

Skating Hopes Soar as Freeze Descends on City

Hopes soared as temperatures fell over the past weekend and Birmingham boys and girls saw a chance of being able to use those Christmas skates after all.

A check with City Forester William Liebold this week brought out that Querton Lake is unsafe for skating and has been posted as such by the police.

"We ask parents to keep their children off the ice there," Liebold said, "because of the danger of a number of youngsters going through at once. The danger is pretty big."

Recreation Director Frank Whit-

broke park, St. James (at the rear of the Lincoln avenue Y building), Booth (formerly known as Harmon) and Poppletten.

"It has to be well below freezing before we can successfully flood an area," Whitney said. "The water is fairly warm as it comes from the hydrant, and unless there is quite a bit of frost in the ground, the water soaks right away."

"WE STARTED to work on the rinks Saturday. Whether we get them finished or not depends on the weatherman. Much as we hate to see the boys and girls without skating, there isn't much we can do about the weather."

Questioned about Querton Lake, Whitney said he felt it should be used sparingly and cautiously at all times.

"There are channels there which are swift enough so that good ice never forms over them. Besides causing these weak lanes in the ice, these currents carry warmer water which eats the ice from be-

low. It may look perfectly safe and still be dangerous."

BOTH WHITNEY and Liebold said the greatest danger on the lake was the concentration of weight in small areas, especially when there has been a heavy snow-fall.

"The skaters will clean a comparatively small area and then large numbers of people will congregate on it. The weight, plus the normal wear of sharp skates, plus the sub-surface wearing of the moving water, creates a regular death trap," they said.

"We hope skaters will heed the no-skating signs erected by the police. Even though they state clearly that skating is done at one's personal risk, we do not want to face the possibility of losing the lives of some of our youngsters."

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GOOD SKATE AT 98—Lending a helping hand to two-year-old Danny Herzog of Salt Lake City, Dr. Hugh A. Whytock appears to be looking across the ice and years that have passed since he was Danny's age. The 88-year-old retired physician, who started skating at the age of two, claims he's the world's oldest ice skater. He's on the ice every day just to keep in shape.

Police Course In Handling of Traffic Asked

Establishment of a short course in police traffic handling as part of the law enforcement program at Michigan State College has been recommended by the safety and traffic and police training committees of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

The course would provide training in specific phases of traffic control, such as engineering, accident prevention and investigation, public relations and information, driver licensing and allied subjects. It would be open to all municipal police and sheriff's officers.

The safety and traffic committee also made the following additional recommendations for consideration of the association's executive committee:

Re-introduction of bills in the legislature to make it a violation of state law to block railroad crossings for an unreasonable length of time and to legalize the drunkometer test.

NEW LEGISLATION to establish a speed limit of 45 miles per hour for school buses, adopt the uniform traffic signal law, and to likewise authorize the appointment of driver license examiners other than police and sheriff's officers.

The executive committee was urged to consider a re-study of the law pertaining to the failure to answer a traffic summons for the purpose of making it more workable. It was also asked to again survey the need for an increase in driver license fees, a proposal lost at the last session of the legislature.

It was suggested that a study be made of the provisions for issuing driver licenses to persons under 17 years of age so that there might be a better determination of those who could qualify.

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