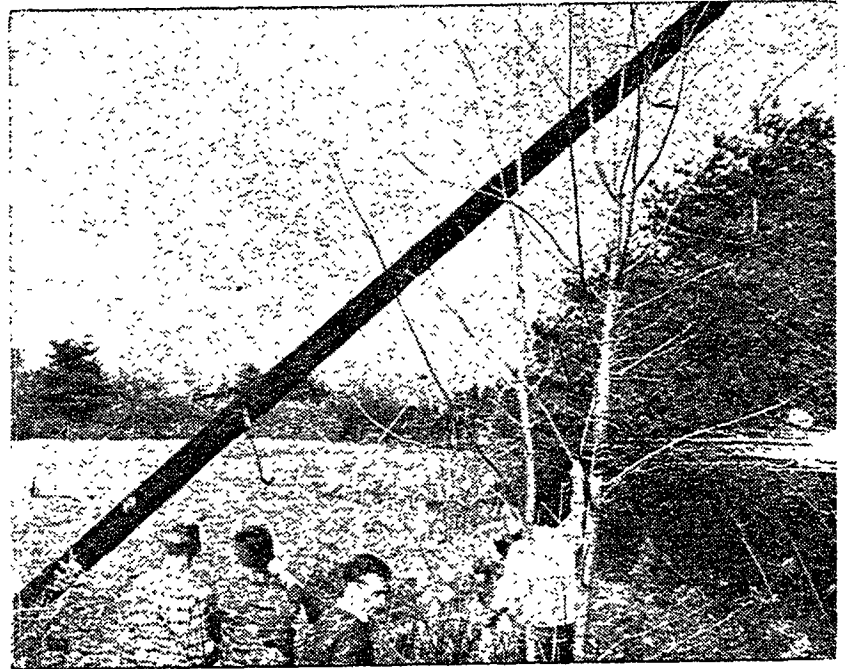


The Progress of a Ski Run



It really all began with the Sproat family. Last year Henry Sproat, a Behrend freshman, and his family acted on an idea which had been ten years in the incubation stage and which was the campaign pledge that elected Hank to the Student Council. The idea was to finally complete construction of a ski run on the hill behind the dorm. The Sproat family planned the course and dug a total of nine holes for poles, which were donated by the telephone company. These poles would be used to mark the course and to support a rope on pulleys, powered by a motor, which would provide a tow up the hill. At the end of the Spring Semester, 1960, the project had not gone any further than the digging of the holes.

On a day in late November, a group of students met at the bottom of the hill to renew the effort; five poles having been hauled to their respective holes by Ward Goldsmith, a member of Behrend's Maintenance Department, earlier that morning. Included in this group was Mike the Red(haired), Bill Swanson, Jack Schickling, Ken Tracy, Gene Nutter, Mr. Thomas, Andy Zawosky, and Bob Martin of Martin's Service Station who volunteered his tow-truck to help lift the poles and set them in position.

The group worked hard and steady on each pole by first raising and propping the pole. Then, having lined the pole up with the edge

of the hole, a chain was tied securely around the upper portion of the pole and, while the students held on to guide ropes, the truck raised the pole up, and down into position. The hole was filled in and, as a finale, Jack Schickling was sent aloft to recover the chain and guide lines for the next pole. So, in like fashion, five poles were erected that afternoon.

Since that time, slow but steady progress has been made. A shack has been towed to the top of the hill to house the three-horse motor which is a battered but well-preserved veteran from the first attempt to construct a ski run, and pulleys have been attached to the poles in anticipation of the tow. All that remains is for the motor

and the rope to be placed and for the copper wire, also donated by the telephone company, to be installed between the power house and the hilltop.

Plans are now being made to organize a ski club among the avid skiers at Behrend to help complete the ski run and support a petition to get an instructor from one of the ski clubs in the Erie area who is only too willing to help any enthusiastic college ski clubs, free of charge. Let us get behind the students who have started this project and, perhaps, by the end of the Christmas holidays, the ski run will be operative and will become the newest attraction and diversion offered the student at Behrend.

