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Ralph Trower

Where is iron from ski jump?

At least two things stand in the way of Tim Kingsfield's plans to bring ski jumping back to the Racine area.

First and probably most frustrating, nobody can remember what happened to the iron from the old Washington Park ski jump which was dismantled by the city about eight years ago amid controversy over accidents in the jump vicinity. Supposedly, the iron was to be stored somewhere pending selection of a new site but nobody knows where it wound up.

Obviously, the second hangup is money — even more of it if the iron can't be found. The parks and recreation department might be receptive to another ski jumping hill but that doesn't mean the city automatically would find money for it in the budget.

Location is a possible third problem. One school of thought names Johnson Park, scene of most other city winter activities, as the logical site. Former U.S. ski team member Kingsfield questions whether Johnson's has any hills of adequate size.

Earlier plans to move the jump to Johnson Park fizzled out in a dispute over various matters and there has been no ski jumping, junior or otherwise, hereabouts for a number of years. Burlington's Mt. Tom now is used strictly for recreational skiing.

Racine still contains a number of jumping enthusiasts — the same hardy folks who used to sweep parking lots and cut lake ice to assure enough snow for tournaments. The Kingsfields, Ricchios, etc. are not easily daunted and I must assume that, if they decide there is going to be another jumping hill in these parts, there eventually will be one. It may happen sooner than eventually if someone can solve "The Case of the Missing Iron."

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