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# STATE NEWS

East Lansing, Michigan

Monday, January 19, 1970



*Ski 70*



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## Snowy 'bunny hills' where experts begin

By LINDA KNIBBS  
State News Ski Bunny

The art of skiing looks so effortless when performed by the experts, but remember that every good skier had his beginning on the bunny hill.

Each year thousands of people head for the slopes on narrow boards of wood. Ski schools have been established at almost every ski area to assist skiers in gaining confidence and skill.

The typical ski school is staffed with a number of certified ski instructors who have proved their proficiency by becoming members of the Professional Ski Instructors of America. They give private, semi-private and group lessons at any level from beginner to advanced.

The wise beginner rents his

skis, poles and boots from a ski shop until he is certain skiing's his sport. Also, the longer a person has skied, the more he knows what kind of equipment suits his personal needs.

Michigan residents are fortunate to live in a state which offers a variety of ski areas. This term is the perfect time for MSU students to take advantage of the many ski schools, several within three or four hours driving distance.

Boyne Mt. has one of the finest ski schools in Michigan, under the direction of Othmar Schneider.

Lessons at Boyne are \$7 for a two-hour group lesson and \$12 for an hour private one. Additional costs are \$8 for the daily lift ticket and \$7 for rental equipment.

Sugar Loaf, near Traverse City, offers lessons at \$4 an hour for groups, \$8 an hour for semi-private lessons and \$12 an hour for private lessons. Week-day lift tickets are \$5 and week-end tickets are \$7. Equipment cost is \$7.

provides lessons for \$3 an hour for groups, \$7.50 semi-private and \$10 for private. Lift tickets are \$5 daily and \$5.50 on week-ends. Rental prices vary with \$3.50 for wood skis and \$5 for metal skis.

Bear Mt., at Grayling, lists lesson rates at \$3 an hour for groups, \$5 an hour for semi-private and \$8 for private. Lift tickets are \$4 on week-days, \$5 on week-ends and \$2 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Equipment costs \$4.25 a day and \$3.50 a night.

(continued on page 7)

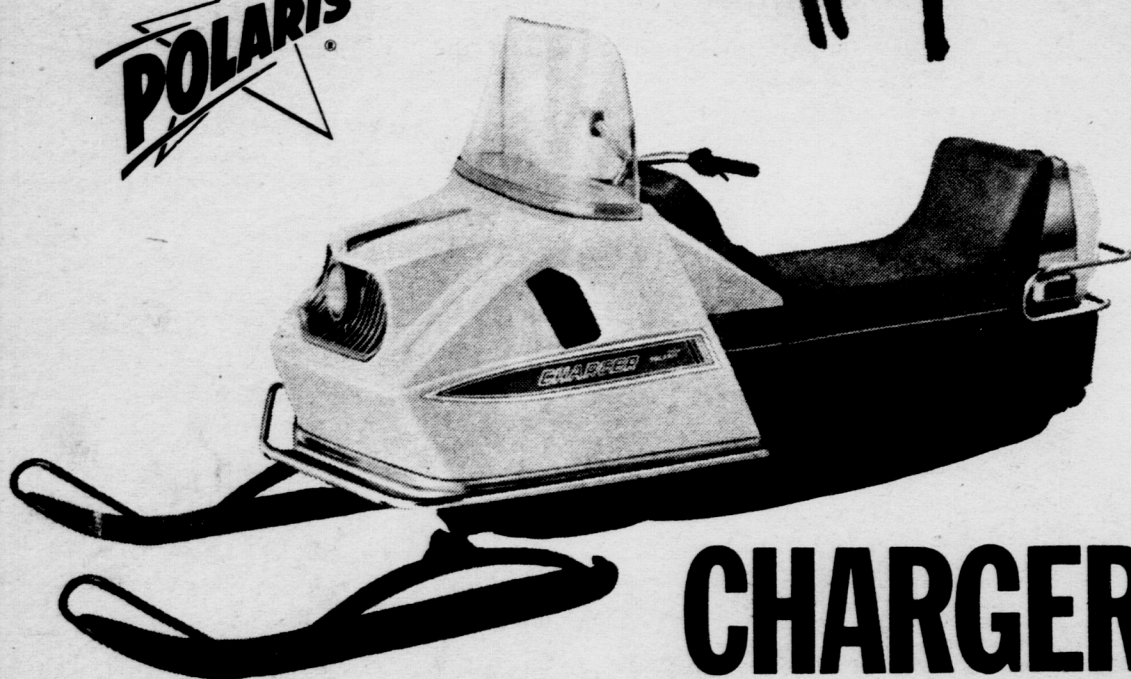
### Cover Picture

Bruce Rodgers, Detroit junior, takes Victor hill at Boyne Mountain with style and ease.

State News  
photo by Mike Beasley

Caberfae, near Cadillac.

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# Self-realization lures skiers

By NORM SAAK!  
State News Ski Editor

It might well be that somewhere around 20,000 MSU students have at one time or another tried skiing because the sport presents the challenge for man to achieve a degree of self-realization and satisfaction.

The key is undoubtedly "self," as skiing is man isolated with himself, schussing or traversing nature's creations on narrow slats barely longer than he may be tall.

At MSU, the reflection of the typical skier is cast by MooSUSKI (Ski Club). Its 700 members represent the cross spectrum of the winter sporting enterprise - from Boyne trophy winners to backyard beginners.

