



John Foerster Pauses After a Hard Day's Work Readyng His Sky High Campground
—State Journal Photos

At Baraboo Bluffs Recreation Area

Pasture's Now a Play Field

By ART ANDREWS
(Special to The State Journal)

PORTAGE — Pasture land is being turned into a grassy play field and formerly non-productive woods is now a camping site on a 63-year old farm near here.

Developers of the new commercial camp grounds are a father and son team who have forsaken big-city life for the natural

peace and beauty of the Wisconsin country side.

Panoramic View

John Foerster, a native of Arlington Heights, Ill., and his son, Mike, have taken over a 160-acre farm on top of the Baraboo bluffs just off Interstate Highway 90 in Columbia county.

One of their talking points, in fact, is a panoramic view of the

county from a 600-foot elevation, with I-90 in the foreground and "at night the lighted dome of the state capitol in Madison is easily visible, 30 miles away."

Foerster is a former insurance claims adjuster but now that he is an ardent exponent of Wisconsin country living, such work will be part time, if at all. Mike is a husky teen-ager, looking forward

to attending Portage High school next fall.

A dirt road has been bulldozed through a wooded area on the farm and picnic tables have been installed, as well as outdoor toilets and running water. Deer, fox, pheasants, and other wildlife are present.

Camp Store

Interesting rock formations and granite outcroppings add variety to the landscape and there is a beautiful wooded ravine with many natural springs, Foerster says.

The new recreation area, opening this summer for the first time, is called 'Sky High.'

A barn on the property is being converted to a camp store and recreation hall for rainy days. Windows across one side overlook the Portage area.

About 50 camp sites have been readied now and more are in the making.

"We could have hundreds if we needed them," Foerster said, indicating the available space with a wide sweep of his hand.

He also has built a golf driving range near the entrance to the camp.

Up to Campers

"It has been a lot of work," said Foerster, patting a flat stomach with the palm of his hand, "but I'm in much better physical shape now than when I started. "But the rest remains to be seen. I only hope the campers like it here."

The camp is located ¾ miles west of Interstate Highway 90-94 on Highway 33.



Son, Mike, Builds a Fireplace in One of Sky High's Campsites