

Mankato, Red Wing Projects Swell List of Ski Areas

By JACK NORSTAD
Sunday Tribune Staff Writer

From the deep south (for Minnesota, that is) comes word of two hardy and hopeful projects to be added to the list of Upper Midwest ski areas.

Bob Wilkins, president of the Mankato Ski club (organized last year and now numbering 65 members), calls attention to Harvey Anderson's Ski Haven, just southwest of Mankato, which offers a vertical drop of 300 feet, two rope tows, a beginners' area and lights for night skiing.

Just completed is a log chalet, "a monument to old fashioned, carved log construction" . . .

Under construction at Red Wing is a three-run ski bowl being built by the Red Wing YMCA with financing guaranteed by a group of local businessmen.

Roy Carpenter, YMCA board president, originated the idea and is handling the construction.

New in Wisconsin (to us, at least), is Sunny Acres Ranch at Minong, owned and operated by Roy E. Johnson. In addition to tows, the ranch offers lodging, meals, a practice jump and 640 acres of fine overland skiing. . . .

The hardy perennials are busy, too, with additions and improvements.

Major among them is the snow-making equipment at Moon Valley near Shakopee and a similar installment at Hardscrable, Rice Lake, Wis.

Minneapolis' Mt. Nor-

mandale now offers 60 acres of lighted slopes and, of course, that platter lift which can still be regarded as new since it got only a one-day workout last season.

Buck Hill at Savage has a new beginners' hill with an 800-foot separate tow and a new run for intermediate skiers.

Trollhaugen, Dresser, Wis., which was almost washed away by last summer's floods, has had a \$10,000 face lifting which includes new runs and two new electric tows.

Val Chatel at Park Rapids, Minn., has undergone a large-scale expansion through the efforts of the Park Rapids Ski club which subscribed \$5,000 and considerable time and effort to the cause. Major improvements include an addition to the chalet housing a restaurant, and ski shop; regrading of the main runs, doubling their size; doubling the size of the parking lot; and increasing the beginners' slope to seven times its previous area. . . .

Ski instructor Karl Leping, 8100 Wesley drive,

offers a new venture called The Ski School. He and a group of other instructors organize caravans to Upper Midwest ski areas with good snow conditions and, once there, provide a full day of instruction. Contact him for further information.

One of the most convincing pitches for female patronage offered by a ski area comes from Michigan Tech Mont Ripley at Houghton, Mich. We quote: "There are 2,300 men students at Michigan Tech and only 90 women. Out-of-town girl skiers can't miss a good time."

Sounds reasonable. . . .

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