

1977-1978

Highlands case goes to trial Tuesday

Criminal charges against five officials of Aspen Highlands will go to trial in District Court here next Tuesday.

Several motions in the cases were heard by Judge George Lohr on Tuesday.

Asst Atty Gen Lou Kelley was allowed to enter the names of two additional witnesses he intends to call. Kelley will attempt to prove that Highlands unlawfully required employees to waive their

rights under the Colorado Employment Security Act.

The original complaint alleged that Highlands conspired to deprive employees of their rights during the period March 1976 through January 1977.

According to Kelley, however, one of the new witnesses — Phyllis Smilock — told him that the alleged conspiracy started in 1973.

Originally, five separate suits

were filed. One naming Aspen Reservations has been dismissed. That company has been sold since the time of the alleged incidents. Russ Frazier of Aspen Reservations is, however, still a defendant, along with Highlands Skiing Corp officials Whip Jones, president; J P Wentzel, controller; George Robinson, mountain manager, and David Wright, ski patrol director.

Monte Pascoe, Denver attorney representing several of the defendants, moved to dismiss another of the remaining charges — that the defendants conspired to deprive employees of their rights — Tuesday. He argued that it is not enough under the law just to have an agreement. It must be proved, he said, that there was an overt act. Pascoe said the bill of particulars filed by Kelley said that the officials made statements that if employees elected to file for unemployment they would be fired or not rehired.

The fact that they could "elect"

to file, he said negated the conspiracy charge. Judge Lohr disagreed, and denied the motion.

The other witness added by Kelley is Judy Coyle, former public

relations director at Highlands, who allegedly overheard the officials discussing their policy of advising employees not to file for unemployment.

The Aspen Times November 10, 1977

Wentzel named Aspen Highlands vice president

Whipple Van Ness Jones, president of Aspen Highlands Skiing Corporation, has announced the appointment of James P Wentzel as vice president of finance for the company.

In addition to increased responsibilities in the area of general administration, Wentzel will continue monitoring all financial matters of the organization as controller.

Wentzel joined forces with Aspen Highlands in 1973 and has witnessed a significant growth in the area's business volume ever since.

"We have established a carefully controlled fiscal program, which has substantially increased profits, consequently enabling us to put much more money into improvements at the ski area," Wentzel said. "The results have been very encouraging, and we expect to pursue several ambitious expansion programs within the next few years."

Highlands fined \$4,000 in Dist Court

Aspen Highlands Skiing Corp pleaded nolo contendere (no contest) this week to charges that it unlawfully required certain employees to waive their rights to unemployment.

The action came, out of court, after bargaining between attorneys for Highlands and the State Attorney General's office. Trial had been scheduled Tuesday.

Dist Judge George Lohr imposed the maximum fine allowed, \$1000 for each of the four charges against the company, or a total of \$4000. The company has 15 days to pay.

Charges against individual officials — Whipple Jones, Highlands president; JP Wentzel, con-

troller; George Robinson, mountain manager; David Wright, ski patrol director; and Russ Frazier, formerly of Aspen Reservations, were dismissed.

Asst Atty Gen Lou Kelley was pleased with the result and said he hoped it would deter employers in the future from requiring employees to waive their rights under the Colorado Employment Security Act.

The case was the first of its kind in the state. The allegations against Highlands were originally filed in a memo to the attorney general's office by seven former Highlands employees.

They were checked out by Bert Carlson, director of the Division of Employment and Training, then by investigators for the attorney general's office.

In pleading no contest, Highlands admitted that on April 1, the company, through officials, told Earl E Hutton, Jack Troyer, Jack Simenc, and George A

Newman that if they elected to file for unemployment they might not be rehired.

Originally, the state had named Aspen Reservations, Inc as a defendant. But since that company has been sold since the time of the alleged offense the case was dismissed. The prosecution also dropped another action because Linda Crouch, a key witness, is in Pakistan.

The plea bargaining also resulted in dismissal of an action that alleged conspiracy on the part of the Highlands officials and the making of false statements.

The company, in a statement Tuesday, said it "should not have been made the victim for a test of the law's meaning."

Although Highlands agreed to a stipulation of facts in the case

that stated officials told the four former employees they might not be rehired if they elected to file for unemployment, the company said it "did not admit to violating any laws."

Highlands, according to the statement, "is proud of its loyal

employees," and "...at all times expects its employees to honestly use rights granted to them by law."

"The action arose," according to the statement, "from several disgruntled former employees who were dismissed for cause."

We're concentrating on lifting your spirits — not your costs.

Dear Aspen Skiers:

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to ski the mountain in your mind — Aspen Highlands. Throughout the years you have shown your interest by skiing our mountain, and now we would like to do something to express our appreciation of your continuing support.

Our previously announced season ticket increase of \$25 has been cancelled for only \$300. And that's stillskiing. Beginning on Thanksgiving, November 24, you can still ski the total cost. No additional rates charged per day of skiing. With it all — the lowest season rates, and more, you can ski the mountain groomed to perfection.

Sincerely,

W. V. N. Jones
Whipple Van Ness Jones
President
Aspen Highlands Ski Corp.

Phone 303-925-5300
Post Office Box 1,
Aspen, Colorado
81611

Season tickets on sale daily
8:30-12 1-4:30

ASPEN HIGHLANDS RESORT GROUP

SKI ASPEN HIGHLANDS

Aspen Highlands presents The Big Bucks Behind Skiing

or

For \$300, you can

- (a) Ski Aspen Highlands every day
this season**
- (b) Ski Buttermilk 44 days**
- (c) Ski Snowmass 35 days**
- (d) Ski Aspen Mountain 20 days**

The choice is yours, but . . .

doesn't Aspen Highlands make more sense?

Skiing is basically big business. And as a skier, it's your business to get big skiing out of a little budget. So — here's the situation. You can buy a Highlands season pass for 300 bucks. It's non-refundable and non-transferable, but you can ski all you want — all day, every day.

OR (now this gets a bit complex) you can buy an Aspen Host Pass — but only if you work for a business that belongs to the Aspen Chamber of Commerce. It'll cost you \$250.* And that's just the beginning. Because you'll also pay \$9 a day to ski Aspen Mountain, \$5 a day to ski Snowmass and \$4 a day to ski Buttermilk.

On top of your Host Pass cost! And you don't need a PhD in advanced mathematics to figure that out: you'll ski more, for less money, at the Highlands.

Start making the big business of skiing work for you.

Aspen Highlands Season Passes available at Aspen Highlands.
8:30 - Noon and 1:00 - 4:30 P.M. Daily.
For more information call: 925-5300

*If you're still employed by a Chamber of Commerce member at the end of the season, and if you haven't changed jobs more than once during the season, you'll get \$125 of your \$250 refunded. If you blow it on the job scene, you're out of luck.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION



ASPEN HIGHLANDS
EMPLOYEES SEASON
LIFT TICKET

Give your employees Aspen's best benefit

Are your employees in Aspen to work? Or to work on their skiing? You can let them do both — with Aspen Highlands Employees Season Lift Tickets.

This unique opportunity lets you buy a minimum of four season lift tickets for your employees at only \$275 each. The tickets are issued in the name of your business, so they can be easily reassigned to different

employees during the coming ski season. (Up to three transfers per ticket, at a charge of \$10 per transfer.)

This season, prove that skiers are thinkers (after all, you're probably both). Make your employees' downtime a ski time. It's the best incentive in Aspen.

Call Aspen Highlands Marketing Department at 925-5300 for details.

Dunnavant's

Gourmet
Dining in the tradition
of old world service.

**Opening on
November 22nd**
for breakfast, lunch and dinner

We would like to thank everyone for their continued patronage this past summer and we look forward to serving you our excellent cuisine this winter. Come in and visit us for dining, dancing or apres ski fun.

ENTERTAINMENT...



...Tony Lombardo & Friends

For your dining and dancing pleasure. Beginning November 24th in the Veranda Room 8:30 pm until closing six days a week.

Randy Botanical Band

For your Apres Ski fun, beginning November 25th In the Veranda Room 3:30 until 7 pm.

Dunnavant's

located
in the
Aspen
Highlands
Inn

\$1.25

we test 18 trend-setting boots

SKING®

exclusive:
14 fun ways to
sharpen your
skiing skills

**quick-turning
skis:**

test reports
on 24 new
mid-lengths
and shorts

special:
• it's still Sun Valley!

v Hampshire
the super-rich



on the
cover

Kim Wilson of
Aspen skis
the new
Steeplechase
area at Aspen
Highlands. Photo
by Allan

rs: Notice of display-allowance plan is within last

DECEMBER 1977



Skiing Dec 77

SKIWEAR:

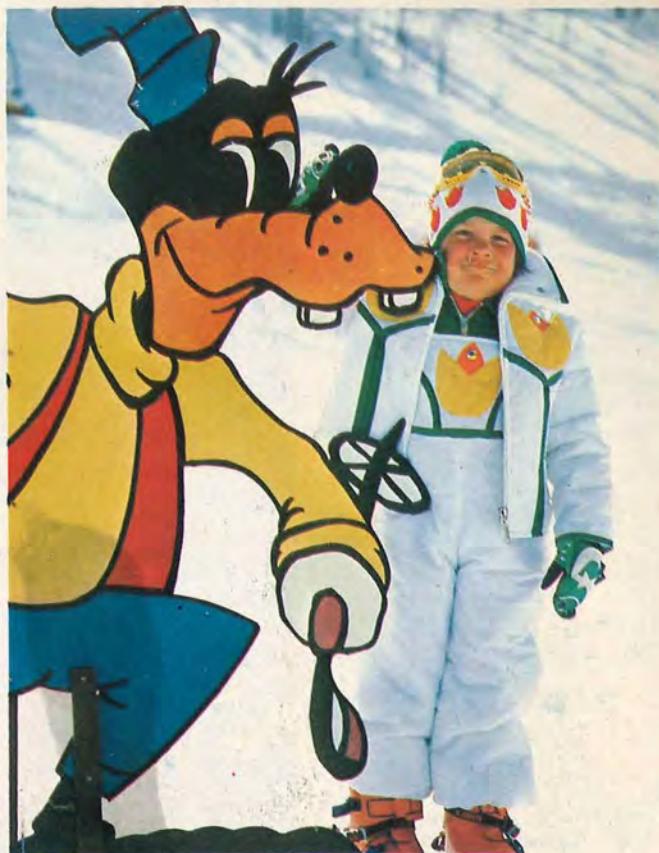
Togs for Tots to Teens

By Barbara Alley,
Fashion Editor

Photographed by
Norm Clasen

Kids on skis are rough and tumble, and their skiwear must be able to take it. The best children's skiwear can, combining durability with the cheerful color and design that delight kids whether they're skiing on the local slopes or at Aspen.

*signs by
Foni Oohl
Aspen, CO*



Top: Disney characters inhabit the slope at Aspen Highlands' ski school, cheering the smallest skiers as they master the basics. Goofy sniffs approval of Alix's snap-pocketed bib-suit by Hot Gear (\$78), a well-insulated outfit with a hem that can be lengthened for years of wear. A tulip hat matches the suit. Frog mitts by Kombi; Cébé goggles.

Above, l. to r.: A tulip-pocketed, elastic-waisted jumpsuit by Hot Gear (\$52) keeps Shelby toasty-warm. Should the temperature drop, a turn-up collar helps. Halper Brothers hat; Cébé goggles. In his stretchy blue-and-orange two-piece suit (\$72), Michael has racer kneepads to protect him going through the gates. From Kinder

Mountain Ski Shop, Aspen. Aris hat. Aaron bundles up in a blue plush-collared snowsuit by Raven (\$40) with bright striped sleeves, elastic waist. Uvex goggles. Fletcher ignores the cold in his two-piece bib suit with a plush-collared, aviator-type jacket, also Kinder Mountain (\$74). Cébé goggles; Obermeyer hat. All: Kombi mittens. (continued on next page)

SKI ASPEN HIGHLANDS

Aspen Highlands presents

The Big Bucks Behind Skiing or

For \$300, you can :

- (a) **Ski Aspen Highlands every day this season , or;**
- (b) **Ski Buttermilk 44 days , or;**
- (c) **Ski Snowmass 35 days , or;**
- (d) **Ski Aspen Mountain 20 days**

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For more information call: 925-5300

*If you're still employed by a Chamber of Commerce member at the end of the season and worked 90 days, and changed jobs not more than once, or worked 120 days and not changed jobs more than twice, you'll get \$125 or your \$250 refunded. If you blow it on the job scene, you're out of luck.

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ASPEN HIGHLANDS
EMPLOYEES SEASON
LIFT TICKET

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This season, prove that skiers are thinkers (after all, you're probably both). Make your employees' downtime a ski time. It's the best incentive in Aspen.

Call Aspen Highlands Marketing Department at 925-5300 for details.

Skiing atop mountains very good

All four of Aspen's ski mountains opened on schedule Thursday with most lifts operating and conditions reported to be very good on the tops.

The Thanksgiving Day opening

he said, "but because of the season we had last year, it is news now."

Buttermilk reports 4-18 inches of snow with an additional four inches of man-made snow on the lower slopes. All lifts but Tiehack opened Thursday.

Ajax reports 6-18 inches of snow on a good base. All lifts on the mountain are open, but the lower expert slopes are closed. Access off the mountain is provided by Little Nell.

Aspen Highlands mountain manager Don Robbins said Tuesday that there are some 16 inches of snow at Midway and 18 inches at the top.

Highlands opened both Exhibition lifts, Cloud 9, Loges Peak and the lower poma lifts. The area plans to open Olympic if lift lines become long.

