

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1965

# Chicagoland Areas Ready

## All They Need Is Snow

Ski areas of the Chicago district await the first blast of winter. Most of them are equipped with snow machines—so they'll be ready to go as soon as temperatures drop, whether or not the north-by-northwest winds blow in natural snow.

The areas within easy reach of Chicago's metropolitan district include Four Lakes, Fox Trails, Buffalo Park, Gander Mountain, Holiday Park, and Fox River picnic grove in Illinois; Wilmet Hills, Majestic Hills, Mount Fuji, and Alpine Valley in Wisconsin; The Pines at Valparaiso, Ind., and new Ski Valley at La Porte, Ind.

Four Lakes in Lake, scene of the annual Turnover ski school, is expanding its program of general instruction. Manager Harold Levin reports that a co-operative program is being set up with various colleges, universities and ski clubs for schooling under John Verrey and his staff of expert instructors.

**Rebovate Chalet**

The chalet has been renovated and paneled to enhance a rustic motif. The parking facilities have been worked over so as to provide more facile movement of cars on crowded days and evenings. Levin said that the food service has improved so that Four Lakes patrons may enjoy delectable dining.

Wilmet Hills, longest established ski resort in the Chicago area, has built a new restaurant called the Ski Barn. Fifty-type lamps and other appropriate fixtures will provide an old world atmosphere. One of the two cafeterias will convert to a restaurant each evening, the other remaining in operation as a cafeteria.

Wilmet will go on a seven-day-a-week basis this season, from 10 a. m. to 11 p. m. on weekdays and from 9:30 a. m. to 11 p. m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Approximately 100 acres are floodlit. Illumination has been improved by the substitution of quartz lamps for incandescent bulbs. This gives greater brilliancy and a more even distribution.

**Improve Snow Making**

The snow-making machinery has been enlarged and its efficiency increased. There will be 40 to 50 nozzles available, depending on conditions.

John Sopka, assistant to his father, Walter, who founded Wilmet Hills in 1939, said that the November ski festival, which proved so popular in the last two years, will be continued this season. Every Sunday in November beginning at 2 p. m. there will be ski movies, a fashion show, an introductory dry land ski lesson and a tour of the area. Admission is free. Sopka said that last year many sessions drew 1,000 people.

Wilmet Hills has two T-bar lifts and 12 rope tows. The area was greatly expanded before the start of last season when more than a million cubic feet of earth were moved in the construction of new slopes.

**Fox Trails Improves**

Fox Trails, near Cary, is now in the process of improving its runs and shifting slopes to better locations. Earth moving equipment is in action now. "Our expert run is being altered to provide real challenges for the better skiers," said Henry F. Carroll, general manager. "All of our nine runs are being groomed and revised where advisable. Our snow making equipment covers the entire area. All slopes are floodlit for evening skiing."

"Many schools, park districts and recreation centers are making arrangements for special group lessons this season. Northwestern university's physical education students will get instruction from our professional, Arne Martnesen. The area will be open seven days a week this season. Last year we were closed on Mondays.

"Snow Bunny School"

"Our Snow Bunny ski school which was so popular with suburban housewives last season, will be continued. These are mid-day, mid-week classes, held at a time when the children are in school and the husbands at work."

The ski swap, which has been established as an annual event at Fox Trails, will be



Skier glides down gentle slope at Fox Trails, one of the many ski resorts only a short distance from Chicago Loop.

## An Apple for a Skier

Traverse City, Mich., Oct. 28 (Special)—There was quite an apple polishing act today in Traverse City as 25,000 apples (175 bushels) were polished by members of the chamber of commerce ski council.

The apples were then loaded on trucks for a trip to McCormick Place and the opening of the International Ski and Winter Sports show tomorrow. They will be handed out at the Traverse City booth at the show.

This modern adaption of the old idea of "an apple for the teacher" and "polishing up to make friends" is being used to lure skiers to Sugar Loaf, Timber Lee, and Traverse City Holiday ski resorts in Traverse City by Ralph Gilliam, manager of the Park Place Motor hotel and ski council president.

held on the week-end of Nov. 27 and 28.

"Skiers of all ages are invited to trade their used skis, poles, boots and bindings with fellow skiers," Carroll said. "Young skiers outgrow equipment and older skiers often improve enough to dispose of their gear for items of higher quality."

Martnesen, who began to ski in Norway shortly after he began to walk, will conduct a free ski clinic at the ski swap. Color movies will be shown.

Has Food Service

Fox Trails has a chalet with food service. Its ski shop has more than 400 pairs of skis, boots and poles for rentals.

Mount Fuji, just north of Lake Geneva, Wis., has made numerous physical improvements and also has set up a Saturday and Sunday bus service from the Chicago Loop and west suburban areas direct to the lodge. Loop buses will pick up passengers at the Trailways station on Randolph street, west of Wabash avenue and at the Robbins Ski stop, 322 S. Wacker dr. The west suburban pickup will be handled by the La Grande Bus company.

Cost is \$8.95

There will be a package deal at \$20 providing skiers with round trip transportation from Chicago, low fees, lunch, and a ski lesson. Ski rental is extra, for those who do not have their own equipment.

Mount Fuji has 12 runs served by nine tows — some T-bars, others electrically driven rope tows. A new quarter mile oval track for snowmobiles has been constructed with bleachers holding 1,600. The resort has nine snowmobiles.

A year-round heated swimming pool of Olympic proportions, with a winterbreaker for winter use, is near completion. It is expected to be ready for operation this winter. The resort offers sleigh rides and free ice skating.

**Build Air Strip**

Mount Fuji has been a skydiving center for some time. A new air strip has been built near the chalet which will accommodate skiers arriving by plane. The new strip is 2,500 feet long. The older runway, farther from the chalet, is 3,500 feet.

Snow making capacity has been increased by the addition of a new compressor, bringing

the total to seven. Thirty snow nozzles are available. Just to make it easier for the beginners, their tow has been moved closer to the chalet.

Alpine Valley, near East Troy, Wis., has installed a new quintuple chair lift. It now can keep four chairs moving simultaneously with a capacity of 3,000 per hour. The chairs stop on a sidetrack at the top of the slopes so that it is unnecessary for the skiers to jump off while they're moving, as is the case with some chair lifts.

**Pave Parking Lot**

The grooming equipment for the hills has been doubled. The heavy snow-cut has 20 pieces of varied accessories. The parking lot and road has been paved. A new cafeteria has been installed.

Alpine Valley, which opened last December, has 19 runs served by 6 rope tows, 3 double chair lifts and the new quintuple lift. The hotel has 60 units for accommodation of overnight guests. There is an indoor pool, a restaurant, a supper club, a cafeteria and three cocktail lounges.

Majestic Hills offers a picturesque setting overlooking Lake Geneva. Its colorful Alpine type chalet was completed at the start of last season. Features include a teen-age room and soda fountain.

**MEACHRON JOINS HEAD**

Traverse City, Mich., Oct. 28 (Special)—John Meachron, 27, a former U.S. Olympic skier, has been named to head the ski council in Traverse City. Meachron was graduated from Northwestern university in

## ENJOY A "BROKEN LEG" AT THE SKI SHOW!

The makers of Old Crow cordially invite you to visit the Old Crow Bar at the Ski Show...where you can enjoy the new taste sensation of the Ape-Ski-Ski: the Old Crow "Broken Leg", (Spicy, smooth and very, very mellow because it's made with famous Old Crow Bourbon.)

Then, be our guests at our "Ski-A-Go-Go", a special film featuring some of the world's finest skiers.