

McAlisters Spend \$58,000 on New Ski Resort

By AUGIE KARCHER
Sunday Tribune Staff Writer

A five-year search for a winter sports mecca by a pair of former University of Minnesota football players and their father is the story behind the Twin Cities area's newest ski resort—Ski-Mac Hill.

An 80-acre layout located 3½ miles northeast of Stillwater and three miles south of Somerset, Wis., on highway 35 is what R. H. McAlister and sons Ralph and Gene found.

Ralph, right halfback on



GENE McALISTER

the 1947-48-49 teams, and Gene, a quarterback, now in the armed forces, are partners with their father in a project which has been incorporated for \$90,000.

"We've spent \$38,000 already," says the elder McAlister who for 29 years was director of health, physical education and athletics for public schools in Wichita, Kan. He had 10 years to go before being eligible for retirement. Instead, he says, "I retired to hard work."

Ralph, who skipped a season of pro football in Canada this year, and his father put in plenty of hard work prior to their opening Saturday.

Greeting first-day skiers were a chalet with two roomy lounges, each with a fireplace; a concession bar, ski shop, first aid room and large rest rooms. The entire plant is steam-heated.

Outside, Ski-Mac Hill consists of two wide open slopes, eight runs, a double tow of 1,360 feet and a single tow of 1,000 feet on a beginners' slope.

"The hills are sloped into a natural bowl," McAlister points out. "The one hill has a northeast exposure where the sun can't get to the snow. The southern slope we won't develop right away."

Being only 100 yards off a paved highway makes the McAlisters even prouder of

their "ideal setup." The buildings also include a duplex for living quarters for the two families.

The elder McAlister, born in Scotland, says their resort will feature three instructors. Head tutor will be Jimmy Soltau, 1954 Gopher end who is also a pretty fair skier. A ski patrol will be maintained.

Ski-Mac Hill will be open week-ends for the present with special instruction available in mid-week. By Christmas, lighted night skiing will be available. At last reports, 4½ inches of snow covered



RALPH McALISTER

the layout.

McAlister is really enthused over his latest venture. "We like kids and sports," is his by-word. For 15 years he has operated a summer camp near Grand Rapids, called Mar-Mac. So Ski-Mac and Mar-Mac will keep the Macs moving...

NEW INSTRUCTOR: Moon Valley near Shakopee is open and Marjorie Benedikter has signed a new top ski teacher in Emil Gasperi. He's from Arlberg, Austria, and is a former Olympics competitor...

Both Mt. Normandale in Edina and Norski Hill in St. Paul have opened for the season. It was Normandale last year which didn't get in a day of operation because of lack of snow...

SKI MOVIES: John Jay's latest films, "From Ski to Sea," is the attraction at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Minneapolis armory. Reserved seat tickets are \$1.20 at all Warner hardware stores. General admission is 75 cents. Tickets also can be obtained from ski club secretaries.

Jay's fast moving shots let you Schuss the Alps with Swiss experts and among other places take you to Sicily where you ski almost from Mt. Etna's smoking crater to orange groves at its base...

SITZMARK: The Minnesota-Wisconsin Ski News was out with its first issue Nov. 28. Don Burriss is editor and publisher of the publication which Jimmy Johnston edited in its inaugural last year.

Johnston is sticking to skiing strictly this winter and announces addition of a second tow on the ninth hole at Theodore Wirth where he is a park board instructor...

Earliest jumping competition listed to date is the Blackhawk meet Jan. 2 at Madison, Wis. St. Paul has the North American championship cross country and special jumping Jan. 29-30...

SKI CARE: If you haven't yet taken your skis out of summer storage, take some time to look them over before you make your first fling of the winter. If any small areas of lacquer are missing, touch up bare spots with fresh lacquer. If the damaged area is great, scrape off all remaining lacquer and start over.

If your skis have steel edges, remove any rust with fine steel wool and replace any missing or loose screws. Painting the edges with ski wax helps prevent rust. Your

ski boots probably could use a good waterproofing and polishing, too.

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