

Sliding hills, sledding & toboggan hills, slides of Brainerd, Minn.-chronology & review (non-Ski Jumps/Ski Slides):

NOTE: On 3/25/2018 Andy Walsh posted a thread on Sledding Hills in Brainerd. In the ensuing days, I have become aware of MANY other hills I did not frequent as a kid. On 3/28/18 I have integrated ALL know hills into this old 2012 Sliding Hills of Brainerd list. Keep posted...many updates to come, no doubt. The latest revision date will be noted as "UPDATED" at the bottom of the page. I am also now including location photos as I get them. Send in your photos or Google Earth images!

Author's note, 5/21/2012: This started out to be just a historical listing of all the sliding hills I could remember as a kid, or find in written accounts. But then I was having so much fun reminiscing I decided to include a technical "review" of some of the hills that I used to frequent. Maybe the sport will see a resurgence in popularity, and this will be highly sought-after information! I also realized that we really DO have a good selection of dandy sliding hills here in little ol' Brainerd! This is helped by the fact we are on a 60' high plateau over the river, and we have a lot of natural BIG holes scattered about, such as the Big Sev, on SEVenth St. Too bad we can't take one, such as the Boom Lake hill, and add a rope tow and do it up right! They did it 125 years ago, just hadn't invented the rope tow yet! If you have some thoughts to add, please send them on in! Keep in mind most of these hills the reader is leaning of here, have been used by FAR more generations of kids than you can imagine. Here is everything you need to know about sliding hills here, but didn't know who to ask!

Technicalities: Most names of the more popular hills have stayed the same in the half-century I know of...such as Pig Pen, Pump House and the Big Sev. But some have changed a bit, such as what we called Daredevil some later called Dead End. Also, there are several "Pump House" hills, and at least 4 pump houses I know of; 2 sewage pumping stations and 2 water pumping stations. So some pump poop, and some pump water, but all are called pump houses. For the purpose of clarity, I'll name each by location AND type. For those chiming in here or on Andys site, please let us know which pump house you refer to and give a location. If you say Fred's Hill, tell us where it is, and who Fred is if you know! I am also integrating sliding and toboggan slides from the start. Back in our early years, tobogganing was a BIG thing! As early as 1886 there was a **Brainerd Toboggan Club**. There were many "toboggan slides" around town, and some had warming houses and collected fees for maintenance. The earliest I can find was in 1885 at the "foot of Fourth. It was 12' wide and 150' long, and they cleared the ice on the river as a landing spot...and it was lighted! Try THAT today! Can you believe in 1886 one was built of wood and was 2 blocks long, right in downtown Brainerd? One shot down one way 2 blocks, then climbed the other for the ride back! It is included in this list as Front Street Toboggan Slide. By 1917 some were called Toboggan Chutes and were iced, 250' long attaining speeds of 60 MPH! We have good information on these ancient hills, but newspaper accounts were a bit vague on the exact location. I'd like to pinpoint all of these, and see how many are still being used! Thanks to Ann M. Nelson's Special Features section on the [CWCHS website](#) for this early information.

Locations are highlighted in green. Questions in red.

The List:

-Akre's Hill: 9th St. & Bluff Ave.

[Kitty Riggs](#) MP how about behind Akre's on 9th & Bluff.

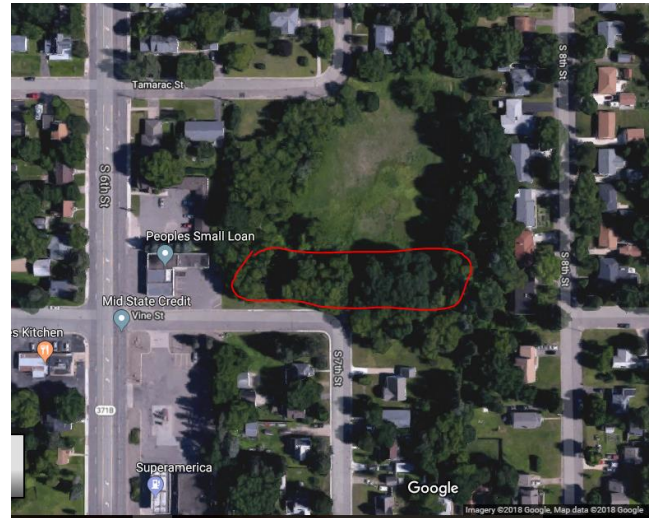
[Mary Pat Grigsby](#) [Kitty Riggs](#) oh that's the one I was thinking of. [Fert Faust](#), I got it wrong it was 9th and Bluff. [Mary Doran Riggs](#), I used to go watch Rick and John play basketball at [Akre's](#).

[Kitty Riggs](#) We use to sled behind Tuzie Schaefer's & Russ Akre's & Hunts. At the end of North 9th & Bluff. The hills sloped down from behind Preston's all the way past Hunts. About a block long or more as there were several dips. It all ended close to

the Mississippi. Really went fast if you had a waxed cardboard box... worked better than some sleds. Spent all day sliding. Bread bags on your feet inside your boots. Always red wrists where the jacket/vs mittens didn't meet. FUN for sure.

WAY more Akre's to come!

-Big Sev, The: Bordered by S. 6th & 8th, and Tamarac & Vine Sts. The runs start in line with Vine St. at about 7th. This is still/2012 an active sliding hill in Brainerd, called "The Big Sev" as it is on 7th St. (I have heard it called the Big Sieve, pronounced "siv," but it's not a strainer. Maybe because it is a big bowl it looks like a sieve, but we called it SEV, as in short for SEVenth St.) In fact, the only one that I know of that is used now by the masses, aside from Trinity Lutheran. This is a weird hole in the middle of 7th St., with no apparent inlets or outlets or signs of a swampy area, and takes up a whole block from Tamarac to Vine Sts. N-S, and is a block-wide E-W. Maybe there's a meteor in there! There is a run on the north end that is steeper, and on the north is a less steep, but twice as long run. On the SW side, there are several luge runs set up, lots of bumps, fast, dangerous, and peppered with trees on both sides...awesome! Here is where I felt like I'm doing a review on sliding hills! I did this run in about 2009, and little did I know that since 1968 apparently, the kids have set up an earthen berm at the bottom that will send you flying 10 feet...UP, and out! I have not been sliding since, and yes, it's a killer. It wouldn't kill 'em to put up a warning sign.



-Boom Lake Hill (1941-?): AKA (Water) Pump House Hill. This started about at the site of the earlier Ski Jump. Walk in at the intersection of Park & Pennsylvania Sts. now part of Kiwanis Park. Although I lived in this general area, at that time I was about out of the sliding phase, until I later brought my kids there. There are certainly still deep-cut toboggan runs still visible, and I can't understand how the kids in the vicinity have not rediscovered them! When I lived in the area I did use them as a motorcycle hill climb. To easily see them, just park in the south parking lot of Kiwanis Park, and stand on the paved trail in that huge open area. It's big enough to support a baseball diamond, and in 2012 is being considered as the new Skate Park. It is the landing spot for 2 runs. Looking east uphill you'll spot the main run, which is just about 20' S of the middle pilings of the old Ski Jump at its top. When I say deep cut, I mean like 6' deep, so you can't possibly wander out of them. This run is also part of the 1980's exercise trail, now long ago vandalized like most everything else nice in this town, and grown over. It is south of the Ski Jump run by several hundred feet. There is another to its south, and from here you can also spot what's left of the Water Dept's steps, which led down to who knows what in the middle of that field, perhaps a well-house. From that same middle Ski Jump piling area, there are distinct runs going NW, and the northernmost one lands just yards south of the brewery site, all longer but less steep. I believe some of these deep runs are remnants of the Toboggan Runs made by the Brainerd Toboggan Club in 1941. *(See Special Features below). The best way to see all of the runs is to park at the top of the hill, by the curb at the corner of Park St. & Pennsylvania Ave. It is an easy walk in with little tall grass due to foot traffic. The path will lead you right to 5 of the Ski Jump pilings, and all of the runs are within feet of this area.



-Broadway Hill, South: See the reference below, 1930/2/9. This may be one in the same as The Big Sev, as Broadway (8th) is on its east side. The only other place it might have been being on that little pothole between Rosewood and Lake, now 3 big apartment units.

