

### Members Looking Skyward

# Suburbanites May Ski Close To Home at Fox River Grove

by LYNN MELCHER

Wish! The sound of wind, cradling a body soaring through the sky, a pair of skis and the ballast — the only thing between the flying human and the snow-packed earth — perhaps 30 feet below.

Shoo! The sound of laminated wood, plastic and metal sliding across crisp snow, cutting clean patterns across the blue-white surface.

The wood - the skis - support a human body given for a moment or an hour the power of bird flight at speeds ranging from 70 to 130 m.p.h.

More than 75,000 Chicago area residents list themselves among the ranks of "the different breed known as skiers." By October they have skis, boots, bindings, poles, wax and warrirobe out of mothballs and their eyes are cast continuously skyward, watching hopefully for a snow cloud.

IF THEY don't find one locally they pile into cars on Friday night and drive from 300-500 miles northward—to any snow covered sloping range available for skiing.

And every year, in the United States, 200,000 more people take up skiing, fast becoming the nation's most popular sport.

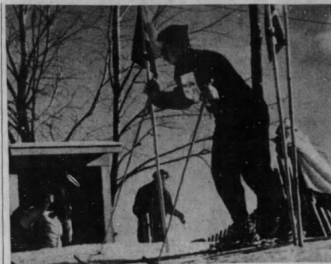
For Chicagoans 1960 brings good news! The Norge Ski club of suburban Fox River Grove, for 56 years a private men's competitive ski club, is

opening its facilities to new members. Individual and family memberships entitle the new member to not only full use of the club's three ski jumps, training slopes, clubhouse and professional instruction in the winter sport but access to summer fun as well.

THE NORGE Ski club has its origins in Chicago's Humboldt park where, more than 55 years ago, a group of Norwegian immigrants settled. Unfamiliar with America and longing for their national sport, the group, at winter's sight, quite naturally readied their skiing gear.

A half-century of colorful history, painted with national and international renown, marks the road from the Humboldt park slope to the 55 acre Fox River Valley site. Here, for 55 years, on the third Sunday in January more than 25,000 spectators gather to watch internationally famous skiers in jumping competition.

BUT, MORE important to the local skier or skiing aspirant, this is the spot—less than 60 miles from the heart



MERRLIS COOK, 19-year-old daughter of Norge Ski club Vice President Merritt Cook, was named Miss Chicago Ski Queen last year. She is shown here in the tournament area for downhill competition at the Caberfae ski lodge, Cadillac, Michigan. (A13)

of Chicago where members or non-members can learn and practice. A new rope tow, being installed this year, will facilitate the long climb up for the more accomplished skier. A rental shop—where skis, poles, boots and bindings may be rented at minimum prices, and a number of highly qualified professional instructors are available for the novice.

In short, the land of sitzmarks is closer and less expensive than many may think.

And, "Once you learn to ski you'll never find any substitute for it and never give it up. This, and knowing the joys and freedom of a bird in flight, is the promise and thrill of skiing that have made it a sport for the whole family.

"NOWHERE WILL you find

almost every muscle of the body."

He runs ski week-end trips by bus which will start "at the first snowfall," fits boots and bindings in the backroom of his Irving Park store; repairs and refinishes skis.

NORGE'S ANNUAL meet this year will feature two top Olympic ski champions from Japan, he announced, waving tickets for a two-hour ski movie shown at Austin high school last week.

Membership fees at the Fox River Grove club are set at \$55, plus \$10 initiation fee, plus 10 per cent tax for the first year for an individual member; \$10 per year after that.

Family memberships—which entitle the entire family to a season of skiing and instruction—are \$75 plus \$15 initiation fee plus 10 per cent tax and \$15 per year in succeeding years.

No snow? Have no fear. The Norge Ski club has its own snow-making machine which grinds up 300 pound blocks of ice and produces, in less than an hour, enough snow to keep the most active of skiers busy.

THE FACILITIES will be open to members and non-members alike this winter Tuesdays through Sundays. New outdoor lights have been installed for night skiing; new trails and slopes are being made and new tows for both novice and expert are now under preparation.

Area residents who feel like trying the air of the bird in flight—with their feet on the ground or from one of four jumps—can now test their skimanship close to home this year—at the Norge Ski club. (A13)



FLIGHT AND Freedom are the sensations experienced by skiers whose forte is jumping. Attaining speeds of 70 to 130 m.p.h. in a flight which may carry them as much as 300 feet through the air, enthusiasts claim that once you have enter-

ed the skiers world you will never turn back. "Skiers," says Merritt Cook, vice president of the Norge Ski club, Fox River Grove, "are a different breed of people. For them skiing is more than a sport - it is a way of life." (A13)

## Winter Weather Tins for Drivers