

Ready for Coming Season

Hickory Hills Ski Area Improved

All of the plans and equipment for the operation of Traverse City's Hickory Hills ski slopes are complete for the coming ski season and the area will be opened to the public as soon as possible.

Gerald Williams, superintendent of the city parks department, said this morning, "As soon as the slopes are packed and then set for 24 hours and we get another fair snowfall, we will be ready to go."

At present there is between six and eight inches of snow on the slopes, and while this will let a skier navigate the slopes, it will soon wear thin, ice up, and result in an altogether inadequate base unless firmly packed. Treated properly it will serve to lengthen the season on the area.

For this season, Williams said, the department feels it is better

to wait a few days in order to ski a few weeks longer.

All skiers who wish to get the feel of their skis and at the same time strengthen their leg muscles are asked to come to the slope Tuesday and assist in the packing operation.

Since this is a department of parks and recreation project, no tow fees are required for local residents. This also includes those persons living within a radius of seven miles of the city.

All resident skiers will be required to pick up tow tickets on a weekly basis to allow for a better check of non-resident skiers. Tow fees for non-resident skiers will be on the same basis as last year.

Many improvements were made at the area during the summer months. On Big Swede slope workers have widened the run, and about half way down the slope they have provided for a turn area for those persons who do not wish to attempt the "waterfalls."

Buck Run has been widened by the removal of trees at the top of the slope and on the slope itself. This results in much more maneuvering area on the slope. At the top of the tow on Old Pete slope readjustments have been made to allow for easier dismounting from the tow.

There has been a readjustment on Upper Big Swede tow by making a break in the tow line. This keeps the tow rope from getting too heavy and also allows a dropping off place at the break point for beginner skiers.

Lower Birch run has been widened through the removal of trees and stumps at the sides, and this also results in a widening of the beginners area.

The intermediate tow has been moved to the west to get away from a concentration of skiers near

the foot of the beginners area. This makes the tow easier to mount.

The top of Lower Birch tow has been readjusted to allow for an easier approach to the Upper Birch tow. This also results in an increased capacity on the upper tow.

The department also improved the approach road and parking area. Both the road and parking lot have been graded and graveled.

Demands Met, Hoffa Says

CHICAGO, Dec. 30 — (UP) — Teamsters President-Elect James R. Hoffa said last night the union "got substantially what we asked for" in negotiations with midwest and southern states truckers.

Details of the agreement, reached yesterday at a meeting in the Shoreland hotel here, were not revealed. However, Hoffa previously said he would seek a 42-cent hourly increase over a three-year period and other benefits for 95,000 Teamsters in 22 midwestern and southern states.

Hoffa, a vice president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters whose election as president of the union was challenged in court, said the agreement ended three days of intensive negotiations.

A meeting has been scheduled for Jan. 9, Hoffa said, during which officials of about 100 locals affected by the tentative agreement will discuss the proposed pact. The agreement is expected to set a pattern for some 500,000 other members of the Union.

No New Major Taxes in '58, Says Williams

DETROIT, Dec. 30—(UP)—Gov. G. Mennen Williams, dropping all hopes for major tax increases or reforms in 1958, has concentrated Democratic party forces behind a plan for a state building authority bond program.

Williams, meeting with legislators here this weekend, said the state would have to get along financially without any major new tax for next year. He said he would not propose a corporation profits tax which he has backed for eight years.

Although he would "point to the desirability" of such a tax, he would not plan on such revenues in constructing his budget for the