

# Slopes, Tow Ropes Begin Seasonal Pull

It wasn't so long ago that when winter sports minded residents of Birmingham planned a skiing holiday in Michigan, a long weekend drive northward in uncertain weather conditions were risks that had to be taken in stride.

But not any more. No longer do we "have" to depend on the central and northern Michigan snow belts for winter frolic. Thanks to the recent advent of snow-making equipment, all a would-be skier or skiing family needs is transportation, a free afternoon and a healthy appetite for fun.

Within a 35-mile or roughly one hour driving radius of Birmingham, there will be eight commercial and three winter resorts operating this winter, making this community one of the most ski-possible areas in the state.

All of these areas, including the new Pine Knob recreation park, offer convenient locations and the opportunity to ski without a large expenditure.

IT'S TRUE that these metropolitan area centers can't equal some of their more northern neighbors in variety of slopes, scenery

and overnight accommodations, but they do offer essentially the same skiing facilities—beginner, intermediate and advanced slopes and runs, rope tows, chair lifts, equipment rental, flood lights, food and parking.

Automobile Club of Michigan's Birmingham division on a per, Douglas Brown, reports a survey of pre-season activity at all the nearby ski areas and reports a flurry of activity in anticipation of heavy snow (Farmer's Almanac) and record crowds.

"Every one of the ski areas has improved on last year's facilities,"

said Brown, "and some of the innovations border on the grandiose."

DRYDEN SKI area, for example, opened Michigan's only year-round ski slope—a 25 by 600 foot run covered with all-weather "plastic snow"—last weekend.

"Come snow or shine" said Fred Molitor, president of both Dryden and Plastic Snow Inc., "we'll be open for business as usual."

According to Molitor, it is taking 200 tons of special plastic-coated materials to fully blanket the slope. Although the materials are non-abrasive and will not scratch ski surfaces, the ski shop will supply equipment free of charge to all who use the plastic-coated slope.

Located 18 miles north of Rochester on Hough Road, Dryden has 20 acres of open slopes, eight tows, a ski jump and a dormitory with a capacity of 48 on its premises.

ALPINE VALLEY ski area this year is boasting for smoother, safer rides the only hydraulic chairlift in Michigan. The 1,400 lift ride climbs to the crest of a 1,500-foot slope, equal in distance to many of northern Michigan's best.

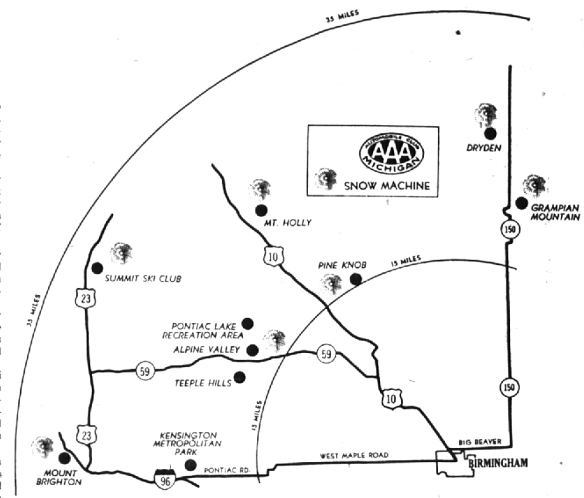
Manager Joe Kosik reports Alpine Valley has more snow-making equipment than any area in the state.

Alpine also completed a new beginner's slope and the chalet lounge has doubled its capacity by adding a new section. Alpine is located on M-59, 10 miles west of Pontiac.

GRAMPIAN Mountain, another Kosik enterprise, has redesigned its facilities and rate structure in effort to attract more ski-families.

Grampian now offers greatly reduced seasonal rates for entire families and its long, smooth slopes can be enjoyed by granddads and grandsons alike.

It has the second largest ski jump (130 to 150 feet) in Michigan and its instructors give free jumping lessons on Saturdays and Sundays. Grampian Mountain is located on Lakeville Road, 12 miles north of Pontiac.