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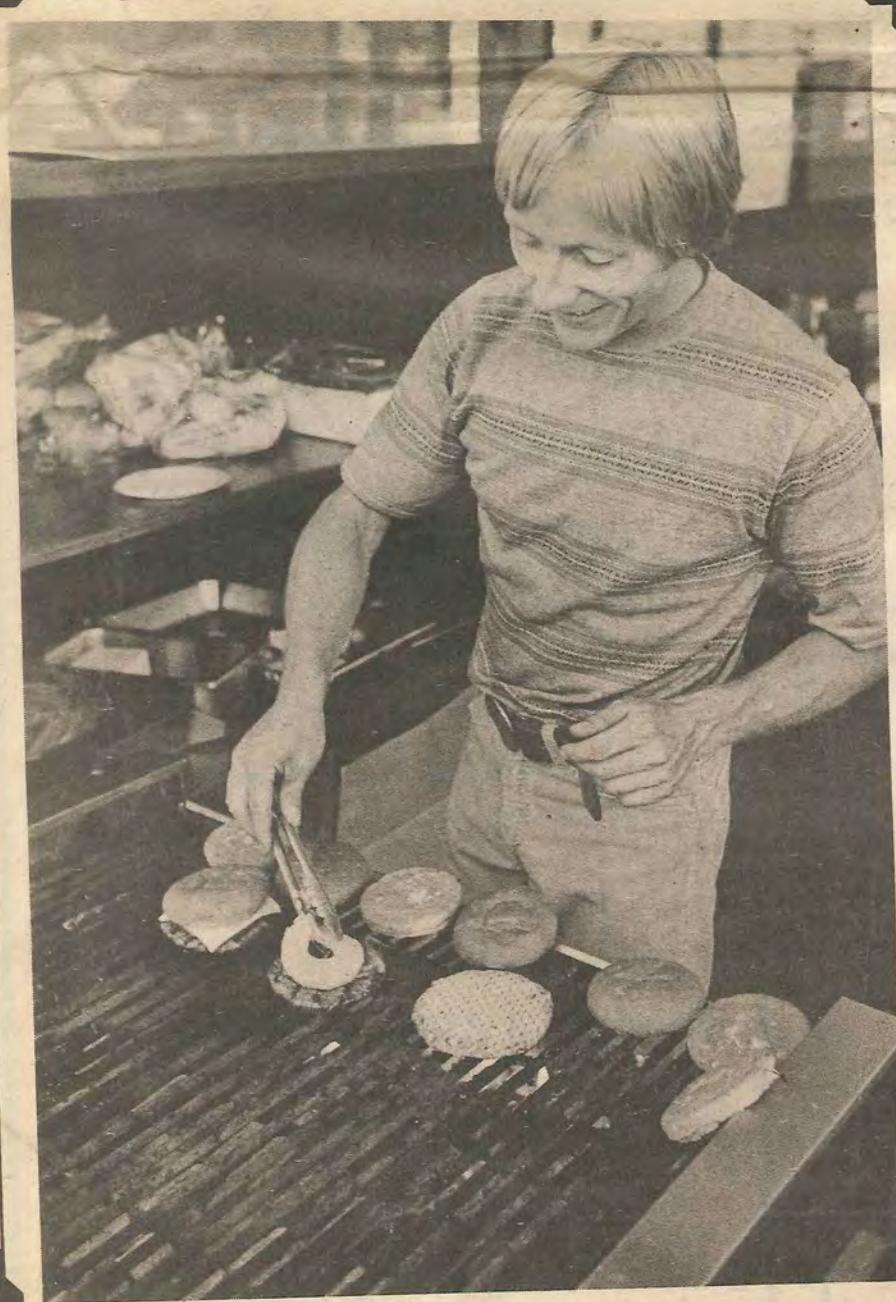
He s ported that h days hard wher gran way

Br cent pres

Sl Pur hav sno ifu ar s



Here we are at the top of Loges Peak in Aspen, Colorado
with the famous Maroon Bells in the background.



Bob Gordon cooking the Gorgeous George

the aspen times

We rode the chair-lift up here. To 11,800 feet on the Highlands.

The lift really wasn't too scary. After all, 400 tourists a day pay \$5 each to ride the thing.

There were kids hiking down the mountain under the lift, looking for treasures that skiers might have dropped during the winter.

Lunch was great in the sunshine on the patio of the Midway Restaurant. We all ordered a Gorgeous George, a hamburger with cheese, a slice of pineapple, two slices of bacon, all served on a whole wheat bun. Everybody ate too much.

After we got off the last lift (there are few seats left) through the tundra to get our shot of Maroon Bells.

The wildflowers got thicker as we climbed. There were blue lupine, wild strawberries, and something that looked like the tiniest baby's breath in a bridal bouquet.

Lots of people had their wildflower books. And binoculars and cameras around their necks.

At the top we claimed the peak for the US and looked all around.

Mountains going on and on.

Gosh, it was just like Switzerland.

Mary Gina Marge Jim
Chris Lauren Elvira & Nina
(they stayed at Midway)

section d

JUNE 30, 1977

Lawsuit Seeks to Void Nixon Pardon

By WHIT SIBLEY
Denver Post Staff Writer

Three Coloradans have asked the U.S. District Court in Denver to declare the pardon of former President Nixon "null and void."

They also have asked the court to rule that all future clemency actions be made only by an act of Congress — not by the president.

The suit was filed on behalf of two Aspen-area men and one of the men's year-old son. Named as defendants were former Presidents Nixon and Ford, President Carter and Vice President Walter Mondale.

The plaintiffs, Robert Starr of Aspen Highlands Ski Area, James Ward, and his son, Casey, both of Woody Creek, claim Ford's pardon of Nixon rendered the United States a government of men, and not of laws, with presidents believing they are above the laws.

The plaintiffs are represented by Aspen

attorney Carl Nutzhorn.

The suit claims that Ford's pardon of Nixon has paved the way for future presidential pardons as a means of escaping justice.

"The future next step is for such a future president to pardon all his own henchmen and co-offenders before resigning to have his vice president pardon him," the suit said.

The plaintiffs were described as voters, taxpayers and independent businessmen, with the exception of Casey Ward, who was described as a minor without voting rights or a means of protest.

Starr, the suit said, is "deeply committed" to the belief in a government of laws and not of men, and to his constitutional right to rebellion against a "government of men which usurps a government of law."

"(Starr) also is an excellent rifle marksman and, as such, is exposed to uncommon hazard in any required exercise

of that right to rebellion," the suit said.

As citizens, the plaintiffs must consider "alternative routes to restoration or recovery of free men's rights," the suit said.

Such "alternative routes" include tax strikes, or in the case of Starr, the "possible assassination of a future offending president, or rebellion," the suit said.

Nutzhorn, contacted in Denver late Monday, said his clients and he were serious in filing the suit.

The suit said the plaintiffs have suffered injury because as voters, their elected representatives no longer hold power to discipline a president who holds himself above the law.

Also, as taxpayers and businessmen, the plaintiffs may be deprived of liberty and property by agents of the government who may act at a president's direction, the suit said. Such punishment could come because of stated opposition to a president, the suit said.

DEC. \$1.25

HARPER'S

BAZAAR

THE BEST HOLIDAY ISSUE EVER



PETER RUNYON

Vail offers velvet-smooth ski runs, exhilarating nightlife, splendid shops and picture-postcard beauty.

THE 10 BEST SKI RESORTS IN THE WORLD

BY ABBY RAND

Step into the Christmas-card world of the great ski resorts, perfect settings for this season of exhilaration and love. There are dozens of good mountain areas from which you can choose, but the holidays are a time when only the best will do. And here they are.

1. VAIL, COLORADO

Velvety Vail. The ski runs are well-groomed. The people are well-groomed. The poodles are well-groomed. Vail is known for its easy-to-ski runs, cascading from the 11,250-foot summit to the 8,200-foot base like rolls of white carpet. Secret: Vail stashes its challenging ski slopes in the Northeast Bowl. Stop skiing early enough to try the cross-country trails, the skating pond, the indoor tennis, the great (and competitively-priced) shops. Dine at the Left Bank (French) or Kosta's (Greek); dance at Sheika's or The Mark. There's a good nursery for toddlers, ample amusement for grandparents. Vail has a few lodges and dozens of equally good housekeeping condominiums. United Airlines' non-holiday packages run \$142 to \$485 per person, double occupancy, for seven nights' lodging and six days' lift tickets. Information: Vail Resort Association, Vail, Colo. 81657; (800) 525-5510.

Among the scores of idyllic ski resorts, Bazaar chooses the world's 10 best: sites for the novice and professional, the extravagant and budget-minded, where exciting slopes and festive after-ski life are offered in abundance.

2. ST. MORITZ, SWITZERLAND

The St. Moritz regulars could afford to buy their way into Paradise, but they choose to gather here. The likes of Stavros Niarchos, the Shah of Iran and Henry Ford ascend the slopes in private helicopters to avoid the lift queues. Everybody enjoys stocking his chalet with delicacies from Glattfelder's caviar store, dressing for afternoon tea at Hanselmann's and celebrating nights at the Palace Hotel's King's Club, patronized by genuine kings. It is a gossip column sprung to life in a circle of majestic Alps, and the cast of characters is as strong an attraction as the setting.

But look again at that backdrop—six major mountains, garlanded with ski lifts, striped with long, broad runs. All provide good cover, starting from

the 6,000-foot level, which is the Alps' magic altitude for snow insurance. If one mountain palls, you can move on to the next, usually by skiing one of the village-to-village runs. Newly popular: ski touring across the frozen lake, swimming indoors at the lake-side pool, or taking romantic moonlight sleigh excursions to The Hotel Rosegletscher. The Swissair Christmas land package costs \$665 per person, double occupancy, for 14 nights at the big central Hotel Albana or \$1,170 at the super-elegant Carlton. Room, MAP and train from Zurich are included, air fare is not. Information: Swiss National Tourist Office, 608 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10020; (212) 757-5944.

3. ASPEN, COLORADO

A perpetual carnival, simultaneously earthy, elegant, tacky, Victorian, mod and a little mad. Since the silver-mining days of the 1890s, Aspen has been a haven for dreamers and non-conformists; the Wheeler Opera House and Hotel Jerome were founded by pioneer dropout Jerome B. Wheeler, who left his post as president of R. H. Macy & Co. in order to remain here. People will do anything at Aspen—wait tables, open fur boutiques, gild aspen leaves—to live close to its heart-stop. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)



Purple mountain majesties...

Aspen the beautiful.
The home of the purple mountain majesties.
Mountains like you've never seen before, except maybe in magazine ads. Promoters never seem to tire of photographing our mountains and using them to sell their wares, be it vitamin pills, or beer or shampoo.

This Aspen scene is the Highlands Bowl from the Sundeck. Loges Peak (the top of Highlands) is behind the right-hand tree.

Photo by Michael Kennedy.

WHATEVER YOU'RE INCLINED TO SKI...



IT'S JUST A MATTER OF MIND OVER MOUNTAIN.

At Aspen Highlands. Whether you're into NASTAR racing (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at noon) or into learning the thrill of schussing down a snow-covered mountain, Aspen Highlands is the mountain you've been waiting for. The mountain you've dreamed of skiing. The mountain in your mind.

With 57 miles of trails dusted to powdery perfection, we've got a trail just right for you. Whether it's Colorado's longest vertical ski slope (absolutely incredible!) or a slope

where you'll discover skiing in one of our GLM classes. (To put your free spirit in a class of its own.)

And after you've made your sitzmark on our mountain, make your apres ski adventure at the base of our mountain—in the Christian Endeavor or the Club Bar lounge.

Free buses for Aspen Highlands leave Aspen every 30 minutes, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Or call 925-5300 for more information.



Aspen Highlands The Mountain in your mind.

ASPEN HIGHLANDS

The fun, friendly mountain with terrain for all levels of ability. Vertical rise of 3,800 feet, the highest in Colorado, with 8 double chairlifts and 4 Pomas. On the mountain, the Merry-Go-Round Restaurant. Base facilities include ren-

tals, ski shop, restaurants, bars and lodgings.

The vertical drop is 3,800 feet; maximum run length, 3½ miles; average snowfall, 250 inches; average daytime temperature, 32 degrees; base elevation 8,000 feet; summit elevation, 11,800 feet; expert, 25%; intermediate, 50%; beginner, 25%.

Lifts: Aspen Highlands has 8 double chairlifts and four surface lifts with an uphill capacity of 10,000 persons an hour.

One Good Turn Follows Another

We thought you'd like a chance to pick up some tips on mastering your own mountain early in the season.

Shape up your form at our special two-day clinic at a price that won't throw your budget off balance

Wednesday, December 14 GLM 3 foot Ski Clinic

Thursday, December 15 Regulation Long Ski Clinic

The cost is only \$10 per day and that \$10 includes the day long clinic, all lift tickets and equipment rental.

Both Clinics conducted by Aspen Highlands Ski Instructors.

Call us for reservations and information



Aspen Highlands Skiing Corporation

925-5300



Mage Mircell, who is a lift operator at the Aspen Highlands' beginner's Poma, helps a youngster on the lift. Chris Cassatt photo.

Highlands to hold special locals' clinic

Aspen Highlands will hold a special "familiarization clinic" for locals Dec 14-15.

