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REGD. OFFICE: 11, BELGRAVE ROAD, VICTORIA, LONDON, S.W.1.

TELEPHONE:
GERRARD 7311
TELEGRAMS:
"OKAPHILMS, TELEX
LONDON"

DIRECTORS:
J. ARTHUR RANK, J.P.

CHAIRMAN:
JOHN DAVIS MARK OSTRER
K. N. HARGREAVES K. WINCKLES

REPLY TO
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YOUR REF.
OUR REF. **HTB/JKW**

Miss Field,
Pathe News,
133 Oxford Street,
London, W.1.

19th November, 1956.

Dear *Grace*

Canadian Wardens learn Avalanche Patrol and
rescue in Rocky Mountains Grandeur.

This is to confirm that we shall be supplying you with a copy of the above film as arranged over the telephone, and it is further agreed that this story will not be released until Monday next, November 26th, 1956.

With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

Harold Bromige.

To all Companies.

56-95

Curry
Pathe News
Pathe House

Set-up: Isobel Kehoe
Camera: Bruno Engler

Prod. No. 55-323-15
650' fine grain pos.

CABLE CODE: "Avalanche"

Cable Address: Newsreels,
Canadafilm, Montreal.

SKIERS INSURANCE

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WINTER SCHOOL IN MOUNTAIN PARADISE

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**CANADIAN WARDENS LEARN AVALANCHE PATROL AND RESCUE
IN ROCKY MOUNTAINS GRANDEUR**

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Banff National Park, Alberta, November, 1956.

Winter has arrived at Banff, Canada's magnificent Rocky Mountain resort. Soon skiers from all over the world will be testing their skills on mountains in famous Banff National Park. With skiing becoming more popular every year precaution must be taken to make the sport as safe as possible.

Checking nature's whims and controlling ski slopes in miles of mountainous terrain is a tall order for Park Wardens of Western Canada's National Parks so it's back to school to learn the latest methods of avalanche patrol and rescue.

At the Banff base camp fifty wardens study under the finest ski instructors in the country. In small groups they take off for their training area thousands of feet above the ski slopes. On the way, the advance patrol group learns proper cross country techniques. The difference between snowshoe and ski travel is demonstrated to speed up the patrol in getting to the scene of disaster in the fastest and most relaxed way to survey, evaluate, and perhaps save a life.

At the top of a mountain 9,000 feet above ground level another group is studying avalanche recognition and has discovered an overhanging cornice. This cornice must be blasted or sawn down and a man-made avalanche created. If left there this cornice several thousand feet above ski slopes could cause an avalanche that within minutes would bury skiers under tons of heavy snow. The student wardens, safely roped, weaken the overhang with cross-cut saws, jump on the cornice to start an avalanche and are pulled back just in time by experienced instructors.

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The avalanche created slides down the mountainside to form the next location for another group in the school. Skiers on the slope are spotted and warned to stay away from the avalanche area.

An avalanche is reported by the advance team. The possibility of buried skiers brings a team of students to the foot of the slide with full rescue equipment. Standing in a straight line they work very closely in a systematic pattern plunging 15 probes into every foot of snow over a blocked off area until the victim is discovered.

Careful and swift handling of the skier is the keynote of saving life. Snow is removed from eyes, ears, nose and throat of the casualty and artificial respiration applied. While one team works on the victim another uses his skis to make an improvised toboggan to move him down the mountain to a safer area where he is transferred to a standard rescue sled.

Four student wardens prove their skiing ability with beautifully controlled skiing. The sled is manoeuvred by ropes and the casualty is completely comfortable and safe in the hands of the wardens. Breaking new snow in a breath-taking winter wonderland the patrol glides effortlessly and with full control of the sled to the foot of the mountain. Here a rescue snowmobile lumbers into sight and the machine takes over to move the victim to hospital.

The Avalanche and Rescue School is the Canadian Government's insurance to the thousands of skiers who come to Canada every year to enjoy the invigorating sport of mountain skiing in the most scenic winter playground in the world.