

HEAVY SNOW

Alpine Climbers Forced Back

BEST FALL FOR YEARS

The heaviest fall of snow on the upper Cotter mountain range for many years, forced the Canberra Alpine Club members to abandon their attempt to make a survey of ski runs from the surrounding peaks.

The climbers ran into heavy snow storms and at times the visibility was not more than 50 or 60 yards.

The party comprised seven men and three women. Three of the men made the trip on foot while the remainder rode horses. All the necessary camping gear was carried on pack horses. Leaving Canberra by lorry on Friday morning, they reached Tidbinbilla Homestead a few hours later, where the mounts were picked up. The trek was then continued through Fishing Gap to the Cotter River, and Friday night was spent at Black Springs.

On Saturday the party set out with the object of reaching the summit of Mt. Gingera, and then proceeding along the ridge to Mt. Ginini and Mt. Franklin. It was proposed to make a close inspection of the slopes of these peaks for possible ski runs to be developed when the road from Lees Springs to Mt. Franklin is completed. Snow country was soon reached, however, and when the first plateau had been reached—at a height of approximately 5000 feet—it became apparent that the schedule could not be adhered to. They were then about a mile and a half from the summit and the snow was two feet deep. Snow was falling heavily and the visibility was very bad. The climbers were then faced with the prospect of continuing according to plan and spending the night on the snowy ridge, or returning to Black Springs. Considering the ladies in the company, it was decided to adopt the latter course and Saturday night was spent at the old camp. The party returned to Tidbinbilla on Sunday and rode home to Canberra next day.

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RESIDENTS OF THE TIDBINBILLA AND Upper Cotter district told the travellers that the fall of snow in the district was the heaviest for many years.