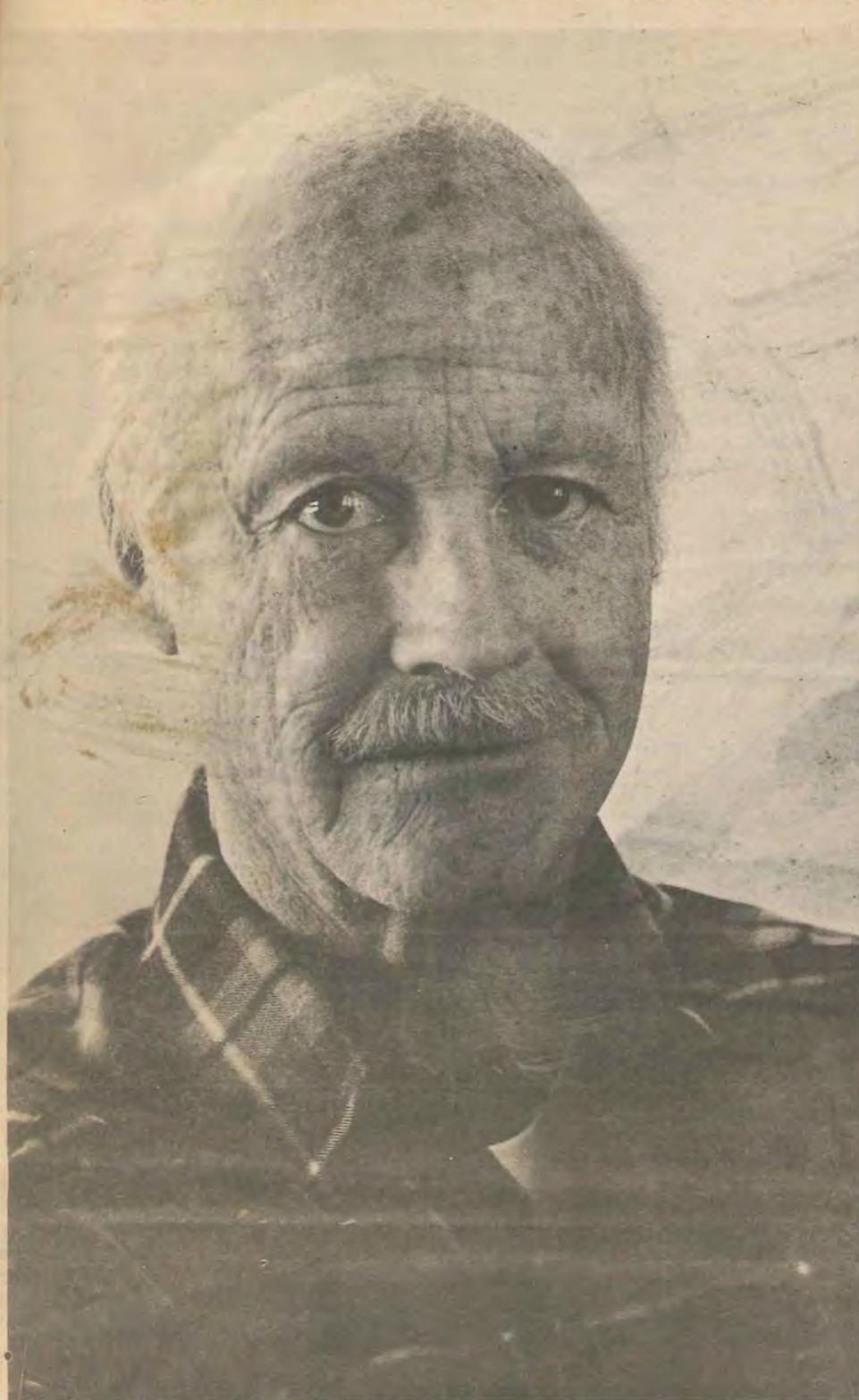
The GLM clinic will cost \$10 each day for lessons, lifts and short ski rentals.

This clinic comes in addition to the instructor clinics currently being held at Highlands.

The public is invited to participate in the last of those clinics, beginning Dec 12, at a cost of \$60.

Highlands has also announced that the Thunderbowl, Golden Horn Poma, Olympic and Quarterway Poma lifts will open Saturday.

THE MOUNTAIN MOGULS



SKI CORP PRESIDENT DARCY BROWN

Stories by John Sabella

DRC Brown, Jr., "Darcy," will be 65 this month, and he's president of the Aspen Skiing Corporation.

That's an enterprise that owns all or part of six ski areas.

Three of the six are located in Aspen, of course, and the others are Breckenridge, Fortress Mountain near Banff, Canada, and Bacquiera-Beret in Spain, where the Ski Corp has been doing consultation and taking payment in the form of an equity interest in the ski area.

The Ski Corp is big business, and Brown says he anticipates that gross earnings this year will exceed the \$15 million the company made in 1975-1976.

Last year, the western snow drought put red ink on the Ski Corp financial statements, but Brown says this winter is off to the best start in several years.

Good Christmas

"If we have a good Christmas, we're almost assured of a good season because the tourists go home and say, 'the snow's great,'" he says. "Word of mouth is better than any advertising you can do."

Brown became president of the Ski Corp in 1958, but his association with skiing and Aspen goes way back beyond that.

His father came over Cottonwood pass in 1880 with two wagons of hardware.

He sold the goods to miners for a grubstake and in Brown's words, his father "lucked out and made a little money in the mining business."

According to Caroline Bancroft in her book Famous Aspen, the elder Brown traded \$250 worth of lumber for a one-third interest in the Aspen Mine, which produced \$15 million worth of ore.

Went to Paris

That earned him enough so that Brown senior could retire and travel to Paris, where he met the future Mrs Brown. (continued on page 2)

Whipple Van Ness Jones, Jr., 68, owns the Aspen Highlands Ski Area. That's the independent member of the four-mountain Aspen complex, and it provides a little healthy competition for the Aspen Skiing Corporation. Jones describes his relations with the Ski Corp in those terms, if you ask him.

"We have lots of joint programs," he says, "but we're strong competitors for the dollar."

Jones was born in Milwaukee and raised in Oconomowoc, Wisc. After graduation from Harvard and a year in the Harvard Business School, he entered the investment banking business in St Louis.

Stock Exchange

He later became a member of the New York Stock Exchange with an investment banking firm.

He did well enough so that after a 64-month stint in the Air Force during World War II, he retired.

He visited Aspen on a ski trip in 1948 and returned that summer for the Goethe Bicentennial organized by Walter Paepcke.

On the strength of those memories, he came to Aspen in 1950 as a "ski bum."

When his first wife, Georgia, died in 1954, he says, he decided he had better not just coast along in the bars so he entered the local business world and built the Smuggler Lodge.

That was his business until he started Aspen Highlands in 1956.

Skied as Boy

Jones says he had skied as a boy in Wisconsin with toe strap bindings that didn't permit you to turn.

In the late 1930s, he visited Sun Valley, bought himself a new set of ski equipment and joined a ski school class on Dollar Mountain.

He says Friedl Pfeiffer put him in an advanced class because he was one of the ones who had raised his hand when they asked which members of the group had skied before.

(continued on page 2)

HIGHLANDS OWNER WHIP JONES



ASPEN SKIING CORP.

When he brought her back to Aspen for a look at the Rocky Mountains, Brown says, she was so impressed that she talked her husband into settling in the valley and he reinvested in mining and ranching.

Later, the family moved its permanent home to Denver, but Brown says that when he was a child, he spent all his summers in Aspen.

Andre Roche laid out the ski run that bears his name on Aspen Mountain in 1936, and the townspeople of Aspen cleared the run of trees.

That's when Brown, a recent Yale graduate, first learned to ski.

Cattle Rancher

He started his career in the working world with the Continental Oil Co, but before the war, he bought the family ranch in Carbondale and another on the Colorado-Utah border and took up cattle ranching.

Brown served in the Navy during World War II.

He says that when Friedl Pfeiffer was trying to start a ski area on Aspen Mountain during the war years he contacted Brown in the South Pacific and inquired about purchasing the mining claims on the mountain that Brown had inherited.

"I told them that if they could show me \$100,000 in the bank, I'd give them the leases for free," he says.

Pfeiffer couldn't do it until Walter Paepcke put some money into it, and then I put some money into it because I was tired of walking up the hill."

Before the war, he says, the Aspen Ski Club had started the old boat tow which carried skiers to the second road on the mountain.

Warming Hut

From there, they'd put skins on and walk the rest of the way to the warming hut that sat at the top of what is now the number eight chairlift on Ruthie's Run.

They ate lunch at the hut then took their run, according to Brown, who says a run and a half was the most they ever made in a day.

It was good exercise, though.

Brown says that in 1941, the year he ski raced seriously, he bought a pair of chaps and they wouldn't fit around his legs.

With George Berger, president of the Colorado National Bank, as its first president, Brown says, the Aspen Skiing Corporation opened two single chairlifts in January, 1947.

They were lifts numbers one and two, and they carried skiers to the top of Aspen Mountain.

Aspen Mountain

Brown is careful to say "Aspen Mountain."

He says "Ajax" really refers to a bump behind the Sundeck, not to the entire mountain, but that people began using that name when guitarist Bob Gibson referred to "Stein Erickson up on Ajax" in a song called the Golden Stud.

Brown sold his cattle business in 1957 and planned on retiring, but he says he was the only member of the Ski Corp Board of Directors who was active in the company, so he became an executive vice president to help run the business end of things while Red Rowland ran the mountain.

A year later, he became president.

"In those days," he says, "our office was two small rooms in the back of the Hotel Jerome with one office employee."

What does the future hold for the Ski Corp?

Improve, Expand

"We have always had a consistent policy of reinvesting all our cash flow in improvements or expansion," he says, "and until the board of directors decides other-

wise, that policy will continue."

He says, however, that it has become increasingly difficult to develop new ski areas because of environmental restrictions, especially in Colorado.

The Ski Corp recently tried to develop the Early Winters area in the Methow Valley near Winthrop, Washington. That effort was thwarted by what the Ski Corp labelled a small, non-representative group of environmental activists.

Brown says that project has not been shelved entirely although it is on a "back burner." He says, however, that since the Ski Corp pulled out of Winthrop, there has been a demonstration of public interest there in having a ski area developed.

He says that nowadays, one disgruntled individual can thwart a new ski area.

EIS Fine Thing

"The environmental impact statement process is a fine thing," Brown says. "No one would quarrel with the idea of making a developer consider the impacts his project would have on people and on natural resources."

"But the way the process is designed now, it is an ideal weapon for obstructionists, and it's happening all over the country, not just in the ski industry."

To streamline the process, Brown says the individual or group that objects to a project should be held financially responsible through the posting of a bond, and should be required to reimburse the developer for costs if the objection is not sustained.

Asked if this wouldn't make it impossible for a citizen to oppose a big corporation, Brown says, "yes, but now it's all the other way."

Disgruntled Individuals

He says that if his procedure was adopted, a group like the Sierra Club could still oppose developments, but that "disgruntled individuals" couldn't.

Because of the environmental restrictions in the US, the Ski Corp has invested in two foreign ski areas, and Brown says there may be more foreign investments.

He says, however, that political uncertainties overseas make investing here more attractive, so that the Ski Corp now looks toward the acquisition of small US ski areas with potential for expansion rather than development of entirely new areas.

There are no new acquisitions currently in the works, he says.

Corp for Sale?

Something that has been in the works recently was an offer by a "large corporation" to purchase the Ski Corp. Brown refuses to comment on the circumstances of that offer, but he says it included conditions that the board of directors considered impossible to fulfill.

On the subject of Dave Farny's proposed Little Annie ski area, Brown says he wishes him well but considers the project economically unsound.

He says he doesn't consider the area that attractive because it only has 1,500 feet of vertical drop on the east side before it dead ends.

"And," he says, "I don't want to see any more people than we already have coming down Spar Gulch."

Double Snowmass

As for future Ski Corp expansion, he says, there is room for doubling the skier capacity at Snowmass, with small expansion potential at Buttermilk.

There is the possibility of one more lift on Aspen Mountain, he says, from the bottom of the steep section on Northstar to the Sundeck.

Asked about community relations, Brown says some degree of resentment is natural because the Ski Corp has become "big business."

What about the season pass?

"The only thing that keeps this town going is visitors," he says, "and we had a great number of complaints about the way visitors

were being treated on Aspen Mountain.

The mountain was being overused by a relatively small segment of the public that was paying a very cheap price for it."

Host Pass

Since the adoption of the Host Pass system with a higher surcharge on Aspen Mountain than on Buttermilk or Snowmass, according to Brown, "Skiers have been spread out the way we like to see them spread."

Although Brown says the cost of skiing will inevitably go up, the increases won't be out of proportion with the rise in the cost of living index.

Does the ski industry have a healthy future?

"Yes," he says, "I'm optimistic about that, although a resort like Aspen is in a more precarious position than areas that can exist on local trade."

"It we have a real depression, one of the first things people will cut out is the \$2,000 vacation week in Aspen."



ASPEN HIGHLANDS SKIING CORPORATION

He was first in line, so the instructor said, "go down and make a turn," Jones says, and he scratched his head and thought, "what the hell is a turn?"

Schussed Mountain

He took off, but no intuitive sense of what a turn was came to him out of the blue, so he schussed Dollar Mountain and had a good head of speed up when he realized there was a parking lot full of buses at the bottom of the run.

With good judgment, he opted to sit down and rather than collide with the buses, and that resulted in a crash spectacular enough to bring first the ski patrol, then "The black spider."

The black spider was Fred Iselin, who said, "What are you doing?"

"I just skied down."

"Ya, I saw you."

"Where I learned to ski, we didn't turn."

Began Career

And that, says Jones, was the beginning of his modern skiing career. It was also an interesting coincidence because both Pfeiffer and Iselin later worked for him at Aspen Highlands.

He says Highlands got its start in the mid-1950's when he wanted to buy a piece of property in the Maroon Creek Valley from Had Deane for a homesite.

Deane wouldn't sell him the piece he wanted, but offered to sell him the Lower Ranch, now the Highlands base area.

"I can't afford that," Jones says he told Deane, but Deane said, "Oh yes you can, I'll make sure of it."

They made a deal and Jones bought the 160 acres with the intention of building a house and raising thoroughbred horses.

Siever Mountain

Not long after that, he says, Deane and Pat and Jenny Henry asked him to invest in a ski area they planned to develop on Siever Mountain just south of the T Lazy 7 Ranch.

Jones agreed, but the Forest Service turned down the permit application because of steep terrain at the bottom of the proposed area.

The Forest Service told Jones that the next Aspen Ski Area should be located on Highlands Mountain.

Jones hired Dick Durrance to do a feasibility report, and he brought in Pfeiffer and Iselin to walk the terrain and give him their impressions.

All reported that the mountain would make a fine ski area, so Jones sounded out the Aspen Skiing Corporation about doing a joint development.

When the Ski Corp refused, he decided to do it on his own.

Permit Process

He says he got his Forest Service permit in six months. Asked how long it takes to get a permit these days, Jones just laughs.

"It takes years to get a permit just to cut a trail," he says finally.

To design his new area, Jones hired Stein Erickson and Peter Seibert, who later developed Vail.

They laid out the trails and suggested lift corridors, all of which were quickly approved because of the expert job the two men did, according to Jones.

The planning and construction took a year and a half, and the lifts opened during the winter of 1958-59.

It was a small start, with the Exhibition Lift, the Thunderbowl Lift and a T-bar.

Small Business

"With any small business," he says, "you expect to lose money at the start and we did."

"When you open a new enterprise, you can count on having the curious come. The hard part is to keep them coming back. Fortunately, we've been able to do that."

