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New Ski Club At Manistique To Sell Beauty With Thrills

WILLIAM HENTSCHELL looks on as Graham Widdis, center, tightens the cable which puts tension on the ski tow rope at the Thunder Bowl. The toboggan mounted ski tow power unit is being operated by George Rubick of Manistique, one of the directors of the Thunder Bowl Ski Club, Inc.

THE THUNDER BOWL area now in use by the Thunder Bowl Ski Club of Manistique is pictured here from the air. The road which serves the area in the Hiawatha National Forest north of Cooks is at top left with cars parked on it. The temporary shelter is near the cars and so is the power end of the portable ski tow, whose lower end can be seen in mid picture. The aerial perspective tends to flatten the depth of the bowl but it slopes down invitingly from its wooded lip.

MANISTIQUE

C-C Endorses Airport Project; Has Other Industrial Promotions

The Top O' Lake Michigan Chamber of Commerce has fashioned a 3-fold industrial promotion program for the year.

The project includes promotion of a special one mill levy for one year in the county, to be voted on April 6, to provide local funds of $18,000 for improvement of the county airport with state and federal assistance.

The other two projects are a banquet to honor local manufacturers and publication of an industrial brochure.

The airport project is becoming increasingly important, the Chamber of Commerce notes, as passenger railroad service is being curtailed in many lightly-populated areas. Manistique and Schoolcraft County must be prepared, and plan ahead for this.

In endorsing the project, initiated by the county board of supervisors, the C-C also notes that Escanaba, Marquette and Sault Ste. Marie all have airline passenger service. It is hoped that with paving of the airport runway, here, at least shuttle air service may be obtained in the future.

"If we expect industry to locate here, we must assure adequate transportation," the C-C directors point out. "Industrial executives travel considerably by plane, and adequate airport facilities are important to them. The airport also will definitely be a factor in enhancing the tourist business in the area as well as in providing air service for Schoolcraft residents."

The banquet to honor the industries which provide employment to many here will be held next month. Arrangements are underway for an out-of-town speaker and the date will be set after the speaker has signified which day he can be present.

The industrial brochure will be distributed through the C-C office to summer visitors, and through banks, merchants and others. It will highlight local industrial opportunities and advantages.

U. P. GOLDEN GLOVES BOXING
FEATURING CHAMPIONS
Manistique High School Gym
Saturday At 8:15 P. M.
10-Golden Glove Bouts-10
Reserved Seats—$1.75
General Admission—$1.25
Sponsored By Manistique Jaycees
Tickets available at Leonard's Barbershop, Beano's Barbershop, Kerridge's and Henry Jahn's in Manistique and Gust Asp's in Escanaba.
NOTICE: Jaycees Ring Setup
Tonight, 7 P. M.
Help Wanted

Lighten Your Workload
With The Gem Of Chain Saws
HOMELITE
New And Used Models In Stock
We Provide Complete Parts And Repair Service
–Chains For All Makes Of Saws–
Walter Linderoth
162 River St. Phone 841-J

Social

Unit Meeting

The Martha's of the ALCW of Zion Lutheran Church met Wednesday afternoon in the church basement.

Devotions led by Mrs. Earl Malloch were followed by a business session. Mrs. Victor Carlson and Mrs. Rudy Larson were named in charge of the Church Altar flowers for three months. Anyone wishing to donate flowers for the altar are asked to contact either Mrs. Carlson or Mrs. Larson.

Officers elected were Mrs. Earl Malloch leader, Mrs. Reuben Larson recorder and Miss Marie Ahlstrom musician.

Lunch was served from a table decorated in the St. Patrick Day motif by Mrs. Victor Carlson and Mrs. Rudy Larson.

The next meeting will be held April 1 at the home of Mrs. Ellsworth Curran, Maple Ave., with Mrs. William Wieland, assisting.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of our dear mother and sister, Mrs. May Goumont, who passed away one year ago today, March 6, 1958.

Peacefully sleeping
Resting at last
The worlds weary troubles
And trials are past.
In silence she suffered
In patience she bore
Till God called her home
To suffer no more.

Sadly missed by
Philip, Dorothy and Nettie

Manistique Classified

Specials at Stores

DRESSY SPRING JACKETS in new Buriskin and other fabrics. Toppers Also. Special Bargain Rack of Jackets at Reduced prices. KIDDIE SHOP, Manistique. C-61-63-65-3t

CONTACT MEMBERS of Manistique Junior Class for Knit-Lure, a product for fine laundering of woolens. $1.50, extra large can. M622-63-6t

For Sale

SEE THE NEW 1959 line of furniture and appliances at GAMBLES, in Escanaba. Free delivery anywhere in the Manistique area. C-62-6t

Wanted to Buy

WANTED — Stumpage, Hemlock, red, white and jack pine. Six inches and up. Any amount. Robert Foye, Rte. 1. Phone 7-F3. M618-56-12t

Insurance

WE SPECIALIZE IN farm insurance. Ask your neighbor, he probably buys from King Insurance Agency, Manistique. C-64-6t

Thunder Bowl Area Builds Up In Popularity

By JEAN WORTH

MANISTIQUE—The most resolute effort to fill out the recreation calendar of the year in the Hiawatha National Forest is being made by the Thunder Bowl Ski Club.

