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## The Ongoing Legacy of the Franconia Ski Club

*by Meghan McCarthy McPhaul*

When the Franconia Ski Club was founded in the White Mountains of New Hampshire in 1933, its focus was one part skiing, one part social, and one large part promoting winter recreation in the Franconia area. While the club has evolved into a junior ski racing organization, its earliest members included area business owners and ski enthusiasts looking to attract winter visitors to the area and to increase opportunities for winter recreation. From its founding members to its most recent famous alumnus, the Franconia Ski Club has included a collection of characters who have made significant contributions to the development of American skiing.

These illustrious members include some of the area's earliest ski promoters: Robert Peckett Sr., proprietor of Pecketts-on-Sugar Hill; his daughter Katharine Peckett, who organized the first alpine-oriented resort-based ski school in North America at Pecketts in 1929; and Franconia shopkeeper Roland Peabody, who would in 1938 become the first manager of the state-owned Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway, a post he would hold until his death in 1950. Other early FSC members included longtime *Eastern Ski Bulletin* editor Enzo Serafini; Sno Engineering founder Sel Hannah, along with other Sno Engineering leaders Joe Cushing, Jim Branch, and Ted Farwell; and American Ski

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*New England Ski Museum Collection*

*Franconia Ski Club member Roger Peabody raced in the first giant slalom race held in the US, in April 1937 in Tuckerman Ravine.*

*Meghan McCarthy McPhaul learned to ski at Cannon Mountain around the same time she learned to walk. She was a Franconia Ski Club racer as a kid and has also coached for the club. A former small-town newspaper reporter and Ski Museum member, Meghan is a freelance writer and is working on a book about the history of Cannon Mountain, to be published in the summer of 2011 by The History Press.*

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Technique developer Paul Valar. Ski racing, although not the singular focus of the club until the late 1960s, was always a part of FSC, and notable competitors who have come through the club include Olympians Joan Hannah (1960 and '64), Gordi Eaton (1960 and '64), and Bode Miller (1998, 2002, 2006, 2010).

When Peabody and seven others signed the ski club charter on April 21, 1933, skiing was a novel concept in the region. The first U.S. National Downhill Championships had been held one month earlier on the Moosilauke carriage road (for lack of a mountain ski trail). Sig Buchmayr had made the inaugural run in February of the Richard Taft Trail on Cannon Mountain, the first trail in New England cut specifically for skiing. The Taft was not even completed until the summer of 1933, when the Civilian Conservation Corps finished the work started in 1932. While Kate Peckett and her parents had opened their ski school four winters before, the first rope tow in the area would not begin operation until 1935, on Travena Hill in Lisbon.<sup>1</sup>

Of the eight founders of the ski club who signed the charter, only two were from Franconia: Peabody, who had learned to ski at Peckett's and would be a crucial proponent of building a tramway on Cannon Mountain, and Edward McKenzie, an

innkeeper. The other charter signers – Stephen Simonds and Hascall Stimson from Lisbon and Henry Dodge, Kenneth Foley, John Mathes, and Stephen Eaton from Littleton – included businessmen who were also ski enthusiasts and saw the great potential for developing skiing into big recreation and big business in the area.

The club began taking shape in late winter of 1933, as skiers and business people held a series of meetings at various inns. An article in the April 10, 1933 *Manchester Union* newspaper noted Robert Peckett as the new club's honorary chairman, Peabody as president, McKenzie as vice president, Littleton attorney (and later judge) Dodge as secretary, and Franconia postmaster Arthur Sawyer as treasurer. Other board members included Kate Peckett, Lucy Bowles and Leo Hibbard of Franconia, Stimson of Lisbon, and Littleton dentist Eaton. At its start, the ski club boasted 116 members, including 26 children.<sup>2</sup>

While skiing figured prominently in the new club's name, its stated purpose was:

“For the social recreation and improvement of its members, fostering and developing outdoor sports such as skiing, skating, hunting, fishing, building and



*Courtesy of Enzo Serafini Collection*

*Social events were a major part of the Franconia Ski Club's activities in its early years.*

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constructing trails and huts, and such other social and athletic activities as may be for the benefit of its members; to arrange and conduct skiing exhibitions, and matches between its members and other clubs.”<sup>3</sup>

These founding members wasted no time in setting to work on their stated mission. During the spring and summer of 1933, ski movies were shown and dances organized to raise funds for creating ski trails. According to an untitled newspaper clipping from the Enzo Serafini Collection dated July 25, 1933, that summer Olympic skier Charlie Proctor inspected local trails maintained by the FSC in order to suggest work to existing trails and identify potential new trail locations.