Yet in talking with a skier, there seems to be certain true stock answers as to why the sport has a lure towards an amalgamous society.

"Skiing represents total freedom," Jeff Jensen, Grosse Pointe Woods sophomore, said. "There is no specific medium to go through, just you and the hill."

Jensen, who has been skiing

for 15 years, said that his mood of the day will determine his mode of skiing.

"I really like the speed of skiing," he said. "Early in the day and when I'm fresh on the hills, I ski for speed. But late in the day, when I'm usually tired, I'll take it easy and ski the hill for a longer ride."

Jensen's speed has benefited him in competition, attested by the first place trophy he won at Boyne Mountain with MooSUSKI over term break.

The ski club has given opportunities to MSU skiers to learn, develop and polish skills that might not be available if they skied independently.

Club activities as the Boyne week, three upcoming Boyne weekend trips and the 10-day Aspen trip over Spring break give skiers an economic advantage.

The initial cost of skiing may appear frightening to the beginner, but some club projects offer up to two-thirds off regular package prices of tow fees, rentals and lodging.

The success of the club in securing rates more accommodating to the college

student's pocketbook is closely related to John Munn ascending to club president.

Munn, Houghton Lake senior, joined the club in 1965 when its membership numbered less than 50. He was elected president in 1967, when the club contained 60 members. In two years, the membership rose to the present 700.

His devotion to the club and interest in developing MSU skiers was epitomized fall term when he was called into the National Guard for his six-months active duty. Munn was able to secure special 24-hour passes to drive or fly from Alabama to East Lansing to conduct meetings and arrange the Boyne week.

The Boyne week rewarded skiers with early season condition - abundant snow and not ice, uncrowded hills and closer attention by the instructors.

"It was a great experience to ski for a week with 80 kids you didn't know before," Cindy Corbin, Hart sophomore said. "Boyne was more than accommodating with all our needs and gave us the same treatment as the rest of their house guests. I suppose I'm a ski freak, and found the week a wonderful start on the season."

Miss Corbin, a skier for the past 12 years, enjoyed the snows of Victor, Aurora, McClouth and Hemlock, challenging slopes that the novice sees from the lodge and envisions as future ventures for winter sport.

In comparison, first year skier Jeanne Kreston, Union Pier freshman, took her lessons on the milder Top S Notch hill but reflected on the week in a similar sense of accomplishment.

"I've only skied one week but I can say that I'll be a skier for life," Miss Kreston said. "I like the sport because it's scary. I never know if I will get to the bottom of the hill. Skiing brings people together, like the week at Boyne, everyone has a friendly attitude."

Ski club philosopher Woody McAndrews, Ypsilanti sophomore, equates skiing with freedom from the classroom.

"You're absolutely free and away from the rigors of academics on the slopes," he said. "Last term's grades or yesterday's test means very little as you are going through a slalom course. A good stem cristie or parallel takes your mind off the draft or the outside world pressures. Your total thought and concentration is on yourself. That is the allurements of skiing."



## Slalom

Cindy Corbin, Hart sophomore and winner of the Boyne Mt. Advanced Women's Slalom race over term break, practices the form that helped her make the close turns through the gates of the course.

State News Photo by Mike Beasley

## Ski Club's Munn aids MSU skiers

The president of MooSUSKI has the distinction of being the only skier on campus who has driven his car down the frozen Red Cedar to class, never broken a bone while skiing but suffered a fractured ankle while playing paddleball in the Men's IM Bldg. - and given MSU students the opportunity to ski at prices they can afford.

That's John Munn. His planning benefited 99 students who skied at Boyne over term break as part of the MSU club, and spring break possibly 180 students will be at Aspen skiing at a cost of about one-half the price charged to a skier making the trip on his own.

Aspen is a repeat performance for Munn, as he was a certified instructor there three winters ago.

Munn, along with his younger sisters Mary and Jeannie, started skiing 15 years ago. All three were on the National Junior Ski Patrol, but now find college taking up many of those weekends that once could be spent at Northern Michigan's ski areas. The two women are also MooSUSKI members and are planning on the Aspen trip.

Before Munn brings his club people to the Western mecca of winter sport, they will have the opportunity to ski three weekends at Boyne. The club will have about 140 skiers at each of these weekend outings.

When Munn plans a ski trip for 100 to 200 people, he faces the nearly insurmountable task of securing lodging, dealing with rentals, arranging group lessons for beginners as well as seasoned experts and planning nighttime activity for tired schussers.

This organizational

involvement often results in Munn seeing more bookkeeping than skiing on a weekend, or week long, trip.

But Munn's work has benefited the sport of skiing on campus, attested by membership figures that show MooSUSKI being the largest club of any kind registered on this campus and the largest ski club in the state.



## Downhill

John Munn, president of the MooSUSKI, leads club members on a long, winding downhill at Boyne Mt. The members make weekend trips to various

lodges around the state and in the West during the winter months.

State News Photo by Mike Beasley



# Killy praises U.S. slopes

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** All information from Jean Claude-Killy is printed with permission from a copyrighted story that appeared in the December issue of Travel and Camera. Killy publication rights are reserved by International Literary Management.

Although winter brings snow and freezing temperatures to most of the United States, this season can present exciting opportunities to the avid skier.

Jean-Claude Killy, world-renowned skier and winner of three gold medals for France at the 1968 Winter Olympic games at Grenoble, France, noted that Americans are more serious about skiing techniques than Europeans.

