

# MARIST

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## LOWELL THOMAS PAPERS

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File 2

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LT

March 1, 1939

Dear Erling:

I have written a letter to Joe. He may be at home, near Philadelphia. In case he looks me up on his way through I'll do my utmost to help you solve those problems. I may be unable to do anything. But, it might be worth trying. Having played a small part in putting you in this spot, I am anxious to help you and Joe in every way possible.

Your solution of the way to handle unwelcome guests is a lot better than mine. No doubt a skillful architect could chart the alterations in a way that would not mar that handsome big room. And, sooner or later, I should think the room with the bar might have to be doubled or tripled in size. Then, there could be an outside entrance to that. And, the door leading from the bar to the Club lobby could be closed, with a sign on it: "For House Guests Only", just as you had in mind for the door between the cafeteria and the end of the room with the big fireplace.

If I get half a chance I'll talk over that matter of personnel. Judging from what you say Joe Ryan's only chance to put that place over is for him to have the right people in charge and leave it all absolutely to them. He seems to have an immense admiration for Ben Smith. So, if I can manage it I'll get Ben Smith up town for luncheon, within the next two weeks. My only suggestion to Sigrid and you is this: Take it all in your stride, if you can; get as well acquainted as possible with Mr. Gallagher; help Joe Ryan in every way under the sun, and do anything you can to help him help himself. This may require vast patience. But, it may pay mighty well in the long run. If we keep in close touch with each other I may be able to help from this end. What I mean is, that Joe Ryan has a great idea. He has done a fairly big job so far. His main weakness may be (all this is based on an exceedingly brief acquaintance) that he hasn't had enough experience managing things and handling people. As you say he doesn't give a hoot about most other human beings, aside from his friends to whom he is most generous. He may be temperamentally wholly unsuited for this thing. But, if he can be made to see all this he might make an ideal absentee landlord, and a grand guest in his own place, when he comes there only to ski.

Lowell Thomas  
Rockefeller Center  
New York City

LT

I may have no influence with him whatsoever. On the other hand, Ben Smith and I might be able to advise him.

Despite the fact that you folks don't want to have complete charge of the place I am convinced that you could handle it to perfection -- at any rate, until Holt returns; and by then you might not want to give it up.

It also seems to me that Herman Johanssen would be a huge asset to the place from a psychological angle. If he lived there his children would naturally spend a lot of time at the Mountain. And, evidently the people of Canada have considerable admiration for the entire Johanssen family.

Whenever I have any news I'll get in touch with you in a hurry.

Our very best to Sigrid.

So long,

Lowell Thomas  
Rockefeller Center  
New York City



THE L. W. SINGER COMPANY

EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS

249 - 259 West Erie Blvd.

SYRACUSE, N. Y.

July 25 th

1 9 3 9

Macfadden Publications, Incorporated  
205 East 42nd Street  
New York, New York

Gentlemen:

We are about to publish a new collection of stories and poems for use in high school literature classes. The name of the new book has not yet been selected.

We should like your permission to reprint from Liberty, January 21, 1939, the following article:

"To the Sky on Skis," by Lowell Thomas.

If the author or some other person holds the rights of publication of this article, will you so inform us?

Yours very truly

(Signed by Frances Richman)

LWS/fr

The L. W. Singer Company

*2.26*  
*2.26*

*Handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page, including a large signature that appears to be 'LWS' and various other scribbles and initials.*



EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

# Liberty

CHANIN BUILDING  
122 E. 42<sup>ND</sup> ST.  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

LEXINGTON 2-9050

July 27, 1939

Mr. Lowell Thomas  
Rockefeller Center  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

We are enclosing copy of a letter from L. W. Singer Company, requesting permission to reprint "To the Sky on Skies," published in the January 21, 1939 issue of Liberty.

Inasmuch as we purchased only first and second American and Canadian serial rights, we are referring the request to you. The L. W. Singer Company have been informed that they will undoubtedly hear from you direct.

Best wishes always.

Very sincerely yours

OFFICE OF THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Per:

*Helen Herman*

acb

Enclosure

ON YOUR MUST LIST AT THE N. Y. WORLD'S FAIR PUT THE  
MACFADDEN EXHIBIT IN THE COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING

Which includes the movie, "I'll Tell the World"  
with a cast of Hollywood stars and players . . . . .

LOWELL THOMAS

ROCKEFELLER CENTER · NEW YORK

August 8, 1939

Dear Miss Richman:

Your letter has been forwarded to me from the office of the Editor of Liberty. It will be quite all right for you to go ahead and use my article "To The Sky On Skis", in your book for schools.

In lieu of fee would you like to send me ten copies of the book? When do you expect it to be off the press?

Sincerely yours,

Mount Assiniboine Lodge

Banff, Alberta

Canada

August 22.  
— 39.

Dear Tommy:

Thanks lots for your letter, and thanks to both of you for giving Sigrid the best weeks of her life this spring. I meant to thank you for this before but Sigrid seemed to think that she could write her own "read & write" letters better than I could, so somehow the thought was derailed.

Good for Joe Ryan. Maybe a nice wife was exactly what he needed. We were glad you told us about it.

