

Snow Valley Year Early

The story of Willis Barrows and Oklahoma's first ski slope could well be titled, "The Endless Summer."

It was a summer that really never ended a year ago as Sapulpan celebrated Christmas in sunny 74 degree weather and Barrows cried at his Kellyville ski site.

Mother Nature has dealt Barrows another indignant blow: this year, with winter still four days away, there have been 11 consecutive days of freezing temperatures, a two-inch snowfall, and another snow back as early as Nov. 18.

It would have been perfect for "Oklahoma's First Ski Area," as Snow Valley was billed.

But Barrows was a man a year ahead of histime.

"All I need is one good night of freezing temperatures to lay a solid base and I can maintain snow in 60 degree weather," Barrows would say last year.

But the summer sun of 1971 lingered through November and December and it wasn't until Jan. 4, 1972 that a forecast for snow and freezing weather became reality.

The thermometer stuck at 17 degrees that day as Barrows scurried out to reap the harvest of mother nature.

Catastrophe was all that awaited Barrows on the slopes at Kellyville. First a two-inch valve cracked, choking off the water supply to the five snow guns and glazing the area in ice.

After two hours of repair, Barrows found that a rented compressor was gulping oil at the rate of four quarts an hour and soon he ran out of oil.

Another two hours were wasted gathering the oil supply and then came the fatal blow. The snow never came and 35 mile an hour winds scattered Barrows' snow like fine dust.

But alas, the freeze would stay the next day and surely snow could be created.

It wasn't mother nature or the

law of mechanics that stopped Barrows on Jan. 5, but a piece of paper issued by Associate District Judge Wesley Whitteley.

The piece of paper was a temporary injunction granted to Michael Stout, who complained that Barrows' snow making machine, some 150 feet from his house, kept him and his family awake at nights. The injunction prohibited Barrows from making snow between the hours of 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

"You can't make snow in the sunlight because it melts too quickly," Barrows explained to the judge.

Two days passed before a hearing settled settled

Two days passed before a hearing settled the argument. The injunction was lifted. Barrows agreed to place a muffler on the machine, but the temperatures had climbed back to the high 40's.

On Jan. 15, 1972 Barrows was able to place a one inch coating of snow on the main slope of his Kellyville Snow Valley Ski Area.

Two days later the temperature at noon in Kellyville was 71 degrees. The snow was gone and a month later so was Willis Barrows, off to the New England area to manage a ski resort.

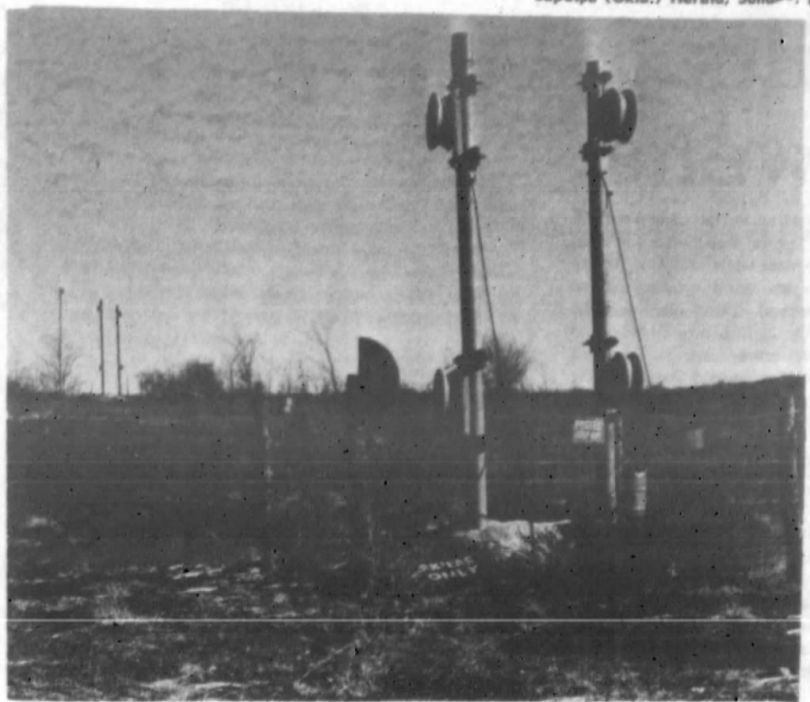
"I'll be back," Barrows vowed. But he wasn't.

It's not nice to fool mother nature, Willis.

Garfield Yule Program Monday

Garfield School's Christmas program, presented by students in grades 1-3, will be presented at 2:30 p.m. Monday at the school.

The musical program will be directed by Belinda McCormick.



SKI SITE now stands deserted. But again Mother Nature has been fooling everybody—with unseasonably cold temperatures that would have delighted Barrows a year ago. (Herald Photos)

Syrian Editor Proposes Renewed War On Israel

By United Press International

The Syrian government newspaper Al Thawra (Revolution) urged the Arabs Saturday to resume the war against Israel and said talk of a forthcoming political settlement was only aimed at dividing the Arabs.

The editorial in Al Thawra also said Palestinian guerrilla operations within and outside Israel, including the Black September Munich operation, have resulted in an increase of international sympathy for Arabs.

It said the experience gained during the past 25 years proved that "fighting and only fighting

stops the enemy (Israel) and increases the solidarity of Arab society. The newspaper said the Arabs "should take the initiative to solve their own cause... The only way is fighting."

Referring to reports of foreign initiatives to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict peacefully, the newspaper said: "Nobody will serve a cause whose owners are not serving."

"Those who wave a solution to the Arabs only aim at promoting inter-Arab divisions," the newspaper said.

Meanwhile, Israeli troops found an improvised explosive charge near a slaughterhouse in

the town of Nablus where a bomb was exploded Friday. Sources said the soldiers also found a leaflet written in Arabic and signed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, an Arab guerrilla group.

Israeli troops patrolling the bleak stretches of the Jordanian border near Eilat Friday killed an Arab guerrilla the military command said had infiltrated from Jordan.

In a report from Beirut, An Nahar newspaper said that for the first time in more than one year, Palestinian guerrillas used Jordanian territories to launch an attack against Israel.

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