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THE EVENING NEWS WINTER SPORTS EDITION

## Newberry Area Offers Excellent Ski Facilities



**NEWBERRY** — The Big Valley Ski Association, which sponsors the ski area located west of the Newberry State Hospital location in Luce County, offers good facilities for skiing to the beginner as well as the advanced member of the fast growing winter sport.

The Big Valley area was developed in a natural setting for skiing with slopes descending from four directions into a natural bowl type area that protects the area from winds and blowing snow during the winter time. Two slopes have been developed with runs ranging from 500 to 800 feet and with various jumps and slide areas set off on each. Areas have also been set off for beginners and all end in the valley area where the two electric driven rope tows carry the skiing fans back to the top hill areas.

**THE SKI AREA** which was developed some years back through local interest has been taken over and developed to where it is a good competitive area for skiing in the U.P. It is

adequate in that roads to the area are kept open and warming room facilities are available to those on hand. The group handling the area is a non-profit group and rates are kept to a minimum.

The program has been in the process of development for 15 years and is not completed as yet. A Bunny Slope is being developed this year for the very little ones learning to ski. Limited lighting has been made available and some night skiing is possible this year.

Weather conditions this year have limited action in the area but with a snow coverage the hill will be open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays and also on Tuesday afternoons. Experienced people in skiing will be on hand at all times to help beginners at no extra cost.

In 1921 the second Holmenkollen meet was held at Oslo, Norway, in conjunction with first post-war International Ski Congress.

## Your Guide To Fun In Les Cheneaux

**CEDARVILLE** — The Les Cheneaux Ski Hill is entering its third year of operations with enthusiasm still high among the amateur skiers who operate and enjoy this all-community winter sport center.

Started originally in 1963 by members of the Lions Club, the facilities have been enlarged and lighted to permit night skiing, and a non-profit Ski Club organized to run the hill.

**THE SLOPE**, in downtown Cedarville, is about 350 feet long with an 85-foot rise, providing an excellent training grounds for beginners and youngsters. A special bunny slope for the very smallest children and free Saturday morning classes for children and beginners make this an all-family gathering place over weekends.

The hill is open for Saturday afternoon skiing with a rope tow and top safety gate in operation, and members have set aside one adults only skiing night per week for club members and guests.

In addition, other civic groups from Les Cheneaux or the surrounding area are permitted use of the hill by arrangement with the board of directors of the club and asked only to donate funds enough to pay for the cost of the lights and running the tow.

Most of the work of clearing and brushing out the slopes, packing the snow and operating the machinery is done on a volunteer basis, and skiers are not charged for use of the slope. However, since there is considerable expense involved in running the machinery and insurance, club members rely on donations and contributions for equipment and upkeep.

**INTEREST** in the sport has led to formation of a ski club at the Les Cheneaux School, and volunteers were working earlier this winter to widen the slope to permit skiing on both sides of the tow.

Club officials reminded parents that conventional ski boots

and skiers are required to meet safety regulations, and that leather-face mittens are recommended since wooden mittens will not grip on the plastic rope.

The club sets up the racing events for children and juvenile groups which will be held on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 20, this year as a second-day event for the winter Ice Carnival.

Last years classifications were separated for boys and girls, and age groups set up starting with five, six and seven year olds, and going up to age 18.

## A Pleasant Madness

**(Menominee Herald-Leader)**  
A special kind of madness grips a large segment of the populace about this time of year in the Menominee County lake country and much of the northern tier of states.

Many thousands of otherwise sensible folk drill holes in the lake ice and spend hours peering at little objects floating in the water. At long intervals, the little objects bob or perhaps even vanish, whereupon the watchers become active and either (a) settle back to watch some more, or (b) pull a fish out of the hole.

There are many variants on this pattern. Some of the more hardy watchers crouch near an ice

hole in the open air, bundled to the eyes against bitter winds. Some sit in a car, watching the bobber in relative comfort. Most occupy little huts, which range from basic shelter to elaborate structures with built-in comforts.

In many of the huts, the rigors of the sport are softened by doses of television, radio, snacks and liquid refreshment. Sometimes the fishermen forget all about fishing.

All in all, though, here is a sport that demands a lot of patience, some endurance, and a taste for the wintry outdoors. Ice-fishing is both rather pleasant, and good evidence that Americans are not yet wholly a nation of slothful spectators.



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