The most colorful feature of the area in those days was the presence of ski school director Stein Erickson.

Jones says the Norwegian wasn't sold on the idea of coming to Aspen at first, but that the two of them went hunting on Highlands Mountain and Erickson shot a deer.

"That was it," he says, "Erickson said, 'this is the place.'"

Erickson built a jump near the base area where he did flips.

"That's old stuff now," Jones says, "but in those days, he was the only one who could do it."

He says Erickson was sickly as a boy and that his father hired a gymnast to help his son develop his physique.

Erickson became an Olympic-caliber gymnast, which accounts for his acrobatic skills on skis, according to Jones.

Erickson directed the ski school for six years and his motoricity was a big contributor to Highlands' growth, he says.

He says that another factor behind the area's success has been the GLM (graduated length method) of teaching skiing that Highlands was the first major area to adopt.

GLM School

"Now," Jones says, "We're the largest volume GLM school in the world with 150 instructors."

Fred Iselin replaced Erickson as the ski school director at Highlands and Jones speaks fondly of the charismatic Swiss.

"He brought organization into the ski school. Stein was a great salesman, but Fred brought in a touch of Swiss organization."

"He was a very amusing man. He added a new direction to the ski school: 'skiing should be fun.'

"Fred epitomized that."

And, he adds, Iselin revolutionized the world of ski fashion with his brightly colored garb.

This year, he says, Aspen Highlands skiers will have access to the Steeplechase area on the east flank of Highlands Mountain.

That will open up 1,000 vertical feet of skiing, and send the skiers to an exit trail that will connect with the Boomerang Catwalk.

Within three years, according to Jones, there will be a lift servicing the Steeplechase area for a total of 2,000 vertical feet of skiing.

Another proposed lift now under consideration by the Forest Service would open up part of Highlands Bowl, according to Jones, who says that lift should be constructed within five years.

The pair of new lifts would increase the acreage at Highlands by 40%.

Expansion Trend

As for the state of the ski industry, Jones says it is still in an expansion trend despite hindrance from environmentalists and bureaucrats.

As the ski industry matures, he says, it will inevitably be subject to more and more restrictions.

He says, for example, that insurance companies are becoming more careful about inspections and that the courts are holding ski areas responsible in more instances.

"The Vail accident has made everybody nervous," he says, and he mentions a recent case in which a judge held the Stratton Mountain Ski Area liable because a skier had been injured on some uncut brush.

Does that give a ski area operator chills?

"No," he says, "It's just a question of as the insurance rates go up, lift rates will too."

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ASPEN HIGHLANDS SKI NEWS

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Dear Skiers:

This year, why not put the mountain in your mind beneath your skis at Aspen Highlands?

Consider this a personal invitation to test your skills against more than 50 miles of exciting, freshly groomed trails. At Aspen Highlands, you'll find ski runs custom-made for every level of skiing ability.

Our elaborate system of snowmaking equipment assures excellent skiing conditions -- regardless of the weather -- from opening day November 24, right on through to spring.

Twelve lifts are ready to carry you and your friends up and through some of the most breathtaking country in the Rocky Mountains and, if you dare, to the top of Highlands Mountain, where you'll discover runs with the longest vertical drop of any resort in Colorado -- 3,800 feet.

If it's organized activities you're looking for, we've assembled a program that will make your ski vacation the most gratifying ever:

*Dual Slalom Race--Drop us a line and we'll put together a dual slalom race specifically for your group. And don't think you have to be a mogul to afford it -- it's free!

*Obstacle Course Race--There's no hassle to set this one up. Just let us know and we'll put your thoughts into action. The only obstacles are the ones on the race course.

*NASTAR Race--Join the fun at the number one NASTAR area in the country. Anyone can enter these recreational races held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. All participants receive a national handicap and are eligible for Aspen Highlands NASTAR medals.

*Racing Clinic--Racing director Hans Schwarz, a NASTAR pacesetter and world team competitor, will sharpen your skills and eliminate rough edges.

*Ski School--Let our talented instructors help you keep your balance while making the jump to better skiing. The world renowned Aspen Highlands Ski School features a class for all classes of skiers. From beginning to racing -- even free-style. We've got it all.

*Free Picnic--Touring ski clubs are invited to make a fuel stop at the Aspen Highlands picnic building located at the top of Cloud 9 lift. Relax and enjoy a spectacular view of Maroon Bells. This is a popular event, so all requests should be made at least 14 days prior to the date requested. Last minute group requests will be subject to a nominal fee.

The enclosed material most certainly offers a mountain of information. If you have additional questions, please feel free to write or give us a call at 1-303-925-5300.

We've also provided a Ski Club Scheduling form so that everything will be in order when you arrive. Please complete the form and return it as soon as possible. That way you'll be able to do what you want, when you want. And when you do arrive, our expert staff of hosts and hostesses will be on hand to lend their assistance both on and off the slopes.

On behalf of the staff and management at Aspen Highlands, you are cordially invited to join us during the 1977-1978 season to ski the mountain in your mind. We look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

W. V. N. Jones, Pres

Whipple Van Ness Jones, President
Aspen Highlands Skiing Corporation



Make your reservations now! Just a few rooms left at the Inn for the peak season.

After skiing the powder of Aspen Highlands' breathtaking trails, rest in Highlands style at the foot of our mountain. But hurry to make your reservations -- we have a limited availability of space in the Inn and these rooms will be grabbed up fast!

Dorm Space:

• 12/21-26	Maximum 4 to a room Each room with private bath	\$10 per night per person
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Lodge Rooms:

• 12/17-24	Double occupancy	\$28-\$52 per night per room
• 1/21-2/4		
• 3/11-18		
• 3/18-25		
• 3/25-4/1		

Write:

Aspen Highlands
P.O. Box T
Aspen, Colorado 81611

Or Call:

(303) 925-5130
(303) 925-5050

ASPEN HIGHLANDS SKIING CORPORATION

SKI FACILITIES:

The Aspen Highlands Ski Area, an independently owned and operated resort within a complex of four ski areas that compose Aspen, offers perfect terrain for all levels of skiing proficiency. The 57 miles of trails are serviced by 8 double chair lifts and 4 Pomas providing an uphill capacity of 10,000 skiers per hour. The 3,800 foot vertical drop at Aspen Highlands is the greatest in Colorado. One can ski continuing trails for over 2½ miles. And, snowmaking equipment adds a final touch to the lower slopes.

SEASON:

Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 24, 1977) through April 9, 1978.

LIFT FEES:

Best Buy

*Adult - Full Day - \$12.00

*Half Day - \$8.00

*Child, 1 day (12 yrs and younger) - \$3.00

*3 Days at Aspen Highlands (Good Any 3 out of 5 Consecutive Days) - \$30.00

*6 Days - Aspen Highlands, Aspen Mt., Buttermilk and Snowmass - \$77.00

SKI SCHOOL:

Ski School Director: Charles "Lefty" Brinkman and a staff of 140 professional instructors. Classes meet, for all levels, at the base area at 9:30 A.M. and offer a full day of instructions. Technique: GLM (Graduated Length Method) for newer skiers; Advanced long ski; Freestyle classes; Racing Clinics; Mini Instructor's Clinics and Children's classes.

FEES:

One, full day group lesson: \$13.00;

3 full days group lessons: \$33.00;

5 full days group lessons: \$50.00;

Children 12 and under full day group lesson: \$11.00

Private lessons:

\$20.00/hour for one person, \$5.00/hour/person additional with maximum of three/private group. All day: \$90.00.

Snow Puppies:

Activities, Instruction & Lunch (Ages: 3 thru 6) full day group: \$17.00.

NOTE: Above prices do not include lift tickets.

Best Buy:

Special Package Rate: 5 full days group lessons and lifts: \$95.00.

RENTALS:

2 Ski Shops - \$6.50 for one day. Special GLM rate: \$18.00 for 3 days; \$30.00 for 5 or 6 days available at the Highlands Inn GLM Rental Center. High performance skis: only \$6.00.

MOUNTAIN FACILITIES:

Base Lodge: food service for breakfast and lunch, rest rooms, bar and live disco; Merry-Go-Round Restaurant located mid-mountain with food and bar service for breakfast and lunch; Highlands Inn on premise, hotel with restaurant (Dunnavants) two bars and live entertainment, pool, sauna and boutique; two lodges adjacent to the Highlands: Heatherbed and Maroon Creek Lodge; two ski shops with full service and rentals and FREE bus service to area.

APRES SKI:

Aspen is famous for it. Over 104 restaurants and bars to suit every taste. Live entertainment, discos, theaters, indoor tennis, ice skating, etc. AND: The best Apres Ski in town. The Christian Endeavor Bar and Upstairs Club Room, both located in the base lodge and Dunnavant's located in the Highlands Inn offer colorful Apres Ski entertainment and dancing.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Aspen "PRO" Spree, \$80,000 purse - December 12-18
 Coors, Colorado Pro Tour - January 27 and 28
 Annual Winterskol Carnival - January 18-22
 Highlands Cup Race (USSA ELBERT SERIES: FIS Downhill) - February 4 and 5
 Canadian American Ski Series (Slalom, Giant Slalom and Downhill) - February 14-19

Weekly:

Professional "HOTDOG" Contest - Friday noon
 Professional "PRO" format NASTAR "Plus" - Saturday

NASTAR:

#1 NASTAR area in the nation. Races held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at noon on Golden Horn. Sign up the afternoon before or morning of the race in the Customer Service Department. Special classes in race training also available. For further information, contact our Customer Service Department.

Free Ski Club Picnics:

Groups and clubs of 25 or more persons may arrange in advance through the Marketing Department, Aspen Highlands, Post Office Box T, Aspen, Colorado 81611. 303/925-5300.

SNOW REPORTS:

Phone 303/925-5300.
 Colorado Ski Country, USA - 303/837-9907 or your local airline tour desk.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION: Free shuttle bus service to all mountains.

TRANSPORTATION TO ASPEN:

Air: Aspen Airways and Rocky Mountain Airways, Denver to Aspen. Mountain West Airlines, Grand Junction to Aspen. Aspen Airport 2 miles from Aspen. Taxis, limos and bus service to Aspen & Snowmass.

Bus: Continental Trailways, Denver, Grand Junction and Colorado Springs to Aspen.

Car: Rental cars available at gateway city airports. From Denver via I-70 to Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Hwy. 82 to Aspen - 205 miles, from Grand Junction via I-70 to Glenwood Springs, Colorado, Hwy. 82 to Aspen - 140 miles.

RESERVATIONS & PACKAGE PLANS: For information concerning lodging and reservations in Aspen or Snowmass, contact your local airline tour desk, the lodge direct, a tour operator in your area or a tour operator/reservations service in Aspen.

HIGHLANDS INN RESERVATIONS: Beautiful Country Lodge - The Highlands Inn, located next to the base lift at the Highlands. For reservations Contact: Highlands Inn Post Office Box 1158 Aspen, Colorado 81611 U.S.A. 303/925-5050

Aspen Reservations, Inc, Box 4546, Aspen, Colo. 81611 - 303/925-4000 - 303/525-4014
 Aspen Ski Tours, Box 320, Aspen, Colorado 81611 - 303/925-1384
 Aspen Condo Reservations, 720 E. Hyman Ave., Aspen, Colorado 81611 - 303/925-9000
 Villa Reservations, 555 N. Mill St., Aspen, Colo. 81611 - 303/925-1900 - 303/525-4200
 Snowmass Resort Association, Box 5566, Snowmass Village, Colo. 81615 - 303/923-2000

RATE LIST
 1977 - 1978 SEASON

LIFT RATES:

One Day	\$12.00
Half Day (starting at 12:30 p.m.)	8.00
Child, one day (12 yrs. and younger)	3.00
Young-At-Heart (65 yrs. and older)	3.00
Three Days at Aspen Highlands only (good any three out of five consecutive days)	30.00
Six days - Four Mountains*.	77.00

VALID 4 MOUNTAINS - Aspen Highlands, Aspen Mountain, Buttermilk, and Snowmass.

SKI SCHOOL RATES:

One Day - Group Lesson	\$13.00
Three Days - Group Lessons	33.00
Five Days - Group Lessons	50.00
Child, One Day - Group Lesson (12 and under)	11.00
Snow Puppies (Ages 3-6) (Includes Lift Ticket, Instructions and Lunch) Per Day	17.00
Private Lesson - one hour - one person	20.00
Additional persons (up to three) each	5.00
Private Less - ALL DAY	90.00

SPECIAL PACKAGE RATES:

Five Days - Lessons & Lifts (all day) (individual rate)	\$95.00
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G.L.M. RENTAL PRICE:

(3', 4', 5')	Price	+	Tax	=	Total
One Day	\$6.50	.35			\$6.85
Skis Only "	4.50	.25			4.75
Three Days	18.00	.90			18.90
Skis Only "	12.00	.60			12.60
5 or 6 Days	30.00	1.50			31.50
Skis Only "	20.00	1.00			21.00

High Performance Skis Only:

One Day	8.00	.40	8.40
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FEATURED PROGRAMS OF THE ASPEN HIGHLANDS SKI SCHOOL

(ALL DAY CLASSES)

1977 - 1978 ASPEN HIGHLANDS EARLY SEASON SPECIALS

1. THANKSGIVING AT ASPEN HIGHLANDS

ARRIVE: WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23, 1977
DEPART: SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27, 1977

FEATURING:

1. FOUR NIGHTS LODGING
2. FOUR DAYS OF SKIING AT THE ASPEN HIGHLANDS.

OPTIONAL:

1. THREE ALL DAY GROUP SKI INSTRUCTIONS @ \$30.00 ADDITIONAL
2. SKI RENTALS (SEE G.L.M. RENTALS SCHEDULES)

PRICE:

STANDARD ROOMS (DOUBLE OCCUPANCY) \$69.50

2. PRE-CHRISTMAS SPECIALS AT ASPEN HIGHLANDS

<u>DATES:</u>	<u>ARRIVE</u> NOVEMBER 27, 1977	<u>DEPART</u> DECEMBER 3, 1977
	DECEMBER 4, 1977	DECEMBER 10, 1977
	DECEMBER 11, 1977	DECEMBER 17, 1977

FEATURING:

1. 6 NIGHTS LODGING
2. 5 DAYS LIFT TICKET (ASPEN HIGHLANDS)
3. 5 DAYS GROUP SKI INSTRUCTION (ALL DAY)
4. GLM RENTALS (BOOTS, SKIS & POLES)
5. COMPLIMENTARY PICNIC ON THE MOUNTAIN
6. SKI RACES
7. SWIMMING (HEATED POOL)
8. SAUNA
9. ICE SKATING ONE NIGHT WITH LEFTY BRINKMAN (ADMISSION CHARGED)
10. FREE SHUTTLE TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM ASPEN AIRPORT
11. FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE TO DOWNTOWN ASPEN
12. STYLE SHOW FEATURING THE NEW "LOOK" FOR 1978

PRICE:

STANDARD ROOMS (DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)
DORM ROOMS (MAX. 3 or 4 PER ROOM)

\$171.50
\$151.50

RESERVATIONS:

HIGHLANDS INN
C/O LEFTY BRINKMAN
P.O. BOX 1168
ASPEN, COLORADO 81611 U.S.A.

