

## MORE IOWANS TRYING SKIING

### SKIING ---

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ing are gone. Today's skiers, with metal alloy or fiberglass skis and leather or plastic ski boots, demand more.

Winter Playland near Humboldt is a good example of the new Iowa ski area.

It would cost \$60,000 to duplicate the facilities at Winter Playland, manager Dick Williams said. The area has three runs — beginner, intermediate and advanced — two rope tows, separate toboggan and snowmobile areas, and a chalet complete with snack bar and open-hearth fireplace.

#### **Creates Snow**

Williams rents extensive snow-making equipment for \$750 a month to create his own snowstorms.

Like a good golf course, the runs have to be groomed and manicured which requires a crawler and rollers and packers.

Winter Playland, which was started six years ago with a chicken coop and a ticket office, overlooks the east branch of the Des Moines River about four miles northeast of Humboldt.

**Other Iowa ski areas are located at Decorah, Crescent, Grimes, Fort Dodge, Webster City, Steamboat Rock and Estherville.**

"People tell me they can't imagine we have skiing here in Iowa, but the number of skiers in Iowa has increased 200 per cent — maybe that's too low — since Winter Playland opened six years ago," Williams said.

"And we've just scratched the surface," he said. "We're getting a lot of middle-aged people who've never been on skis before and they love it. Some days, 80 per cent of our skiers are on skis for the first time and if they all become addicts Iowa's ski population is going to explode."

"We have snow in Iowa about one-third of the year," Williams said. "So why not use it?"