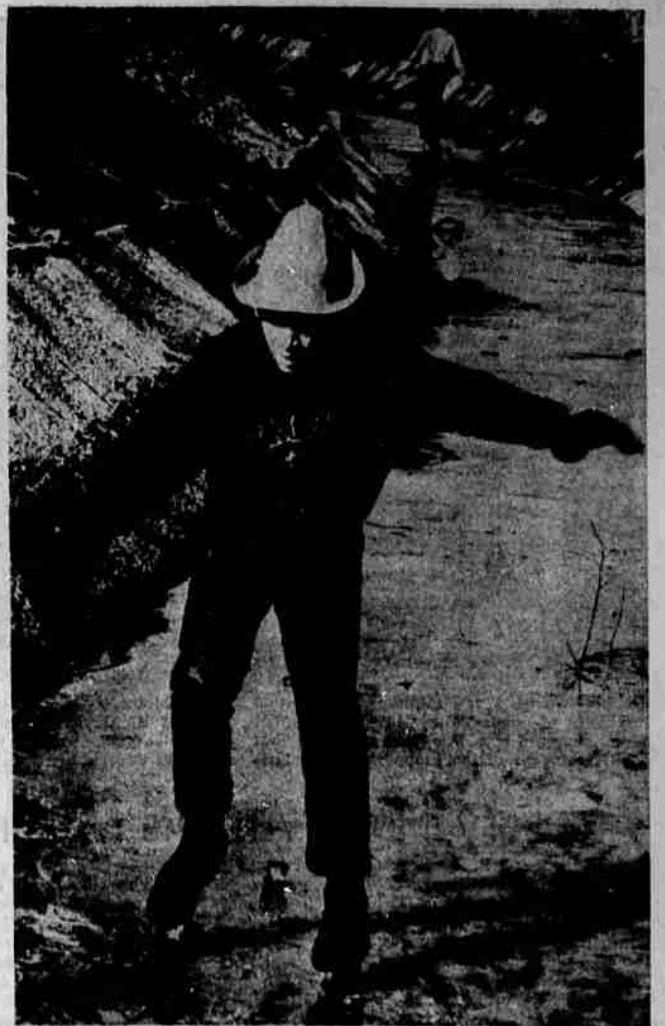


Canal Skaters

As "nippy" as the weather has been recently, the Rogue River valley just doesn't get cold enough to have permanently frozen ponds and lakes for safe ice skating. Youngsters however find that the irrigation canals in the area provide adequate, if somewhat elongated, skating rinks. With water only a few inches deep, the worst that can happen if the ice breaks is wet feet for the skater. Of course, skaters should be certain that they do not trespass on private property.



The bank of an irrigation ditch does not make a very comfortable seat for putting on one's skates, but it serves the purpose. Ted Barker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Barker, Coleman Creek road, helps Sam James, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam James Sr., lace up his boots before a morning skating session.



Sam James, though he has been on ice skates only a time or two, makes up for experience with dogged determination and streaks down the ice at a good clip. Rocks and weeds in the ice create some hazards.



Attempting to imitate the style of a fancy ice skater, Jennifer Wilcox finds that it helps to stick out her tongue for balance. Jennifer is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wilcox, Camp Baker road.



One doesn't really need skates to have fun on ice. Ted Barker, above, flies past his sister, Janis, on his shoe soles after getting a running start. Ted took off his skates when his ankles got tired because he wanted to be in top shape for a basketball game.



Novice Virginia Briggs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Briggs, above, gets a helping hand from Jennifer Wilcox and Meryl Barker when she tries ice skates for the first time. She found that standing up was the primary thing to be concerned about and found herself on the ice several times.



Down again! Virginia Briggs spent just about as much time sitting as she did on the skates, but before the session was over she had begun to get the hang of it. She is helped over her feet (above) by Sam James.



Meryl Barker, above, finds that one of her problems was that her ice skates were a tad too large. Tightening the strings didn't seem to help much either. Sitting on the ditch bank she tries to solve her dilemma.



Ted Barker and Sam James stretch out on the bank of the irrigation ditch to absorb some of the warm winter sun. Perhaps the thoughts of a hot lunch were running through their minds. Ice skating is not only tiring, but it stimulates the appetite.