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Skiing at Saint John's: The Early Years

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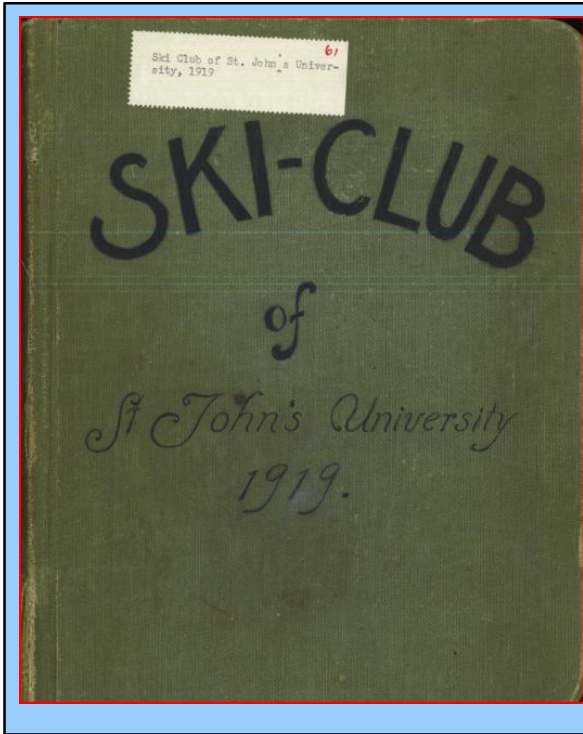
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First Ski Club

Skiing at Saint John's: The Early Years

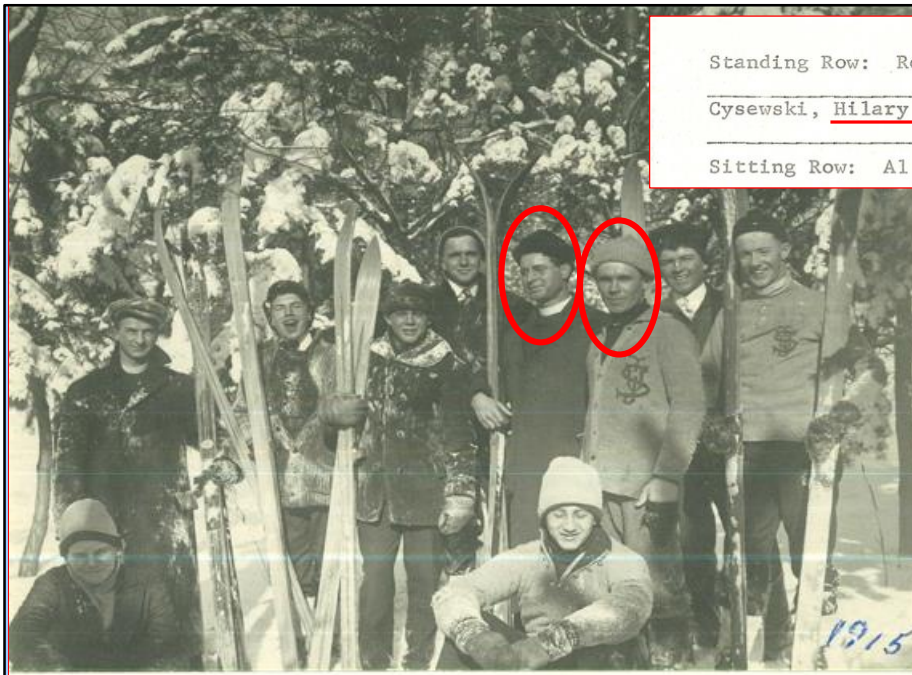
Photo from PC06 p.69



One of the many wonderful club & society ledgers in the SJU Archives

1919

Ski Club 1919 Stack 20/4 v.61 – cover and p. 3



First Ski Club

-1915-

Standing Row: Rev. Celestine Kapsner, OSB.,
_____, Florian Sullivan, Joseph
Cysewski, Hilary Doefler, OSB., Dennis Parnell,
_____, William H. Jackson.

Sitting Row: Al Wengert, Alfred Backes.

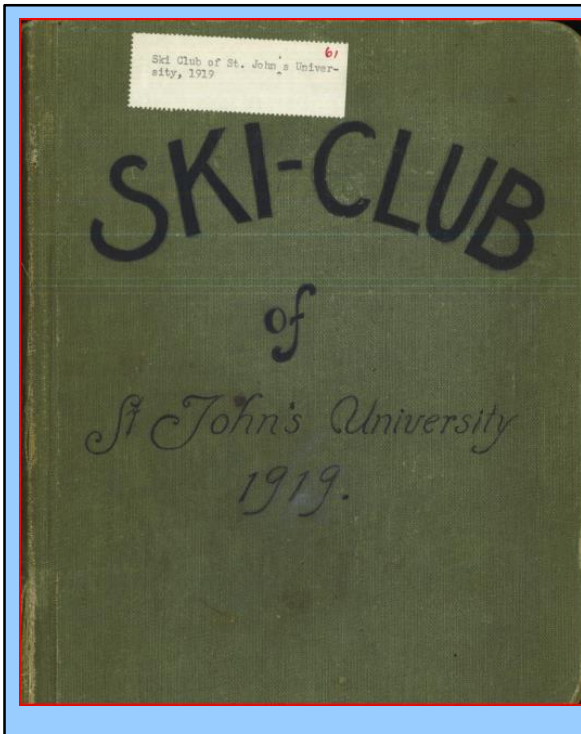
Hilary Doefler OSB

- 1876-1950
- physics prof
- set up first radio in 1915
- transferred to Oklahoma Abbey

Fr. Denis Parnell

- 1892-1984
- ministered in the Bahamas and to the Ojibwe

Photo from PC06 p.69



3

Constitution of the University Ski Club.