Shortly after the club was founded, talk of building an aerial tramway in the White Mountains began, and subsequent surveys found Cannon Mountain to be the choice location for such a venture. Members of the ski club lobbied the state to pursue the tramway project in April of 1934, noting that skiing had provided some \$30,000 in revenue to Franconia the previous winter.<sup>4</sup> After delays over funding for the project, the state eventually built the tram, and when it opened in 1938 as the first aerial tramway at a ski area in North America, it thrust Cannon further into the country’s skiing spotlight.

FSC members worked to ensure not only that skiers from afar knew about the mountain and what it had to offer in the way of skiing, but that once visitors arrived in Franconia, they had entertainment off the slopes as well. Indeed, for many years the club hosted more Saturday night dances – complete with orchestras and, often, festive themes – than ski races during winter months. One February 1947 dance, themed the “Gay Nineties Party” was held at the Franconia Town Hall with waltzes, fox trots, “round and square dances.” Admission was 60 cents, and costumes were encouraged, with movie star and part time Sugar Hill resident Bette Davis acting as a costume judge.<sup>5</sup> FSC members traveled to other nearby hills – Mt. Eustis in Littleton, Travena Hill in Lisbon – for social and ski events. In the club’s earliest days, these occasions often included a day of skiing followed by a dinner and group singing.

The club held contests during the winter holidays to encourage businesses and residents to decorate their buildings as a way of “brightening the town up and letting people know what exists as they drive through the night.”<sup>6</sup> The club also maintained a skating rink in Franconia and for a time ran a ski tow at Forest Hills Hotel (later Franconia College). Other club events included fundraisers like the Monte Carlo Night during the 1960s and 1970s, which included casino games and an auction and would garner upwards of \$2,000 in some years.<sup>7</sup>

The promotional efforts of club members went well beyond Christmas decorations and parties. A newspaper photo dated December 1935 from the Enzo Serafini Collection shows club members Sig Buchmayr (of Peckett’s), Roland Peabody, and others at a club-sponsored exhibit, complete with a map of Franconia-area ski trails, at the National Winter Sports Exposition in the Boston Garden. A December 1936 clip from the same collection shows four smiling FSC juniors – Norwood Ball, Bertram Herbert, Roger Peabody, and Robert Clark – who under Buchmayr’s direction put on a skiing demonstration in

Madison Square Garden before a crowd of thousands.

During the 1950s, the publicity duo of Jack Kenney, the witty innkeeper of Tamarack, and Enzo Serafini, who served for many years as editor of the *Eastern Ski Bulletin*, placed regular and copious articles in the *Littleton (N.H.) Courier*, as well as in Boston and New York papers. For some years, in fact, as part of its annual agreement with the New Hampshire Division of Parks, FSC agreed to assist the state in public relations and to “work closely with [the] park manager in establishing major races that could achieve wide-spread publicity.”<sup>8</sup> When the club hosted the 1956 Junior National Championships, FSC President Bob Edge not only reached out to the local press, but invited ski writer Denise McCluggage of the *New York Herald Tribune* to visit Franconia, and for her trip to town organized a cocktail party at the Horse & Hound Inn attended by assorted Cannon and FSC dignitaries.<sup>9</sup> Following her trip to Franconia, McCluggage featured Cannon and the Junior National races in her columns dated December 14, 15, and 16.

Club activities did not end just because the snow melted in the spring. For many years, beginning in the 1940s, the FSC organized a popular summer softball league for adults. The games, held at the Dow Academy field, often resulted in broken windows at the school. “All the kids were up there on their bikes running around, and the guys were all drinking beer,” remembers Joan Hannah, whose mother Paulie was an ace pitcher in the league, as well as being a devoted fundraiser for FSC and the United States Eastern Amateur Ski Association for many years.<sup>10</sup> There were also bowling parties and cookouts and swimming at Forest Lake in Littleton or Echo Lake at the base of Cannon.<sup>11</sup>

