

Ski Area To Be Ready In December

The ski area being developed by the Pere Marquette Ski Corp. at Pere Marquette State Park near Grafton, Ill., is expected to be in operation about Dec. 15, Dave Katz, vice president of the company, said. At that time installation of new equipment and expansion of present facilities is scheduled to be completed. Don Caplon is the developer of the project and president of the corporation.

Work includes installation of 26 snowmaking guns, two tow ropesc, a lighting system for night skiing, digging a new well and completing a pipeline to the slopes.

Plans are to operate the facilities seven day a week, with day skiing from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and night skiing from 5 to 10 p.m., weather permitting.

In addition to four bunny slopes there is a half-mile-long run that has a vertical drop of almost 400 feet.

A staff of certified ski instructors will be available for skiers from beginner to advanced. Jack Douglas of St. Louis County will be the director in the area for the National Ski Patrol System.

Service facilities will include a warming hut with a cafeteria, a refreshment stand, art gallery, gift shop and an expanded line of rental equipment, including GLM skis.

Pere Marquette Lodge, which is open year-round, has overnight accommodations and is planning a special ski week package.

There is a two-lane paved road into the ski area, which is in the eastern end of the park, five miles from the park's main lodge on Illinois Route 100, the Great River Road.