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Aspen Skiers Use Rope Tow

SKIERS TAKE ADVANTAGE of the rope tow at the Aspen Hills facility at Pottstown as the first heavy snowfall of the season provided skiing buffs a chance to test the Peoria Park Dis-

trict runs. But it will take weather to put the new art making machine into op continued use.

Pottstown's Aspen Hills Has 7 Ski Runs Ready

By **CHUCK MURDOCH**
Staff Writer

Growing up in the concrete jungle of a city snow brought a response from older citizens that, "It's all right for kids, but that's about it."

But frozen ground and snow bring a different meaning now for all ages as Pottstown's Aspen Hills is greeted by area skiing buffs.

THE 126 acre spread with seven runs is only 15 minute away from downtown Peoria and no matter what stage of the sport you have reached there is still something of a challenge.

The Peoria Ski Club at first appears to be a group with social events with trips to Colorado, Michigan as well as Spain and France the end result of obtaining actual skiing. But there is more.

Through steady work the club has seen Aspen Hills become a place for the general public. A snow making machine has been installed, although that must wait for a period of several days as the ground becomes frozen.

IT IS hoped that it will be in full operation this week. A start was made last week but rising temperatures slowed progress.

"Our aim is to introduce the sport to this area and with the automobile gas problems this offers a chance to ski without making those trips north," said Pat Brown of the Peoria Ski Club.

"We suggest that anyone interested or thinking about skiing to rent the equipment — Brown's Sporting Goods is one local spot — and see just how you like it before buying," the publicity chairman of the club said.

There are approximately 1,000 members now, but the local ski slope is open to the general public.

A snowmobile has been provided by the club and when Aspen is in operation a ski patrol will be on hand, furnished by the Peoria Ski Club.

Last year there was less than a week of operation at Aspen Hills, a Peoria Park District operation. The snow-making machine was installed after the first of the year but was never really in operation.

AN ATTEMPT was made last week until the quick reversal in temperatures. Saturday there was some skiing, but it will take colder temperatures to make use of the

facilities. What happened Sunday with the sun coming on strong presented a nightmare to those with skiing in mind.

"Instructions will be available with two qualified instructors — Steve Adams and Dave Durel — ready to show Peoria area skiing prospects that skiing is for everyone," Mrs. Brown said.

"We have formed an alliance with groups in Bloomington-Normal and Springfield and Jan. 19-20 we plan a carnival at Aspen that will offer a variety of events. Ski jumping, slaloms and hot dog races will be held so there should be something for everyone."

"EVEN the experienced skier finds that Aspen offers a challenge," Mrs. Brown added. "And we can show the newcomers everything from the right clothing to wear, suitable equipment to the basic stance, positions and maneuvers to just having fun getting out in the fresh air for exercise."

Aspen Hill is available to the public between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. The snowmobile presented to the Peoria Park District used for grooming the hill as well as for use if any injuries that may require the proper transportation down the hill.

Now the Peoria Ski Club, with Bill Engel serving as president, is waiting for the ground to remain frozen so it can show the general public seeking outdoor recreation that sking is as exciting as it claims.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

Peoria Ski Club canoeing trip on Bear river, Boyne County, Mich.,
leaves 6 p.m. from Venture parking lot, contact Dean Lindholm,
4717 N. Knoxville, for further information.

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