Slopes gearing for the onslaught

The ski season will kick off with nearly half of Michigan's lodges listing major improvements despite one of the worst profit pictures in five years last winter.

New or remodeled

winter.
New or remodeled runs and lifts at
12 areas, new bousing at 18 and new
snowmaking equipment or cross country ski trails at 14 others are being
counted on to help get business back to
ordrnal after last winter.
Last winter's lightest snowfall im
more than a decade across lower Mich-

more than a decade across lower Michan a decade across lower Michan sent statewide profils tumbling \$48 million, 35 percent below the 1978-79 season, according to Automobile Club of Michigan reports.
Downhilters will find no new areas open and five fewer lodges than last season. Mt. Maria near Spruce in East, Michigan closed after last winter's season, and Vulcan, in the Upper Peninsula, closed late last vear.

the Upper remnaus, troots are year.

The lodge at Missaukee Mountain, near Lake City in western Michigan, burned, but will be rebuilt and reopened sometime this season.

Lost Pines, near Harrietta, will open for snowmobilers and cross country skiers only. Middleville, near Middleville, could re-open sometime this season.

Moonshine Mountain, formerly Ward Hills, near Branch and Crystella, near Crystal Falls plan to operate this win-

SKIERS HEADING for the ski lodges

Sterling Silver Flatware

Example: Sir Christopher

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by Wallace. A fork retails for \$166.00...

in virtually new

1/3 retail price

condition at

will find lift tickets averaging \$1.70 more than last winter. "Higher operating costs pius last year's losses are the reasons most operators give for raising lift prices this year to an average \$15.5", says Joseph Ratke, AAA touring manager.

In southeast Michigan, lift tickets will range from \$4 to \$11.50 on ween conds. The area's nine lodges generally open first because of their extensive snowmaking systems. All except one feature night skiing and equipment rental

feature night sking and equipment rental SKIERS HEADING for east Michi-gan's 10 areas will pay \$7 to \$10 on weekends for lift tickets. Lodges here have sking on natural hills without the extra-cost features offered by some resorts. Five feature skiing on all-natural snow, three have at-slope lodging and all have equipment rental and ski

all have equipment ternal and schools.

Lift tickets at west Michigan's 20 skir resorts will range from \$4\$ to \$15 on weekends. Skiing at Petoskey's Winterports park is free. The region's resorts offer some of the state's most luxurious accommodations. Sixteen have snowmaking equipment, nine list lodging in condominiums or chalets and 12 list weekend entertainment and dining

rooms.

The most costly expansion at any lodge in Lower Michigan is at West Michigan's Hilton Shanty Creek near Bellaire. A \$5 million project will include 40 condominiums, with 20 ready

ATTERNS AVAILABLE

A two-place chairlift for advanced runs has been added, and five runs have been widened by 50 to 100 feet. Showmaking capacity is doubled, and two more runs have been lighted for night skiing. Also new is an indoor pool with a whirlpool and fireplace.

WITH SUCH DR'AWING cards as the WITH SUCH DRAWING cards as the state's highest vertical drops and the greatest natural snowfalls, the 12 Upper Peninsuls ski areas are the hidvest's most popular alternative to western powder snow sking.

Lift tickets will range from \$2 to \$15. Five ski areas offer at-slope lodging in rooms, condops or challes; six list weekend entertainment, and three have swimming most.

weekend entertainment, and three have swimming pools.

The U.P.'s largest expansion is at Blackjack, near Bessemer, where 42 condos, a 200-seat restaurant and lounge and lodge gift shops have been added.

added.
Other improvements skiers will find this winter are listed below by lodge and tourist region.

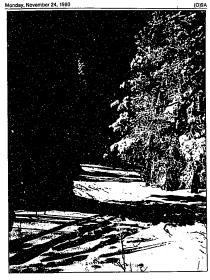
WEST MICHIGAN — Schuss Mountain, Mancelona, a touring center, 19 kilometers of cross country trails connecting with Hilton Shanty Creek, innecting with Hitton Shanty Creek, In-terchangeable cross country passes daily, interchangeable lift tickets with shanty Creek along with \$20 worth of gasoline on midweek packages, snowmaking upped 30 percent, and grooming equipment. Boyne Highlands, Harbor Springs, a

four-place chairlift on beginner-inter-mediate slopes, 16 condominiums and snowmaking capacity increased; Boyne Mountain and Thunder Moun-

snowmaking capacity increased;
Boyne Moutain and Thunder Mountain, Boyne Falls, snowmaking capacity increased; Sogar Laaf, Cedar, a 100-room, four-story motel completed, nowmaking boosted 20 percent, 13 miles of cross country trails, and slope groomers; Royal Valley, Buchanan, two-place chairliff on beginner-inter-mediate runs, a second beginner area with rope tow, a 2003-east sack lunch room, and instruction including ballet and racing; Swiss Valley, Jones, a 19,000-squar-foot lodge with 400-seat cafeteria, ski shop aind lounge, and four place chairliff on an intermediate run.

The complex of the c

Caberfae, Cadillae, a beginner area with rope tow, 50-person group dormitory and 40 sets of rental snowsburfer, Crystal Mountain, Thompsouville, remodeled lodge, ski shop and lounge, bus children's ski lessons, Mt. Mancelona, Mancelona, 10 sets of rental snowshoes; and Winterskol, Lakeview, cross country skiing.





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