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Bigger Ski Slope Area Near OC Being Eyed

KELLYVILLE (AP) — A weary Willis Barrows smiled at nearly 300 skiing, tobogganing and sledding enthusiasts Saturday, and said he'd like to build a bigger and better ski slope area closer to Oklahoma City by next year.

Barrows said he hadn't slept for nearly 48 hours because he was carefully nursing a snow-making machine in Arctic temperatures — an operation — which has become Oklahoma's newest and most publicized recreational pasttime this winter.

Barrows, who has been skiing since 1938, said his Snow Valley Ski Area near here has been so successful this season despite unseasonably warm weather that he's convinced a larger ski area about halfway between Oklahoma City and Tulsa would be a success also.

"There is much greater interest in this than I ever thought, so I think we'll put in a bigger one near here about halfway in between Tulsa and Oklahoma City. Anywhere we can find a hill big enough."

The native of Vermont has invested $30,000 in the 15-acre operation, which is about eight miles southwest of Sapulpa. It's visible whether you're driving old U.S. 66 or the Turner Turnpike.

A former ski instructor and ski area manager with seven years experience on the Austrian skiing team, Barrows huddled first over Oklahoma weather reports before deciding the operation could be successful.

"The weather here in Oklahoma is much colder than in Big Bear Lake, Calif., where we managed a ski area. The wind-chill factor here creates much lower temperatures."

Slogan Not Upheld

TOKYO (AP) — A government poll of middle-aged Japanese indicates few adhere to a national slogan urging hard work until death for the betterment of the country and that 20 per cent want to be carefree and easygoing.

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