

Back Yard to Jackson Hole

LOCAL SKI FAMILIES GO BIG LEAGUE

FROM ONE of America's smallest ski hills to the largest—that's the transition being made by three neighboring Excelsior families this month.

It started with a back yard rope ski tow run by a lawnmower engine.



RALPH THORNTON
Ski Country

The tow, in the yard of Dr. Lee Hermann, dentist living on Christmas Lake, is shared by the families of his next door neighbors, Thomas Holloran and Dr. Paul Ellwood.

The vertical drop of the bank in front of their homes must be all of 30 feet.

This winter each of them purchased an interest in the Jackson Hole Ski Corp., developer of what will be the largest ski mountain in the United States when completed, near Jackson Hole, Wyo. (vertical rise: 4,500 feet). "Together I figure we control 1 1/2 per cent of the stock in the area," Ellwood said.

The opportunity to invest came because Ellwood had known Paul McCollister, Jackson Hole promoter, at Stanford University. Described by Ellwood as "a fantastic guy," McCollister had entered Stanford as a freshman at 32, having already made a fortune. Now retired, he's undertaken the most ambitious ski project in the nation.

While the aerial tramway at Jackson Hole, designed to carry skiers to the top in 8 minutes, is not completed, it is expected to be running by mid-February, Ellwood said. That's when the three families plan to forsake their back yard mole hill for the Jackson Hole hill for two weeks, starting Feb. 19.

The Minneapolis High Schools ski meet Saturday at Theodore Wirth Park will offer spectators a look at three skiing events: Slalom racing (10 a.m.), jumping (1 p.m.) and cross country racing (2:15 p.m.). Watchers on skis can follow the action in person around the course.

TALK around the fireplace at Quadra Mountain Lodge, Hill City, over the weekend (it was minus 40 degrees outside) turned to early skiing days in this country.

Dudley Russell, Orono, an executive of Archer Daniels Midland Co., recalled riding the nation's first ski tow at Woodstock, Vt., while a student at Dartmouth College in 1934. Before that, said Russell, who was a classmate of champion skier Dick Durrance, they climbed the hills on foot in order to ski down. "It revolutionized the sport," he said.

Seated a couple of chairs from Russell were two St. Paul men who claim to have built the second ski tow in the U.S. Ned Davis and his brother Chandler, who had ridden the Vermont tow the previous winter, rigged a rope tow powered by a 1923 Dodge engine on a farmer's hill near Battle Creek Park in 1936.

The St. Paul Daily News printed a picture of the contraption, calling it, for want of a better word, an "Up-ski."



Russell



N. Davis

"We were going to make a mint of money," Ned Davis said. "We charged \$1, and our biggest crowd was 50 people." They moved the tow to New Brighton (where it was known as North Star Ski Club), then when the arms plant was built there moved again to Barker's Alps, behind the state prison at Bayport.

Davis was a member of the first ski team at Harvard University and had raced against



C. Davis

Durrance.

YOUNGEST ski instructor ever certified by the USSA Central Division is Martha Mosiman, Deephaven, who received her rating on her 18th birthday Jan. 11. The Minnetonka High School senior had passed her tests nine days earlier, but had to wait for certification until she reached the minimum required age of 18. Both her father and uncle, Earl and Mort Mosiman, Minneapolis corporate pension consultants, are also certified ski instructors. Martha has been teaching Tatra Ski Club and Minnetonka Recreation Association classes for two years.



Miss Mosiman

SKIING was not only possible but pleasant during last weekend's sub-zero cold, thanks to those inexpensive nose-and-mouth masks made by Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co., St. Paul.

A doctor friend explained that breathing the warmed air created by the mask prevents chilling the lungs and heart, reducing danger of coronary attacks. By keeping the blood warmer, they keep the entire body warmer. They come in colors, too. Mrs. Ned Davis, whose husband is a 3M executive, wore a red one to match her outfit at Sugar Hills Sunday.

A SWITCH: "Skiing good to fair; bobsledding excellent," is the report from Eko Bakken, Scandia, where an iced hob run, complete with tunnel, attracts non-skiers seeking downhill thrills. Bobsleds may be rented at the area, open weekends and Tuesday evenings.

MOST ski reports are terse, factual statements, but a wire from Mrs. Bonnie Wheatley of the Department of Tourism and Information at Fort William, Canada, took the cake. "All areas rated excellent," she said. "Picturesque, like skiing in whipped cream."

We'll be up—Sundae.

Lead Mixed Golf

LOST TREE VILLAGE, Fla. —P—Barbara McIntire of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Truman Connell of Tequesta,

