leaving.

A copy of the plan will be sent on request by writing to: SNOWMOBILE SHELTER, P.O. Box 335, Postal Station A, Vancouver 1, B.C.

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OUTDOORS FEATURED

This supplement is one of two published annually by WESTERN REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS LTD., a group of community newspapers serving non-metropolitan centers in British Columbia and Alberta.

In each supplement, the key subject is OUTDOORS. The Spring issue also features SUMMER FUN . . . fishing, travel, camping, games . . . while the Fall edition's added features are HUNTING and WINTER SPORTS . . . Skiing, Snowmobiling, etc., etc.

Additional copies are available to those who may wish them for mailing to distant friends and relatives.

The complete list of WESTERN REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS carrying this particular issue is given below . . . write to any of them for your requirements.

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Drive Safely - Highway Courtesy Pays Off - In Lives

Hunting restrictions tighter this season

By ARNIE HOMEWOOD

Road hunting is out along three major highways of the province this year as the Department of Recreation and Conservation instituted new hunting regulations to try and bolster the sagging game herds in British Columbia.

Affected with a half-mile-wide buffer zone, a no shooting corridor, are: Highway 16, between Prince Rupert and the Alberta boundary; along Highway 97, between Cottonwood River and Dawson Creek and along Highway 37 from the Nass River Bridge to Stewart through to the Yukon boundary.

Tighter hunting restrictions is the theme for this fall and winter's sportsmen as excessive hunting pressure and deterioration of game habitat has seen the herds drop to low levels.

The new regulations include reduced seasons for deer, moose and elk in almost all districts of the province.

Dr. James Hatter, director of the B.C. Fish and Wildlife Branch said: "This had to be done because the animals haven't recovered from the severe winter three years ago - the loss of deer and elk was heavy".

Other new regulations announced were: Non-residents are prohibited from shooting deer and antlerless moose in the Cariboo and Chilcotin districts; the previously unlimited bag on wolf has been cut to three and no one may take more than two cougars. On Vancouver Island, the cougar bag limit is still one animal.

The B.C. 1973-74 hunting regulations booklet has a detailed coverage of every area. Pick up a copy with your hunting licence.

That's the big picture as B.C.'s new Minister of Recreation and Conservation, the Hon. Jack Radford heralds his first hunting season in office. The energetic and knowing Radford has other plans for next year such as "serious consideration" to the introduction of a permit system in hunting.

"Distribution of these permits would be on a draw basis in some areas if demand exceeds supply" Mr. Radford said and added "First consideration would go to resident Canadians".

Meanwhile back in the outdoors, from reports received and from personal observation.

Weather conditions will be the deciding factor on hunter success this season as in all hunting seasons. The point is, the animals were very active in our trips through the Interior and Vancouver Island the past few months.

Increased restrictions by the Fish and Game Branch is bound to cut the harvest but somehow this writer feels it just may be a very fair hunting season on animals.

As this is being written in advance of the bird hunting seasons, it's still too early to tell about our migratory fowl. Except bandtail pigeons on the coast were not plentiful. Doves in the interior were on about par with last year - fairly plentiful.

The duck hatch in the Lower Mainland area seems to be down from past years but on the other hand, The Duckological, the news letter from Ducks Unlimited (Canada), had, in their July report, very favorable conditions for a good hatch in the Cariboo and Chilcotin districts. "One of the most favorable years for duck production" is the way they put it for B.C.

Grouse (all species) are not expected to be too plentiful anywhere in the province. Ringneck pheasants both on the Lower Mainland and Okanagan still fighting an uphill battle for survival and not expected to be many more in numbers than last year - a poor one.

Snowmobiler safety clinics will expand

The B.C. Snow Vehicle Association will expand its snowmobile safety clinic program this winter. The first clinic will be held at Kamloops Dec. 15. The association, the recognized governing body of snowmobilers in British Columbia, started safety clinics some years ago, to educate snowmobile operators in safe practices, in courtesy, and regard for the non-snowmobiling public.