-Buffalo Hills: [Marc Mull](#) Buffalo Hills. Where in Buffalo Hills did you slide?

-Burton's Hill: Mentioned in this thread, it was behind Jan Burton's house on **Terrace Ave., about in line with 11th St. >>>**

-Camp Jim: [Kathy Deutsch](#) Big sev or French Rapids. The run at camp Jim was good too. **Camp Jim Rd., AKA Hardy Lake Rd. or Cty. 36**

-Cemetery Hill: **Evergreen Rd. south of the cemetery.**

I don't recall any kids ever sliding here, unless it was on the south side of the road off of the pavement. No doubt that after a good snowfall it would make a dandy run, albeit a bit dangerous on a roadway!
Cemetery Hill photo by Stan Wood. >>>

-Daredevil Hill: **On the corner of N. 1st & Juniper.** This is a hill that was only available to "the big kids". Little twerps were not allowed by the big kids, as it was too dangerous. We had to go sneak over there on the sly. One look at the hill brought us back to Pig Pen Hill. Daredevil was right behind where now stands that big modern-looking house with the skylight dome on that corner, but of course, the new house is taking up the good parts of the hill. I believe the owner that lived next to it was Jeff Strowbridge's folks. He was about 2 years older than me, and the keeper of the hill. In more modern times kids called this something else, Dead End I think.



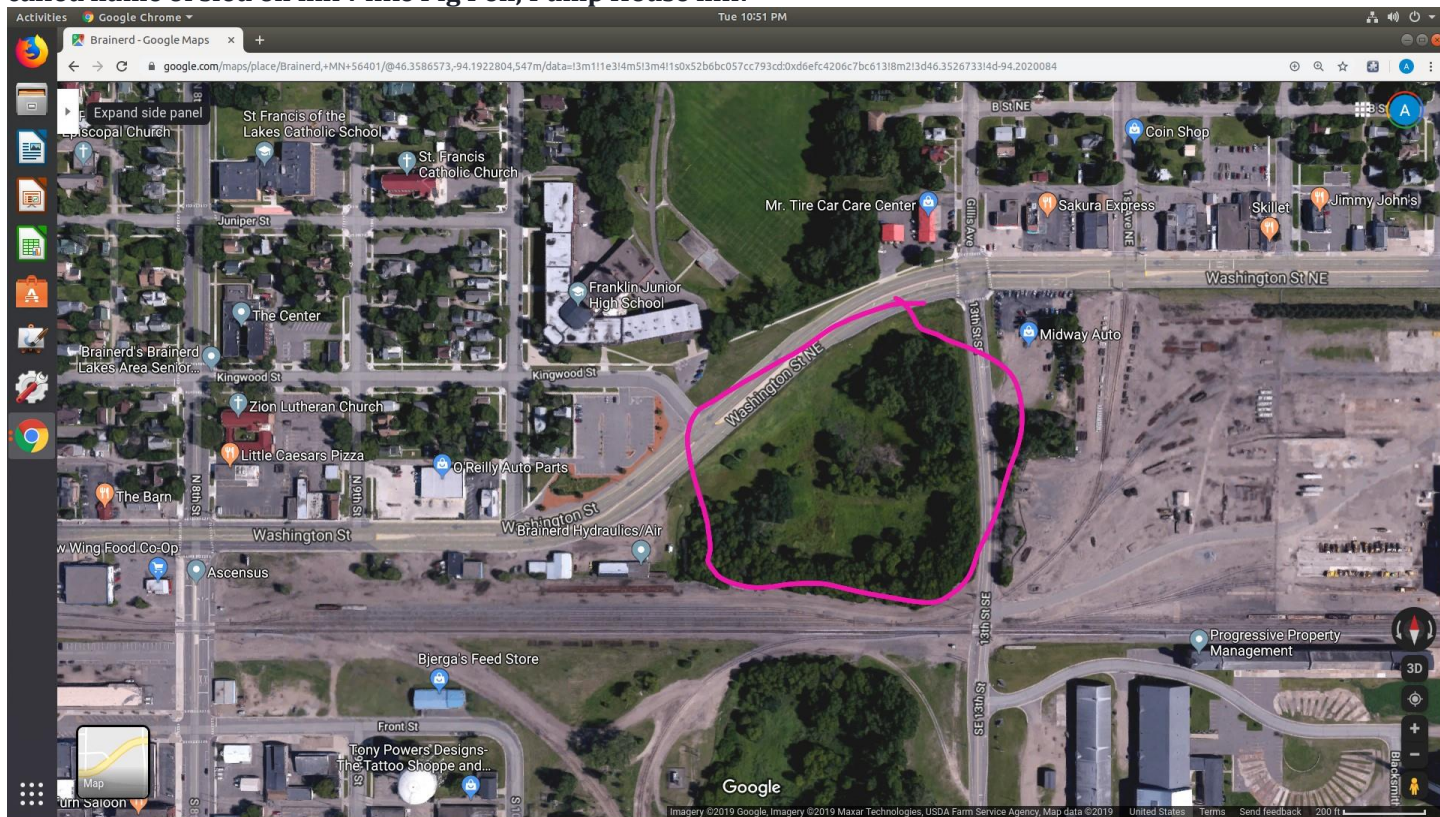
-Dead End Hill: See Daredevil Hill.

-Dead Man's Hill: 10/23/2019: [Faye Knickmeier](#) We used to go down **Dead Man's Hill** in back of cemetery, in the middle 50's.

-Dondelinger's Hill: [Andy Walsh](#) [Fert Faust](#) River Hills Circle Hill that where Two miles north of papermill on mississippi river. Donedlinger's Hill 2 house on left from water pump house on Hill on 7th no.

-East Brainerd Bridge Hill: west end of the East Brainerd bridge-1895

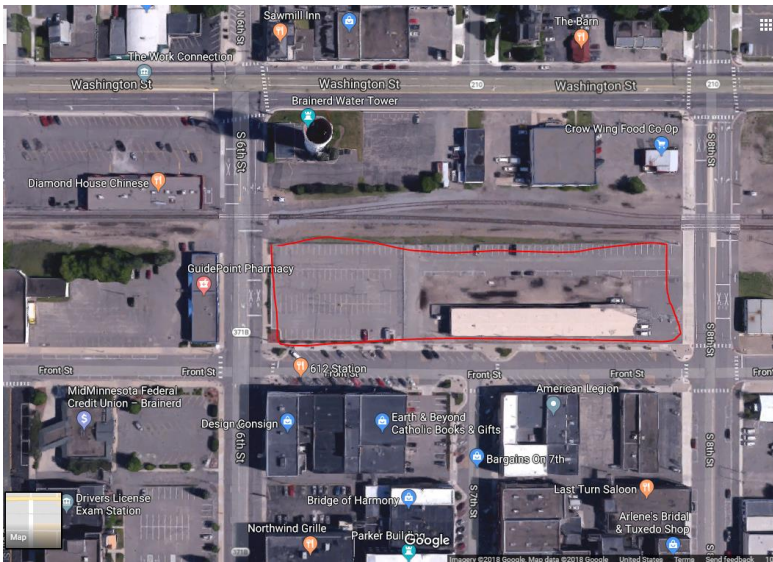
-Fill Hill: [Andy Walsh](#), Admin · 1 hr (10/23/2019) I heard someone stories that they used go sled on hill across from Mr tire and Midway used auto sale on 13 S,E and washington st corner in past time.. i just curious what they called name of sled on hill ? like Pig Pen, Pump House hill.



-Fourth St. Hill (north): **Foot of Fourth street, north.** (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 16 January 1885, p. 3, c. 7) A party of the elite of the town took the toboggan slide by storm on Thursday evening, and enjoyed the pleasure until 11 o'clock, after which the party repaired to C. E. Smith's residence, on Fourth street, where refreshments were served. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 30 January 1885, p. 3, c. 2) It is kind of ancient and may have been forgotten after a house was built there.

