

Speaking Of ***SPORTS***

By MIKE LEDNOVICH

The Ice Man Has Cometh

In all of Sapulpa there is at least one fellow who loves freezing temperatures. His name is Willis Barrows and his Snow Valley Ski area is destined to open soon in Kellyville.

Back in September when the Herald first ran the story of Barrows plan, the three sloped site of the ski area just off the Heyburn Dam road was a thickly wooded area. Just plain wilderness.

A visit a week ago revealed a startling change. The land was cleared, a ski lift was installed and suddenly the reality of the scheme came to life.

"Three things must be present to make snow," Barrows explained to us. "You must have freezing temperatures, wind protection and a valley if possible."

Barrows has two of the three ingredients and mother nature will have to provide the third — a freeze.

The trick in snow making is not creating the snow but keeping it on the ground. Ten freezing nights a month will keep Barrows in business.

Barrows has two young associates working with him on his ski area. Jeff Fenton and Carl Southern, both of California. Fenton will be manager of the hill while Southern will aid Barrows in the delicate art of making snow.

But once the snow is on the ground Barrows will have only half of his battle won. He must sell the people of Oklahoma on the idea of skiing.

"It's hard to sell the people the idea of skiing in an area where its never been before," said Barrows. "But I feel that it will be a success in this area."

People laughed at the Wright brothers, Thomas Edison and others. Skiing in Oklahoma? It's sooner than you think.