

It's all downhill...

A bruise which makes me shift my weight to the right side of the chair, Monday morning is a painful reminder of the foolhardiness of trying to recover lost youth.

A bump at the bottom of a sled hill left the mark. The same bump launched a plastic disc which the kids were riding for a short airborne trip. "It's like flying," my son told me. Like crashing too.

24 day on the slopes isn't a weekend in Aspen.

The closest thing to apres-ski is a wagon which sells hot chocolate. No lifts or tows get you back to the top of the hill, but someone usually digs out a row of holes in the snow to improve the footing.

But the skiing crowd is really doing the same kind of thing: sliding down a hill just for the fun of it.

Kids accept the principle, and don't get pretentious about how it is accomplished.

The eldest daughter found out the seat of her snowpants worked pretty well.

There is a whole class of improvised sledging equipment.

Garbage can lids, pieces of cardboard, boards and old pieces of plastic all work pretty well, each with their unique characteristics.

The big commercial equipment used to be a sled or toboggan. Today toymakers have studied the use of the garbage can lid and turned out plastic and aluminum "saucers."

You can buy a rolled up piece of heavy plastic for a couple of bucks which works a lot like a piece of cardboard.

Other things that look kind of like plastic surfboards were obviously inspired by the pine board crowd.

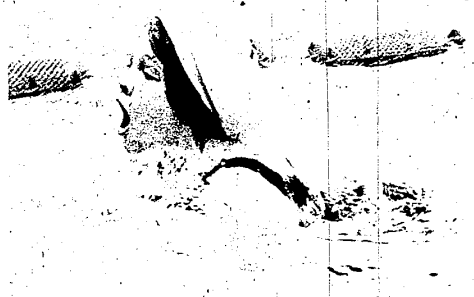
Sometimes this seems kind of silly, buying all these plastic imitations of stuff kids used to use, because they couldn't afford a sled. But parents like to spend money, and kids like slide down a hill. It kind of gets them together.

Watch the fathers at the end of the day. Teetering on the kids' sled, just to try it once.

"Twice, I saw these middle-aged escapists try the slopes, whipping down the slope. A bump would launch them into the air."

When they landed, 200 pounds flattened the runners, and the deck splintered as the ride ended in a pile of debris and bruised ego.

The kids didn't look too unhappy. I think they wanted a new sled anyway.



MICHIGAN STINGRAYS sanctioned an "A" meet over the weekend at Harrison High. There were 32 clubs represented at the meet, with 2,000 entries in 64 events. There are about 150 swimmers from the Farmington area in the Stingrays. Coaches Mark Hplbridge and Ron Cole work with the swimmers during the week at Farmington and Harrison high schools. Pauline Welch swims for the Royal Oak Penguins.

Farmington Calendar

- BLUE STAR**
Thursday, Jan. 17, at 1 p.m. The Blue Star mothers will meet at the home of Mrs. June Koehler. 23020 Mayfield.
- CARD PARTY**
Thursday, Jan. 17, at 7:30 p.m. there will be a card party for the Trinity Shrine at the Masonic Temple, Farmington and Grand River.
- PAPER DRIVE**
Friday, Jan. 18, and continuing over the weekend, Farmington High students are sponsoring a paper drive. Papers are being collected at the school parking lot for the fund-raiser.
- SWEETHEART BALL**
Saturday, Jan. 25, the Farmington Neighbors club will have their Sweetheart Ball dinner dance, beginning at 8 p.m., in the Holiday Inn. Reservations only.
- STONY HOUR**
Tuesday, Jan. 29, at 10 a.m., the story hour at the Farmington District Library for pre-schoolers begins, at the branch at 2333 Farmington Rd. Registration is now taking place by phone, for four or five-year-olds not attending kindergarten. The child must be able to stay with the story teller unaccompanied by a parent.
- SKI BUS**
Saturdays, at 8:30 a.m., the ski bus leaves the Farmington Community Center for all-day skiing, tows and a lesson. All age groups and levels of experience are welcome.

Oster to stand trial on murder charge

By JACKIE KLEIN

SOUTHFIELD
Ronald Oster, charged with the New Year's Eve stabbing death of a Farmington youth, has been bound over to Oakland County Circuit Court for trial. He is being held without bond on an open charge of murder.