Good for the schoolbook-publisher also. He is certainly welcome as far as I am concerned. — I don't suppose there is time to change just one sentence, in the very last paragraph. You happen to



Mary

say "In the summer he goes back to Norway." I never noticed the little mistake until a friend in Vancouver wrote and asked me if I had really given up my summer activities at Asenibonni. I should hate to have a few million American School boys think that. But if it is too late, don't worry about it. I have no way of judging the importance of that type of a schoolbook anyway. —

Then about the "book".  
"To the Sky on Skis." — I thought that my own and Rex's feeble attempts to produce an article and the fact that you yourself had to step forth to our rescue and finally write the damned thing, had cured us all for ever.  
That be as it may. Since you made your suggestion, lots of things have happened. I had as a guest last summer a young man by name James Ramsey Ullman.

Mount Assiniboine Lodge

Banff, Alberta

Canada

He has written me of the best travel books I have ever come across. It's called "The other side of the Mountain". Read it some time. - Jim Libman is now pretty well ready to make another trip somewhere, and is playing with thoughts of Mr. Huile, after hearing about it from me; and also after having asked me if I would consider making another trip. My answer has been that if we can definitely make it work on while I'll go again. -

He has been directing the Federal Theatre in Los Angeles for some time, and is on the inside track with all sorts of movie producers. The plan would be to bring along a professional photographer, and bring out a picture worth looking at. Jim would get material for a new book.



I would freshen up on my  
old story, and return with a  
new version. "Twice as True & True".  
Would also have one more ski yarn  
to add to the others, in case  
you should still succeed in convincing  
me that a book should be written.

No doubt Joe Ryan  
would be in favor of the plan, even  
if I have to leave a bit early, as  
it would give his place added  
publicity. So we shall see.  
But please don't mention this  
to anyone yet, until we see if we  
actually get going. Just feel  
like telling you in answer to your  
letter. Do hope that you can  
meet Jimi Sullivan some time.  
He climbed Assiniboni with me  
and did that very little job very well.  
I think Sigrid just wrote  
Mrs. Thomas. Remember us all to her  
anyway and to Sunny. We are having  
a beautiful summer. Also fairly successful.  
Sincerely, E. J. [unclear]



file Strom

August 31, 1939

Dear Miss Richman:

Relative to the article "To the Sky on Skis," by Lowell Thomas, which appeared in Liberty on January 21, 1939, and which you have asked permission to reprint in a book you are getting out, I hope we are in time for a slight, though important, correction.

There is a sentence in which is said of Mr. Strom: - "In the summer he goes back to Norway." This is erroneous. In the summer he goes back to Assiniboine. (He has a place called Mount Assiniboine Lodge, at Banff, Alberta, Canada).

I hope I'm not too late for this correction.

Sincerely yours,

*M. Davis*

Secretary to Mr. Thomas

LOWELL THOMAS

ROCKEFELLER CENTER · NEW YORK

November 15, 1939

Dear Erling:

If your travels bring you this way again I hope you will look us up.

Will you by any chance be making a stop at Taft School, Watertown, Connecticut? If you happen to be making the rounds of any of the schools in that part of the country I will be only too delighted to get in touch with the Headmaster.

If all goes well, and if the skiing is okay, we hope to be with you at Mt. Tremblant during the first week in January, perhaps broadcasting from there for three or four nights.

If on your present jaunt you need a car, just let me know.

Cordially,

*file Strom*

Lake Placid Club  
IN THE ADIRONDACKS  
Essex County, N.Y.

April 13. 1940.

Dear Tommy:

Thanks lots for writing Franklin Griffin and for wiring me. Had a long chat with him in Burlington the other day. He does not know himself whether or not he will be the man to control that state building at the lift. If so he will consider me one way or another.

Meanwhile I looked at property. There is plenty to be had, it seems. One magnificent location right opposite the Lodge on the other side of the valley. Only objection is that the spot is windy. It would call for some road building, and be quite expensive to develop, but could be very beautiful once it was finished.

Another good location might be obtained in the so-called Ranch Valley, on the Mansfield side of it. More sheltered, slightly less accessible although equally near the lift. Also expensive to develop.

Third, and this is my choice, comes a small farm right on the road between Stowe and Mansfield. Nice red brick house with white edges. Old but in good repair. Barns and sheds of all sorts. Some of value and some not. Sixty acres of land. Very nice practicing hill forms back end of property. Good enough to justify the rigging up of small tow. A sort of compromise between the Green Mountain Inn right in Stowe and the Lodge up on the hill. Incidentally the Inn does more business than the Lodge from what I could find out. Even last weekend it had 40 skiers while the Lodge had 9. That ofcourse largely due to the lower ~~prices~~ rate. Anyway this farm has a very good location, with many advantages. First of all it is already there, with electric lights, telephon and running water installed. Schoolhouse for Siri near by. Comparativly little work necessary to be in business for next winter.



Louis  
for Wed

Lake Placid Club  
IN THE ADIRONDACKS  
Essex County, N.Y.

State

2.

Also less capital needed to get started. From a business point of view I think as foolproof a proposition as I think can be found.