Name: Article I
This organization shall be known as the University Ski Club.

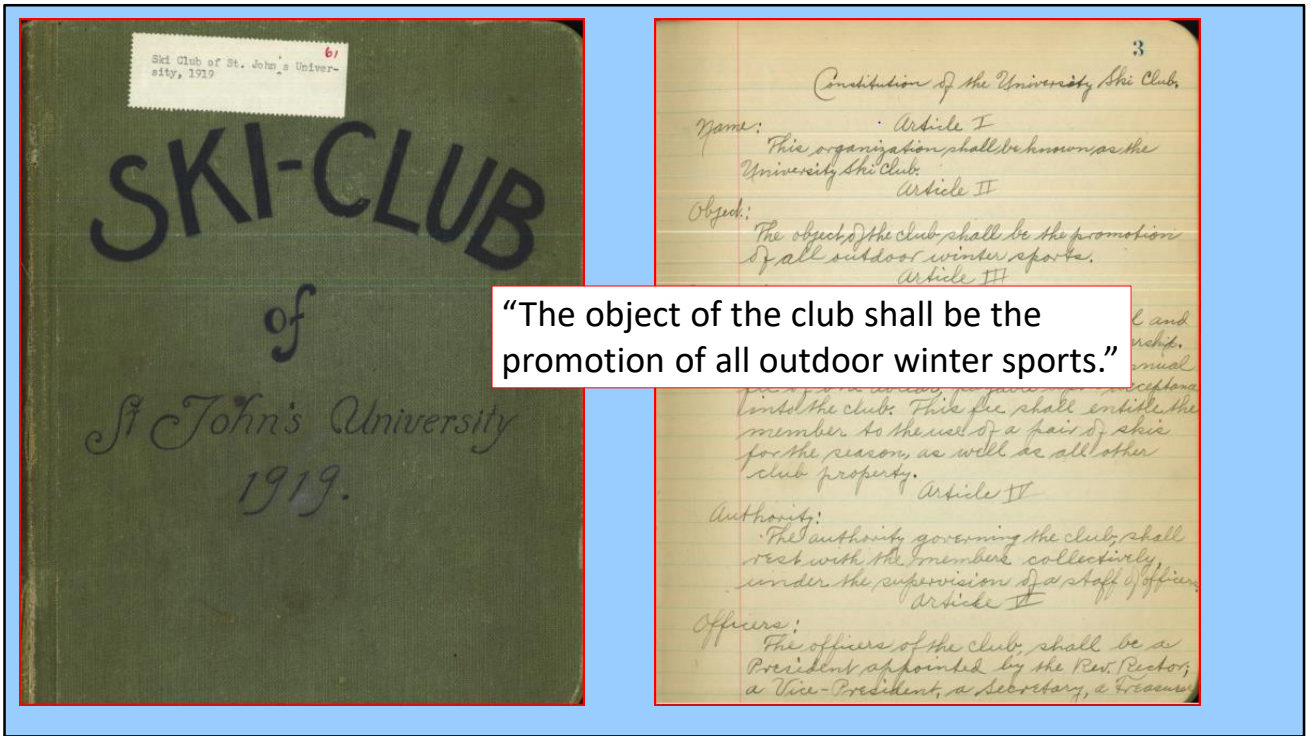
Object: Article II
The object of the club shall be the promotion of all outdoor winter sports.

Membership: Article III
Section I. All students of the Conil and Senior Halls are eligible for membership.
Section II. There shall be an annual fee of one dollar, payable upon acceptance into the club. This fee shall entitle the member to the use of a pair of skis for the season, as well as all other club property.

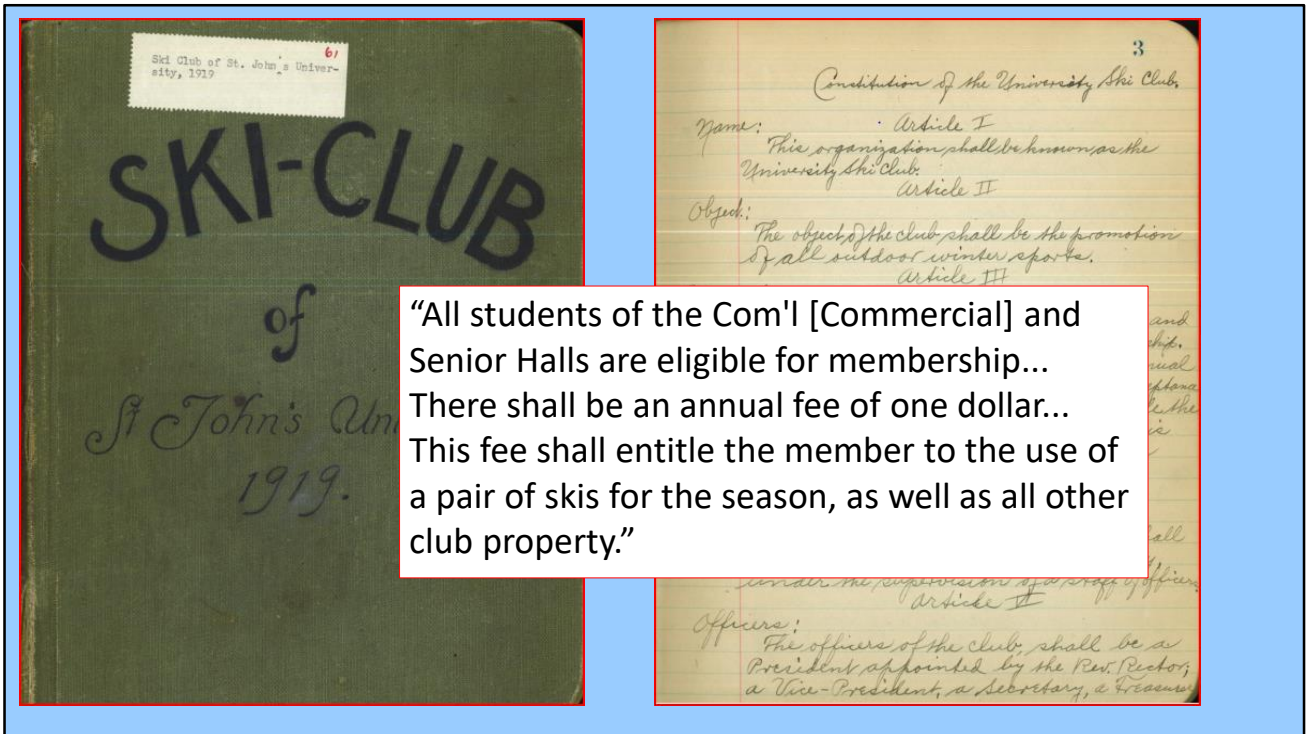
Authority: Article IV
The authority governing the club, shall rest with the members collectively, under the supervision of a staff of officers.

