



## TELLS HOW TO BUILD ICE SKATING RINKS

The following from H. L. Woolhiser, village manager of Winnetka, on the construction of ice skating rinks, will be of particular interest to many readers of WINNETKA TALK, at this particular season:

"Upon the advent of cold weather the Village office received numerous requests from residents of the village for the services of the Fire Department equipment in flooding small skating rinks on private property, but such requests have had to be refused, principally on the ground that fire hydrants and fire hose are primarily for the purpose of fire protection, and that were they employed for other uses, the standard of fire protection in the village would be reduced. Were such a request granted in the case of a single individual, the matter would not be serious, but any service rendered to a single individual must be made available to the general public, and the result would be that a very considerable amount of time and equipment would be used for a purpose outside of the proper service to which this equipment is devoted.

### Spray Before Flooding

"In this connection, it should be pointed out that it is perfectly feasible to construct a fair-sized rink for the use of small children, in a private yard, with the use of an ordinary garden hose and without the necessity of using a large amount of water. In fact, the flooding of an area with a considerable amount of water, unless such area is depressed or surrounded by a bank of sand or other material, and under laid with an impervious strata of clay, will not produce satisfactory results. This is because heavy flood-

ing will draw the frost out of the ground, and the water will partially flow away, before the body of water is changed to ice, thus leaving an air space under the ice which will allow it to break down and spoil the surface for skating.

"A very satisfactory surface can be secured on a plot of ground, not necessarily level, and without banks other than snow, by clearing the area thoroughly of loose snow, and then spraying with a garden hose, with small quantities of water applied successively, being allowed to freeze after each application.

### Scrape to Get Surface

"After the first two or three applications by spraying the surface should be scraped with a snow shovel to remove small obstructions and rough spots and then again sprayed successively, until a smooth skating surface is secured. A very few minutes are required for the spraying process, on a rink even of fair size, and if this is done in the evening, good results can be secured even when the thermometer is not lower than 20 degrees F.

"Care should be taken in using this method not to flood the area to such an extent that the frost is taken from the ground, or that the surplus water runs to a low point in the area, and there accumulates to a depth of an inch or more. If this happens, this water will be partially absorbed, before it freezes solid, and the surface will break down, because of an air space underneath.

"This method has been used by the Park board in providing a fair sized rink at the Indian Hill park, with very satisfactory results, and similar results can be secured by any householder on a smaller scale, by the use of an ordinary garden hose, attached to a laundry connection inside the basement."



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