



Cleared Slope Awaits Skiing Enthusiasts Near Cedar Falls

New Ski Group Eagerly Awaiting Major Snowfall

Clears Trees On Slope

By GUS LUMPE
Courier Staff Writer

CEDAR FALLS — About 15 Cedar Falls area families are eagerly awaiting the season's first major snow of six inches or more.

That's what it will take to open the new ski hill at the newly formed Beaver Hills Ski Association.

Informal Group

The association was formed about five weeks ago. It is still a very informal group, having no officers.

The two main forces behind it are Sperm Erickson, a motor company owner, and Don Finegan, State College of Iowa associate professor of art.

Both are ski enthusiasts who feel the area could stand another ski facility.

They found like-minded persons willing to enroll their families for a first-year family membership of \$40 to get the enterprise underway.

Next, the fledgling club got together with a committee of the newly formed Beaver Hills Country Club, northwest of Cedar Falls. Between them, a \$1-a-year lease for the heavily wooded slope just north and east of the country clubhouse was agreed upon. The clubhouse is now under construction.

Then, volunteers of the charter-member families embarked on the task of clearing the slope.

"At first we had only hoped to clear off some of the brush so that we might use the slope a little bit this winter," Finegan said. "As we got deeper into it, our plans became more ambitious."

Clear Wide Swath

Now an area for beginners and a swath about 100 feet wide down the slope is cleared, not only of brush but of the trees as well.

"We had planned to use Sperm's portable ski tow out there this winter," Finegan said. Erickson has a winch mounted



Sperm Erickson (left) and Don Finegan Inspect Tow

on a jeep which he has used the new run for a \$10 fee and the snow is right. We also hope work that fee off at \$1 an hour to have music there. The pond

Now the group has a tow driven by a five-horsepower electrical motor. The tow was made from the rear end of a car. It charter members, Erickson and Finegan said.

Membership still is open for we hope to build a chalet there," Finegan said.

Membership dues in subsequent years are to cover operations only.

Ambitious Plans

With the money taken in from charter family memberships, the club hopes to develop the shelter.

run into a real winter sport area.

"We want to install lights currently is looking into the matter so that we can get a maximum use out of the run when snow is on."

Jerry Jacobsen, city attorney and a member of the new club.

"The weather co-operated nicely with us," Finegan said. He said members of the newly organized SCI ski club for students and faculty may use

MID-SEASON