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The La Crosse Tribune (La Crosse, Wisconsin) · Wed, Jan 18, 1939 · Page 11
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La Crosse—Winter Sports Center

The weather man, who is supposed to have it within his power, somehow, to furnish just the kind of weather his clients want, has proved a traitor to the cause of winter sports so far this year, but with several inches of new-fallen snow on the ground and temperatures sliding downward a little, outdoor enthusiasts look riverward or bluff-ward in high hopes that they may still have a chance to try out those new skates or skis they received for Christmas.

What does La Crosse vicinity have to offer its sporting lugs this winter?

Plenty! In fact, there are few outdoor sports that are not available in this region to those willing to brave zero weather and knee deep snow. Whether your avocation is skating, skiing, sleighing, tobogganing, snowshoeing, ice boating, or that new wrinkle in skiing, ski-kjoring, you will find all sorts of facilities for enjoying your favorite sport this winter—providing the weather maker co-operates and boosts for lots of snow this season.

Skating, Skiing Major Sports

Ice skating and skiing, of course, are the major winter sports here as they are in most places, and interest in both is increasing more and more every year, especially among adults. One reason is that efforts in the last few years to promote the sports in La Crosse have resulted in the development of an extensive artificial rink system for skaters and the construction of a ski hill close enough to the city to be available to all local fans.

Prior to 1911 ice skating for La Crosse residents was confined largely to the treacherous Mississippi river, where tragedy was not uncommon. About 27 years ago, however, the common council decided to do something to make skating safer here, so built three rinks, one at Hood and Adams streets, one at Copeland park, and one on the West avenue playgrounds.

City Has 10 Rinks

Later, about 13 or 14 years ago, the Lagoon rink, now the largest and one of the most popular, was started under the auspices of an organization known as the La Crosse Outdoor Sports association. Prior to the association's pioneer work, there had been little skating on the Lagoon, but with the erection of a warming house there, all but a 10-foot addition of which is still in use, it soon became one of the most popular skating centers. Eventually the association turned the building and rink equipment over to the city.

During the last quarter of a century the city has extended the rink system until today 12 rinks, located in every part of the city, provide easy access to the sport for children and grown-ups alike. The rinks are operated by the city through the park department and are patronized more and more each year as interest in the sport continues to mount.

Largest and most popular of the present rinks are the Lagoon, West avenue and Copeland. Others are the 21st ward, Hogan school, Roosevelt school, Goose Green on St. Andrew and Kane streets, Central high school and Adams and Hood street rinks. Because of the normal school building program on the site of the old Washington school rink on Vine and 16th, that rink has been moved this winter to the fair grounds.

Warming Houses Available

Warming houses are available at all of these rinks and attendants are present during the skating season to enforce order. There are few rules to be observed on the rinks, but what rules there are are strictly enforced. One of them bans the playing of games on the ice, especially hockey and such group games as "crack the whip."

Constant improvement of the rinks from year to year helps increase interest in the sport. Chief improvements this winter are being made at the Lagoon rink, where a new warming house is under construction and a rink for the exclusive use of speed artists will soon be available. The pond to the north of the present Lagoon rink will be cleared for speed skating and next year will be the main rink, inasmuch as the new warming house is being built near it. Floodlights will be erected on that rink this year.

The new warming house, expected to be completed in time for use in the national skating championships being held here Feb. 4-5, will be a 28 by 60 foot structure with porches, to be built later, on the east and west ends and a 15-foot room that may be shut off for use as a dressing room when skating meets are held.

Ice Championships Here

An outstanding event of the winter has been scheduled for La Crosse and promises to bring some of the nation's outstanding ice artists here. That is the national ice skating championships to be held at the Lagoon rink Feb. 4 and 5. The event was obtained by the Jaces through the La Crosse Skating club, a member of the U. S. Amateur Skating union.

The city championships are also scheduled to be held within the next few weeks, but no definite date has been set.

