LITTLE SWITZERLAND

Little Switzerland, owned and operated by Ed Herte, was first known as Slinger Hill and had its grand opening on December 7, 1941. There was some new snow and the rope tow had been hooked up to an old Ford truck. It was the only ski hill that operated in this area during the war and attracted many skiers from the Milwaukee area. Mr. Herte found the hill in the summer of 1941. It had been used for motorcycle hill climbs for years. In 1954 he bought the property after leasing it, and since then has been moving earth, rearranging the gullies and kettles, and smoothing out the slopes. Trails have been cut from the woods.

In 1964 Herte installed a unique chairlift. It runs up one side of the hill and down the other. Skiers ride up one side, ski down the other and then repeat the process from the other direction. He also has a network of rope tows and a chalet that keeps growing from its original 20 by 30 foot size. It has a bar, ski shop, cafeteria line, a big fireplace and a ringside view of skiers coming down the main slope. A ski school was started in 1946.

In 1955 he installed one of the country's first snow-making systems. It now consists of three electrical and four diesel compressors and can transform 200 gallons of water per minute into a carpet of snow.

Mr. Herte, a graduate of Marquette University Law School, practiced law for 20 years, and also was in the real estate and building business. He now concentrates on skiing.

SLINGER SPEEDWAY

Slinger Speedway was begun in 1948 by Roland Heder and Bill Johnson, Sr. Midgets only were run until August 1949 when the stock cars took over. Heder bought out Johnson in 1952 and is known in the racing circuit as the "Grandaddy" of short track stock-car racing in Wisconsin.

Since 1955 there have been constant improvements worked on the Speedway, including parking facilities, seating, lights and the sound system. The seating capacity is now approximately for 8000 people. At the beginning there were about 35 cars participating in the events, there are now from 135 to 140 cars racing every Sunday night. The races include modified, sportsmen and amateur cars. The weekly Sunday night shows have been very successful, with the attendance averaging around 4500.
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Won 31 — Lost 0

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