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The Longer I Look At It—

A Bookman's Notebook

'The Downhill Racers' Probes Ski Enthusiast

William Hogan

Oakley Hall, the Squaw Valley author of the excellent western novel "Warlock," "Corpus of Joe Bailey," and other books, has come up with a novel that the ski buffs among us will, I think, understand and enjoy very much. Titled "The Downhill Racers," it focuses on the world championship skiing, amateur division. It was inspired, his publishers tell us, after Hall watched this strange and agile breed cut loose on the slopes around his Sierra home. He started to learn to ski some four years ago, before the Olympic competition, and also started to write this tough and serious fiction on skiing and skiers.

a girl in the snow who made round-bottomed, close-kneed grave turns that were like the repeated chorus of a song.

just as a little movie-type novel called "Gidget" a few years ago became the surfer's "Huckleberry Finn."

So, with all the author's technique and his compassion for this assembled company "The Downhill Racers" is not my kind of book. It is for ski nuts. Indeed, it may be the skier's "The Sun Also Rises."

This is pretty country that Hall writes about. The dash, youth, vigor of the skiers and all that wonderful snow is very pretty, too. Exciting cinema, if not a novel for the nonskier.

The Downhill Racers. By Oakley Hall. The Viking Press: \$05 pp. 4 \$4.75.

Around the World With



DEPLANE

"If we drive in Mexico, should we take a car? Fly down and rent a car? Hire a driver?"

For me the most rewarding way to go is to drive. Figure three days from Laredo to Mexico City; four days by way of El Paso; five days via Nogales. There's a big superhighway I've never been on, starting from Eagle Pass. But I think you miss seeing country. Might as well fly as go by it that fast.

If you fly down, try to reserve a car with one of the companies in the States. Cars sometimes are in short supply in Mexico City. Last time I rented, I found Hertz had the best weekly rate. But competitive prices have changed that. You could check through your local office.

I never had much luck with Mexican drivers. One was a fly boy who tried to bluff a truck and nearly killed me. Another one got so loaded at the prospect of a trip, he had a hangerover for two days. I had to do all the driving while he got well. Maybe I had bad luck. But it seems to me you need luck with the professional Mexican driver.

If you drive, watch out for trucks. That four blinks on the headlights usually means, "I'm coming through ahead of you on the narrow bridge." Or, "I have no brakes." Whatever it is, get out of the way.

"How much time should we spend in Ireland this summer?"

I don't know what you want. But I've found three days in Dublin, a day to Galway and overnight, a half day in Ennis and overnight, same in Waterville through Windy Gap to Cork overnight. And a day back to Dublin makes a full trip. The Irish Tourist Bureau, New York City, will send you some ideas on bus tours. Short and very inexpensive.

"Do you know the recipe for the rum punch of Jamaica?"

As I remember this, you keep it in mind by "one, two, three." One part rum, two parts cane sugar syrup, three parts lime. Shake it up with ice.

"Can you recommend ways of choosing motels on a leisurely driving trip in the West this summer?"

If it's listed in the AAA tour books, it's good. They seem to keep a pretty good check on these places. There is also an association called Master Hosts, home office in Fort Worth, Tex. All member hotels have swimming pools, hotel service, restaurants, TV, phones, etc. A little more expensive than the average but very good. They have a booklet of listings. Most of them are in the Southwest.

"... a hidden away hideaway not too far away. We want a rest."

You could try Los Alamos, a day's drive south of Nogales, Ariz., and OFF Mexico Highway 15. This is an old, falling-to-grand-runs mining town with one of the best motels in all Mexico. Good food. Even good shopping. The motel imports from all over the Republic.

"... some place to take three boys for the summer where they will get worn out during the day. But not expensive."

Grand Teton National Park. You can rent tent-cabins for a couple of dollars a day. Big shoot-em-up stage robbery in town. Rubber raft rides down the Snake River. Lake and stream fishing. You can make the kids chop fire wood half the day. And there's a fashionable lodge where you can go to dinner while they listen to nature talks by the park wardens.

Stan Delaplaine finds it impossible to answer all of his travel mail.

For his intimate tips on Japan, Italy, England, France, Russia, Hawaii, Mexico, Ireland, and Spain (10 cents each), send coins and stamped, self-addressed, large envelope to the Torrance HERALD, Box RR, Torrance, Calif.

Morning Report:

President Kennedy said he expected his popularity would take a slide as soon as this session of Congress got going in Washington. I don't think he'll be disappointed one bit.