Skiing is a relatively new sport for La Crosse fans. Attempts to promote the sport, in the belief that the La Crosse vicinity is ideal for it, succeeded last year when the La Crosse Ski club was organized and backed development of a ski hill near the city under the sponsorship of the Junior Association of Commerce. Because of the unprecedented lack of snow last year, the project was held back considerably, but plans are being made to get the sport well under way here this year.

Developing Snow Bowl

The "Snow Bowl," as members of the ski club have named it, consists of 350 acres of land adjoining the Charles Haas farm about a mile east of the city on state highway 33. Under a signed contract, leases on the site will be obtainable for 27 years. The Jaces pay the land rental while the city provides a parking space and keeps the snow cleaned off that area. The hill is operated under the supervision of the city park department.

A 40 by 60 foot shelter house containing a large fireplace and facilities for serving hot lunches and refreshments and providing skiing equipment was erected by the Jaces last year. Other improvements were made last fall prior to the opening of the season that are expected to draw hundreds of skiers as soon as the snow comes.

With the assistance of NYA labor, two trails approximately 15 feet wide and one-third to one-half mile long have been laid out on the 1,000-foot slope. The hill also contains a slalom course 130 feet wide and a parallel ski tow 1,000 feet long with two intermediate stopping-off places.

The tow is one of the few in the state and is considered one of the Snow Bowl's outstanding attractions. It consists of a continuous rope powered by a gas motor at the top enabling skiers to "ride" up instead of walk and thus conserve their energy for the real sport of coming down. Passes for the tow are available at a reasonable cost, and are the only charges made at the hill.

Ideal For Beginners

The Snow Bowl is considered unusually attractive for amateur and beginning skiers, inasmuch as it has a "nursery" slope for beginners and contains no bad hazards. On the other hand, its location in the "Mississippi Alps" and the possibilities that lie in its development have created much enthusiasm in it by outside sports fans, particularly from Chicago and other points in the midwest. Inquiries have reached the La Crosse Ski club this year from such distant points as Cincinnati, O., Louisville, Ky., and Rochester, Minn., and through the co-operation of the railroads entering La Crosse many outsiders are expected to be attracted to La Crosse's unduplicated facilities for winter sports.

Anyone interested in skiing, whether he is a professional or a novice at the game, has the privilege of joining the La Crosse Ski club, membership in which can be obtained at a nominal fee. At the present time the club has a membership of about 100, many of them Chicago persons. If the snow is right and enough interest is shown in the sport, instructions may be provided at the Snow Bowl, according to officials of the club.

Hold Ski Tourney Here

Attempts are being made to schedule ski meets here, although the only one definitely lined up so far is the Central International team tryouts on Feb. 12, an interclub tournament in downhill and slalom running between entrants from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

President of the La Crosse Ski club, which is affiliated with the United States Central Ski association, is Robert D. Johns, La Crosse. Secretary is William McGoney of Chicago, and treasurer is Miles Erickson of La Crosse.

Another organization formed last year, including a few localities but comprised mostly of Chicago members, is the Snow Chase club, which has a 1,000-acre tract of land near Medary on which trails have been laid out. The adverse snow conditions last year badly hampered the club's getting off to an auspicious start, but expectations are that its activities will attract much interest this year if there is enough snow.

Many Other Sports

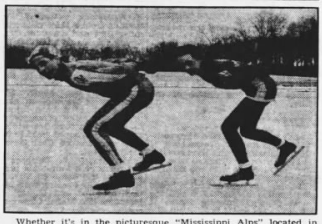
But skiing and skating form only a part of what La Crosse can offer in the way of winter sports. Thousands of persons, youngsters and oldsters, will participate one way or another in numerous minor outdoor recreational activities.

Interest in tobogganing has been growing steadily the last few years. The numerous hillsides and topographical conditions of the country make it an ideal one for the sport, although it is considered somewhat dangerous where there are no slides laid out. Several groups of La Crosse residents have indicated that if enough interest is shown in the sport this winter, efforts may be made to establish some good slides in the near future.

