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510 Norwegian skiers coming for more than just a vacation

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When 510 Norwegians arrive in the Twin Cities tomorrow for a week of skiing, the snow drifts along the airport runway should make them feel right at home. That, along with 25 pages of Johnsons in the Minneapolis phone book and a couple of North Star hockey players named Per-Olov and Kent-Erik.

For the visitors it will be a busman's holiday. All are members of Foreningen Til Ski Idrettens Fremme, the world's oldest ski club, who have come here to acquaint Americans with their national sport.

"They paid their own way here," explained **Einar Bergh** of the Sons of Norway, which encouraged them to make the trek. "And they'll work hard while they are here, giving clinics and skiing in races." Some vacation.

WASTING NO time, the Norwegians will march in the St. Paul Winter Carnival parade Saturday and ski in the King Boreas/Sons of Norway Citizens cross country race at Phalen Park starting at 1 p.m. Sunday. All next week they will hold ski clinics on Nicollet Mall near 8th St. between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Another contingent will do the same at the Hennepin County Government Center plaza and still others are booked to appear at Twin Cities area high schools.

Used to night skiing in Oslo (where the club maintains 1,500 miles of trails!) the Scandinavians will participate Wednesday evening in the Starlight Tour, America's largest night ski race, starting at 6:15 p.m. at Hiawatha Golf Course. The following Saturday there will be Skiathons at Phalen and Columbia Golf Courses (among those entered: **Gov. Al Quie** and his wife, **Gretchen**).

The public is welcome to participate in these events, Bergh said, and proceeds go to support the Vinland Center for the visually and physically handicapped, which will be built in Minnesota in 1981.

SKI TONKA, whose owners closed the Orono ski area this season, was re-opened yesterday, thanks to a Richfield plumber who thought it was too good a teaching hill to go to waste. The new operation, open from 3 to 10 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekends, is under the management of **Bob Favorite,** who took up skiing himself only five years ago.

"We may not be the biggest, or the highest," Favorite said. "But it's a great learning and kids area. And we're the only area with natural snow — no ice." The ski hill has six rope tows, a ski school under the direction of **Karl Lepping** and National Ski Patrol headed by **Lee Tollefson.** Its all-day lift ticket costs $4, and only vending machine snacks are available in the chalet at present.

Ski Country

IN YELLOW PINE, Idaho, all eight students in the community's one-room schoolhouse will strap on their cross-country skis Feb. 2 and race the two students from neighboring Big Creek to the top of a 7,605-foot-high mountain pass called Profile Gap. Both hamlets, 69 miles from the nearest paved road, are cut off from the world in winter, and with no TV or telephones rely on ski-equipped planes or snowmobiles for news.

The race was inspired by **Bill Erickson,** Yellow Pine's teacher, who until 16 months ago taught at Rosemount, Minn., then decided to take his family to the mountains. At news of his 10-mile race for the 6 to 15-year-olds in his school, some critics called it "child abuse," But Erickson calls it a test of will the children will never forget.

NEW WORD in the cross-country lexicon is "ski-trekking". It is, says **Joyce Bergeron** of Bemidji, "skiing for adventure, skiing non-stop most of the day, challenging one's body to the contest." Want to ski trek? The Minnesota Finlandia, a 100-kilometer event based on the Finlandia Trek in the old country, will be held March 3 in Bemidji. For the less hardy and those under 18, there will be a 25-kilometer "Bemidjithon". Registrations close Feb. 19.

MINNEAPOLIS skier **Mike Lloyd** won the Snow Basin, Utah, slalom race Sunday, capping a good two weeks for the University of Colorado freshman. Teammate **Dave Tengdin,** Edina, won the downhill race at Steamboat last weekend, and **Steve Nelson** of Bloomington was eighth at Snow Basin, second at Bridger Bowl. Both are members of the U.C. varsity, NCAA ski champion the past seven seasons.

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