Since his retirement from competition, Killy plans to spend six months each year skiing for fun and has found

"many good downhill in the United States.

"Of those I remember most vividly, I put Cannon Mt. in New Hampshire and the Nose Dive at Stowe in Vermont at the top in the East," Killy said.

He noted that Cannon Trail has many turns and is not fast, but to accomplish the course the skier must put a lot of work into the run. "There are three turns and the five snaking turns and a long schuss into Rock Garden," he said.

Killy said if you've made the turns properly and haven't lost your speed, you continue through the bottom chuss, known as Pauline's Folly. A 30 degree slope is found here, which if handled correctly at a good speed, would enable the skier to win a race.

"The famous Nose Dive at Stowe is perhaps a bit less difficult after you make the first turns from the top," he continued.

Killy considers the town of Aspen to be the major area for skiing. "There has yet to be cut another trail in the West to outdo Aspen's Ruthie's Run," he said.

Killy said that run, while not fast, has some good bumps and calls for technical racing. He also found the town of Aspen to be socially alive after dusk in "typical American intensity."

"My favorite American trail, however, is the Exhibition Run at Sun Valley in Idaho," Killy said. "Here is a spectacular mountain range and a very well-designed mountain with a demanding trail."

"The trail starts out easy, but then falls away to the left so the skier is unable to see where he is going. The exhibition portion of the trail is steep and long. Control is needed coming off this portion of the trail due to several sharp turns immediately coming up."

For enjoyable skiing, Killy

recommends Vail. "There is an excellent powder slope there called Seldom," he said.

Jackson Hole which "looks the most like the French Alps," according to Killy, has a varied terrain.

Another outstanding mountain is Heavenly Valley in the Far West. "Like Squaw

Valley, it is very complex with lifts running around the peaks in all directions," he said.

"The Ridge trail, a six-mile run, begins with a stunning view of Lake Tahoe. Then you go right down to the bottom where, for after-ski excitement, you can gamble in the Nevada casinos," he said.

## 'Super Skier' logs 3 million miles

By NORM SAARI  
State News Ski Editor

Few skiers have been to the mountaintop -- and back down again -- as often as Hugo Bohm.

Bohm's credentials include past coach of the Army ski team, public relations director and certified instructor at Boyne

Mt. and member of the U.S. Ski Assn. and now national sales representative for a major ski manufacturer.

Bohm was guest speaker last week at the MOOSUSKI meeting at Grandmothers.

His feats on the slopes include skiing nearly three million miles in his lifetime.

"This doesn't mean there is no challenge left in skiing though," Bohm said. "The skier faces a new challenge with new variables every time he puts on the skis."

As an instructor, Bohm said one of the greatest challenges he faces is teaching a novice skier proper technique and style in the Midwest.

"There is no doubt whatsoever that the Midwest is the training grounds for the majority of American skiers," Bohm said.

"The ski lodge owners here realize that they are eventually going to lose many of their skiers to the West or Europe. Geographically, the Midwest cannot compete with these other areas for the advanced skier."

Bohm has skied throughout the world, from the glaciers in Greenland to the Alps in France to the mountains in Chile and back to the slopes in Michigan.

He said another reason why Midwest skiing provides a near perfect training ground is crowd control.

"It is not uncommon at all to wait 45 minutes for a lift at Aspen," Bohm said. "But even on a weekend at Boyne, when there may be 3,000 skiers on the slopes, it is very unusual to wait more than four or five minutes for a chair lift."

While skiing in the Army, Bohm never used a lift to get to the mountaintops in Austria. The team would utilize helicopters to shuttle them to the tops of slopes 12 miles long. For four years, Bohm skied this 12 mile course four times daily, seven days a week.

It is not difficult for the man to see skiing become a commercialized recreation industry.

Much of skiing's popularity he attributes to the sports being the "in thing to do."

"Many people will buy lift tickets just to put on their jackets," he said. "They never ski. And look at the popularity of ski-influenced clothing."

"On campus, notice the large number of students wearing ski parkas, gloves, hats and sweaters while going to class," he said.

"Skiing has a tremendous camaraderie. But it is important that you ski because you enjoy it. If I were tired of skiing, I simply wouldn't put my boots in the bindings anymore."