Oster, 26 of Livonia was remanded to Oakland County Jail by Southfield 46th District Judge Clarence Reid after three days of preliminary examination.

Oster is charged with the slaying of Alan Goodman, 16, of Farmington, after a fight at a New Year's party in the Southfield home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kohn. The Kohns, of Jeanette St. were out of town when the party was held by the couple's three daughters.

Diane Kohn, 22, Oster's girlfriend, testified Goodman and Oster fought over her at the party. She said after the tussle that she saw Oster wipe blood off a knife and telephone police.

Defense attorney Thomas Plunkett termed Goodman a "six foot - five belliose pugilist who struck the first blow." He claimed the issue of self defense was clear and the slaying was justifiable homicide.

"Half of the guests at the party didn't realize Goodman had been stabbed. Ron didn't run or throw the knife away, and he called the police. Is that premeditated murder? Ron never met Goodman before. There was no malice aforthought."

Sheldon claimed when Oster learned Goodman was dead he said: "That's not bad news. See my lawyer."

"Does this sound like a man who committed passionate manslaughter?" Oster called police, said "murder," wiped off his knife and washed his shirt. He lied about his involvement in the fight.

"The defendant wasn't high on drugs or intoxicated. He took a knife out of his pouch, used it and Goodman died. The coroner testified he died of five stab wounds."

Reid said the minor injury above the eye sustained by Oster failed to justify self defense. He said the defendant and the murder victim both started the fight.

It is up to a jury to decide if Oster is guilty of murder in the first or second degree, Reid said. Oster will be arraigned on the information Jan. 24 before Oakland County Circuit Judge John O'Brien.

Snow slows the 'special'

FARMINGTON
Although the two cab companies offering the Wednesday senior special for Farmington senior citizens had only eight calls on the first day, Mrs. Marie Faunce isn't discouraged.

Mrs. Faunce, president of the senior drop - in center in the Masonic Temple, waged a long battle to get better transportation for her group.

"I wouldn't judge by the first try," she said. "It was bad weather and only 19 people showed up for our meeting. Normally we have about 50 on Wednesdays."

"I have been talking about this thing for months. So many people who would like to get to the community center for all those lovely classes don't have transportation.

The cab companies, Suburban Checker Cab and Livonia Yellow Cab, are running the special one - day - a week on a pilot basis. Seniors may ride anywhere in the city for 50 cents.

Student wins drawing prize

FARMINGTON
Michael McIntock of Farmington has won \$50 for placing first among all ninth grade students who entered the Michigan Hot Rod Assn.'s Autorama drawing contest.

He is a student at O. E. Dunkel Junior High School. His drawing will be exhibited along with those of other winners and runners - up Jan. 18 - 20 at the annual Autorama Custom Car Show at Cobo Hall.

Hit and run driver caught

FARMINGTON
Daniel W. Rolfe, 32½ Joy Rd., Westland, pleaded guilty in district court to charges of leaving the scene of a personal injury accident and failure to stop.

Rolfe was apprehended after he left the scene of an accident after his car collided with the rear of a car driven by Lillian C. Jack, 17, of 2398 Brookplace, at the intersection of Farmington Rd. and Lakespur.

Miss Jack's passenger, Lynn Keen, 15, of 3156 Rockcrest, was injured in the crash.

According to police accounts, Rolfe allegedly left the scene "at a high rate of speed," and was arrested shortly after the accident.

Sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 24 before Judge Michael Hand.

Visit Parks

Oakland County residents frequently visit Stony Creek Metropark near Rochester, Marshbank Metropark near Keego Harbor and Kennington Metropark near Milford.

Neighbors club holds ball

FARMINGTON
The Farmington Neighbors Club will hold a Sweetheart Ball dinner - dance Jan. 26 at Holiday Inn on 10 Mile Rd. Cocktails will be served from 7 to 8 p.m., dinner at 8 p.m. and dancing will be from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Music will be by the Joe Stark orchestra.

Cost will be \$27 per couple and attendance by reservation only.

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