

Skiers crowd local areas

All-time record crowds patronized a number of the major Pacific Northwest ski resorts over the holiday week with the patronage spread out during the week in a preview of what could be the salvation of both skiers and the resort operators.

It is the weekend crush which stops many skiers and it is the limited use between weekends that troubles the resort operators. Their heavy investments often sit quiet during the week with little, or limited, income to charge against the investment.

It will be midwinter vacations, non-work days other than Saturday or Sunday, four-day work-weeks, and night skiing that will spread out the skiing population. This will result in a more even flow of skiers, a better amortization of investments and—most important—probably a more economical sport for the skiers. Many resorts already charge less for mid-week tickets than on the more crowded

weekends.

Some random quotes Monday from resort operators—"more skiers this year than ever before", "An all-time Christmas week by a long shot", "Ski school has the largest enrollment ever", "Biggest holiday group of skiers ever—a lot from California, Washington, and Idaho", "We had a real tremendous holiday season, an all-time record for the holiday season."

MT. HOOD MEADOWS

Until four weeks ago, a 48-year-old Portland housewife was reluctant to try to learn to ski, despite the fact her husband and three children have skied for years.

She thought perhaps too many calendar pages had flipped by.

Now, after four weeks of graduated length method lessons, she skis anywhere on the mountain in a wide-track parallel.

TIMBERLINE LODGE

Skiers can get back to "where it was" Saturday, Jan. 15, with a free giant slalom race for men and women over 18 years of age.

Equipment will be furnished free of charge (except poles)—but there's a catch.

Staves from 50-gal. wine barrels will be the skis, although equipped with release bindings.

A beverage tasting party will follow the race.

For more information call Dick Kohnstamm (503) 272-3286.

