

1949

THE BAY CITY TIMES

"What Is So Rare as A Day in 'Winter'?"

Don't Hibernate --- Get Out and Have Fun

"And what is so rare as a day in June?"

When James Russell Lowell asked that question in his famous poem, "June," written back around 1855, he should have been in Michigan to take in the glory of Northeastern Michigan's current winter sports program.

A day in January and February in the state's winter wonderland is bound to be more enchanting to winter sports enthusiasts than any day in June.

With the most comprehensive development program in years, directed by the East Michigan Winter Sports Council, skiers, skaters, fox and wildcat hunters, and ice fishermen are assured of one of the best cold-weather sports seasons in the history of the state.

A heavy fall of fresh snow last Wednesday decided many of the area's snow parks to start operations this weekend to provide fun for holiday visitors. As a result late last week crews were busy at all parks to putting them into fine shape for use yesterday and today.

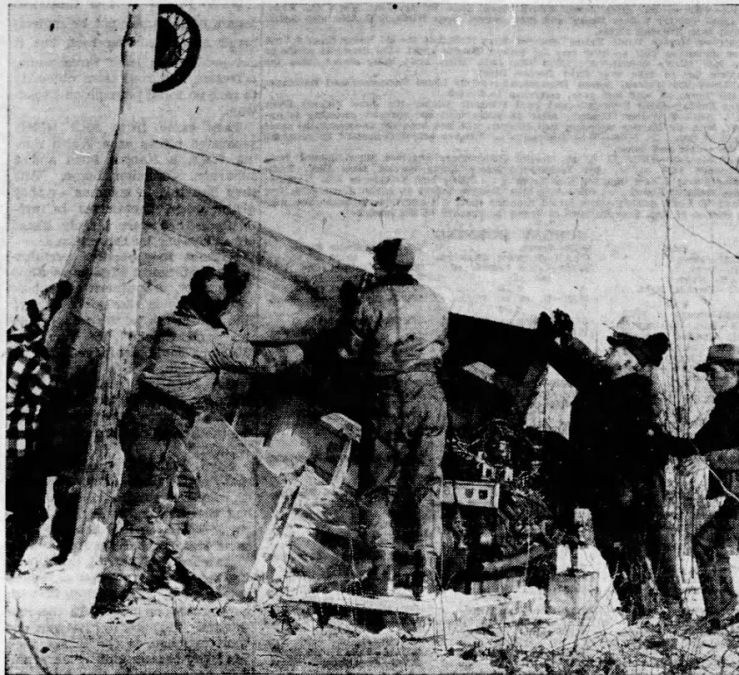
The East Michigan Tourist Association has just issued a schedule of events at 15 of the most prominent resorts in Northeastern and Central Michigan. Following are some of the most important on the list:

Alpena—In addition to their annual bobcat hunt and ice carnival, at which the Winter Queen will be selected Jan. 12, Alpena residents will have the Michigan outdoor speed skating championships drawing skaters from Detroit, Flint, Wyandotte, Jackson, Cheboygan, Saginaw, Bay City and other sections of the state. The Alpena rink ranks with the best in the country, and is illuminated for night skating. There also is excellent skiing at the new Alpena Ski park, Lookout Hills.

Cheboygan—In addition to skating, skiing, tobogganing, ice fishing and hunting, it is planned to hold a speed skating meet here sometime in February.

Lewiston—Skiing at Sheridan Valley, with skating, tobogganing, ice fishing and fox and wildcat hunting. This community will hold its Snow Queen coronation at its Winter carnival, Feb. 11-13.

Tawas-Oscoda — They've hewn out a new ski run from the wooded hills along the Au Sable river near Oscoda, and at least two ski tows are in operation there now. Weaver's resort on Van Etten Lake has installed a skating rink and dance hall. At Tawas you have the famed Silver Valley Winter Sports park, plus excellent ice fishing along Lake Huron. The Tawas Winter Queen will be selected Jan. 8, and the



Typical of scenes at all Northeastern Michigan Winter Sports centers last week as volunteer crews donated time and labor to get equipment in operation for the hundreds of snow sports enthusiasts expected out today is the photo above. It shows volunteers from Alpena placing a new ski tow house in place at the new Lookout Hills ski park, near Alpena. Opened for the first time this year for general use, the new ski park is sponsored by the Winter Sports committee of the Alpena Chamber of Commerce. A heavy fall of snow last Wednesday, general throughout the entire Northeastern Michigan area, spurred the volunteers to extra hard labor to get the parks in shape for this weekend.



With the improved facilities of the Ogemaw Hills Winter Sports area practically at their back door, West Branch youngsters are learning to ski nearly before they can walk. They have been able to get small skis but their poles, in many instances, are taller than the skiers. The quartet shown above about to take off for a practice session consists of (left to right) Sally Rea, David Blumenthal, Nancy Douglas and Linda Bartlett, all of West Branch.

Silver Valley Winter Queen selection is slated for Jan. 22. The Silver Valley Winter carnival will be held Feb. 4-5-6.

Grayling — Winter sports here are a big business under the Grayling Winter Sports Park, Inc. The annual Grayling Winter carnival, which will include a Winter Queen Coronation ball, takes place

Feb. 12-13.

Gaylord—Up U. S. 27 from Grayling are the popular Otsego county winter sports at Snow Valley, Waters Ski Village, Otsego Ski club and other spots there is every variety of cold weather fun to be had.

Roscommon — The Pioneer Hills park has skiing, tobog-

gating, skating, hunting and fishing, and snowshoe trails. There'll be a Snow Queen crowned here, too, at the Winter Festival, Jan. 22-23. An amateur open ski meet will be staged Feb. 12-13.

At Clare-Harrison there is the "Snowshoe Mountain" resort recently developed which boasts skiing, coasting, tobogganing, ice fishing and fox and rabbit hunting.

West Branch—Popular with Bay Cityans is the Ogemaw Hills Ski course and skating rink near West Branch. Selection of the Ogemaw Hills Winter queen will be made Jan. 15, and the queen's coronation ball will be held Feb. 19. The Tri-City Open Ski meet will be held there Feb. 19.

The various spots mentioned above offer the winter sports enthusiasts the best in outdoor winter sports, but there is plenty of sport to be had for Bay City winter fans in their own backyard. Starting off with the Central Michigan Speed Skating championships at the fairgrounds rink today Bay Cityans have skating on a fine rink day and night. Then there's plenty of ice fishing on Saginaw bay right north through Pinconning, Standish and up to the Tawassee. And for hunting, Bay county residents have until Jan. 31 to shoot cottontail and snowshoe rabbits, crows, wildcat and fox.

So don't hibernate—get out and have some winter fun.

Jan. 12—

**District of
Two Directors**