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PENETANG WINTERAMA
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INDIAN WAR DANCE - SCOT RACING AND OTHER WINTER
SPORTS AT ANNUAL CARNIVAL IN SNOWS OF HURONIA
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Penetanguishene, Ontario, Feb. 23-25, 1962

It's a scoot -- it's a necessity in the Georgian Bay area of Ontario. It's a sport -- one of the fastest moving machines afloat or on land. It's a punt-nosed, flat-bottomed propellor-driven airboat -- a unique invention of a breed of rugged men who live on the shores of some 30,000 islands in Georgian Bay and the Muskoka Lakes. The scoot has freed winter-locked residents by giving them a lightning fast method of travel and a terrifically thrilling winter sport.

Thousands of people journey to Penetanguishene every winter for Northern Ontario's Winterama, to take part in reliving the events as described in "The Legend of Kitchekewana". Folklore claims this giant Indian Chief in a fit of anger created 30,000 islands and then his strength spent, lay down to die on Giant's Tomb Island where his sleeping outline can be seen to this day. Following the lead of the Huron Indians -- a fun-loving people -- the Penetang Chamber of Commerce stages a huge carnival to bring residents of the islands and tourists together to enjoy themselves in the snows of Huronia. The Indians of the nearby Christian Island Reserve complete with native costumes and feathered head-dresses participate in the events along with the Honourary Chiefs. A street parade of floats kicks off activities and prizes are awarded for the best. This year one of them included a "twister" -- the twist bears a remarkable resemblance to the authentic Indian War Dance done by members of the Indian Reserve.

It is told in the legend that the Indians were fond of fishing through the ice, and Kitchekewana "with one flick of his finger broke a hole in the ice big enough for all the braves of the tribe to fish through". In the Winterama, hundreds of people take part in the fishing derby, fishing through individual holes drilled through the ice -- all seeking the largest fish to be caught and with their eyes on the first prize of an outboard boat and motor. Wood chopping and log sawing contests, curling, trap shooting, go cart and snowshoe races, and dancing are also part of the festivities.

The highlight of the activities is the scoot races. The scoots come in for miles around. A combination of sled, boat and aircraft, the strange machines are designed to travel at a fast clip over ice and snow. When suddenly, as does happen at times, ice gives way to open water, the machines are equally capable of negotiating the wet stretches. Essentially they are water tight sleds, driven by an airscrew, powered generally by an airplane engine, and steered by a large rudder mounted in the slipstream. They are capable of speeds over 100 miles an hour.

All during the long winter months, they are the one means of transportation for the islanders in this isolated area -- they are a snow taxi for the women who shop -- for the doctor who is needed for a sick child -- for winter fishing activities and for sport -- and Sundays see the scoots on the rounds of friendly visits to the neighbours. A used aircraft motor for about \$200, a framework of wood strips covered with plywood and sheeted with galvanized iron or steel on a flat bottom, plus a lot of hard work produces this unique vehicle. If you are in the area where for weeks no boat, horse and sleigh, dog team or walking man can travel due to weather, then the little known Georgian Bay scoot is your answer -- tried and true. In developing these scoots for practical purposes in the '30s with some later modifications, a few Canadians have pioneered not only one of the fastest sports in the world but a revolutionary new mode of winter travel.

Shot list

PENETANG WINTERAMA

Prod. No. 61-322-23

1. LS air to ground view of Penetang and harbour
2. MLS tilt down from Winterama banner to parade start and crowds
3. MS pan over Indian Braves dancing
4. MS three Chiefs watching
5. MCU bells and fur moccasins on legs and feet of dancing brave
6. MS tilt down, brave singing and beating drum
7. MLA pan right to left, braves dancing to chief
8. MS pan left to right, spectators to Honourary White Chiefs
9. MS Indian Chiefs and white "Squaw" holding pipe
10. MS L/A - Indian group snake dancing
11. MS tilt down from dancers to fire
12. MLS pan right to left over Indian ceremonial dancers
13. MS "twisters" on parade float
14. MS children's clown, band marching
15. MCU boy playing large bugle
16. MS L/A four tourist spectators
17. MLS Highland Band turning corner
18. MS white "squaw" seated on hood of car carrying White Chiefs
19. MLS "Florida or Bust", covered wagon, young spectators foreground
20. MS pan left to right from clowns, past rear of covered wagon to spectators
21. MCU Beauty Queen's float passing right to left
22. MCU model ski jump float
23. MS silver-decked float carrying Carnival Queen and Maids
24. MCU same
25. CU White Chief taking picture
26. MCU tiny tots watching parade
27. MS children preparing for ice fishing contest
28. MCU boy fishing, tilt down to hole
29. MS log chopping winner, tilt down to log and pan left to right to spectators
30. MCU log sawing, tilt up to timer
31. MS pan left to right with Indian winner of 400 yard snow shoe race

32. MS second and third contestants finishing race
33. LS general view of Penetang Bay - crowds and scoots
34. MS scoot #7 moving off
35. MLS scoots warming up, one in background testing surface
36. MLS scoot #1 moving off, pan left to right with blast of snow
37. MS spectators foreground, receiving snow blast
38. MS scoots (#10 foreground) moving toward starting line
39. MS start of scoot race, pan right to left (#7 in foreground)
40. MLS race (as seen from scoot)
41. LS pan right to left with racing scoots
42. MS view as seen from stern of scoot during race pan right to left to #2 and other contestant
43. LS air view of five scoots racing
44. MLS two scoots racing by camera position, pan left to right
45. CU scoot driver
46. MS scoot #2 gaining (on camera scoot)
47. LS low level air shot of scoot race (left to right)
48. MLS scoots coming out of turn
49. MS scoot approaching and passing camera, pan right to left
50. LS low level air shot of race (right to left)
51. MLS pan left to right with scoot #10, going "wide open"
52. LS pan left to right with scoot #2 passing #9
53. MLS driver's view of two scoot competitors, pan right to left
54. CU driver wearing tuque
55. MCU hands of driver on throttle and steering column
56. MS pan left to right with scoot #9 racing by
57. MS #7 passing close to camera, pan with #10, left to right
58. MLS spectators foreground watching scoot #1 finish race, pan left to right with scoot.
59. MS pan left to right with scoot #2 coming in after race
60. MS children playing in scoot (pan left to right)
61. LS air view of Penetang Harbour and scoot race area on Bay.