

# Cold, Crisp Weather Lures Area Residents to Outdoor Fun



ALPINE VALLEY, about 11 miles west of Pontiac, on M-59, has been the recipient of scores of Birmingham skiers, who have flocked to the ski area for afternoons of fun during the holiday season. The resort boasts the only hydraulic chairlift in Michigan and

the skiers above await their turns to be taken to the top of the 1500-foot slope. Alpine has completed a new beginner's slope and the chalet lounge has doubled its capacity by adding a new section.

## Chilly Spills Invite Exodus To Ski Trails

By DAVE PHILPO  
Sports Editor

Scores of Birmingham area residents are having what they call "a real wintertime picnic."

Hardly had the first snow of the year stopped falling when the hasty outdoor set packed their equipment into the jolopy and headed for their first ski-fest of the season. It wasn't so long ago that a skiing trip involved a long drive northward in uncertain weather conditions and many wondered if it were worth the effort. But no more.

WITHIN A 35-MILE radius of Birmingham, there are eight commercial and three winter resorts, making our community one of the most ski-accessible areas in the state.

Many from the area, both old and young, took advantage of the proximity during the holidays and flocked to Alpine Valley, Pine Knob and Mt. Holly—to name only a few.

Alpine Valley this year boasts the only hydraulic chairlift in Michigan. The 1,400 lift ride climbs to the crest of a 1500-foot slope, equal to many of northern Michigan's best.

ONE OF THE finest new ski areas that opened this winter is 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. (See SKI, 2-E)

## 'Y' Tankers Take Honors At Metro Meet

The Birmingham YMCA swimmers went to Detroit last Saturday and gave a good account of themselves. The occasion was the Metropolitan Y Christmas Meet, and the Birmingham Midgits splashed to first place and the Preps came in third in a six-team field.

In winning, the Midgits piled up 58 points, as compared to 52 for second-place Western and 45 for Northern in the third spot.

This was especially significant since the local Y teams do not have a pool of their own. They practice at Groves and Barnum pools.

THE PREPS amassed 44 points and came in behind Northern with 53 and first-place Western with 85 points.

Steve Tull paced the Midgits with a victory in the 20-yard butterfly. The team of Tull, Scott Love, Kent King and Freddy Westlake captured top spot in the 80-yard medley relay.

Virgil Westlake is in charge of competitive swimming for the Birmingham Y and Chester McLemore is the athletic director.



SNOW-COVERED TURF failed to chill the enthusiasm of these young ladies of the Aiken Club as they gathered to train for their horse show Saturday, Jan. 12, at Outland Riding Stables, in Bloomfield Township. Each winter the club sponsors the show

which features 17 different classes. From left, the girls are Janet Cummings, vice president; Mary Ann Murphy, treasurer; Sue Pinney, historian; Dawn Randall, president; and Moreen Foley, secretary. The horse show will get under way at 1 p.m.

## Young Riders Train Steeds For Big Test

Undaunted by the snow and frigid temperatures, a group of Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills youngsters are pushing ahead with plans for a horse show on Saturday, Jan. 12.

The top-agers, ranging from 13 to 18, are members of the Aiken Club of Outland Stables, 23175 W. 14 Mile Road, Bloomfield Township.

A typical day at the stables finds these young riders practicing the intricate patterns of figure-eights in preparation for equitation classes on the flat. Many of the youngsters will compete in one or more of the six jumping classes to be featured in the show.

ACCORDING TO Sue Pinney, 3415 Barilyn Lane, Bloomfield Hills, historian of the club, anyone who rides at Outland's is eligible to compete in the show. There will be classes from beginners through advanced, as well as for adults.

The Aiken Club annually sponsors the horse show at the same time of the year.

THE SHOW WILL feature about 17 events, which will include pairs, junior working hunter, advanced horsemanship on the flat and barrel racing over fences.

Entries officially close Saturday and late entries will have to pay a double fee.

The Aiken Club show will begin at 1 p.m.

Other officers of the club are Dawn Randall, 2312 Bedford, Bloomfield Hills, president; Janet Cummings, 1351 Cedar, Birmingham, vice president; Mary Ann Murphy, 3295 Verona Crescent, Birmingham, treasurer; Maureen Foley, 16980 Buckingham, Birmingham, secretary; and Sue King, 215 Chestnut Road, Birmingham, sergeant-at-arms.

