

For Novice or Expert, Hoodoo Bowl on Santiam Pass Great Sport



Skiers Galore Are Taking Advantage of Facilities Atop Picturesque Santiam Pass

By PHILIP SLOCUM
Statesman Staff Writer

Hoodoo has it. Expert skier, beginner or sight-seer—it makes no difference. You can set your own pace at the Hoodoo Ski Bowl just off U. S. Route 20 at the summit of Santiam Pass—only a little more than a two-hour drive from Salem.

In the words of Ed Thurston, manager of the Bowl since its beginning as a ski area in 1938: "We really like the everyday skier."

Tow facilities range from a 600-foot rope tow to the 4,000-foot double chair lift—only one of its kind in the Northwest—which takes the rider to the top of Hoodoo Butte and a view of the Cascade Range that is almost unequalled.

There unfolds the snow-covered Three Sisters, Three-Fingered Jack, Mt. Washington, Mt. Jefferson, Diamond Peak and a corner of Mt. Hood.

Hoodoo Butte rises 5,950 feet to command the Bowl which is sections of the North Santiam

vised by four rope tows: two 1,000 feet in length, one 800 and one 600 feet.

Novice and professional can find their stride or challenge as the slopes range from eight to 55 percent grades.

Five trails, all reached by the chair lift which has a capacity of 380 persons an hour, feed down from the summit of the Butte. Again they are geared for beginner and expert.

The Bunny Trail offers the novice, or "let's take it easy the first day out" skier, a 2½ mile run and never exceeds an 18 percent grade. It's plenty wide.

For the experts and intermediates it's Devil's Dive, Angel's Flight and Canyon Run. Devil's Dive is well tagged. The slope reaches 45 per cent in places.

All the trails are 80 feet or more in width and some sections are truly open slopes.

And there's forest slaloms for the fast-turn artists.

From the first of December un-

til the first of May snow graces the Bowl—sometimes as deep as 22 feet, as in 1949.

Ed Thurston used to tell people the average snow depth was about 10 feet, but in the last four years it's been 14 feet or more. Last year the snow held at 14 feet for five or six weeks.

"We get our share of powder too," he says, "but generally it's a packed base in the Bowl. Of course a skier can usually find powder off the trails near the top."

There's plenty of space for the cross-country skier too. The famous Skyline Trail runs through the area and the hardy can break their own way.

Highway have been improved this year, helping to speed Salem skiers to the Bowl. Once there, lodging and eating spots are at hand.

The Santiam Lodge, under the direction this year of Harold Hanson, of Salem, is located on U. S. Route 20 at the summit of the pass at the junction of the three-quarter-mile paved road which leads into the Bowl.

The lodge includes a restaurant, five dormitories housing about 100 people, and a ski shop offering equipment rentals.

In Sisters, 22 miles from the Bowl, there are motels, a hotel and choice of restaurants.

At the Bowl itself, Thurston is

building a 50-room lodge. However, it will not be completed this winter.

But a large coffee shop complete with fireplace, plus a ski shop with rentals are at hand.

Two Forest Service warming huts are in the area plus the Ski Patrol hut. The patrol is on the job at the Bowl during every day of operation.

Present running schedule is Saturday and Sunday from 9:30 to 4:30. During Christmas and Spring vacations the area stays open for 10 days to two weeks.

The Bowl bills itself as "Oregon's Central Ski Area"—and it is—for beginner and expert, young or old.

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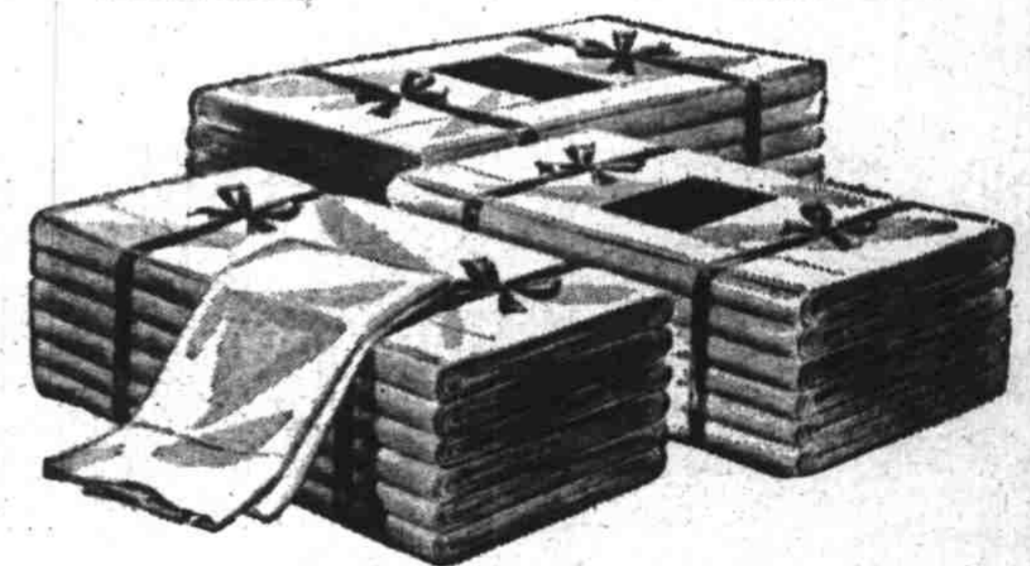
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