



Above — Day Waterman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Waterman of 2440 River Dr., Davenport, pulls on her skiing gloves.

Below — Day hangs to a rope tow which pulls her up a hillside at Chestnut Hills, the Quad-City region's newest skiing area. It's located 80 miles from the Quad-Cities, near Hanover, Ill. (Staff photos by Harry Ball)



High over the Mississippi River stand three members of the Ski Patrol at Chestnut Hills. They help skiers who find themselves in difficulty. From the left, Jim Cramer, Fred Redfuch and Mike Gerrie.

Ski Heil!



The Quad-City Rush To The Snowy Slopes

THERE'S a fast-growing family of Quad-Citians who love winter weather and pray for snow.

While other people are shoveling the white stuff off their sidewalks, these enthusiasts jump into their cars, head for the nearest hills—and strap on their skis.

They regard their nonmaking fellow citizens as an underprivileged class, lacking in appreciation of the finer things in life.

And every year they're attracting new converts to their sport, so that more than 300 Quad-Citians now get out at least once a year.

Not too long ago, Quad-City skiing was confined to a wealthy minority who could afford winter vacations at expensive resorts.

"It's not like that any more," says Paul (Max) Roth of Moline, president of the Mississippi Valley Ski Club.

"There's no more expense involved than in golf or fishing, unless you've got high transportation and lodging costs."

MOST Quad-Citians are skiing close to home, so there's almost no cost beyond equipment and tow charges.

The hills of Duck Creek Park are handy, if you don't mind climbing up. And the Ski Club has a fixed rope tow at Illinewek State Park, just north of Hanington, Ill.

Then there's a new skiing resort, still under construction but open for business, that is within easy driving distance of the Quad-Cities.

It's Chestnut Hills Resort, nine miles northwest of Hanover, Ill., set in some rugged hills

above the Mississippi River. Opened just a week ago, it's already attracting scores of area skiers. The Ski Club has a trip there scheduled for today.

"I lived in Norway for nine years," explains Ken Hansen, co-owner of Chestnut Hills. "And I've always dreamed of having my own ski resort."

"I've been looking for the right spot, off and on, for five years—and finally we bought this property last July."

HANSEN and partner Ron Jirik, both former Chicago building contractors, have their lodge 80 per cent completed and other facilities in operation.

"All we need now is lots more snow," Hansen sighs. "This has been a terrible winter."

"A terrible winter," for ski fans, is something quite different from the normal definition. Last year's record-breaking storms made that season "a great winter," according to Roth.

"Skiing really caught on last year in a big way," he recalls. "Our club has been growing 20 to 25 per cent in the past couple of years—we have about 80 members now, and there are lots more enthusiasts who don't belong."

SOME of the most active members in the club are Mrs. Carl Matthey of Davenport, who helped found the club; Mr. and Mrs. Dick Strubel of Bettendorf; and the Berne Kottmanns of Rock Island.

"Skiing is a growing thing here in the Quad-Cities."

SKING— (Continued On Page 7-D)



Ski poles, skis and skiers cast shadows on a hillside in a beginner's ski area at Chestnut Hills. The resort, which will be the largest in Illinois when completed, opened last week for the first time.

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Skiing can be a family affair. Here, father, mother and son ski at Illinewek Forest Preserve near Hanington, Ill. Experts say that the age of six or seven is "about right" to start a youngster on skis.

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