



## Ski resort facilities improved

The 1973-74 Upper Midwest downhill skiing season promises to get off to an enthusiastic start even though area operators are somewhat chastened by inflation and a 1972-73 season when erratic weather bounced the wrong way at the wrong times.

New areas which have been talked about for some time, one at Duluth, another at Wabasha, Minn., will not go into operation this season. However, there is a bit of splurging here and there.

Mt. Telemark, Cable, Wis., having completed a \$8-million lodge, is putting in three more chairlifts, two of which should be ready for the opening of the season.

Afton Alps, east of St. Paul in the St. Croix Valley, is adding two more chairlifts for an even dozen in its 10th year of operation. The area now has 19 lifts of various kinds.

Quadra, Hill City, Minn., is building a budget motel which, along with new camper pads and planned townhouses, will greatly increase its overnight capacity. Lutsen, on the North Shore, has sunk another \$100,000 (after last season's big push with new lifts and trails) into trail widening, snow-making, grooming and chalet improvements. Wild Mountain, Almelund, Minn., is putting in a new four-place chairlift and has done a major grading job on a new intermediate run.

Trollhaugen, Dresser, Wis., is opening a new building with ski rental and repairs downstairs and clothing and equipment sales upstairs. Indianhead, Wakefield, Mich., is building a 5,000-square-foot chalet on its wet and wild bottomland, a difficult job, and is adding a 60-bed capacity to its Indian Hills Village.

Improvements and situations reported by Upper Midwest area operators:

**Afton Alps, Afton, Minn.:** Two new chairs, two new slopes, more snow-making, paved entry road, more lights, ski shop open (lift \$6.50).

**Big Powderhorn, Ironwood, Mich.:** 20 new ski homes, 12 condominium units. New branch trail cut for more downhill choices. New slope being added for a total of 16 on 145 downhill acres (lift \$7).

**Bireh Park, Houlton, Wis.,** 30 miles northeast of Minneapolis. New Hedco snowmaking with cooling pond. Three widened trails, 200 new rental sets (450 total). New ropetow (lift \$6).

**Bottineau Winter Park, Bottineau, N.D.:** New snow-making—rental shop, snack bar, nursery (lift \$3.50).

**Buck Hill, 14 miles south of Minneapolis (35-W):** Improved snow-making. Night skiing lights improved, all mercury-vapor. Paved entrance and exits. New grooming equipment. Regraded two runs. Ski shop open (lift \$6.50).

**Buena Vista, Bemidji, Minn.:** New total snow-making, new beginner-intermediate run (lift \$4).

**Crestwood Hills, Alexandria, Minn.:** Sleeping-bag quarters and showers for clubs and retreats. Dining room, snack bar (lift \$2).

**Crystal Hills, Paynesville, Minn.:** Restaurant and country music in full swing and second chairlift ordered, but until it arrives, skiing must wait, possibly until next season.

**Deepwood, Wheeler, Wis.:** Three children's slopes, three fireplaces, catering to parties, two kitchens, bar, Saturday night skiing and dancing (lift \$5).

**Deer Mt., Lead, S.D.:** GLM ski instruction, skating, tubing, tobogganing (lift \$5).

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