FOR SKIING has come to south-



THE QUESTION of what to wear and what equipment to use crops up in skiing as it does in any sport. Modeling clothes lent by The Sportsman and the Alpine Ski Shop are three members of the Birmingham Ski Club. They are (from left) Bill Brownfield, 848 Smith, Birmingham; Gramada Rexhausen, Detroit area ski queen, and Frank Heinin, 1560 N.

Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. Carrying a wine bota (or wineskin), Brownfield wears matching corduroy knickers and parka. Miss Rexhausen has on an Italian imported sweater, Bergmann stretch pants and warm seal skin "after ski" boots. Also wearing stretch pants (Bogner) with matching ski sweater is Heinin.

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RECIPE portions are a little cumbersome for the average home-maker, since each recipe is designed to provide from 96 to 200 portions.

The selection of favorite main dishes indicate that this generation of Michigan children have developed cosmopolitan palates. Such international treats as Shanghai Casserole, made with bean sprouts and dried pork, goulash, skillet green bean chili and pizza are included in the collection. The list of 17 different hot breads are a testimony to efforts of lunch room managers to cater to taste buds of the young as well as their nutritional requirements and utilize to the utmost U.S. donated commodities.

## Lunchroom Recipe Book Distributed

The preferences of Michigan school children dictated the contents of a recipe book now ready for distribution to Oakland County school lunch room managers.

Born in blue with Michigan's two golden peninsulas stamped on the cover, the book is a memorial to Norman E. Tellar, former chief of the school lunch division for the state of Michigan.

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ONE OF the finest of Michigan's eight new ski areas opening this winter is at Pine Knob, a planned \$3,000,000 year-round recreation park located three miles west of Clarkston near US-10.

Pine Knob has six slopes and several trails, two chairlifts and nine rope tows.

It also has modern snow-making equipment, flood lights for night skiing, a big lodge, overnight accommodations and a 1500-car paved parking lot.

Former Olympic ski champion Stein Eriksson has charge of slopes and instructing at Pine Knob.

MOUNT BRIGHTON, located one mile northwest of Brighton off US-16, has remodeled its lodging facilities to accommodate more skiers; has installed a J-bar and snow-making equipment, and has added one beginner and two advanced slopes, all flood lit.

Mt. Holly, one of southeastern Michigan's most popular areas, has added a restaurant to its lodge and opened a new ski shop for equipment sales and rentals. All of the beginners and advanced slopes will be flood lit evenings and two T-bars tows are also new.

Mt. Holly, located on US-10, 15 miles north of Pontiac, pioneered snow-making equipment in southern Michigan.

OTHER SKI areas near Birmingham that depend on natural snow for their slopes are Kensington Metropolitan Park, Teepie Hill in the Highland Recreation Area on M-59 and the Kandhar Ski Club in the Pontiac Lake Recreation Area. The latter has a ski jump.



SHOWING A new type of bindings to the president of the Birmingham Ski Club, Bill Wood of 2075 Manchester, is Henry Gleisner of the Alpine Ski Shop. The metal skis have a new heel release and release toe iron which offer a highly improved safety factor, according to Gleisner. The ski club, which meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the Community House, has about 40 members. Their primary purpose is "to get beginners started right—with the proper instruction and the proper equipment," said Wood. The club also sponsors four or five ski weekends each year.

## Safety Tips

- GOING SKIING? Well, if you are planning a ski trip this winter, here is a "safe skiing" checkoff list prepared by Automobile Club of Michigan and the safety committee of the Metro Detroit Ski Council.
1. Prepare for either daily or weekend trips by exercising unused skiing muscles prior to the start of the season.
  2. Use release (safety) bindings.
  3. Use "Arlberg" type safety straps.
  4. When starting the day's skiing, inquire as to the general conditions; i. e. closed runs, danger areas, avalanches, etc.
  5. When using your skis after having left them outside (overnight, for lunch, etc.) operate your release binding to make certain it is operating smoothly and didn't freeze up.
  6. Make your first run of the day a slow, deliberate "testing" type of descent.
  7. In freezing and sub-zero weather, keep an eye on your ski companions face, especially the tip of the nose, ear lobes and cheeks for white spots—an early indication of frostbite.
  8. When tiring, forget about "one more run" and stop skiing.

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