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**HOME AND FAMILY SECTION**



Sally Campagnoni, a Luther College freshman, is guided by Bob Hunt, president of the Des Moines Ski Association. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Campagnoni of Des Moines.



Hale Reid makes certain Sally has the right-sized boots and skis. Reid is retired but devotes his time two nights a week and on weekends to handling rental equipment.

## Now They're Skiing More And It's Costing Less

By Helen Randall  
Staff Photos by Chuck Anderson

**IT MAY** surprise you to know that an increasing number of Iowans no longer dread our long, winter months. Instead, they look forward with pleasant anticipation to fall that soon.

The reason is simple: a sport once reserved mostly for the well-to-do, out-of-state resort travelers, but which now is available in Iowa and is inexpensive enough for almost anyone's pocketbook.

Instead of all-day drives from the very young in the midlands out, are heading up and heading for the "Le" "white" ski hills in the state.

**Of course, lease facilities** may not attract the same sort of sophisticated ski buff who shows up at Aspen or Vail in Colorado or Sun Valley in Idaho each winter, but many of the facilities now have warming houses or lodges, equipment rentals, skiing instruction and lifts for beginners and experts.

Among ski facilities listed by the Iowa Development Commission are Crescent Hills near Council Bluffs; Polk County, Ames; Des Moines at Des Moines; Winterset near Humboldt (Humboldt County); Ted Kuhn's Ski Area near Boone (Boone County); Polk County, Miller's Mountain at Eldorado (Polk County); and Pilot Knob State Park near Forest City (Winneshong County).

**WHAT TYPE** of terrain is contributing the ski buzz? Just about every type, says Mr. Don Savers, vice of the center of Holiday Mountain.

"Mostly, I'd say it is becoming quite a family sport, something that can enjoy together during the winter."

Having the work done, says the greatest number of skiers are newcomers — of all ages — who need to get out of the house and find new



interests while the kids are in school and Dad is at work.

**Holiday Mountain sponsors** a special Ladies Day on the hills each Thursday.

Ted Kuhn, who operates the Kuhn family, also claims a variety of skiers, including many family participants and "jumpers" from grade school on through their mid-fifties.

"We put in a large assortment of students from high schools, Iowa State University, Simpson College, Drake University and even from the University of Iowa," he says. Kuhn also notes that it is a popular place for Des Moines area parents to leave their children for a Saturday or a Sunday afternoon.

**IOWA SKIING** has both good points and unfavorable ones. One of the biggest things going for it is the low cost of the sport in this state as compared to out-of-state ski resort areas.

For an adult, a day of skiing in Iowa costs between \$15 and \$4 for one of the facilities.

Boys, who need winter coats for an additional \$3 to \$5, are also a big attraction.

Facility fees and equipment rental at resorts in the state would run the adult skier an average of \$18 each, added to the cost of lodging.

"People are seeing more of skiing on television now," says Kuhn, "and many can't wait to try it in the mountains." So they go to the places in Iowa.

One of the reasons No-Ski-Burn is able to keep its cost to



Instructor Brent Sney at Ted's Ski Area checks on ailing skier.



Snow doesn't have to be a problem for learners. Many are learning to enjoy it—just as these skiers at Ted's Ski Area are doing.

The beginner's first spill is part of the fun.

Some of the state's ski centers rise along with the details of the weather. Some, however, are finding ways to lengthen the season and remain open at least from mid-December through the end of February.

Savars and Kuhn both guarantee a hand at keeping their hills covered with snow. Savers has an elaborate system of making snow for Holiday Mountain, and as long as the temperature remains below 32 degrees, he has machines which combine equal amounts of water and dust to create snow.

Kuhn's system requires snow to begin with. He has rigged up a system of blowing snow from mounds of drifted snow onto the lower hills. He also uses a large snow cannon to transport snow to the areas where coverage is needed.

With the growing ski activity of Iowans, area and city ski clubs also have grown.

They hold meetings all year through, give detailed instruction to beginners, plan trips to the more scenic areas of the country, and keep in shape on Iowa hills.

Most colleges and universities in the state have highly active ski clubs.

All Luther College in the north, for instance, has a ski team. The school's Athletic Council with Joe Hilliker is enabling all students to use the facility free.



Recorded 4 1/2 in. in Harold Lettington, 49, Des Moines.