## A Legacy of Ski Races and Racers

Of course, there were ski races, too. Many of them. During the 1950s and ‘60s, FSC held an annual preseason meet in December (if there was enough snow), which included giant slalom, slalom, cross country, and jumping competitions for senior racers and included many college competitors. The winner of the giant slalom event was awarded the Joel S. Coffin III Memorial Bowl, named for one of Robert Peckett’s grandsons who was killed in action in Iola Italy in March 1945 while serving with Company E, 86<sup>th</sup> Mountain Regiment.<sup>12</sup> Joel Coffin III’s brother Ross Coffin was a supporter of FSC’s junior program for many years. FSC assisted the Ski Club Hochgebirge in running its annual Hochgebirge Challenge Cup race at Cannon, which during the 1930s and 1940s was on the Taft Trail and is now held on the Gary’s trail, still run by the club. FSC also hosted the Cannon races, held regularly through the 1960s, in which competitors would race the clock from summit to base on the Cannon Trail to earn a “Gold Cannon” or “Silver Cannon” and the bragging rights associated with such a feat. The club hosted larger races as well, including the 1946 Nationals on the Taft (in conjunction with the Hochgebirge Challenge Cup) and the 1956 Junior Nationals the Cannon and Zoomer trails.

During ski races, the club often organized lodging and dinners for out-of-town competitors. At a November 1939 meeting, a club member reported “approximately forty-five



Courtesy of Enzo Serafini Collection

Left to right: Hester Underhill, Jack Kenney, Rae Ford, Clinton Underhill.

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housewives had expressed their willingness to cooperate with the Club at the time of ski meets by furnishing participants their board and lodgings.” Luckily for the housewives, someone at the meeting also suggested organizing suppers at the Town Hall for racers so they didn’t need to be fed as well as housed.<sup>13</sup>

The 1946 race was the first U.S. National Ski Championships since 1942, when World War II interrupted ski competitions. The FSC committee charged with staging the races included Enzo Serafini, Fletcher Brown, Bernard Herbert, Sel Hannah, Roland Peabody, Harry Carpenter, and Ed Blood. Famous radio newscaster Lowell Thomas was on hand for the races, broadcasting from the Tramway’s Valley Station. The races drew a crowd of competitors, spectators, reporters and photographers so that “every inch of rooming space in Franconia and for miles around [was] jammed to absolute capacity.”<sup>14</sup> Roughly 1,200 passengers rode the Tram the Sunday of the races, which “got March off to a pre-war clip” according to a March 7, 1946 report in the *Littleton Courier*. The article also lauded FSC for “smooth efficiency of operation” during the Nationals and noted a banquet was held for competitors on Saturday evening at the town hall, complete with hand-painted murals on the walls and windows.<sup>15</sup>

The downhill and slalom events were held on the Taft, with some 150 racers competing. The tone of the races was somber following the death of a West Point racer, Capt. Samuel Victor Constant, who died during a practice run when he flew off course and hit a tree.<sup>16</sup> Paula Kann of North Conway won the women’s downhill. A few years later she would marry Paul Valar and move to Franconia, where for decades the couple ran the Franconia and Mittersill ski schools as well as several ski shops. Skiing for the FSC, Paulie Hannah was 11<sup>th</sup> in the women’s slalom competition. On the men’s side of the downhill, Sig Buchmayr in 10<sup>th</sup> and Bernard Herbert in 13<sup>th</sup> were the top finishers for FSC.<sup>17</sup>

Junior racers were also part of the ski club, although certainly not to the extent that they are today. The club promoted skiing by offering instruction to area children and ensuring they had the necessary equipment to ski. During the 1940s and 1950s junior racers had the opportunity to train during the winter holiday break from school. Joan Hannah, a prominent junior racer for the club in the 1950s, remembers attending training camps at Cannon or Stowe, Vermont, with juniors from all over the East. Boys and girls attended separate camps.<sup>18</sup> Dow Academy, then the local high school, also provided ski instruction and coaching by some of its teachers, including Gil Rhodes,<sup>19</sup> Emmy Johnson, and Ollie Cole.<sup>20</sup>

Although FSC had relatively meager financial coffers, it helped pay the way for its junior racers to attend competitions as part of the Eastern contingent, including three athletes – Hannah, Bruce Leavitt, and Sandy Eastman – who traveled to Whitefish, Montana, for the 1955 Junior Nationals. FSC senior members Ross Coffin (Robert Peckett’s grandson and then owner of Pecketts-on-Sugar Hill) as manager and Nancy Miller as chaperone traveled with the team at their own expense, and FSC financed the trip for coach Ollie Cole.<sup>21</sup> For Hannah, that competition was the second of four Junior National events she would race, including in Jackson, Wyoming, in 1954, Cannon

in 1956, and Reno, Nevada, in 1957.