Sigrid and I are running back over there tomorrow as she wants to take a good look at it all. If she feels like I do and we can jew the farmer down a bit, we might try to go ahead with this. He is trying to get 8 thousand but will no doubt take less. So much for Mansfield.

You are pretty hard on your Norwegian friends these days when it comes to news. The Germans are plenty clever. No doubt they had all plans ready and were waiting for the opportune moment. Then when England started to plant mines along the coast and had all of Norway in a rage on that account, they struck. At that moment I dont think a Norwegian in the whole country knew whether he was supposed to shoot at the English or the Germans. I think this accounts for the lack of resistance right at the start. If the Germans were up there too early to have the whole thing planned this way, then their attack immediately following the Brittich mine planting was an almost unbelievable coincident.- No comentator so far has mentioned the fact that there is no road nor railroad from southern Norway to Narvik. All communication goes by water. That explains their objection to too many mines along the coast, aside from it being against neutrality laws.

Our best to Frances, Sonny and yourself.

Sincerely,

Erling.

\* This road is under construction, but not yet completed all the way through. —

April 30, 1940

Dear Erling:

Your Stowe place sounds fine. I should think the best plan would be to buy it with a mortgage, as you suggest, and simply borrow the money from people whom you know. I'll be glad to head the list. In fact, if I were tackling it I would try and get an option, before I raised the dough. Get the farmer to give you three months in which to consummate the deal. Perhaps you could get such an option for a couple of hundred dollars. I would do that before going ahead with my plan to borrow the money, simply because it would automatically put pressure on you, make you feel that you simply must go through with it. The option would act as a whip. I think we all become more persuasive when we make up our minds that the thing is to be done and there is no alternative. If you get an option, I suppose it would be a good plan to have Mr. Shaw at Stowe or someone in whom you have confidence pass you on to a village lawyer who could see to it that the thing is legal and the way you want it. If I can be of any more help just let me know. For instance, when you visit New York perhaps I can pass you along to a few other people who might join a conspiracy. I have a hunch that you will find it fairly easy. Many people who have a couple of extra dollars hardly know where to put it these days. This does not mean that the average promoter is having a soft time. But, it does mean that when the right man goes after money he stands a splendid chance of getting it.

You might borrow part of it from

a Vermont bank. But, I believe I would avoid that. Instead, I would go to all the folks I know and get each to put up a little bit. In this way you will of course accomplish two things:- corral the mazuma, and line up a lot of folks who will be your regular patrons.

Maybe we could get Eddie Egan to be your lawyer and save some money that way. He might suggest a set-up that would simplify the job of raising the capital.

Cordially,



From Erling Strom

Lake Placid,

May 31, 1940.

Dear Tommy:

I was sorry to miss you in New York this time but you were too busy for me to catch up with. Miss Davis might have told you that I had her on the phone a couple of times, and I also talked to your office twice when even she was away. Naturally in times like these you are more busy than ever. Realizing this I took the chance on leaving New York without seeing you at all, and now the question is if I have depended on your support in my Stowe venture to a greater extent than you are willing to give it. I hope not.

This is the situation: Out of the \$ 7500.- that are needed right now the Burlington Savings Bank will loan me \$ 4500.- on a first mortgage. A second mortgage is to be held by a group of friends and the list looks as follows:

Lars Christensen, Norwegian Ship Owner	\$ 500.-
Duane Stranahan, Champion Spark Plugs.	\$ 500.-
Andrew McNally & wife, Rand, McNally Maps.	" 500.-
Barent Friele, American Coffee Corp(norweg)	" 500.-
Bruce Thorne, Montgomery Ward & Co.	" 250.-
Alfred Lindley, Minneapolis Lawyer	" 250.-
and then Lowell Thomas	" 500.-
Total	\$ 3000.-

Since you promised to head my list I am just hoping that I am not making you head it too heavily. I have ofcourse asked a great many more people who have found themselves unable to do anything in these frightening times. The above mentioned group has agreed to accept 5% interest. Al Lindley has promised to give whatever legal advise I can not get through the Banker in Burlington whom I am seeing tomorrow. He has already been very nice and helpful. Will see too it that the mortgage is executed in a way, satisfactory to everybody concerned. Whatever money I will need for improvements in the fall, I can produce myself by way of a loan on Assiniboine. So I am all set and am closing the deal the minute I hear from you. Therefore I hope that this letter will reach you somehow, and that you will be kind enough to mail a check to me c/o Burlington Savings Bank, Burlington, Vermont as soon as possible. Sigrd and I are driving over there early in the morning and wont return here until the deal is completed, which we hope will be soon as we are late now for Assiniboine, where we have an excellent season ahead. I hate to rush you this way but you are probably used to that and wont mind.

Had luncheon with Roland Palmedo who might some day start something of his own on Mansfield as he has lost his interest in the Lodge. His plans do not worry me as there is room for everybody. He seemed pleased about my plans and would as soon have me in there as anybody else.

Everybody I have spoken to regarding this thing seems to think it a good idea. Those who are helping me feel that even the second mortgage is good enough risk because property in that district will naturally increase in value with the coming of the lift, aside from what I actually add myself in the way of improvements. I do hope you will feel the same way.