-French Rapids: **West of the airport.** I remember this only as a small ski hill with a rope tow, which we used now and then. This may have been before Ski Gull, which also had a rope tow...hard on gloves. If the ski jump was still there, it may have been on the other side of the hill, or I was too young to go on it, or I was old enough but chicken. There may have been a sliding hill as well, or on second thought, maybe we just went sliding here and did not ski, so that would have made quite a sliding hill to have a rope tow! [Kathy Deutsch](#) Big sev or French Rapids. The run at camp Jim was good too.

-Front St. Toboggan Slide*: See the newspaper article, **between 6th & 8th Sts. (1886-1887?)** See newspaper clip. **Brainerd Dispatch 1886/12/17**, p. 4, c. 3. Thanks to John Van Essen for finding this great clip! -2012 >>>



Toboggan Slide and Ice Rink.
 The toboggan club of this city decided at a meeting at the Villard hotel Wednesday evening to build a grand slide on the railroad land in front of the Sleeper block. The slide will be 680 feet in length, extending from Sixth to Eighth streets, with two tracks, one running each way. The starting point at the slide is at an elevation of 32 feet running down an incline about 120 feet before it strikes the level surface, which will give velocity enough to the toboggans to send them the entire length of the slide at a speed that will suit the most fastidious of sliders. The tracks will be iced by water from the hydrants adjacent, and which Mr. Kindred kindly gives the club the use of free. In the centre of the enclosure an ice rink will be constructed which will have a skating surface of 90x500 feet. The prominent location of these outdoor sports right in the centre of the city is a very desirable feature and the success of the enterprise is apparent. The contract for putting up the slide was let to Ed. Mahan Wednesday evening for \$360 and he has already got the work well under way, he having agreed to have it completed in one week, so by the time the DISPATCH reaches its many readers next week it will be in full operation. The use of the park is given by the railroad company free of cost. Ed. Hazen, Joe Cohen, Fred Parker, F. M. Cable and Geo. Mahan were appointed as a committee to solicit honorary members and we understand that many of our citizens have put their names to the roll. These members will have the same rights at the slide and rink as active members and will be accommodated with the same railroad rates to the Ice Palace carnival at St. Paul should they desire to attend. Tobogganing and ice skating will be the popular sport in Brainerd this winter and old and young are catching onto the enthusiasm with a wonderful rapidity.

Zapffe, Carl, 1946 Brainerd, Diamond Jubilee, pg. 53, par. 3:

During 1886 to 1889, the young folks maintained a Toboggan Club. In that decade there were no buildings on the railroad right of way south of the tracks between First and Tenth streets. This club was given permission to use the part **between Sixth and Eighth** for winter sports. Visualize now no freight depot and no Baehr Building [earlier the "Hobo Park" area, NE corner of S 6th & Front Sts.] and in their places two wooden-structure toboggan slides. One started on the Sixth Street end and let the toboggan run eastward. The other started on the Eighth Street end and made possible the return trip. Between the two slides was an ice rink. For awhile tobogganing was done on the hill where now the St. Joseph Hospital is [Pig Pen Hill]; that required no prepared structure and the ride ended on the west [east, no doubt?] side of the river. Later, say thirty years ago [1910], a similar ride was obtained by going down the river bank on North Seventh [Pump House Hill] where Kindred's water-pumping station used to be.

-Gillis Avenue Hill: **Curtis Fox** Visiting my br95her in LA, and just today we wren talking about sliding down Gillis ave hill. Did the long underwear wool socks , plastic bags, 2 pair of pants, they would freeze like 2 stove pipes. Slide all day then go to friends house set on the heat registers, and inducer the though out pain. Then go and do it again in couple days.

-Gorman's Hill: **Andy Walsh Fert Faust** i got info from **Sharon McCarthy Nowariak** about Gormans Hill "Gormans hill rite up from wher frosty cme used to beI sledded there all the time it wa surrounded by Skeeziks house bowmans and of course gormans" and Location at **"bottom of 10th avenue ne and hwy 210"**

-JT's Hill: **Where was this? Rice Lake?**

-Kaufmann's Hill-Rice Lake: **Diane Leslie** My brothers, my sisters & I used to go sledding down Kauffman's hill onto Rice Lake. Kauffman's lived by **14th Ave. & N St. NE**



Brainerd. We had a blast!! **More below at the end of the page, from Kelli Mumbleau.**

-Morgan's Hill: 2018/3/27: [Roland Kunde](#) We did most of our sledding on what we called Morgan's Hill on North 10th Street near the "fill" behind Franklin Junior HS. Lots of fun!

-Northeast, location unknown (1921-?): I have no clue where this may have been. The only place I can think of and have seen kids sliding is in back of the church on the NE corner of Mill & 210 E. **1921/12/12:** 80 years ago (1921), Dec. 12, 2001: **The toboggan slide of Northeast Brainerd is completed. Young and old interested in this sport may with a feeling of perfect security negotiate the slide. No admission will be charged. Lights have not yet been installed in the field.** **Where was this?**

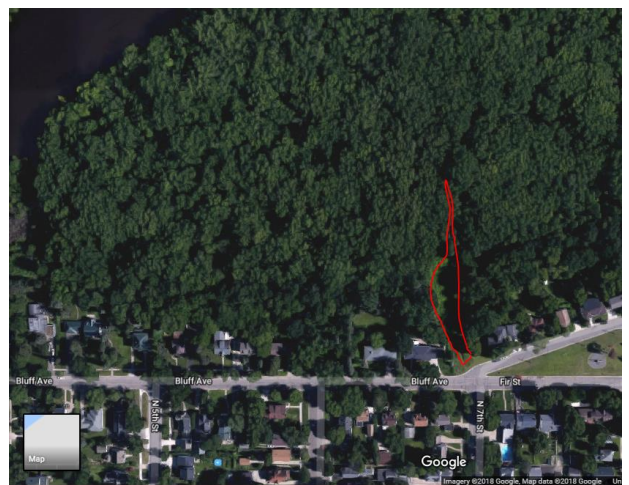
-Pig Pen Hill: This was **behind the hospital**, and was in use at least unofficially when I was a kid, say late 1950's, early 1960's. Back then, Pig Pen Hill is what we called it, and I have no clue why. There was a lot of barbed wire down there, so maybe somebody raised hogs there. There is evidence of farming and fencing all over on the flat, from the hospital clear up to the dam, I suppose from the dry years of the 20's and 30's after 1914 the Ravine Creek was diverted which must have dried up this area considerably. Since we lived just 2 blocks from here, this was our main hangout area beside Gregory Park of course. As I recall, it was a pretty steep hill, too steep for a toboggan. I was only on a toboggan once, and we hit a tree, and I was in the back, and all 4 of us came out scathed. Steel runner sleds were too fast also, and that steering mechanism needed work. I was only on one of these a few times too, and I hit that same tree, which was just to the south of the main hill. I think plain old cardboard and steel flying saucers were about all we used, spoze plastic was just on the horizon. If you had some of that wax-backed cardboard you had the world by the tail. It about doubled your speed. At the bottom was a flat spot and not much of it. If you were on one of the two previously discussed fast models, the small flat was not enough to get you stopped, so you had to hit this narrow trail in between the trees that led out in to the tall grass, and it was creepy out there, and the snow deep, another good reason to stay on cardboard. Now a couple of houses have been placed at the top, ruining yet another good hill.

I logged a lot of hours on Pig Pen Hill. We lived just 2 blocks away. At the bottom it narrowed to almost nothing in the trees, so you had to be careful and aim well. There were many trees on the way down too! The older kids got to go to Daredevil hill by Joe [David Marchel's](#) down on 1st St. I guess it was. It was a killer, and I only went down it a few times. In the summertime, we just about lived down there, when we weren't in the park. We only came home for feeding and sleeping. -9/2015

-Pump House Hill, Terrace Ave.-sewage: See Burton's Hill.

-Pump House Hill, Jenny St.-water: See Boom Lake Hill.