Officers: Article V
The officers of the club, shall be a President appointed by the Rest. Rector, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer,

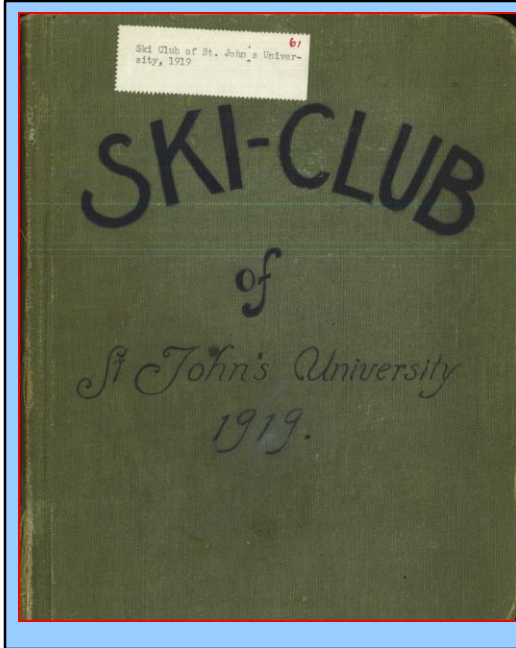
Ski Club 1919 Stack 20/4 v.61 – cover and p. 3



Ski Club 1919 Stack 20/4 v.61 – cover and p. 3



Ski Club 1919 Stack 20/4 v.61 – cover and p. 3



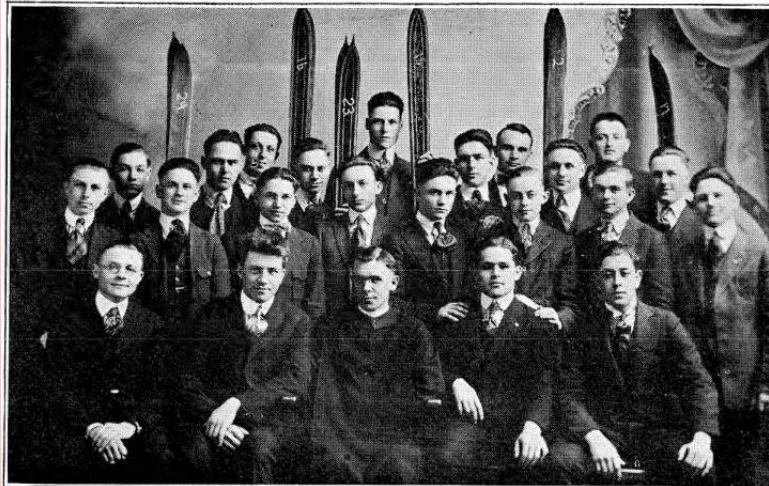
(p. 6)

Section F. The club shall possess all
skis, toboggans, or any other property of outdoor
winter sports, and these are to be used by
members only.

“The club shall possess [sic] all skis,
tobaggons [sic], or any other property
of outdoor winter sports, and these
are to be used by members only.”

(Spelling was obviously not their forte!)

