

4B THE MINNEAPOLIS STAR Tues., Jan. 26, 1965

AT PINE BEND

Skiing Takes Dullness Out of Sundays

By RALPH THORNTON
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

"Sundays in winter used to be dark days at our house," said Mrs. Bruce Abrahamson, 7205 Drexel Av., Edina.

"Then we started skiing. Now everyone looks forward all week to Sunday. We go to church early, then hit the slopes. This place is one of our favorites—it's close."

She indicated the Pine Bend ski slope with a wave of her hand.

Pine Bend, located 12 miles southeast of the Mendota bridge on Hwy. 55, is one of the oldest operating ski hills in the Twin Cities area.

It's easy to miss if a driver happens to be gazing at the Great Northern Oil Co. refinery across the highway, as most motorists do.

"You're on this flat land and all of a sudden it drops out of sight," said Mrs. Abrahamson, describing the cleft in the Mississippi River bank.

That drop, 270 feet down, provides ski runs up to half a mile long.

Among other skiers at Pine Bend Sunday was Dr. Carol Bowers, an intern at Ancker Hospital, St. Paul. Despite treating an occasional skiing injury, she considers it a safe sport and ideal recreational exercise for the average person.

Another was Pierce Butler III, St. Paul attorney, whose costume reflected the disdain many good skiers exhibit towards the stylish "stretch" outfits currently in vogue.

Butler was attired in blue jeans and an old tweed jacket.

The 150-acre hill was bought 20 years ago by Oscar Cyr, a St. Paul paper box salesman. He put a rope

★ ★ ★ ★



Butler



Cyr



MRS. BRUCE ABRAHAMSON, DAUGHTER ANN, 5, SKIED AT PINE BEND
Gloves in foreground were left by skier to identify poles

tow on it for his family and friends to use.

When the "friends" started staying for supper and using all Cyr's gasoline for the tow motor, he decided to start charging. That was in 1946.

Today his "hobby hill" has grown to a \$300,000 investment and he devotes his full time to its operation.

Cyr, former ski coach at Williams College, Williams-town, Mass., was a skiing in-

structor in New Hampshire and Vermont during the 1930's.

During World War II the Army assigned him to visit St. Paul to buy skis for its troops from three local ski manufacturers.

There Cyr met and married his wife, who convinced him it would be a good place to settle down after the war.

Night skiing under flood-

lights (Tuesday through Friday), together with snow-making machinery, has accounted for a quadrupling of the number of skiers using the area over last year, Cyr said.

2nd Ward Party

The 2nd Ward Young Republican League will hold a party at 9 p.m. Friday in Worwa's Cafe, 2300 University Av. NE. Admission is \$1 per person.