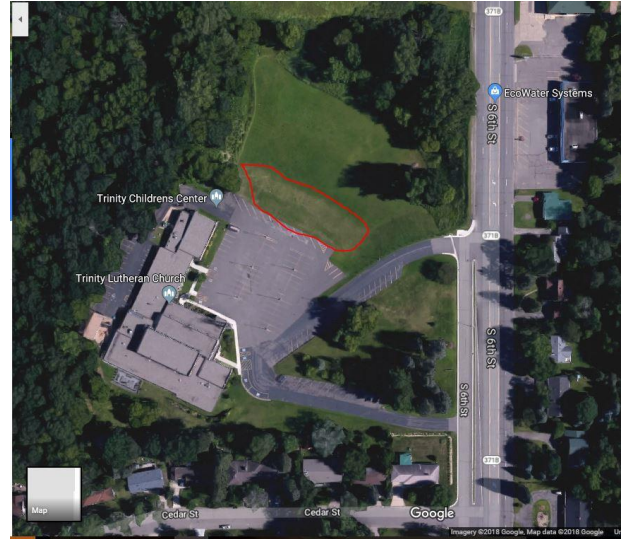
-Pump House Hill, 7th St. N.-sewage: Named for TWO differently purposed pump houses in 2 different eras. In the 1880s there was a WATER pump house on the river's edge, and all that is left is rubble. The SEWAGE pump house on the bank's base has been gone since about the 1990s. We used to play on the old pump house, and in those days, say 1960, the road down this STEEP hill was later paved. This made our bicycle hill 3 times faster, and more dangerous. It took a haffa block on the hogsback to stop. Snow sledding was even riskier. The hogsback has a steel pipe under it, about 16", and it goes all the way to the river. I believe this was a raw sewage pipe back in the day, and it is about 3' under the top of the hogsback. Strangely, this outflow was UPstream from the water intake! I don't know if they operated concurrently. At the midpoint is the man-made diversion of the Ravine, intersecting it at a 90-degree



angle, still clearly visible. There is no provision or culvert seen to let the creek pass under the hogsback, so I assume the hogsback came later, after the 1914 Fill culvert dried up this creek. This would mean that the pipe was for STORM runoff. This is one of those things that needs more research! Maps show us that water from the WATER pump house came from the river by gravity to a cistern, then was pumped through a pipe at a diagonal angle to the base of the hill. There could have been hills at other pump houses called Pump House Hill, such as by Boom Lake or Jenny St., or by the cemetery pump house. But the REAL one was ours on N. 7th! See a 1917 reference to this hill in Special Features below.

-River Hills Circle Hill: [Andy Walsh](#) [Fert Faust](#) **River Hills Circle Hill that where Two miles north of papermill on mississippi river,**

-Trinity Lutheran Church Hill (photo): **This is between Willow & Cedar Sts. west of S, 6th St.>**



TIMELINE:

1885: **Foot of Fourth street, north.** (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 16 January 1885, p. 3, c. 7)

A party of the elite of the town took the toboggan slide by storm on Thursday evening, and enjoyed the pleasure until 11 o'clock, after which the party repaired to C. E. Smith's residence, on Fourth street, where refreshments were served. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 30 January 1885, p. 3, c. 2)

1895: **west end of the East Brainerd bridge**

1909/1/27: 100 years ago (1909), Jan. 27, 2009

Carl Wright, delivery clerk at the post office, is taking a day off to nurse a lame hand which was hurt in an accident at the **toboggan slide** last evening. [This is likely the **double slide** on Front St. between 6th & 8th.]

1921/12/12: 80 years ago (1921), Dec. 12, 2001

The **toboggan slide** of **Northeast Brainerd** is completed. Young and old interested in this sport may with a feeling of perfect security negotiate the slide. No admission will be charged. Lights have not yet been installed in the field.

1930/2/9: 80 years ago (1930), Feb. 9, 2010

Southsiders have made a **toboggan and ski slide** in the hills and hollows of South Broadway [8th] and many enjoyed the sport on Sunday afternoon last.

1941/1/12: 60 years ago (1941), Jan. 12, 2001

The **toboggan slides** being constructed on the Boom Lake Hill will be ready for use on Sunday afternoon if work goes ahead on schedule. Constructed under NYA* work the **two slides** are rated as among the best in the state.

*The **National Youth Administration (NYA)** was a [New Deal](#) agency in the [United States](#). It operated from 1935 to 1943 as part of the [Works Progress Administration](#). -Wikipedia

Facebook threads:

[Andy Walsh](#)

Admin · 14 hrs [3/25/2018]

Which Place Best Sledding y had Ever?

Andy's original list, 10:

Ahren's Hill

Big Sev Hill

Pig Pen Hill

River Hills Circle Hill-where?

Cemetery Hill

Gorman's Hill-where?

Boom Lake Hill

French Rapids Hill

Pump House Hill-which one, Bluff Ave. at 7th St., or Boom Lake area by the water plant?

Dondelinger's Hill-where, in back of their house?

Trinity Lutheran Hill: This is on the north side of the entrance road to the church on S. 6h St.

Fert Faust Can you pinpoint that location a bit? Was it north of Franklin School, perhaps between Holly & Ivy Streets? As I recall it's pretty thick with trees and brush on that hill. Which Morgan was it named after?

***Special Features, compiled by Ann M. Nelson:**

Find this article here:

http://www.crowwinghistory.org/brainerd_stuff.html#TOBOGGANSLIDES

TOBOGGAN SLIDES

During 1886 to 1889 the young folks maintained a Toboggan Club. In that decade there were no buildings on the railroad right of way south of the tracks between First and Tenth streets. This club was given permission to use the part between Sixth and Eighth for winter sports. Visualize now no

freight depot and no Baehr Building and in their places two wooden-structure toboggan slides. One started on the Sixth Street end and let the toboggan run eastward. The other started on the Eighth Street end and made possible the return trip. Between the two slides was an ice rink. For awhile tobogganing was done on the hill where now the St. Joseph's Hospital is; that required no prepared structure and the ride ended on the west side of the river. Later, say around 1916, a similar ride was obtained by going down the river bank on North Seventh Street where Kindred's water-pumping station used to be. (*Brainerd 1871-1946*, Carl Zapffe, Colwell Press, Incorporated, Minneapolis, Minnesota: 1946, p. 53)

Something New.

A toboggan slide has been erected at the foot of Fourth street by Mr. A. W. Miller. This pleasure resort has been made on a large scale and will accommodate a large party at one time. It is twelve feet wide with a run of about 150 feet when the sleigh strikes the ice on the river, which has been cleared of snow so that the sled will run far out from the velocity that is gained while coming down the hill. The place will be lighted by night to insure against all danger of accident, and a nice place has been provided to warm yourself in. Sliding apparatus will be provided parties that have none themselves, as a number of Boston Bobs and single sleigh are kept constantly on hand. This amusement combines pleasure, health and recreation, and if you want to enjoy solid fun without danger of getting hurt come and try the Toboggan Slide as it is now open to the public. Charges will be moderate.

A. W. MILLER,
Proprietor.

Foot of Fourth street, north. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 16 January 1885, p. 3, c. 7)

A party of the elite of the town took the toboggan slide by storm on Thursday evening, and enjoyed the pleasure until 11 o'clock, after which the party repaired to C. E. Smith's residence, on Fourth street, where refreshments were served. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 30 January 1885, p. 3, c. 2)

George Lundberg came very near meeting with a serious accident at the toboggan slide on Monday evening. A sleigh ran against him and threw him into the air, he coming down and striking on his head. He was picked up unconscious, but the injuries were slight, and he is again attending to his regular business. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 07 February 1885, p. 3, c. 3)

The Brainerd Toboggan company has issued an invitation to the public to make a test of the invigorating and fascinating pleasures at the slide, foot of Ivy street. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 19 February 1886, p. 3, c. 3)

Toboggan Notes.

On Wednesday the clergy were favored with complimentary invitations, and some of them greatly enjoyed the sport. On Thursday the "old settlers" took a ride, Mr. L. P. White heading the list of invited sliders. To-day the prominent members of the Brainerd Toboggan Club took a slide, and tomorrow, Saturday, the school folks will be represented. Next week the list of invitations is to be extended still further.

Mrs. Babcock and Miss Partridge have both recovered from injuries received when the slide was in an incompleated state. There has been no accident since.

On Wednesday evening Fred Stanley got his overcoat flaps under the toboggan and when he reached the hill on the return he looked like an Indian Chief in fringed wampus. This is the tail of a coat. See?