Am sending one copy of this letter to Pawling and another to Miss Davis in case she might catch you on the jump in New York. I can imagine that you might be down even on Saturdays in such times as these.

While in New York I spoke to some Norwegians (now American Citizens) who had been in Oslo when the Germans came. They did not seem to agree with Leland Stowe, in as much as they said that people simply did not understand what was happening. They seemed to think that the Germans came around to look for hidden enemies, and would withdraw when they did not find any. It simply did not soak in that the whole thing concerned themselves. It took days before they understood, and then they became as panicky as Norwegians can possibly get.

You will hear from me once more before I go west. Meanwhile best wishes to Frances, Sonny and yourself from all of us.

Sincerely yours,

*Erving.*

LOWELL THOMAS

ROCKEFELLER CENTER · NEW YORK

June 5, 1940

Dear Erling:-

Enclosed is two hundred and fifty.  
Will that do for the present? Could I do my  
part in two bites?

You wouldn't think a chap like me  
would ever be in a financial jam. But, I seldom  
am out of one. Just at present the Federal and  
State Income Tax people

*etc. etc.*

*LT said he  
would chip in the  
remaining \$ 250.  
in the Autumn,*

*To Erling Strom  
c/o Burlington Savings Bank  
Burlington, Vermont*



• STROMS AT MANSFIELD •

STOWE, VERMONT

Nov 19. 1940.

Dear Tommy:

We received your second check for \$ 250.- and want to thank you very, very much. We just now hope that you will approve of what we have bought and later done to the place. It is going to be fine, and we are more and more pleased with it every minute.

Since you want to come up as early as the middle of December or before, it is just as well that you book with the Lodge or someone else. We might be ready for the weekend immediately before Christmas, but not sooner. Our heating plant is installed now and working excellently, but here is lots more to do.

But the main thing is that we seem to have money enough for what we want to do, largely thanks to yourself. Your participation has also been of great help in other respects. Somehow it has leaked out that you are in on it. ( possibly through Mr. Griffin in Burlington who lives in Stowe.) Anyway, when there was a question of whether or not the Chevrolet people could deliver a station wagon early enough, we told the agent that you were likely to be the first guest to be transported in it. That worked magic, and speeded up Chevrolet production 50 %.

If in no other way, we hope to see you when you go by, and shall ofcourse be hoping to have you with us some time this winter.

Sigrid joins me in sending all of you our best wishes.

Cordially,

*Erling.*

P.S.

Thanks for the Movie room suggestion. There has been one in the plans all the time, but it may not come this winter. Here is an excellent cellar with space for just such a room, where the projector can be hidden and noiceless. Also the whole room would be where movie bugs would not disturb those who might have seen the particular pictures before. I am thinking of my own Assiniboine pictures that will probably be shown time and time again. As this room is one that we can get along without, there are so many other things that will take our money this year, so it will have to wait.

*P.S.*

ALSO: MOUNT ASSINIBOINE LODGE, BANFF, ALBERTA, CANADA

LOWELL THOMAS  
ROCKEFELLER CENTER - NEW YORK

CHK  
1837-  
out 20  
\$149.00

October 21, 1941

Dear Sigrid,

Enclosed is a check. I also sent one to Erling out West. This one takes care of the balance due for Sonny and his friend Walter Hart.

The two boys enjoyed the trip in spite of the fact that they apparently ran into the worst stretch of weather in many years. Sonny was extremely anxious to do some rock climbing, get a little practice. But, they will have to wait until another time.

They thought the camp was great, the country magnificent, and they enjoyed being with Erling.

Bad weather is just one of those things any traveller has to contend with. Here's hoping we get a lot of it in the form of deep snow this winter.

What kind of a summer have you had, and when will we be seeing you both in New York?

Best regards from all of us.

Cordially,



ALFRED D. LINDLEY  
1010 MIDLAND BANK BUILDING  
MINNEAPOLIS

January 19, 1942

To the Holders of Certificates of  
Beneficial Interest in Erling  
and Sigrid Strom Second Mortgage:

I received from Erling Strom check covering interest due to January 1, 1942 on the second mortgage of \$3,000.00 on his property at Stowe, Vermont, said interest being at the rate of 4% per annum. The mortgage and note are dated June 16, 1941, but the note recites that interest shall be computed from January 1, 1941.

I am therefore forwarding herewith check to each certificate holder for the amount of interest due him on his beneficial interest in this mortgage, as follows:

Duane Stranahan, Perrysburg, Ohio- - - - -	\$20.00
Mrs. Andrew McNally, Greenwich, Conn.- - - - -	20.00
Lowell Thomas, Pawling, New York - - - - -	20.00
Berent Friele, Graybar Bldg., New York City	10.00
Bernard Schaefer, 99 Wall St., New York City	10.00
Bruce Thorne, 135 S. La Salle St., Chicago	10.00
Charles F. Stokes, Harberth, Pa. - - - - -	10.00
Frederick Nicolls, 1531 Mineral Springs Road, Reading, Pennsylvania - - - - -	6.00
Miss Catherine Barton, Rockledge Drive, Pelham Manor, N. Y.- - - - -	4.00
Alfred D. Lindley- - - - -	<u>10.00</u>
	\$120.00

Erling reports that the season opened well at Stowe and he expects a good winter. Everyone is urged to visit him if possible.

