

Minneapolis
Tribune
SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 15, 1964

Home AND Recreation

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Ski Facilities Accelerate at Rapid Rate

New Resorts to Open; Old Ones Expand

By BEN KERN
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

As the skiing season approaches, Upper Midwest ski area development is accelerating with the biggest expansion, overall, yet to be seen in a year's time.

Some of its factors, at a glance:

A contest for skiers' pleasure is in the making in the Grand Rapids-Minn. area, between Sugar Hill and Quana Mountains.

Lutsen, Minn., is embarking on a 10-year expansion program which will put it at or near the top of all Upper Midwest areas in both spread and vertical rise.

New chaletres are going in for the seasonal season at Tolemark, Lutsen and Alton Alps, the latter being 25 miles east of Minneapolis and its chaletlet the first in the metropolitan area.

Trailways, at Dresher, Wis., in its sixth major expansion, is adding a third T-Bar, a new half-mile run, and expanding its chair facilities.

Another contest for the skier's dollar is being kind in Upper Michigan (100 miles northwest of the Twin Cities by straight line) between Ishpeming and a new area called Pigeon Mountain.

Practically all other areas in the region will open with facilities improved in one way or another — most of them with more runs, additional tows and increased snow-making.

Black Hill is adding 500 square feet and a more spacious lift to its chair for more treatment and lounge space. On the other hand, "The Chair" has been revamped and three more added. Snow-making will cover 50 per cent and concave-vapor lifts for night skiing 75 per cent of the area.

Black Park, four miles east of Stillwater, is finishing a major building started last year for the chalet and has graded a new beginner's area. Harold Lutton, owner, has dubbed what he calls "The Chopper" to help the snow-cover.

Ski Mac, Soudan, Wis., is putting in its first snow-making equipment, clearing and widening runs on its advanced hill, and adding another rope tow and a toboggan run.

Pine Bend, Hwy. 55 southeast of the Twin Cities, will extend snow-making to its long novice run. With this extension Oscar Cyr will be able to cover nearly all his wide, Mississippi valley area served by two Poma-10's and three rope tows.

Cedar Bluffs, in its second year of operation, is increasing its electric-powered rope tows from four to six. Also added are two treatment and two expert runs, more lighting for night skiing, an infrared-heated outdoor patio for the chalet and more snow-making, to cover 70 per cent of the area.

Moore Valley has extended electric power to all of its tows and is adding a new "bungee" tow.

At Val Chateau, north of Park Rapids, a new wing will increase the chalet to nearly half. Fred Peterson, owner, is adding two new runs to his chaletlet slope and has done grading and widening in the second section of his square-mile domain surrounding the Val Chateau lake.

The Beverly Point real estate development northwest of Brainerd, Minn., is adding skiing to its repertoire of attractions. It, expert, intermediate and novice slopes served by a T-Bar and Poma-11. A rustic 12-by-120-foot, 100-foot-long chalet is under construction.

A new group of owners having acquired Mount Auburn in the Brainerd peninsula in northern Wisconsin, they are putting in a T-Bar and widening and grooming runs.

Lookout, site of Minnesota's first chaletlet at Virginia, Minn., has added a rope tow from the top of the chair to the observation platform. From there a new 2,000-foot "olympic" run with 302 feet of vertical rise has been cleared and graded to a width of 40 to 100 feet.

In neighboring areas, Giant's Ridge between Onawa and Aurora is joining Lookout in a weekend ticket pact at certain areas. Having put in a new T-Bar and widening last year, Giant's Ridge is adding a new run for beginners and intermediates.

Quana Lodge is longer than football field
115-foot luxury inn awaits skiers

Canada Geese Fill Air at State Refuge

Canada geese low over head, yelping and pumping along and landing as big as winged airplanes — it's a sight to remember.

Canada goose management throughout the nation is one of the greatest success stories of modern scientific wildlife management. However, it is still the subject of a later story. For now, let's talk about the goose project which is on the verge of blossoming into success in western Minnesota.

Jim Kimball



La Qui Parle and Marsh Lake, according to 30 miles along the Minnesota River in the vicinity of Agassiz, were created in the 1890's when the federal government constructed new flood control dams on the river.

In 1942 the federal lands were donated to Min-

nesota to be administered by the Executive Council. An act of the legislature in 1957 transferred these lands to the Department of Conservation to be administered by the Division of Game and Fish for wildlife and recreational development.