## Night Divers Detected

MSUO Sleuth Ferrets Out Intruders

Solved: the mystery of the Night Divers and the Phantom of the Pool.

Maybe Hollie Lepley hopes so, anyway. He's the master detective at Michigan State University Oakland who thinks he has cracked this baffling case after two weeks of nighttime stakeouts in and near MSUO's new \$1,500,000 Intramural Sports and Recreation building.

SEEMS THAT the building, which work is completed and opened for several more weeks, has been in use for almost a month.

Lepley, who otherwise is director of physical education, has spent that time trying to figure out how groups of students—almost 100 at a time—were getting into the building at night and making full use of the Olympic pool.

Along with a volunteer Watson from the construction company, Lepley checked every possible means of getting into the building and, when it became obvious that the students still were out-smarting him, he changed all of the brand new locks for brand newer ones.

BUT THIS didn't help, and neither did patient lurking in the darkness. One night he heard them in the building but couldn't find them.

So Lepley tried another approach and attempted to establish a line of communications by sending a memorandum to MSUO's 200 resident students.

"To The Phantom and The Night Divers:

"Please clue me in!

"LET'S CONSIDER postponing night activities in the Intramural Sports Building until it is completed.

"The pool water still is under treatment. Exposure to the water

at this time might possibly cause a certain amount of discomfort. "The general welfare and safety of participants should be of primary importance around a swimming area. From all reports you have been most resourceful in this respect."

THERE WERE, indeed, a few unconfirmed reports of skin irritations. And resourcefulness? Well, a campus waz has suggested to Lepley that when the building does open, he let the Night Divers run it.

Whispered stories making the

## Strike 'n Spare Offers Series of Bowling Lessons

Strike'n Spare Lanes, Maple Road at Telegraph, Bloomfield Township, will conduct a series of Leptic-Bowl classes, beginning Monday, Jan. 7.

Group instruction has been scheduled for men only, beginning Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 7 and 8; for women only, Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 9 and 10; and for teens on Fridays, starting Jan. 11.

THERE WILL, in one lesson each week for four weeks on each night, which will include a film and personal instruction on the lanes.

The program will be conducted by John Norris, night manager at the bowling establishment. Norris urged that persons interested should call promptly and make reservations for the instruction.

"The Learn to Bowl program is recognized as the finest instructional plan in bowling today," he said. "Beginners may readily join league play upon completion of the four lessons."

# Whoops! There's That Ski Instructor Again!

By ETHEL SIMMONS  
Staff Writer

"Bend see knees" was the catch phrase of the Canadian ski school where I almost didn't win my ski school pin.

Most of the instructors were European; my instructor was from the French part of Switzerland; and after the ski school bell tolled each morning at 10 and we were ringed up by the beginner's hill, you could hear the voices of the instructors crying, nearly in unison, "Bend see knees."

THERE WERE three beginners' classes, as well as many more advanced classes, but I think that I was low woman on the ski pole. I was in the first beginner's class, having been moved down from the second beginner's class. My previous instructor thought we were all so bad he didn't know who to move down, but my two friends managed to escape through luck and I was moved down by myself.

MY NEW instructor was extremely high-strung, and I guess my behavior was stringing him even higher. When he cried, "Bend

see knees," I would scrunch down just as fast as I possibly could. He deplored the fact that I wasn't trying.

To myself, I had bent down so far as was humanly possible; but one day he showed me how low you could go when he came over and placed two hands on my shoulders and pushed. Down went I, like some unfortunate pretzel, and I thought I'd never arise.

HOWEVER, THIS incident did prove to me that he had some justification for thinking I wasn't trying.

About the third day of ski school, he pronounced that we were ready to ski one of the trails, and to go up by the T-bar lift. That is, everyone but me.

"I am not sure that you are ready for the T-bar," he said.

THIS WAS hardly a confidence builder, but I thought perhaps I would prove him wrong later. That evening my friends, whose class had been up on the T-bar in the morning, told me of their trials. One kept saying, "I'm afraid of the T-bar. I keep thinking I'll fall off."

