

# SKI TRACKS

## There's lots of history in Maine's western mountains

*There is a lot of skiing history in the western mountains of Maine.*

**Titcomb Mountain** in Farmington goes back to the mid 1930s, **Sugarloaf**, 1951; **Saddleback** to 1958 and **Spruce** in 1956.

*They have all come far over the years, some have grown faster than others, but all are mainstays in their communities and to the sport of skiing in general.*

BY DAN CASSIDY

### \* TITCOMB MOUNTAIN

Prior to there being a Farmington Ski Club, many young people along with some adults spent their time on the snow in the late 1930s on neighboring slopes. Back in those days, the only access to the top of the hill was to climb, as there weren't tows of any kind.

Located on the Morrison Hill Road in West Farmington, Titcomb Mountain offers a great deal of variety for novice and expert skiers and riders. Titcomb also maintains 16 km of cross-country ski trails that are groomed for skate and classic skiing.

Titcomb ski slope has been in operation since 1938, but before that, skiers took to the slopes on Voter Hill on Sunday afternoons. They were served a chicken supper by Mrs. Voter at a cost of fifty cents per person.

In 1939, a small group of enthusiastic skiers met and formed the Franklin Ski and Outing Club. It was renamed the Farmington Ski and Outing Club in 1948. Skiing was enjoyed by many families in 1940 and a

winter carnival was held on Box Shop Hill with skiers from area towns. A search went out looking for a new hill that could be developed for skiing, one where a rope tow could be installed. During the early 1940s, a ski tow was erected in a pasture owned by the Knapp family.

After World War II, and the return of veterans, a new chapter began with the ski club. Many activities took place that included two small huts at the bottom of the hill that were turned into warming huts. During the 1948 winter carnival, the slope was named for John Abbott Titcomb, one of the earliest instructors at the club, who had died during combat in the Philippines in 1945.

Also in 1948, Harold Titcomb and his family built a new ski lodge for the club in memory of his son, Jack.

The mountain has grown much in popularity with families over the years. The club runs an active children's ski school, racing and other activities.

In the late 1960s a new addition was planned for the



**Andrew 'Bud' Titcomb makes turns at Titcomb Mountain Ski Slope in 1942.**

(Photo courtesy of Scott Andrews, Fireside Chats)

base lodge.

"Titcomb Mountain is looking forward to providing another great season of affordable family winter recreation," said Karleen Andrews, Manager. "We offer something for everyone that enjoys winter recreation including 17 alpine trails, 75 percent covered by snow-making, and 16 km of cross-country trails that are groomed for both classic and skate skiing."

Andrews said that for alpine users, Titcomb Moun-

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