

## CHICAGO GETS 1st RESORT IN CITY LIMITS

### Thunder Mountain to Open Next Friday

**BY JAMES FITZGERALD**  
A former brick yard will turn into Chicago's newest ski resort when Thunder Mountain opens its doors at 2600 N. Narragansett av. next Friday at 9:30 a. m.

Thunder Mountain will become the first ski resort in the city limits of Chicago and its owner, Thunder Enterprises, Ltd., points out that it will be the only resort serviced by Chicago Transit Authority bus lines.

Robert Carey, who owns the brick yard on which the resort is rapidly nearing completion and is also managing director of Hawthorne Race Course in Cicero, is head of Thunder Enterprises, Ltd.

**Former Private Area**  
He and his family have been using the abandoned brick yard as a private ski resort for several years, but this year five partners have launched a crash program to give the city its closest ski area.

Altho the Friday opening date looks a little premature at this time, Robert Carey Jr. insists that several of the runs will be open and skiers will be on the slopes Friday.

Despite being in the city, Thunder Mountain has the highest vertical drop of any area within 200 miles. It's 255 feet from the top of the man-made hill to the basin at the bottom. There are 55 skiable acres.

Three runs, all served by rope tows, are planned for the area. They will be for experts, beginners, and intermediates. Two certified ski instructors have already been hired. Five compressors will be used to feed 12 to 15 snow guns to provide machine-made snow for the area.

A former brick kiln is being converted into an A-shaped chalet and there's no trouble finding a fireplace. In fact, there were too many fireplaces in the chalet and several had to be bricked up. The chalet will have a snack bar and a lounge plus a complete rental shop.

There will be parking for 2,000 cars at Thunder, according to its owners and there will be lights for night skiing.

**Have Many Plans**  
Lift prices will be \$3.50 from 9:30 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. during the week and from 6 to 11 at night and \$4.00 for the same periods on Friday night and Saturday and Sunday.

There will also be a \$1 charge per car for entering the area which can be applied to a tow ticket.

But when the resort opens next Friday it will still be a long way from visions of the partners who have plans for a five-story chalet on the Diversey avenue side of the property, toboggan runs, an enclosed swimming pool, and a 125-unit motel. There will also be chairlifts in the five-year program for the area.

And there might even be something new for midwest skiers.

"My brother, Tom, has been talking with the Riverview people," Bob Jr. said, "it seems they have a gondola ride for sale. It wouldn't look too bad on top of our hill."

From the top of that hill you can see both O'Hare field and the Loop which should be quite a view for a skier who is only a bus ride away from home.