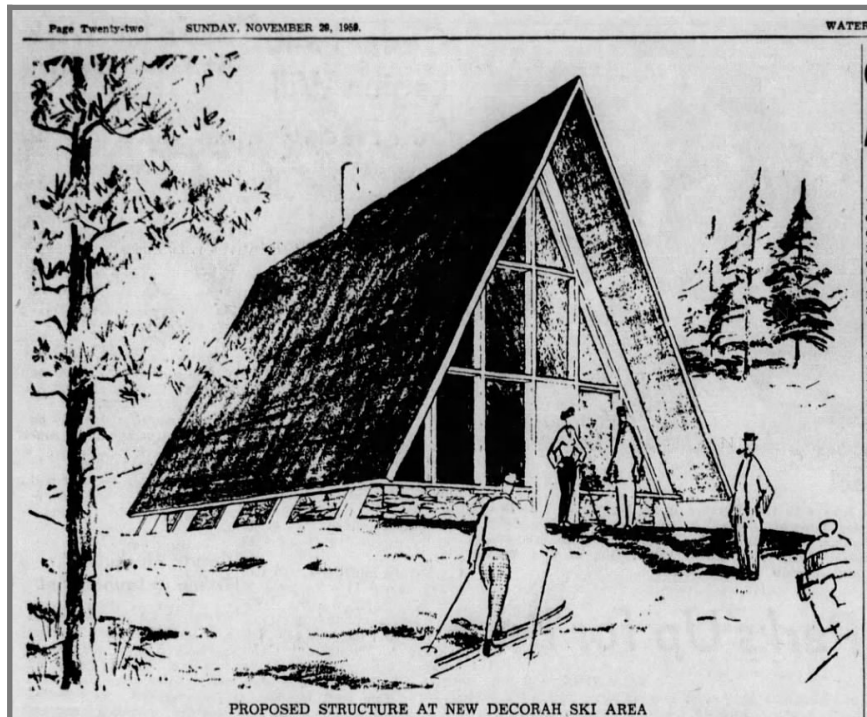




PROPOSED STRUCTURE AT NEW DECORAH SKI AREA

Skiers' Shelter House Decorah Dream

By STEWART HAAS
Courier Staff Writer

DECORAH—The big dream of making Decorah a midwest skiing center now includes plans for a modernistic shelter house at the ski site here. The shelter house is only a picture on a drawing board.

BUT THE Decorah ski club hopes that its new ski area 1½ miles west of here will be successful enough to justify building the structure within the next two years.

Although the snow isn't deep enough now for skiing, the club looks for enough of it to come along this winter to draw Northeast Iowa ski enthusiasts to the slope.

The proposed shelter house of native field stone and timber beams was sketched out during the week by Don Grey, who is associated with Decorah architect Charles Alt-filisch. It would include a fireplace and a large window looking out at the slope.

Paul Strand, president of the ski club, expects the shelter to be popular with the less adventurous type of ski-enthusiast, who likes to sit by the fire and watch others hurtle down the slope.

Strand said that the structure would cost only about \$2,000, with the big savings gained by members volunteering materials and labor.

It would be 24 feet wide by 32 feet long with a high-pitched roof measuring 20 feet high at its peak.

STRAND SAID yesterday that the rope tow is set up at the ski area, but the electrical lines haven't been hooked up yet. There isn't enough snow for skiing anyway, he said.

"We should have a six-inch base of snow — or the equivalent of eight inches of snow packed down," he said.

The ingenious rope tow was put together by Leonard Karnik, who runs a farm machinery shop here. Strand claims that it is going to be the "best rope tow in the midwest."

It runs up a large hill leased by the ski club on a southeast corner of the Fred Jewell farm.

SKIERS HAVE a choice of one of three routes down the slope.

They can stop at a landing half way up the tow and ski down the gentle 500-foot beginners slope.

They can ride to the top and ski down the intermediate slope which twists 1,200 feet down one side of the hill.

Or, they can ski down the advanced slope which plunges 900 feet down a steeper section of the hillside.

For the more adventurous, the club has constructed a 160-foot ski jump. The club hopes that this will attract ski meets to Decorah.

THE BIG skiing problem is snow — or the lack of it. Some winters Decorah gets more snow than a Montana canyon, others it gets almost none.

The club has cleared the ski covered it with smooth straw. But about six inches of packed snow is needed for good skiing.

If the slope proves successful, the club hopes some day to install a snow-making machine. Water for the artificial snow would be drawn from the nearby Upper Iowa River. However, the machines are too expensive to be included in the club's immediate plans, Strand said.

The Decorah ski club is a non-profit corporation. Persons who hold yearly \$10 individual memberships or \$15 family memberships may ski free on the slope. Others must

pay a toll.

The club has also purchased some \$1,000 worth of ski equipment and hopes to rent everything a skier will need except raw courage.

MOST OF the money to develop the ski area was raised in a community drive. The club raised \$2,000 last spring and another \$800 this fall.

"And we've received more donated help and material than we can measure," Strand said.

Until the proposed warming shelter is constructed, the club will provide a rustic warming house and refreshment stand for skiers.

Now the ski club is poised and waiting for a good season like a skier on a hilltop — all it needs is more snow.



Quiz Oelwein Shooting Spree Su

OELWEIN—Michael Showarn, 20, of Oelwein, seated, is questioned by Patrolman Frank Davis, left, and Lt. Melvin Hove, District 10 Highway Patrol. Showarn was arrested in connection with an

early Saturday spree in which buildings and with a shotgun