The best gliding is either afternoon or evening. Invited parties of six couples are the fashion, using two toboggans.

The record for long slides is being contested between Supt. Root, F. M. Cable and Fonze Snyder.

The slide is new, built out upon the river and gives a run of actually 1250 feet.

An approaching event is a 1000 foot slide by Drum Major Dewar and Alderman Ort, the date to be announced later on.

The editors received a complimentary invite for the season, and of course are to be seen at the slide on nearly all occasions. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 19 February 1886, p. 3, c. 5)

A meeting was called for Tuesday night at Holland & McClenahan's law office, for the purpose of organizing a toboggan club, but it failed to materialize. The idea is a good one, however, and another meeting should be called and a club organized as soon as possible. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 19 November 1886, p. 4, c. 4)

A meeting of our citizens was called at the Villard parlors Tuesday evening for the purpose of organizing a toboggan club. About 50 responded and W. W. Hartley was called to the chair, and W. S. McClenahan was made Secretary. After some discussion the chair was instructed to appoint a committee of five on permanent organization, by-laws, etc., to report at the next meeting. The following gentlemen were appointed as such committee: Dr. Hemstead, F. D. Stanley, W. S. McClenahan, Justin Smith and W. A. Fleming. Over thirty names were secured, after which the meeting adjourned. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 03 December 1886, p. 4, c. 4)

When it comes to the question of getting up a toboggan club little Mac. [McClenahan] comes pretty near being a dandy. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 03 December 1886, p. 4, c. 3)

The toboggan slide owned and operated last winter by Wm. Hayden has recently been purchased by Mr. C. C. Phillips, who will greatly improve it before opening it for the coming season. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 03 December 1886, p. 4, c. 4)

Toboggan Slide and Ice Rink.

The toboggan club of this city decided at a meeting at the Villard hotel Wednesday evening to build a grand slide on the railroad land in front of the Sleeper block. The slide will be 680 feet in length, extending from Sixth to Eighth streets, with two tracks, one running each way. The starting point at each slide is at an elevation of 32 [sic] feet running down an incline about 120 feet before it strikes the level surface, which will give velocity enough to the toboggans to send them the entire length of the slide at a speed that will suit the most fastidious of sliders. The tracks will be iced by water from the hydrants adjacent, and which Mr. Kindred kindly gives the club the use of free. In the centre of the enclosure an ice rink will be



W. A. M. Johnstone and his toboggan, ca. 1880's.

Source: [Images of America: Brainerd](#), Crow Wing County Historical Society

constructed which will have a skating surface of 90x500 feet. The prominent location of these out door sports right in the centre of the city is a very desirable feature and the success of the enterprise is apparent. The contract for putting up the slide was let to Ed. Mahan Wednesday evening for \$360 and he has already got the work well under way, he having agreed to have it completed in one week, so by the time the *Dispatch* reaches its many readers next week it will be in full operation. The use of the park is given by the railroad company free of cost. Ed. Hazen, Joe Cohen, Fred Parker, F. M. Cable and Geo. Bahan [sic] were appointed as a committee to solicit honorary members and we understand that many of our citizens have put their names to the roll. These members will have the same rights at the slide and rink as active members and will be accommodated with the same railroad rates to the Ice Palace carnival in St. Paul should they desire to attend. Tobogganing and ice skating will be the popular sport in Brainerd this winter and old and young are catching onto the enthusiasm with a wonderful rapidity. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 17 December 1886, p. 4, c. 4)

Thinks It Dangerous.

The Brainerd toboggan slide was inaugurated tonight with a complimentary opening. The Brainerd club, which is newly organized with a membership limited to fifty, has selected the name of Chin-Gwo-Woe club which means the Pine Tree Club. They will attend the St. Paul carnival in a uniformed body.—P. P. [*Pioneer Press*]

Though tobogganing on a slide which is nearly perpendicular is now admissible, we do not fully endorse the Brainerd idea, as we are not yet prepared to climb a tall pine tree and slide down it just for fun; and yet we have no doubt but Brainerd presents a beautiful sight of an evening when large numbers of the club are seen sliding down the tall pine trees of that city like streaks of lightning.—*Crookston Chronicle*. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 17 December 1886 p. 4, c. 4)

BRAINERD BRIEFS

A New Toboggan Slide

BRAINERD, Dec. 18.—Brainerd's new toboggan slide, which is being erected immediately in front of the Sleeper block, will be one of the finest in the Northwest. It is 1,360 feet in length and consists of two tracks, down one side and back on the other. An ice rink is to be constructed in the center. The elevation at each end of the slide is 35 [sic] feet. (*Minneapolis Tribune*, 19 December 1886, p. 18)

The toboggan slide will be in full operation tonight and also the ice rink. The whole square will be illuminated. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 31 December 1886, p. 4, c. 3)

Toboggan Rules.

For the information of the public the Brainerd Toboggan Club announces the following rules and regulations:

1. The slide and rink will be open to the public daily (except Sundays) from 10 a. m. until 11 a. m. [p.m. ?]
2. Children under fifteen years of age will only be admitted between the hours of 11 a. m. and 6 p. m.
3. No person will be admitted to the slide or rink without first procuring a ticket, which must be presented at the door.
4. The club reserves the right to refuse tickets of admission to objectionable parties.
5. No toboggan shall be started from the head of the slide until the toboggan preceding it in the same chute has passed the red flag by day, or the red light by night.
6. The following rates will be charged:

Active and honorary members of the club will be admitted at all times upon exhibiting the proper badge or ticket.

All persons not members of the club will be required to pay an admittance fee of 25 cents which will entitle each to the use of the slide or rink with his or her own toboggan or skates.

Club toboggans will be furnished at the rate of ten cents an hour.

Season tickets entitling party named thereon to all privileges of slide or rink for the season will be sold for \$5.00.

These rules will be subject to amendment or revision at any time. By order of
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

(*Brainerd Dispatch*, 31 December 1886, p. 4, c. 4)

Brainerd's Awful Slide.

The *Bulletin* of Perham, says that Roadmaster, John Dorsey, of Detroit, can now say that "he can't scratch a match on the seat of his pants because he ain't built that way." The cause of John's trouble was that awfully awful toboggan slide at Brainerd which he had and was very simple and easily recounted, but how conceited some people are. The bottom of the chute was reached, but the roadmaster was a sight to behold. His nose was skinned and bleeding, and resembled a prize fighter, but on getting up the poor fellow felt the cool evening breeze wafting through his pants, when on examination, lo ! and behold the seat of his pants had been completely torn out and—spare our blushes, John. Use buckskin breeches next time, Dorsey. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 07 January 1887, p. 4, c. 5)

The Brainerd Toboggan club are being drilled in military tactics by C. L. Spaulding. With fifty uniformed members well drilled and the celebrated Brainerd band in their new uniform the boys will be liable to take the honors as being the finest club in line when they visit the St. Paul carnival on the 27th, which is the occasion of the storming of the Ice Palace by the Fire King. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 14 January 1887, p. 4, c. 3)

The admission to the Front street slide and rink is now but ten cents. Children are admitted for a nickel. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 21 January 1887, p. 4, c. 3)

The Brainerd Toboggan Club expect to go to St. Paul next Thursday to see the storming of the Ice Palace by the Fire King. The band will accompany them. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 21 January 1887, p. 4, c. 3)

The river toboggan slide furnishes a free lunch with every toboggan ticket that is paid for in advance. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 21 January 1887, p. 4, c. 3)

The Brainerd toboggan club went to Fargo last Saturday with the band on an invitation from the St. Paul Snow Shoe club of St. Paul. The club were to have stopped off at Brainerd but for some reason the programme was changed. The band was out in winter costume on the arrival of the train and with fifty of our boys in gay toboggan dress it made a very pretty sight. The St. Paul boys "bounced" several of the Brainerd lads, and after a dinner at the Villard the entire party departed for Fargo. At Verndale they caught Billy, "Totton's Dude," and the last seen of him he was going heavenward and had not come down yet when the boys returned Monday morning. At Fargo the crowd enjoyed themselves the following day by attending church and devoting themselves to religious observance of the day, but were badly broken up by the long ride (!) when they arrived home Monday, a. m., at 6 o'clock. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 21 January 1887, p. 4, c. 4)

Brainerd Boys Abroad.

