

State 'Flatlands' Boast 3 Developing Ski Areas

By ARNIE STENSETH
TRAVEL SECTION

BIG STONE CITY, S.D. — When Mother Nature bulged the Black Hills out of the prairies of the American West, she wasn't very kind to the future ski "nuts" who would inhabit the flatter parts of the country.

But in eastern South Dakota, potential ski enthusiasts were die-hard in their quest for a chance at the sport.

Creating snow when there was too little, carving hills out of gently rolling plains and working with great enthusiasm, they overcame nature's oversight and developed three meccas for skiers from a four-state region.

Inkpa-du-ta Ski Area lies on the shores of Big Stone Lake, north of Big Stone City, a small Minnesota-South Dakota border town ten miles east of Milbank. In its third year of operation, it boasts a rope tow, six runs with a 150 foot vertical drop, a chalet and rental equipment.

The operator of Inkpa-du-ta, John Sparrow, says, "we're expecting a great year. The snow came early this year and we're ready."

The Big Stone City operation is open on Tuesday, Thursday

and Saturday night and Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Most of our skiers come from Minnesota," says Sparrow, "but we draw quite a few from Aberdeen and Watertown as well as some North Dakota people. Last year we averaged about 150 people a day."

La Coteau Ski Area, situated in a wooded valley west of Sisseton, has a great future as a winter resort area.

"We haven't reached our potential yet," says Eugene Frank, a member of the Sisseton Recreation Board. "Our original intent was to develop the area for community recreation, and we have done that and still maintained a nocharge basis for our services."

"We leased the land from the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe and developed the area for tobogganing, sledding and skiing. In the winter months we even run a shuttle bus to the area for the youngsters in our community. The growing popularity of the sport and the influx of skiers from other areas have prompted us to do some future planning."

At present, La Coteau has one run of 2500 feet which should be doubled by 1972. A rope tow is in operation during the season. "We feel our run serves as a great practice area for those serious skiers who spend their week-ends at other, better developed areas," says Frank.

"There are no rentals available at La Coteau, but the free rope tow and chalet provide good facilities for the skier with his own equipment," says Frank.

At Sioux Falls, three enterprising young Minnesotans bought much of the equipment from a folded Holiday Hill op-

eration near Yankton and set up operations in the Cactus Hills. Now in their fourth year at Great Bear Ski Valley, Dennis Finke, Jerry Dierks and Gary Hindt have developed a facility boasting 11 runs, rope tow, school, rentals, and an Alpine chalet.

"The early snow is great," says Dierks, "and with our snow-making equipment, we are looking forward to a good season. We already have almost as much snow on the ground as we got all last year. We also bull-dozed a hill this summer to improve our beginners' slope," concludes Dierks.

Inkpa-du-ta, La Coteau, and Great Bear are ready for action. Now the occupants of the "flat-lands" of eastern South Dakota can easily participate in one of America's fastest-growing winter sports.

3 Plays Due At O'Gorman

Three one-act plays are to be presented today and Tuesday by the O'Gorman High School Drama Department.

The plays are to be staged at 7:30 o'clock each night in the auditorium.

They are Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie," directed by Nancy Wheeler O'Gorman drama director; "The Room," by Harold Pinter, directed by Terry Rathbun, student teacher from South Dakota State University, and Dorothy Parker's "Here We Are," directed by Nancy Nollette, an O'Gorman student.

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to Release Active Waste

releases.

The AEC said Friday the radioactivity levels which would result from Monday's planned discharge would not be distinguishable from the background levels of radioactivity already present in the river.

The federal commission said the total concentration of radioactive isotopes to be released, including cesium 137, would be