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WINTER SPORTS AGAIN IN OCONOMOWOC

Oconomowoc is headed toward its former fame as a winter sports center.

The new Silver Ridge Ski Club lacks only snow to begin its operations.

Plans are under way to reactivate and expand the membership of the Oconomowoc Ski Club, to move its ski jump to a new larger site on Highway 67 south of Oconomowoc on land in the Kettle Moraine State Park leased from the state, and to again hold its annual ski jumping tournaments.

The Oconomowoc Speed Skating Club is already well established and gaining prestige for its highly successful meets.

The Silver Ridge Ski Club was organized this year as an independent and self-sustaining (through memberships) division of the Oconomowoc Recreation Board and the Board of Vocational and Adult Education. A chalet has been built at its location west of Silver Lake and a ski tow for down hill skiing is now being installed. In addition, there will be tobogganing and sled runs and later is planned a skating area, as well as a junior ski jump for beginners. The Silver Ridge Ski Club will be a family participation activity with great promise.

The Oconomowoc Ski Club was organized after World War II when the Milwaukee-Oconomowoc Ski Club (now the Milwaukee Ski Club) discontinued jumping at Devil's Hollow. The club has not held its annual ski jumping meets the last three years. The board has negotiated a tentative lease with the state for the moving of the slide to the improved site which will provide a Class A jump of 175 feet, 50 feet longer than Devil's Hollow. With the revival of ski jumping on a larger hill it is expected that the early popularity of historical Devil's Hollow meets will be restored. It will be the only slide of its size in the whole of southeastern Wisconsin.

There are a number of top jumpers in this part of the state who would welcome the opportunity to join with our local jumpers and represent the club in tournaments. Bringing back the annual spectacular will restore one of the earliest ski-jumping tournaments for which Oconomowoc was long famous.

The launching of the new Silver Ridge Ski Club with its varied all-age family participation programs and the plans to revive the Oconomowoc Ski Club annual jumping meets is good news. It is the perfect combination of member participation in the one club, and the exciting spectators' sport in the other club. Each club will compliment the other. Jumpers of the Oconomowoc Ski Club would be available to instruct beginners on the proposed junior jump of the Silver Ridge Ski Club. From these beginners will come the jumpers of tomorrow for the big slide.

The future of both of the ski clubs promises to match the fine record that the Oconomowoc Speed Skating Club has built so fast in the last few years.

Add to all this, ice boating and ice fishing on the lakes and you have Oconomowoc again a winter sports city.

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