ASPEN HIGHLAND SKIING CORPORATION
c/o BILL COMSTOCK
P.O. BOX T
ASPEN, COLORADO 81611 U.S.A.

POOR SNOW CANCELLATION CLAUSE: IF LESS THAN 8 OF THE 12 LIFTS ARE OPERATING DUE
TO A POOR SNOW CONDITION THERE WILL BE NO PENALTY FOR CANCELLATIONS MADE ANYTIME
UP TO 48 HOURS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.

GLM LEARNING

THE GRADUATED LENGTH METHOD IS ONE OF THE FASTEST AND MOST ENJOYABLE WAYS FOR THE NEW SKIER TO PROGRESS TO HIS COMFORTABLE LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY. ASPEN HIGHLANDS IS PROUD TO BE THE WORLD'S LARGEST GLM SCHOOL AND ONE OF THE FIRST MAJOR SKI SCHOOLS TO ADAPT 3, 4 AND 5 FOOT SKIS TO THE SUCCESSFUL LEARNING PROCESS.

GLM ALSO ALLOWS THE MORE PROFICIENT SKIER TO IMPROVE THOSE SKILLS THAT HAVE BEEN TROUBLESOME.

LONG SKI LEARNING

THE INSTRUCTORS OF THE ASPEN HIGHLANDS SKI SCHOOL ARE WELL GROOMED IN ALL THE LEARNING AND ADVANCED STAGES OF TEACHING ON LONG SKIS.

FREESTYLE CLASS

WHETHER YOU SEE YOURSELF PERFORMING THE BEAUTIFUL MOVEMENTS OF SKI BALLET, THE HOT BOOGIE THROUGH THE BUMPS (MOGULS) OR JUST IMPROVING YOUR BASIC SKI TECHNIQUE, OUR FREESTYLE CLASSES COULD BE JUST THE THING THAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

MINI INSTRUCTOR'S CLINICS

ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING CONCEPTS THAT WE FEATURE IN THE SKI SCHOOL. THIS IS THE SAME TRAINING PROGRAM THAT WE SET-UP FOR OUR OWN INSTRUCTORS. IT TEACHES THEM HOW TO TEACH. IT TAKES RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING THROUGH ALL THE FUNDAMENTAL STAGES OF BOTH GLM AND LONG SKIS TO THE ADVANCED, FINAL FORMS. A ROAD TO BEING AN INSTRUCTOR AS WELL AS ADDING EVEN GREATER DIMENSIONS TO ONES OWN SKIING. (3 TO 6 DAYS)

RACING CLASSES

SHOULD YOU SEE YOURSELF AS A TROPHY WINNER, OF BEING A TOP COMPETITOR IN RECREATIONAL RACING, THESE CLASSES MAY BE THE CHALLENGE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR, TAUGHT BY RACERS AND NASTAR PACESETTERS. (2 HOURS TO 6 DAYS)

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

CLUB NASTAR* (Monday only)
NASTAR* (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)
RACING CLINIC* (On NASTAR Days)
FREE PICNIC
DUAL SLALOM RACE

*There is a slight charge for these events.

NASTAR RACING PROGRAM

One of the greatest attractions of sports at any age is the excitement that comes from extending your skill and physical coordination beyond what you've achieved before.

NASTAR is just that. And it's available in Aspen at Highlands!

NASTAR is a National Standard Race, a program for the recreational skier. By entering NASTAR a skier establishes a handicap and for the first time can measure his ability against other skiers who enter NASTAR across the country.

Find out how much you have progressed from a learner to a real practitioner of the sport. Enter NASTAR, the race for everyone regardless of age or ability. If you are in the snowplow class or an expert, you can measure your ability by entering NASTAR. If you are 4 to 80, you can enjoy this easy ski, open gate, giant slalom course which runs between 30 to 45 seconds.

You have the opportunity of winning a NASTAR pin by coming within a certain percentage of PAR in junior, regular and veterans classes - men-women, boys-girls.

Since the idea of NASTAR was first introduced, more people have raced our course than any other in the country.

Why is Highlands Number 1? A great mountain, ideal race slope, experts in setting the course, electric timing, a great staff, headed by Skip Gilkerson. Last but not least - Hans Schwarz, who is the racing director at the Highlands, does the pacesetting and conducts the ever popular race clinics two hours before every race at the racing slope.

Get more fun out of skiing, race in NASTAR at Highlands!

Aspen Highlands, P.O. Box T, Aspen, Colorado 81611 303/925-5300.



ASPEN HIGHLANDS

The Mountain in your mind

You're now just moments away from
the Mountain in your mind.
And the next bus leaves
from Aspen*within
30 minutes.

You've traveled hours of miles to exchange
your workaday world for Aspen Ski Country. And now you're
just moments away from the mountain you've dreamed of skiing.
The Mountain in your mind. Aspen Highlands.

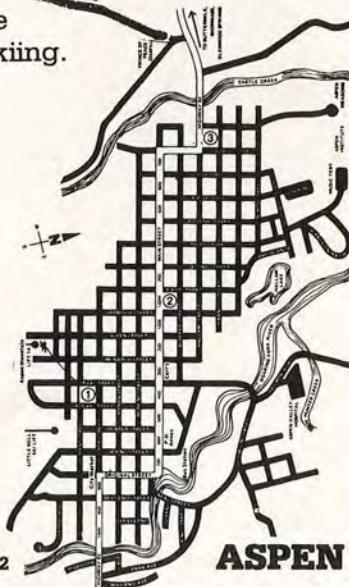
With 57 miles of trails dusted to powdery perfection.
Colorado's longest vertical ski slope—if you're adventurous.
Or, if you're seeking a new adventure, the Highlands' GLM
ski school will prove that it's all a matter of mind
over mountain.

And after you've made your sitzmark on our mountain,
make your apres ski adventure at the base of our mountain
—in the Christian Endeavor or the Club Bar lounge.

Free buses for Aspen Highlands leave Aspen every 30
minutes, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Or call 925-5300
for more information.

* ① Rubey Park ② First Street and Main Street (Arthur's) ③ Seventh Street and Highway 82

Maroon Creek Road



ASPEN

Highlands adds Steeplechase area

Steeplechase, a major addition to the Aspen Highlands Ski area, opens to the public Dec 23, according to Highlands President Whipple Van Ness Jones.

Steeplechase, which increases the size of Aspen Highlands by 35%, is the first in a series of planned expansions in the new Castle Creek complex adjacent to Aspen Highlands.

When complete, the Castle Creek complex will provide 1,800 vertical feet of skiing.

Because of prevailing westerly winds, according to Jones, there are unusually great snow deposits on the Castle Creek or lee side of Highlands Mountain.

Powder Skiing

Ski patrol leader Dave Wright says the area offers powder skiing as fine as anywhere in the US and is comparable to the back bowls at many areas.

He says four to six inches of snow can accumulate during snowless nights as winds blow snow from other portions of the mountain.

The area has been in preparation for four years. Only the ski patrol was allowed to ski it the first year, then employees accompanied by ski patrol personnel.

Last year, the public could ski it on a guided tour basis, and now it's open to everybody.

This year, skiers will have access to about 1,000 vertical feet from Loges Peak to an extension of the Boomerang Catwalk. Jones anticipates construction of a Steeplechase lift within three years.

in
n-

Long range plans call for installation of a second lift that would open up part of Highlands Bowl, he says.

Glade-Like Setting

Very little tree cutting has been done, according to Highlands officials, so that the area has a glade-like setting with natural runs.

Wright says preservation of

wooded areas and sites for installation of chairlift towers was of paramount importance.

"We passed the environmental test with flying colors, since our trails are mostly natural and lift towers will be flown in by helicopter to avoid affecting the aesthetic qualities of the mountain," he says.

A Forest Service landscape ar-

chitect also oversees aspects of mountain grooming, including the planting of grass. In this case, broom grass was chosen.

Wright says the area has been thoroughly cleared of potential avalanche hazards, and that to further insure skier safety, Steeplechase will be closed following storms until avalanche prevention steps have been taken.

Freestyle contests begin this Friday at the Highlands

Aspen Highlands will begin its sixth season as a sponsor of weekly freestyle contests Dec 23. A new twist this season will be a race for the Dearborn Cup.

This trophy has been donated by Bud Green, president of Dearborn Wire and Cable Co of Illinois. It will stay on permanent display at Aspen Highlands.

Besides the \$750 weekly prize money put up by Aspen Highlands, the Dearborn Company will present each weekly winner with \$100.

At the end of the season, the freestyler who has accumulated the most Grand Prix points will have his name permanently engraved on the Dearborn Cup, and will receive a \$1,000 check from the company.

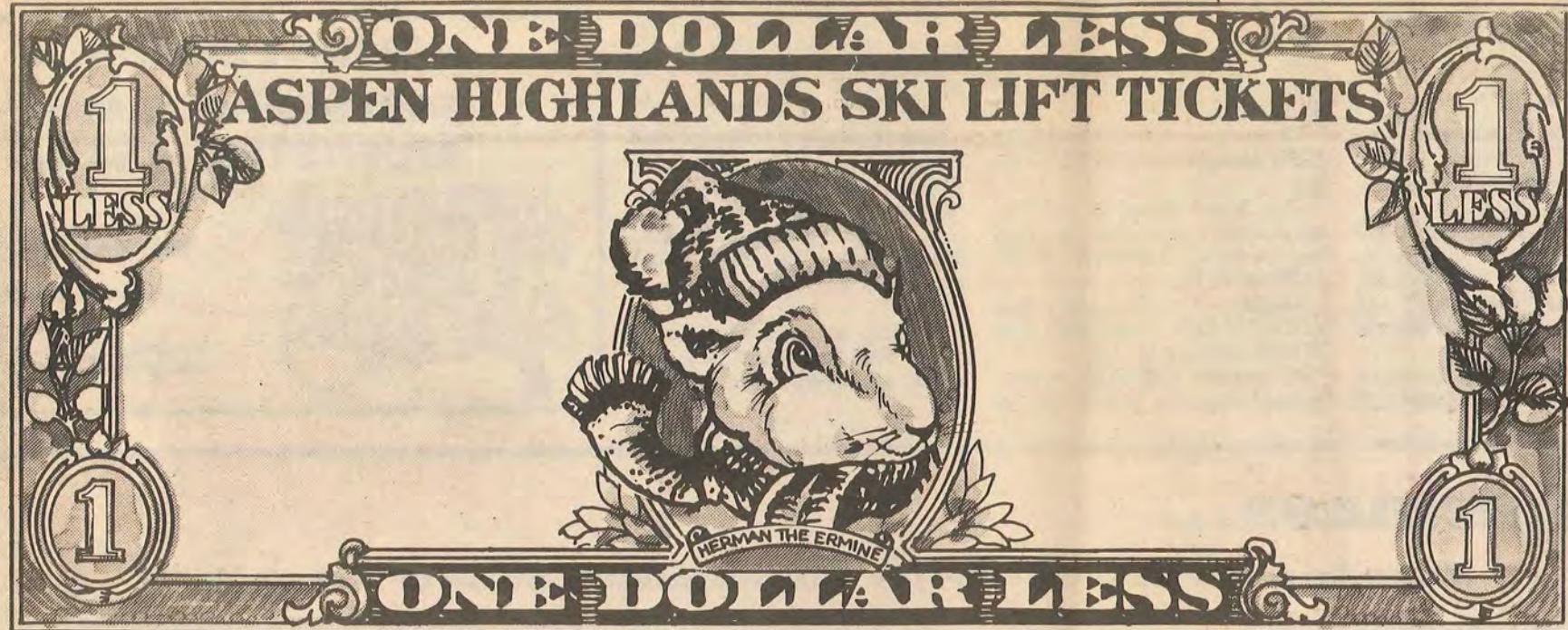
Aspen Highlands officials feel that with freestyle mired in controversy around the country, the Highlands contest may become the nation's premier freestyle showcase.

The contest begins at noon each Friday and is limited to 25 contestants.

520-1387.

ASPEN HIGHLANDS — Apres ski entertainment at the base of Highlands. In the Christian Endeavor Bar Dec 22-27 SOS Some of Starwood, and a little of Nitty Gritty play apres ski from 3:30 - 5:30 pm. Upstairs in the Club Room the Romance Jazz Band plays from Dec 22-27 apres ski.

D.C.



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Highlands skiers choose the Highlands to save that dollar a day. And to ski the mountain they've been dreaming of. With 57 miles of trails dusted to powdery perfection, there's one just right for your level of skiing.