Like the 1946 U.S. Nationals, the 1956 Junior National races were a big event for the club. It was the first time all four events of the Junior Nationals – slalom, downhill, cross-country, jumping – had been held in the East. In fact, the club had to build a 40-meter jump for the event, an endeavor that cost nearly \$5,000. The state promised to contribute \$2,000 to the construction of the jump, but did not make good on that promise until 1947, following much prodding by FSC officers.<sup>22</sup>

A full-page article in the February 23, 1956 *Littleton Courier* by ski club President Robert Edge introduced key FSC members assisting in the race, including Phil Robertson, Sel Hannah, Ollie Cole, Paul Valar, Roger Peabody, Ross Coffin, and Austin Macaulay (head of Cannon’s ski patrol). Also included on the page was an ad from the club wishing its junior racers Joan Hannah, Bruce Leavitt, and Gordi Eaton good luck in the competition. Hannah would win the downhill and finish 10<sup>th</sup> in the slalom to earn a 3<sup>rd</sup>-place finish in the combined. Eaton, whose father signed the FSC Charter in 1933, was 35<sup>th</sup> in the slalom, and a 3<sup>rd</sup>-place downhill finish moved him into the 15<sup>th</sup> spot in the combined.<sup>23</sup> Both racers, then 16 years old, would race in the Olympics four years later.

The club helped pay the way for its senior racers in big competitions, too. In March of 1947, members voted to wire \$150 to Peg Taylor Kenney (married to Jack Kenney) and Sel Hannah at the Olympic trials.<sup>24</sup> In a letter two months later, Hannah sent a letter of thanks, but said he was returning the funds since he “was in the events primarily for the fun of it.”<sup>25</sup>

The ski club also had a presence in the 1967 World Cup races on Cannon, hosted by the Eastern Interclub Ski League, events which were the first World Cup competitions in North America. Bill Kempton, who a few years later would become president of FSC, was the race chairman, and FSC racers Bill Kenney (Jack and Peg Kenney’s son, Bode Miller’s uncle) and Susan MacNeil foreran the downhill event.<sup>26</sup> Club members were also involved in organizing housing and transportation for competitors and acting as a “welcoming committee.”<sup>27</sup>

During the 1950s and early 1960s the club also held a relay race near the end of the ski season, dubbed the President’s Cup. As with most Franconia Ski Club events, the event included a good dose of hearty competition mixed with an air of joviality. The race consisted of four legs: the first from the summit of Taft Slalom and up the saddle to the top of the CCC-built Tuckerbrook Trail, the second through the 13 turns of Tuckerbrook, the third from the end of the 13 turns through the flat runout of the trail to the brook, and the last on cross country skis to the Horse & Hound Inn on Wells Road. During the first year of the event, 1955, the winning team took advantage of somewhat vague rules and mounted its fourth racer onto a pony named Billy. This twist resulted in “a breathtaking contest between David Symmes, the #4 member of the C team and Gloria Chadwick, the #4 member of the D team mounted, for the first time in her life, on pony Billy, the property of Jym Dudley, the D team captain.”<sup>28</sup> Billy’s participation was all in good fun, but the announcement for the subsequent President’s Cup races noted that it was a “fun race for human bipeds” and stipulated in bold print, “No ponies!”<sup>29</sup>



*Sel and Paulie Hannah are shown at Alta Utah in this postwar photograph. Though stricken with polio in the late 1940s, Paulie continued to work tirelessly for the FSC, Olympic fundraising, and Sel's ski area consulting business.*

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## A Focus on Juniors

The club would continue to increase its focus on junior racers following the 1956 Junior Nationals. During the 1960s, FSC worked with Paul Valar to hire Swiss coaches – Roland Blaesi, Paul Pfosi, and Hans Jaeger among them – who would coach the juniors during weekends and instruct for the Valars during the week. Swiss ski racer Valar had become involved in the club in 1949, when the FSC Board of Governors voted unanimously to grant Paul Valar the right to use the name “Franconia Ski” for his ski school at Cannon and Mittersill.<sup>30</sup> Valar had met Jack and Peg Kenney and Sel and Paulie Hannah in Sun Valley in 1947 when he was in the States with the Swiss Ski Team. During that trip, he also met Paula Kann, who would become his wife, and who in 1949 was living in North Conway.<sup>31</sup>

Longtime FSC member and Cannon ski patroller Mickey Libby remembered that one reason for hiring a coach was to ensure FSC juniors would have an adult with them at races.<sup>32</sup> Mickey and his wife Marge Libby were influential in the junior racing careers of countless FSC kids – including Olympic and World Cup champion Bode Miller, who grew up down the road from the Libbys – teaching them to ski, bringing them to races, and working with the Roland Peabody Memorial Fund to ensure area children had adequate ski equipment. For decades the Libbys were involved in organizing the annual Roland Peabody Memorial Race for area school children.

