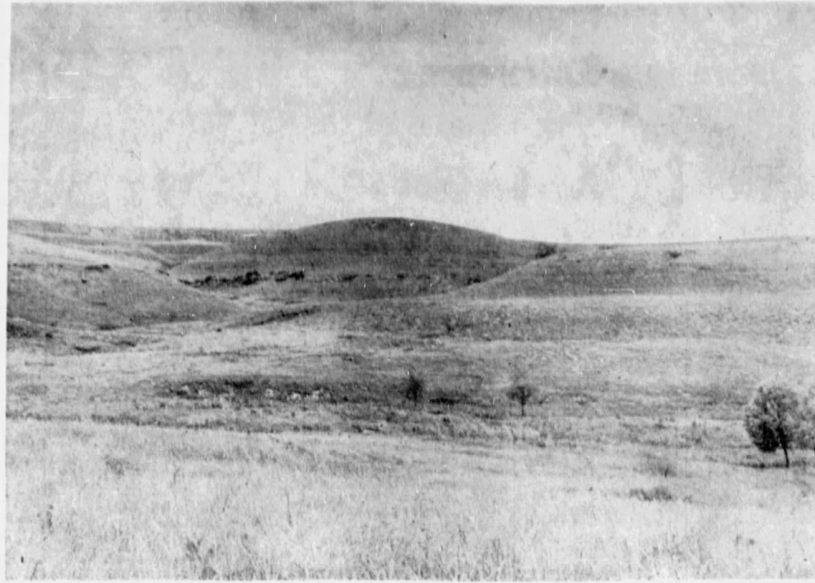


THE WICHITA BEACON



A 1,200-foot "mountain" may replace this hill near Beaumont.  
California vacation inspired idea for Kansas ski resort.

## Flint Hills Ski Park Proposed

By DICK HAINES  
Beacon Business Writer

Somebody said that John Dyer's plan to build a mountain in Kansas for snow skiing is just "crazy enough it might work."

The 41-year-old father, who lives with his wife and four children in Derby, was the first to agree. He wouldn't have raised nearly \$18,500 to date if he hadn't felt that way.

ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION is still a "long way off," he said, but here is what he plans to build on a site 45 miles east of Wichita, near Beaumont:

- A 1,200-foot-high hill—created by adding dirt to a 360-foot hill already there. When it is completed, the elevation at the top would be some 2,800 feet above sea level.
- A ski slope with four lifts.
- A 20,000-square-foot ski lodge, a private club, a cafeteria, and a place for sauna baths.
- A 135-acre home-site development.

DYER FIGURES it will cost somewhere near \$3-million. When completed, one of the slopes will be 2,300-feet long and another will be 1,800 feet.

He said the existing hill will be open to the public for skiing this winter. At present there is a gradual slope of 3,500 feet.

WHAT WILL HE DO when no snow is available? Larchmont Engineering Co., of Lexington, Mass., builds

snow makers that can put down 6 to 8 inches of snow in one hour under favorable weather conditions, Dyer said.

"We can cover 1-million square feet of that area for \$1,000 a night," he said, adding: "We won't depend on nature at all in Kansas. We'll make snow day or night."

DYER SAID THE HILL runs east and west. The slope to the northeast is recommended for skiing, he said, because the sun doesn't hit it directly.

HE SAID THAT BY adding dirt to the hill he could build his mountain at a cost about 75 per cent less than that of a conventional building of the same height.

Dyer said Sno Engineering Co., of Franconia, N. H., indicated they would help him lay out the slopes.

"I CAME BACK from California where I had been mountain climbing and felt somebody ought to build a mountain in Kansas," he said, adding that a lot of persons have pooh-poohed the idea, but he's gotten support from such notables as Gov. William H. Avery and Jack Lacy, director of the Kansas Department of Economic Development.

INCORPORATION papers are pending for an organization to be known as Beaumont Highlands Inc. Dyer is president. Other incorporators are Donald Mallory, 1516 E. MacArthur, vice president and chief engineer; Ted O'Hara, 3002 River Park Drive, legal counsel and a director; and Lew Marshall of Eureka, treasurer. Dyer said Marshall is co-owner of two ski lodges in Aspen, Colo., and is president of the Eureka Country Club.

"Skiing in Kansas will be much better than it is in many areas where they have had skiing for a long time," he said, "because we have much better weather."