

Ski Valdez

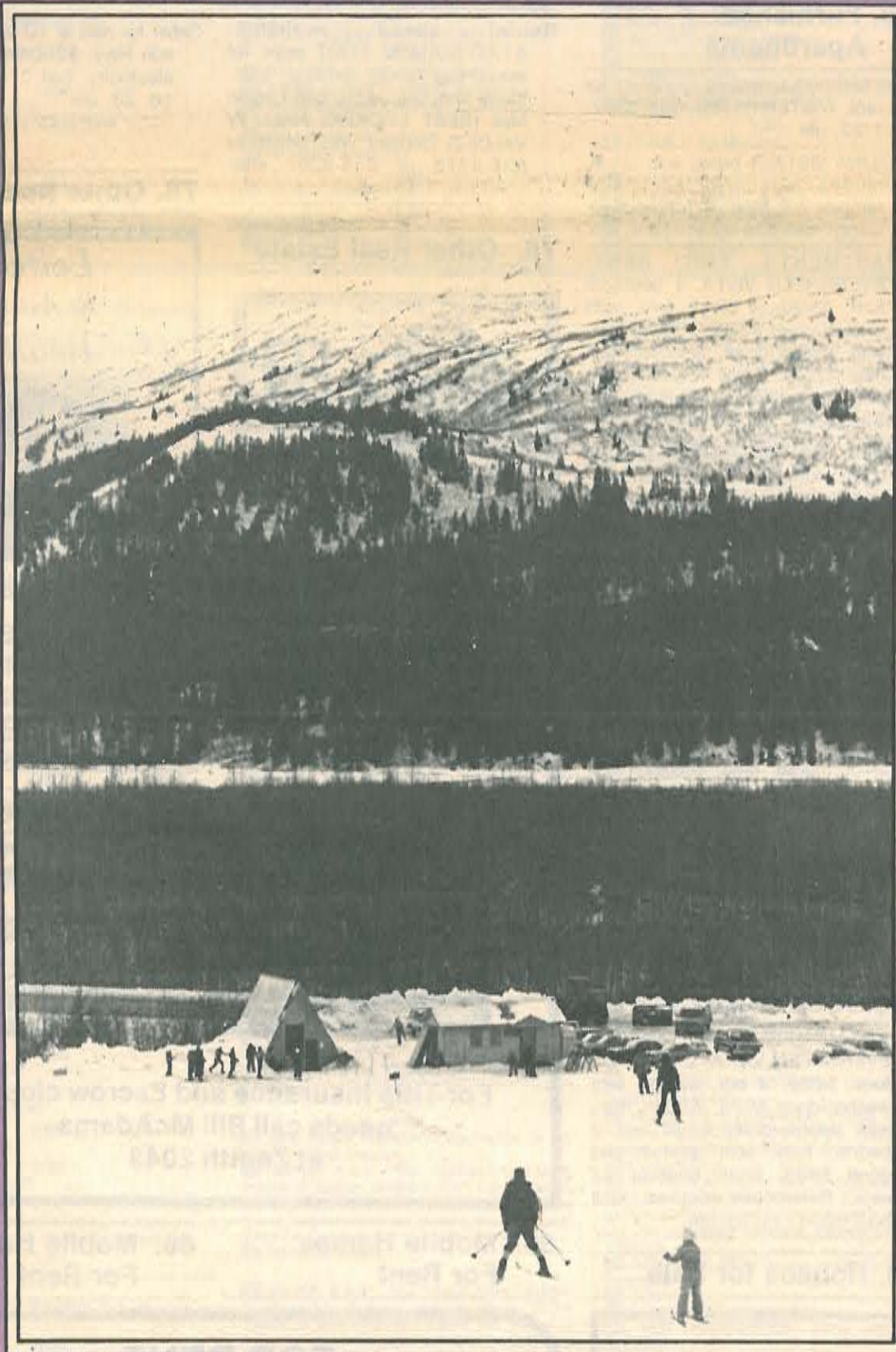
More than 40 skiers, of every age and ability, showed up Sunday for opening day of Valdez' ski hill. The pommel lift was running 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Sunday and noon-4 p.m. Monday. According to Parks and Recreation Director Steve Weber, the first day went smoothly. The skiers present Sunday seemed to agree. Weber said seven more pommels will be added to the lift this week to bring the total up to 20 and should help ease lift lines. Barring uncooperative weather or mechanical problems, the hill will be operating 10 a.m.-4 p.m. each weekend. Hours may be extended as the daylight increases, Weber said. The first major special event for the hill will be March 23 when the Great Salmonberry Ridge Go For It Blue Streak Skiing and Sledding Races are staged.



Sometimes getting up the hill requires a little help from your friends.



Brian Teale practices his telemark turn on cross country skis.



A clear day and bright skies greeted skiers Sunday afternoon.



John Tongen and son Jason size up the hill.



John Weiland lends a hand at the pommel lift.

Vanguard photos by Keith Searles