



## Around the State



### Right city, wrong sport

Buffalo's unusually mild and snowless month of December has its residents turning to warm weather-types of exercise like jogging and walking. But the lack of

snow has not deterred one man from "skiing" with the help of wheels, yesterday, in the city's Delaware Park. (UPI)

## Buffalo weather 'flaky' for December

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — It just doesn't make sense. Making snow in Buffalo in December?

Yet that's exactly what the Chamber of Commerce had to do when a ski exhibition at the city's first Winterfest was threatened by the unlikely absence of snow in a city known for its nasty winters.

"It could have been worse," said Chamber spokeswoman Karen Wodarczak. "It could have been a blizzard and then nobody could have come to our events."

But for area businesses who depend on snow, it's tough to look at the bright side.

"We're starving," said Vic Puglia, operator of Kenmore Collision, an auto body shop which normally has its biggest month of the year in December.

Puglia and others are beginning to feel the effects of what National Weather Service meteorologist Debbie Bauer described as one of the top 10 snowless Decembers in

### Snow total 4.8 inches

the city's history.

Coming 12 months after the 68.4 inches of snow that made the last month of 1985 the snowiest December ever in Buffalo, Bauer said she's not complaining.

"This way, we don't get many complaints because people are happy this is happening," she said of the 4.8-inch snow total for the month and the 18.5-inch total since Oct. 1. On average, Buffalo gets 22.8 inches of snow during December and 33.9 inches between October and the end of December.

Wodarczak said the no-snow show may have helped alter the perception of Buffalo given by famous blizzards in 1977 and 1985.

"It's just one more interesting aspect, especially for the national media, that there's a Winterfest go-

ing on in Buffalo even though there's no snow," she said.

However, Gary Cameron is probably not everybody is pleased with the winter that hasn't come.

"It's slow," said Gary Cameron, owner of Bud's Service, a snowmobile sales and service shop in suburban Kenmore. "Basically, there's nothing."

Cameron said that last year's heavy snowfall helped his store "have a pretty good pre-season" that is offsetting the severe drop in business this month.

"Since the first week of December, everything stopped dead," he said.

"It does put a real crimp in your cash flow," he added. "Everything's going out and nothing's coming in."

Cameron estimated his business

was off about \$135,000 in sales and service from last December. Normally, if there is just one average snow storm, he sells 50 to 100 snowblowers in December. This year, he's sold "10 or 20 at the most."

In Ellicottville, 40 miles south of Buffalo in the heart of western New York's ski country, a ski shop official said sales are "way down."

Craig Wittmann, assistant manager of the Red Door Ski Shop, said the relatively snow-free winter "has really cut into our business being an area shop like we are. We're so reliant on these two weeks around Christmas."

He said his business has really been hurt by slow sales in ski clothing and accessories.

Wittmann said that while sales are down, "We haven't suffered too badly because we're able to keep it up with repairs."

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**ON THURSDAY  
JANUARY 1, 1987**

**In the Geneva City Council  
Chamber, City Hall**

**CEREMONIES AT 11:00 A.M.  
REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW**

Geneva City Republican Committee, Fred Warden, Chairman

### Scout camp celebrates 50th

GENEVA — The Finger Lakes Boy Scout Council is planning a year-long celebration of Camp Babcock-Hovey's golden anniversary. The Golden Jubilee Committee is seeking memorabilia to display during the summer camp season and other events during 1987.

All former Scouts, camp staff members and leaders are requested to share photos, patches and other memorabilia with a new generation of Scouts. Everything will be returned to the owner after the celebration.

Camp Babcock-Hovey, a 350-

acre facility near Ovid on the east shore of Seneca Lake, is where Scouts from Ontario, Wayne, Seneca and Yates counties enjoy camping each summer. The camp is also used by scout troops, Explorer posts and Webelos dens for weekend camping throughout the year and for Cub Scout Day Camp in the summer.

Those with memorabilia or who have an interest in joining in the celebration may write to the Golden Jubilee Committee, care of Finger Lakes Council, BSA, 55 E. Castle St., Geneva 14456 or call the service center at 789-1166.

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