Ski Club 1919 Stack 20/4 v.61 – cover and p. 6



THE SKI CLUB

1919

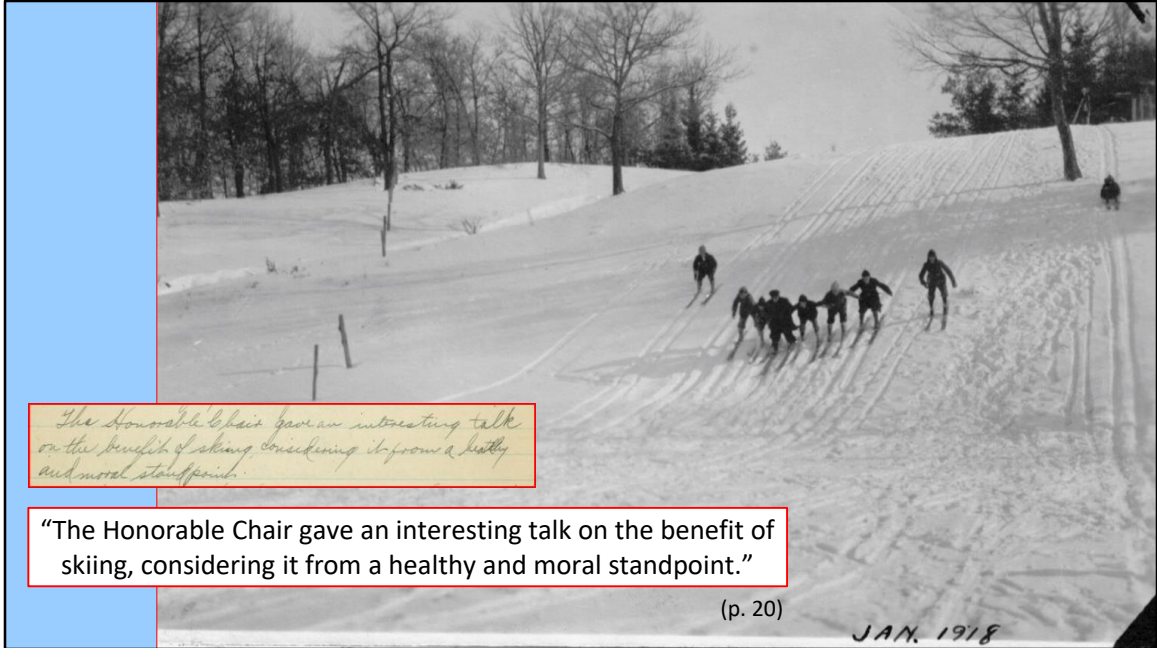
It was decided that the ski club should have its picture taken Sunday afternoon March 9, 1919, and which they did.

“It was decided that the ski club should have its picture taken Sunday afternoon March 9, 1919, and which they did.”

1919 *Sagatagan* yearbook, p. 79 (p. 40 of the pdf)

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/17055/show/17037>

Note about photo from Ski Club 1919 ledger Stack 20/4 v.61 p. 13



The Honorable Chair gave an interesting talk on the benefit of skiing, considering it from a healthy and moral standpoint.

“The Honorable Chair gave an interesting talk on the benefit of skiing, considering it from a healthy and moral standpoint.”

(p. 20)

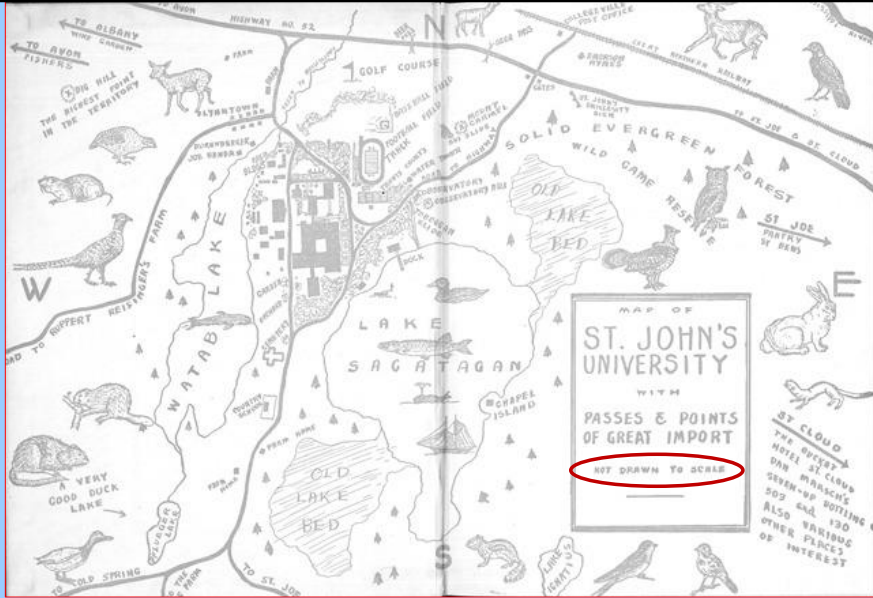
JAN. 1918

On back: “Skiing near Watab (1917)? 3rd from R: Leo Hohmann / Lew ___ / Fr. Basil Stegman OSB”

Unprocessed photo from Abbey Archives

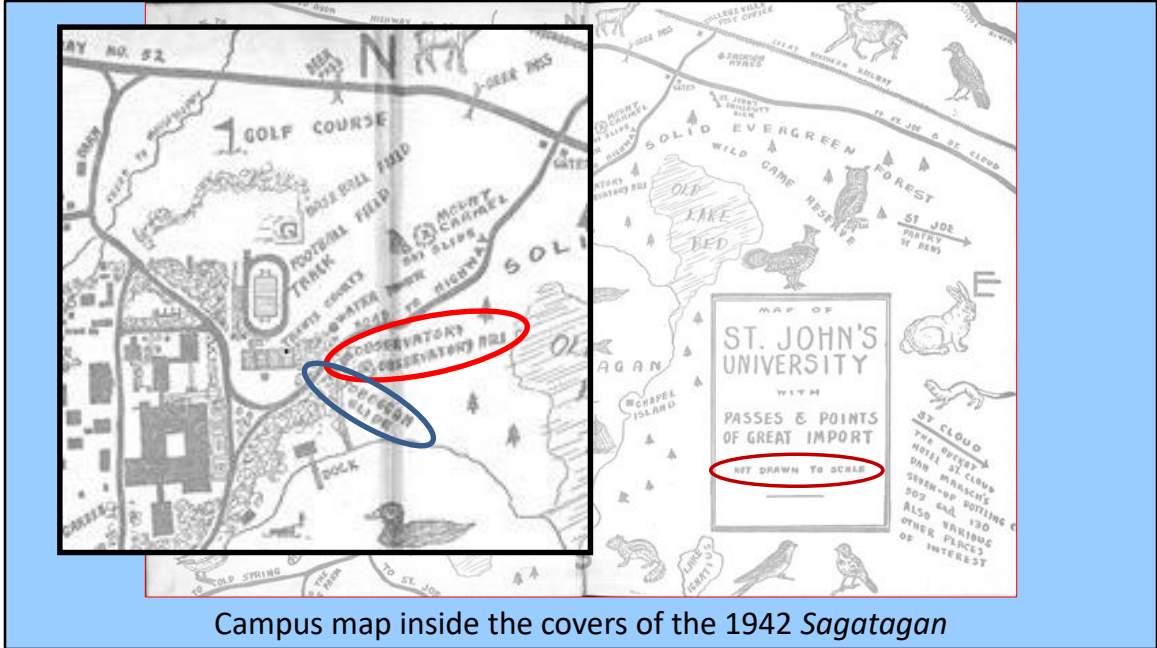
Inset from Ski Club 1919 ledger Stack 20/4 v.61 p. 20

