

living

The Evansville Courier

Friday, January 22, 1982

Page 14

Resort opens up winter ski world in Kentucky park

By JOAN CAMERON

You can race down Old Granddaddy or Rebel Yell, take your chances on Wild Turkey, and ride back up on Whirlaway at one of Kentucky's newest attractions — Ski General Butler.

Ski resorts have been popping up all over southern Indiana in recent years, and now they've moved into Northern Kentucky as well — taking advantage of one of its best-developed natural resources — its state parks.

Ski General Butler is already open and

the same firm plans to establish five more ski resorts inside Kentucky's state parks — the first such "marriage" of resorts and state parks in the nation, according to Fry Miller, promotions director. It is also the only public ski resort in the Bluegrass state.

The resort is privately owned, but is located inside the General Butler State Park in Carrollton, Ky., about a 2½-hour drive from Evansville.

We have nine ski slopes, including three advanced, four intermediate and two beginner," Ms. Miller pointed out. "One of the beginners is big, big, because this is a beginner market, although I've been

surprised by the number of expert skiers we've had."

They've given the resort a strictly Kentucky flavor (so to speak), naming the slopes after Kentucky bourbon and the chairlifts after Kentucky Derby winners. In February, they will plan a Kentucky Ski Derby, a giant amateur race which is drawing entries from at least four states.

"Business has been amazing," added Ms. Miller, even though the resort got a late start because of warm weather. "When it got to the first cold snap, about 32 or 33, we turned on the snow guns and put down a base. We still have about five feet of snow for base."

Ski General Butler will be the smallest of six such resorts Northbank Ski Management Inc. has planned in the state parks. Scheduled for opening next year is a similar resort in Jenny Wilder State Park, and the following year the firm has one planned for Pine Mountain in southern Kentucky.

The resort is located in a canyon of sorts, she noted. "We don't have steep slopes, but we have ridge runs and canyon runs. Our longest run is just short of one mile. We only have 300 feet of vertical drop, but we have long runs because of the way they wind. It looks like we have about twice the area it really is."

The area is open 9:30 a.m. until 10:30 p.m. daily (EST), with three ski seasons. The day session is 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., night session 5:10 p.m. and two-night sessions 3:10-9 p.m. They also offer a "milk run" in the early morning hours, when people can check out the slopes prior to 10 a.m. before deciding whether to buy a lift ticket.

Costs are \$11 for lift tickets and \$9 for equipment rentals during weekday sessions and \$15 lift and \$10 rental on weekends. Midweek evening sessions cost \$9 for lift and \$8 for rentals. Weekend night rates are \$12 for lift and \$9 rentals. Group lessons during the week are \$8 and on weekends \$10, with special lesson packages available.

While the resort does not have overnight lodging available, General Butler State Park does — a lodge which has 150 rooms and about 15 rental cabins. The resort itself has a ski lounge area — where beer and wine are available — as well as ski shop, a cafeteria with fast food, and ski school.

Ski General Butler is located in Carrollton, Ky., just west of Louisville. Information is available by phoning 502-732-6971.

Ski Paoli Peaks

Perhaps the best known to local skiers is Ski Paoli Peaks, located at Paoli, Ind. Skiers have use of nine areas at this popular Southern Indiana location, ranging from three beginner areas to three advanced and the Cake Walk, which is actually not one at all but the most difficult of all.

Skiers also have use of three chairlifts, a double rope tow and two more rope tows. There was a snow base of about 48 inches earlier in the week.

Paoli Peaks is open seven days a week, with around-the-clock skiing on weekends. Hours are 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, opening 10 a.m. Fridays, and 8 a.m. Saturdays (with 24-hour skiing) and 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays.

