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RIDING THE ROPE TOW to the top of the Hidden Valley ski area in Pacific, Mo., is Linda Marbury. More than 250 skiers visited the area when it was opened for the first time last week-end.

ALL THAT'S NEEDED IS SNOW

# Newly Opened Slope Finds Skiers Slaloming for Joy

By SHIRLEY ALTHOFF
Globe-Democrat Staff Writer

St. Louis ski enthusiasts, start praying for snow!

You see Missouri's first ski area is now open and all it needs to keep going is snow.

(Additional Pictures are on Page 5A.)

Called Hidden Valley, the ski area is 15 miles south of Pacific, off Highway F in Franklin County. Operated by a corporation of seven men, headed by Denis Zavadil, it features a 1000-foot long, 200-foot wide intermediate slope serviced by a rope tow. Basic plans, unless there is exceptionally heavy snow, call for it to be open on week-ends only. Some rental equipment is available and an instructor is present for group lessons on week ends and holidays.

**250 TRY LUCK**

Over 250 skiers visited the area when it was opened for the first time last week-end.

**"We didn't realize there were so many people in St. Louis interested in skiing. We were just amazed when so many showed up," said Betty Zavadil, who runs the ski rental and operations for her husband.**

Originally, the group planned to develop Hidden Valley as a private ski area for their families and friends.

All except one of the seven are married and have young children and they found it increasingly difficult to get away for a week or two during the winter to ski. So, with Zavadil as their leader, they finally decided if they couldn't go to the mountains, they'd bring the mountains closer to home.

**5-Year Search**

Zavadil, an engineer, searched on and off for five years for a good location before settling on the slope in the hilly countryside outside Pacific. Last March, he and his friends took a long-term lease on 25 acres in the area and started to work.

**They made surveys and then started clearing the trees, 1500 in all, off the slope. Rocks had to be blasted out. (One rock required 63 sticks of dynamite before it went). The group did most of this work themselves. They had a professional grader level the slope, and afterwards they hand-raked and seeded the whole hillside.**

In the meantime, news of the project spread and soon inquiries poured in. The surprising amount of interest shown

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# Bullock Insurance Trial Opens Monday

Trial of the long-pending Bullock insurance case is scheduled to start at 10 a.m. Monday before United States District Judge Randolph H. Weber.

The question to be decided by the judge, trying the civil case without a jury, is who is entitled to the $65,088 of insurance left by James S. Bullock.

The 27-year-old clerk and St. Louis University night student was shot to death in front of the City Art Museum the night of Dec. 17, 1958, in one of the most baffling murders here in years.

His 25-year-old widow, the former Edna Ruth Bullock, now Mrs. Dean Cole, of Overland

**voluntarily. If she comes here for the trial, it is anticipated that police would try to question her.**

A subpoena was served on her in Overland Park, a Kansas City suburb, last August. But Judge Weber held the subpoena could not be enforced as she was outside the jurisdiction of the court when she was served.

Mr. Rosecan, in answer to a question, said he does not "anticipate" asking a continuance when the case is called Monday.

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