

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

January 19, 1950

A small crowd gathered at the "Creamery Hill" on the southern boundary of Crystal Falls to witness the first ski jumps from the old ski slide since 1943. The wooden structure constructed in 1940 was first used in January 1941. It was an upgrade from a crude wooden ski slide structure erected at Soderman's field in February 1940. Ski jumping was discontinued after the 1943 winter season. Small fry ski jumping tournaments, organized by Billy Carlson and Frank Maskus were held on Benda's Hill in the Kimball Location starting in 1947. In September of 1949 the City of Crystal Falls ordered the removal of the ski jump along with the adjoining shelter building due to its deplorable condition. Following a plea by a group of teen-aged boys the Crystella Winter Sports Club was formed and through the hard work and dedication of many volunteers and donations from local businesses the ski slide along with the shelter was repaired. Don Williams made the maiden jump followed by Tom Maskus. Also testing the hill were youngsters Walt Hagglund, Rich Johnson, Junior Massie, Mickey Olson and Buddy West.