To get the
geography
straight
(sort of!):



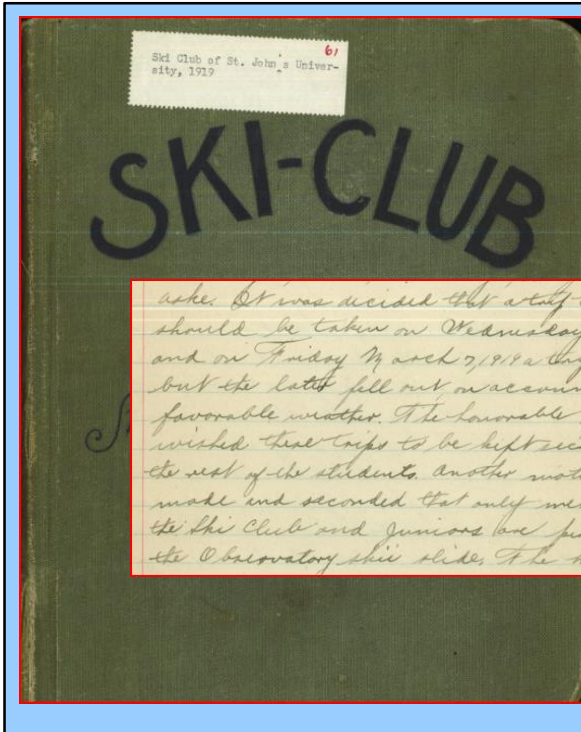
Campus map inside the covers of the 1942 *Sagatagan*

Campus map from inside the covers of the 1942 *Sagatagan* yearbook



Campus map inside the covers of the 1942 *Sagatagan*

Campus map from inside the covers of the 1942 *Sagatagan* yearbook



“It was decided that a trip to St. Joe should be taken on Wednesday March 5, 1919, and on Friday March 7, 1919 a trip to Avon, but the latter fell out on account of unfavorable weather...”

1919

Ski Club 1919 ledger Stack 20/4 v.61 p. 12



On the hill
west of
campus –
now Fruit
Farm Road

ca. 1920

LP225 – Unknown. Early Cross Country Skiing. (Judging by the buildings, it would have been ca. 1920.)

Ski Club members in Avon



1923

Photo from red scrapbook??

Junior Skiing and Tournament

One of the most healthful of the outdoor sports enjoyed by the Juniors during the long winter months was skiing. The youthful enthusiasts had excellent opportunities in this line of winter sport, having an access to a large sorted stock of skis, while hills varying in size and steepness are plentiful around the vicinity.

1919 *Sagatagan*



Photo from red scrapbook in the SJU Archives

Text from 1919 *Sagatagan* yearbook, p. 78-79 (p. 39-40 of the pdf)

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/17055/show/17037>

1919 Sagatagan



1919 Ski Club ledger:

Article XI
Section I. The club shall hold two
ski tournaments each season. The
results of both tournaments shall decide
the winners in the various events. All
members of the club are strongly urged



“The club shall hold two ski tournaments each season. The results of both tournaments shall decide the winners in the various events. All members of the club are strongly urged...”