Area tickets on weekdays are \$10 for the day and twilight sessions, and \$7 for the 6-10 p.m. sessions. Friday and Saturday are \$8 lift tickets and \$7 rentals. Midnight sessions are \$10 for lifts and \$8 rental, while the new Sunday morning 8 a.m.-noon slot is \$8 for lift and \$7 rental. Lower rates are available for children under aged six and there are also daily specials offered during weekdays.

Rates for weekends and holidays are \$15 for day and twilight and rentals \$9. The 6-10 p.m. sessions, Friday and Saturday are \$8 lift tickets and \$7 rentals. Midnight sessions are \$10 for lifts and \$8 rental, while the new Sunday morning 8 a.m.-noon slot is \$8 for lift and \$7 rental. Lower rates are available for children under aged six and there are also daily specials offered during weekdays.

The main lodge includes rental and ski shop, as well as cafeteria and lounge. Overnight accommodations are available at a variety of nearby motels.

Ski Paoli Peaks is located at the junction of Ind. 37, Ind. 56 and U.S. 150. Information is available by calling 812-723-4696 or 723-4698 (snow report).

Ski Starlite

Ski Starlite, located about 2 miles outside of Sellersburg, Ind., boasts several unique features, according to Steve King, director of marketing and sales.

"In our region, we have the highest vertical drop of any ski area — 580 feet," King said. "We also have the longest trail of any ski area — a mile long. We also have a monopoly of being the only ski resort in Indiana with a liquor license."

Ski Starlite has 11 slopes and trails, eight of them with snowmaking capabilities and lighting. The resort added one beginner, intermediate and advanced trail this year, to go along with the three beginner, three intermediate and one expert already in operation. The three new ones are the ones without snowmaking or lights.

There are two double chairlifts and four surface lifts available for skiers. Among the most popular features has been all-night skiing on weekends.

The slopes are open 6-11 p.m. Mondays, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday (with two eight-hour sessions), 9 a.m. until 3 a.m. the next day on Fridays and Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

Unlike the other resorts, there is no boot in rates for the weekend. Lift tickets are \$12 per 8-hour session and \$9 for equipment rentals. Youth rates are \$10 lift and \$7 rentals. For the five-hour evening sessions, cost is \$8 lift and \$7 rentals for adults and \$6 lift and \$6 rentals for students.

There are no overnight accommodations at the resort, but it is located 20 miles from downtown Louisville and there are plenty of motels and hotels in the area.

The 2½-year-old resort is located five



miles west of I-65, on U.S. 60. King reported in mid-week they had a 3-foot snow base. Information is available by phoning 812-246-5471.

Nashville Alps

This resort located 11 miles east of Bloomington has seven slopes and trails, as well as a beginner's area, reports general manager Frank Moynihan. Skiers are served by two chairlifts, a quad and a triple, as well as a double rope tow. The longest run is 2,000 feet and the vertical drop 240 feet.

There are two beginners, three intermediate slopes and three advanced ones. They have 100 percent snowmaking capabilities on all of the trails, Moynihan reported.

The slopes are open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to midnight Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Costs during the week are \$9 for a lift ticket and \$8 rental for the 10 a.m.-9 p.m. sessions and 1-10 p.m. sessions. Cost for the regular weekday sessions is \$9 for lift ticket and \$8 rental. The shorter evening sessions are \$8 and \$7. Weekend rates are \$15 for lift and \$10 for rentals, with shorter night sessions costing \$12 and \$8.

There is a base lodge and cafeteria, but no overnight accommodations. This resort, located four miles west of Nashville, Ind., on Ind. 46, has worked out packages with some of the motels and hotels in the area. Information is available by phoning 812-985-6623.

Long Mountain

Just about 1½ miles away is Long Mountain, which has two beginner slopes with rope tow and two intermediate with a chairlift. At midweek, officials were hopeful that with a break from the weather they would have a new expert slope in shape by this weekend, according to staff member Jean Weber.

"We have several snow guns which operate 24 hours a day if possible," she reported.

"We have an average base of 48 to 50 inches, a powder surface."

