

Page 18—The BISMARCK TRIBUNE—Thursday, May 9, 1963

Morton Commissioners Back 'Twilight Hills'

Mandan Area May Become Ski Capital of North Dakota

Mandan appears to be just a step away from being the "Ski Capital" of North Dakota as the result of a meeting Wednesday afternoon between the Morton County Park Board and a delegation from Dakota Winter Sports, Inc.

All that stands in the way of developing the area 12 miles south of Mandan into a winter sports paradise is the acquisition of land and even that appeared to be surmountable after park board members pledged their wholehearted support to the entire project.

To be called "Twilight Hills," the resort area will be located on the south River Road halfway between Huff and Schmidt and will require an estimate 160 acres of land.

Facts brought Later out at the meeting, held in the Morton County Court House in Mandan, revealed that two major hurdles already have been overcome by the sports corporation—those of arranging for financing the project and for having an experienced winter resort operator run it.

VERNON PETERSON, Bismarck businessman and corporation president, told board members he has had assurance that a large portion of the financing could be obtained from the Rural Electrification Administration through the Moor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc., and a Mandan bank.

"We're not asking for money but we do need help in our negotiations to lease or purchase the land," Peterson explained. Owner of the desired property is Ben Martin, who Peterson said is favorable to the project, but legal tie-ups have stalled negotiations.

Also appearing at the meeting was Noel Later, owner of a ski resort at LaRiviere, Canada, who said he will move his chalet and resort equipment to Twilight Hills as soon as the land acquisition is made.

Later, who plans to transfer his entire operation to the Mandan area, said he is leaving Canada because he has to buck hockey and high school curling, two major winter sports in that country, as well as a government ski resort being constructed near his establishment.

Equipment he owns and would bring with him includes an electrically-driven snow making machine, which he claims will make up to six or seven inches of snow an hour; a cable lift, recognized as the safest type of lift available, and two electrically-driven rope tows. His chalet essentially houses a cafe on the upper story and a rental shop for equipment on the lower level.

After hearing details of the project, Roy Young, chairman of the Board of Morton County Commissioners, which makes up the county park board along with Mandan businessmen Richard Baron and Robert Paris, said, "I have never seen this board turn down anything that would bring activity

into the county."

A motion was made and unanimously approved to "assist members of the Dakota Winter Sports, Inc., in any way we possibly can in developing the winter resort area."

According to Peterson and Later, the topography of the land in question is perfect for skiing with an elevation of 2,200 feet. It is the highest drop in the area and, both men said, ideally suited for snow conditions.

"ONE of our greatest resources in North Dakota is our winter weather and so far, no one has taken advantage of this," Peterson said. He stressed the growing popularity of skiing throughout the country and the use of the sport as a family recreation. "Recreation for kids is our number one theme," he added.

If developed, Twilight Hills would be the only winter sports area in North Dakota, Later said. He added that the hills south of Mandan are bigger than those in Wisconsin, which has over 20 winter resorts, and higher than most areas in Minnesota, which has 44 areas in operation.

LATER said both he and his wife are qualified ski instructors and at present have been giving instructions in the sport through the schools, which he hopes to be able to do in Mandan also. He added that he has been in the ski business approximately seven years and pioneered the resort operation in the Province of Manitoba. He has a mailing list of about 3,000 customers, many of whom are from North Dakota, he said.

Plans call for building a reservoir for use in making snow and as an ice skating area, about six ski runs and a smaller slope for tobogganing. Later also has his own lighting system for night time skiing.

The delegation stressed the need for urgency in acquiring the land if the area is to be used this coming winter. "If we can get started soon, it could be in operation by the end of November," Peterson said. He also said the plan would be explained at Gov. Guy's conference on recreation Thursday.

Evan Shark, also a Bismarck businessman and treasurer of the corporation, said interest has been expressed in using the area for 4-H activities during the summer months by the county extension service.



NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF PERIOD OF REDEMPTION STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA.

County of Burleigh
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY
AUDITOR,
Bismarck, North Dakota.
To Kathryn Pierce - Bismarck, N. Dak.
Hugh B. Alexander - Box 791 - Lake Wales, Florida.

You are hereby notified that the tract of land hereinafter described and assessed in the name of Kathryn Pierce and Hugh B. Alexander for taxation for the year 1958, was on the 3th day of December, 1958, duly sold, as provided by law, for the delinquent taxes of the year 1958, and that the time for redemption from said sale will expire ninety days from the completed service of this notice.

Said land is described as follows: Haight & Little Addition Lot 16 Block 12.

Amount sold for, \$9.25.
Amount required to redeem at this date, \$11.01.

Amount required to redeem at the expiration of this notice, \$11.86.

In addition to the above amount you will be required to pay the costs of the service of this notice.

Trinity Youth Choir to Give Spring Concert

The Youth Choir of Trinity Lutheran Church of Bismarck will present its annual concert on Wednesday, May 15 at 8 p.m. at the church. It is composed of sophomores, juniors and seniors and has an enrollment of 93. Mrs. R. R. Kling is organist and the