



ROBERT MacGREGOR, RIGHT, SON TODD, 12, AT LONE LAKE
Do-it-yourself ski hill is 29 years old

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Private Lone Lake Ski Club Winding Up Its Best Season

By RALPH THORNTON
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One of the oldest ski hills in the Upper Midwest is winding up the best season in its 29-year history.

Yet the Lone Lake Ski Club, located south of Shady Oak Lake near Hopkins, is known to few skiers outside its private membership of 62 families.

"It's a do-it-yourself operation," said Robert Magney, 11408 Oak Ridge Lane, Minnetonka, club president.

"With this year's heavy snowfall, we had a busy time."

Men in the club take turns standing the "watch" on the hill, running the tow engines, skiing safety patrol, making coffee and cleaning up the warming house, he said.

\$10 a season (today it rents for \$350).

Less Skiers

Twin Cities area skiers were less numerous then, and included mainly those who had learned the sport at eastern colleges or on trips to Europe or the Rocky Mountains.

Besides Kingman, the early roster of the club included John Pillsbury Jr., Charles Bell, Donald Dayton, Harrison Johnston, Stuart Wells, James Thorpe, Benton Case, Richard Gale and Henry Kingman.

Through the years the club has had a good safety record. "I recall only two broken legs and a detached retina," MacGregor said.

"Injuries are more apt to

happen while cranking the 35-horsepower tow engine," he said.

Big Names

As Minnesota's smallest mechanized ski hill, Lone Lake nonetheless has jaw-breaker names, borrowed from European resorts, for its downhill runs.

They include Grossglockner, Unterwalden and Jungfrauoch. The chalet is named Pulverschneefemmerhaus.

During its Saturday and Sunday hours of 1 to 5 p.m. and lighted Wednesday evening skiing from 7 to 10 p.m., Alpine music is played on the public address system members installed.

"It's not the biggest hill around, but dollar for dollar you can't beat it for fun," MacGregor said.

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