

Next for Skiers: Plastic Snow And Playhouses

THOSE WHO know say that the next big expansion move in winter sports will be in plastic snow and ski area playhouses.

"Off-season skiing at Silverbell Village ski area near Lake Orion on a combination of plastic snow (the pellets provide ball-bearing action) and crushed snow has proved to be a big hit. And it isn't expensive either.

The developer of the artificial snow, which resembles the real thing in many respects, is Danforth Holley of Warren, the inventor who pioneered the L-shaped edges on common skis and also is marketing a virtually indestructible golf ball.

He predicts that eventually, with the development and acceptance of plastic snow, the sport will be a year-around one in West Michigan.

THAT SHOULD be a comforting thought, especially to resort owners who suffered one of the worst financial beatings in years this winter because of the lack of good ski weather.

About ski area playhouses, one was started at Stowe Mt., Vermont this winter and was filled most of the time. It looks a lot like Saugatuck's Red Barn Theater in appearance and its success is expected to spread the idea to many other resorts as well.

OTHER LATE SEASON notes before winding up the winter sports recreation season for the year: Michigan's first dogsled entry in the world meet, Frank Hall of Jackson, placed 17th in a field of 28 at Laconia, N.H. He won the Petoskey Sports Carnival race and most other West Michigan contests this winter with impressive times, but a blizzard slowed him in the world meet.

THERE WAS much publicity earlier this year recalling the 1917 St. Paul winter carnival which was highlighted by a 522-mile dogsled race from Winnipeg, Man., to St. Paul.

Both dogs and men were bleeding and limp with exhaustion at the finish of that classic, won by Albert Campbell, a Hudson Bay Indian in 118 hours and 10 seconds. The real hero, however, was the lone American, Fred Hartman, who was forced



THIS WAS HENRY C. Martens, now of Grand Rapids, as an 18-year-old youth in his carnival dress for the 1917 St. Paul Winter Carnival where he witnessed the end of one of the longest dog sled races ever held.

to walk or run the entire distance when his lead dog was killed.

A native of St. Paul who now lives in Grand Rapids, Henry C. Martens, witnessed that race and has vivid recollections of it. He also likes to remind listeners that the St. Paul carnival started in 1886 with an ice palace built of 30,000 blocks of ice and a parade with 20,000 marchers.

TWO MEMBERS of the Muskegon Ice Skating Club, Mrs. Mickey Stinson and Joseph Goryl, have taken second place in the preliminary dance event in the Tri-State Figure Skating Championships just held in Toledo.

The tri-state competition included skaters from Michigan, Indiana and Ohio.