

IOWA LIVING

Skiing facilities in Iowa

By JULIA HOPSON

What? You say, skiing in Iowa? That's right. And not just the kind of skiing usually associated with flat ground — cross country skiing or ski touring as it is also called.

There's downhill skiing in Iowa, too. The sport of presidents (every year watched Jerry Ford stumble and ski at Vail over the holidays), senators (the Kennedy clan has made it a family event), athletes (the 1972 Olympics given credit for much of the recent boom in downhill skiing in America), and movie folk (who can forget the story of "Other Side of the Mountain," in which the heroine begins a new life as a teacher following a tragic ski accident).

has come to the Hawkeye state. "We've experienced a 15-20 per cent increase in skiers each year over the year before," says Mrs. Jan Schell, operator of the Ski Valley resort in Boone.

Similar figures are cited by other Iowa ski resort owners. "Number doubled" "We've had a regular increase year after year," says Barry Hamacher, operator of the Humboldt Winter Playground. "In fact, I'd say the number of interested skiers has doubled over the past five years. We now have about 200 persons a day using our slopes."

The interest in skiing in the Decatur area has been on the upswing every year, according to Bob Huns, director of parks and recreation for the city, which runs the Decatur Ski Hill.

He attributes the increased demand for ski facilities to "a number of factors, including good lesson programs which help beginners grasp the fundamentals right away, television, the Olympics, word of mouth, and social factors. Whatever it is, once people get the bug, it gets to be the thing to do. Right now skiing has gotten to be like tennis, with everyone starting to get in on it."

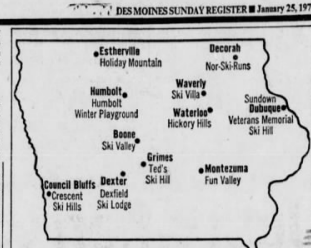
Linda Bryan, from Fun Valley Resort in Montezuma, says they "average 400 skiers a weekend, 200 a day." Many of them are regulars who come every week, and from around Des Moines, others are newcomers who have heard about the sport and want to give it a try.

Sporting goods shops

Operators of sporting goods shops around the state agree with the upward assessment of the skiing trend. Mrs. William Pugh, operator of the Ski Shack in Omaha, the only such store in the Omaha-Council Bluffs area, says "skiing activity has increased 21 per cent over last year, with retail sales even higher than that." She attributes most of the interest in her area to downhill skiing, with the ratio "about 85 per cent of sales in downhill equipment, 15 per cent of sales in cross country," adding, "I've had to depend on cross country sales to live, we'll starve."

Ted Peterschmidt, owner of Kunkle's Sports Center in Davenport, says "this is a strong season for ski equipment sales, far greater than last year." The interest in his area is reflected in ski club membership, with "the Steamers Ski Club having a paid membership of almost 600 members."

In the Sioux City area sales are "on the



upswing," according to Bob Rogers who runs the Sportman's Sporting Goods store here. He says the sport of downhill skiing has become so popular that "there are two clubs that sponsor trips almost every weekend to places like Crest Bear in Sioux Falls, S.D., and Colorado."

Snow machines

But what about the lack of snow? It's a problem, especially where there is no snow-making equipment available. This year, the opportunity for downhill skiing in the state has been limited primarily to resorts that have the machines. As for cross country skiing, the last time most folks got out was Thanksgiving Day around Des Moines. Other parts of the state, except for Davenport, where snow's been enough snow to stay on the ground awhile, report a similar situation.

Here is a list of the places in Iowa where you can go downhill skiing. If cross country skiing facilities are available, they are listed, too.

• **Veterans Memorial Ski Hill**, north end of Veterans Memorial Park, on Thirty-second Street in Dubuque. Ski Hill phone 319-542-9311. To get there take U.S. Highway 59 and go north on John F. Kennedy Road, then go east on North Thirty-second Street. Two top ropes, beginner and intermediate hills. Two snow-making machines. Lift for \$1.25 for children age 13 and under, \$2.00 for persons age 16 and older. Open seven days a week, noon to 5 p.m. weekends, 6-9 p.m. weekdays. Season: Mid-December through March (approximately). Number of lifts and rentals are available in the city for those who come for weekends.

Cross country ski areas are available at Hunter Hill Golf Course on Hunter Hill Road. Note: This hill is designed for Dubuque citizens (mainly children) to use for short periods of time. It is not designed to attract expert out-of-town skiers nor will it find it challenging for any length of time.

