

THE BISMARCK TRIBUNE

# ADVENTURE

Executive travel (4F)

SECTION  
SUNDAY  
Dec. 13, 1987

Forget about the Rockies  
and leave the Alps behind.  
Stay close to home and ...

## SKI NORTH DAKOTA



A "T-bar" lift pulls skiers up the hill at Bottineau Winter Park.



Trails in the Turtle Mountains offer great cross-country skiing.



North Dakota ski areas have slopes for every level of skiing ability.

Downhill skiing in North Dakota is alive and well. For its facilities in the state's four North Dakota ski areas, a choice is always to be made to find out. Here are these areas:

### Skyline Ski-Way

- Deville Lake, Phone 462-8622
- Vertical drop of 280 feet
- Four slopes, one trail — the longest is 1/2 mile
- Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday
- Area recreation includes a special slope for sledding and tobogganing, curling, ice skating, ice fishing, and snowmobiling
- Lodging is available about 10 miles away
- Services include a day lodge with snack bar and some rentals

Chiff Olsen has taught at the University of

### Frost Fire Ski Area

- Walhalla, Phone 340-2066
- Vertical drop of 200 feet
- Three slopes and trails, some open, others lined with trees
- One low, two chairlifts, with total capacity of 2,200 people per hour
- Open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Open all days except Christmas Day (from Christmas through New Year's Day)
- Downsloping equipment
- Walhalla has a motel, six miles away. More lodging is less than 20 miles away
- Services include a day lodge with snack bar, ski shop, repair, service and rental

North Dakota's Lake Region for some 27 years. And for 27 years he has managed the Skyline Ski Way, a community, non-profit facility south of Devils Lake.

That venue makes him something of an authority on North Dakota downhill skiing, an activity some folks regard as little more than a job. But it is not for them, and has a ready answer.

"You can take the kids who learn to ski here and put them on tough courses in Montana" or other states noted for skiing. "We know that for a fact."

"I get a lot of people knocking North Dakota skiing."

### Bottineau Winter Park

- Bottineau, Phone 265-6266
- Vertical drop of 260 feet
- Skilift runs, with the longest 1,200 feet
- Skilift runs, with total capacity of 1,800 people per hour
- Open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
- Area recreation includes snowmobiling and cross-country ski trails
- Lodging is available nearby
- Services include a day lodge with snack bar, ski shop with rental equipment, a certified ski school and a ski patrol

see the lights across the prairie."

That is an "ambitious" attraction that manager Craig Larson believes Bottineau Winter Park has created.

On a more practical note, Winter Park offers "good quality skiing at good prices with exceptionally good teaching available."

The city of Bottineau established the facility as a non-profit organization in 1986. It is a payback to the city included 19,000 skiers who used Winter Park last season.

Winter Park draws heavily from the Bismarck and Minn. areas. "We get local skiers, of course, but our regional base is what we rely on."

### Fort Ransom Ski Area

- Fort Ransom, Phone 393-2273
- Vertical drop of 260 feet
- Skilift runs, with the longest 1/2 mile
- Four runs
- Hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday
- Lodging is available nearby
- Services include a day lodge with snack bar and ski shop with rental equipment

Winters haven't always been kind to the Fort Ransom Ski Area. Lack of snow effectively wiped out last season, and this

winter is proving no better.

But E.D. Larson, Larson, said he tries to remain optimistic. For one of three courses of Fort Ransom Ski Area, which has been operating since 1982.

"It's kind of discouraging sometimes. There aren't enough people in it."

So why stick with it? Well, "we keep hoping for a year with good conditions, when we'll have a good year. So we keep it going."

Because, there's something to be said for North Dakota skiing. What we've got here is more than many states have.

## Discover old Mexico in Puerto Escondido — but keep it a secret

Scraps Howard News Service

**PUERTO ESCONDIDO**, Mexico — In the thousands of Americans who flock to Mexico's resorts, the town of Puerto Escondido has long been just what its name means — a hidden part. Few tourists find their way to this sleepy fishing village near 200 miles south of Acapulco. But the lucky ones who do get a glimpse at a culture that has not changed in decades.

The village is built on hills overlooking the clear, blue beaches of Zicatela and Carrizavilla. Along the village's dirt roads, distillery, fish

large metal cans filled with fresh milk, children drive fleets of goats, women carry baskets of fish and spend their days.

The houses, made of adobe with roofs of earthenware, are roofed with palm fronds.

As the sun sets over the Pacific, the village goes out from the beach to their wooden boats. They return at dawn, their boats laden with fish and shrimp.

Starry eyes often wander along the 10 miles of nearby rocky beach. They're occasionally joined by a pair or a small group of others.

The quiet village long has been a well-kept secret among American

surfers. Puerto Escondido's Zicatela Beach has been dubbed "Mexico's Pipeline." Here the waves often swell to 15 feet.

But now surfers will find a lot to like here, too.

Just a stone's throw from Zicatela Beach is Carrizavilla Beach, where the water is calm enough for swimming, surfing and boating.

Or visitors may spend a lazy day sipping coffee, cream-spiked coconut milk under a palm frond canopy on the beach. Several restaurants serve the whole fruit with a straw.

Mornings, evenings and nights in Puerto Escondido are completely warm. The hot afternoon sun

brings on a lethargy relieved only by that wonderful Mexican tradition — the siesta. Local shops close for a few hours between 2 and 4 p.m.

Later, many people stroll the beach and stroll along the shore. The games. Here silver jewelry, hand-made pottery, and bright woven capes, belts and bags are sold at bargain prices.

In the town's main street, which is closed to traffic, vendors peddle woven rugs, coral jewelry and exotica, handmade-colored hammocks. Bargaining is the norm; the vendors have little respect for anyone who doesn't. With a little persistence, you can get a sturdy,

famously used hammock for as little as \$10.

One of Puerto Escondido's great pleasures is seafood.

The beaches are lined with dozens of seafood restaurants. Most resemble the native houses, with open fronts and palm frond roofs. The tables are often plastic.

Don't be fooled by appearances. These restaurants serve the freshest, tastiest seafood around. A popular favorite is red snapper, prepared with garlic. Another is red snapper, served with a spicy sauce made of tomatoes, peppers and onions. A large soup

per or a plate piled high with shrimp goes for about \$5.

For those occasions when plastic tables aren't just a sign of a busy restaurant in the Santa Fe Hotel, it serves a large variety of seafood. Mexican and vegetarian dishes, albeit at a higher price.

Those looking for first-class accommodations will find them in the quiet siesta and the decorated Santa Fe. A guest for real costs about \$10 a night.

For the budget traveler, Puerto Escondido is a real find. Clean, plain rooms for two in budget beach-front hotels run as low as \$9 a night.