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More People Should Enjoy This Snow - Blessed Winter

A trip into neighboring Crawford county the past week-end would convince almost anyone that we are living in the midst of one of the state's best winter recreation areas.

At the Snow-Bowl near Gays Mills the slopes were dotted with dozens of skiers and the rope tow was working overtime carrying still more to the top of the hill. A couple of miles away, near Bell Center, snowmobiles skimmed across the snow as dealers in this fast-growing gadget showed their wares and hundreds came to watch.

After several seasons of sparse snowfall, southwestern Wisconsin has been blessed with the kind of stuff that makes for winter recreation—lots of what old-timers called "the beautiful."

The thought that crossed our mind during visits to the Snow-Bowl and the Bell Center snowmobile "fun day" was that hundreds of residents of this area, particularly young folk, do not take advantage of the wholesome outdoor fun of winter. Scores of hills that would make great ski or toboggan runs lie trackless. Farm homes with beautiful slopes behind the barn were untouched by a sled runner.

What's the matter with young people today that they don't get out in the snow? One doesn't even need the money to buy a toboggan. A piece of tin will do.

Maybe we've had too many snowless winters to get the younger generation interested in learning to ski and to make their own toboggan slides and jumps. Maybe many of us parents have failed to instill in our kids the joys of skimming down a snowy slope with the wind in one's face and the heart pounding with the thrill of it.

It was good to see so many skiers at Gays Mills, and so many people interested in the snowmobiles. But the surface hasn't been scratched. Hundreds of youngsters aren't taking advantage of what winter has to offer. And it's a shame.

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