

Sunday release

UMD NEWS SERVICE
RA 4-8801 Ext 210
March 8, 1962

DULUTH--A rarity in collegiate recreational facilities -- a university-owned ski area -- is taken for granted on UMD's modern, mushrooming campus.

Rock Hill lets UMD boast a "backyard ski resort," not at all common among the nation's colleges and universities. UMD skiers can enjoy the scenic Lake Superior view from its crest, one of the highest points in Duluth.

Rock Hill's western slope ideally suits beginning skiers since the last 500 feet of its 800-foot slope drops gently. The first 300 feet are abrupt and present a good test for the advanced beginner or intermediate.

Like other area ski centers, Rock Hill proved virtually useless last winter due to the too-light snowfall. One hour's operation one afternoon lost some \$100; expenses overrode revenue two to one and liability insurance cost \$90.

Now Rock Hill is paying its way. Ed Siggelkow, coordinator of student activities, allows "This apparently is the first year we are going to break even."

Aside from weekday ski classes, the hill is open Wednesday and Friday evenings and weekends for use by the "University family." The rope-tow charge is only 40 cents for the day.

As can be expected, Saturday and Sunday draw best. As many as 76 riders used Rock Hill during a recent Sunday.

UMD's physical education program includes four ski classes for beginners. During the past winter quarter, Instructors Loren Myhre and Mary Young taught fundamentals to more than 80 students, each of whom got 10 class hours on the slope.

No one appears to know how Rock Hill was named. But, before UMD acquired the property, it was a favorite proving ground for ski-minded neighborhood youngsters for many years.

Rock Hill was part of a 13.8 acre parcel of land presented to the University in 1951 by two Duluth realtors, Charles and Gilbert Dickerman, and adjoins the upper campus.

There have been almost constant modifications of the rope tow system since the hill's first season under UMD's wing in 1957. Last winter a new braking device was installed.

Future plans call for a modern ski chalet to replace the warming house near the foot of Rock Hill.