

## 'Ski Bug' Bites Teachers

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Ever been hit by a "ski bug"? Two North Scott teachers have, and they've found the results to be rather extraordinary.

Jean Roush, industrial arts instructor, and Don Schmelzer, junior high history teacher, had been thinking about skiing for quite sometime. It was not until this fall, however, that the "ski bug" really attacked them.

After being invited to an acreage owned by Wess Rock outside of Eldridge, they pitched in to help rebuild a chicken house into a chalet, put in light poles for night skiing and installed a generator and heater. A ski-tow had been built before this winter.

A 300 foot hill proves to be the source of entertainment. This hill, strictly for skiers, is approximately 60 to 70 feet high. Tobogganers are restricted from the ski hill, but find plenty of other slopes to keep them happy.

When all 20 people who are actively involved are at the slopes, there's no doubt about "great fun" being in store. Everyone is welcomed to the "little Sun Valley," with the only expense being the cost of a baby-sitter for the very youngest. Almost as soon as the children can walk, they, too, are off to ski adventure.

Most of the ski troupe have found that skiing is only expensive if you make it that way. "To buy the barest necessities—boots, skis, poles, and long underwear—the cost is only about \$60," says Roush.

Many people who are non-skiers wonder about the danger involved. The "tutor skiers" say the only danger involved is driving out to the slopes in your car.

Inside the chalet dreams of bigger and better ski valleys are revealed with posters of resorts from the east to west coasts. Unofficial plans have been to take a trip to Chestnut Hills in Illinois whenever possible.



Don Schmelzer, North Scott junior high history teacher, and his family have been bitten by the "ski bug." They're photographed on a farm near Eldridge.



Schmelzer, tense with excitement, plunges down the main ski slope, attempting to criss-cross between the flags. (Staff photos by Harry Boll)