FROM the beginning, management was aimed at providing a stopover place for the great flocks of geese which winter on the refuge in Swan Lake, Minn.

In writing up the project in 1958 the best trained and most experienced waterfowl specialists from the

refuge at Swan Lake, Horse Shoe Lake, Ill., and Horicon Marsh, Wis., and Paul and Wilbur Steiner, game and fish experts were called in to study the project and make their recommendations. The La Qui Parle wildlife management area is the result.

The objective was to create something similar to the Swan Lake refuge which had been established some 20 years earlier. The first year on Lake Agassiz trained only 150 geese. By 1943 it was 400 and it continued to build to 4,000 by 1945; 18,000 by 1947; 50,000 in 1950 and reached

and high, was put in charge of the operation. Ducks and geese had to be chased and corralled to be planned to provide food.

New food is being provided in alternate 10-foot-wide strips of corn and winter wheat. To fill the young winter wheat strips almost into the ground, providing the green vegetation the geese need while the corn fulfills their requirements.

BECAUSE protection from hunting is essential, the 4,000-acre was established which, as effective, had to include some of the surrounding area that was not purchased as well as the state-owned area.

It was not surprising

Edna Anderson
Patience, persistence
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COLORADO TWIN CITIES AREA GETS FIRST CHAIRLIFT
New Alton Alps chalet, lower left



BIRCH PARK CHALET NEARLY COMPLETE



HIGH POWDERHORN CHALET (MODEL)



ALTON ALPS HILL-BOTTOM CHALET



BREZLY POINT LOG CHALET ABBING



DEEPWOOD, 7 1/2 miles east of the Twin Cities, northeast of Wheeler, Wis., is expanding its chalet to accommodate Saturday company parties and evening dancing to live music throughout the skiing season. Ray Fritz, owner, has added 600 square feet and graded and widened some of the old runs.



VAL CROCK, north of Taylor Falls, Minn., doubled its chalet size last year. It has added a new moderate run and two more rope tows, one of them ramping over across the bottom of the area.



NEWLY equipped with a rope tow and an outdoor lounge, Maiden Valley, a mile south of Sargeant on Wheeler St., will maintain a firm price floor with a duty free of \$1.00 regardless of age.



The over-all picture becomes even more interesting when examined in detail. Take the Grand Rapids situation.



Eighteen miles to the south, on Hill City, Minn., Quana Mountain is opening a new 1/2 mile with a 300-foot vertical rise and a chairlift. This is unusual but the holiday — grandeur. The Chalet's goal is to become a link between Michigan and Sun Valley.



The 412-foot length of ranch style frame will hold a swimming pool, dining hall, bar, lounge, and restaurant, besides an 800 sq. ft. area, right of which the recreation center will be located. It will have fireplace. A shuttle will take the guests and their gear through the mile of woods between the lake-side lodge and the hill.



Meanwhile, things are not standing still on the north at Sugar Hill, with its wide areas and high capacity pattern of 874 and runs.



Hire manager Charley Johnson has acquired Old Lodge and is using it by adding to the old area. The New England colonial resort, looking pretty as a picture on Sugar Lake, has been renovated and expanded to contain swimming pool, dining hall, lounge, recreation center and a rough — hewn hickory bar.



In Grand Rapids things are likewise on the move. Business doubled at Sugar Hill in its second season last winter and had some 10,000 skiers. Some figures that Grand Rapids economy benefited by about \$300,000. Since then two new hotels have been built and three restaurants expanded to and around town.



On the Lake Superior north shore, Lutsen's new chaletlet is the first step in a 10-year, \$250,000 program with snow-making to open up the Black's reaches of the forest's five square miles of area and



OTIS LODGE BECOMES SUGAR LODGE
Lutsen competes for skiers



BUCK HILL ADDS TO CHALET



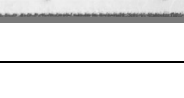
INDIANHEAD ADDS 4,000 SQUARE FEET



NEW DANCING WING AT DEEPWOOD



NEW CHALET WING AT SUGAR HILLS



the whole slope. With it comes a 50 per cent chalet expansion — gear rental shop, nursery, restaurant, second-floor walkway and larger rest rooms.

At Cable Wis., Tom's chaletlet will carry 112 chairs 2,500 feet to town's top and bottom of

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