

MOUNT FUJI HAS A CHARM ALL ITS OWN

Japanese Accent at Wisconsin Area

BY JAMES FREDERICK

The hills and slopes of Mount Fuji, near Lake Geneva, Wis., bear little resemblance to the mountains of Japan, but the busy ski resort has a charm all its own.

Located some 90 miles from Chicago—about a 1-w-a-t-e-r drive from the Loop—Mount Fuji features a novel bus house that makes for interesting relaxing after a brisk run down the slopes.

As part of the Japanese motif of Mount Fuji, the area serves Japanese beer which seems to make a bigger hit with the skiers than the traditional hot spiced wine or hot buttered rum.

New T-Bar

Mount Fuji has 36 acres of sking area, divided into 12 runs the longest of which is 2,100 feet. The area is served by a new T-Bar which services the two main runs and also electric rope tows which take care of the other 10 runs.

While the main hill has only 200 feet of vertical drop, it is used to maximum advantage. Much of the original design work was done by Royce Adler, a famous ski hill architect.

For this season, Mount Fuji enlarged its snow-making capacity, adding a new pump house with five new compressors and three more in the process of being installed. There is now twice the snow-making capacity of last season, altho it was hardly needed with the snow-covered snowfall this season. Mount Fuji has also improved its snow-grooming operations with a large spreader that puts snow on the bare spot.

Features Nursery

To help families with small children, the area added a nursery which is open only on week days. However, it is planned to make the nursery a seven-day a week operation if necessary.

The area's rental department has been enlarged and for those who do not ski, there is ice skating and sleigh rides.

The pine and look wood lodge is decorated in the Japanese manner with a large sunken fireplace. The area has barbecues around the fireplace on week-ends and also features a two-beer cocktail lounge and a new room at the front of the lodge with its own fireplace. The room is available to clubs or groups holding private parties.

Mount Fuji's ski school is open every day and also at night when the slopes are lighted by the new mercury vapor lights.

A recent visitor to Mount Fuji, who apparently was more familiar with Japan than the resort's owners, found only one fault with the lodge. The Japanese flag, complete with inscriptions, was hung upside down.



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