

# 2 New Ski Areas Help Boost State Business

Two new ski areas in addition to 21 slopes and 13 lifts at previously existing areas indicate that Michigan should have a record-setting year for money spent on the slopes this winter, according to Automobile Club of Michigan. An estimated 400,000 skiers are expected to spend nearly \$145 million on their sport in Michigan before the season ends, an increase of 10 per cent over last season.

Fun Valley, operated by the city of Mio, and Circle TNT, near Port Huron, are the two new areas opening this year. They bring the total number of ski areas to 66, one above last year—more than compensating for the closing of Ogemaw Hills, which is being expanded.

IN HEAVILY skied southeast Michigan, most operators have expanded slopes, lifts and day lodges to cope with larger crowds.

A brand new lodge and cocktail lounge are featured at Mt. Holly along with a new intermediate hill. Alpine Valley, near Milford, offers two new beginner's hills equipped with chairlifts. The entire lodge at Pine Knob, near Clarkston, has been remodeled to a level even more plush than last year.

The southeast Michigan area includes six of the 16 ski areas across Michigan which now offer night skiing. Each of these six also has snowmaking machines to augment natural snowfall.

Across the state, the cost of lift tickets varies from about \$4 to \$8. The higher the charge, the better the lift facilities available. Areas charging \$4 or less per day usually do not offer a chairlift and have rope tows as their basic lifts.

With economical meals at a Southeast Michigan ski-area cafeteria and sleeping at home, a Detroit couple can spend a weekend on the slopes for about \$50. Those persons who want to stay at a lodge in northern Michigan can find a weekend costing up to \$200 per couple.

SKIERS WILL find that improvements at many of the ski areas they visit over the

At Swiss Valley, near Jones, snowmaking machines and lights are the finishing touches on a 1,000-foot-long slope. A new T-bar and rope tow are also operating.

Entertainment is the highlight of Schuss Mountain's improvements for this season. Included is an authentic German Bierstube (beer room to Americans) as well as a cocktail lounge which caters to the hard rock music fan.

Thunder Mountain, near Boyne Falls, has added a new racing area as well as more chalets. Shanty Creek, near Bellaire, has come up with an enclosed, heated swimming pool. For the handy Mount Manicoua now offers a camping area.

Nub's Nub, northeast of Harbor Springs, also has enlarged its space and now has (enough room for 75 overnight guests.

Next winter west Michigan skiers will find yet another lodge in operation which is now in the construction stage 12 miles west of Niles, near the Michigan-Indiana border. Upon completion, the new

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