Yours very truly,

*Alfred Lindley*

ALL:M  
Enclosure



# STROMS AT MANSFIELD

## STOWE, VERMONT

April 24. 1943?

Dear Tommy:

Thanks for the thought but we had such a wonderful weekend here so I will let that be my last one for this year, and not try to join up for Tuckermans . To the contrary I am going to New York. Might give you a ring there before or after the Weekend.

Meanwhile I am enclosing your dividend for the past two years, as part owner in "Stroms at Mansfield". (4% on \$500.<sup>00</sup>) The reason for no check coming forth last year was not so much the lack of money as the fact that Al Lindley who had been handling these things for me was running around in Alaska with the Navy. I had some stupid idea about waiting for him to do it. This year I feel that the waiting might go on for some time yet, so I am writing out these checks and distributing them myself.

We have had another good winter and are really getting along fine as far as this place is concerned. By next year we should begin to pay back the loan in a small way.

Sigrid wants to be remembered.

Sincerely

16 June.

ALSO: MOUNT ASSINIBOINE LODGE, BANFF, ALBERTA, CANADA

~~(1) 1945~~

# • STROMS AT MANSFIELD •

STOWE, VERMONT

November 3.  
1942

Dear Tommy:

On my return from the West two weeks ago I found the copy of your McKinley broadcast here in Stowe. Unfortunately I was on a train the day of that broadcast, but no sooner did I reach Toronto before people began to tell me about it. I had gotten some dope on Bradfords expedition from mutual friends in Minneapolis where he had stopped on his way back. He must have had a grand trip and I wish I had been with him. Some of my friends were particularly pleased that you referred to ours as the Lindley- Strom venture. So was I. It should have been done in the beginning and I think the mistake can be credited a newspaper man in Fairbanks. Thanks for the copy you sent me and for another " plug " on the air, if that is the right name for it. There has been a great many of them during these last 10 years, and sometimes I wonder if I myself realize how helpfull they have been to me. With the mountain conquered once more our trip will naturally from now on have to take a back seat. With the present development in aviation, it will probably be natural ~~for~~ for all future expeditions to make use of planes in one way or another. So if nothing else we may go down in history as the last ones to do McKinley in the old, plodding way. Also, we are still the only ones who have done both peaks.

As things stand with me right now the day may yet come when I will wish that I had never seen McKinley or any othe mountain for that matter. I have made a pretty sad discovery. The way I came to find out was that I was getting myself steamed up about these Norwegian speaking ski troops that are being trained out in Montana. I thought I would look into my own chances , as it seemed too bad not to get in on some of the fun. In discussing these matters with my friend Dr. Madison from Milwaukee out at camp this summer, he suggested that I stop over in Milwaukee on my way East for a thorough physical examination, before I took any drastic speps. So in Milwaukee I stopped. I was there for ten days and was looked over by more doctors than I had ever hoped to meet in one place. ( Should have told you that I for two or three years now have complained about some feeling of stiffness in my neck.) The final verdict was that I have something they call Hipotrophical Arthritis of Cervical Vertabrae, no more no less.

ALSO: MOUNT ASSINIBOINE LODGE, BANFF, ALBERTA, CANADA



# • STROMS AT MANSFIELD •

STOWE, VERMONT

2.

Its a hell of a thing and nothing that can be done about it. We did find one more dead tooth which was ~~put~~ pulled immediately. It seemed infected and might have had something to do with it. If so my Arthritis may stop where it is now, which would be all right. I can still turn my neck enough for all practical purposes. Naturally I have now orders to be more carefull than I have been in the past. No more hardships if I can avoid them. The thing seems to be to avoid ~~all~~ everything that might cause my neck to pain, as that will in turn make the Arthritis progress. As for ski troops that would be regarded as insanity. As Dr. Madison put it ( and he is probably one of the best men in the country on rheumatism ) I can still ski at home where I am my own boss and can quitt whenever the neck begins to hurt, but quite another thing would be to tie up with ski troops , where I had to stick to it through hell and high water. It leaves me up a tree so to speak. I might still make the ski troop grade by saying nothing, as my trouble is not easily detected, but would in all probability be out again within six months, and then possibly crippled for life. Neither the army nor I would gain much by that.

I have told you all this since you on one or two occations have mentioned my name in connection with ski troops. Thanks for doing it. Nothing would have been a better boost if I could have followed it up. *May get try later if that tooth proves to be the cause.*

Assiniboine was as fine as ever, and we had our best weather this year exactly at the time when Sonny was out and we had such bad weather last year. We finished the season with some good hunting as usual, and I shot myself a nice black Bear to add to my collection.

Stowe is hoping for a normal winter. With the lift running six days a week and the regular trains to Montreal also operating there should not be much change in our setup. People are working harder than ever and still need vacations.

I hope this will find you, Frances and Sonny all in good shape. I may come down for a few days between now and Christmas, in which case I would try to see you. I might even stay with my good friend Mac Mitchel who has now moved into the Hampshire House. You will probably run into him on the elevator.

Our best to all of you. We shall certainly hope to see you this winter if not before than.