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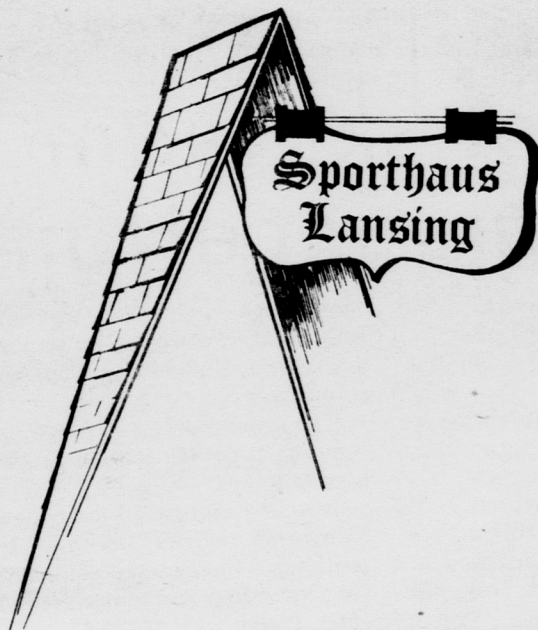
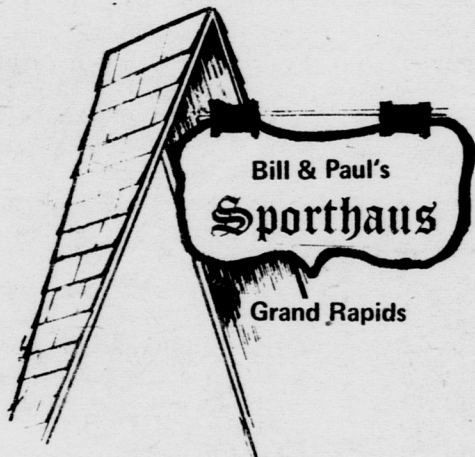
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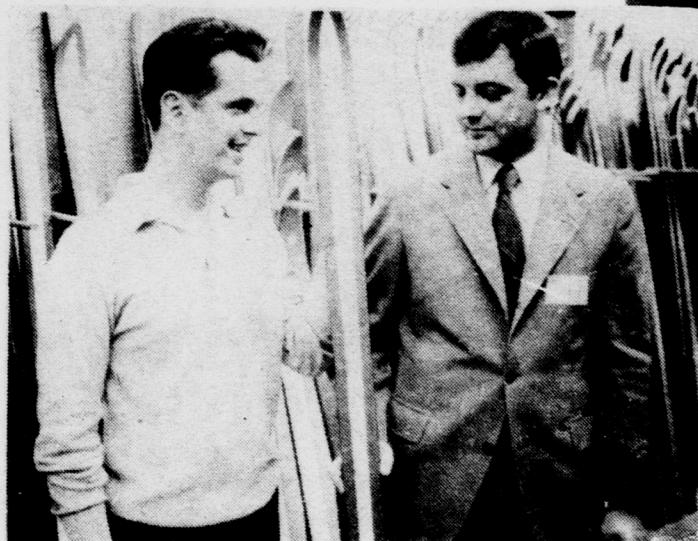


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# Varied equipment aims at safety

By JACQUI MILLER  
State News Ski Bunny

This year, skiers have a wide variety of ski equipment and accessories to choose from. On the slopes skiers are garbed in everything from blue jeans and ponchos to bell-bottomed stretch pants and fur-lined parkas.

After supplying yourself with the basic necessities for warmth, the rest of your ski wear is up to the imagination.

The wind shirt, made from a light weight synthetic fabric, is worn under a sweater or jacket. It retains body heat so well, though, that ski parkas can be left at home.

Manufacturers are also making ski boots warmer so that one pair of thin socks are usually sufficient.

Other warmth savers are "warm-up pants." Competitors have been wearing these nylon

leggings for quite some time. Manufacturers are now bringing them out for the pleasure skier in plaid, striped, quilted and floral patterns. They can be worn over the ski pants or without ski pants.

Gloves and mittens haven't changed too much, but their counterpart, the hat, has been subjected to fashion influence. The old stocking cap is still around, but the female skier is

(continued on page 11)

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## 'Easy rider'

The easiest way to get to the top of a slope is by ski lift. The riders miss the scenic view of the lodge at Crystal Mt. on the way to the top. The open air seats get breezy at times but the call of the slopes makes it worth it.

Photo Courtesy of Crystal Mt.



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## Fate of ski team appears uncertain

The fate of the MSU Ski Team is resting at the mercy of the Athletic Dept. and the male skiers on campus.

The ski team has qualified for the NCAA Ski Championships for the last three years, but suffered a major setback this year when over half of the team was graduated or got married.

The members left from last year are: Tom Polich,

Stambaugh senior and captain; Bob Love, Wallace, Idaho junior; and Tony Hedgecock, Jackson sophomore.

The manpower shortage is only part of it; money is the biggest factor.

It takes money to train new members, to practice and to participate in the seven ski meets they qualified for under NCAA rules, Polich said.

All but two of the meets are in the Upper Peninsula and since they often have to leave on a Wednesday or Thursday and stay until Sunday their expenses run high.

"Unless you really love the sport as I do, it is hard to fork out the money for the meets and practice," Polich said.

Sugarloaf Mt., near Traverse City, lets the team use their hills for practice without charging them, but the expense of traveling there adds up.

Yamaha and K-2 skis are loaned to the team members to test for the season, through Sporthaus in Lansing.

At the first few meetings of the team, it looked as if there would be a lot of enthusiasm, but when Polich set the date for the time trials, only three out of about 30 showed up.

When they raced in the first meet at Cliffside in the Upper

(continued on page 7)

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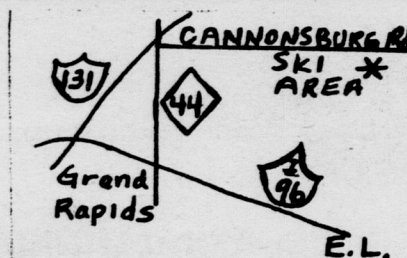
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# Ski Club expands program

The Lansing Ski Club is making way for a bigger and better ski season this year and even better ones in the future.

The \$250,000 expansion program at the ski club will provide for two to three times as many ski runs and lifts, Roy Schaefer, general manager, said.

At the present time, the Lansing Ski Club has six rope

tows and seven runs. Schaefer said he hopes to have some kind of mechanical lift (pomalift, T-bar, or chairlift) in the future.