Last winter, it held 11 clinics in various parts of the province. This year 34 clinics will be held in the next few months. Bill Shields, secretary-manager of the BCSVA, will conduct some key clinics in regional centres, where directors of the association will receive a special training course.

Ten major points for safety featured - plus 10 more concerning courtesy, ecology, and law-abidance:

SAFETY: 1. Speed can be dangerous - confine racing to the track. 2. Avoid barbed wire - don't try to get past it. 3. Scout unfamiliar trails at slow speeds and do not jump. 4. Check throttle, gas level, track and lights before starting. 5. Don't travel alone, use the buddy system and file a "flight plan" before leaving. 6. Don't leave key in ignition - an invitation to thieves and children. 7. Install a governor if allowing children to drive. 8. Dress in good snowmobile clothing, remember the wind-chill factor. 9. Use only solid hitch when towing sleds, etc. 10. Carry basic spare parts, tools and safety kit.

COURTESY: 1. Don't litter, take your wrappers with you. 2. Don't pollute lakes and streams. 3. Don't damage vegetation. 4. Respect property and rights of others. 5. Help anyone in distress. 6. Be available for search and rescue. 7. Don't intrude upon hikers, skiers and other outdoorsmen. 8. Know and obey laws and regulations. 9. Check with owner or authority before entering lands. 10. Never harass wildlife.

"Safety of life and limb has never been as big a problem in B.C. as in some other parts of the continent, partly because of our association's continuing safety program, and partly because the B.C. snowmobiler is older and perhaps more responsible than the international average," says Al Horning of Rutland, newly elected chairman of the BCSVA.

Individual clubs will be involved in organization of virtually all the clinics, according to Shields. He stresses the local club will advertise and promote attendance at the clinic, and make arrangements. The provincial office will be responsible for the program at the clinic - which involves a brief talk, showing of a safety and an ecology film, distribution of a safety questionaire, and a discussion on safety practices and improving relations with skiers, outdoorsmen, rural property owners and public officials.

Hiking, cycling trail may use train route

The Provincial Parks Branch in co-operation with Canadian National Railways is carrying out a feasibility study of the CN right-of-way on southern Vancouver Island for possible conversion to a non-motorized hiking and cycling route it was announced by the Honorable Jack Radford, Minister of Recreation and Conservation.

David Preston of Vancouver, director of the British Columbia Cycling Association, Don Tarasoff of Cobble Hill and Victoria, a graduate student in history, and University of Victoria undergraduate, John Mikitka, have been hired by the Parks Branch to conduct the study.

They are hiking the right-of-way between Victoria and Cowichan Lake during the course of the study.

The 60-mile section of railway right-of-way between Saanich, near Victoria, and Deerholme, near Duncan, is no longer in use while other sections are used only occasionally.

The CN, in giving the Parks Branch permission to undertake the parkway feasibility study, has indicated that other government departments have expressed interest in the right-of-way as a possible rapid transit commuter line for the Greater Victoria area.

The 82 mile railway corridor provides an unequalled opportunity for the development of a provincially significant non-motorized parkway. The right-of-way is readily accessible from the communities of the Greater Victoria area, Sooke, Shawnigan Lake, Duncan, Lake Cowichan, and Youbou.

Residents of the Victoria area would be able to use the proposed parkway as a safe cycling and hiking route from downtown Victoria to the Sooke River. Travellers could visit a number of interesting recreational areas including Thetis Lake Park, Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Park, Witty's Beach and East Sooke Regional Parks and Matheson Lake and Devil's Potholes Provincial Parks.