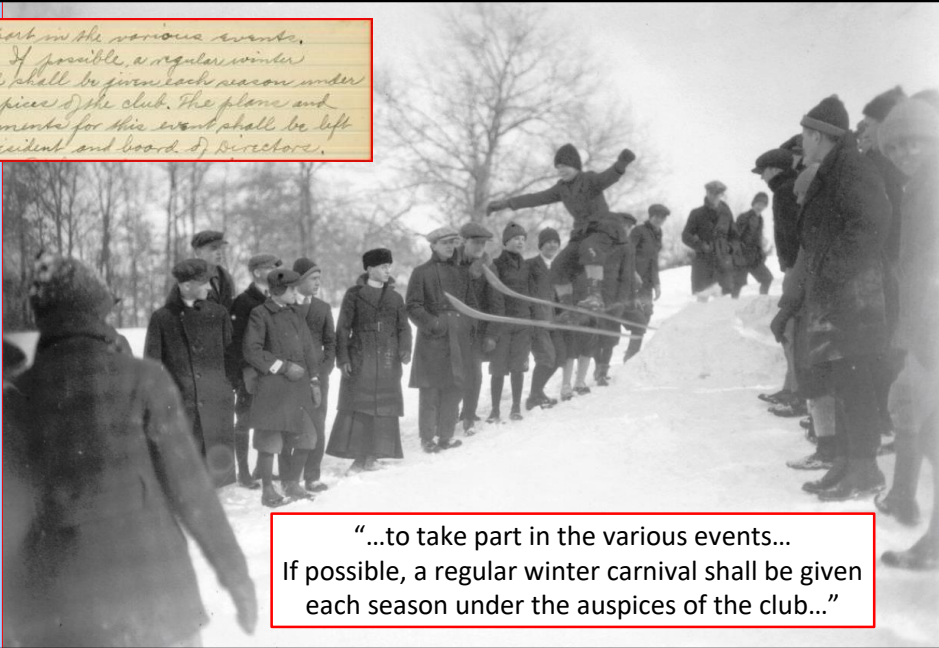
1919

Ski Club 1919 ledger Stack 20/4 v.61 p. 20

Left photo from 1919 *Sagatagan*, p. 77; right photo 1920 from red scrapbook in the SJU Archives

Handwritten entry from Ski Club 1919 ledger Stack 20/4 v.61 p. 6-7

*To take part in the various events,
Sections. If possible, a regular winter
carnival shall be given each season under
the auspices of the club. The plans and
arrangements for this event shall be left
to the President and board of Directors.*



1920s

“...to take part in the various events...
If possible, a regular winter carnival shall be given
each season under the auspices of the club...”

On back: “Junior ski jump near Watab / 1920-29 / 1922”
Unprocessed photo from Abbey Archives
Handwritten entry from Ski Club 1919 ledger Stack 20/4 v.61 p. 6-7



(date
unknown)

O:\Archives\SJUArchives\Images\Athletics\Winter sports\Skiing\Other Sports 1890-1983 p.73.jpg



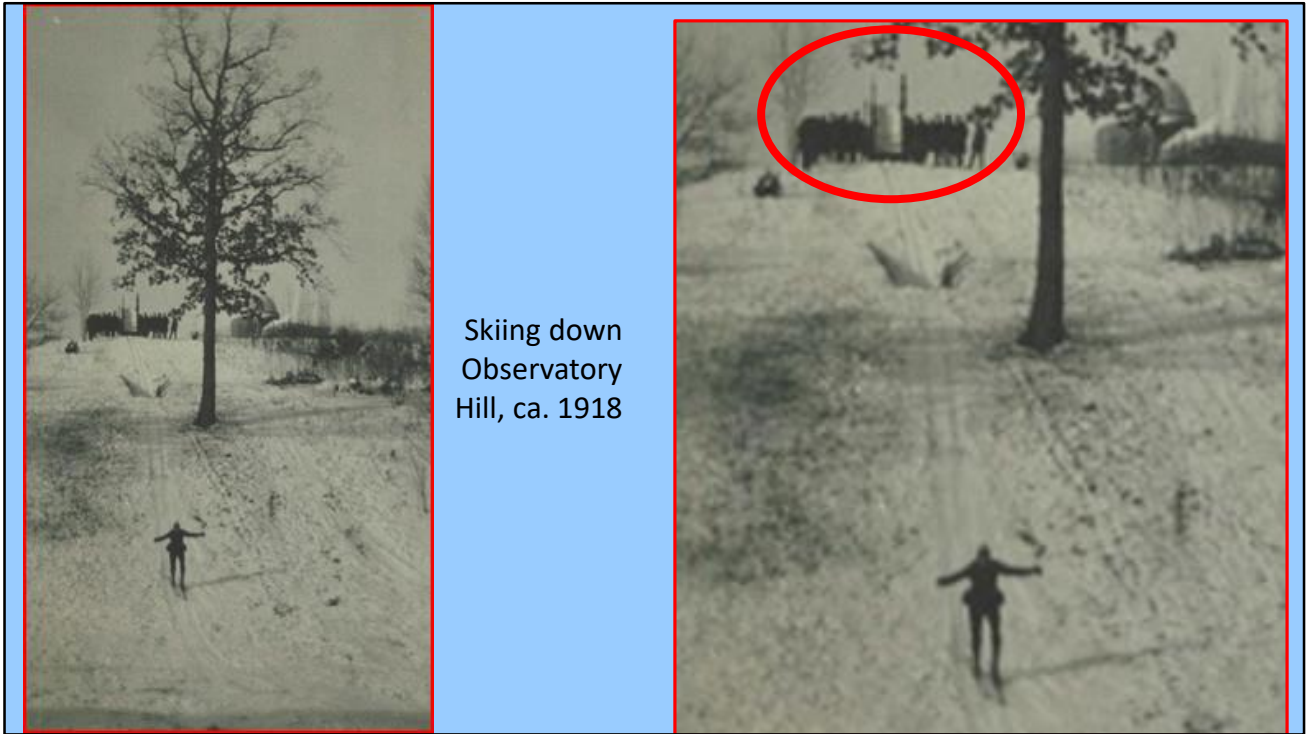
On back: Fr. Denis' Ski Club conducts a Ski Meet for the enthusiasts / 1920's
Unprocessed photo from Abbey Archives



On back: "Skiing near Watab (1917)? 3rd from R: Leo Hohmann / Lew ___ / Fr. Basil Stegman OSB"

Unprocessed photo from Abbey Archives

Inset from Ski Club 1919 ledger Stack 20/4 v.61 p. 20



Skiing down
Observatory
Hill, ca. 1918

Photo: Ski jumping by Observatory from red scrapbook, ca. 1918



Tobogganers on ramp. On back: 1916
Unprocessed photo from Abbey Archives

The nerve-testing and hair-raising toboggan slide could not be erected this winter, although efforts were made, since the earth was clothed too scantily and the winter was too mild. Hence the lads took more interest in skiing despite the fact that the cushion of grizzly winter was somewhat hard. It was not before March 7 that the much-desired ski tournament and the long contemplated ski hike could be pulled off.