The Roland Peabody Memorial Fund was established following Peabody’s death in 1950, in part to provide children’s ski equipment at little cost to area children, and in part to foster a school-age alpine competition, which is still held annually on Cannon Mountain. Paulie Hannah was an inaugural trustee of the fund and was instrumental in commissioning the bronze memorial plaque of Peabody, which hangs in the Tramway’s Valley Station, and on which is engraved the name of the winner of the Roland Peabody Memorial Race each year. During the height of local participation in the ski club, the fund loaned ski equipment to more than 100 children in Franconia and surrounding towns.

Club membership reached a high of 579 members in 1959,<sup>33</sup> but waned in the 1960s after the US Eastern Amateur Ski Association mandated full membership in USEASA for clubs who wished to hold sanctioned races or sponsor racers in competitions.<sup>34</sup> By the late 1960s, the club was “losing its effectiveness as an organization concerned with skiing and its associated activities.”<sup>35</sup>

Nonetheless, a core group of members persevered, among them the Libbys, the Kenneys, Ollie Cole, Jim Branch, Ted Farwell, and Ross Coffin. In 1969, FSC hired its first full time coach, FSC alum and recent Dartmouth College graduate Dave Boyle.<sup>36</sup> During the following winter, the club listed 75 junior racers, including 53 from New Hampshire and 22 from out of state.<sup>37</sup> Training headquarters was the tiny timing shack at the bottom of the Banshee trail. By the mid-1970s the club was fully a junior race training program employing a handful of winter coaches.

In 1976 the club happily moved into new headquarters at the base of the Gary’s trail. Christened Ernie’s House, the

building was given to the state by the Glaessel family in memory of their son Ernst Jr., who died while serving in the Navy in 1973. Although he wasn’t a racer, Ernie loved skiing and loved Cannon Mountain, where he learned the sport from Marge and Mickey Libby.<sup>38</sup>

Today the club boasts more than 140 junior racers from ages 8 to 18, plus about 50 racers from the Holderness School, which trains in collaboration with FSC. The majority of these racers are from southern New Hampshire or other New England states, but several dozen local children also race for the club. A staff of 18 coaches oversees the race training for these youngsters, and ski club families continue to volunteer countless hours through the winter to run races and related club activities.<sup>39</sup>

Included in the various junior competitions FSC holds each winter are memorial events commemorating local skiers. The Peter Kenney Memorial Slalom is held each January in honor of one of Jack and Peg Kenney’s sons, who died in 1981 when his kayak capsized on Echo Lake. The Dowse Memorial in February honors Grant and Pegge Dowse, founders of the Garnet Hill company in Franconia and supporters of both FSC and the New England Ski Museum, who died in a 1985 plane crash. The Pendoley Memorial Slalom is held each March in memory Cannon employee and FSC supporter Mark Pendoley, who died in 1985 on Cannon’s Rocket trail.<sup>40</sup>

Skiing and ski racing have changed drastically since the spring of 1933 when a group of area residents came together in an organized effort to promote skiing. Now skiers are whisked from mountain base to summit in a matter of minutes, groomers smooth out the snow to perfection each night, race training is intense, and there is rarely a group sing-along at the end of a day on the mountain.

But the legacy of the Peabodys and Pecketts, the Hannahs and Serafinis, the Valars and Libbys, and all the Franconia Ski Club members who have followed in their tracks remains one of camaraderie after a day on the hill, the thrill of descent down a fast trail, the beauty of the mountains, the pure joy of skiing.





