

Campus Has Ski Resort

DULUTH, Minn. (UPI) — The Duluth Branch of the University of Minnesota is one of the few colleges in the United States where students can go skiing right on campus.

The ski area isn't going to compete with Sun Valley, Aspen or any other such resort, but it furnishes plenty of action for the beginner or intermediate skier.

The 600-foot slope is located on a 190-acre section of the campus called Rock Hill. Ski instructors say it's ideal for teaching beginners.

The ski area is mostly a student project, although the school has more elaborate plans when funds become available. The students have built a ski tow and a small chalet which they often use for parties. Later, a permanent warming house will be built along with a U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey seismograph station.

Bearded Work Like Beaver Shows Male Independence

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) — Beards, says actor Peter Ustinov, are a thinking man's symbol.

Ustinov, a bearded expert on such matters, explained the nation's growing cult of hairy ones thus:

"It's really a reaction against the Ivy League mentality of conformity. It's a desire by some men to revert to areas where they can do something for themselves."

"Many people mistakenly think the man who wears a beard is trying to create an impression. But it's just the other way 'round. It's the fellow with the cleanest shave who's trying to impress his boss in the office."

Wearing the garb of a gladiator in his dressing room on the set of the film "Spartacus," the barrel-shaped, 37-year-old actor said:

"Beard-growers feel life is getting too compartmentalized. They would rather be alone in a small boat than own a big yacht operated by others. They'd rather go a little faster in a Jaguar than the

usual speed in the same old sedan."

Commenting on the growing retinue of beard-wearers in the "Beatnik" set, Ustinov analyzed:

"This is purely a matter of rebellion against the mentality which says one must shave to go to the office. Basically, it is the office itself which the beat ones are rebelling against."

The cast of Cuba's Fidel Castro and his celebrated hank of hair is a somewhat different category, Ustinov explained.

"In some spheres, such as this one," he said, "the beard becomes not only the symbol of revolt but also of liberty. The reason is simple: The first formal institution that collapses in rebel or jungle warfare is shaving."

"It's a more natural, free state of affairs. If you look back at history, beards have always been more natural than clean faces. It has nothing to do with trying to prove one's masculinity."

Personally, Ustinov said, it makes little difference to him psychologically whether he shaves or not. A devoted thinking man, he is not only an expert actor and comedian but has turned out 14 plays and a number of short stories as well.

"The quality," he said, "seems to have no bearing on whether or not I had a beard at the time I wrote the various pieces."

"The main thing is that beard-growing is a time-saving device. Shaving is a real bore. And have you ever noticed how it reveals the vanity of men?"

"Their expressions while shaving are absolutely ridiculous. But what else can you expect from a person who stands in front of a mirror, gazes at himself, uses pomades on his hair and manicures his nails?"

The trouble with civilization, said Ustinov, is that "it always suspects people of having ulterior motives if they wear beards—it can't understand that perhaps men just like them."

"It's like the actor who refuses a script simply because he doesn't like it. No producer believes that's the real reason, so he doubles

THE WEEDERS

By CYNTHIA LOWRY

CHAPPAQUA, N.Y. (U) — Two years ago a new home owner of my acquaintance bought himself a new rotary blade power lawn mower. Actually, he needed a new reel type mower, for his lawn was sufficiently established for reel trimming and there was neither rough terrain nor high weeds to eliminate. But he bought the rotary type primarily, I am certain, because there was a "mulching" attachment with it.

My friend was seized with mulching fever, an infectious disease acquired from reading too many garden books. I know: one season long ago I was, I suspect from my bills, the world's largest individual consumer of peat moss. At onset, you want to cover all open ground with a blanket of some sort.

I am not against mulching, mind you, but highly in favor of it. A mulch is a material spread upon gardening soil (including lawns) plants and roots which might be damaged by cold weather; for use during the growing months to conserve moisture in the ground and to reduce the amount of weeding necessary in the average unmulched garden.

Mulches range from plastic sheets to grass clippings. In between are such materials as stones, chopped corn cobs, sawdust, tobacco stems, hulls of cotton seed, buckwheat and other



grains, straw, salt hay and, of course, the most popular of all, peat moss. Peat is probably the most popular for the home gardener because it makes the prettiest garden. It is a rich, red brown in color and when damp makes a handsome background for the green plants.

If you want a work-saving, water-saving mulch around plants, investigate first. Peat, for instance, is on the acid side, and consequently is best used among acid-loving plants. Ground corn cobs and sawdust have a tendency to deplete the nitrogen in soil—so if they are used, add a pound of nitrate of soda or three-quarters of a pound of ammonium sulphate per bushel. Grass clippings, buckwheat hulls and some others may be dug in later to further enrich soil; salt hay may not be dug in, but should be raked away and stored for use another day.

Generally speaking, an organic mulch (this excludes plastic sheets

—new on the home-gardener market this year—and stones) should be done about an inch thick. This will discourage the germination of weed seeds but permit air and moisture to reach the root systems of desirable plants.

How Indians Once Hunted For Whales

NEW YORK (UPI)—The Florida Indians used to combine dangerous sport with their hunt for food. An account of a whaling trip is contained in L'Amérique, a description of the New World, written in 1667 by Sanson d'Abbeville, geographer and teacher of King Louis XIV of France. He wrote: "Fishing for the whale is done with great skill and courage. Europeans would never dare to hunt whales as these natives. When a whale is sighted, it is followed by the Indians. As soon as they approach the whale, an Indian jumps on its back and rides it. He drives a stick into one of its nostrils. If the whale dives, he waits for it to surface and then drives another stick in his other nostril. He ties a rope to these two sticks and returns to his boat. As the whale is unable then to breathe, it weakens, and is towed to land where it is cut up and dried and ground into a powder for storage."

Volume one of d'Abbeville's history was recently translated into English and published by Bloch and Company of Cleveland under the title, "America—1667."

Popcorn Resin Used

HOUSTON, Tex. (UPI)—A new resin, called "pop corn" because of its fluffy white appearance, has been developed at Houston's M.D. Anderson Hospital of the University of Texas.

The resin, a plastic that will not dissolve in any solvent, has an unusual capacity for absorbing carbon monoxide.

Robert C. Smart, research assistant at the hospital and one of the developers of "pop corn," said it is hoped the resin will contribute substantially to the effectiveness of the closed system anesthesia machine widely used in surgery.

He explained that this device allows a patient to undergo lengthy surgery by inhaling gas from the machine and exhaling back into it.

"In exhaling, carbon dioxide in the breath must be absorbed or the patient could give himself carbon dioxide poisoning," Smart explained. Soda lime is used for this purpose now. But Smart said the new "pop corn" resin may be able to do the job much more economically.

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