Ski buming

Stowe, Waterville attract skiers

By Ted Nygreen

Now that the weatherman has finally decided it's really winter, New England ski areas are looking as good as ever. The recent storm which dumped a foot of snow onto the slopes came from all skiers, both novice and expert, and added a bit of excitement to an afternoon of skiing on the smaller of the two mountain complexes, Spruce Peak. The basicly Southern exposure of the trails on summit Spruce Peak made skiing in only a sweater quite enjoyable.

With two mountains to handle a large number of people, lift lines were seldom longer than 1 to 4 minutes, and at $6 for any day lift tickets, short lines are very much appreciated.

However, Stowe's fame rests on certain other features which would most expert skiers certainly want to take advantage of. First and foremost, the internationally famous trails of the towering Mt. Mansfield. Everyone who skis for a major southeastern ski area is going to be sure to ski Mt. Mansfield. The challenges you look for in a major ski area, whether you are an expert or an intermediate, from the tougher-than-average intermediate trails such as Tyro and Standard, or the classic drops like National and Nose Dive where experts fear to tread, Stowe's Mt. Mansfield is the mainstay of the "Old Capital of the East."

Secondly, and as large a contributor to Stowe's reputation, the 6-mile road that leads from the mountain to the town is packed with a tremendous variety of ski lodges and night spots which make it a favorite for skiers of all ages and abilities.

Opening just this year, Water- ville Valley in northern New Hampshire has made quite a name for itself, offering a variety of trails and slopes, a convenient location, and a reasonable price. But all the publicity that it is such a well-planned area capable of handling 600 skiers per hour is worthless when all attendance records are broken. Last Saturday night over 4600 cars were counted in the lots, and at the base of any lift was often as high as 45 minutes. It is surprising that this was the first time Water- ville Valley has had problems with lines. It is the only one major lift serving the major- ty of the area.

Nevertheless, the snow was excellent, and the trails were well kept up. Lift tickets are $3.50 weekends and $2.50 mid-week, and the driving time from Cambridge to Waterville is sure to become a local favorite of Week- day skiers.

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