• **Non-Ski-Hill, 841 Park Drive, Decatur**. Phone 319-338-3256. Located 1 1/2 miles north of intersection of U.S. Highway 52 and Iowa Highway 9. Has four lifts, a 500-foot beginner slope, two 1,200-foot intermediate slopes, one 500-foot expert slope and a bunny slope of 250 feet. The vertical drop is 250 feet, with the longest run 1,200 feet. Tow fee for high school kids is \$5. For persons above high school age the fee is \$1. Boots rent for \$1.50, skis and bindings \$1, poles and wax \$1. Insurance on equipment 50 cents. No snow-making equipment. If there is snow, operating hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m. weekends and holidays. Season depends on snow. Overnight accommodations are available at the Cliff House Motel, Decatur. Deluxe Motel and the Winesap Hotel in Iowa. Cross country trails are available in parks surrounding Decatur and more are being made. The Non-Ski-Hill will rent cross country equipment.

• **Ski Valley**, three miles west of Boone on U.S. Highway 20, or four miles east of Ogden on U.S. Highway 39 to Route 18 area is visible from U.S. Highway 20. Phone 515-425-2423. Three top ropes. Vertical drop of 180 feet. Longest run 1,200 feet. Most of the run require natural snow. There are 10 runs that will accommodate beginners to expert skiers. Snow-making equipment is available on the main tow which serves three runs. Admission \$3 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, \$4 Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Price includes tow privileges. Operates every day, weather permitting. Nearby accommodations include the Imperial Inn, located about four miles from the ski area, and other hotels in downtown Boone. Note: New building is being erected now for use later this season. Rental equipment, instruction, special group and party arrangements available. Snacks and refreshments.

• **Defield Ski Lodge**, 2 1/2 miles north of Dexter on County Road P-48. Phone 319-789-4307. Three runs about 800 feet long with 200-foot vertical fall. Three top ropes. Certified ski instructor, ski patrol on duty. Beginner slope, night skiing on lighted slopes. Ski rentals available. Open weekends 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. depending on snow conditions. Chaperone and snack bar. Special package deal from Royal Inn in Des Moines for Defield Ski Resort customers. Accommodations also available in Dexter and Boone.

• **Fun Valley**, 2 1/2 miles west of Montezuma on P-31, then one mile south and a half mile east. Phone 515-423-2454. Six runs, 200 feet vertical drop, 1,000-foot runs. Eight snow-making machines. Package for adults, including ski, boots, poles, insurance, lift ticket until 8 p.m. \$1. Same package for children \$1. Open seven days and nights every week from Dec. 15 to Mar. 15. Hours of operation: weekdays and Sundays noon to 5 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Nearby accommodations include the Swanged

Motel in Montezuma, Four Winds in Grinnell (17 miles north) and Best Western in Oklaheona (19 miles south). Carries complete line of ski equipment, snowmobile clothing and accessories, ski rentals. Ski patrol on duty, and area is lighted for night skiing. Ski lodge restaurant part of complex. Skiing available. Ski school. Note: Special package deals include season tow tickets for single persons and families, and night package deals. Special rates for women on Fridays.

• **Holiday Mountain**, located on Iowa Highway 4 south of Estherville. Phone 715-262-0022. Four slopes (beginner, intermediate and expert), one trail, the chair and three rope tows. Snow-making equipment available. Chaperone with snack bar and ski rental shop. Ski school and ski patrol available at all times. Open 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday and holiday, noon to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sunday. Closed Monday and Tuesday. Tow rates vary \$1.50-\$4.50 depending on age of person and days of the week. Season rates available. Cross country skiing trails available along the Des Moines River.

• **Ski Villa**, north of Waverly (go north on First Street N.W. past north power plant to north end of Blockwood Bridge, then turn west on north end of bridge and follow direction signs). Phone 319-322-9922. Six rope tows, snow-making equipment, chaperone with snack bar, ski school and ski patrol available at all times. Hours: Saturday and holidays 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, noon to 10 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday noon to 5 p.m. Tow rates vary from \$1.25 to \$4.50 depending on days of the week and age of skier. Ski equipment rentals available. Season rates for students, children, adults and families. Five models nearby with overnight accommodations. Special party rates can be arranged.

• **Ted's Ski Hill**, one mile north of Grimes on Iowa Highway 141. Phone 515-946-9602. Beginner and intermediate hills. No snow-making equipment. No cross country ski areas nearby. Downhill ski equipment rental \$1.50 per day. Tow ticket \$5 per day. Open 8:30 a.m. until sunset. Saturday, Sunday and Monday with evening skiing available upon request. Season depends upon availability of snow. Nearby overnight accommodations available in Des Moines. Ski lessons. Food and beverages. Private party rates for evening skiing groups, clubs and other organizations.

• **Humboldt Winter Playground**, three miles east and one-half mile north of Humboldt on Iowa Highway 3. Phone 515-332-3223. Has three rope tows, two ski runs, toboggan run with cable car. Heated chaperone and fireplace. Snow-making equipment available. Tow fee \$4 adults. Equipment rental fee \$5. Hours: 1-5 p.m. weekdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends, 7-10 p.m. week nights. Season: Nov. 16-mid-March. Ski accessories and equipment on sale. Motel accommodations available in Humboldt. Certified instructors. Ski patrol on duty on weekends. Lessons available.

