

Students, East Iowans Enjoy Sub-Zero Skiing

By Howard Pederson
(Register Staff Writer)

MOUNT VERNON, IA.—The bitter cold brought enough snow to provide eastern Iowa ski enthusiasts with their first opportunities of the season.

Several dozen students from the State University of Iowa at Iowa City, and Mount Vernon residents donned parkas and "boards" Friday night for an evening of sub-zero skiing.

Beginning on relatively level ground, they slid to the brink of a steep slope and glided down the long lighted hill at the Ski/Pal ski area.

Some of the students, almost all of whom were beginners, managed to remain upright but the law of gravity got the better of many.

Her First Time

Sheri Smith, of Newton, an 18-year-old State University of Iowa coed, was on skis for the first time. "I like it fine," she said. And then she took the eventual tumble.

But the slope also felt the wax of a more experienced skier. David Crow, of Iowa City, a 20-year-old pre-med student, has been skiing three years. Next week David

will travel to Vail Ski Area near Dillon, Colo., to spend his Christmas vacation on the snowy slope.

As the temperature continued to drop, one by one the skiers retired to the warm lodge and danced to the "chickenscratch" and the "pony."

The potato chips and apple cider were passed around and the skiers got down to another enjoyable aspect of the sport—the fireplace conversation hour. Even those who can't ski are able to take part in this.

Dr. Gordon E. Rahn, 42, and his wife, Kay, own and operate Ski/Pal.

Whole Family

The Rahns have four sons, Victor, 18; Steve, 17; Vance, 15 and Rox, 12 and a daughter, Anita, 9. The entire family skis.

"When you get the disease—you're caught," Dr. Rahn said.

Dr. Rahn said the idea of a chase appeals to persons and gives an outlet for basic drives. "Skiing itself gives one the sensation of free flight," he said.

Monday forecasts call for more light snow. That might open two more ski areas—Nob Hill Ski Area four miles east of Forest City and Crescent Ski Hill 10 miles north of Council Bluffs. Crescent plans to open next weekend, with artificial snow if necessary.

All three ski areas are lighted for night skiing.



PICTURE:
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