

Travel and Adventure

Winter Fun

Ski Resorts Lure Tourist

by JEANNE WELCH

To us sedentary types the fact that there are, according to those who should know, some 100,000 skiers in the Chicago area is amazing. That's the figure ski associations quote, but I'm inclined to believe that at least a couple of thousands of those are "fireside skiers" as I am. Be that as it may, skiing and ski resorts have been popping up all over the country in the past ten years.

Maybe our hills wouldn't impress the Swiss but to a dedicated skier any skiing is better than no skiing and, as a matter of fact, many of our mid-western resorts and slopes need not apologize for their facilities.

AS AN EXAMPLE of how dedicated is the skier, and how determined he is to ski, is the Buffalo Park Ski Area on State Route 31 near Algonquin, Ill. It came into being because six local skiers wanted a place to ski close to home . . . so they built one. It was a big job as they built and installed much of the equipment themselves. It's not spartan in any way, either.

There are beginners', intermediate and experts' slopes, rope tows and good equipment for rent. There is a lodge, a snack bar and parking space for 200 cars. Two of the main slopes have

runs of from 800 to 1,100 feet, with a total drop of 175 feet.

With new resorts opening every year it is difficult to keep track of what's what in the midwest skiing world. One of the best of the "old," however, is still Northernaire at Three Lakes, Wis. A charming summer resort, it measures up equally well as a ski resort. Two of its nicest features are an indoor swimming pool and a dining room where the food is a great deal more than just adequate.

TIME WAS when skiing was considered, at least by Americans, as rather a rich man's sport—a little in the same class with polo. That's all changed now and skiers are as canny bargain hunters as are other travelers. A bargain which has just come to my attention is the weekend excursion rate which the Burlington Railroad is offering to Chestnut Hills. Chestnut Hills is a newly developed ski area near Hanover, Ill. in the northwest part of the state.

Each Saturday and Sunday during January, February



THE COLOR, EXCITEMENT, a of the bullring awaits vacation part in Paddock Publications "ta" tour. An afternoon at the I

and March the Burlington will operate ski trains to Chestnut Hills. You can leave Chicago at 9 a.m. Saturday and return by 11:35 p.m. Sunday for the extremely tiny price of \$6.05 round trip. The train trip takes two and a half hours.

Chestnut Hills has snow-making equipment, an elevation of 1,045 feet, one chairlift, eight rope tows, a cafeteria and—the feature which lured me there—a main lodge with five fireplaces. There are no room accommodations at Chestnut Hills but there are comfortable motels nearby.

For additional information on the Chestnut Hills excursion call the Burlington Travel Headquarters in Chicago at WAbash 2-2345. (T

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