Spring will bring children's farm

A new children's farm — smaller ind less commercial — will be opened it Kensington Metropark in warm

it Kensington Metropark in warm weather. It will be operated by the Huron-Zinton Metropolitan Authority itself ather than a private company. Don Beem, HCMA's chief of re-iources, said it would have fewer annals and a smaller overhead than the Children's Farm and Village, which was closed down last month after HCMA bought some of the assets of the private operator.

HCMA bought some of the assets or un-private operator.
Children's Farm and Village, Inc.
Leased 100 acres at the north end of the
4,300-acre metropark in Millord Town-ship of Oakland County and was to pay
HCMA a percentage of the revenue
with \$25,000 a year guaranteel.
"It just didn't work out. It never
showed a profil," said Beem.
They had to develop the farm first.
That was never a break-even opera-

That was never a break-even opera-tion. They needed the rides to go with

it."
Children's Village ran afoul the zoning ordinance of the township. The fight went to circuit court. In a consent judgment last April, the parties agreed on a restricted number of rides.
But before even those rides could be put in, said Beem, a homeowners group attacked the operation in another court case, and the company was unable to expand even to the limits of the consent judgment.

case, and the company was unaure. we expand even to the limits of the consent judgment.

The firm gave up and asked HCMA to buy its assets. It kept the sleighs, as wan boat, a fire engine and the animals. HCMA acquired the steam engine, pens, the restaurant and other buildings for \$550,000.

All the lawawitis have been dropped, said Beern, except for one by state. Atty. Gen. Frank Kelley, who challenged HCMA's legal right to enter into a lesse agreement a right to enter into the control of the state of the

Subways

The underground railroad, a secret system involving the transpert of runsawy slaves from the Southern to Northern states, had no definite name until the introduction of the steam railway. Because of the mysterious nature of the operation, fugitive slaves appeared to have been shot through an underground tube. This idea, along with the system's image as a network of rail-addings the slaves of the special state of the s system's image as a network of rail-road lines, is believed to have originat-ed the name "underground railroad." More than 25 underground railroad sta-tions were located in Michigan, accordtions were located in Michigan, according to the travel bureau, Michigan Department of Commerce.

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While the state grants concessions to store operators at state parks, HCMA runs the boat liveries, beach bath-houses and food stands at metroparks. An exception is Kensington's cross country ski rental and instruction, which is run by Raupp Campfitters.

which is run by Raupp Campfitters.

IF IT SNOWS, Independence Oaks
County Park will offer a series of cross
country ski nature interpretive programs Saturday, Jan. 12.

The first, on animals in winter, will
run from 10 a.m. to noon, guided by naturalist Kahleen Dougherty.

Bring your own skis because no rental equipment is available. Register in
advance by calling the park office at
625-6977. The park entrance is off
Sashabaw Road north of 1-75 near
Clarkston.

Future programs: Jan. 26, introduction to cross country ski touring: Feb.
23, scavenger hunt on skis; and
March 21, owls.

SNOWMBILE accidents, claimed

SNOWMOBILE accidents claimed 25 lives and injured 734 persons last winter, state police report. But that represents a reduction from the peak of 39 deaths in 1974-5 and nearly 2,000 injuries in 1971-72.

One reason may be the safety instructions that are becoming more and

structions that are becoming more aimmore commore common.

Addison Oaks County Park near Oxford is showing safety films Jan. 27 and Peb. 3 aimed at the age 12-16 group, said Gerald Lee, assistant park supervisor.

Films start at 2 p.m. in the basement of the Addison Oaks warming shelter

of the Addison Oaks warming shelter and concession building and last 15-25 minutes.

Addison Oaks, whose entrance is off Romeo Road west of Rochester Road in Addison Township, boasts 700 acres of woods and 13 miles of winding snow-mobile trails. Trails are patrolled.

When the snow base is sufficient, snowmobiling is allowed Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Check snow conditions by calling the park office at 693-2432.

Park admission is \$2 per car and snowmobile and \$1 more for additional snowmobiles.



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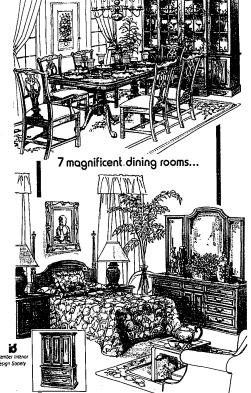
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