

# Dateline: Outdoors

By LEM MESSEE  
Outdoors Writer

Who says we're a lazy, sedentary society? The biggest new development on the winter activities scene is for families to get together and cut their own Christmas trees.

Pine and Spruce, \$3 to \$7. Saw provided. PH: 796-3659.

TODAY'S Christmas trees, with their many kinds, shapes and sizes, and with countless types of decorations, are a far cry from the early Christmas tree.

Michigan ranks first nationally in production of plantation-grown trees.

The state Natural Resources Dept. is encouraging the trend. For one thing, it means less unnecessary cutting, fewer unadorned trees being burned in lots on Christmas Eve.

Far, nother, the buyer knows his tree is fresh, and he can get it cheaper. Besides, it provides the family a chance for an outing—even a picnic.

Take along some rags to protect your car's finish when you're hauling the tree home, and a rope to make the tree secure. You don't usually have to take along a saw because most tree farms provide them.

THE AUTOMOBILE Club of Michigan lists these tree farms within a short drive of observance:

1. Mill Creek Farm, 1885 Baker Rd., Dexter, has 40,000 trees on 20 acres. Open every day, 9 a.m. to dusk. Scotch pine, \$3.50. Bring saw. No phone. All the boughs you need. \$2.
2. Boughn's Tree Farm, 1581 Martinsville Rd., Belleville, has 10,000 trees on 26 acres. Open every day, dawn to dusk. Short and long needed scotch pine, \$4. Saw provided. Free boughs: PH: 699-5062.
3. Evergreen Acres, 601 W. Davis Rd., Howell, has 1,000 trees on 30 acres. Open every day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. White and blue spruce, Austrian and Scotch pine and Douglas fir, \$3 to \$8. Boughs, 50 cents a bunch and children can pick up cones free. Saw provided PH: (517) 546-4863.
4. Thornton Nursery, 701 N. Milford, Highland, has 10,000 trees on 30 acres. Open every day, dawn to dusk. Spruce and pine trees, \$8. Saw provided, PH: 685-2974.
5. Thornton Plantation, 1601 N. Garner Rd., near Milford, has 15,000 trees on 70 acres. Open every day, dawn to dusk. Spruce and Pine trees, \$5. Tractor-drawn wagon rides daily. Saw provided, PH: 685-2974.
6. Hult Tree Farm, 1500 W. Wardlow, Highland, has 15,000 trees on 90 acres. Open noon to dark weekdays; 9 a.m. to dark Saturday and Sunday. Scotch Pine, spruce and Austrian Pines, \$5 or \$1 a foot. Free tractor-drawn sleigh rides daily except Monday. Saw provided, PH: 887-4230.
7. Henault Tree Farm, 35399 Nine Mile, Farmington, has 4,000 trees on nine acres. Open every day, dawn to dusk. Scotch pine, blue spruce, Douglas fir and Norway pines, \$5 and up. Saw provided, PH: 474-6823.
8. Evergreen Hill Farm, 5543 Hough Rd., Dryden, has 2,800 trees on 60 acres. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Thursday. Scotch

MONGOLIAN LOOK — Newest in outdoor winter fun fashions is this synthetic leather-look suit with Mongolian fur top, wide belt, bell bottoms, mandarin collar and matching cap. It's one-piece with two-piece effect and fully insulated.

## Southfield Skier Heads NSPS Group

Don C. Williams, 38, of Southfield, has been reelected director of the central division and a member of the board of directors of the National Ski Patrol System (NSPS), for a second two-year term.

Williams will direct the activities of some 4,000 volunteer ski patrolmen organized in 180 ski patrols in 16 state midwestern areas including Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, and Minnesota.

He has a wealth of ski patrol experience. He started skiing in the late years of World War II and was a pioneer patrolman at the Caribee Ski Area until 1953 when he joined the NSPS.

Since that time his background has included being assistant patrol leader of the Detroit Metropolitan Patrol, organizing the national ski patrol at Boyne Mountain, and serving as patrol leader of that group, serving as chief in various Michigan regions, and serving as regional chairman of the Southern Michigan Region.

He was on the board of directors for the United States Ski Assn., Central Div., and was assistant divisional chairman in charge of line officers of the Central Division. Williams is a vice chairman and a board member of the State of Michigan Ski Lift Safety group.

## Just Pick Up 'Phone To Get Snow Conditions

The Southeast Michigan Tourist Association announced that its daily snow conditions report service began operation on Dec. 1.

The number — 962-2010 — provides ski enthusiasts with the daily snow conditions at the six major ski areas in the Detroit metropolitan area.

"Last year we answered some 40,000 calls for snow conditions, a record high," said Sidney L. Baker, Executive Vice President of SMTA. "We hope to continue the increase this year," he added.

## Jay Athletes Open Sale Of Yule Trees

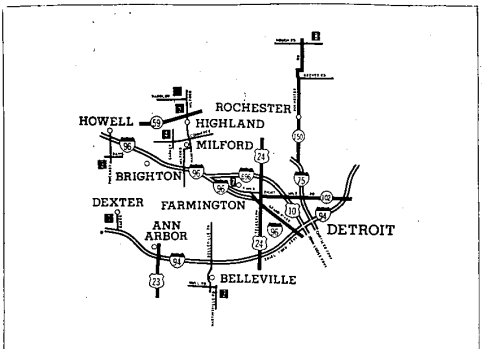
Christmas trees, priced at \$3 and \$4 apiece, are on sale between 3 and 6 p.m. at Southfield High School.

