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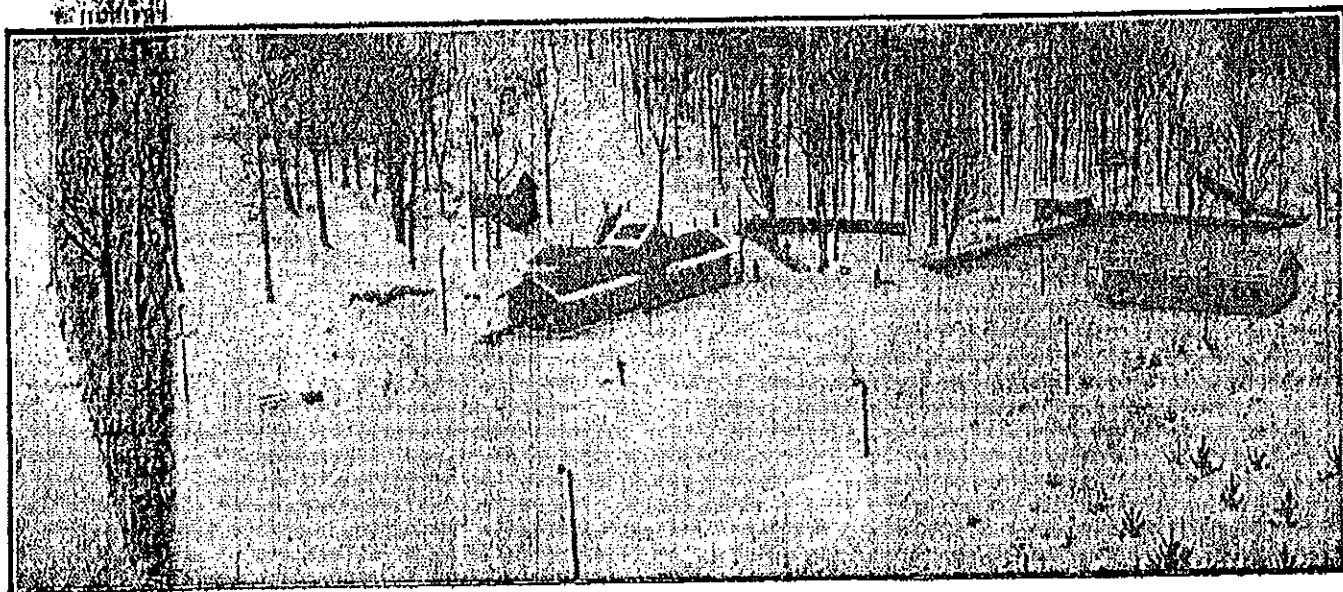
***PETOSKEY WINTER SPORTS HISTORY***

***By***

***Mrs. Ethel R. Fasquelle***

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## PETOSKEY'S WINTER SPORTS PARK



Here is the latest view of Petoskey's Winter Sports Park where the activities of the 1936 Michigan Winter Carnival will be centered. The large rink will be the scene of the the National Amateur Outdoor Ice Speed Skating Championships. Fast hockey games, including a contest between the University of Detroit and the Michigan College of Mining and Technology at Houghton, will be played on the hockey rink at the right. A portion of the toboggan slide can be seen at the right. A story in today's issue of the Evening News tells of how the city first acquired the site for the park.

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### History of Petoskey's Famous Play Place is Explained By Mrs Ethel R. Fasquelle One of This City's Well Known Residents

Few persons who will visit the Petoskey Winter Sports Park during the Michigan Winter Carnival know the history of the plot of ground or the story of how a councilman and a group of women were the moving forces behind its purchase by the city.

From Florida, far from the winter sports of Northern Michigan, today came the tale of the purchase of the park property. Mrs. Ethel Rowan Fasquelle, who is probably better acquainted with the history of Petoskey and this region than any other person, wrote the story to the Evening News.

Here are the facts behind the purchase of the land which later became the site for the finest winter sports park in Michigan, as told by Mrs. Fasquelle.

It was Saturday noon and on the following Monday, many years ago, the men of Petoskey, for it was years before approval of women's suffrage, would cast ballots on a proposal to purchase a certain plot of ground from Captain H. O. Rose to be used as a city park.

The late Charles Beahan was councilman from the second ward and he was the staunchest backer of the project. Since taking office he had worked doggedly to win that park for the city.

"I guess we're going to lose," Mr. Beahan told his wife as they sat down to lunch. "It's discouraging—this trying to get folks to look ahead, to make them realize they must plan for the future. If we don't take the Captain's offer now, we'll never get another chance to get the site at such a good price."

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"It's a pity women can't vote," said Mrs. Beahan, who never missed a chance to boost the suffrage movement.

"I believe the women might put this thing over if they could vote," replied her husband. "You know I'd vote for women's suffrage if I could think of some way to get them to put this thing across."

"I've got an idea—and a good one," answered the wife.

The two talked for a while and then about 3 o'clock that afternoon Mr. Beahan appeared at the Clifton House where the Home Benevolent Association's officers were meeting. As a member of the park committee of the city council, he asked to speak to the women and was granted a few moments.

Now the civic-minded residents of Petoskey were enthusiastic about purchasing the park site at the first opportunity and this seemed to be the logical time. But, as usual, there was an organized group strongly opposed to the plan. The opponents were much more active than the proponents and it seemed as if they would be successful in killing the project while indifference kept the other faction idle.

The women of the Home Benevolent Association were heartily in favor of the purchase but could not see just what they could do in the 40 hours that remained before the opening of the polls. However, they listened to Mr. Beahan.

He presented a petition to the voters of Petoskey and asked the women to sign it as officers of the association. They asked no questions and applied their signatures. Topping the list was the name of Mrs. Anna Kirkland while next came that of Mrs. Selim Darling, first vice president, Mrs. J. A. Rowan was treasurer.

Over Sunday Mr. Beahan drove to Harbor Springs and persuaded a printer to open his shop, run off several hundred handbills and keep the matter a secret.

When Petoskey's residents began to approach the polling booths the Monday morning, they were given neat little handbills bearing the petition of the officers of the Home Benevolent Association to the voters of Petoskey. It asked them to vote for the purchase of the park.

Sentiment began to change and vote after vote was cast for the project until the opposition was snowed under.

The site was purchased and additions were made through gifts from public spirited citizens. For many years a zoo was maintained but all that remains is the wreckage of the bear pen, the foundation of the elk house, and the building now used as a hockey dressing room.

The zoo was discontinued and the park began to decay. Then came the winter sports movement and the site was hit upon as a perfect location. Under the di-

rection of P. T. Mitchell, city manager, the city undertook to build it into a modern, winter sports park. Trees were planted on the bare hills. Rinks were built. Each year something more was added to the equipment until now it stands above all others in the state.

And now, as the greatest winter carnival in the city's history is approaching, let us pay tribute to a councilman and his wife who worked through a group of women to win the park for Petoskey.