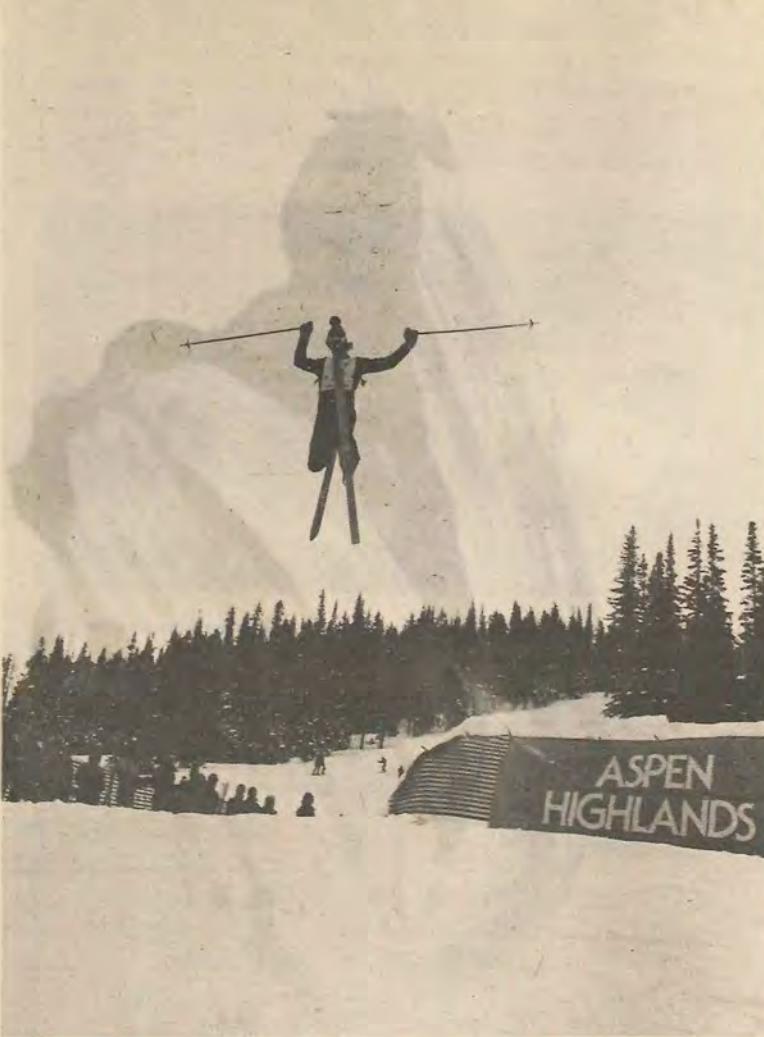
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they say, local and regional contests like that at Highlands are now the premier showcases for freestyle skiing.



Highlands freestyle skiers ski the bumps, glide into ballet, then top off their run with a jump. Andy Hanson photo.

Wilson wins first freestyle contest

The weekly Aspen Highlands Freestyle Contest kicked off Friday, and Highlands instructor Kim Wilson won first prize of \$350.

Wilson, 22, whose hometown is Gary, Indiana, scored 178.1 points and garnered 10 points toward the Dearborn Cup which will be awarded to the overall winner at the end of the season.

Second was Steve Phipps, 27, of Aspen, who scored 167.05 points to win \$150 and capture nine points toward the Dearborn Cup.

Craig McNeil, 25, who skis out of Copper Mountain placed third with 166.6 points, good for \$100 and eight Dearborn Points.

The only woman in the competition Friday, Annie Lincoln, 21, of Littleton, Colo., placed fourth with 164.2 points. Lincoln won \$75 and picked up 7 Dearborn points.

Following Lincoln were Pat Hardy, Jeff Carter, Rich Coulombe, Steve Buchanan, Brian Medina, Dan Pierce, Bar-

ney Oldfield, Dan Knapp and Alex Strange.

Competitors in the Highlands contest must combine all three freestyle disciplines — moguls, ballet and aerials — into one run.

They receive a maximum of 20 points in each discipline from each judge, and they are also scored on their transitions from moguls to ballet, and from ballet to aerials.

The competitors say combining the three disciplines into one run is very demanding but a great challenge.

In the early days of freestyle, according to the competitors, a non-expert skier who was willing to take the wildest jump might win a contest, but in the refined Highlands format, only a technically expert skier who can perform all three disciplines in succession and on the same pair of skis has a chance at winning.

Because the nationwide professional freestyle tour has floundered due to lack of sponsorship,

January 5, 1978

Wilson first again in freestyle skiing

Kim Wilson, 22, won another \$350 and 10 points toward the Dearborn Trophy Friday as he topped the field at the Aspen Highlands freestyle contest for the second week in a row.

Wilson executed spread eagles and 360 degree jumps in the moguls, good theatrics in ballet and a daffy aerial with a spread eagle for 176.6 points.

That total put him ahead of Pat Hardy, 24, whose run featured a 360 degree helicopter aerial with a spread eagle. Hardy picked up 172.4 points and \$150.

Third was Dan Pierce, 30, who did fast fall line turns with lots of air in the moguls, the famous "Pierce Pirouette" in ballet and a spread eagle with a tip-drop back-scratcher.

Pierce garnered 172.1 points and \$100.

In fourth and fifth places were a couple of prodigious jumpers, Dave Sebastian, 21 and Ed Lincoln, 24.

Sebastian's double daffy jump was the day's longest and highest, while Lincoln, last year's World Aerial Champion, jumped almost as far and pulled off three spread eagles in the air.

A big Christmas crowd watched the contest, which took place in a light snowfall on Floradora run.

The contests begin each Friday at noon.

Highlands offers special host pass lift ticket rate

Aspen Highlands is offering a \$6 lift ticket rate for all holders of employee host passes during the month of January.

Highlands President Whip Jones announced the special lift rate Monday.

He said, "Aspen Highlands is pleased to make this offer in order to give everyone the opportunity to ski our newly opened deep powder area, Steeplechase."

"We're offering this special lift rate in an effort to express our appreciation and support of the Aspen service employee, the employer and the Aspen Chamber of Commerce."

Highlands is not participating in the regular host pass program this year. According to marketing spokesman Bill Comstock, Aspen Skiing Corporation officials told him before the season started that Highlands was "uninvited" to participate in this year's host pass program, apparently because of the anti-trust problems the two skiing corporations have already encountered.

As a result, he said, Highlands receives none of the host pass revenues so that the \$6 ticket rate means a 50% reduction in ticket revenues borne by Highlands alone.

Highlands to hold new instructors skiing clinic

Aspen Highlands Ski School Director Lefty Brinkman has announced a six-day instructor's clinic from Jan 9-14.

The clinic is open to those interested in teaching for the remainder of the current ski season, or those who want to improve their present skiing abilities.

Cost is \$60 per person for all lifts and instruction, and rentals are available at a small additional charge.

There will be four days of GLM skiing (3, 4 and 5 foot skis) and two days of regular length skiing.

First Herb Tea Cup at Aspen Highlands

The first Celestial Seasonings Herb Tea Cup Pro NASTAR Race will be held Jan 8 on Jerome Race Course at Aspen Highlands, according to Skip Gilkerson.

The race is expected to draw most of the top regional pro racers from the area and will be the grand finale of a big race weekend. Gilkerson says.

A Colorado Pro Tour giant slalom is scheduled to be held Jan 7 at Buttermilk.

The winners in the Celestial Seasonings race will divide \$2,000 in prize money, which will bring total prize money for the weekend to over \$6,000.

Pro competition is featured at Aspen Highlands every week. Together with the Colorado Pro Tour, according to Gilkerson, it provides a training ground for many young racers with sights set on the World Pro Circuit.

The Herb Tea Cup begins at noon Sunday. The race at Buttermilk is scheduled to begin at 10:30 am Saturday on Government Trail.

Freestyle skiing

Aspen Highlands sponsors professional freestyle skiing contests every Friday at noon on Floradora.

Want a Challenge? Ski Steeplechase at Aspen Highlands

**Vanatta wins
Herb Tea Cup
dual slalom**

Lonny Vanatta of Steamboat Springs notched his second victory of the weekend Sunday in the \$2,000 Celestial Seasonings Herb Tea Cup dual slalom held on Aspen Highland's Jerome Bowl.

Saturday, Vanatta won the Colorado Pro Tour giant slalom at Buttermilk.

In the Herb Tea Cup, former French national champion Eric Stahl was second, Ted Marolt of Loveland was third and Tom Greiber was fourth.

The best Aspen finish was an eleventh by Jonathan Teuscher. Keith Adams placed fourteenth.

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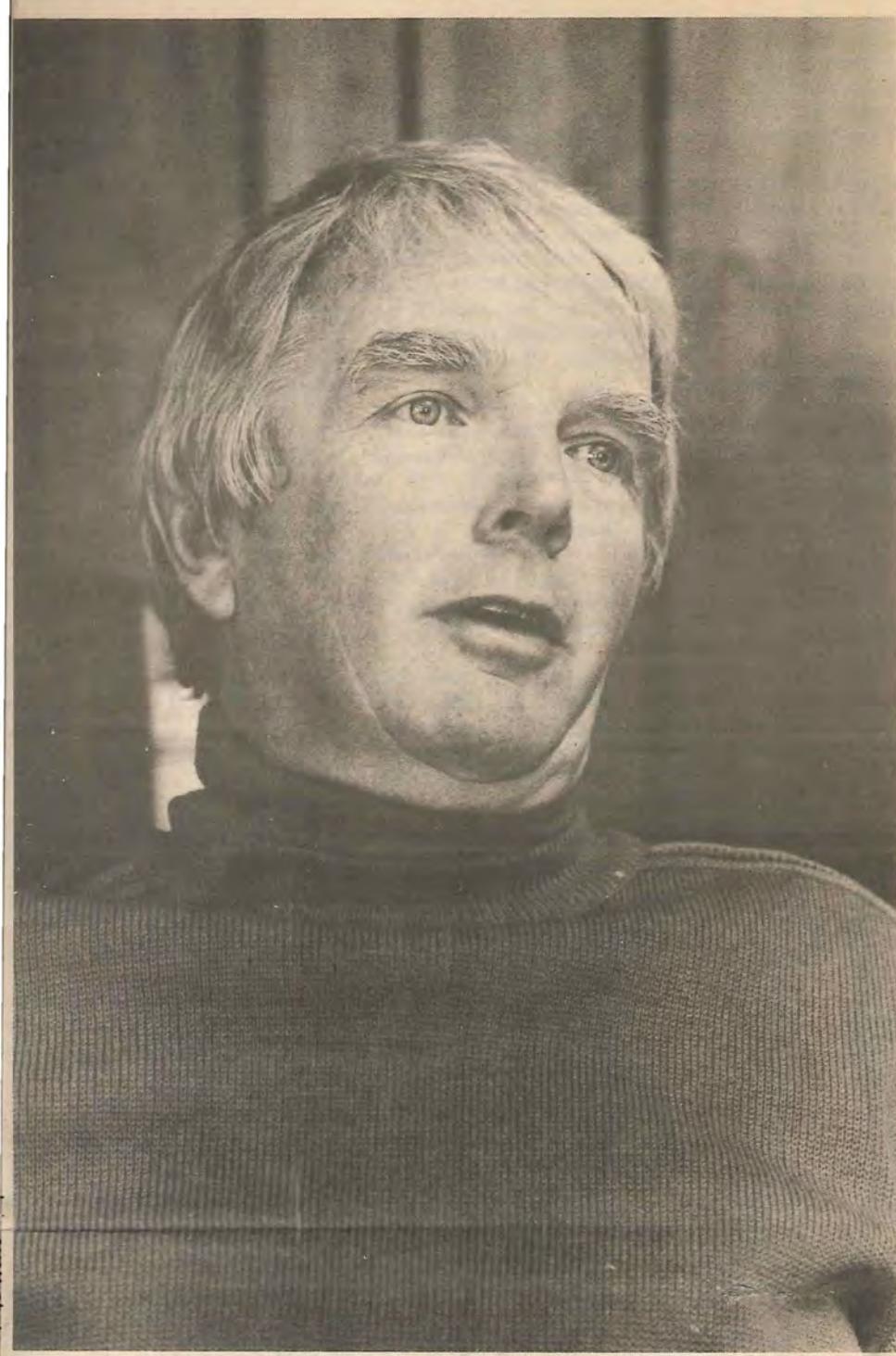
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THE SKI MEISTERS



CURT CHASE

Stories by John Sabella

Curt Chase, 55, director of the Aspen Ski School, makes no bones about his opinion of the job of ski instruction that is accomplished by his more than 200 instructors.

As he sits in his Buttermilk office and watches the ski school classes lining up outside the window, he says, "I firmly believe that the best ski teaching in the world occurs right out there."

If there is a basic premise in Chase's philosophy of ski teaching, it is that form follows function.

As he describes it, you develop the skills fundamental to skiing and then adopt whatever form comes naturally. If the skills are performed efficiently, he says, the form will be good.

Skill Orientation

Chase calls the Aspen Ski School this country's leader in form-follows-function ski teaching, and says he tends to think that he invented the "skill-oriented" rather than "turn-oriented" ski teaching methodology that has been adopted by the vast majority of ski schools.

What that means, according to Chase, is that instead of perfecting things like snowplows and stem turns that will eventually be abandoned, the student develops skills like standing, sliding, steering and skidding, and then uses the skills to perform a variety of turns.

What has characterized the Aspen Ski School over the years, Chase says, is a progressiveness that means that the school has never been "stuck" in one teaching concept.

While many ski schools have been unable to abandon traditional teaching concepts and have thus fallen behind current thinking, he says, the Aspen Ski School has always been willing to experiment and use whatever concepts or methods are effective: yet Aspen has a system that blends the varied teaching techniques into a unified instructional method. (continued on page 2)

Aspen Highlands Ski School Director Charles "Lefty" Brinkman, 49, would like to open Aspen's eyes.

Brinkman is a firm believer in Highlands' graduated length method (GLM) ski teaching system, and he wants people to come to Highlands and spend the day on three-foot skis before they dismiss GLM as a crazy system.

He says that two days per month, Highlands is offering local's clinics with lessons, lifts and rentals provided at a special rate, and that he would like to see everybody, experts as well as beginners, come to the clinics and say, "I want to find out what the jackass is talking about."

Burden of Proof

After a day on the short skis, he says, "If they still pooh-pooh GLM, I'll shut up. Talk is cheap and the burden of proof is on us."

Lefty prefaces his praise of GLM by cautioning that the system has been oversold by purveyors of "Madison Avenue razz-matazz" who have "duped" people into thinking that GLM would turn them into instant skiers.

And, he says, GLM originator Cliff Taylor has "come on too strong" in his endorsement of the short ski system, especially with the traditional, European mind that still dominates the ski world and has an in-bred affinity for long skis.

He says Taylor has oversold the system and has erred by trying to put all GLM students on the same schedule of progress.