"Ski-kjoring"—in case that is new to you, is a sport in which the skier is towed behind a horse—may be promoted here by a stable owner this winter, Friend Nelson near the Grand Crossing. Farmer lads and lassies often indulge in the sport, but heretofore townspeople have had little opportunity to obtain horses in the winter. They say it's really quite thrilling.

Sleigh Bells May Jingle

Whether or not bells will jingle on the one-hoss shay, sleighing is always popular for group parties, and combined with a warm campfire or oyster stew at the end of the ride are ideal for winter entertainment—just in case you are a host or hostess.



Whether it's in the picturesque "Mississippi Alps" located in the bluffs along the mighty Mississippi, or on the broad marsh ponds of the river itself, La Crosse winter sports enthusiasts have almost ideal spots where they can indulge in their favorite pastimes. The top picture is a ski scene in Ebner's coulee, the lower one a camera shot of skating artists in action.

Snowshoeing should not be forgotten either. For the office worker who is not accustomed to being on his feet much, it is a very practical exercise, for it does not require the "getting into shape" that skiing does. For an all-day or even overnight hike snowshoeing offers a wonderful opportunity to out-of-door lovers, for there are hundreds of interesting spots to "explore," and a number of places where groups can camp overnight.

A cabin built in the spring of 1937, three and one-half miles over the bluff in Smith's Coulee, is open to parties who wish to make use of it, especially students or faculty members of the Teachers college. Officials of the Women's Recreational association, which erected the cabin, point out that the vicinity abounds in opportunities for winter sports, especially skiing and tobogganing. No trails have been laid out but a number of old woods roads provide suitable facilities for either sport, or groups can make the trip from there via skis to the Snow Bowl.

Ice Boating Coming Back

Three youth hostels in the La Crosse area also make suitable quarters for winter camping parties and can be arranged for in advance. The Hanson hostel in Sand Lake Coulee can accommodate fairly large groups of either boys or girls, and is situated in a spot ideal for exploring the Midway flats.

The Sacia hotel at Mindoro and the Fairchild at Green Acres can each accommodate groups of three or four for overnight. Lodging can be obtained at reasonable charges at these places for those who hold hostel passes.

Since the nine-foot channel project was completed and back water lakes were formed in this region, ice boating is another sport that is coming back into its own in the La Crosse vicinity. There is considerable sentiment among various groups, especially the La Crosse Yacht club and the Sea Scouts, for promoting this most hazardous yet thrilling of cold weather sports.

All in all, there may still be plenty of opportunity for sport fans to indulge in their favorite outdoor activities providing the winter that we haven't had yet redeems itself during the next month or six weeks.

Soil Conservation Office Is Moved

Washington—(AP)—The soil conservation service announced Tuesday changes in the location of its regional office in the Upper Mississippi valley.

The regional headquarters at Des Moines, Iowa, will be moved to Milwaukee, Wis. This region includes Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri.

Officials said the change was made to consolidate existing regional offices of the soil conservation service with similar offices of the land utilization program.

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MAKE THIS TEST
A doctor's prescription, used for years for those addicted to the excessive use of alcohol, is now offered to the public as Alcoban. It is not habit-forming and can be taken in liquor, tea, coffee, food, or any other liquid, with or without the user's knowledge. Aids the sufferer to overcome the craving for liquor and to build up his resistance. Try a box at our risk. Money back if not delighted. Sold by Hoeschler Bros. Drug Store, and all other good druggists. Get Alcoban today.—Adv.

DOCTORS WARN FOLKS WHO ARE CONSTIPATED
IT IS SAID constipation causes many human discomforts—headaches, lack of energy and mental dullness being but a few. BUT DON'T WORRY—
For years a noted Ohio Doctor, Dr. F. M. Edwards, successfully treated scores of patients for constipation with his famous Dr. Edwards' Olive Tablets—now sold by druggists everywhere.
Olive Tablets, being purely vegetable, are harmless. They not only gently yet thoroughly cleanse the bowels but ALSO assist liver bile flow to help digest fatty foods. Test their goodness TONIGHT without fail! 15¢, 30¢, 60¢

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