Between sessions the President can't help but look good. There's nobody left in the Capital to talk back to him.

Back home in Cranberry Corners, our congressman tells the Rotary Club luncheon how the President is running the nation. And all 26 members present are impressed. Once back in Washington, however, Cranberry Charlie becomes a national statesman, mimeographs his Rotary speech, and Associated Press wires for him free from Coast to Coast.

Abe Mellinkoff

Those Noisy Mufflers

There must be a lot of motorists driving around the Torrance area who either do not know there are laws requiring mufflers on their cars or ignore state vehicle code and city ordinances altogether.

Furthermore, it is unlawful to so modify an exhaust system to purposely increase the noise normally emitted by an internal combustion engine that is properly muffled to comply with the Motor Vehicle Code.

Next to traffic safety, reduction of irritating noise from ever increasing traffic is important to the health and welfare of the people in any community. There was a time when noise wasn't important enough to be considered a nuisance, but, the number of purposely contrived noise-making automobiles on the streets and highways (not forgetting those motor cycles) has become serious enough to warrant scientific conclusions that the problem rates more serious attention from police and other authorities than currently is being given.

Article 2 and Chapter 5 of the Motor Vehicle Code (27150) states:

Every motor vehicle subject to registration shall at all times be equipped with an adequate muffler in constant operation and properly maintained to prevent any excessive or unusual noises, and no muffler or exhaust system shall be equipped with a cutout, by-pass, or similar device.

(27150) Modification of Exhaust Systems; states: No person shall modify the exhaust system of a motor vehicle in a manner which will amplify or increase the noise above that by the muffler originally installed on the vehicle, and the original muffler shall comply with all of the requirements of this chapter.

If the state law is worth passing, it is worth enforcing. Those who have had their sleep shattered by these twin-piped monstrosities, so idolized by youth and a lot of people not so young, will agree to this we are certain.

Tax Cut for Real?

The President has spoken confidently of the future and rejoiced in his triumphs over the recession. Communism is on the run all over the world he, in effect, told the nation in his dramatic State of the Union message at the opening of the new Congress.

On the more prosaic subject of taxes, to support his record budget requests, he promised income tax benefits to be enacted during the next three years and committed himself to more deficit spending.

The President did his usually effective job in presenting his message and a lot of people turned off their sets carried away with the assumption it was going to cost them less, and less in the future.

Businessmen and less naive economists, as well as many members of Congress in both parties, aren't quite as enthusiastic. They want to know how it is going to cost us less to spend billions more. They admit lower taxes will stimulate the economy and probably produce more revenue from income taxes, which now pay nearly one-half of the costs of Federal Government spending.

Some tax experts have been quick to point out that the tax may be lower, but, the average taxpayer may discover he may lose deductions already enjoyed such as interest payments and sales and other taxes. They frankly are wondering about President Kennedy's returning reference to a "broadening of the tax base" as a means of achieving more income. Perhaps he has in mind elimination of these deductions so that in the end the taxpayers at the lower and upper echelons may actually pay more.

In the field of foreign affairs some of the more hard nosed listeners and readers are trying to digest the blithe assertions of the President that the Communists made no progress in the last two years. They want to know when our victories took place in Laos and Vietnam and when Red China ceased to continue its march toward domination of Asia.

It was a good speech. We wonder if we here in Torrance can be as hopeful.

Ryan Plant Loss

The announcement that Ryan Aeronautical Co.'s plant in Torrance shortly will be closed and that the 360,000 square-foot plant on Torrance Airport is up for lease or sale, cannot be counted among Torrance's better New Year gifts.

Nevertheless, in a community that has come to take in stride announcements of great industrial and building expansion, the news comes as a disappointment.

In addition to employing some 450 workers, the Ryan Torrance facility was a distinct addition to our industrial community. It did big things, in the important contribution it has made to national defense, and Ryan officials were actively associated with the industrial community of Torrance which occupies an important place in the missile age.

Now it is up to community leaders to get another industry in the buildings soon to become vacant. They are modern and ready for immediate occupancy, we are told, by companies engaged in similar or allied production.

Officials of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce already are working in an effort to fill the vacancy. They invite correspondence from any individual or industrial organization interested in locating in one of the most choice industrial centers in the entire Los Angeles area.

Opinions of Others

If flying saucers really do exist, as some maintain, it is amusing to speculate what their occupants thought if they saw Ham, the chimpanzee astronaut, on his rocket ride.

