

# Portage Daily Register

PORTAGE, WISCONSIN, THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 1963

## Private Camping Area To Be Atop Caledonia

The first privately operated camping area in the Portage vicinity is scheduled to open atop the Caledonia bluffs this summer.

Located on the former Walter Schmidt farm just south of the Cascade Mountain Ski Area, the recreation development will overlook the entire Wisconsin River — Lake Wisconsin area.

"Ski High Portage Recreation Area" has been chosen as the name of the project. The owner, John Foerster, Arlington Heights, Ill., plans to move here soon to begin development in anticipation of opening on a limited basis this summer.

Scenery and sightseeing rank as the most popular attractions to Wisconsin tourists, Foerster noted, and the view from the campsite is almost unparalleled in the entire region.

The Schmidt farm of 160 acres offers several natural attractions, which fit into Foerster's plans for the long range development of an eventual year-round recreation area. The area has granite outcrops, a spring and a picturesque glen. He is hopeful of creating a hiking trail through the glen to view the natural landscape.

Other projects under consideration as part of the overall planning include a wildlife and fish pond, picnic area, possible motel or cabin units and a swimming pool.

Camping areas will include a small fireplace, picnic table, water and rest room facilities. Space for camping trailers is also planned.

Foerster's planned camping area will be the first in the Portage area and one of few in Columbia county. Promotion will be

necessarily limited this year but he hopes to be in full operation for the 1964 camping season.

Camping has surged in popularity in just the past few years as an economical means of taking a family vacation, well evidenced in this area by the overflowing campers at the Devils Lake and Rocky Arbor state parks. The accessibility from Ski High to varied recreational opportunities in the two county Yellow Thunder Trail region, coupled with the convenient access from I 90-94 were all factors considered in selecting the Caledonia site.

A Chicago insurance adjuster, Forester plans to move here with his wife and two children, a son, 16 and a daughter, now a junior in college. He will reside at the Ski-High site.