

Ready for Season of Spills, Slaloms

Michigan Ski Resorts Expect Big Boost in Participants This Winter



SNOW GOOD, RUN FAST—This is a double-chair lift at Boyne Mountain, near Boyne City, one of the many ski runs whose facilities have been increased this year.

Detroit — (AP) — Now is the time when all good skiers—and 'snow bunnies,' too—haul out the polished slats of ashwood and the ski poles and ready themselves for the season of spills and slaloms that lies ahead.

As a popular spot, skiing in Michigan, as elsewhere, is making spectacular growth with each new winter. The bureau of business research at Michigan State college estimated about 65,000 skiers took to Michigan slopes last season, an increase of 35 per cent over the previous year. Similar growth is forecast for the season just beginning.

More Opening Up.

Michigan now boasts about 40 fully developed public ski areas, and more are opening up every year. Owners of most existing areas have expanded their facilities in anticipation of increased patronage this season. Slopes have been widened, new ski trails opened, new shelters built and new tows installed. Facilities for night skiing, also, are more widespread.

As further incentive, though it may come as bad news to motorists and sunshine lovers, skiers probably can look forward to more snow this year than last when snowfall in many sections of the state was considerably below normal.

In western Michigan, Boyne Mountain, near Boyne City, and Caberfae in the Manistee national forest are two of the foremost ski areas of the region.

Doubles Facilities.

Boyne Mountain, with Olympic Champion Stein Eriksen of Norway and Royce Asher, former Sun Valley professional, as instructors, has doubled its ski facilities this year. Caberfae, first of the Michigan skiing centers, anticipates 2,000 skiers a day on week-ends. To accommodate crowds like this, owners have opened three new ski runs and installed three new rope tows.

Other leading ski areas in the region include Briar Hill at Mesick, scene of the Michigan ski jumping championships set for Feb. 6; Mt. Mancelona, north of Mancelona on US131; Hickory Hills and Holiday Hills at Traverse City; Echo Valley at Kalamazoo and the Manistee winter sports area in the Udell Hills of Manistee National forest, completed this year.

Eight ski areas in the upper peninsula offer ample facilities for both the beginner and the expert. Among them are Pine Mountain at Iron Mountain, which features the world's highest, artificial ski jump; Mt. Zion at Ironwood. Improving winter sports area, which has 16 miles of ski trails, and Porcupine Mountain State park, which boasts a 600-foot vertical drop on its four slopes.

Others are Alpey Hills ski area near Houghton, Mt. Mesnard near Marquette, Crystallia ski hill at Crystal Falls, and Gladston ski park three miles northwest of Gladstone.

In eastern Michigan 15 ski areas will be open to the public this year. Leading are Snowflake Mountain, nine miles north of Clare off US27; Grayling winter sports park near Grayling; Au Sable ski bowl nine miles west of Ocedo and Snow Valley Ski club at Otsego lake in Otsego county.

Newly-Opened Resorts.

In the same area as Snow Valley are the newly-opened Sylvan Knob, five miles northeast of Gaylord, and Al and Steve's Ski village, 10 miles south of Gaylord.

Lansing Ski club has its own ski area on Lake Lansing rd., not far from town, as does the Pontiac Ski club, which operates Teeple Hill ski area in the Highland state recreation area, 14 miles west of Pontiac.

Others include Griswold Mountain ski area near Indian River, Skyline and Pioneer Hills sports park near Roscommon, Sheridan Valley near Lewiston, Ogemaw Hills ski park and Kenyon's in Ogemaw county and Silver Valley, northwest of Tawas.

Build Own Yule Display

Grade School Pupils Decorate Dutton Unit

Dutton—With no special workshop or tools pupils of Gannon school here cut and whittled out a 21-foot-long Santa Claus display to decorate the school yard in the holiday season.

The eight prancing reindeer, headed by Rudolph drawing a sleigh full of Christmas presents and a statue of Santa Claus, represent four hours of hard work by the pupils, says Mrs. Katherine S. Johnson, their teacher. For an added decorative touch, they made and painted a life-size Santa Claus for the front of the school door. Their pattern recommended using either heavy cardboard or plywood to construct the display. The pupils settled their tool shortage problem by using cardboard for the reindeer and plywood for the sleigh. Outdoor paint was used for the display and the deer skins were made realistic by using a blend of paint, Mrs. Johnson explains. Strips of black oilcloth were used for the reindeer harness.

"Every pupil from the eighth grade to kindergarten had some part in making the display," says the teacher.

Tourist Body Sets Budget

Asks \$437,388 to Help Attract Visitors

Lansing — (AP) — The Michigan Tourist council will ask the legislature to appropriate \$437,388 to attract tourists to Michigan in the next fiscal year.

Robert J. Furlong, executive secretary of the council, said the agency needs more money to meet keener competition from other states and vacation areas.

"Nationwide competition in the tourist industry has progressed to such an extent that it is not longer logical to believe that boom times in general will result in a boom year for Michigan's tourist business."

Cites Advertising Value. Furlong said he hoped to get more money in the next few years to put Michigan "back in the parade" in the tourist industry.

He said surveys disclose that the states reaping the greatest harvest of tourist dollars are those that spend the most on advertising.

In 1954, he said, the council advertised Michigan tourist attractions in 24 nationally-circulated magazines, placed 750 advertisements in Michigan newspapers, and distributed 250,000 pamphlets on the state's vacation spots.

Furlong said 1954 saw a "slight" decrease in the state's tourist business. He said he was looking forward to 1955 tourist prospects with "restrained optimism."

Furlong said there has been a 60 per cent increase in advertising space rates and mechanical costs since 1946, while the council's advertising expenditures have in-

Crash Kills Gobles Man

Capt. H. T. Ketchum Dies in B25 Mishap

Gobles—(AP)—Capt. Harry T. Ketchum, 33, of Gobles, was one of three men killed Monday in the crash of an airforce B25 at Rapid City, S. D., relatives here have been informed.

The crash occurred while Ketchum's wife and two sons were en route to Gobles to spend the Christmas holidays. They were accompanied by the officer's brother, Kay, who also is a member of the airforce.

Capt. Ketchum, a veteran of 10 years' service in the airforce, had re-enlisted about a year ago.

The other victims were the pilot, Maj. Herbert Trost, 34, Jefferson, Iowa, and Airman 1c Robert V. Miles, Earlinton, Mass., who was the engineer.

Wed in Hospital