

**Largest In State**

# Area's Ski Jump Nears Completion

From J-S Area News Bureau  
**ELIZABETH** — The cows that once grazed the hilltop woods overlooking Rush Creek and Terrapin Ridge have been replaced by some acrobatic carpenters and timber-topping cedar poles.

This winter ski jumpers will be plummeting off the largest jump in Illinois and downhill ski enthusiasts will have a choice of six runs.

Terrapin Ridge Ski Club is rushing completion of a 40-acre skiing area off the Derinda Center Road that features the first year-round ski jump in the United States. Plastic mats for the chute and landing area will enable jumpers to use the all-wood structure, regardless of season.

**Towers 80 Feet**

Towering 80 feet high and extending 195 feet in length, the 80-meter jump will permit leaps of 200 to 225 feet. It will also have four starting gates along the chute to regulate take-off speeds.

The structure is unique in that unspliced poles form all vertical supports. Other pole ski jumps have used spliced timbers for heights over 40 feet.

Four 160-foot long poles, each weighing over three tons, thrust skyward to make the corners of the highest take-off. The vista northward from the top will afford a view on clear days of Charles Mound and Wisconsin, about 18 miles away.

**Ski Runs**

Slopes are being cleared of trees and brush for downhill runs suitable for beginning and intermediate skiers. They will range from 1,200 to 1,600 feet with maximum vertical drop of 230 feet.

Three rope tows will operate this winter. Others are planned for the future. A snow making machine will be used when necessary.

The alpine ski lodge will be constructed this fall at the base of the ski jump and runs. It will contain a lounge, snack bar, rest rooms and ski rental shop. Extensive parking areas will be provided.

**Get Encouragement**

Terrapin Ridge Ski Club launched the project this summer after getting encouragement from the United States Ski Association (USSA) at its June convention. Wendell Chapin of Elizabeth, Robert Bauer of Stockton and Mrs. John Ba-

lanz of Minneapolis were organizers.

Land was purchased from the farms of Harold Rayhorn and Wayne Wand. A north exposure for the jump and ski runs plus good transportation were factors in selection of the Jo Daviess site.

The club hopes to stage a ski meet this winter and two summer events. Spectator crowds of 50,000 could be accommodated.

**Expect Top Skiers**

Being the only summer training area for jumpers in the U.S., the facilities should draw world-class competitors. A three-to-five-week training program is planned for late summer in cooperation with the USSA training committee.

Rekindling of ski jumping interest in the surrounding area is a prime objective of the ski club. Dubuque, Iowa, and Beloit, Wis., were former hotbeds.

Next summer some A-frame alpine cottages for skiers will be constructed. Future plans include more downhill ski runs.

**Contractors**

Horst Haenert and Wayne Skisman, Scales Mound carpenters, are contractors for the jump. They have four Scales Mound colleagues working for them, Keith Hesselbacher, Tom Stadel, Ray Hartwick and Larry Hughes. The crew rebuilt the

Eagle-Picher mine tower at Shullsburg, Wis., last summer so dizzying heights are not new. Orville Hesselbacher of Scales Mound did dynamiting for the 18-foot deep post holes. About nine feet of rock was encountered. Tom Sheehan Construction of Scales Mound is moving about 18,000 yards of dirt in building the ski jump landing slope and outrun.

Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative of Elizabeth helped obtain the poles. Getting them via truck through Elizabeth and to the site was a ticklish problem.

**Plastic Run**

Workers are now completing the last 18 feet of the tower which stands about 100 feet above the hill slide which completes the course. More earth must be removed and other construction work completed before the ski run is ready for use. This is expected by the first heavy snowfall.

The corporation building the jump said the first jumps will be made on the snowy slide. Close testing will be done during these jumps and any corrections will be made before the plastic surface is added. The plastic will permit jumping in summer weather.

When jumping begins next summer, it is believed to be the first of its kind in the United States.

## Swami Cleans Crystal Ball, Boldly Picks Grid Winners

By HAROLD CLAASSEN

**NEW YORK (AP)** — They are playing college football under liberalized substitution rules this year but the new code doesn't have a thing to say about forecasters who might be okay on offense but have absolutely no defense at all when their picks go awry.

With no protection from the law-makers, here is the first trip down Upset Gulch this season.

Mississippi over Memphis State: Ole Miss is the darling of the prognosticators before a tackle has been made in earnest.

**Pleasant Debut**

Oklahoma over Maryland: Gomer Jones is the resident genius at Oklahoma now and the Sooners will be going all out to make it a pleasant debut for

him. Navy over Penn State: Penn State still hasn't found a quarterback to replace the graduated Pete Liske while Navy still has Roger Staubach.

Texas over Tulane: The Green Wave is determined to beat Texas, last year's No. 1 team, in the Longhorns' own sandbox, but it won't happen.

Missouri over California: Remember when teams opened the season with breathers?

Washington over Air Force: Junior Coffey is the difference — and what a difference.

**Kansas Favored**

Kansas over Texas Christian: The Jayhawkers have a small injury list but most important is that halfback Gayle Sayers is in prime condition. Syracuse over Boston College:

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