

Photo of the Month

Sled Riding



Photo of the Month January
Negative #: No. 16267
Courtesy of: Bob Oliver
Date: 1955

As we get ready to start another year, Northwest Arkansas can expect wintry weather and cold. While some might grumble about snow, there are those who relish its arrival in anticipation of winter merriment. Snowy weather allows children and adults alike to frolic in beautiful white yards, build snow forts, throw snowballs, and most importantly go sledding.

Traditional children's sleds feature steel runners and seat supports raising the rider off the ground like the one pictured. A wide wooden seat was mounted to the steel runners giving the rider a place to sit. While today, sleds come in all shapes and sizes, they are still used for snowy fun. Typically, sleds nowadays are used to slide down snowy hills. When people find themselves without a hill to sled down, they tend to discover creative solutions to enable their sledding. One such solution, as seen here is this picture, is to tie a rope to the sled and be pulled by a horse.

Sleds weren't always used for fun. Prior to the invention and wide use of cars, horse drawn sleds were used for getting around in snowy conditions when wheels wouldn't work. Horse drawn sleighs used steel runners similar to children's sleds, but were much larger and could allow several people at a time to ride on them.

