

SECTION 8



BOTTOM of the tow is a few feet in front of the Holiday Hill chair. Skiers are seen on their way to the top of Spotlight slope.



INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION is available. Here Ward Gray gives Fatty Gribble, Sioux Falls, an advanced skiing lesson.



SNOW FLIES as Tom Lane, an instructor from Long Island, N.Y., makes a fast turn on Spotlight slope.

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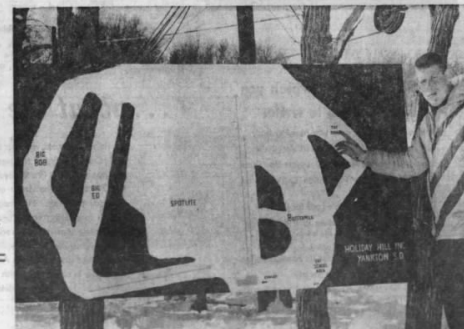
SKIERS come off the lift at the top of Buttermilk slope and prepare for the descent at the Holiday Hill layout near Yankton.



THIS IS the steeper Spotlight slope. Skiers end their run in front of the chalet, center.



EACH PERSON who purchases a tow ticket is entitled to five beginners' skiing lessons.



BRUCE PIRNIE, manager, shows the layout of the two main slopes and three trails available. Buttermilk, at right, is to be constructed next year to bring skiers from the two long trails.

Chalet Adds To Ski Fun At Yankton

By BOB RENSCH

Argus-Leader Staff Writer

YANKTON—"It's very adding. Once you try it, you're hooked," said Bruce Pirnie as he described skiing on hills along Lewis and Clark Lake.

"Skiing has an exhilaration that is hard to describe," he continued. "Conditions are different every day and every hill is a challenge. It is a great family sport because you can always find someone who skis at your level and you don't have to be a professional to enjoy it."

Pirnie is manager of South Dakota's newest winter resort, Holiday Hill ski slope, which this year began operations in a new chalet the day after Christmas. It has been under development for three years by Holiday Hill, Inc., of which Bob Renshaw is president and Ed Englund, vice president. Both live in Yankton.

Six miles west of Yankton, along the lake, a road winds for half a mile through wooded hills in a ski tow and chalet, set in an Alpine atmosphere among native oak trees. Pirnie said evergreens will be planted to add to the charm of the area and to serve as a windbreak.

Visitors are struck by the seclusion and quietness of the place, broken by little more than the swirl of skis during a tight turn or a quick stop at the bottom of a slope. It was planned to open this winter on a modest scale in a small prefabricated building. However, a loan through the Small Business Administration made it possible to build a modern 20,000-sq. ft. chalet.

Upland skiers may lounge in the dining area and watch action on the slopes through picture windows. At one end of the large room is a snack bar and at the other end, a fireplace. A ski shop, with 100 sets of rental equipment, is located downstairs along with a first aid room, rest room, offices and storage space.

Two main slopes, Buttermilk for beginners and Spotlight for more advanced skiers, are serviced by two rope tows 800 and 1,000 feet in length. They are powered by electric motors which pull skiers to tops of the slopes at seven to eight miles per hour. Three trails lead off from the main slopes and feature chair lifts for installing tows on the trails.

While more proficient skiers are welcomed at Holiday Hill, Pirnie explained that most are beginners because skiing facilities have not been available in this area in the past. He pointed out that the best way to prevent skiing accidents is to be in shape and he anticipated that experienced skiers will use Holiday Hill to get into shape for the bigger slopes.

Slopes are open and tows in operation from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday. They are lighted for night skiing from 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays. Facilities are also rented at special rates for private parties.

FRIDAY SPECIAL
A housewife's special, costing \$4 for tow ticket and rental equipment, is offered each Friday afternoon for women who want to learn to ski but do not care to perform in front of crowds using the slopes at other times.

Twice each day on Saturdays and Sundays free beginners' lessons are offered to all who have purchased tow tickets. Pirnie said the American method is used in teaching basic skiing so skiers are able to get up and down the hill. Instructors are available for more advanced group or individual skiing instruction for which a charge is made.

On weekends up to 175 skiers are on the slopes. Use of the tow ticket costs \$2.50 and skis, boots and poles may be rented for \$5. An additional 50 cents to cover cost of breakfast is optional.

Lack of enough rental equipment has hampered the operation somewhat this year, according to Pirnie. He pointed out that skiing equipment is relatively expensive and more people want to try the sport before investing in their own so that the corporation has had to furnish most of the outfits used this year.

EQUIPMENT SCARCE
Skiing is expanding so fast throughout the nation, Pirnie explained, that manufacturers can't keep up and it is necessary to order a year in advance. He said they plan to add 100 more sets of skiing gear next winter. Also available next season will be an ice skating rink adjacent to the chalet.

Pirnie, a former Yankton College student, is from Vermont where he operated the Okemo Mountain junior ski patrol. He is registered with the National Ski Patrol and was in charge of the ski patrol and school at Holiday Hill until he was named manager recently.

Ski patrol members and instructors are all from the eastern United States and students at Yankton College. The ski patrol is responsible for safety on the slopes. Members are trained in first aid, hold American Red Cross cards and have received hill training in handling accidents.

CAREFUL MAINTENANCE
Maintenance of the slope is important, Pirnie pointed out. During the summer grass is kept cut almost like a lawn so that good skiing may be provided with a minimum of snow cover. If a crust forms on the snow, a crawler tractor is used to drag a chain over the slope to get the snow in good skiing condition again.

If snow doesn't fall in sufficient quantity, artificial snow is made. It is produced by snow guns which have two hoses—one carrying compressed air and the other water—connected to them.

A large air compressor forces water from the guns under high pressure, producing a fine mist which freezes. Pirnie explained that it is a crystallized snow, different from natural snow, but excellent for skiing.



MANAGER PIRNIE shows a gun which is used to manufacture artificial snow when the natural cover is not heavy enough.