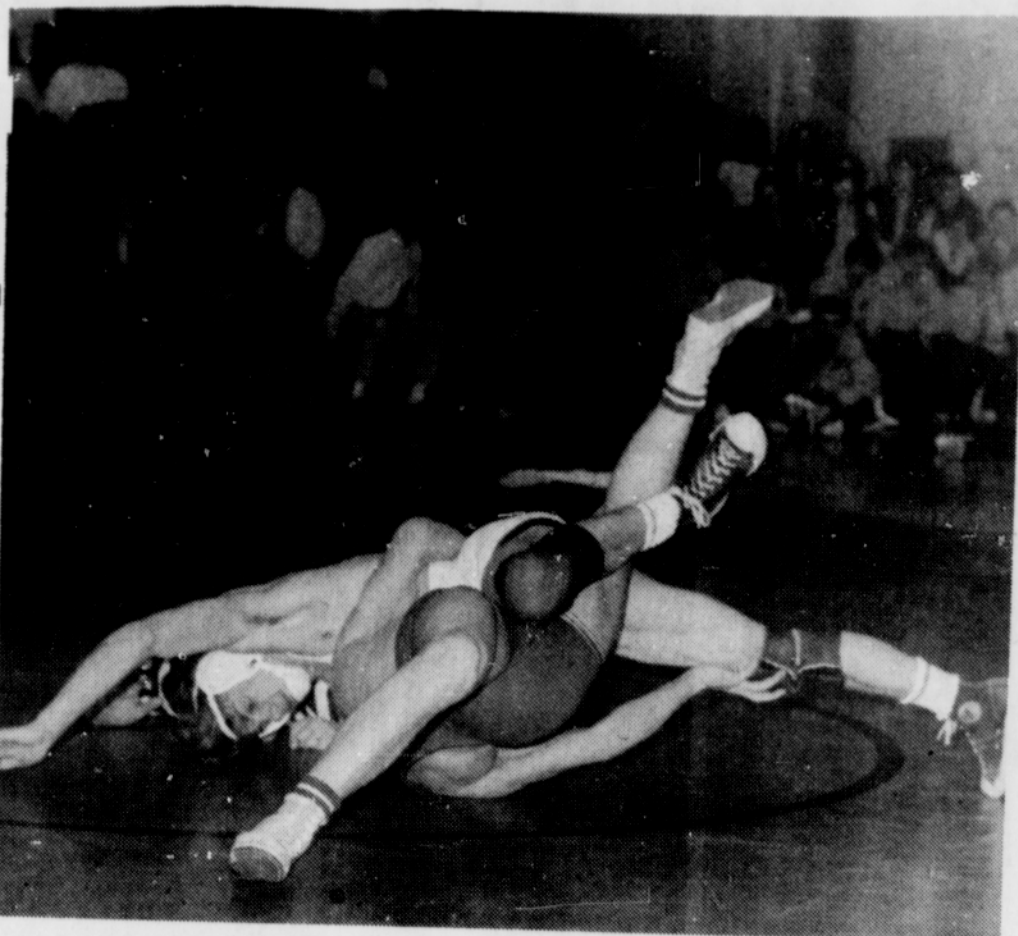
MULTITORPOR+SKI BOWL

The emphasis swings to ski school this week, with important sessions starting Jan. 8 and 9 at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. in both the Multitorpor (Mt. Hood Ski School) and Ski Bowl schools.

The bowl school starts an intensive GLM session for five consecutive nights, Tuesday through Saturday, with a graduation ceremony every Saturday night for new skiers.

Mt. Hood ski school at Multitorpor also has classes on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

For more information call Carl Reynolds (503) 227-5770.



A SANDY wrestler and his opponents show a lot of leg action in their match Tuesday night at Sandy. The Newberg

team came out on top 32 to 19 by getting two pins in the last two matches. Sandy meets Molalla here on Friday night.

Post Photo

Steelheaders set trail discussion

The Mt. Hood chapter of the Northwest Association of Steelheaders will have its January meeting next Monday night, Jan. 10 at 8 p.m. in the Lions Club Pavilion at Wemme.

Guest speaker will be Ken Dauble of the Clackamas County Planning Commission. The main topic for consideration is the construction of a North side trail along the Sandy River from Marmot dam east. The county proposal calls for a four mile trail. The Steelheader's proposal calls for a six mile trail which would give a trailhead at both ends.

Licensing lag noted

Only 567 of the estimated 6,000-10,000 snowmobiles in Oregon are licensed, according to figures released Monday by the state Motor Vehicles Division.

The new law requiring the licensing of snowmobiles went into effect Saturday, as did new operating regulations.

Owners must pay a \$10 license fee, good for two years; a \$2 title fee; must have a valid driver's license or must have completed a certified course in the operation of such machines.

Auto robbed

A watch and clarinet valued at \$300 were reported stolen Dec. 29 from an auto belonging to Glen Wong, 15008 SE Mill.

Sheriff's reports said the thieves pried and broke a wing window on the car to gain entry.

Home entered

William Aylsworth, 230 SE 2nd, reported to Gresham police Dec. 31 that his home had been entered by prying open a window to the utility room. A bedroom was ransacked but other parts of the home seemed not to have been touched. Cash totaling \$123 and a \$50 watch were missing.

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The 1969 census of agriculture reveals some interesting trends in Clackamas County. Some of these trends and their affect upon the county agricultural economy make up the bulk of this column.

Our analysis of the census in last week's column indicated there has been a decrease of some 1,300 farms during the past five years - mostly in the \$250 per year gross sales or less-while farms providing over \$40,000 gross sales have increased during this time.

Let's consider some of the changes that have occurred in the farming picture during the five-year period 1964-1969.

Within the livestock business there has been some decrease in numbers. The 1969 census reported 36,000 head of cattle compared to 47,000 in 1964. Hogs have stayed about the same with 9,000 head being listed while sheep and lambs have decreased from a high of 29,000 to 21,000 head. The poultry laying flock shows approximately 770,000 hens compared to 440,000 five years earlier.

Farm crop production showed decreases in almost all

categories. For example, grain corn is down from 734 acres to 519 acres in 1969; wheat 5,900 acres compared to 8,300 acres in 1964; small grain acreages decreased about 2,000 acres; and hay production is down by over 10,000 acres. There has also been a decrease in the acreages of berries and orchards.

