



A boy and his grandfather check their ice fishing lines on Robinson Lake in Newaygo County.

His skis and pole all askew, a novice skier trudges back up a slope at Newaygo County park.

Girls squeal with the thrill of sliding down toboggan chute at Newaygo County Winter Sports Park.

Newaygo County Parks and Lakes Provide Outdoor Fun in Winter

By MARLENE SCHUITMAN

FREMONT—Whether the winter outdoor sports enthusiast finds fun in skiing, skating, tobogganing, snowmobiling or fishing, all of this can be found in Newaygo County.

The Newaygo County Winter Sports Park and Branstrom Park in Fremont provide facilities to make any outing an enjoyable occasion, and lakes in the area are providing excitement for the fishermen.

Located on Highway M 37, 45 miles northeast of Muskegon, or north of Newaygo and south of White Cloud, the Newaygo County Sports Park is open from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. with qualified attendants on duty.

Two ice toboggan runs extend more than a quarter mile down a steep hill, with enough bumps to make the ride breathtaking. A powerful rope tow assists with the return

climb. Toboggans have been clocked at 60 to 70 miles per hour before coasting to a stop.

Ski runs are available for the beginner and experienced skiers. A rope tow provides more time for actual skiing. A lighted skating rink near the shelter house is available for use whenever the park is in operation.

Four marked snowmobile trails start at the park and fan out through some of the most scenic parts of West Michigan's "Little Switzerland." The warming house and lunch room stay open until midnight on weekends for snowmobilers.

Off-the-highway parking, a warming shelter and a lunch room are included in the park facilities. Toboggans are available for rent.

Good restaurants, hotels and motels close by make the park an attractive place to spend a fun-filled weekend.

The sports park is maintained and operated by the Newaygo County Department of Parks. For information on ski and toboggan run conditions phone the park office, 652-2812.

Branstrom Park, located at Fremont's north city limits, is operated by the City of Fremont. It has supervised hours during the weekend, and is available for private chaperoned parties on weekday evenings. The park provides supervised hours on Friday from 6:30 to 10 p.m., Saturday from 1 to 10 p.m., and on Sunday from 1 to 9 p.m. During these hours the lodge is open.

A hill with breath-taking bumps provides fun for sleds, inner tubes and saucers. Skiers are also attracted to try their skills on the hills at Branstrom.

The ice pond is new this year and is located on the Little League baseball field. The city budgeted \$1,000 this year to make ice skating available.

There are two toboggan runs with one in operation at a time. A tow rope makes the uphill climb a bit easier. Jack Geeting is in charge of the supervision at Branstrom.

For the snowmobile enthusiasts, Brohman has drag races on weekends. Many area snowmobilers find the miles of public land in the Loda Lake area very inviting. In addition to the marked trails at the winter sports park, there are also marked trails in the Bittely area.

A snowmobile club has been formed here with membership presently numbering 60 families from Fremont and the surrounding areas. They call themselves the Fremont Sno-Packers. They have erected a lodge in the Loda Lake area located in Beaver Township.

The Brooks and Bills lakes, the Cedar Pond and Muskegon River are producing excitement

for the fishermen with brown trout up to 12 pounds taken by fishermen.

Conservation officer E. D. Schwartz reported that Robinson, Long, Hess, Diamond and Kimball lakes are producing pretty fair purfishing with catches of bluegills, specks and perch.

Shanty spearing fishing is expected to increase in popularity very shortly.

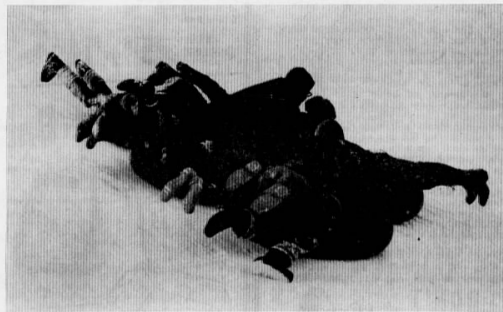
The state park at White Cloud is now open for year around camping with the service building wintered. The state park is ideally located, especially for the snowmobilers, as it is within seven miles of marked trails for snowmobilers, and is very close to unlimited acreage on national forest lands.

Newaygo County invites all sports enthusiasts to participate in the fun it offers.

The Sunday Chronicle REGIONAL

Muskegon, Michigan
Sunday, February 21, 1971

Page 32



Youngsters pile up on truck inner tubes to slide down hill at Fremont's Branstrom Park. (Photos by Paul Burk)



Snowmobile enthusiasts drive the trails of Newaygo County park.

They come from all over west central Michigan.



One of the most popular sports at Branstrom Park in Fremont is the

lodge fireplace where youngsters can offset the cold.