

# Buffalo Valley Men Go to Work On Big Midwest Recreation Plan

**By RUTH ROGERS**  
Sunday News Area Editor

COURTESY, Wis. Officers of Buffalo Valley, Inc., met Friday night to begin laying plans for developing the million-dollar recreation area on the Mississippi River, Highway 35 and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad on which the Farmers Home Administration granted a \$980,000 loan Tuesday.

One of the first steps will be to pull up the options on the some 700 acres of which three golf courses, a ski lift with tow and a chalet-clubhouse will be built as a starter.

ADD TO the million dollars an estimated additional million to be spent by Buffalo Valley Development, Inc., in the project develops, and there'll be a \$2 million recreation area. Eventually it should include a motel, copper-rich, near-spa, swimming pool, trail riding area, boat lands along the Mississippi River bluffs with views for miles, and other facilities for a year-around fun center.

The options are on land to the half mile of the Great River Road about midway between Cochrane and Alma.

There will be conditions to meet, the message from Sons Foreman and Nelson and Robinson said, but the promoters, who have been working on the project a little over a year, are enthusiastic about having them because of the potential of the entire area.

THE FIA has based on a total \$1,000,000 cost estimate sent to Washington, according to Jake Zeches, Cochrane, president of the nonprofit Buffalo Valley, Inc., which will have full charge and be responsible for developing the area, including the hiring of a manager, raising local funds required by FIA — estimated at 12% — and leasing area to the profit group for additional building. The estimate includes assistance from three other sources: \$175,000 for watershed development under Public Law 863, \$130 from Buffalo County, and \$100 through an REA loan.

TWO VALLEYS with hills on all sides, meeting in a natural access to Highway 35, form the nucleus of the Buffalo Valley Recreation Area. Located to the left is Slaughter Valley and to the right, Furry Valley. Each will have a nine-hole golf course. The valleys were named by BVI.

The 400-foot rise from the access road on the despoiled side will be the ski lift. The chair lift will rise from the flat access area to the hub of the hills and will be visible from the highway. The long hillside, extending down into Furry Valley, will provide an access as well as a scenic backdrop.

Belmont Krause, member of the Buffalo Valley, Inc. board, said the third golf course will be on top of the hill. It will have chalet-club service.

THE CHALET-clubhouse provided by FIA funds will be in the access area, where there'll also be parking facilities. There is area here for other projected buildings.

Options have been taken on the Buffalo Valley shares: Roy Royer's 200 acres; Lester Mauldin's 200, portions of land owned by Ronald Furry, Edmund Kahle and Larry Bestmeyer and the tract and Earl Under, about 170 acres, all under option.

Although the extra, included in the original \$1 million application for loan, was not granted by the FIA because of ac-



**BUFFALO RECREATION AREA** . . . This engineer's model shows a 9-hole golf course that will be laid out in Slaughter Valley to the left; parking area in the center; 9-hole golf course in Furry Valley stretching toward the top of the picture; center; ski tow stretching up hill to the right, marked by posts, and the third 9-hole course marked out at the top of the ski hill. Highway 35, the Great River road, and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad run diagonally from the right down toward the left of the picture, fronting the area. In the left foreground is the Mississippi River and a marina, not in the \$500,000 FIA loan granted, but still being planned by the promoters.



**FEASIBILITY COMMITTEE** . . . These are some of the men who encouraged the study making the loan application possible. Left to right, facing the camera, Eli Mauldin, Buffalo Electric manager; R. C. Greaves, engineer; Robert Grebe, Jake Zeches, Belmont Krause and O. J. Solerwede. Left to right, back or profile to camera, Carleton

and six memberships from these and the Twin Cities areas and the entire Upper Midwest. It will be the largest FIA development in Wisconsin and the largest for hundreds of miles around in a region which is increasingly recreation minded. Thousands of tourists drive through each year, a few stop. Buffalo Valley Recreation Area will only provide summer and winter sport but all-around recreation. The economy of this area, Mississippi River and Western Wisconsin area, the promoters predict. It is at a juncture between Interstate 94 to the north and east and 90 to the south and west.

"LANDSCAPE architects and planning consultants have completed their work," Zeches said, "and work on the project will begin as soon as the conditions attached to the federal loan are signed and met."

Zeches and Krause on the Buffalo Valley Board are Dr. Max Bachhaber, Alma, vice president; O. H. Solerwede, Buffalo City secretary; LaCroix Johnson, Cochrane, treasurer; Carleton Pingle and William Fontaine, Buffalo City; Warren Bostinger, Fountain City; Dr. John Fink, Wahdoan, and Cyril Reid, Alma.

Officers of Buffalo Valley Development, Inc., are: R. O. Greaves, New Ulm, chairman; Jay Martin, Wisconsin, vice president; Allen Wilson, Cochrane, Earl Blanka, Cochrane, C. A. K. and Belmont Krause, Belmont, members.

Memberships in Buffalo Valley, Inc. are sold for \$25. Stock subscription in the profit corporation started with 200,000 shares, with no limit on number of shares if the purchaser resides within 35 miles of Buffalo County.

THE IDEA started early in 1961 in a conversation between Zeches, Krause, and Eli Mauldin, manager of Buffalo Electric. Each invited five men to a meeting at the American Bank of Alma Feb. 22, 1961, when the Buffalo Valley Recreation Development Association was formed.

## Estimates, Sources

Item	Estimate	Source	Estimate	Source
Land acquisition	\$1,000,000	FIA	\$1,000,000	FIA
Development	100,000	FIA	100,000	FIA
Construction	50,000	FIA	50,000	FIA
Operating expenses	10,000	FIA	10,000	FIA
Contingency	5,000	FIA	5,000	FIA
Construction	2,000	FIA	2,000	FIA
Operating expenses	1,000	FIA	1,000	FIA
Construction	1,000	FIA	1,000	FIA
Operating expenses	1,000	FIA	1,000	FIA
Construction	1,000	FIA	1,000	FIA
Operating expenses	1,000	FIA	1,000	FIA
Construction	1,000	FIA	1,000	FIA
Operating expenses	1,000	FIA	1,000	FIA
Construction	1,000	FIA	1,000	FIA
Operating expenses	1,000	FIA	1,000	FIA
Construction	1,000	FIA	1,000	FIA
Operating expenses	1,000	FIA	1,000	FIA
Construction	1,000	FIA	1,000	FIA
Operating expenses	1,000	FIA	1,000	FIA

## Moppy Anderson Has Surgery

PRESTON, Minn. (Special) — Moppy Anderson, former Rep. Moppy Anderson, will be a patient at University Hospital, Minneapolis, until the last of May. He underwent surgery for an aneurysm of the aorta.

## 3 File for School Board; Ostrom to Retire

PRESTON, Minn. (Special) — Three persons filed for two vacancies on the Preston school board by Thursday; one is an incumbent.

FILED: Donald Ostrom will seek reelection May 18. Also filing were Darrell Day and Paul Mathison.

CHIEF of Jerry Ostrom, whose term is expiring, didn't file. PRESTON 4th CLUB — The Preston 4th Club will meet at the Preston town hall Monday at 8 p.m.

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