The figures for all vegetable production in Clackamas County are almost identical in 1964 and 1969. In 1964 there were 116 farms reporting 3,216 acres. In 1969 the number of farms was down to 102 but the acreage was 3,230 - indicating one of the more stable agricultural enterprises.

A rapidly expanding area of agricultural production is nursery and greenhouse crops. Sales during 1969 from 134 farms showed over \$4,400,000. This increase is possibly taking up some of the slack caused by the decrease of acreages in grain and other field crops.

As you read the above figures, it is well to keep in mind that they are already out of date by about three years. I am convinced that liberal county views on land use including subdivisions and other non-agricultural development will attract investors from Multnomah and Washington counties in ever increasing numbers. This pressure on the land will be more influential in changing crop and livestock production patterns than the economics of production. In a word - the next census will show greater change than the 1964-1969 effort.

O.S.U. Extension Agricultural Economist Stephen Marks gives a year-end report for various farm commodities. Many segments of agriculture have felt that 1971 was bad and any promise of a brighter 1972 should come as a welcome relief.

Although the grass-seed situation is a little cloudy right now because of the recent dock strike, 1971 has not been a bad year for Clackamas County grass-seed growers and 1972 should be equally good if exports are not limited.

Supplies of canned and frozen vegetables are going to be smaller going into 1972. This could be good news. However, lenders are cautious about lending money to producers whose profit margins have not been too great in recent years. With most agricultural commodities, operating capital is often the determining factor whether the enterprise goes or not.

The up-and-down berry picture looks as though it might be going into the up side since stocks of berries are below the level for the past two years. This could be good news for black cap and other berry growers in the county. Continued pressure from Mexico and other producing areas with lower labor rates, however, cause this to be a difficult area to predict.

One of the brighter pictures on the agricultural scene is the dairy business with indications that 1972 should be a good year with milk prices a little above 1971.

The poultry business has some rather gloomy prospects. I believe that egg production will decrease only slightly for 1972 and this will mean continued record low prices for eggs at least for the first half of 1972. Lower feed prices may be an advantage to poultrymen but this will probably be offset by increases in both broiler and turkey production.

The red-meat industry looks particularly strong for 1972. With generally higher incomes, the public is demanding more and better meat on a regular basis. Fewer hogs nationally

Balloon race feature of Boat, Trailer show

Gas balloons piloted by ex-stewardesses will race against others steered by disc jockeys in the world's first indoor balloon races at the Portland Boat, Trailer and Sport Show Jan. 15 through 23 in Memorial Coliseum.

The former stewardesses will compete as one of the things they do in their Stewardess Emeritus Association to help the Kidney Association of Oregon help kidney failure victims.

The races will be a nightly feature of the Boat show with the course around the outer fringe of the Coliseum arena. The arena itself will be filled with the largest of hundreds of cruisers, sailboats and houseboats to be displayed in the show.

The balloons, technically dirigibles because they can be steered under power, were built specially for the Boat Show balloon races by a noted aeronaut and balloon expert, George Stokes of Fountain

Valley, Calif. They are 30 feet in diameter and carry a platform for the pilot and an eight horsepower motor with propeller and rudder.

Racing isn't new to the young women of the Stewardess Emeritus organization. Last summer 12 of them "piloted" ostriches in ostrich races at the Multnomah County Fair. They have been undertaking special chores, from conservative and clerical to dashing and daring, to benefit the Kidney Association of Oregon since 1967.

The Portland Boat, Trailer and Sport Show, sponsored since 1960 by the Oregon Marine Trades Association, covers fields of outdoor recreation from archery to water skiing. Consistently the Pacific Northwest's best attended consumer interest show, it will be open this year on weekday afternoons as well as evenings with opening time 1 p.m. daily throughout its nine-day run.

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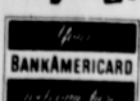
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