

'SCOOTER' FREAKS.

THE GALE HAS FUN WITH THE SCOOTERS ON THE BAY.

Does Some Damage To Fisherman.

Narrow Escape of Lieut. DeOtto.--
First Trip of Scooter to the East
End.

Is there any sport in the world except mountain climbing that the people of Long Island and their visitors do not enjoy? For the past week Patchogueers have been reveling in the exhilarating sport of "scootering" peculiar to the Great South Bay. Iceboats also have been skimming over the thick ice on the bay which was left in fine condition by the rain and freeze of last week.

The gale of last Saturday, however, cut up capers on the bay which were rather demoralizing, both to those out for pleasure and to the fishermen fishing through the ice.

The gale swept down from the north and nothing could stand against it. Lieut. DeOtto was being taken over to the coach on a scooter by Albert Latham and Morris Baker at a time when the wind was blowing the strongest. A scooter cannot be controlled in going before the wind, and while going at about a mile a minute clip headed for the Blue Point Life Saving Station the scooter got before the wind and could not be steered. When nearing the beach Baker rolled himself up into a ball and dropped off the scooter. Lieut. de Otte and Latham "stuck to the ship," which ran up the beach straight into the bank. The two men were thrown high in the air and at least twenty feet up on the sand hills. Neither of them was hurt, and not even the scooter was injured, although it looked as they went head on to the beach that everything and everybody would be smashed to pieces. Baker was also uninjured.

Clarence Ruland came from the Bollsport Life Saving Station to Patchogue in seven minutes last Saturday with two ladies aboard. Just as they got out of the scooter the wind caught the sail and blew the craft over on them, but they were not badly injured.

Out on the bay the wind made great havoc with the effects of the fishermen, and while the losses were considerable to many of them, the scene was really ludicrous. Scooters were sent scurrying out on the ice and were lost. Baskets of eels, fish and oysters went scudding away out of sight, and the men themselves in order to keep from being blown away were obliged to throw themselves flat on the ice.

Last week James Swezey and John Swinton had a bad time coming across the bay with a scooter loaded with flat fish. The scooter became unmanageable, both men were thrown out and their boat loaded with fish kept on. It finally ran up on top of the stone pile at the mouth of the river and spilled the fish.

One day last week Seward S. Wicks and Charles Gill made a record breaking trip on a scooter from Patchogue to New Suffolk through Shinnecock Bay. This is the first scooter that ever made the trip, and it is the only scooter now on the east end of the island. The wind was just right, blowing strong from the north, and they made the entire trip in a very short time. Mr. Weeks used to be on the bay at Patchogue, but for the past few years has been in a growing and successful scallop business at New Suffolk. He employs a number of Patchogue people, and Frank Ruland is his foreman.