1919 Sagatagan



Photo from red scrapbook in the SJU Archives

Text from 1919 *Sagatagan* yearbook, p. 78-79 (p. 39-40 of the pdf)

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SJUArchives/id/17055/show/17037>



(date unknown)

Tobogganers on ramp. On back: 1902 (but incorrect?)
Unprocessed photo from Abbey Archives



(date
unknown)

Tobogganers' (and skiers') ramp.
Unprocessed photo from Abbey Archives



Campus map inside the covers of the 1942 *Sagatagan*

Campus map from inside the covers of the 1942 *Sagatagan* yearbook

PAGE 2

of the campus, another crowd of snow-seasoners was gathered to watch the first skier swish down Mount Carmel's 400-foot scaffolding. John Kiewel, northern Norwegian star, soared off the jump for 112½ feet and made a beautiful landing—on his nose. In his wake came twenty-three other champions out to get a coveted Carnival Cup.

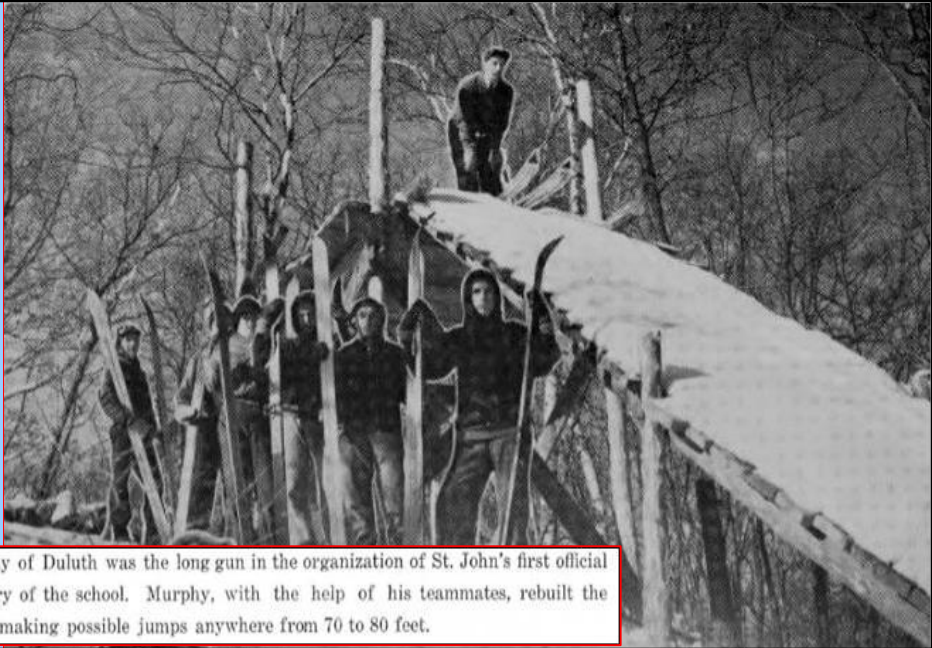
1936 *Sagatagan*

Tobogganers' (and skiers') ramp. Unprocessed photo from Abbey Archives.

Inset text from 1936 Sagatagan_Page_46

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/41634/rec/2>

1941
Sagatagan



Randall Murphy of Duluth was the long gun in the organization of St. John's first official ski team in the history of the school. Murphy, with the help of his teammates, rebuilt the Mount Carmel Slide, making possible jumps anywhere from 70 to 80 feet.

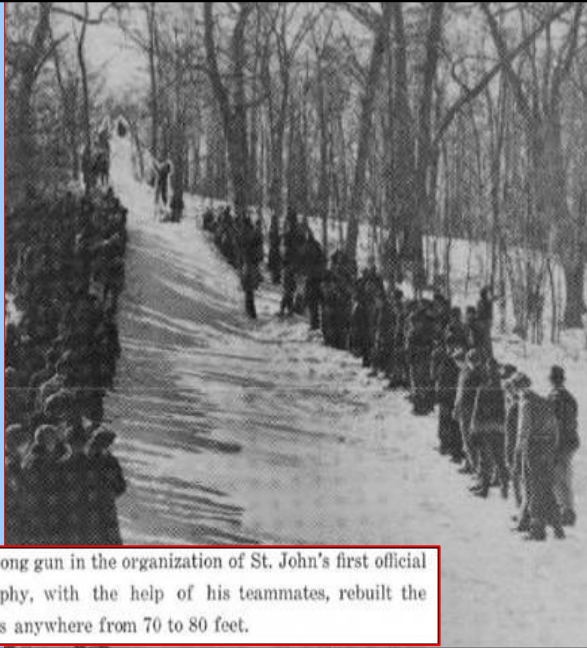
1940 Sagatagan p.83 (p. 42 of the pdf)

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/28483/rec/3>

1940 Sagatagan p.84

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/28484/rec/3>

1941
Sagatagan



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1940 Sagatagan p.83 (p. 42 of the pdf)

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/28483/rec/3>

1940 Sagatagan p.84

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/28484/rec/3>



High-flying Murphy

Skiing

A bigger better slide—a conference championship meet—a better ski team—that is what the St. John's ski team under the direction of their untiring student coach, senior Randall Murphy, accomplished during the last season.

Veteran college men back from last year's team included coach Murphy, Jim Courtney, and Bob Strobel.

