

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1949

Western Michigan Bids For Winter Sport Share

GRAND RAPIDS — Are you one of those persons who start greasing up your skis and toboggans when the snow flies? Then you will want to scan this report of activity in the winter sport centers on the western swing.

Increased patronage at winter sports parks has been indicated by expansion and improvement programs at virtually all winter sports centers and the rapidly growing interest in skiing and other snow sports in recent years.

Use of facilities at Caberfae Winter Sports area in Manistee National forest, 16 miles west of Cadillac, reached a peak two years ago when 60,000 persons patronized the park. Wells said. Attendance last year was down due to unfavorable ski conditions. Caberfae has the greatest use of any of the Michigan winter sports centers.

At Caberfae 10 powered ski tows will serve 14 ski runs and in addition the 25-acre slalom bowl in the scenic hills country will test abilities of expert skiers. Two large sections have been set aside in the park for beginners and other runs have been built for intermediate skiers.

RUNS at Caberfae vary in length from 1,000 to 3,000 feet and with slopes up to 45 degrees.

Within the Caberfae territory are miles of trails for crosscountry skiers and snowshoe hikers. A unit of the National Ski Patrol is on the area daily to maintain safe skiing.

Lounging facilities in the rustic shelter house have been enlarged and a new ski shop erected. Two ski jumps of 15 and 30 meters have been improved and the half-mile toboggan slide is being re-conditioned.

Transportation is available to the Caberfae area from Cadillac by bus.

Wendell Marzolf, secretary of the Cadillac Chamber of Commerce, has completed a survey of accommodations available for winter sports enthusiasts and reports an increased number of winterized cottages and cabins in addition to year-around hotels and tourist rooms. Arrangements for accommodations can be made at Cadillac Chamber of Commerce.

ONE of the outstanding improvements is at Boyne Mountain club, where a new lodge to house 40 guests is nearing completion. It is expected to be open early in December.

The club also has constructed three new intermediate ski runs, all of which end near the base of the chair lift, which carries skiers to the peak of the 500-foot-high hill.

One of the new trails, named the Valley run, is 3,000 feet long,

starting in a gentle valley at the top of the mountain.

Improvements have been made at the clubhouse — a shaftlet-type two-story structure of scenic beauty at the base of the main slope. Ski shop, refreshment bar and dining room in addition to the lounge are housed in the clubhouse, with a huge window that permits a panoramic view of the main slope. The Boyne Mountain Club is starting its second year of operation.

HANS (Pepi) Teichner, former professional at Sun Valley, has returned to the Sugar Loaf Mountain slope, seven miles south of Leland.

The Michigan interscholastic ski championships will be held at Sugar Loaf this winter at a date not yet determined, Teichner has reported.

At Petoskey ice-skating again will be the principal winter sport with facilities for both novice and experienced skaters. The skating rink, one of the largest supervised areas in Michigan, will be lighted for skating at night, it has been announced by Helen M. Bradley, secretary-manager of the Petoskey Chamber of Commerce.

Plans also are in the making for several inter-club and inter-city skating events during the winter season.

The 2,500-foot toboggan slide and slopes for novice skiers at the Petoskey park also will be opened as soon as weather conditions are favorable.

One of the most spectacular winter sports of West Michigan is at Harbor Springs, where bobsledding will be resumed on Bull Moose hill within the city limits. Improvements have been made on the turns and elsewhere on the mile-long run.

In the southern part of the West Michigan territory winter sports enthusiasts will have a well-developed recreation area in Echo Valley, a park eight miles east of Kalamazoo and 16 miles west of Battle Creek. Four 1,600-foot toboggan runs have been constructed, in addition to a skating rink of 18,000 square feet, downhill and slalom skiing areas and two ski jumps.

The entire area is lighted for night use and a modern clubhouse with lounging quarters and food service is ready for opening of the season. The area is open every evening and all day over weekends.