The club is also adding 400,000 cubic feet of dirt to hills in order to build them higher. Rebuilding of the hills will be completed this July.

Another program the club is initiating this year is an associate

membership for students. The fee for the membership is \$10 a season. Under "Plan A" of this program, students are eligible for five lessons at \$10. Tow fees are \$1.00 a day.

Under "Plan B" students can get a season pass for \$25 after paying the associate membership fee. "Plan C" offers a third alternative of a 5-day pass for

\$10 along with the \$10 membership fee.

Two fees for guests of associate members are \$3.50 a day.

Schaefer said that he hopes this program will make the ski club's facilities available to all those who want to use them.

The Lansing Ski Club also has excellent snow making facilities and the present base is 3 to 3½

feet deep. For night skiing the hills are equipped with mercury vapor lights which provide better vision at night than the sun does on cloudy days.

The ski school at the club consists of 18 professionals most of whom are from MSU. The pro shop has new equipment and also ski rentals. A set of buckle boots, Hart skis and poles costs \$2 a day.

## Snowy 'bunny hills'

(continued from page 2)

Several areas are located within an hour's driving distance of Lansing. Mt. Holly, near Holly, charges \$3 for group lessons. Lift tickets are \$4 on

## Ski team

(continued from page 6)

Peninsula last weekend, the team was at an immediate disadvantage because they only had four people to race and there were five races.

MSU competes with Michigan Tech, Northern Michigan University, Lake Superior State College, Gogebic Junior College, Northwestern Michigan, McCalester College in Minnesota, and the University of Minnesota in Duluth.

weekdays and \$5.50 on week - ends. Equipment is \$4.25 daily and \$5.25 on week - ends.

Pine Knob, seven miles north of Pontiac, has group lessons for \$3 an hour, \$6 for semi - private lessons and \$10 for private. Daily lift tickets are \$3 for ropes and \$4.25 for all area. Week - end tickets are \$4 for ropes and

\$5.50 for all area. The cost of equipment is \$4.25.

Lansing Ski Club, located near Lake Lansing, is the nearest ski area. MSU students may join by purchasing a \$10 membership which entitles them to five \$10 lessons and weekday rope tickets for \$1. Equipment costs are \$2 a day.

## Pando Ski Area

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## After-ski activities mean fun

After - ski activities represent to the skier what the 19th hole represents to the golfer. It's a time to relax, reminisce and, of course, recreate.

The after - skier is part of a unique actively engaged in finding or creating a good time. He can assume any of several roles depending on the place and length of the trip.

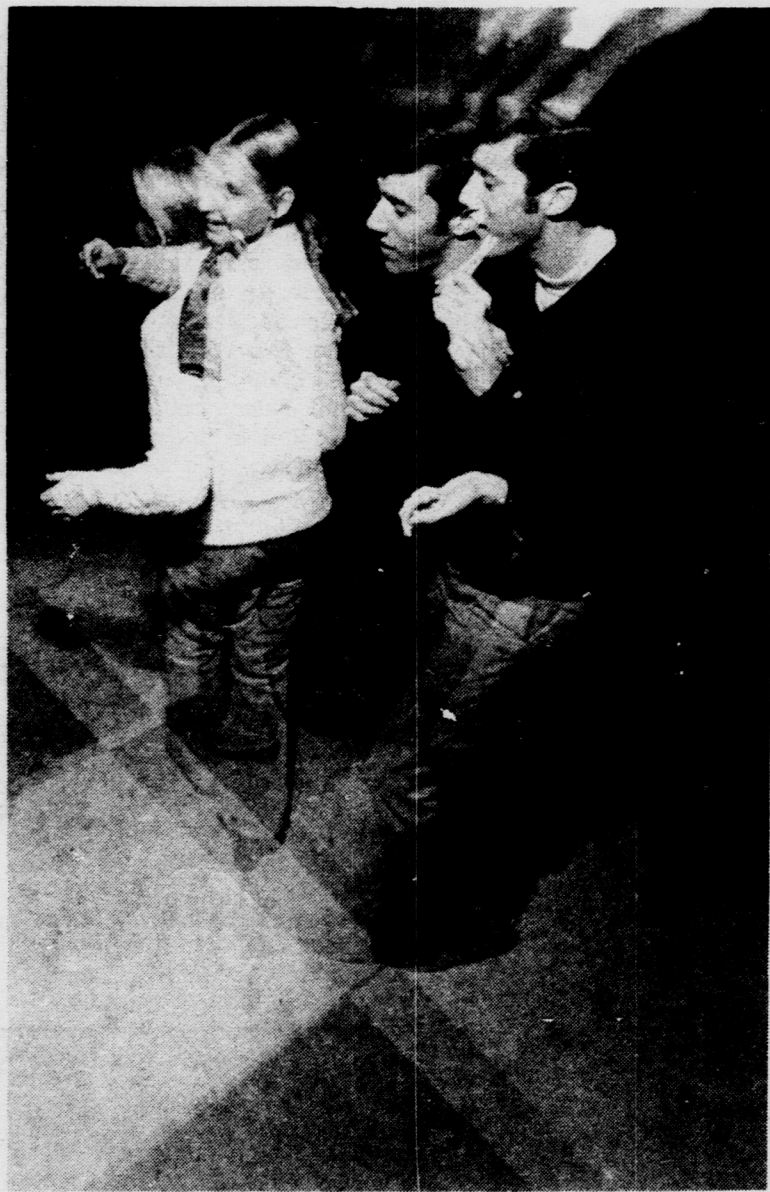
The most commonly found person on shorter ski trips is 50 per cent serious skier and 50 per cent snow bunny, innovator, sleeper and planner.