*Construction of the ski jump at Cannon Mountain prior to the 1956 Junior National Championships utilized a large amount of volunteer labor from FSC.*

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## Endnotes for The Ongoing Legacy

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- 4 “Ski Club Backs Aerial Tramway,” *Littleton Courier*, April 5, 1934. Franconia Ski Club Collection.
- 5 Esther Serafini to Franconia Ski Club members, January 29, 1947. Franconia Ski Club Collection.
- 6 Franconia Ski Club, Minutes of Club Meeting, Meeting of October 9, 1940. Franconia Ski Club Collection.
- 7 Gilbert Oakes to New Hampshire Division of Parks, July 23, 1971. Franconia Ski Club Collection.
- 8 “Agreement Between the Franconia Ski Club and the Division of Parks of the State of New Hampshire”, January 2, 1964. Franconia Ski Club Collection.
- 9 Robert W. Edge to Denise McCluggage, December 9, 1955. Franconia Ski Club Collection.
- 10 Joan Hannah, Telephone interview with Meghan McCarthy McPhaul, April 22, 2010.
- 11 Clinton Underhill, Franconia Ski Club Social Committee Report, April 7, 1948. Franconia Ski Club Collection.
- 12 Wellborn, Charles, History of the 86<sup>th</sup> Mountain Infantry in Italy. 1945; <http://www.10thmntdivassoc.org/86thhistory.pdf>, p. 23 (accessed April 28, 2010).
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- 14 “National Ski Races for This Week End,” *Littleton Courier*, February 28, 1946, sec A, p. 1.
- 15 “Top Skiers Run in Taft Events,” *Littleton Courier*, March 7, 1946, p. 1.
- 16 “Ski Fatality,” *Littleton Courier*, February 28, 1946.
- 17 “Top Skiers Run in Taft Events,” *Littleton Courier*, March 7, 1946, p. 1.
- 18 Joan Hannah, Telephone interview with Meghan McCarthy McPhaul, April 22, 2010.
- 19 Roger Peabody, Transcript of Interview with Meghan McCarthy, May 20, 2004, New England Ski Museum Collection.
- 20 Joan Hannah, Telephone interview with Meghan McCarthy McPhaul, April 22, 2010.
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- 23 “Juniors Have Awards Banquet,” *Littleton Courier*, March 8, 1956, p. 1.
- 24 Franconia Ski Club, *Minutes of Club Meeting*, Meeting of March 5, 1947. Franconia Ski Club Collection.
- 25 Franconia Ski Club, *Minutes of Club Meeting*, Meeting of May 7, 1947. Franconia Ski Club Collection.
- 26 Anita Craven, “History of the Franconia Ski Club,” [www.franconiaskiclub.com/history.php](http://www.franconiaskiclub.com/history.php), (accessed April 15, 2010).
- 27 Ford Hubbard to Rusell Tobey, December 3, 1967. Franconia Ski Club Collection.
- 28 Robert W. Edge, Memorandum on President’s Cup, March 22, 1955. Franconia Ski Club Collection.
- 29 President’s Cup Announcement, March 30, 1958. Franconia Ski Club Collection.
- 30 Franconia Ski Club, *Minutes of Board of Governors Meeting*, Meeting of June 13, 1949. Franconia Ski Club Collection.
- 31 Paul Valar, Transcript of Interview with Meghan McCarthy, June 2, 2004, New England Ski Museum Collection.
- 32 Mickey Libby, Transcript of Interview with Meghan McCarthy, August 15, 2004 New England Ski Museum Collection.
- 33 Franconia Ski Club Membership Report, 1959. Franconia Ski Club Collection.
- 34 Anita Craven, “History of the Franconia Ski Club,” [www.franconiaskiclub.com/history.php](http://www.franconiaskiclub.com/history.php), (accessed April 15, 2010).
- 35 J. Lewis Stackpole to Franconia Ski Club members, November 26, 1968. Franconia Ski Club Collection.
- 36 Franconia Ski Club Junior Race Training Committee to Franconia Ski Club members, October 1969. Franconia Ski Club Collection.
- 37 Gilbert Oakes to William Carpenter, July 23, 1971. Franconia Ski Club Collection.
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- 39 Bill Husson, Interview with Meghan McCarthy McPhaul, April 21, 2010.
- 40 Anita Craven, “History of the Franconia Ski Club,” [www.franconiaskiclub.com/history.php](http://www.franconiaskiclub.com/history.php), (accessed April 15, 2010).



Courtesy of Franconia Ski Club

*NH Commissioner of the Department of Resources and Economic Development George Gilman cuts the ribbon at the February 1976 dedication of Ernie's House.*