Sincerely,

*Erling.*

*I have pulled it out in 10 years.*

Stowe, Vermont

November 3, 1942

Dear Tommy:

On my return from the West two weeks ago I found the copy of your McKinley broadcast here in Stowe. Unfortunately I was on a train the day of that broadcast, but no sooner did I reach Toronto before people began to tell me about it. I had gotten some dope on Bradford's expedition from mutual friends in Minneapolis where he had stopped on his way back. He must have had a grand trip and I wish I had been with him. Some of my friends were particularly pleased that you referred to ours as the Lindley-Strom venture. So was I. It should have been done in the beginning and I think the mistake can be credited a newspaper man in Fairbanks. Thanks for the copy you sent me and for another "plug" on the air, if that is the right name for it. There has been a great many of them during these last 10 years, and sometimes I wonder if I myself realize how helpful they have been to me. With the mountain conquered once more our trip will naturally from now on have to take a back seat. With the present development in aviation, it will probably be natural for all future expeditions to make use of planes in one way or another. So if nothing else we may go down in history as the last ones to do McKinley in the old, plodding way. Also, we are still the only ones who have done both peaks.

As things stand with me right now the day may yet come when I will wish that I had never seen McKinley or any other mountain for that matter. I have made a pretty sad discovery. The way I came to find out was that I was getting myself steamed up about those Norwegian speaking ski troops that are being trained out in Montana. I thought I would look into my own chances, as it seemed too bad not to get in on some of the fun. In discussing these matters with my friend Dr. Madison from Milwaukee out at camp this summer, he suggested that I stop over in Milwaukee on my way East for a thorough physical examination, before I took any drastic steps.



So in Milwaukee I stopped. I was there for ten days and was looked over by more doctors than I had ever hoped to meet in one place. (Should have told you that I for two or three years now have complained about some feeling of stiffness in my neck.) The final verdict was that I have something they call Hipotrophical Arthritis of Cervical Vertabrae, no more no less.

It's a hell of a thing and nothing can be done about it. We did find one more dead tooth which was pulled immediately. (Have pulled six of them in two years.) It seemed infected and might have had something to do with it. If so my arthritis may stop where it is now, which would be all right. I can still turn my neck enough for all practical purposes. Naturally I have now orders to be more careful than I have been in the past. No more hardships if I can avoid them. The thing ~~that~~ seems to be to avoid everything that might cause my neck to pain, as that will in turn make the arthritis progress. As for ski troops that would be regarded as insanity. As Dr. Madison put it (and he is probably one of the best men in the country on rheumatism) I can still ski at home where I am my own boss and can quit whenever the neck begins to hurt, but quite another thing would be to tie up with ski troops, where I had to stick to it through hell and high water. It leaves me up a tree so to speak. I might still make the ski troop grade by saying nothing, as my trouble is not easily detected, but would in all probability be out again within six months, and then possibly crippled for life. Neither the army nor I would gain much by that.

I have told you all this since you on one or two occasions have mentioned my name in connection with ski troops. Thanks for doing it. Nothing would have been a better boost if I could have followed it up. May yet try later if that tooth proves to be the cause.

Assiniboine was as fine as ever, and we had our best weather this year exactly at the time when Sonny was out and we had such bad weather last year. We finished the season with some good hunting as usual, and I shot myself a nice black bear to add to my collection.

Stowe is hoping for a normal winter. With the lift running six days a week and the regular trains to Montreal also operating, there should not



be much change in our setup. People are working harder than ever and still need vacations.

I hope this will find you, Frances and Sonny all in good shape. I may come down for a few days between now and Christmas, in which case I would try to see you. I might even stay with my good friend MacMitchel who has now moved into the Hampshire House. You will probably run into him on the elevator.

Our best to all of you. We shall certainly hope to see you this winter if not before that.

Sincerely,

Erling

**Lake Placid Club**  
**IN THE ADIRONDACKS**  
**Essex County, N.Y.**

April 22.

Dear Tommy:

I can well imagine that Franklin Griffin found me a bit vague. It so happened that he was too busy on my way to Stowe, so I talked to him on my return trip. I had already then found my little farm, and the various other sites, and was quite steamed up about that. As he himself knew very little about what part he might play in the whole setup, it was natural that we could only ~~vaguely~~ discuss possibilities in a vaguish manner. That we did in a very pleasant way.

Meanwhile Sigrid went with me over to look at the various possibilities, and completely fell for the farm. The more we think about it and talk about it the more perfect a proposition it seems to be. In our minds we have not only bought the darn thing, but we have rearranged the Red Brick House so that we can accommodate 24 guests in it next winter. We have installed a furnace in the very good cellar which will also give space for an excellent movie room. We have moved a couple of walls and installed two bathrooms in addition to the one already there. We have arranged for ample garage space in the Barn which is 130 feet long, and will also provide space for ski room, repair shop or anything else one might think of along those lines, when and if necessary. We have even bought a Station wagon (possibly 2nd hand) to transport our guests to and from the lift, and last but not least we have installed a tow rope on our back hill where classes are already in full swing.

