

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1969

# Minnesota's Winter Resorts: Skiing Plus

By Margaret McEachern



MINNEAPOLIS—Minnesota's pretty ski bunnies and their admiring bunny-watcher friends are in seventh heaven. The first snowfall was a hit, the ski season got off to an early start, and old-timers on the slopes predict an outstanding winter of fun and frolic at improved and enlarged resorts.

Ski resorts in Minnesota—and in nearby Wisconsin—are taking on a charming European touch. They're offering more than just skiing, they're providing everything—something for everyone. More and more novices are taking up the sport and signing up for lessons. Families are harvesting togetherness on long week-ends. And, as ever, girls are looking for boys and boys are looking for girls.

Smart resort operators have dolled up and expanded facilities for this season. Night life is gay, with combos, bands, and featured vocalists. There are saunas, skating rinks, swimming pools, night skiing, and gourmet meals. High-style fashions are eye-stoppers, with competition keen between the fellows and the girls.



Minnesota's ski resorts don't boast big peaks but they do offer the placid beauty of pine and birch forests and excellent facilities.

(Minnesota Department of Business Development Plans)

from Minneapolis. It has 14 Bayfield; Mount La Crosse at runs, a double chair, seven La Crosse; Rib Mountain, at ropes, and a new Stitzliff. Wausau (its new 3,300-foot Telemark, at Cable, Wis., chairlift is the longest and now has 10 good runs, a chair, highest in the state); Sky Line three T-bars, and 10 ropes, at Friendship, with a new Gateway, at Land O'Lakes; chaise; Val Croux, at Taylor offers a heated pool, sauna, Falls, with an enlarged chalet; cocktail lounge, skating rink, and Woodside Ranch at Musk and rental snowmobiles in addition, with a new ski tow and tion to its ski facilities. Other new lodging facilities. Skiing fine resorts include Ashabay at is only for overnight guests.

It's a short one-hour flight here from Chicago, and your travel agent can advise you on the various facilities. Or, if you have a sudden yen to try out the slopes here, you can telephone a few resorts and make your own reservation. There's a wide choice of spots within a 75-mile area of the Twin Cities.

Back here just five miles from Minneapolis, is one of the top favorites serving the area. It has two chairs, one T-bar, and five ropes. It has 10 runs, the longest is 2,900 feet. Visitors this winter will find 1,000 square feet added to the smart chalet. The view of the city lights at night is great from here.

Hyland Hills, in the suburb of Bloomington, has 15 runs, the longest is 2,000 feet. It has six ropes, a new T-bar, and freshly manicured slopes.

Ski-Tonka, at nearby Lake Minnetonka, has eight fine runs, seven ropes, and a new Stitzliff. The Stitzliff is given an experimental tryout here last season by Truman Peck, its inventor. Three new chairlifts have been installed this season. The machine is slightly elevated, with its mechanism underneath. A bike seat emerges from an opening in the "floor" and idles while you, with your skis on, straddle it. You pull a lever and the seat takes you topside.

Theodore Wirth, right in the city has three runs and three ropes. Nearby Inver Hills has eight runs, the longest 2,962 feet, four ropes, a poma, a fine chalet, and new snowmaking equipment. Pine Bend, in South St. Paul, has nine runs, the longest measuring 2,200 feet, two pomas, and six ropes. Alton Alps has added to its equipment and now has four chairlifts, three T-bars, and poma, six ropes, and an excellent snowmaking system. The longest of its 17 runs is 2,600 feet.

Arctic Park at Shoreview has three runs and two ropes. Buffalo Valley, 35 miles from Minneapolis, has six top runs, six ropes, and a Stitzliff. Cedar Hills, at Eden Prairie, has 12 runs, one of 1,250 feet, seven ropes, and a cable-bar. You'll like the quaintly remodeled bar chalet and the skating rink.

Frontenac, at nearby Red Wing, has double its chalet size, added two runs for a total of 10, two T-bars, and five ropes. Its longest run is 3,200 feet.

Welch Village, 40 miles out, has 15 runs—one is 3,000 feet—a new chairlift, two T-bars, and four ropes. The 2,000-foot lift is just one of many new added attractions in this pretty countryside area. The snowmaking equipment is good, and 60 acres are illuminated after dark for night skiing. Eko Backen at Forest Lake specializes in group parties day and night.

Pine Bend, 12 miles out, does on students and families and throws in roundtrip bus service to and from the Twin Cities.

If you have ski pals here and extra time and want to get further away from the Twin Cities, you have a wide choice of noted resorts. Hole-in-the-Mountain county park recently was purchased by Lincoln county in cooperation with state and federal natural resources and recreation development programs. Several new runs have been added and a double rope tow. The snowmaking system has been improved.

At Val Chalet, in Park Rapids, three buildings and an expanded chalet have been added.

Further improvements are planned, a r e a l i g n e d and lengthened chairlift, a warming

shelter at the lake-centered area's highest point, and new electric rope tows at Northwest Bay.

Quada Mountain, at Hill City, has 15 runs, one of 2,500 feet; two T-bars, three ropes, and a nice skating rink. This is really a top-notch place and it lures veterans with its indoor pool and sauna, 46-room lodge, and other facilities. It's tops for conventions or small groups.

Other good resorts include Ski Gull at Brainerd, with nine runs, one T-bar, and three ropes; Hidden Valley at Ely, with five runs, one J-bar and two ropes, a toboggan slide, and a skating rink; Ski Haven, at Mankato, with nine runs and seven ropes; and Sugar Hills, at Grand Rapids, with 23 runs, including one 7,500-foot long, a chair, three T-bars, eight ropes, and a double chairlift. This fine resort has two lodges, three restaurants, a new cocktail lounge for swingers, a casino for teen-agers, a game room for children, two swimming pools, saunas, evening dancing, and top entertainment.

Lutsen, at North Shore, has a new Stitzliff, a chair, two pomas, two ropes, and 16 runs, one of them measuring 7,800 feet. It also has 12 condominium rental apartments nearby. The long-time favorite Trollhaugen at Dresser, 30 miles from the Twin Cities, has added three

new chairlifts, a Stitzliff for its beginners' slope, and a new T-bar combination of slopes on a newly acquired 80 acres.

If you want to sample Wisconsin skiing, it's easy to get to some of the many fine resorts either from Chicago or from the Twin Cities. Sawtooth, at Somerset, Wis., a new family resort in the scenic St. Croix Valley, is only 30 minutes

from Minneapolis. It has 14 Bayfield; Mount La Crosse at runs, a double chair, seven La Crosse; Rib Mountain, at ropes, and a new Stitzliff. Wausau (its new 3,300-foot Telemark, at Cable, Wis., chairlift is the longest and now has 10 good runs, a chair, highest in the state); Sky Line three T-bars, and 10 ropes, at Friendship, with a new Gateway, at Land O'Lakes; chaise; Val Croux, at Taylor offers a heated pool, sauna, Falls, with an enlarged chalet; cocktail lounge, skating rink, and Woodside Ranch at Musk and rental snowmobiles in addition, with a new ski tow and tion to its ski facilities. Other new lodging facilities. Skiing fine resorts include Ashabay at is only for overnight guests.

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