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See Big Season at Area Ski Resort

All we need is some more old fashioned snow and the largest winter sports attraction in this part of Michigan will be ready for business.

Little Switzerland, located ten miles west of Three Rivers on Mann Road, is preparing for its third season.

Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Danley, former owners of the M-60 Drive-In Theatre, the sports area attracts about 1,200 skiers a weekend.

Chartered busses travel from Dayton, Ohio, to the resort several weekends during the winter. Car loads come there from Louisville, Ky., Indianapolis, Ind., Chicago, Ill., Gary, Ind., as well as several smaller towns and communities. St. Joseph and Cass County residents are indeed not alone at the resort area.

The Danleys have acquired 30 additional acres of land, bringing to 70, the number of acres used for the sports area.

Danley said that six of the ski tows are electric and five gas. The ski resort has 14 runs. About 150 pairs of new skis have been purchased by the Danleys, making 350 pairs available for rent.

A lounge has been added above the lobby and will be used mostly for card parties, said Danley.

Nancy Yeomans has charge of the cafeteria again this year.

Lee's of Kalamazoo leases a sports supply room to the resort Danley said that last year Lee's maintained an inventory of about $15,000.

Little Switzerland had 21 employees during last year's season. Of the 21, 15 were ski patrols.

Marietta De Aubrey, a native of Rumania, is Little Switzerland's ski school director. By invitation, she was a contender for the 1948 Olympic Team but a serious accident prevented her from continuing in the Olympic preliminaries.

Instructors at the ski school include Jim Toth. Skiing since the age of 5, Toth has been a member of Ski Patrol for six years in various areas, plus a member of the CUSSA for six years.

An honorary member of Garmich Partenkirchen, Germany, Dr. William J. Walsh will join the staff at Little Switzerland this year. He is the founder of the St. Joseph Valley Ski Club.

Ed Lantz has had 15 years of skiing experience and has skied all over the United States and Canada and spent some time skiing in the French Alps. He has had two years of teaching experience and ski patrol work.

Art Perez has been skiing for more than 15 years and has skied under guidance of trained top Austrian mentors.

Margie Muessel started skiing in her early teens in New York. She skied extensively while at Vermont's Middlebury College and has advanced training in newer techniques. She is a former Ole Tyrol (Little Switzerland) Ski Patrol member. The regular schedule for Little Switzerland is ski hours from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Friday skiing is from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. with night skiing from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Ski hours on Saturday are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and night skiing from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday skiing is from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The resort is closed on Mondays except during a holiday week. It will also be open Christmas and New Year's Day.

An array of special activities has been scheduled to feature this season's program. Sunday will be an open house at the resort. Danley said that some 1,000 persons are expected to attend the event, which will include a ski style show, put on by Lee's of Kalamazoo. A carnival and mardi gras will be held in January. Each Saturday night is "hostess night" at the resort, including an evening of movies.

Danley's wife, Dagmar, assists him in the operation of the three-year old resort.

Dailey

Belle Kling

Best wishes to the Cassopolis Vigilant, its personnel, and readers, for a very Merry Christmas and a successful and

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