Ambition to ski prompts most to limit after - ski activities when they might interfere with an early slope start the next day. But partying does have a place in the weekend of the average Midwestern skier.

The strict snow bunny type knows nothing about skiing but is willing to learn from a handsome and wealthy instructor. She joins the ski group about 4 p.m. for what most lodges call a "happy hour." Right off the slopes, skiers informally meet for talk, drinks and snacks.

The sleeper usually uses this time to get in shape for the evening. Come 8 p.m., he's the first to invade the cocktail

(continued on page 10)



## Apres

Snowy slopes and winter winds are not the only things that a skiing weekend offers. Relaxation from the day's activities is usually offered with a dance at Boyne Mt. This unusual picture was taken by State News photographer Mike Beasley.

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# Winter weekends bring skiers to Olin

By BETSY ROACH  
State News Staff Writer

Picture this—you've saved up your money for weeks for that big weekend at Boyne Mountain. Up at Boyne, you step out into the cool, crisp air, make the necessary adjustments and there you go—SWOOSH! Down the hill and smack into another skier.

Dr. James S. Feurig, director of Olin Health Center, said the most common ski injuries treated at Olin are torn ligaments or cartilage in the knee and severe sprains or fractures of the ankle.

He said that less common, but seen every year, are head injuries received when the skier collides with a tree or fractured

vertebrae resulting from going off a slope in a toboggan.

Dr. Feurig said one out of five knee injuries needs surgery, and three out of five ankle injuries involve a fracture.

He added that most ski injuries treated at Olin are sustained on a weekend trip, most probably to northern Michigan.

"The injury we hate to see is the compound fracture," Dr. Feurig said. "It's usually received when coming down a slope out of control."

He said the skier either loses his balance or crashes into something, the impact of which causes a compound fracture.

Dr. Feurig said most of the compound fractures are in the lower leg, though some are in the arm.

He said to avoid ski injuries the skier should be in good

physical condition, which bicycle riding or brisk walks can help.

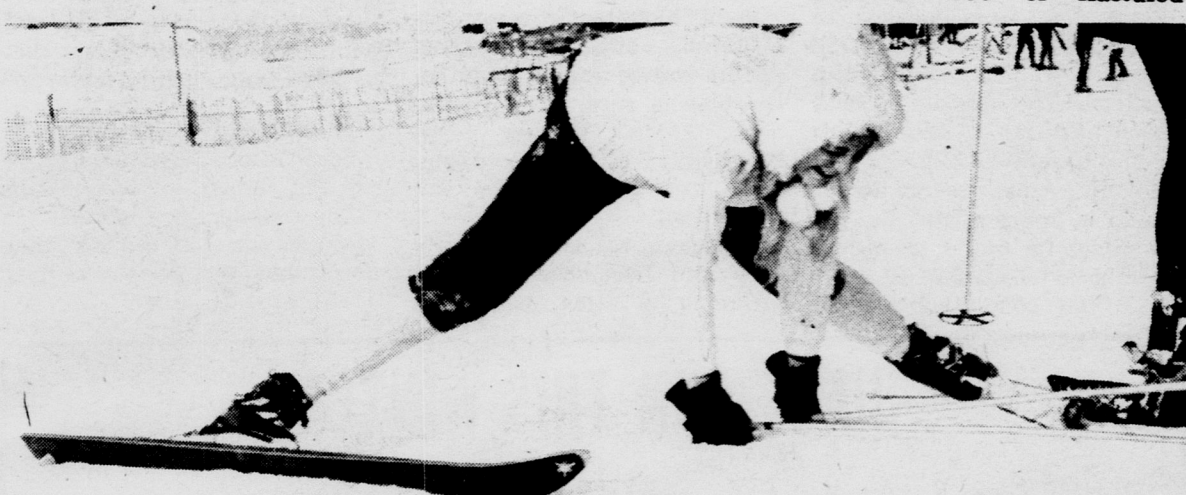
"A person who has done absolutely nothing in exercise is bound to be discoordinated," Dr. Feurig said.

He said a skier should start with some knowledge about skiing and should use good equipment.

Dr. Feurig said the binding which locks the ski onto the boot should have a good automatic release so the skier can take the skis off when in trouble.

He said sometimes an accident is the result of a challenge which the skier knows is too much for him.

"Discipline yourself to do only those things within the realm of your capabilities," Dr. Feurig said.



## Accidents

Slips, splits and spills can happen to the best of the skiing crowd when they're caught off their guard. It's easy to get down, but hard to get up—in some cases.

State News Photos by Carl Welti and Mike Beasley

## Ski Tab Staff

Norm Saari, Jacqui Miller, Linda Knibbs, Shirley Johnson, Betsey Roach, Donna Wilburn, George Bullard, Kathy Moran, and a cast of thousands of skiers.

## Skiers Have a Lot Going for Them at . . .



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## ASPEN OR MICHIGAN?

# Skiers weigh slope choices

By JACQUI MILLER  
State News Staff Writer

There are definite advantages to skiing at Aspen rather than Michigan, but there are also many disadvantages. Most of the differences are in lodging, slope conditions and traveling expenses.