The slopes are open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, with lessons available 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. at the 4-year-old resort.

Costs for daytime sessions are \$8 for the lift and \$8 rental, with weekend rates \$12 for lift and \$9 rental. Evening sessions from 6 to 10 p.m. cost the same every day, \$5 for lift and \$6 for rental.

The resort has a restaurant and lounge area, but no overnight accommodations. It does have package deals worked out with several hotels and motels in the area, including the Abe Martin Lodge in Brown County State Park nearby.

Long Mountain is located one mile southwest of Nashville, Ind., on Ind. 46. Information is available by phoning 812-988-7883.

Take a lesson, advises Sobotka

Roger Sobotka, who with his brother owns Pine Mountain, advises anyone who is going skiing to "take a lesson the first time they go."

"A lot of people think I don't need a lesson, but it's very important from the safety angle. They also will have a better time," he said.

Pine Mountain, which specializes in outdoor equipment, is the local snow report location. "We get as many as 150 to 200 calls a day, particularly later in the week," he noted, for information on snow conditions at the resorts.

Pine Mountain also has information on the various resorts. The firm has a daily snow reports from Ski Paoli Peaks, where it maintains a pro shop in the lodge. Reports for the other areas are available on an irregular basis.

The snow report number at Pine Mountain is 476-2684.

CAROUSEL

A roundup of weekend activity in the Tri-State
Outdoor events are subject to weather conditions.

Specials . . .

OPEN HOUSE, sponsored by Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing, exhibits, career information available on nursing, medical technology, radiologic technology, respiratory therapy and radiation therapy technology. 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Johnson Hall Health Sciences Building, Deaconess Hospital. (free)

MOVIE SERIES, "The Early Americans," 10 a.m. Saturday, (additional film 10 a.m., Jan. 30), Angel Mounds State Memorial. Films free, admission to interpretive center \$30 cents, children under 12 free.

Theatre . . .

APPRAISE DINNER THEATRE, "The Fountains," dinner 7 p.m., show 8:15 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, dinner 12:30, show starts 2 p.m. Sunday, running through Sunday, beginning Wednesday. "The Odd Couple" running through Feb. 14. Executive Inn. (For reservations, call 474-8000, taxes \$17.95 Sunday through Thursday, \$19.95 Friday and Saturday)

CIVIC THEATRE, "The Unpleasant Guest," Agatha Christie thriller, 8:15 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Fulton and Columbus streets. (For reservations, call 479-3474)

Music . . .

10 AUDITORIUM, Judy Collins along with the Louisville Orchestra, final in "Pops Plus" series, 8 p.m. (EST) Friday.

SIAMANGA, CALABER, ORCHESTRA

Museum hours 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday, 411 SE Riverside Drive. (free)

OWENSBORO MUSEUM OF FINE ART, Ezra Stoller: Architectural Photographs, 1939-1980; traveling photographic exhibition, also "The Works of Harry Weese, Architect," and "Owensboro Architecture," paintings from city collection, exhibit on view through Feb. 6. Closing 7 p.m. Wednesday, lecture and slide presentation "Trends in Architecture" by Harry Weese, Chicago architect, museum hours 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, 901 Frederica St., Owensboro, Ky. (free)

NEW HARMONY GALLERY OF CONTEMPORARY ART, sculptural porcelain by Linda Arendt, associate professor of art at Ball State University, on view through Feb. 5, gallery hours 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday (closed Wednesdays) and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. (free)

THE ATHENEUM, gallery hours 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily. The Atheneum, New Harmony, Ind.

KRANNERT GALLERY, faculty exhibit, gallery open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays, University of Evansville campus.

Potpourri . . .

MEKER ZOO, open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Owen St., Joseph and Bennett avenues. (Admission free daily until further notice)

WESSELMAN NATURE CENTER, center open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Wesselman Park. (free)

ANGEL MOUNDS STATE MEMORIAL, open