Progress Differs

No two skiers ever progress at the same rate so that any kind of time schedule for learning to ski is irrelevant, according to Brinkman, who says he has no extravagant claims to make about how fast you'll learn to ski with GLM.

That may be, but Brinkman does have a few claims to make.

He refers to his counterparts at the Aspen Ski School and says, "They do a fine job, but I'm afraid they wouldn't say the same about us."

"I'm sorry for them, because they're making a mistake."

He says he would challenge the Aspen Ski School "any day of the week" to take a non-skier and show him the same amount of fun and progress during a week of lessons.

(continued on page 2)

LEFTY BRINKMAN





An Aspen Ski School instructor demonstrates that old standby: the snowplow. Chris Cassatt photo.

Chase

New England

Chase talks about the excellence of the Aspen Ski School and about his own contributions to ski teaching with a convincing unpretentiousness and an unmistakable New England accent.

He grew up in Newport, NH, and began skiing in 1932 at age 10.

That was the year the Winter Olympics were held at Lake Placid, he says, and the sport of skiing had just begun to catch hold on the East Coast.

Another factor that boosted skiing interest in his hometown, he says, was the arrival of Dick Durrance who had grown up in Germany where he learned to ski well enough to win all the ski races he entered in this country by wide margins.

Chase says that Durrance, who would later come to Aspen, of course, wanted to attend Dartmouth but came to Newport to finish high school before he could apply.

Seat of Pants

If skiing was in its infancy in those days, ski instruction was almost non-existent, according to Chase, so everyone learned to ski by the seat of his pants.

"In those days," he says, "you skied five years before you skied as well as someone who takes five lessons today."

Chase skied for the University of New Hampshire for three years before he quit school in 1943 and joined the army.

He became a ski trooper with the Tenth Mountain Division and came to Colorado's Camp Hale for training, and he was part of the Tenth Mountain's assault on Italy's Mt Belvedere in 1945.

Chase's association with Aspen began in 1946 when he headed the ski patrol on Aspen Mountain, and taught occasionally for Friedl Pfeiffer's ski school.

The co-directors of the school were Pfeiffer and Fred Iselin, and Chase says that "like all instructors," he wasn't always sure they knew what they were doing.

Giants in Field

"But in retrospect," he says, "I realize they were giants in the field and my teaching philosophy is derived from them."

After two years here, he went to Gaylord, Mich, where he ran the ski school for the Osteo Club.

Chase returned to Colorado in 1950, and for six years he did double duty: giving mountain and survival training to Army troops in Colorado and Nevada, and teaching part time for the Aspen Ski School.

From 1957 to 1959, Chase came back to Aspen full time to teach skiing, before he was hired to run the ski school at Red Lodge, Montana.

When he returned from Montana in 1963 to serve as co-director of the Aspen Ski School with Bill Mason, Chase says, his assignment was to convert the school to the American Technique.

To explain what that meant,

Chase discusses the history of ski instruction.

Four Innovators

He says that during his career in skiing, he has been fortunate enough to have had personal associations with the four great innovators in ski teaching: the Austrians Hannes Schneider and Professor Stefan Kruckenhauser, and the Frenchmen Emile Allais and Georges Joubert.

Schneider developed the original Arlberg method of instruction which emphasized lateral stemming and constant repetition of the snowplow, stem and stem christie (Schneider didn't believe pure parallel turns existed), according to Chase.

Later, he says, Allais developed pure parallel skiing with lots of up and down motion.

Modified Arlberg

These two systems developed into the modified Arlberg method that was utilized by Pfeiffer and Iselin in the old Aspen Ski School, and that emphasized extreme rotation, he says.

Right after World War II, according to Chase, Kruckenhauser amazed everyone with wedeln or heel-thrusting techniques.

Chase says of Kruckenhauser's counter-rotational system, "this was not evolution. This was a totally new approach."

Beginning about 1957, he says, Joubert's influence began to spread, and he utilized many of Kruckenhauser's mechanical concepts but put primary emphasis on function where the Austrian system was based more on form.

After Joubert, according to Chase, the form follows function concept became firmly established, although the new system wasn't immediately accepted in Aspen.

Old Fashioned Aspen

A 1967 issue of Skiing Magazine says, "Something of a sensation occurred in ski teaching circles in 1963 when it was announced that the Aspen Ski School, the last major stronghold of old-fashioned rotation, was going to change over to the American Technique. The man chosen to convert the school to 'instant' American was Churt Chase."

The article casts the changeover as a pitched battle between Chase and Iselin.

It goes on to say, "Iselin is the man that Chase replaced, at least spiritually, in a roundabout series of corporate moves that had included the purchase of the once-separate Aspen Ski School by 'The Corporation,' the owner of Aspen Mountain. Iselin, after a year's 'retirement,' became director of Aspen Highlands, where he also runs the ski school and teaches a modified form of rotation he calls the International Technique.

"From this bastion, Iselin lets fly periodic needle-sharp barrages at his competitor across the valley and the counter-rotating world in general."

Itsy-Bitsy Turns

"Aspen being Aspen, it's not as if this was some vast secret. As a matter of fact, the rivalry between the two schools is a wide-open

topic of discussion, spurred on by frequent letters appearing in the Aspen Times. Iselin is a natural phrase-maker, and his attack against "itsy-bitsy turns" (wedeln) was widely quoted."

Chase never fought back publicly, the article states, but after his instructors clobbered Iselin's forces in a Winterskol match race, Chase is said to have crowed, "Not bad for a bunch of itsy-bitsy turners."

Now, the old terms like counter-rotation no longer apply, but Chase talks about the "wind-up release mechanism," and says the ski school still emphasizes the use of upper and lower body parts in opposition.

Natural Tendency

In effect, he says, you wind the body up in opposite directions and then release, and the natural tendency of the upper and lower body parts to point in the same direction becomes a powerful initiating force for turns.

In capsule he says, the modern Aspen Ski School system works by teaching students to pivot their skis into a skid, then controlling the skid until it becomes a carved turn.

"In terms of the business of skidding and carving, we may be totally different from most ski schools," Chase says.

He says the so-called carved

turn in which the skis carve an arc without skiing sideways is the final objective of all ski teaching.

Most ski schools try to develop the carved turn from the beginning, he says, yet even they admit that the pure carved turn doesn't exist.

Controlled Skid

What the Aspen Ski School does, he says, is to include the skid as one of the fundamental skiing skills, and then to work on controlling the skid until it approaches a carved turn.

The school's basic philosophy, the "basic turn method," holds that the method of turning a ski doesn't change but merely becomes more refined through the various stages of ability, Chase says.

In the final analysis, however, according to Chase, many ski schools get hung up on terms and techniques — "all that BS" — while at bottom, ski instruction is a "people business."

"We're here to further their leisure activities," he says. "We like to feel that we really contribute to their total vacation experience."

And the proof how well they succeed, he says, lies in the lasting relationships that build up between Aspen Ski School instructors and visitors from all over the world.

insist on using their long skis see the GLM classes making more progress, so that they switch to GLM the second day.

Who is Lefty Brinkman?

He grew up in Philadelphia and devoted his youth to a career in figure skating.

He says he won one national and several sectional titles in dance, pairs and fours, and that he finished second to former World and Olympic champion Dick Button in five competitions.

He came to Colorado in the 1940s to skate for the Broadmoor Hotel, and he attended Colorado College where he graduated in 1951.

Big Decision

Although he had been accepted into medical school and had planned on becoming a surgeon, Brinkman says, he traveled to Sun Valley where he became president of the figure skating club, and his plans changed.

"I made the catastrophic decision that I didn't want to work with sick people, and I've been in the resort business every since," he says.

It was at Sun Valley that he first began skiing, and Brinkman says that when he came to Aspen shortly afterwards, he "learned to teach and ski properly" under Friedl Pfeiffer who then ran the Aspen Ski School.

He also started Aspen's first skating rink, near the bottom of Little Nell, in the mid-1950s.

It was a 60-by 90-foot rink, the same size as Rockefeller Center, he says, and it was a bit of a nightmare.

Brinkman says he had to make ice at 4 am before the sun came up, and that during the summer the canvas sides often came down and ruined the ice-making attempts.

Worked to Death

The performers had to dash off the ice and into a moving van to change costumes, according to Brinkman, who says he nearly worked himself to death trying to keep the rink and the Ice Capades-type show going for two summers.

The rink flopped, but Brinkman says proudly that he paid off all the debts dollar for dollar.

Later, he directed the Aspen Meadows Tennis Club and the Brown Ice Palace, with which he maintained an association until four years ago.

He taught for Pfeiffer and Fred Iselin in the old Aspen Ski School for five years, until the Aspen Skiing Corporation bought the ski school from Pfeiffer in 1963.

Iselin "retired" for a year, then accepted the ski school director's job at Aspen Highlands, and Brinkman went with him.

He taught for Iselin for three years, before the charismatic Swiss gave up his contract at Highlands.

Teacher's Teacher

Brinkman says of Iselin, "He was the finest teacher's teacher I've ever known—he could clarify what he wanted so well and make it look so simple."

After the Iselin era, according to Brinkman, the B, C, F & L Corporation took over the Highlands ski school. Those letters stood for Brinkman, (Bob) Card, (Dave) Farny and (Ed) Lynch, who had been Iselin's supervisors and who took over the ski school in a contract arrangement with Highlands President Whip Jones.

Ego Problems

Four years ago, however, according to Brinkman, Jones decided that he might as well be making the money that was going into the independent corporation's coffers, so he took over the ski school and hired Brinkman as director.

He's still there, but it's not as if ski instructing is all he does.

"While I've been in Aspen," he says, "I've had a stock brokerage license, a real estate license, a subdivision, two hotels, an ice rink, the ski school, three wives and three kids."

"It's been busy."

At Aspen Highlands, the ski school emphasizes three-foot GLM skis. Chris Cassatt photo.

Brinkman

Bad Habits

He says he continuously hears about the bad habits one picks up from GLM, but that he challenges anyone to demonstrate them.

"I personally ski on three-footers at least once a week," he says, "and I can't tell you how much fun they are and how great they are for teaching."

Brinkman says he convinced six good skiers to try GLM skis last week, and that after he guided them through the trees and through the powder, "they were speechless."

The Highlands philosophy, he says, is that the snowplow shouldn't be the umbilical cord to which you revert in emergency situations.

Less Strength

"When you use two skis together, it's like a tree trunk, but when you use them separately, it's like a branch: there's much less strength," Brinkman says of the comparison between the snowplow and parallel skiing.

He says that GLM instruction at Highlands begins with 13 basic exercises all designed to promote immediate parallel skiing.

The exercises are designed to teach the skier how it feels to balance alternately on the toes, heels and middles of the feet, and how to initiate foot, knee and hip turns, according to Brinkman, who says this kind of feel is normally only achieved by experienced skiers.

"To balance on the three-footers is highly difficult, and to ski them well is highly difficult," he says. "We're aware of this and we use it to teach a higher degree of balance."

He says the trade-offs for the

higher degree of balance necessary with three-foot skis are safety and ease of turning.

On Their Fannies

Of the difficulty of balancing on GLM skis, Brinkman says, "If I took 20 locals, good skiers, and put them on three-footers, half would end up on their fannies."

"Of the 10 really good ones, five would be frustrated and the other five would be phenomenal. All but those last five would find out that their balance isn't very good, that their ability to adjust to something new is lousy and that they are not well-rounded skiers."

And, he says, because skiing on three-footers involves little risk of injury and thus little fear, people are more willing to try new things.

"Anybody who is a reasonably good skier would cover new ground with us, Brinkman says. "He would learn things that would take him a year on regular skis, and that's quite a statement."

Asked how much carry-over there is between what is learned on GLM skis and what can be done on regular length skis, Brinkman admits that there is some loss involved in the transition, and that everybody is a little wobbly when they first put their big skis back on.

Made to Turn

He says, however, that skis are made to turn, and that on three-foot skis, you make so many turns that you develop body position, rhythm and confidence that carry over into all your skiing.

And that is the Brinkman view of short skis.

He says, of course, that Highlands Ski School will accommodate anyone, whether on long skis or short, but that often those who

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ASPEN'S MAVERICK HIGHLANDS

The Highlands, Aspen's separately owned other mountain, has the steepest trail in Aspen (The Wall), Colorado's biggest vertical drop (3,800 feet), a new, experts-only area called Steeplechase—and lots of stay-loose skiing.

By Allan Pospisil
Photos by Barry Stott

Widely circulated notices to the contrary, there was skiing in Aspen last year. Not just marginal, between-the-bare-spots skiing but, if your timing was right, superb skiing. I mean the kind of skiing on the kind of snow that appears so beautifully, so unfailingly, on the January pages of illustrated airline calendars.

Only it wasn't January. It was the fourth week in March, the first week of spring. And according to all the regulars at Aspen Highlands, it was the best skiing of the season. It came as a gift, new snow that began falling to coincide with a late Sunday arrival; Monday, more snow, a little heavier than Colorado powder ought to be, but powder nevertheless. And for the rest of the week there were only benevolent blue skies and a fat yellow sun. An unshaded

(text continued on page 67)

Aspen Highlands' prize view: the much-photographed Maroon Bells (right) as Loges Peak skiers see them.



HIGHLANDS (continued)



Spring weather generates enthusiastic poolside lounging at the Highlands Inn (right). Although the emphasis is on intermediate cruising trails (below), the area also offers launching pads for those who like to wing it (far right).



If, as writer Pospisil suggests, the Highlands' motto should be, "If it feels good, go for it," the far-right photo makes the case splendidly. It may need amending to, "If it feels good, go without it," for the skier on the right.



thermometer on the deck of the mid-mountain restaurant touched 60 one afternoon; still, the snow, except at the base 2,000 feet lower, never softened, never turned to slush. Sunshine and powder, powder and sunshine.

First impressions being important, how could I not come away with the suspicion that Aspen Highlands—that other mountain—was, just maybe, the mountain.