In the first Minnesota intercollegiate ski meet held at Mount Carmel, the Johnnies took third, fourth and fifth places. Four teams, representing St. Olaf, Concordia, Gustavus, and St. John's participated.

A week later, Murphy and his men copped first place in an intercollegiate meet at St. Olaf. Then, on the next day, they took part in the *Tribune* Park Board Meet. It was in this meet that Jim Courtney, wearing number "13", met with disaster—the result, two cracked vertebrae and a tin can to wear for a couple of months.

Though marred by his teammate's injury, Murphy thus climaxed his collegiate skiing career in a year which reached a new height in Johnny skiing.

1941
Sagatagan

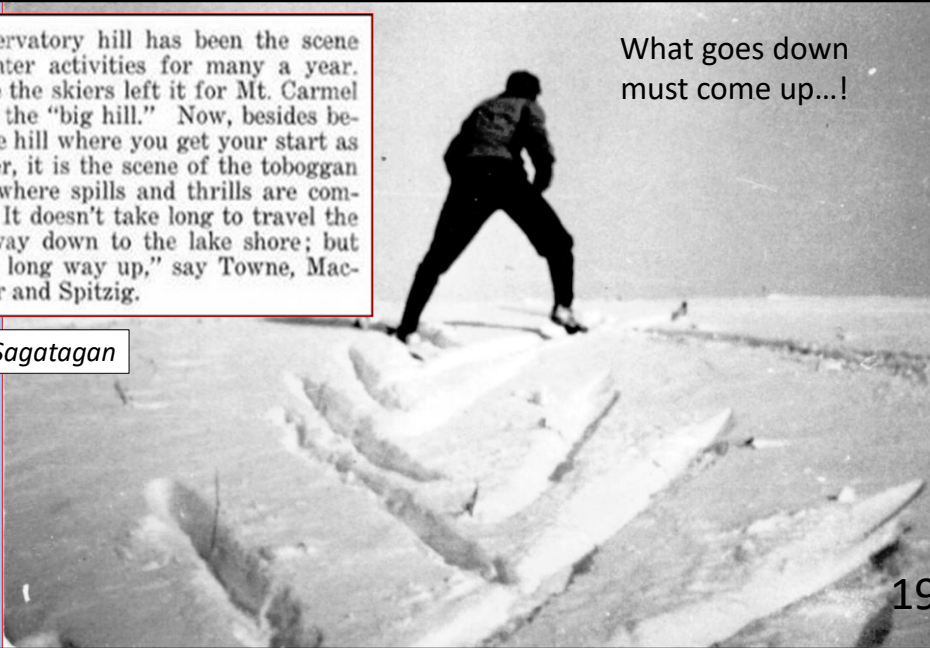
1941 Sagatagan_Page_39

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/18404/rec/4>

Observatory hill has been the scene of winter activities for many a year. Before the skiers left it for Mt. Carmel it was the "big hill." Now, besides being the hill where you get your start as a skier, it is the scene of the toboggan slide, where spills and thrills are common. It doesn't take long to travel the long way down to the lake shore; but "it's a long way up," say Towne, MacArthur and Spitzig.

What goes down must come up...!

1941 Sagatagan



1920s

Skier climbing hill. On back: 1920-1929. Unprocessed photo from Abbey Archives.
Inset: 1941 Sagatagan p .44

<http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/SJUArchives/id/18409/rec/4>

Or...take the easy way of skiing...?

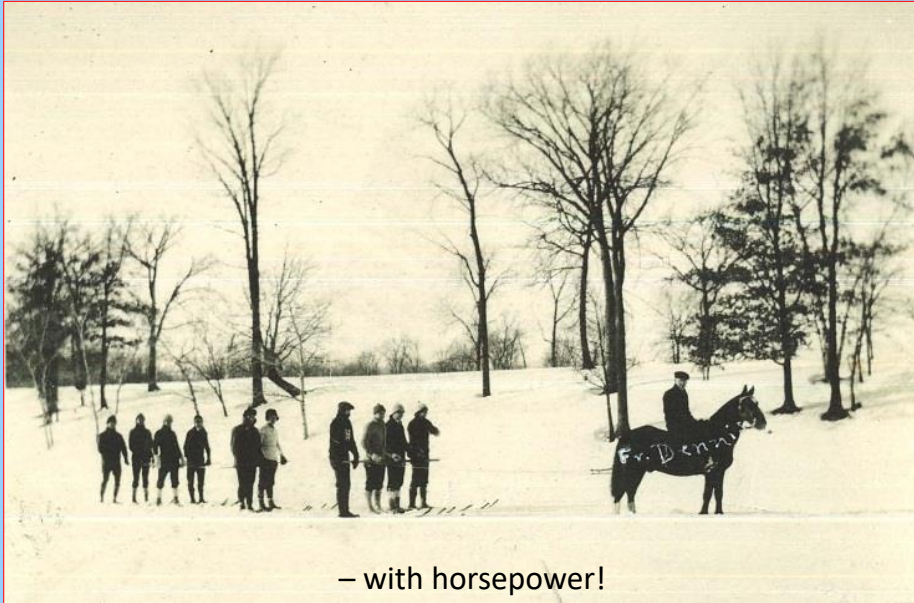


“Ski Club Fr. Denis 1920-1929”

On top: “a pull with the nag, by Jove”

On back: Ski Club Fr. Denis 1920-1929

Unprocessed photo from Abbey Archives



– with horsepower!

Photo from PC06 p.63



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On back: "Junior ski jump near Watab / 1920-29 / 1922"
Unprocessed photo from Abbey Archives