

Winter Wonderland Michigan Is Now Seeking Fame As a Winter Sports Playground

LANSGING—(U.P.) —Michigan, long famous as America's summer playground, is planning a major invasion of the winter sports field this season.

Ralph Nuttall, president of the East Michigan Winter Sports council, announced that facilities are now in readiness to accommodate 400,000 snow and ice enthusiasts.

New Parks Open

One of the newest developments is at Pioneer Hill Sports park overlooking beautiful Higgins Lake near Roscommon. The park features a log cabin clubhouse with ballroom, restaurant and lounges, a 1,000-foot ski tow and toboggan slide, and a full-time professional instructor.

The Ogemaw Hills Ski club at West Branch has enlarged its development to include two ski tows, skiing areas for beginning and advanced skiers, and an expanded skating rink. Coronation of a parks queen and an open ski meet on February 21 highlight the season.

Lewiston in Montmorency county is featuring an entirely new skiing area, five ski runs, a ski tow and skating rink. Although the regular winter season does not open until January 17, the Lewiston Sportsmen's league is sponsoring a bobcat hunt on January 3.

3,000-Foot Toboggan

Silver Valley, located in the Huron national forest, is planning a full schedule of winter activities, including selection of a winter queen Jan. 10, the annual winter carnival February 6-8, the carnival ball February 28, and regular skating, skiing and tobogganing.

The state-owned Grayling Win-

ter Sports park will be operated this year, by the Grayling Sportsmen's club on condition that any profits will be turned back into further development of the area. Features of this northern playground include six steel-walled 3,000-ft. toboggan slides, and half a dozen ski runs and skating rinks. The annual winter carnival will be held February 14 and 15.

One of the biggest events of the season is scheduled for January 24 and 25 when the North American speed skating championships will be held at Alpena under sponsorship of the Michigan Skating association. Other Alpena events include wildcat hunts on January 10 and 11 and an ice fishing festival January 17 and 18.

New Ski Tow

Elsewhere, Gaylord is planning a new public skating rink. Skyline on US-27 has enlarged its skiing facilities to accommodate more than 600 persons an hour, Bay City has scheduled a series of speed skating races for January 4, and Hubbard Lake is planning an informal program of tobogganing, skiing, skating, ice fishing and winter hunting.

The Pontiac Ski club, with permission of the conservation department, has constructed a ski tow and warming house on Steeple hill in the Highland area which will be open to the public. A similar project is being planned by the Flint Ski club in the Ortonville area. Both parks are owned by the state.

Other public recreational areas which will be open to informal winter sports include Muskegon, Ludington, Waterloo and Hayes.