To find a place to live in Aspen during Christmas or spring break, inquiries and

arrangements should be made at least five months in advance. Lodging during these times can run from \$10 to \$30 a day for one person. From Jan. 15 to Feb. 20, however, lodgings are usually easier to find and less expensive.

The big season for Michigan ski resorts is around Christmas and lodging presents almost as many problems as in Aspen. But in January and February skiers

can often get a place to stay a week in advance.

This year Aspen became the first resort town to have computerized lodging placement to facilitate lodge reservations for hotel and condominium owners. The computer has approximately 15,000 beds registered and can report, at the push of a button, what rooms are available at each place of lodging and other information needed to rent a room.

The biggest financial difference in skiing these two areas is in getting to them. By car it takes three to nine hours to reach most northern Michigan ski areas from E. Lansing. Aspen, good weather prevailing, is approximately 26 hours from E. Lansing.

Plane fare from Lansing to Denver runs from \$186 to \$250 round trip and fares from Lansing to Traverse City is about \$50 and to the Upper Peninsula, around \$70.

So far Aspen seems to be behind in bonus points. But the mountains far outdo Michigan's molehills in length, variety, snow depth and conditions and lift

equipment.

And, you get all these beautiful runs for the same price you pay at most Michigan resorts. Ski lift tickets are \$8 a day at Aspen and run from \$4.50 to \$8 in Michigan.

The longest lift at Aspen Mountain takes 20 minutes to ride. A combination of lifts which take the skier to the top of a mountain can last from 30 to 60 minutes depending on the mountain. The longest lift at Michigan's Sugarloaf Mountain gets you to the top in three minutes.

The average yearly snowfall in Michigan falls between 60 and 140 inches. The average yearly snowfall in Aspen is 300 inches at the top of the mountains and 150 inches at the bottom.

Boyer Mountain's present base is 30 inches at its deepest spots. At the top of Aspen Mountain, the base is currently 41 inches deep. Aspen's average yearly base depth is 85 inches and some spots have had snow packed 130 inches deep.

Michigan's ski season usually runs from December 20 to the beginning of March. Aspen runs

a full show from Thanksgiving to mid-April.

Boyer Mountain has 17 different runs ranging from beginner to expert in difficulty. Aspen Mountain, Buttermilk Mountain, Aspen Highlands and Snowmass also offer runs for all types of skiers, but Aspen Mountain alone has 45 different runs and trails to choose from.

For convenience, Michigan ski areas serve their purpose, but in overall excellence and challenge, Aspen has more to offer.

## After-ski

(continued from page 8)

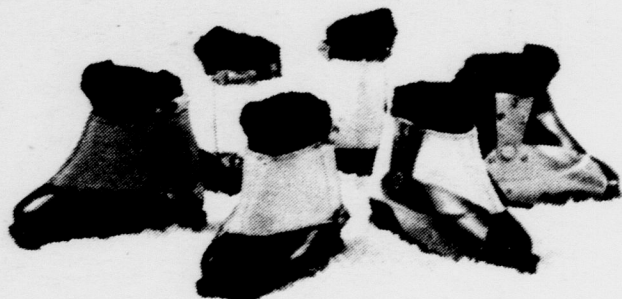
lounge or an area night club. Naturally he's wide awake and set for the evening, except that he's 12 drinks behind everyone else.

Most after-skiers are assured of one similar interest. That's skiing. While they all try to avoid staying out too late, they don't miss out on the parties. They just start earlier.



## Swiss Valley

open daily, 10 miles west of Three Rivers off M-60. Swiss Valley has 11 slopes, 10 rope tows, and also offers instruction, rental equipment, and night skiing. There is a lodge with a cafeteria and a cocktail lounge, along with Swingout entertainment every Saturday night with a live band. Swiss Valley. phone 244-5635 (area code 616)



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# Varied equipment aims at safety

(continued from page 6)

also donning "Juliet" caps and floppy felt hats with streaming scarves.

Goggles, too, have remained pretty standard, but some of the newer brands have better ventilation to prevent fogging.

Knickers aren't as popular as they were a few years ago, but stretch pants are still holding their ground.

Ski shops are selling matching parkas and pants in bold prints and colors with the added attraction of a complimenting vest. Sweaters are still used by all, most shops selling the tighter knits with multi-colored geometric patterns.

And fur in all shapes, colors and sizes is used wherever there is room for it: in parka linings, hat linings, parka collars and cuffs, as vest type parkas, for after ski boots, etc.

Of course, ski wear is entirely

optional as long as the skier is warm, comfortable and flexible. There will always be a large quantity of weekend skiers still wearing their beat up jeans and Levis with anything else that keeps out the cold.

As far as equipment is concerned, most ski experts will agree that the boot is the most important. A good boot will fit close but not too tight, will allow for forward flexing, will provide good support for your foot and will not have any inner wrinkles or ridges.

New boots are being built with buckles instead of laces, and they have flat, narrow straight soles. Manufacturers are also putting synthetics on the outside of the boots for protection.

Many experts will discourage the purchase of used boots with more than three years of normal use, as the boot is usually broken down at that point and

offers minimal support.

Skis and bindings are second in importance to boots. Brands of both differ in construction depending on the type of skiing they are made for and the type of skier using them.

Fiberglass and metal are now the major components of bigger brand skis. It is usually recommended that beginning skiers find a soft flex ski as it

will facilitate learning.