The Brainerd Toboggan club was among the first to arrive. The club, numbering forty men and twenty-five ladies, was met at the depot by the St. George Snow Shoe club and escorted up town. The club was accompanied by an excellent band and will remain in the city until tonight. The members of the club wear a very neat uniform of blue and gray, and are under command of Capt. C. L. Spaulding. While in the city they will be the guests of the St. George Snow Shoe club.—*Globe*.

The Brainerd toboggan club arrived yesterday and were met at the depot by the Brainerd band and a detail of St. George's under Capt. Chantler [*sic*], and were escorted to the St. George headquarters, after which they broke ranks and took breakfast. The club numbers 40 men and 20 ladies and is under command of Capt. C. L. Spaulding. Their uniform is gray with blue trimmings. They carry a beautiful dark blue satin banner, with the name of the club in raised silver letters.—*Tribune*.

The *Pioneer Press* was the pleased recipient of a fine serenade yesterday afternoon by the splendid Brainerd Band of forty pieces. The members of the band are among the well known and respected citizens of the city which is their home, and their visit to St. Paul has been one not only of pleasure to them, but has provided a delightful musical treat to all who have been so fortunate as to listen to their praiseworthy playing. The maintenance of such a large and finely equipped band in a city of the size of Brainerd is proof of the excellent taste and good judgment of the citizens of that city. The Brainerd band is not only a credit to its home as to appearance but as to its musical abilities as well. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 28 January 1887, p. 4, c. 5)

Items of Interest Briefly Told.

The toboggan slides are well patronized.

The Front street toboggan slide is not a paying institution we are told.

Brainerd ladies now enjoy riding on toboggans behind their carriage horses. They thus have the pleasure of riding without walking back. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 04 February 1887, p. 4, c. 4)

The toboggan club has concluded to appear twice a week in uniform at the slide, the evenings being Tuesday and Friday. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 11 February 1887, p. 4, c. 3)

The Front street slide will be taken down next week. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 18 February 1887, p. 4, c. 4)

County treasurer Mahan had a very narrow escape on Monday. He was engaged in taking down the Front street toboggan slide, and a scantling fell from an elevation of 20 feet striking him on the head and shoulders. The blow felled him and he was taken home in a carriage. He is up and around town now apparently as well as ever. In the timber was a long spike which just missed his head, and Mr. Mahan thinks it was an act of Providence that he was not killed outright. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 01 April 1887, p. 4, c. 4)

Brainerd will have a toboggan slide after all this winter, J. W. Ward and Ed. Mahan being the proprietors. The slide is being constructed on Juniper street and will be near the wagon bridge across the dump. The slide will have a double track and will be illuminated by electricity. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 09 December 1887, p. 1, c. 4)

Dan Caffery [*sic*] is making arrangements to open an ice rink and toboggan slide, and expects to have things in shape in a day or two. The rink will be a large one as he will overflow all that part of the flat between the dump and the wagon bridge. The slide will be built just south of the bridge. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 30 November 1888, p. 4, c. 4)

Dan Caffery's [*sic*] ice rink and slide will be opened to the public on Monday night next for the first time. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 07 December 1888, p. 4, c. 4)

Quite a serious accident occurred at the toboggan slide Wednesday evening. John McGinnis, a young man employed at the rink and slide, carelessly stepped into the track at the foot of the incline where the toboggans come down, and although he was shouted at to get out of the way, lingered too long and was run into by a party coming down the slide, breaking his leg and otherwise injuring him. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 06 December 1895, p. 4, c. 4)

The Toboggan Slide. Where was this?

The rink and slide at the west end of the East Brainerd bridge is a popular place of amusement these days, and Mr. McDonald says that his patronage is increasing daily. The place is open every afternoon and evening, excepting Sunday. The following are the prices:

Toboggans—5 cents a ride, or 25 cents an hour for short toboggans. Twelve-foot toboggans, 35 cents an hour; fourteen-foot toboggans, 50 cents an hour. This is not charged to each rider, but for the whole toboggan, carrying from three to eight persons.

Rink—10 cents admission, and 15 cents extra if skates are furnished. Family season ticket, \$5, single season ticket, \$3. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 06 December 1895, p. 4, c. 5)

Prices at the Slide Reduced.

Mr. McDonald announces that hereafter the toboggan slide will be open on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday evenings at the Athletic Ice Rink, and that the price has been reduced to 10 cents for each person during the entire evening. The slide and rink are in excellent condition and everything is in first-class shape for enjoyment. (*Brainerd Dispatch*, 23 January 1896, p. 4, c. 5)

TOBOGGAN CLUB IS ORGANIZED

Brainerd winter sports enthusiasts have organized a Brainerd Toboggan club which starts out with a membership of 30. I. C. Strout was elected secretary *pro tem*. At the Friday evening meeting officers are to be elected.

The club had a successful season last year and maintained a fine toboggan slide. This year a real toboggan slide is to be built, each member paying \$1 toward the improvement.

It will be located near the Sisters' hospital, providing, of course, that the consent of the hospital management is secured.

Many of the club members are Northern Pacific railway employees and they contemplate sending a uniformed delegation to St. Paul at the time of the winter carnival. (*Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, 26 October 1916, p. 1, c. 7)

TOBOGGAN CLUB

Aims to Have 200 Membership, Building Slide at Foot of North Seventh Street

A toboggan club formed in the city is headed by R. E. Quinn president and I. C. Strout treasurer. The aim is 200 membership. The dues are \$2. A slide is being built at the foot of North Seventh street of

proper dimensions and considerable trestle work is being laid to furnish a proper start. (*Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, 22 November 1916, p. 5, c. 4)

BRAINERD TOBOGGAN CLUB

**Members are Requested to be Present
This Evening at 7:30 at the Hill
to Help in Work**

All members of the Brainerd Toboggan club are notified and requested to be present this evening at 7:30 o'clock at the hill to help get the same in shape for use. The weather is just right and conditions favor the speedy completion of the slide for use. Every member consider this a personal notice. (*Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, 13 December 1916, p. 5, c. 1)

SHOOT CHUTES SUNDAY, JAN. 7

**Grand Opening of Brainerd Toboggan
Club Slide, Flume 250
Feet Long**

Where was this? I think it was n Bluff at 7th.

WARMING HOUSE PROVIDED

**Electric Lights, Telephone, Caretak-
er—Membership of Club is
Now 120**

The Brainerd Toboggan club will have their grand opening Sunday, January seventh, and a cordial invitation is extended to the citizens of Brainerd and their friends to attend.

For sometime the club has been working to put their hill in the best possible shape for sliding, the flume is two hundred and fifty feet long from platform to bottom of hill and extends beyond this to the **pump house** almost one-half mile in length. Everything possible has been done to make the hill safe and to provide for the comfort of the members. A warming house has been provided also electric lights and telephone and a man employed to see that the younger members are safely loaded on toboggans and to look after the slide generally.

A membership of 120 has been attained and in order to pay the expenses until the season is over a larger membership is desired. Everyone who is interested in this sport is invited to join, the secretary or members of the membership committee will be present Sunday and all who wish to secure season tickets may do so on that day.

It has been said that Brainerd is fortunate in having a place of amusement of this nature, and that it compares favorably with chutes in the larger cities.

Tobogganing is a good clean healthful recreation and a sure cure for the ills that arise from lack of exercise and impure air. Try it. (*Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, 06 January 1917, p. 6, c. 1)

GRAND OPENING SUCCESS

Brainerd Toboggan Club Slide Crowd-

ed With Merry-makers—Estimated 400 Were There

Sunday was the grand opening of the Brainerd Toboggan Club slide and some 400 merry-makers were present. The slide was in fine shape. In charge of the course were Messrs. Fay, McNamara, Mahood, Henry Olson and others, and not an accident was recorded.

Goodwin B. Olson appeared on the scene with a toboggan suit of green, yellow, blue and tan, cap the same and a monogram, B. T. C., attached on his sleeve.