In front of the house stands a beautiful tree, that for years has been considered Vermonts most perfect maple, so as a name for our Inn has been suggested "The Mansfield Maple." Another suggestion is "The Broken Skipole," referring to a brand I have on my horses in the west.

The only hitch now seems to be what we are going to use for money. The owner has his farm free from loans, which is no help. His price is now \$ 7500.- I doubt that he will come down any more. An additional \$ 2500.- is necessary for the improvements. I believe that nearly half of this round \$ 10000.- might be loaned in a bank. The other half must be raised otherwise.

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Handwritten notes in the middle-left section, including the word "Shave" and "Shave".

Handwritten notes on the right side, including the word "Shave" and "Shave".

Large handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including the word "Shave" and "Shave". A circled "6439" is visible in the lower-left area.



**Lake Placid Club**  
**IN THE ADIRONDACKS**  
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2.

No doubt I know enough people with enough money to help me swing this, but I am very much in doubt about how to approach them. The place has marvelous possibilities, with room for all kinds of expansion, beyond those 24 guests one could start with the first winter. Being right on the road between Stowe and Mansfield there should be practically no need of advertising. Every skier who goes to Mansfield next winter must pass the place and every skier in the East will go to Mansfield atleast once next winter.

That the value of property in those parts will increase with the coming of the lift is pretty certain, so I can't help to think that the thing is a good bet. Most likely the man would ask ten thousand next year for what he now asks seven thousand, five hundred.

I should hesitate to bother you with all this if I did not know that you were a fast reader, and both Sigrid and I have a great deal of faith in your judgment.

I hope to get to New York within this next month, and am anxious to get your opinion on this rotten situation in Norway. I tried to get hold of that story you mentioned by Leland Stowe, but did not succeed.

Best wishes to you all.

Sincerely,

~~C. B. - 8 p - Erling.  
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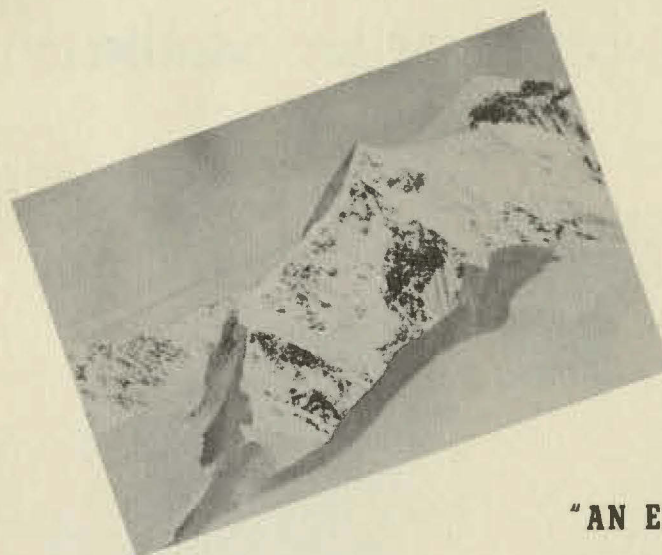
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The Commentator Magazine



