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Skiing Gets Off to Good Start

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Recreational skiing in the Tri-State Region and the Canadian Lakehead got off to one of the best starts in years this season.

Heavy late November snowfall brought out record number of skiers to the slopes. A number of

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ski areas were not ready, chiefly because of extensive building programs that were delayed by unfavorable summer weather.

This building is to activate a new concept in winter recreation. Though skiing will retain its dominant position, efforts are being made to provide other winter sports at ski areas. Included are skating, tobogganing, hiking, snowmobile tours and sleighrides.

A number of Tri-State Region winter resorts now have swimming pools, either indoors or outdoors or both.

The Christmas holidays will see the height of skiing and other winter recreational activities. Ski hill operators estimate that a fourth of their seasonal income is realized during the Christmas holidays.

In addition to construction projects, it is significant that stress in the region is applied now on teaching youngsters to race in preparation for competition in the regional, district and national events of the United States Ski Association. It is from these events that Olympic material often is discovered.

Functioning now in Duluth is the Alpine Ski Club, organized this fall to promote junior Alpine racing. The club has hired a professional, Heli Schaller, to coach boys and girls. Another Austrian, Erich Sailer, is racing coach at Mount Telemark.

Also being revived is a program of racing events for seniors, men and women who are more than 18 and thus ineligible for the junior program. Under auspices of a branch of the USSA, giant slalom and slalom races are scheduled in the new year at Sugar Hills and Lutsen. There are events for veterans (minimum age 32), also.

With opening of Little Norway at Fort William, there will be four major ski areas at the Canadian Lakehead. Little Norway is to operate this season on a limited basis, pending completion of a building program.

Construction projects representing expenditures of a quarter of a million dollars are being completed both at Sugar Hills near Grand Rapids and the Lutsen Resort on the North Shore.

The Lutsen project embraces erection of a new chalet and opening of runs on Mystery Mountain while at Sugar Hills the present chalet was extensively remodeled, a swimming pool added, a chairlift erected and a new run laid out.

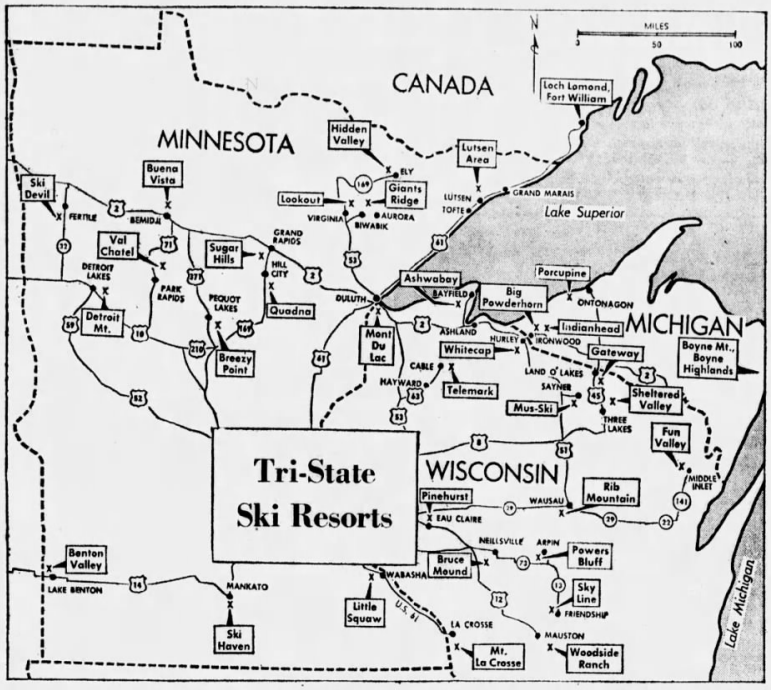
A $50,000 auxiliary building has been completed at Big Powderhorn Mountain near Bessemer while adjacent Indianhead Mountain's chalet has been extensively remodeled, a new run established and work is under way on added housing units.

Duluth's Mont du Lac and Hardscrabble at Rice Lake have installed snow-making systems. Hardscrabble also added a second T-bar lift and Mont du Lac laid out a new run and lengthened the intermediate hill tow.

Tentatively scheduled for opening during the Christmas holidays is the new Mount Rockwood Ski Area near Silver Bay.

Much work in hill recontouring and grooming has been carried out at most of the 22 major ski areas of the Tri-State Region and the Canadian Lakehead.

Chief objective is to make the slopes more acceptable to the beginner and intermediate skiers who are vastly in the majority of the thousands who frequent the slopes. Most of them appear over weekends but skiing on winter vacations is increasing in popularity.



22 Major Ski Areas Found in Region

If, at start of the season, a skier undertook each weekend to visit a different ski area in the Tri-State Region and the Canadian Lakehead, spring warmth would have melted the snow before he could make a complete round.

There are 22 major ski areas, along with seven minor ones. Some of the major areas are "more major" than others, of course, but all of them offer interesting slopes and modern chalets.

The larger resorts are open seven days a week while others serve the public only on weekends and holidays.

Here are the major areas, their nearest towns, the approximate distances from Duluth, and their lift facilities:

Mont du Lac — Just outside southwestern city limits; one T-bar, four tows.

Lutsen—Lutsen; 93 miles; one double chairlift; two Pomalifts; four tows.

Lookout Mountain—Virginia; 60 miles; one double chairlift, seven tows.

Giant's Ridge—Aurora-Biwabik, 60 miles; one T-bar, three tows.

Sugar Hills—Grand Rapids; 83 miles; one double chairlift, three T-bars, eight tows.

Quadna Mountain—Hill City; 73 miles; two T-bars, one tow.

Buena Vista — Bemidji; 155 miles; four tows.

Val Chatel—Park Rapids; 126 miles; one chairlift, four tows.

Hidden Valley—Ely; 101 miles; one J-bar, two tows.

Mount Rockwood—Silver Bay; 56 miles; three tows (tentatively scheduled to open over holidays).

Mount Telemark — Cable; 80 miles; one double chairlift, three T-bars, 10 tows.

White Cap Mountain—Hurley; 100 miles; two T-bars, three tows.

Mount Ashwabay—Bayfield; 80 miles; one T-bar, seven tows.

Lockhaven—Spooner; 72 miles; five tows.

SKIING SHARPENS the appetite of John Posselt (left) and Robert Baarson, UMD students from Edina.

Hardscrabble—Rice Lake; 105 miles; two T-bars, six tows.

Indianhead Mountain — Bessemer; 110 miles; one triple chairlift, one double chairlift, two T-bars, two tows.

Big Powderhorn Mountain—Bessemer; 106 miles; two double chairlifts, one T-bar, two tows.

Porcupine Mountain — Ontonagon; 150 miles; two T-bars, four tows.

Mount Baldy—Port Arthur; 210 miles; one double chairlift, two tows.

Mount McKay—Fort William; 190 miles; one double chairlift, three tows.

Loc Lomond—Fort William; 188 miles; three T-bars, one tow.

Little Norway — Fort William; 184 miles; one T-bar, two tows.

The minor ski areas are Amnicon, 13 miles east of Superior; Trout Valley, Bovey; Mount Itasca, Coleraine; Lakeview, Duluth; Eagles Bluff, Hurley; Mount Zion, Ironwood, and Manitow Valley, a mile south of Pattison Park on Wisconsin Highway 35.

There is night skiing at Mont du Lac, Lookout Mountain, Sugar Hills, White Cap Mountain, Ashwabay, Big Powderhorn, Mount Baldy, Mt. McKay and Loc Lomond.

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