• **Hickory Hills**, 1 1/2 miles south of Highway 412 on Iowa Highway 21, sign follows sign, near Waterloo on County Road 2. Phone 515-286-1301. Two wide slopes with rope tows. Complete ski rental and instruction. Three snow-making machines. Three marked cross country trails available. Fee: \$3 students, \$4 adults, \$2 season. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. No overnight accommodations nearby.

• **Crescent Ski Hill**, two miles north of Council Bluffs on Iowa Highway 181. (Take Crescent exit off Interstate 29 and go three miles east). Phone 712-325-9447. Two tows. Snow machine. Ski lodge. Rental of equipment. Ski shop and instruction. Maximum lift length 1,400 feet with 200-foot vertical drop. Lights for night skiing. Fees: \$1.50 weekdays, \$5.50 weekends. Open seven days a week. Hours: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Season: Dec. 15-Mar. 15. Nearby hotel accommodations available in Council Bluffs and Omaha. Group rates available.

• **Sundown**, 5 1/2 miles west of Dubuque on Ashbury Road. Phone 515-544-6478. Nine runs, the longest of which is one-half mile. Three snow-making machines. Cross country skiing available nearby. Open 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Season: December-March. Nearby accommodations available in Dubuque. Can obtain bus space for \$1 at University of Dubuque.

• Two other ski resorts in Iowa have closed for this season. Clear Creek Ranch, on Iowa Highway 3 near Leavenworth, has closed this season due to lack of snow. The Hob Hill Ski Area, in Forest City, has been abandoned as a ski resort although nearby Pilot Knob State Park has cross country skiing trails.

Put your home in order with shelving and cleaning supplies at Target savings

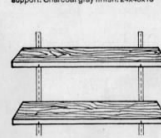
Hirsh steel shelving

16.88 Reg. 19.97

5-shelf unit measures 36"x72"x19". Back braces give steel extra strength. Charcoal gray. Easy to assemble, tool.

8.88 Reg. 9.99

4-shelf unit is easy to assemble. Just use a screwdriver. Shelves adjust at 11" intervals. Back braces for added support. Charcoal gray finish. 24"x48"x19".



Luan mahogany shelving

.99 Reg. 1.27

8-1/2" shelving of laminated mahogany veneer has finished edges. Ready to use or may be painted. Includes hardware, standards and brackets. Colors at more Target savings, of course.

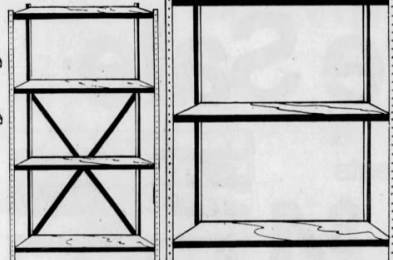
8-1/2" Reg. 2.77, 1-49

10-1/2" Reg. 2.97, 1-99

10-1/2" Reg. 1.97, 1-49

10-1/2" Reg. 2.77, 1-99

10-1/2" Reg. 3.57, 2-49



Cleaning supplies

1.19 Reg. 1.49

Lysol spray disinfectant freshens air and kills germs on environmental surfaces. 14 oz.

1.00 Reg. 1.27

Pine Sol disinfectant and grease remover. 20 oz.

1.19 Reg. 1.49

Shout spray-on stain remover. 14 oz.

1.47 Reg. 1.87

Spray 'n' Wash shampoo lifts dirt to surface for vacuuming. 24 oz.

1.00 Reg. 1.27

Deodorizer for spotless surfaces. Lemon scent. 16 oz.

3 for \$1 Reg. 4.95 each

Glad solid air freshener in 5 light, natural scents. 6 oz.

2 for \$1 Reg. .69 each

Windex disinfectant with ammonia D for sparkling clean windows. 16 oz.

2 for \$1 Reg. .75 each

Sani-Flush toilet bowl cleaner disinfects as it cleans. 34 oz.

Advertised prices good through Wednesday, January 28.



HOURS: Des Moines North and South, Cedar Rapids, Fort Dodge, Ottumwa, Oskaloosa, Bettendorf, Moline and Clinton, Monday through Saturday 10 AM to 10 PM, Moline City, Monday through Saturday 9 AM to 10 PM, Ames, Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 10 PM, Saturday 9:30 AM to 10 PM

SUNDAY HOURS: Des Moines North and South, Noon to 7 PM, Moline City, Ottumwa and Oskaloosa, 11 AM to 6 PM, Ames and Fort Dodge, Noon to 6 PM, Cedar Rapids, Bettendorf, Moline and Clinton, 10 AM to 6 PM.

Manthe is elected

Robert Manthe of Drake University has been elected treasurer of the Mid-America District of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

which is made up of almost 100 colleges and public institutions of higher learning and universities. Manthe is director of Drake's fund for Drake.