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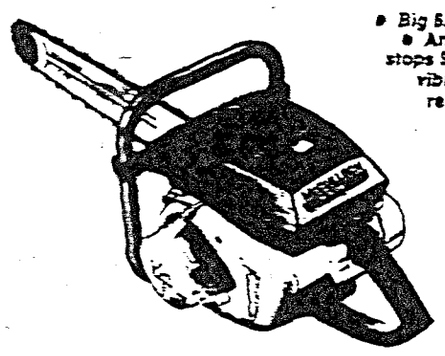

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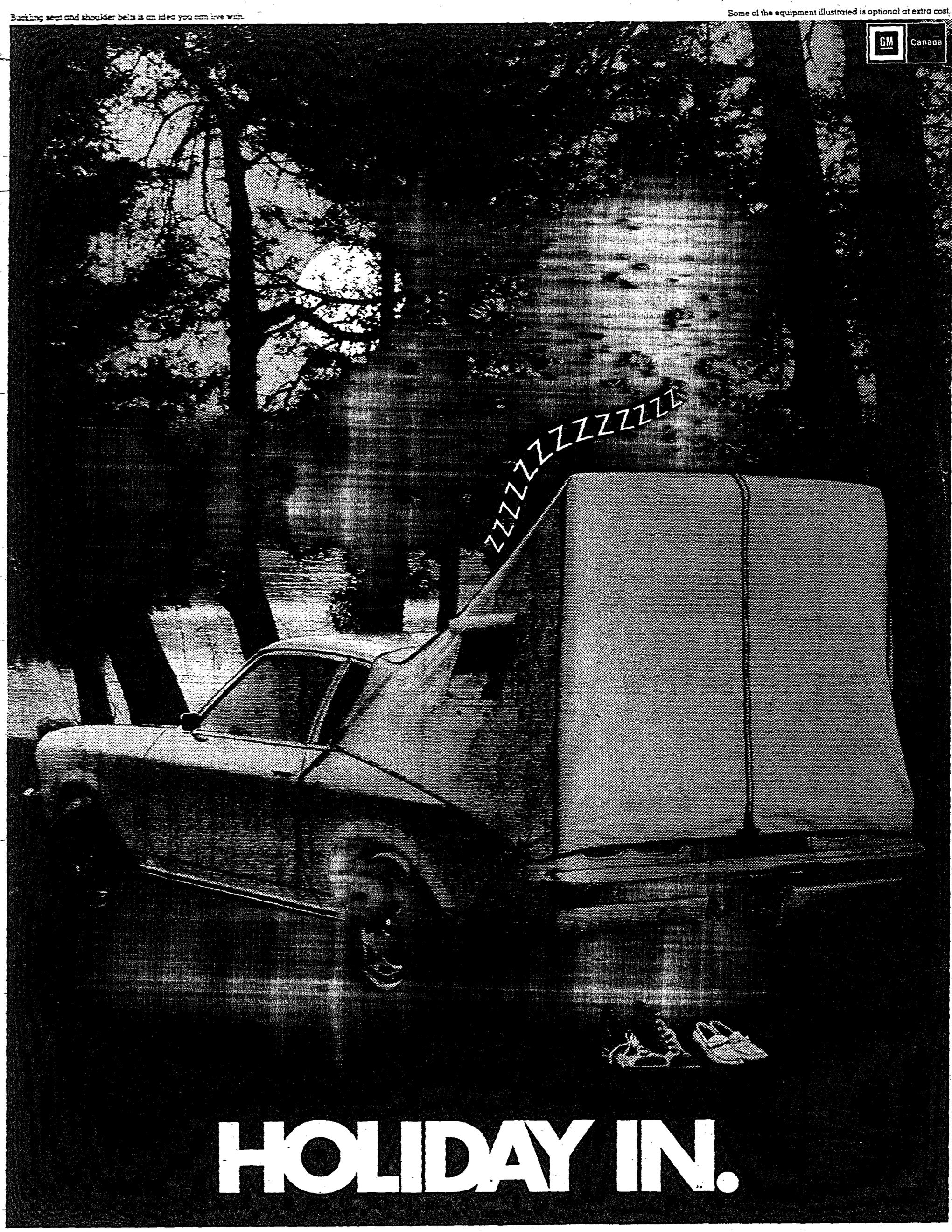

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