

Lookout Mountain Becomes New Mark On Area's Ski Map *Planned Comfort and Fun Make Virginia Hill Popular*

BY JACK KERR

Ever since the first pattern of skis was cut through the snow on Minnesota's Lookout Mountain at Virginia early this winter, residents along the Iron Range have been swelling the ranks of ski enthusiasts.

As skiers from all parts of Minnesota and other nearby states have headed for this newest hill in increasing numbers, their search for fun in the snow has been joined by hundreds of neighbors of the Virginia area.

Youngsters who had never worn a pair of skis now are inveterate boosters of this popular sport. And older people who remembered skiing only as a cross-country exercise have added their

enthusiasm to the downhill version.

The popularity of Lookout Mountain that has developed in just a few weeks has been an amazement to many observers—just as surprising, if not more so, than the grass-roots movement that created the new ski area.

Some of the reasons for the growing popularity of the new hill are obvious but others are less tangible.

A primary factor is the hill itself and all of the facilities that were built with it—a fine chalet, clean slopes with long runs, and, of course, the double chair lift, the only one any-



CHALET at Lookout Mountain offers complete facilities for skiers.

where in the Minnesota and Wisconsin area.

Careful planning and expert engineering that went into Lookout Mountain have produced a ski area that has taken maximum advantage of all the avail-

able resources, including the enthusiasm and hometown-boosting spirit of the neighboring people.

While the runs on Lookout Mountain now offer little in the way of a challenge to the expert they appeal to skiers who enjoy the sport in far greater numbers.

The runs are sufficiently steep to satisfy the average skier and have enough variety to provide entertainment for any number of hours in a day.

The double chair lift is not just an attraction as an innovation. More important, it enables anyone who would become tired on a rope-tow to enjoy a full day of skiing without strain. To older skiers this has considerable significance.

The location of Lookout Mountain in the heart of the iron-mining country is another factor in the popularity of the hill, particularly for skiers outside the area who have never visited Minnesota's famed Mesabi Range.

The food available in the chalet, ranging from a snack to a full meal, is among some of the incidental reasons behind the growing popularity of Lookout Mountain.

Although the newness of the hill is a part of the appeal the

popularity is not likely to wane.

The group that built Lookout Mountain already has plans to make it bigger and better.

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