

4 - D Dayton Daily News Sun., Jan. 6, 1991

OHIO OUTDOORS



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OUTDOOR WRITER

## Slide on down to the ski slopes

**L**et it snow! Let it snow! That would be simply delightful for Ohio's wintersport fans who love to ski and it wouldn't make ski resort operators mad. They must provide their service during a relatively short period from December to March. Yet most resort operators remain optimistic.

"It looks like a good year to me," said Bud Peterson, president of Boston Mills Ski Resort south of Cleveland.

"But you never know about January," he added. "There can be a thaw, but after the first week or so of January, the weather is more consistent."

Going into this weekend, the Boston Mills slopes were covered with 10 to 14 inches of snow and all lifts were operating. The snow was machine made.

Similar reports of good skiing conditions were given Friday by Alpine Valley and Brandywine Ski Resorts in the Cleveland area, as well as Snow Trails and Clear Fork near Mansfield.

Skiers and snowboarders also were having fun Friday at Mad River Mountain Ski Resort near Bellefontaine and at Perfect North Slopes Resort west of Cincinnati, across the Ohio line at Lawrenceburg, Ind.

Even with some January rain, ski resorts may be able to sustain their operations without closing, although it is wise to call ahead for skiing conditions before going to one of the areas.

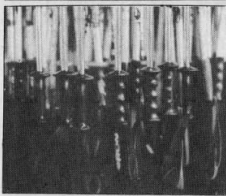
One Ohio ski resort has closed. Echo Hills near Logan is no more. "We got tired of fighting the weather," said owner Hap Kitzmiller, who went on to mention something that might be of interest to a lot of new skiers.

Kitzmiller said that all that remains of skiing at Echo Hills are 700 pairs of rental skis, complete with boots and bindings. The skis, boots and bindings are being sold for \$100 per set.

If you want to know more them, the phone number at Echo Hills is (614) 385-8760.

While one resort falls by the wayside, those remaining get busier, especially since a number of younger people have taken up the sport of snowboarding.

Brandywine Ski Resort has a new 650-foot half pipe made strictly for snowboarding. The snowboarders get a good ride down the pipe and make a 90 degree turn in the lower section. Snowboards are rented for \$20 a day.



TY GREENLEES/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



### Slope time

The Mad River Mountain Ski Resort has turned busy with the recent cold temperatures. A lift (top) takes skiers to the top of their downhill destination (right). Poles and skies (above) also are available.