

105501
49/18

AMERICAN WINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Near Salt Lake City, forty daring skymen defy the law of gravity in the annual American ski jumping championships. This snow-covered course is not man-made, but a natural slope in the Utah mountains. The warm sun softens a record snowfall, thus slowing take-offs and making landings dangerous. The jumping stars from 12 nations have to pull out something extra good to avoid a spill.

Here comes Norway's Peter Høgsted. Already Olympic and Norwegian champion, Høgsted now takes the American crown. Over at Lake Placid, bobsledding daredevils battle it out for the world championships in one of the most dangerous of all sports. The French team follows the American crew down on the treacherous one-mile course, which in two weeks, has claimed the life of one driver and critically injured another. Speeding along at a mile-a-minute, the sled rides along a Cresta-like run of sheer ice, studded with 14 zig-zag curves.

America seems home to claim the title and a new record.