The Club has a temporary lease on an attractive 320 acre area east of Thunder Lake and is seeking a long term lease to develop the bowl as a winter sports center.

The place already is well known to the Manistique area's downhill set and to thousands of summer visitors to its lake resorts and it is certain to thrill increasing thousands with its beauty.

The facilities at the Thunder Bowl at present are modest. Graham Widdis, who operates a resort nearby, has erected a canvas shelter and serves hot coffee and other refreshments and the ski tow is a portable one.

Planning For Chalet

But the site is one of great natural attraction and the promoters of the Ski Club are a dedicated group of young men and they have plans for extensive development of the area.

Ted Hentschell is president of the club, Thomas (Tommy) Thompson is vice president; Don Harbick is secretary - treasurer; Dr. Merrill Wehner, Clyde Chartier and George Rubick are directors and William Hentschell and Art Allen are also active as stockholders.

Thompson has designed the chalet that the club plans to erect on a promontory in a grove of pines overlooking the bowl and its slopes and the sites of several planned ski tows. The chalet site is only a short distance from the highway which runs north from Cooks to Thunder Lake near Steuben and a parking lot will be created at the chalet site.

Many Slopes Available

The Federal Forest Service is being asked for a lease by the Club, now operating under a temporary permit. The visitor, upon leaving his car, is at the top of the bowl, which slopes down 500 feet with a vertical drop of 120 feet. The other side of the bowl is a ridge which offers a site for a slope 1,200 to 1,500 feet long with a vertical drop of about 250 feet.

The area is one that gets lots of snow so all it needs is the development of slopes planned by the Club, more ski tows and customers. They should be forthcoming in large numbers as the drive to the bowl alone is enough reward for the trip. It is a country of great natural beauty, wooded and hilly.

The site is 24 miles by highway from Manistique, which supplies most of its skiers so far. The attendance has been growing each Sunday this winter and there were 200 persons on hand on March 1.

The Club, incorporated as a non-profit venture, is selling stock and its members are alternating between enjoying skiing themselves and urging the rest of the Midwest to join them at the Thunder Bowl.

The first ski tow at the bowl is a new one purchased by the club at price of $1,000 from a West Coast manufacturer. It is an ingenious device for just such uses as the one it is being put to at Thunder Lake. The two-cylinder air-cooled motor is mounted on a toboggan and it has a system of powered pulleys which operate the tow.

The tow rope runs rather rapidly and the trick is to grasp it with increasing pressure so it takes you along gently instead of yanking you to the top of the hill or into the middle of next week with your first grab.

The Thunder Bowl Club skiers make it appear very simple. In case there's an absent minded skier who forgets to let go of the tow rope, he is saved from being threaded through the pulleys and emerging in rope form by a safety gate. When the cord there is tripped it breaks an electrical connection which shuts off the motor.

There's an REA electric line a half mile from the bowl and the club plans to use its power to operate the tows to be constructed for full development of the ski center.

Skier's View

Secretary Dan Harbick of the Club says "Although our vertical drop at the present area is only around 120 feet, in the rear hills about a quarter of a mile in, they rise to the 250 foot level, making the slopes thrilling for the expert.

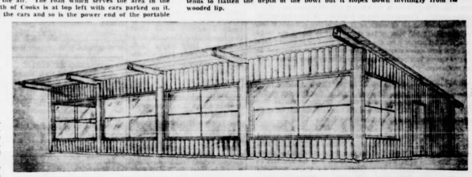
"I have skied most major areas in this country and missed few in Europe and I feel a slope will serve me well if it has a vertical drop of 250 feet, plenty of moguls and ample snow. The Thunder Bowl has all the classifications for an experts area, although it will be a few years before these are developed.

Club Is Growing

"Although our plans for this next winter will not place us in the running with Pine Mountain at Iron Mountain or Cliffs Ridge at Marquette we do have the power in us to start small, and grow; as can be seen this year.

"There certainly is an improvement since our first meeting, which drew three local skiers. Our stock books show shareholders from over five states already. However, the plans for the area will be somewhat different from the other major ski areas in the Upper Peninsula.

"The entire program is so planned that within five years the Thunder Bowl, although small in size, will achieve a class of its own and draw both single skiers and family groups."



THE CHALET planned for construction for use next year on a promontory at the Thunder Bowl in the Hiawatha National Forest by the Thunder Bowl Ski Club, Inc., is pictured here in a sketch made by Tommy Thompson, of Manistique, who designed the structure. It would be on land leased from the Federal Forest Service.

THE TOW at the Thunder Bowl brings up the Thunder Bowl Ski Club's promoters. From front to back: Ted Hentschell, William Hentschell, Tommy Thompson, Art Allen and George Rubick. (Daily Press Photos)

THUNDER BOWL SKI CLUB leaders include this group at the temporary shelter at the Bowl: From left, Ted Hentschell, Graham Widdis, William Hentschell, kneeling, George Rubick, Art Allen and Tommy Thompson.

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