BY NEXT morning, when my

class was ready to ascend the mountain via the T-bar, I was thoroughly indoctrinated with fear. Instead of waiting for one of the experienced men skiers to go up the T-bar lift with me, as beginners did, I went uncautiously forth, going up with the other girl in the class who was nearly as unconfident as me.

THE T-BAR is a seat that you don't quite sit on, one of you on each side, and there's a bar in the middle you hold. All this is affixed to a cable that sends the line of skiers relentlessly upward.

We got on the T-bar, and when

## Alaskan Adventure Movie Scheduled

Cecil Rhode, sportsman-photographer, will appear at the Community House on Wednesday to narrate his all-new, all-color adventure film program "Alaskan Adventure" and "Alaskan Game Trails."

Advance tickets at reduced rates are available from Rotary Club members or may be purchased at the door. The performance is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m.

we hit the spot in the tow where I just and you have to stiffen your legs and then relax them. I stiffened and stayed stiffened.

MY SKIS slipped out of the grooves, and the other girl, not being especially strong, could not grab me and hold me on. Over we both went, falling to the side of the mountain, halfway up the tow.

We couldn't get back on the tow, and the only way up was to walk it. The ski patrol came by and helped us up with our skis. Passing skiers on the tow ended us our ski poles, and we trudged upward.

IT TOOK approximately one-half hour to get to the top. You might know that when we got to the top my ski class and instructor had just arrived for their second trip.

My instructor looked at me. "I did not think you were ready," he said severely.

After that, my very slim confidence was entirely shaken. I went through the motions, somehow managing to get up the T-bar lift

without falling off again but never quite sure I would not.

SURPRISINGLY, skiing the ski trail was easy, and it was fun. There were a number of trails, from those for beginners to tricky ones for the experts.

But with the aid of the snowplow turn, and the snowplow to stop, skimming over the gentle curves that kept you speeding along was not as hard as trying to descend one deeply sloping, although short, hill.

I was beginning to enjoy myself. The only problem I had was when my instructor would look around to see how the class was doing. We were like a procession of swans, gracefully following our leader, until he turned his critical head. And then, boom, down I went every time. I almost had to. It was expected of me.

MY INSTRUCTOR was appalled by my seeming lack of coordination. "Do you do any sports?" he quizzed one day. "Yes," I said. He was incredulous. "Do you dance?" he said. "Yes," I said, not mentioning how poorly. He was becoming (See SKI, 2-E)

## Prep Athletes Launch Post-Holiday Activity

Athletes in area schools swing back into action this week, refreshed by the holiday break.

On tap for Friday is almost a full slate of basketball, as eagles begin the long haul preceding the state tournament.

Shaping up as the most important battle of all is the contest between two quintets with unblemished records—Bloomfield Hills and West Bloomfield.

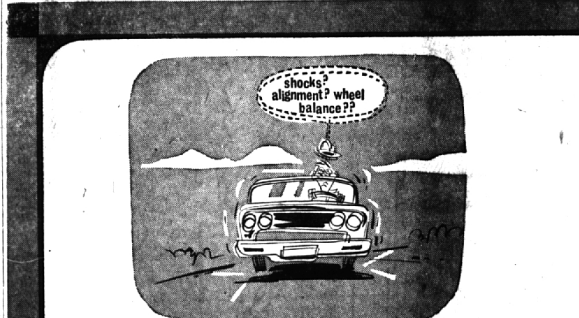
THE TWO SHARE the lead in the Wayne-Oakland League and Friday's tilt will determine, to a large degree, the make-up of the run for the title.

The Barons will stick to their basically defensive game, employing a half-court pressure defense, and the Lakers, a consistently high scoring contingent, will try overpowering their opponent with a well-balanced attack.

GROVES, in a non-league tilt, will host Oak Park. The Falcons, handicapped by the loss of Bill Stephenson, out with the chicken pox before the holidays, will attempt to get back on the victory trail, after a loss to Southgate, Dec. 21.

Seaholm will have Friday night off, but will swing back into action Tuesday against visiting Mt. Clemens. Cranbrook resumes its cage schedule Jan. 12 against L'Anse au Lacs, Mt. Clemens school.

THE BROTHER RICE Warriors will attempt to make visiting Divine Child their third victim of the year. Rice has lost three games this season, but has improved since early in the schedule, behind



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