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THE EVENING NEWS WINTER SPORTS EDITION

Iroquois Mountain Offers Variety Of Slopes

The sixth ski season at Iroquois Mountain, 19 miles west of Brimley, began this winter with the opening of newly constructed facilities to replace the lodge which was destroyed by fire Dec. 28, 1964.

The recently enlarged ski slopes at Iroquois Mountain include a variety of intermediate ski areas and bunny slopes served by two rope tows equipped this fall with new plastic ropes.

A 1,250-foot double chair lift, newly equipped with styrofoam seats and safety devices, takes skiers to the top of the expert slope, which has a vertical drop of 400 feet. The two-fifths of a mile-long ski run, with a 45-degree grade for one-fifth of a mile, is classed as one of the few expert slopes in the mid-west.

IROQUOIS MOUNTAIN Lodge, owned and operated by BSC, Inc., under General Manager Ira Carpenter and his staff, offers lodging facilities for 70, dining room and cafeteria service, and parking facilities for 800 cars.

The original Iroquois Lodge at Mission Hill opened in January, 1959, attracting nearly 2000 skiers and sightseers each weekend. The plush \$200,000 resort, geared to expand into a year-around enterprise, ran into a series of unfortunate circumstances after its promising opening year. The 1961 season was characterized by poor snow conditions, and in January of 1962, a breakdown of the chair lift brought about prolonged and expensive repairs and cancellation of many reservations.

The enterprise, financed by a group of Eastern Upper Peninsula businessmen, faced financial difficulties, and in April of 1962 the resort was taken over by the Small Business Association, which had provided a loan for part of the construction. The ski slopes and tow were leased in December of 1963 to the Lakeshore Ski Club, which operated the ski area for the season while the lodge remained closed.

In August, 1964, the lodge was sold at public auction by the SEA, and purchased for \$158,000 by the BSC Corporation, a Port Huron group composed of Ira Carpenter, his son-in-law, Dr.



Reconstruction was completed in December at Iroquois Mountain Lodge west of Brimley after the luxurious \$600,000 facility was partially destroyed by fire in December, 1964. A new one-story section, shown above at the left, replaces the dining, kitchen and lounge areas lost in the

fire. The two-story section at the right houses a 20-room motel. Services offered at the lodge include a heated chalet for daytime skiers, rental of ski equipment, and certified instructors.

(Evening News Photo)

Paul Sullivan, and Don Brower.

Shortly after the BSC Corporation opened the resort for their first season, the main lodge was destroyed by a fire on Dec. 28. At the request of local skiers, Carpenter opened the ski area and operated the tow for weekend skiing in January, 1965.

RECONSTRUCTION of the lodge began Sept. 7, 1965, part of a \$120,000 rebuilding program undertaken by BSC which was largely completed during the past Christmas holidays.

Extensive summer work on the hill and a 2,500 foot lift have opened up additional runs and an expanded 4,900 intermediate slope for this season.

The six Iroquois Mountain runs, which face south and are largely unshaded by the winter sun, receive frequent heavy snowfalls from winds off nearby Lake Superior, often providing better snow conditions and a longer season than many midwest ski areas. Additional snow-grooming equipment has been added this year to keep the slopes in good condition.

Resident manager of the Iroquois Lodge is Malcolm Melver of Brimley.

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