

Skiing on Hills In Danforth District



Shown left to right are Elmer Swanson and Harold Selton, standing on one of the seven hills, in the vicinity of Danforth. Not only is this land the highest in this area, but it also has almost perfect skiing terrain, with high steep slopes on south sides and gentler slopes to the north. The area can be reached by following the Schleiinger railroad tracks near Danforth. —Daily Press Photo

Communication

THE ZONING ORDINANCE
Rock, Mich., Feb. 15, 39
Escanaba Daily Press
Escanaba, Mich.

Dear Sir: In your paper of Feb. 9 I noticed these headlines, "State Now Owns Two Million Acres." On another page of the same paper, "Zoning Law Means Favor." If this zoning law is accepted by the various counties, the state will own some many more millions of acres. Marquette county, the first to adopt the zoning ordinance, has classed about three-fourths of the county, or nearly one million acres, under forestry. Now the entire land will certainly go to the state, as land owners cannot pay taxes on lands in anticipation of a crop of timber. The little remaining standing timber will soon be cut and then the state will have the rest, as under the ordinance it is not permissible for the owner to live on the land or as much as grow a few potatoes for his own use.

The papers say that in Marquette county there is much interest being shown in the zoning ordinance. When many land owners of Isabella county find that their lands have become worthless to them over night, much interest will be shown here too. Also those of us who are in favor of the preservation of the principles upon which America was founded and who would like for the natural development of this county to go ahead, will not meet this ordinance with favor. Many of our best farming communities in Iosco county today were started in out-of-the-way places and on outcrop lands.

It seems that the advocates of this ordinance see where some money can be saved by keeping families with school children from locating in off places, without considering the fact that more will be lost than saved when land owners stop paying taxes on restricted lands that have been practically confiscated.

HERMAN JOHNSON

Danforth Hills Draw Attention Of Skiers

Seven large hills, situated on five, forty-six of land along the Schleiinger railroad in the Danforth district, are being considered by Escanaba skiers as a likely site for the establishment of a winter sports park.

The area's possibilities for skiing are revealed at once by the nearness of these slopes to the

city, the compact area in which it is located, the variety of hills from the steep slopes, to the more gentle slopes, and the low rolling hills on one edge of the area for the beginners and cross country fans.

Best described as a crescent shaped ridge, the southeast portion of the area, rises to an average height of 175 feet, making an angle of 35 degrees on the hills facing south and east. Making up this ridge are seven main hills, each distinct in contour, but meeting and facing next to each other.

From the highest peak directly in the center of the area, the skier can ride downhill in all directions from a distance of several hundred yards to a quarter of a mile.

A clear view of the city of Escanaba, Light House Point, and Bay de Noc can be seen from most of these hills.

At present these "Roman Hills" (Rome was built on seven hills) can be reached either by following the Schleiinger one car tracks just west of town on the Danforth road, going about two miles along the track, or by going straight across country by way of County Road about a mile and a half.

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coming out on the Schleiinger one car tracks. Due south from this point a quarter of a mile lie the series of elevations comprising the site.

Most of the hills are bowl shaped on the north and northeast sides, making it ideal for beginners to learn skiing and at the same time make a fairly long ride.

In time perhaps the bowl shape could be utilized for a fancy skating rink, and for parking cars so that people could watch skiing from their cars.

A road is now under consideration that would follow the one car tracks and come within a block of the larger hills.

The slopes and area within the bowl are comparatively clear except for a little light brush and trees, so little work is needed for the hills. Below the higher and steeper hills, however, it is quite heavily wooded and would need clearing for riding at the bottom of the slopes.

Timber for Clubhouse
Selective cutting of this timber below the higher peaks would be employed so that just the necessary clearing would be done for skiers and snowshoers, and the beauty of the wooded area kept as much as possible.

Timber for a club house could be cut from the area also, and it is planned to build one in the near future, close to the parking area and adjacent to the main hills. Everything the rabid ski fan

desires can be found on these slopes, the fast downhill "schuss", a slalom course, slow, sedate rides down long hills, and sporty cross country terrain.

A long range project would be the installation of a ski tow on the steeper slope, so that the expert skiers can enjoy more rides, spending less time in laborious climbing.

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