

10 QUAD-CITY TIMES Tuesday, Feb. 12, 1980



Skiers can relax on the way back up the hill if they use the two rope, which was opened Saturday at Scott County Park. (Times photos by Michael Christen)

Winter wonderland awaits visitors

Scott County Park offers 1,270 acres for snowy activities

The joy on the faces revealed something that does not seem to be widely known around the Quad-Cities. Winter isn't so bad, after all.

Several hundred persons of all ages congregated in Scott County Park near Long Grove over the weekend to prove that watching TV and snoozing are not the only winter activities.

Some were tired and others were beyond tired when they left, but all seemed happy.

THE ATTRACTION was 1,270 acres of winter wonderland.

"To attract people it seems like you have to have activities that run the gamut," said Dan Nagle, administrative officer for the Scott County Conservation Board.

Scott County Park seems to have met that challenge with skiing (both downhill and cross-country), sledding, ice skating, camping and hiking available.

The newest addition to the park is a 750-foot rope tow on a combination ski-toboggan hill near the south entrance. It was opened for the first time Saturday and was an immediate hit.

"It looks like it is going to help draw some people out here during the winter," Nagle added. "Sunday had to be the biggest winter day that we've ever had out here."

THE NICE weather had something to do with it, but few would venture out to the park unless there were a variety of activities available.

"We would like to see people use the park. Last year, we were socked in and really couldn't do anything out here so this is the first year we've really tried to get people out here in the winter," Nagle added.

NAGLE added that the rope tow will be open Thursday through Sunday as long as snow conditions are good. There is a \$1 charge.

"On Thursdays we hope to use the tow for

By Craig Cooper



skiers with Fridays for tobogganing and skiing. Saturdays will be for skiers and Sundays for both," he said.

Even more popular than the hill with the rope tow is a tobogganing hill in another area of the park. The hill had been used so much by Sunday that the snow was worn off in spots.

There are enough trails in the park to keep hikers and cross-country skiers happy for the entire winter. And those people can happily pursue those activities without interruptions from snowmobiles, which aren't allowed in the park.

HIKERS and cross-country skiers who are watching, will most likely see a deer or two and the tracks of deer or other animals. My loyal companion (an Old English sheepdog) and I saw three does while tramping around in the timber. At least I saw them.

On most days, the deer herd outnumbers the human herd.

The hiking and cross-country trails are as wild as any in the Quad-Cities. Heavy timber surrounds the trails, which wind through the park up hills, across streams and over flats.

Skaters are using the remains of ill-fated Lake Odessa for their fun. Odessa, which was doomed by siltation, has been flooded over to give the skaters smooth ice. A warming house is available near the lighted area.

WINTER CAMPING is allowed at the same campgrounds that are used during the summer.

Campers need not worry about overcrowding; last weekend there was just one harty group in a tent.



Mark Ullrich, 11, Walcott, rides piggy-back on an inner tube with his sister, Debbie, 18, at Scott County Park.