Approaching the most formidable mountain on earth



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A camp on the way up

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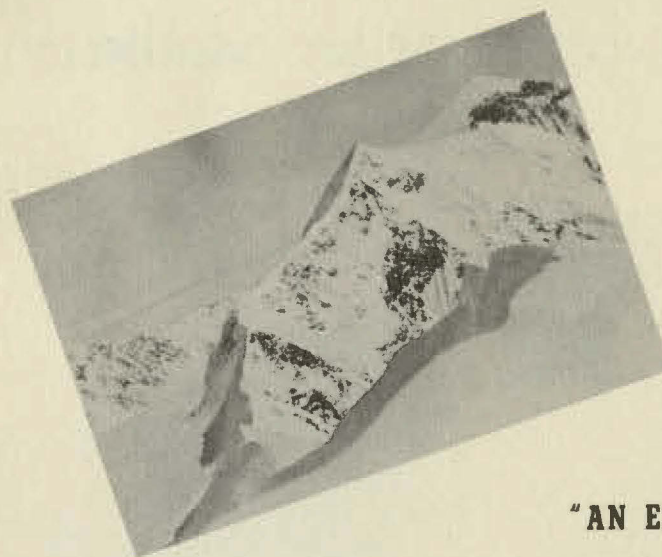
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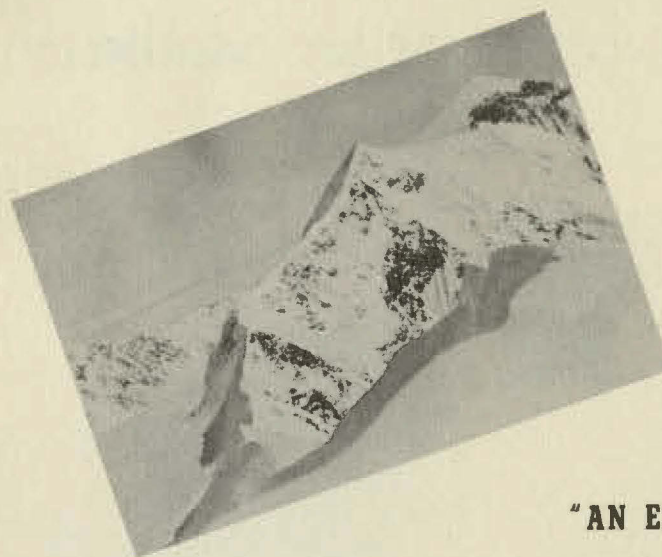
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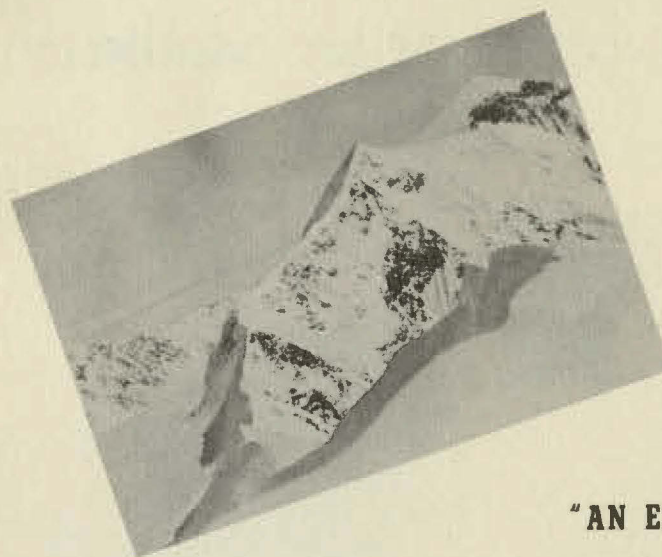
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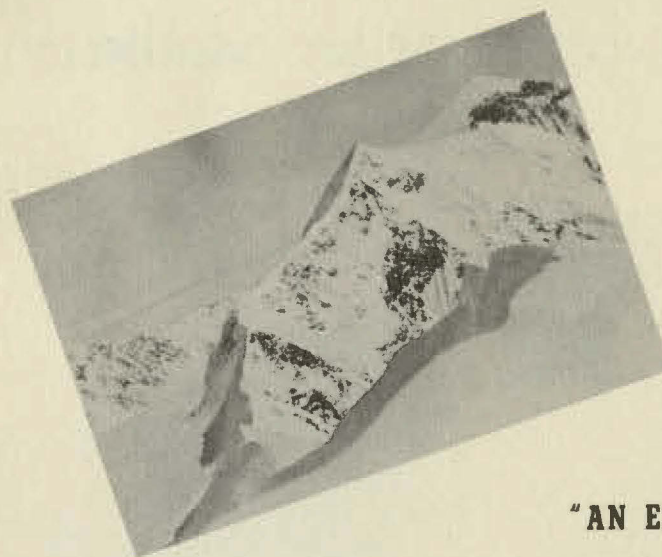
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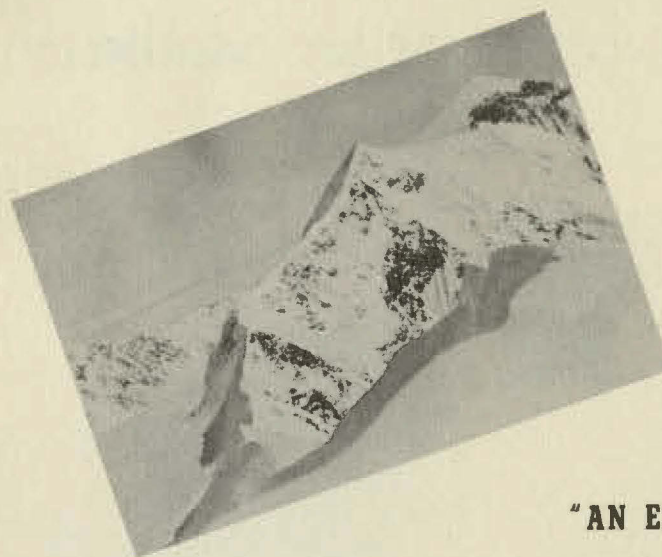
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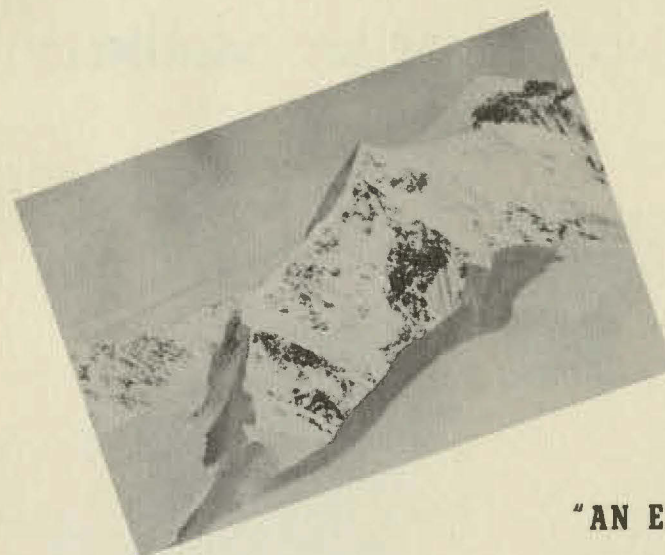
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