

THE EVENING NEWS WINTER SPORTS EDITION

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Les Cheneaux Carnival Is One Of Winter Highlights

HESSEL—Up to 2,000 people take to the ice here or in Cedarville each winter on the weekend of the annual ice carnival, set this year for February 19 and 20th.

This year's carnival, the sixth annual one, will be held at Hessel Bay, following the tradition of alternating sites between the twin communities. The Carnival is sponsored by the Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce, but practically all residents and most of the civic organizations, from the Boy Scouts to the Ski Club, participate in the planning for a variety of events.

Among the most popular adult entertainments are the ice machine races to be held this year on Saturday afternoon, February 19th. Cash prizes awarded are for different horsepower machines of both the track and air-sled types, as well as an obstacle race for unclassified vehicles. A serpentine car race is also being held.

ICE CARNIVAL time is specifically planned to offer amusement for the younger children in the form of junior fishing contests, sawdust money pile scrambles, special go-cart and other ice vehicle rides, and a variety of ice sculptures and good-sized igloos for sliding and hiding. Sunday's ski tournaments on February 20th are open to young racers from five to 18 years old, and a teen-age Queen and King from among the high school students are chosen to reign over the carnival each year.

One of the events to be staged for the first time this year will be a ice hockey exhibition game with two teams from the Pee-wee League in Sault Ste. Marie contending in three abbreviated 10-minute periods.

Snow shoe races are another of the off-beat sports set for Saturday's program, and the usual adult fishing derby will be held for the entire two-days of the carnival. Any



fisherman who has bought one of the green and white Winter Carnival buttons is eligible to register perch caught in Les Cheneaux waters during the carnival weekend to compete for the cash prize. Last year's winner was John Cason of Cedarville who caught a 13-inch perch weighing one pound and six ounces through the ice on Muskie Bay.

The air-sled races which usually draw contestants from all the surrounding area were won last year by Eddie Dutcher of Cedarville in the 65-85 horsepower class and Charlie Hill in the 100 and up horsepower race. A special George Gill Memorial Trophy is also awarded annually in an all-class event.

THE TRACK-SKI machine races drew a strong contingent from Drummond Island last year, with Jess Church and Carl Buchl both from Drummond taking first and second place respectively.

One of the other more unusual old-time events which interests the audience as much as the contenders is the log-sawing contest, with two-man teams timed for speed in using a cross-cut saw on sized logs. Winners of this for the past two years have been Richard Nye and Bruce Patrick who set a

record time of 14 seconds to cut through a 14 inch log last year.

In the general fun-and-foolishness category, an old-time jail is set up with four special sheriffs roaming the ice to arrest adult spectators who are not wearing their igloo-decorated carnival button.

The Lions Club will sponsor a food concession on the ice during the day, and the VFW and Auxiliary will hold a fish fry at their hall in Hessel directly facing the bay in the evening.

The many and varied kinds of ice sculptures, including fish, animals and other reproductions in ice and snow are created by different organizations and individuals, and the ice-throne for the royal couple is usually an all-community project.

Although the carnival is sponsored directly by the Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce, the Clark Township board usually makes a strong financial contribution to the costs, and other civic organizations participating include the Lions Club, the school, the Cedarville Businessmen's Association, the VFW and Auxiliary, the Sportsmen's Club and the Boy Scouts. Ron Hicks is general chairman for this year's event.

SKIING RACES at the Com-

munity Ski Hill in Cedarville are part of the Carnival weekend events, and are handled by the Les Cheneaux Ski Club, of which Ford Lipsett is president. Races are divided into four class age classifications each for both boys and girls, ranging from five to 18 years old, and

will be held on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 20.

Maps Available

The Michigan Tourist Council's free ski map is available. Write the Council, Mason Building, Lansing.

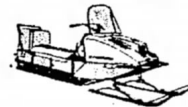


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