Many enrolled for membership in the club and its continued success is assured. The chute is in splendid shape, many of the young people manning toboggans and sliding down backwards. It is not necessary to steer, the chute carries the toboggan as straight as a die. Some 30 toboggans were out Sunday. At the foot of the slope the toboggan made about 60 miles an hour. (*Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, 08 January 1917, p. 5, c. 2)

BRAINERD'S ODDEST STORIES OF TODAY

It was on the toboggan slide Sunday afternoon. A toboggan negotiated the slide and it carried six passengers. The end man had but a few inches of room and at the first bump he slipped off. The lady ahead retained a firm grip on the end man's feet, as she had been instructed to do and the end man slid the balance of the way, a mile and a half, on the seat of his trousers. In walking back up the course he was heard to remark to a fellow tobogganer, "I don't think there's a hole in the pants where I have been sliding, but from the coolness apparent, I firmly believe the seat has been worn pretty threadbare." (*Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, 08 January 1917, p. 5, c. 1)

BRAINERD'S ODDEST STORIES OF TODAY

The Brainerd toboggan club erected, last fall at a cost of \$200, a toboggan hill that was pronounced by visitors from other cities as one of the best in the northwest. In connection a warming house was built containing a telephone, electric lights and a stove and fuel. To the younger generation who were not able to purchase tickets, the club extended the privilege of using the hill and warming house at all times and a key was given them. It is clearly a very odd thing that some of these same boys, after the sliding season was over, should break the lock on the door, steal some shovels and a pick, break all the windows of the warming house, knock down the stove and batter the bottom in so as to render it useless and break a large board in the rear of the house. (*Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, 03 April 1917, p. 5, c. 4)

BRAINERD TOBOGGAN CLUB OPENS SEASON

**Day of First Big Slide Next Sunday,
Track Greatly Improved and
All Nicely Iced Up**

**Curve of Easy Proportions Added, I. C. Strout
is the Secretary of the
Organization**

The Brainerd Toboggan club opens its winter season of sport Sunday. The track has been greatly improved and during the week will be iced so as to have everything in readiness for the big day Sunday.

A curve of easy proportions has been supplied, thus giving added enjoyment to the flying trip down the hill near the pumping station and out towards the river.

Many of the prominent officers and members of the club have entered Uncle Sam's service, but some of the old-timers remain. I. C. Strout is the secretary of the club and membership tickets should be procured from him.

Like all lines of transportation, railroads, toboggan slides, etc., it takes a ticket to travel. Money gained is used to keep the slide in shape and pay for other improvements. (*Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, 09 January 1918, p. 1, c. 7)

MUNICIPAL RINK FOR ICE SKATING

Committee in Charge to Have Large Meeting at Chamber of Commerce 7:30 O'clock Tonight

OFFICERS ARE TO BE ELECTED

Rink Backed by Three Large Organizations, Plan Rink and a Toboggan Slide

The committee in charge of making arrangements for the Municipal skating rink are very anxious to have a large meeting tonight at 7:30 o'clock at the Chamber of Commerce.

Officers are to be elected and all final arrangements are to be made so that work can be started at once.

The rink is being backed by three large organizations but everyone who has children old enough to enjoy skating and tobogganing under absolutely safe conditions should be present. (*Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, 20 October 1921, p. 7, c. 2)

WINTER SPORTS ARE CHAMPIONED

Committee Meets at Chamber of Commerce to Provide Municipal Ice Skating, Tobogganing

SKIING AND KINDRED SPORTS

Public Spirited Forces of City Uniting to See That Young Brainerd Are Taken Care Of

(Contributed)

Hurrah! Skating, Tobogganing, Skiing. With flowers in bloom, that does not sound very realistic. But wait. Soon King Winter will put in his appearance (Mr. Sherlund to the contrary notwithstanding) and thee—well read on and see what is in store for the boys and girls (and those who though older in years, enjoy the winter pastimes).

The committee that has the matter in hand met last night in the Chamber of Commerce to make what are almost the final arrangements to give Brainerd one of the finest places for winter sports imaginable. "Nothing is too good for our boys and girls," is the slogan of the committee. Sometime ago at a meeting of the N. E. Brainerd Improvement League, it was proposed to set in motion a skating rink project. Upon further consideration it was found to be advantageous to have one large rink, centrally located, that would serve the whole city. Thus the movement branched out, and the following organizations are lending support: the N. E. Brainerd Improvement League, the League of Professional Women, the Chamber of Commerce, the Park Board, the S. E. Brainerd club, the Brainerd Athletic club. Also from other sources support is given to the movement, so that the committee in charge feels justified in making the necessary arrangements. The movement was given impetus when C. W. Koering permitted the use of the ground north of the Fill. This, while being ideal for the purpose, is also very accessible to all parts of the city. Here it will be possible to make a skating rink more than a block square. Also it is intended to make a toboggan slide 1000 feet long. A way for skiing will be provided.

A superintendent has been appointed. The League of Professional Women will chaperone the grounds. This will insure a high moral tone.

A good building is to be moved onto the grounds, which will be heated and kept in good order. Lighting is provided for, and—last but not least, water and finally—and this is the best of all—everything is to be free to all.

The committee's estimate of the cost of this project is \$500.00. A small amount is to be realized through the sale of "Brainerd," auto tags. It is proposed to raise the necessary funds by means of popular subscription. The *Brainerd Dispatch*, which is always in the forefront in every movement for advancing the interests of the city, is lending its aid in the campaign for funds. Send in your mite to help this worthy cause. Checks should be made payable to the *Brainerd Dispatch*. (*Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, 01 November 1921, p. 3, c.'s 3 & 4)

SKATING RINK

All Citizens Interested in Skating Rink and Toboggan Slide to Meet at Chamber of Commerce

A meeting of all citizens interested in the skating rink and toboggan slide project will be held at the Chamber of Commerce Wednesday evening, Nov. 16th, to listen to the reports of various committees and to make such arrangements as will be necessary to complete the work. Carl Wright reports that the various committees are doing splendid work and that the toboggan slide will be started this week. It is hoped that the meeting will be well attended so that everyone will know the plan and purpose of the project. (*Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, 15 November 1921, p. 3, c. 4)

SKATING RINK PROJECT FUND

The community skating rink received another big boost when Asher Taylor duplicating the donation given by Turcotte Brothers and gave \$5 to help the winter sport movement for the young folks of Brainerd.

Previously reported—\$54.51

Miss Myrtle Smith—\$1.00

Miss Mary F. Tornstrom—\$1.00

Mrs. A. C. Weber—\$1.00

Asher Taylor—\$5.00

Billy McClenahan—\$1.00

Total to date—\$63.51

(*Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, 15 November 1921, p. 3, c. 5)

GRAND FORMAL OPENING OF THE MUNICIPAL SKATING RINK

PROGRAM FOR MONDAY, JAN'Y 2

Formal Dedication and Opening of Brainerd's Municipal Rink to be a Gala Affair

VALUABLE PRIZES IN SPORTS

Mention Made of Some of the City Clubs and Organizations Aiding to Establish Rink

Brainerd's Municipal Skating Rink at the C. W. Koering grounds will be formally dedicated and opened to the public with a program of sports, etc., on Monday, January 2. It will be made a gala affair.

Brainerd always has taken great interest in winter sports and carnival events achieving a record for having in line the largest marching club at the St. Paul Winter Carnival.

Skating is one of the most healthful sports known. The rink is safety itself. It measures over a city block square, being about 350 feet square. It boasts a fine warming house, well lighted. The rink is amply provided with lights.

Sections have been reserved for the kiddies so they may skate undisturbed; another for beginners who may carry on the wildest gyrations without dangers to others; a section for hockey rink, etc.

At 2:30 p. m. Monday the program of dedication and sports will be inaugurated. Mayor F. E. Little will deliver a short address. The mayor in the past has started off many a ball season and he will be welcomed to give the Municipal Skating Rink a "sendoff." The committee is endeavoring to have the Brainerd municipal band at the exercises to contribute several numbers.

The program of sports will follow, prizes for the various events having been donated by the public-spirited merchants of Brainerd.

Program of Sports

Boys under 12 years—1st prize, pair skates, Gruenhagen Co.; 2nd prize, \$1.50 hockey stick, Judd Wright & Son; 3rd prize, jackknife, L. Hostager.