However, if the beginner is serious about skiing, or if he is the athletic type, a harder flexed ski is recommended. The initial phase may be harder to master, but most likely the skier will be happier with the longer, better performance of the ski.

Poles are used in learning to ski, for motivation, balance and timing. As long as a pole serves

these three purposes, it is a good one. But once you have reached the advanced stages of skiing, your poles will simply dip into the powder to time your turns.

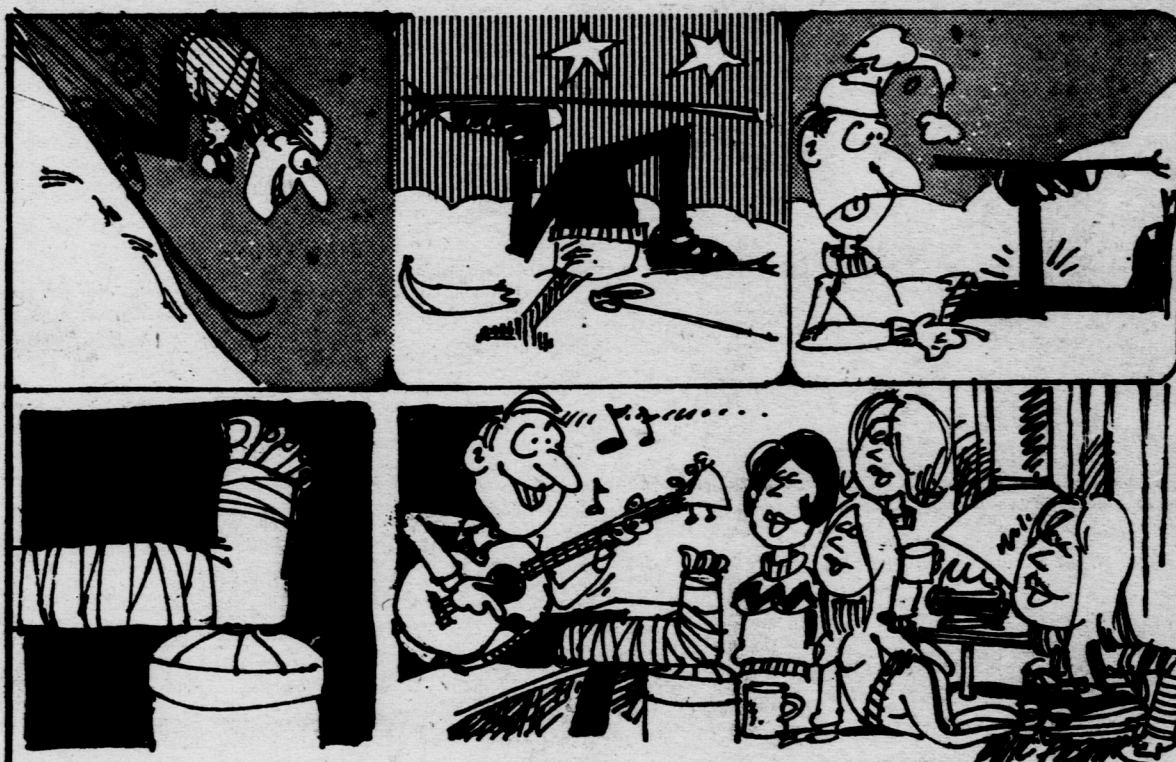
Your ski equipment, then, is much more important than your ski wear. And, it is the skis, boots and bindings, along with your perseverance, which will determine the kind of skier you are to become.



*Swoosh*

Carol Nuckells, Ludington sophomore, demonstrates the proper angulation needed in traversing a slope (i.e. feet together, knees bent and body controlling the downhill criss-cross.)

State News Photo by Mike Beasley



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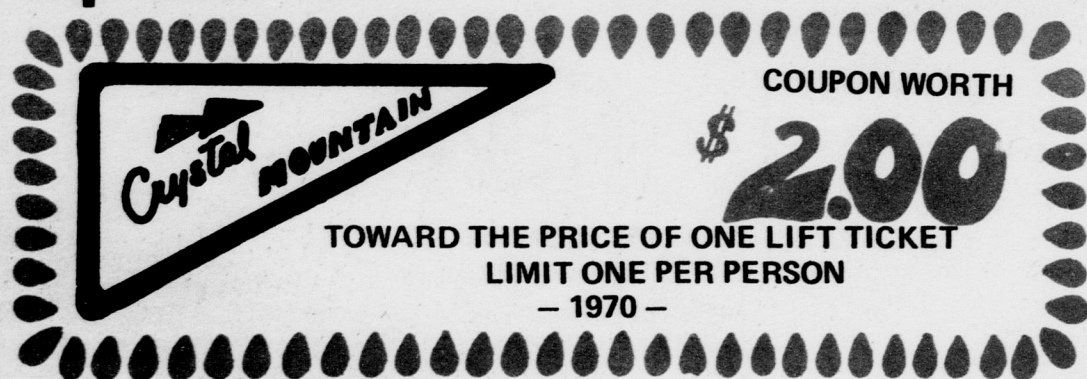




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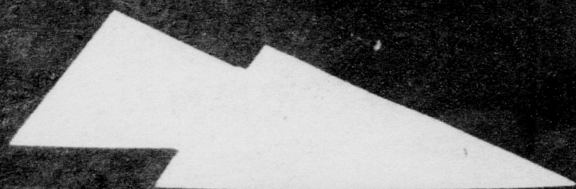
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