After witnessing the orbiting of a number of dogs, mice, and other creatures, possibly they concluded that earth's highest form of life had finally ventured into space. —Altoona (Pa.) Mirror.

-THE MORE THAT SMILE REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE!



REG MANNING

TALK OF THE WORLD

DUBLIN — Dublin women are taking a critical look at themselves, and they are not fully pleased with what they see. They have fallen a long way short of a goal set for them by their mothers or grandmothers. They have hardly any influence in politics.

Of the 147 members of the Dial (the Irish Parliament), only five are women. Of these only one may claim election through personal merit. The other four are the widows of

members who died in office and owe their seats to a sympathetic vote.

In local politics our women fare little better. Only two women have become Lord Mayor of Dublin. Most of the city, county and urban councils in Ireland have no women members.

Most women here have large families — the Irish birth-rate-per-marriage is among the world's largest — and they have little time or inclination for politics. They and their husbands tend to regard politics as a man's field.

Quote

"Like Aunt Emma's fragile chinaware, about the only way to keep from breaking New Year's resolutions is to put them away and never use them." —Ron F. Coffman, Grove City (O.) Record.

"Private enterprise is where an individual does a lot with little money and government enterprise is where little is done with a lot of money." —George B. Bowra, Aztec (N.M.) Independent Review.

"In the business world an executive knows something about everything, a technician knows everything about something, and the switchboard operators know everything." —Lloyd S. Waters, Mountain Home (Ida.) News.

"No opportunity is ever lost. The other person takes those you miss." —Orville Campbell, Chapel Hill (N.C.) Weekly.

"A man's home seems most like his castle when he pays his taxes on it." —Paul M. Hart, Grand Rapids (Mich.) Michigan Times.

"Taxpayers are people who don't need civil service examination to work for the government." —Herbert X. Matthews, L. A.

"The face of the American film is likely to remain child like, because it has chosen the thunder of the press agent over lightning from the screen, and the Oscars of self-praise over the admiration of the world." —Dr Edwin Schoell, Santa Barbara college professor.

The Historical Society of Dublin University — also known as Trinity College — has now stirred interest in themselves among our women. This is claimed to be the world's oldest debating society, and it has banned women for 215 years. By an outside majority recently it defeated a motion that women should be allowed to become members of it. Worse still, it sternly refuses to allow them to attend as spectators.

Dr. Owen Sheehy Skeffington, a lecturer in French in the college, is strongly pushing the women's claim to membership, probably remembering that his father was a fighting feminist 50 years ago. Women were first admitted to the college in 1904 and Dr. Sheehy holds that the society should have been open to them then. The college is 370 years old.

Catholics were not admitted to it until 1793, but became entitled to seek membership in the society almost immediately afterward. He argues that girls would make the society more "adult and balanced."

A most determined opponent of opening the society to women is the college's junior dean, Dr. R. B. McDowell. He is a small man with dark, shaggy hair and a shrill voice, and he came in for a lot of criticism some time ago for

fining two American girls \$5.60 each for trying to attend a meeting of the society.

"Women would be a distraction," he says as he throws his unruly hair back from his forehead. "The college allows many opportunities outside the society for young women and men to mix."

Officers of the society say that ladies have not shown themselves to be good members of other societies in England and Ireland that have accepted them. They are so determined to keep it an all-male body that they refuse to allow lady journalists to report its meetings.

Our women and girls have some good reasons for lack of confidence. Usually they receive much less pay than the men who work beside them in stores and offices. The Irish Congress of Trade Unions has never succeeded in convincing the unions that they should see that women receive the same pay as men when they do the same work. Journalism is almost the only employment that places men and women on the same pay scales — probably because the women are outnumbered by 20 to 1.

More and more young women are qualifying as doctors, dentists and lawyers. Surprisingly, they often find that male patients or clients have more confidence in them than members of their own sex. Lady lawyers are usually confined to office work and none of them have yet to become a judge in this country.

About 45 years ago, suffragette leaders looked hopefully to Ireland. Countess Constance Markievitz, an Irishwoman, was the first woman elected to the British House of Commons, and in 1919 she was appointed Minister of Labor in the revolutionary Irish government. Women played a big part in the revolutionary movement, but their daughters have fallen down on the job.



THAT'S MOOSIC TO MY EARS



I did try counting sheep and I couldn't go to sleep thinking about this cold lamb.