The trees will be sold by members of the school's Varsity Club to raise money for the scholarship fund.

There are 300 trees available and they will be sold at the school until they're gone.

"They have also been prompt in making their daily calls so we can compile this information and have it available early in the day."

We also send weekend reports to ski shops, news media, and other information centers. Through these services, interest in winter sports



## It's Registration Time For Annual Ski Skule

It's that time again and the Livonia Recreation Department has finalized plans for the third annual Livonia Ski Skule. It consists of a program of skiing for new skiers, those desiring to improve their skills and for general skiing.

The sessions which include two programs on Thursdays and Fridays will begin on Jan. 7 with classes to be held at Mt. Brighton. The well-known ski resort is located a mile west of Brighton — take I-96, use the Grand River exit and follow the signs.

There is a \$1 registration fee which entitles the registrant to a special ticket for use at Mt. Brighton and a colorful LSS emblem for the jacket.

SUPERVISOR, JOE CZAPALA warns that all registrations will be on a first come, first served basis.

Additional costs are \$3 with your own equipment which includes lesson, all tow ropes and use of the slopes until closing. The charge is \$5.50 without equipment and includes rental of boots, skis and poles, lesson, all tow ropes and use of the slopes until closing. There is an optional use of chair lifts for a fee of 50 cents.

The first session includes the following dates: Thursdays - Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28; Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25; and March 4, Fridays - Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29; Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26; and March 5.

The second session dates are:

Thursdays - Jan. 28; Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25; and March 4; Fridays - Jan. 29; Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26; and March 5.

For registering, those interested should send in the coupon accompanied by the \$1 per person registration fee.

For additional information contact the Livonia Recreation Department at GA 1-2000, ext. 291 or leaders during the evening: Joe Capapala, 425-2538 or Norb Kopelkin, 421-1485.

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# Ski Heil

By  
BILL CAMERON

Want to do something different this winter? Are you one of the many thousands of individuals who would like to try skiing, but are rather skeptical about the probability of your mastering the sport at this late stage of life?

Take heart, dear friends: the "true" sport of skiing, cross country, is experiencing a rebirth and offers a challenge for anyone 6 to 90 years of age. Unlike alpine skiing, cross country or touring, is done on relatively level terrain. Accidents are practically unheard of.

The equipment differs from that required for downhill skiing and that has been the biggest problem in the growth of the sport.

Up till this year you couldn't find a ski shop that sold cross country skis or boots. Needless to say, many ski shop employees didn't even know what cross-country skiing was.

THE SPORT is classified as "Nordic competition," distinguishing it from "alpine" competition which consists of downhill, slalom and giant slalom. The Scandinavian countries, primarily Norway and Sweden, have been the leading proponents of the sport. Like running,

it's a sport almost anyone can participate in.

If you'd like to find out more about this growing sport I would recommend your dropping into the Viking Ski Shop, 28239 Plymouth Road in Livonia, on Friday, Dec. 11 from 5 to 9 p.m. or Saturday, Dec. 12, from 1 to 9 p.m.

You'll have an opportunity to meet two cross-country specialists, Avrid Hendrikson and Bob Lipinski from Style of Norway. They will be showing movies and equipment and it should be worth a visit.

If you are bumper-to-bumper on the Hines Parkway and not moving, don't be surprised if some hardy Swede whizzes by you with a smile on his face and skis on his feet. It's a cinch he's healthier than you!

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## Use Blank To Sign Up

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Thursday \_\_\_\_\_ Friday \_\_\_\_\_

Livonia Ski Skule registration is \$1 per person per year. Send a check with stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Livonia Ski Skule, Livonia Parks and Recreation, 14305 Farmington Road, Livonia 48154

## GRAND RIVER BOAT SALES...

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Spring loaded Fiberglass reinforced top opens from either end for drive on - drive off convenience. Swivel tongue remains on towing vehicle. Low profile design. For snowmobiles, ATV's, camper and utility use.

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The winter fun vehicle

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Tickets Available At: Gabel's & Huggins or write GMS Corp., 486 Fairbrook, Northville, Mich. - Tel. 313-349-4843

#### INTRODUCES CROSS COUNTRY/SKI HIKING \*DEMONSTRATIONS, FILMS EQUIPMENT

for the entire family will be shown at the

VIKING SHOP, 28239 Plymouth, on Friday, December 11, 5-9 p.m. and Saturday, December 12, 1-9 p.m. by cross country specialists Avrid Hendrikson & Bob Lipinski from STYLE OF NORWAY

#### Reg. \$5.95, 6-Gal. GAS CANS \$3<sup>95</sup> with spout

#### SPECIAL CASE PRICE SNOWMOBILE OIL \$8<sup>95</sup> Reg. \$10.95

#### SNOWMOBILE HELMETS \$17<sup>95</sup> Reg. 22.95

## GRAND RIVER BOAT SALES

28928 GRAND RIVER AVE., just east of Middlebelt Road  
Phone GR 4-7320 or 532-0099