

With or Without Beeswax

When Business Is Booming Things are All Downhill

By DON JACOBS

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ROLLA, N.D. (AP)—The only winter sideline on the David O. Disrud farm here is a downhill operation. Skiers like it that way.

Last season from 1,000 to 2,000 ski enthusiasts tried their skill on Disrud's 1,200-foot ski slope, once covered with timber and grazing sheep. Skiers from throughout the state flock to Rolla View Slope every winter, and their numbers continue to increase.

"Skiing interest is steadily growing in the state," Disrud pointed out. "North Dakotans are handicapped by having to travel long distances to find suitable skiing areas."

The 56-year-old farmer developed his slope to fill this void.

Since he hacked his slope out of dense woods, a project begun in 1961, many area residents have been attracted to the winter sport.

"During our first season, only a few hundred skiers showed up," he noted. "Since then, business has warranted continuous facility expansion. Every year we have added something new."

Most recent improvements include a beginners' slope, a third tow rope, and lighting for night skiing. The entire ski area consists of the main slope, and two ski trails that zig zag through the flanking woods. The highest hill has about a 130-foot drop.

Regular hours are maintained at the slope from 1 to 5 p.m. on weekends and from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays.

APPROXIMATELY 100 skiers

can be handled on the slope at one time. The ski run has been expanded nearly to its limit, according to Disrud. Long-range plans call for the construction of a new warming house. The present facility was converted from a wooden cabin.

A native of Minnesota, Disrud has been an avid skier since his early childhood. He came to the Turtle Mountain area in his youth and learned to ski in the woods surrounding his present farm.

"I've been a skiing enthusiast for as long as I can remember," he said. "It was only natural that I develop a farming sideline in that direction."

Disrud, his wife and their son, Arlynn, all make good use of the slope in the off time.

THE DISRUDS begin preparation of their slope and ski trails during the summer. Spraying and cutting weeds is a continuous chore that cannot be neglected if the ski run is to remain in peak condition. The slope opens after the first substantial snowfall and closes when the last snow melts.

During the rest of the year Disrud tends to his 1,000-acre small grain farm. He sold the last of his livestock last year to concentrate on the skiing operation. The ski area is situated in the northwest portion of the farm.

Education Board Okays University Food Prices

By The Associated Press

The Board of Higher Education Voted Thursday to establish food rates at both University of North Dakota and North Dakota State at \$450 a year for a seven-day week of board.

The five-day rate was set at \$402.

North Dakota State had asked

the LRC subcommittee recommended that it lease a computer instead.

The board's go-ahead means NDSU now can amend its application to the National Science Foundation and ask for its approval.