Girls under 14 years—1st prize, Premo Kodak, L. Hohman; 2nd prize, \$2.00 box of candy, Princess Candy Kitchen.

Judging best clown under 14 years—1st prize, \$1.00 hockey stick, R. D. King; 2nd prize, 75c hockey stick, Judd Wright & Son.

Ladies' race—1st prize, \$5.00 box of candy, Olympia Candy Kitchen; 2nd prize, \$7.50 course of dancing lessons, Emerson School of Dancing; 3rd prize, \$1.50 box of stationery, Johnson's Pharmacy.

Long Jump, free for all—1st prize, \$4.00 shower brush, Northern Home Furnishing Co.; 2nd prize, flashlight, Alderman-Maghan Co.

Men's fancy skater—1st prize, cap, Bye & Person; 2nd prize, \$2.50 Mokha mitts, H. Kaatz.

Ladies' fancy skater—1st prize, silk hose, H. F. Michael Co.; 2nd prize, skating trousers, Frank & James; 3rd prize, bottle toilet water, Lammon's Pharmacy.

Free for all skating race—1st prize, \$6.00 groceries by Brainerd Co-Operative Co.; Peoples Supply Co., J. W. Koop, Eagle Provision Co.; 2nd prize, \$2.00 tie, Plymouth Clothing Co.; 3rd prize, box of cigars, Brockway & Parker.

[...]

The committee of which Carl Wright was chairman decided to engage a man to have charge of flooding the rink, erecting the slide and overseeing after the rink had been completed. The toboggan slide is under the management of Ray Stein and the rink under the management of J. C. Kaatz.

The committee has encountered many difficulties such as the uneven land which made it difficult to flood, and warm weather has delayed getting the grounds in shape for skating.

[...]

(*Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, 30 December 1921, p. 6, c.'s 1-3)

COMMITTEE REQUESTS AID FOR SPORT CENTER

**Members of Brainerd Outdoor Sport
Club Appear Before
Council**

ASK FOR \$300

**Council Will Advance Money to Park
Board if They Wish
to Give It**

A committee from the Brainerd Outdoor Sport club appeared before the city council last evening asking assistance in the amount of \$300 for the construction and maintenance of the new rink and public winter sports center on the grounds at the rear of the county court house.

On motion of Ald. Paine and Lewis a resolution was adopted that the sum of \$300 be advanced to the Park Board by a transfer from the general funds, the same to be deducted from the Park funds through taxes next year.

A. J. Dillan speaker for the committee of the Brainerd Outdoor Sport club explained the fundamentals of the club. He stated that the club planned to build an ice rink at the rear of the county court house, the same to be 300 feet long and 200 feet wide with a drive of 35 feet with a hockey rink in the center, and later a toboggan slide.

As the Park Board had made no provision this year for winter sports, the committee had been appointed by the president to wait upon the council.

S. R. Adair then requested the council to make an appropriation for a municipal skating rink of \$300.

Alderman Ritari called attention to the fact that a transfer of \$200 was made last year with the understanding that in the future the Park Board would care for rinks with the increased levy. (*Brainerd Daily Dispatch*, 21 December 1926, p. 7, c. 1)

12 January 1941, the toboggan slides being constructed on the Boom Lake Hill will be ready for use on Sunday afternoon if work goes ahead on schedule. Constructed under NYA [National Youth Administration which was part of the WPA (Works Progress Administration)] work the two slides are rated as among the best in the state. (This Was Brainerd, *Brainerd Dispatch*, Friday, 12 January 2001)

Updated versions will be posted here on the [My Brainerd](#) page:

More from Kelli Mumbleau:

Diane Leslie My brothers, my sisters & I used to go sledding down Kauffman's hill onto Rice Lake. Kauffman's lived by 14th Ave. & N St. NE Brainerd. We had a blast!!

4

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Kelli Mumbleau That was my grandpa and dad's house, I just moved out of it about 2 years ago. My maiden name is Kaufman. I have home videos of us kids going down the hill and my mom has a newspaper clipping of when my grandpa built the ice slide going down onto the lake. Lots of fun memories, even though I was too young to remember, I love hearing the stories!

3

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Diane Leslie **Kelli**, I remember the ice slide too! It would be nice to see the videos & newspaper clipping! How long did you live at the house!

1

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Kelli Mumbleau I lived there about 8 year's, the original house was torn down after my dad died, (I really wanted to live in the original house cuz my dad and grandpa built it, but according to an architect the house was too outdated and too expensive to bring up to ...[See More](#)

2

[Manage](#)

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· [Reply](#) · 1w

Diane Leslie Kelli, do you remember any of the neighbors that lived on 14th Ave. or N St.? I lived 3 houses S. of your grandpa's growing up. Gus Showell bought the 4 lots N. of my parents (O'Day) from my parents & built 2 homes on them. The Showell's lived in the home by the lake SE of your grandpa's. They sold it to Hauck's & built the 2 homes on top of the hill. Buddy Sundquist lived kitty corner from your grandpa.

1

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Kelli Mumbleau I remember all the names you mentioned, mainly from my dad and mom talking about them. My dad grew up with and I really knew Carl Sundquist, he died unexpectedly about 2 years ago. I used to see him at his house daily, mowing, painting, gardening etc. He was always busy and did more than my ex that was half his age lol. He used my backyard to keep his boat at and would walk down the hill to go fishing every other day. Very sweet man. The only other neighbor I know is the Snell's, just to the left if your looking at the house. I don't remember him much (Ken) but Reva is still alive (I think anyways), nice lady but very nosy lol

1

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Kelli Mumbleau I remember them talking about the Showells alot, in a good way, but that name was mentioned alot in conversation about the old neighborhood.

1

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Alexi Isle I sledded there back in early 60s when i was a kid

1

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Kelli Mumbleau [Diane Leslie](#) my sister found this pic today.[Manage](#)

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Diane Leslie **Kelli**, thank you so much for sharing this picture. Me & my siblings are probably on this picture. Your grandpa used to invite us kids to bring our sleds & tobaggan over to slide down the hill onto Rice Lake. I can remember one Christmas, when we got the tobaggan for a present, & all 4 (there were 2 more but they were little) of us O'Day kids went down to your grandpa's, my father carrying the tobaggan, to try it out. We had so much fun that afternoon. Your grandpa was a very nice man! 🍌🌴🌊

3

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Kelli Mumbleau Oh that sounds like so much fun, what a great story and thank you for sharing it! I wish I could remember my grandpa, but I do not. I was 2 when he passed away but my sisters are always talking about what a great grandpa he was and that they remember he was always playing with them.

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Teresa Kaufman Schafer He was a wonderful grandpa and how awesome that he brought such joy to so many kids!!! I enjoyed hearing the story, Diane. Thank you 😊

3

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[Diane Leslie Teresa](#), you are welcome. I have to thank Andy Walsh for his web site, because I have enjoyed all the stories, people bring up about the past. I love stories about the past, as it helps me, remember wonderful memories of my past. I have met many nice people, like you & Kelli, on this site! 🌴🌊

3

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[Alexi Isle](#) I so agree [Diane Leslie](#)Leslie..big show of gratitude to [Andy Walsh](#) for letting everyone from brainerd the opportunity to reunite reaquaint and go down memory lane.is awesome.

3

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[Andy Walsh](#)[Andy and 2 others manage the membership, moderators, settings, and posts for Share history and stories about Brainerd Lakes Area.](#) [Diane Leslie](#) your welcome glad y enjoy this sites! 😊

3

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[Alexi Isle](#) Ty too

1

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[Andy Walsh](#)[Andy and 2 others manage the membership, moderators, settings, and posts for Share history and stories about Brainerd Lakes Area.](#) [Fert Faust](#) check this photo
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2019/10/23: [Bob Pike](#) [Fert Faust](#) just read the list of sliding hills. We called the hill at **1st and juniper** **henkemeyer hill**. If the strowbridges that owned the vw dealership is the house you were referring to they lived in th first house on juniper. We also used the alley at the end of 1st street behind strowbridges. The pig pen story was that was used by the nuns before became sliding hill. Could be a story told by older kids

-CWF, updated 5/21/2012; UPDATED: 12/7/2021