

6F • FAMILY FOCUS • Cedar Rapids Gazette: Sun, Jan. 30, 1977

Now You Can Ski Right Here

By Gail Cooper-Evans
Gazette Staff Writer

All those excuses you've been using for not taking the family to the ski slopes — too far to go, costs too much, don't have skis — are no longer valid. Squaw Creek ski run, right here in Cedar Rapids, is now open.

A downhill course, complete with an electrically-powered rope to tow skiers back up the hill, provides those who have always wanted to sample this exciting winter sport a chance to try their luck for only \$3 a day.

If even that's too much, it costs nothing to ski on other hills at Squaw Creek, but the effort it takes to get up a slippery hill without the rope tow may be discouraging. Said George Hamilton, director of conservation for Linn county parks, "You can ski anywhere (or toboggan or sled) in a county park, provided you don't damage trees or public property."

Opening day last Sunday didn't generate quite the turnout he had expected, Hamilton said, but suggested that could have been because "not enough people know about it yet."

"People have been expressing a tremendous amount of interest in the run," Hamilton said. "We couldn't open until last Sunday because we are dependant on natural snow," and nature had not been accommodating.

Eventually, Hamilton said, "we'll need our own snow-making equipment. We found out we are about 80 miles south of the ski snow line, as far as recreational type activities go."

Hamilton said the cost of snow-making equipment has been included in next year's budget request, but "it's up to someone else to find the money for it, thank goodness."

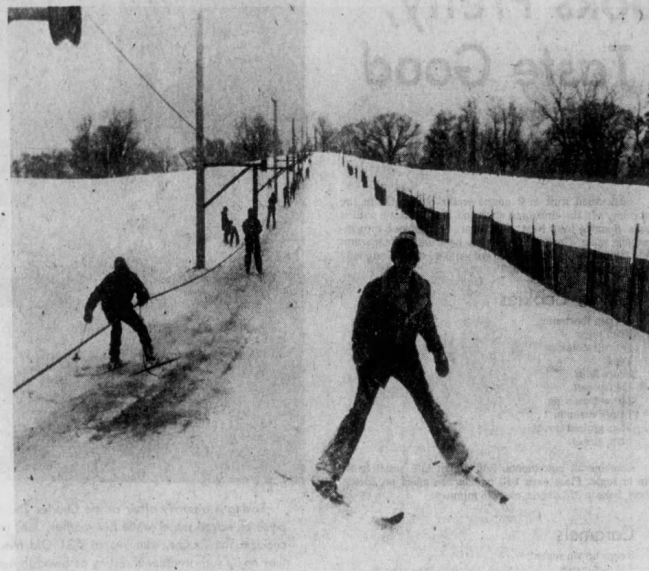
The ski facility was first proposed four years ago. Cost of developing the run, believed to be the only one within approximately 100 miles of Cedar Rapids, was \$5,000, Hamilton said. The accompanying lodge, opened last June 6, cost \$80,000, and road construction added another \$20,000.

The lodge, complete with two fireplaces and a concession stand, is open the same hours as the run. In other seasons, it is open by reservation only.

The park is open from 3 to 10 weekdays, and 10 to 10 weekends and holidays, provided there's enough snow.

As for equipment, the conservation director said, "you can rent skis at several sporting goods stores and ski rental shops in Cedar Rapids and Marion."

Skis generally can be rented for less than \$10 per day. At least one Cedar Rapids shop charges \$7.50 for one day,



\$6.50 per day for two days, and lower for longer periods. (Cross-country skis rent for less than downhill.)

Many people have expressed interest in ski classes but "we're staying away from that for now," said Hamilton. "We are just getting started and need to get going before we branch out."



At left, Jim Thomas, 14, of 4201 Northwood drive NE, gives the Squaw Creek ski run a try. The ski run, believed to be the only one within 100 miles of Cedar Rapids, opened last Sunday. Above, Deb Vosseller, 17, of 1700 Eighth avenue, Marion, slides easily down the hill.



At left, relaxing before a warm fire after tackling the ski slope at Squaw Creek, are Greg Bjornsen, 14 (left), of 2339 Linden drive SE, and Bill Hoppel, 13, of 225 Crescent street SE. At right Tom Hildebrand, 3115 Northwood drive NE, takes a spill in the soft snow on his way downhill.

Gazette Photos
By L.W. Ward



Experts List 'Buyitis' Deterrents

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP)

For both men and women afflicted with "buyitis" what is needed is some meaningful dosage of deterrent medication, says W. Scane Bowler, chairman and chief executive officer of a national financial services organization.

The head of Pioneer Western Corp. offers this prescription:

• Carry credit cards only if you are sure they are going to be needed. Their absence can forestall some really unnecessary purchases.

• Use the telephone to shop — not your pocketbook. A much-needed item, advertised in the newspapers and purchased by phone, can avoid those impulsive buys. Otherwise you may go out to

Open House Set For 90th Birthday

LISBON — Mrs. Maude Miller will celebrate her 90th birthday next Sunday with an open house from 2 to 4 at the Lisbon Methodist church.

She was born Feb. 3, 1887, at Grundy Center. Mrs. Miller has two children, Max Stahl of Lisbon and Harvey Stahl of Phoenix. There are three step-children.

Book Carrying Difference Told

SEATTLE (AP) — Almost every youngster knows that girls carry books on their hips close to the chest while boys tote theirs slung at the side. But why?

Mary A. Jenni, a graduate psychologist, and her husband, Donald, a zoology professor, speculate in the journal "Science" that carrying styles stem from a difference