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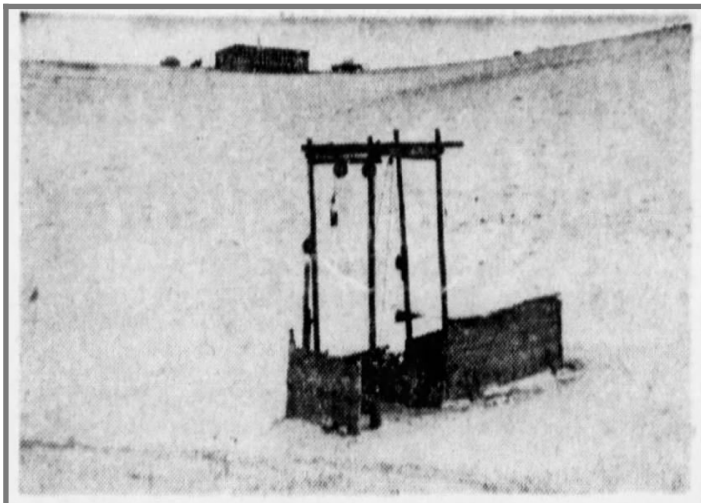

SKI MOR RIDGE . . . The tow is in the foreground, the lodge halfway up the hill. (John Anderson photo)

Mondovi Ski Area Ready for Opening

MONDOVI, Wis. (Special)—West entral Wisconsin's newest ski rea—near Mondovi—is all set, ex- ept for an adequate snow base. Ski Mor Ridge, located 2½ miles orth of Mondovi on Buffalo Coun- Trunk H, was cleared and quipped the past two years by ur Mondovi skiers who want to reate more interest in the sport ere.

FOUR YEARS ago Lloyd Win- ert, Norman Kilness, Jack Whe- n and Douglas Ward began earching for a suitable ski area. hey operated one season on the ldrid Branger farm near Gil- anton and another season east Mondovi, but they weren't sat- fied with the hills. Then they oved their equipment to their resent location and decided it of- red the best skiing.

The men did all their own work clearing stumps and building a lodge and tow. Ski Mor Ridge now surrounds 50 acres of 1,200-foot open runs.

The new frame lodge is 20 by 40 feet. The east side is lined with windows that overlook the ski area. An open fireplace is in the middle of the building.

Kilness said the lodge site is halfway between the top of the ridge and the bottom, which gives a complete view. Most ski lodges are built at the bottom of the hill.

The homemade ski tow is equipped with 1,600 feet of rope, powered by a 45-horsepower tractor engine. Snow is packed on the runs by a caterpillar tractor that has 2-by 5-inch planks bolted to the tracks. Ward said two or three inches of packed snow are needed for a good base.

FUTURE PLANS call for more tows and improved runs. Ward said much enthusiasm has been shown by Mondovians who are awaiting the opening of the ski area.

Ski Mor Ridge will be open Saturday and Sunday afternoons until spring. The ski area is one of five in this part of Wisconsin. Others are located at La Crosse, Eau Claire, Neillsville and Rice Lake. ■

Rep. Johnson To Ask Ice Age Park for State

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two Wisconsin Democratic congressmen Hen-

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