

## Ski Resort Created Atop Elkhart County Hill.

By LOUISE PURVIS.  
*Times-Sunday Bureau.*  
NEW PARIS — Northern Indiana's newest and largest winter recreation area will open this month with the inauguration of Mt. Wawasee, "a skier's paradise in your own back yard."  
Indiana's first public winter ski area, with its 50-mile panoramic view atop a high hill, seven ski slopes, and its own snow-making machine, occupied almost the entire northern and western sections of the huge hill, and can be reached on Elkhart County Rd. 50 just east of Ind. 15.

The winter resort is the culmination of a dream of three South Bend couples, who went skiing last year at a Northern Michigan resort. Thrilled with the sport, they nevertheless were annoyed with the idea of driving 10 hours for six hours of skiing, and began searching for a spot nearer home.

**Couples Seek Location.**  
The three couples, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Loyal Wilson Jr., and Rev. and Mrs. Robert Haskins Jr., began traveling over the upper half of Indiana, searching for a location for their planned resort. Mrs. Wilson said they found many large south slopes, but it is important to have one with a northern exposure because of the sun's rays.

Finally they found Buzzard's hill, near the town of New Paris, in Elkhart County an area landmark which got its name from an early family named "Buzzard," who formerly lived on the spot. Mrs. Wilson said the hill had the highest north slope in Northern Indiana and was ideal for their purpose.

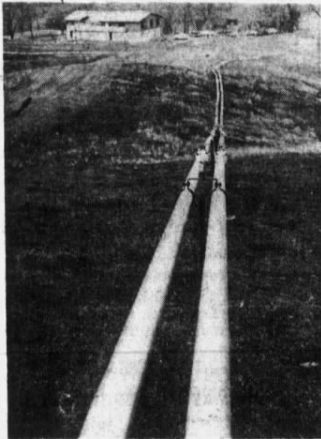
As their plans developed, interest from skiing enthusiasts farther away grew to the extent that they decided to pinpoint the location of the area by re-naming it Mt. Wawasee, since it is only a few miles from the widely-known Wawasee Lake, largest Indiana summer lake resort.

The partners leased 65 acres of the land, added 20 feet to the top of the hill, and have constructed seven slopes, ranging from a beginner's area near the lodge through intermediate and advanced slopes, and also some "expert" ones back in the wooded area where the Notre Dame ski team expects to do some practicing.

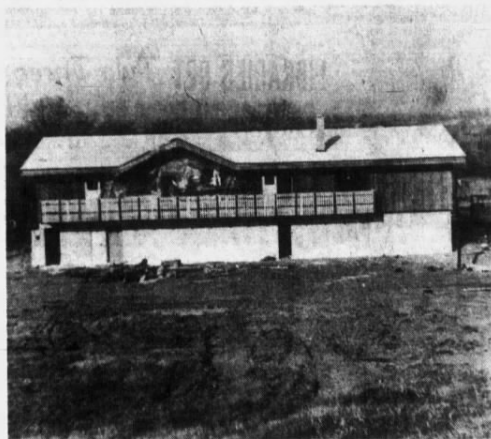
**Bowl-Shaped Area.**  
The No. 1 run is in a bowl-shaped area, and both it and the beginner's area will be snowed as soon as the ground freezes over, expected to be about Dec. 15, by a machine which uses compressed air and water and disperses snow through gun nozzles.

Mrs. Wilson said they plan to lay down a 24-inch base of snow to begin with, then if a warming spell develops, the base will hold. Later, snow-making will be done at night.

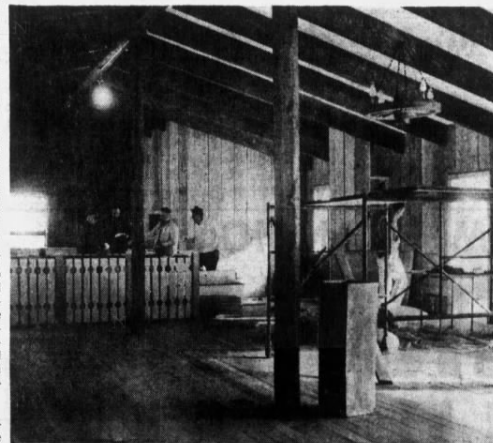
An open house is planned for next Sunday at the picturesque, Swiss chalet lodge to which the finishing touches are now being added. Designed by the architect Lester Trier of Elkhart, the lodge has a cheerful, circular fireplace in its huge lobby to provide a typ-



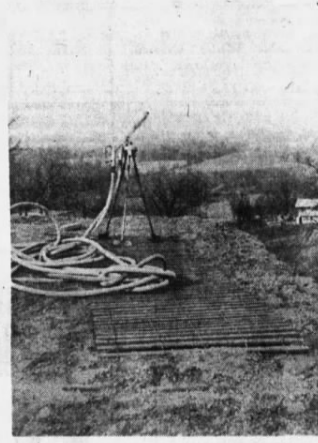
**SKI RESORT NEARS COMPLETION**—These two pipes will carry air and water to the "snow guns," which will be used to lay down an artificial snow for the Mt. Wawasee Ski Resort near New Paris in Elkhart County, which is nearing completion. The Swiss Chalet style ski lodge is in the background at the left.



**PLAN OPEN HOUSE IN SKI LODGE**—An open house in the Swiss Chalet ski lodge is scheduled for next Sunday. Much of the exterior of the lodge, except for landscaping, has been completed. The Swiss Chalet was designed by Lester Trier, Elkhart architect. A Swiss ski instructor, Charles Zurbuchen, will be available at the resort. The main room will be on the second floor and the first floor will be devoted to equipment rooms, dressing rooms and offices.



**WORK PROGRESSING ON INTERIOR OF LODGE**—This is the main room of the Swiss Chalet ski lodge at the resort. To be installed before the opening is a circular fireplace in the center of this, the main center of the lodge. The lodge is expected to be opened later this month.



**PANORAMIC VIEW FROM MT. WAWASEE**—On a clear day skiers will be able to see 30 miles in any direction from the top of Mt. Wawasee. In the foreground is one of the "snow guns," used to make the artificial snow.

ical skier's atmosphere; a cafe-children, although Mrs. Wilson noted, "If they are as much as 41 years old, chances are they will be out there skiing, too." To the west of the lodge is a very gentle slope where children and beginners may receive instruction at the ski school. All the slopes will be patrolled at all times, and the newest T-bar and electric rope tows, connecting all the slopes are being installed, all safety inspected. A large plateau has been construct-

ed Mt. Wawasee where No. 1 begins, where viewers on a clear day have been able to see the gas tower in South Bend 35 miles away and smoke from the mill at White Pigeon, Mich., about 30 miles off. The area will be open six days a week, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sundays 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. The slopes will be illuminated at night by quartz lighting, which produces no shadows. The entire area will have a sound system

and music will be heard on all the slopes. The T-bar and rope tows are connected by an intercom system so the lodge may contact anyone on the slopes for emergency calls.

**Plan Winter Carnival.**  
Mrs. Wilson said the project has attracted much attention from winter sports enthusiasts all over the state, and one of their upcoming projects is a winter carnival for the area, with contests in ice fishing and skating

at nearby lakes, as well as skiing. She said since the first of October the area has been visited by as many as 1,000 people each Sunday who come to view the spot which was termed by one ski club as a "Little Caber'lae" because of its resemblance to the noted ski resort at Cadillac, Mich. One man told them, "I have traveled in 37 states and never saw a more beautiful view than the one on top of Mt. Wawasee."