

THE BEGINNING OF BIG WHITE SKI RESORT 1962

Giant Ski Development Planned Near Kelowna

1962

Winter sporting activities in the Kelowna area will take a giant step forward as soon as the snow flies here in the winter of 1964.

Main reason for this will be a new ski development area to be known as the Big White Ski Development located on the highest mountain in the Okanagan Valley a few miles from Kelowna.

The project is the brainchild of Doug Mervyn and Cliff Serwa of Kelowna, and has been in the planning stages since 1955.

According to Mr. Mervyn the development, which will cost in excess of \$100,000, will incorporate a chalet of log construction at the 6,200 foot level and a ski-lift over a mile long. The ski area, with a 2,000 foot drop, will have a sunny southern exposure at all times.

The chalet itself will have a panoramic view of the valley, and will be the only one in the Okanagan built at such a level.

Mr. Mervyn points out that

another advantage of the new development is the fact that it incorporates ski-runs for everyone from novices to experts.

Access road construction has already begun following surveys done last winter and again this fall.

Mr. Mervyn feels that the project will be a definite asset to the entire valley. It is not intended to be run in competition with the existing skiing areas in the valley, but rather in co-operation with them to promote the area as a whole as a mecca for winter sports and tourism.

The Big White Ski Development is scheduled for opening in November of 1963 with the season running till May of the following year.

Mayor R. F. Parkinson, noting that paving of the Carmi Road could become part of the overall development, promised Mr. Serwa, who was at council last night, that the city would do all it could to assist the road paving negotiations.