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Characters: 727

Prosper Ski Hill

Prosper Ski Hill was built in 1932 by farmer Rupert Lewis, who considered his ski tow as a winter crop. Lewis scavenged most of the parts needed to have three tows and a jump; the rope was his only expense. Ski instructor Otto Schniebs provided the advice and the Woodstock Electric Co. offered the 15-horsepower motor. His wife Ruth ran the cafeteria in the family home until 1937 when Lewis built the warming cabin with a stone fireplace and concession. About 250 people daily lined up to pay 50¢ for an afternoon or $1 for a full day of skiing. Providing winter income to the farm Lewis worked for more than 60 years, Prosper Ski Hill operated for sixteen seasons in the earliest days of mechanized ski tows.

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