

# Ramblewood First in Area With Own Ski Slope

By RALPH TRUAX

Residents of Ramblewood Apartments now have their own ski area, complete with rope tow and trail run.

With completion of the lighted slope, the apartment complex offers one of the best all-around recreational areas for any apartment setup in the Midwest.

Howard Geerlings, manager of the 230-unit project which sprawls in a wooded area along Buck Creek north of 44th St. and just west of Byron Center Rd. SW, believes Ramblewood has the only apartment-owned and operated ski slope in the state.

### Apartments Opened in 1969

Ramblewood's recreational facilities began to develop when the first apartment building was opened Oct. 1, 1969. On that day 20,000 trout from private hatchery courses were planted in the property to the north. Since then many trout, and at least one coho salmon, have been caught by apartment residents.

While the ski area is the latest development, Ramblewood residents have been using their new recreational building, Ramblewilde, the last several weeks. The structure houses an indoor heated pool, showers, locker rooms, sauna baths, exercise rooms and pool tables, in addition to a party bar, dining and games area and a large lounge.

Because most of the apartment buildings lie in a natural

bowl surrounded by hills, the ski area developed naturally.

Tom Cornelius, float manager of the Mt. Maria ski area on Hubbard Lake at Spruce, near Alpena, was hired to build the rope tow, a 325-foot long in-

stallation. Mechanically, the tow is powered by a 16 horsepower electric motor, electric brake and gear box housed in a single unit.

In addition to the main hill which has a 45-foot vertical fall,

there is a longer trail run through adjoining woods.

On the first week-end of operation Jan. 2-3, 75 to 100 skiers were on the hill at various times, according to the management. Residents are very enthu-

siastic about their new facility.

Ramblewood has 84 more units now under construction in four new buildings with a schedule of one building completion a month. By May 1 the project will number 314 units.



—Grand Rapids Press Photograph

Residents Jack Shutter, Pier Wright, Randy Nordman and Mrs. Richard Gigot Find Ski Tow Run