If Aspen Highlands were anywhere other than Aspen, it would be whooped about and acclaimed as a ski destination all by itself. As it is, it is just one cornerstone of the four-area Aspen skiing superstructure and (no surprise) not the one that comes first to the hearts and minds of visiting skiers. Aspen-Ajax, the town mountain, and Snowmass-down-the-road have sexier images; sweetly named Buttermilk, primarily a learning experience, is the fourth area. Aspen and Snowmass—the former recognized far and wide for its uncompromising premium on expert ability, the latter popularized on the strength of its vast intermediate Big Burn run—are the properties (as is Buttermilk) of the Aspen Skiing Corp., which helps account for their more clearly perceived personalities.

Aspen Highlands is separately owned (it does, however, join with the others to permit interchangeable lift tickets, and to present to the world a unified advertising presence), and something of the independent organizational status rubs off. Local skiers, mindful of historical tradition (when Fred Iselin sojourned here and started a staider ski establishment with exhortations to "Fly like a bird," and eschewed navy-blue and black skiwear for colors that dazzled) and observant of contemporary mores, recognize the Highlands for what it is—a bit of a maverick (in a town where such a state is next to godliness) with all the skiing credentials to pass the demanding local muster. Furthermore, it's regarded as the right kind of maverick: spirited, unhobbled, still more concerned with flying like a bird and having fun than adhering to strict resolutions of what skiing styles should be.

If it feels good, the Highlands motto might be, go for it.

"Us poor folks," he—young, bearded, tanned—was explaining to me on the lift, "well, the Highlands is a good place for us." What the "poor folks" are wearing these days are shiny yellow bib-suspender pants, top-of-the-line Rossignols, Burt bindings, solid-gold Nordicas. He continued: "We can get a deal here. I come in the morning and if they need help, I work for a couple of hours and get a free pass. Sometimes I work in the restaurant and get a meal, too. Today, I put in maybe an hour and a half,

they gave me lunch and a pass. Say that's 14 dollars worth of merchandise. Not bad. But I couldn't do that at the base 2,000 feet lower, never softened, never turned to slush. Sunshine and powder, powder and sunshine."

"I like skiing here anyway. It's, you know, looser skiing, I guess. Aspen, yeah, it's got more tough trails, lotsa very, very classic skiers. But there's a lot more hot-dogging at the Highlands, more guys going for it."

"Hey—good skiing, okay?" and he skated off the chair, pushing for speed to bomb down Aspen Highlands' exhibition alley, Floradora.

Floradora is a big open slope on the upper half of the mountain, muscled with moguls and slanted just enough to qualify for intermediate status. It pitches down to the huge cafeteria-style restaurant, Merry-Go-Round, the upper locus of the Highlands' sizable terrain. A lot of hot skiers work Floradora, thumbing their noses at classicism, pumping their knees like reciprocating pistons as they run the jam of moguls. It's fun, but it's not all play—\$750 in prize money is given away here in Aspen's only weekly free-

"The Highlands has some beautiful, broad, mile-long cruising trails like Exhibition, Red Onion, Prospector, and Norway, each of which is endlessly caressed and dragged as smooth as a dirt infield...."

style competition, staged on Floradora every Friday afternoon.

It's not only the local young who are attracted by the Highlands' accommodating approach to skiing. On the third morning after the new snow, with another big sun climbing in the sky, I watched a woman get off the bus from town. She was short, solid. Above her conservative black boots, she wore gray shorts and a gray, short-sleeved sweatshirt. Very definitely a tough outdoorsperson. She was about 60.

She said, "What a day! I had to get out. I should be able to find some work around here, get a free pass. If not... well, hell, I'll go home and get my cross-country skis and go skiing anyway."

By noon, she was up on the hill.

Nor is it only the indigent who, given all the noteworthy alternatives, find their hearts are in the Highlands. On the lifts, I talked to an ex-tennis pro who, a year ago, had been on his way to California. "I made, well, quite a bit of money in a short time," he said. ("How? Tell me how?" I wanted to ask.) "I drove through Glenwood Springs and saw a sign for

Aspen. I came to take a look, and I've been here ever since. I'll stay, too; this is home now. I'm working in real estate. I have a season pass at the Highlands. Why? I guess because I think it's the friendliest of the areas. If I skied Aspen, I'd probably see more people I know, but I really prefer the skiing here."

That Aspen Highlands could qualify all by itself as a successful destination is evident from a quick review of the statistics. It offers 3,800 feet of vertical, the greatest in Aspen, the greatest in Colorado. Eight double chairs and four Pomas move 10,000 skiers an hour up the face of the mountain, and it takes nearly three miles of chair lift for a trip that begins at the base to Loges Peak at the top.

The three-mile line of lift towers is the main track to most of the skiing at the Highlands, and there are four stages of lifts to span the distance. Exhibition I begins it, just off a corner wing of the Highlands Inn. A thousand feet higher, everyone off-loads straight ahead and on to Exhibition II. Exhibition II hovers over some beautiful beginner terrain, broad, mile-long cruising trails like Exhibition, Red Onion, Prospector, and Norway, each of which is endlessly caressed and dragged as smooth as a dirt infield.

The end of Exhibition II, 2,000 feet above the base, is midway. The Merry-Go-Round occupies the prominent position here, and this halfway mark is the crossroads, gathering point, and sunning station for Highlands skiers. At the Highlands, skiing is definitely a mid- and upper-mountain routine, and when in the middle of the day the base lodge resembles the nearby ghost town of Ashcroft, the throngs are up here.

Above Merry-Go-Round, the slopes steepen and the mountain begins thinning into a ridge. Cloud Nine is the lift, climbing a line between Floradora (on your left) and Gunbarrel, similar to Floradora but less traveled. Near the top of Cloud Nine, which adds 900 more feet of vertical, the landscape is squeezed progressively narrower and some awesome trails plunge off the edges, namely The Wall and Alps. Rapelling is probably the safest way down The Wall, which is the steepest, albeit briefly so, of any trail at any Aspen area; another Highlands trail—Moment of Truth—is rated the second steepest. Forewarned, forearmed.

The final stage of the four-lift tandem is the Loges Peak chair, which wrings out of nearly thin air another 900 feet of vertical, achieving an ultimate altitude of 11,800 feet. To a lot of people, the Loges Peak lift has always provided more thrills than the extra skiing it serves, which is limited and classified as intermediate. The lift comes up from the sheltered side of the mountain to hang high over a sharp knife-edge ridge, and many are

(continued on next page)

HIGHLANDS (continued)

the stomachs that've been left behind. Since there's nothing in the immediate vicinity but the thinning atmosphere, the view of distant mountains is a stunner and most of the passengers—those whose eyes are not screwed shut—stare admiringly at the Maroon Bells, a rocky and saw-toothed cluster of peaks that form the perfect Alpine poster blowup.

Skiing down from Loges Peak is restricted to a single trail notable for its continued scenic magnificence and for the way it edges along some sharply plunging terrain. Soon enough, the trail—Broadway—feeds into some wide and more challenging slopes (Hayden and Kandahar) and a number of other possible routes, ranging from beginner to expert, back to mid-mountain and Merry-Go-Round.

But don't count Loges Peak short. Where the Broadway trail skirts the edge of steep mountainsides, a new experts-only area is in the works. It's called Steeplechase, and all by itself it will: 1) offer 1,800 feet of vertical, and 2) double the amount of skiing ground available on the upper mountain. There are some five or six trails involved, shaped by natural slides (that's how steep). Steeplechase was open last year to skiers attended by guides; plans this year call for allowing anyone attended by the requisite courage to go for it. A catwalk trail will provide a return to existing lifts, but ultimately Steeplechase will have its own chair.

Not that Aspen Highlands has lacked tough skiing (for which ski The Wall, Alps, Moment of Truth, Upper and Lower Stein, Suzi Q); rather, it has lacked the length and quantity of genuinely steep going that has always been the special province of Aspen Mountain. With Steeplechase in full swing, the Highlands will have a definite expert tilt. Meanwhile, miles of gorgeous intermediate and beginner skiing remain intact. For all-around, y'all-come skiing, the Highlands will be hard to top.

Besides the string of four lifts that form a nearly straight line uphill, there are a couple of others to keep in mind. One is the upper-mountain Olympic lift, easily reached on skis from Merry-Go-Round; the other is the Powder Bowl lift by the base lodge. When crowds jam the main-line lifts, Olympic and Powder Bowl are likely alternatives. Olympic serves upper trail skiing. The Powder Bowl chair (and Golden Horn Poma directly above it) gives access to wide open-slope skiing, rated expert in spots; it's where powder lovers tryst after new snow.

You could go to Aspen and ski only the Highlands (I'll wager most of us have spent vacation weeks at other destination resorts with less skiing than the Highlands), but that would be silly, of course. Just as silly as it would be not to sample the Highlands' winsome ways.

Come to think of it, there are people for whom a week spent skiing solely at the Highlands would be a profitable experience. For them, the attraction would be Lefty Brinkman's Aspen Highlands ski school. Fiercely dedicated to GLM (another characteristic that sets the Highlands apart from its neighbors), Brinkman's corps of instructors are likely to lead three-day-old beginners still on

ASPEN HIGHLANDS, COLO.

How to get there: Aspen Highlands is located in the White River National Forest, two miles from downtown Aspen. **By air:** Aspen Airways and Rocky Mountain Airways serve Denver (205 miles from area); Bonanza Airways serves Grand Junction (120 miles). Rental cars are available at both airports. **By car:** From Denver, I-70 to Glenwood Springs, then south on Colo. 82 to area. From Grand Junction, follow Colo. 82 to area. **By bus:** Bus service available from Denver and Grand Junction. Free shuttle service daily from Aspen center every 15 minutes from 8 till 10 A.M., every half hour thereafter until 6 P.M.

What's there: Eight double chairs, four Pomas; 3,800-foot vertical drop; over 50 miles of trails. Base lodge and cafeteria open until 10 P.M.; Merry-Go-Round Restaurant open through lunch. Accommodations at Highlands Inn, Maroon Creek Lodge, Le Chamonix, and Heatherbed. Ski school (GLM; over 100 instructors); ski rental and repair shops; ski patrol; snowmaking on lower beginner slopes; X-C terrain. Special activities include NASTAR races three times a week. Après-ski entertainment daily in two base-lodge bars.

What it costs: **Lifts:** Adult all-day, \$12 (three days, \$30); juniors (under 12), senior citizens (over 65), \$3. Six-day, four-mountain interchangeable ticket, \$77.

Lessons: All-day (9:30-3:30, with lunch break), \$13; three days, \$33; five days, \$50; private, \$20 an hour (\$5 each additional person). Snow Puppies (ages 3-6), \$17 a day (includes lifts, lessons, and lunch).

Five-day lifts and lessons, \$95.

Rentals: \$6.50 a day; \$30 for six days. **Lodging:** about \$24 to \$48 nightly for a standard double room with bath; about \$42 to \$50 for a double room with fireplace, kitchenette; dorms, about \$10 a night.

Information: Aspen Highlands Skiing Corp., P.O. Box T (Maroon Creek Road), Aspen, Colo. 81611; (303) 925-5300.

three-foot skis to the heights of Loges Peak, inculcating in them early the philosophy that skiing is more fun if you go for it. Meanwhile, Lefty—a wiry ex-figure skater who regularly finished second to Dick Button—scoots all over the mountain on classic long skis, auditing each class at least once a day, chirping enthusiasm and proposing startling new concepts to stretch the students' vision ("I want you to try turning on the uphill ski now, got it? If you can do that, you can do anything!").

Definitely not a desk jockey, his own style of Brinkmanship and the emphasis on GLM have made the Aspen Highlands ski school the hottest in town.

When the lifts shut down, the Highlands doesn't empty completely. The Christian Endeavor saloon in the base lodge sees to that with entertainment every après-ski afternoon; a country group called Pearly White was in attendance last March and drew standing-room crowds. There's also good lodging, and good eating, at the Highlands Inn, directly at the lifts. Staying there, as I did, is handy to the skiing and handy to town, too, by free bus.

Aspen, then. The ultimate American ski town. Simply, it has everything, and it's all within a few steps of a nifty new pedestrian mall in the heart of downtown. Lively bars. Superb restaurants. Entertainment long into the night. Certifiably beautiful people. Galleries and bookshops. Arts, crafts, and a gaggle of souvenirs carved from Aspen wood. Tourists from everywhere, and residents who preceded them by a year, a month, a week. Scandal. Establishment types, and their opposite. And an all-abiding tolerance for varying interpretations of the good life, notwithstanding some heavy political infighting now and then.

But, too, a nagging sense that recent events (*the shooting, the trial, maybe even the poor snow*) have occasioned a spate of reportorial sidebar—slow days in the courtroom—that have emphasized the wicked side of Aspen, tarnishing the silver town's image.

"Please," three residents, a woman and two men who were all from elsewhere, told a visitor, "say good things about Aspen when you get home." The three had just finished a heavenly lunch of Hungarian crepes (spinach or mushroom filling) and crackling cold Hungarian white wine at the Pine Creek Cookhouse at Ashcroft ober Aspen, the ski-touring center in the valley between Aspen and Aspen Highlands. The sun was high and brilliant, the snow had been like confectioner's sugar all morning, the mountain scenery all they had imagined when they left less beautiful homelands behind. Surely, Aspen was too good to them not to be true.

Any food writer worth his shallots has

been to Aspen to taste its fare and, usually, to acclaim it. As a result, I went to some pains to find a restaurant I hadn't already read about and finally located it on East Hyman, the Bacchanal. What makes the Bacchanal unique to Aspen is that it isn't done up to resemble a mine shaft, Victorian brothel, Mexican hacienda, or Turkish delight. But for food, the Bacchanal is themeless, merely elegant with its Marcel Breuer chairs and the borrowed works of local artists hanging in rotation on the walls. For crowded Aspen, the tables are placed with a respectful space between, and the noise level never intrudes.

The reason I hadn't heard of the Bacchanal before is that last season was its first. But it was already gaining favorable word-of-mouth reviews, especially for the beef Wellington (easily worth the \$10-plus tab) and the salmon. The wine list is complete enough to include a hundred-dollar bottle of Chateau Margaux 1961, and as of last March the Bacchanal had sold two. One of the bottles went to a couple having lunch, he a stuffed tomato of some sort, she an egg dish, an omelette. Can that really be what the management had in mind when they stocked the cellar?

Other than the conscious search that led me to the Bacchanal, I trusted to published reports and my nose and never went wrong. You can go from ribs to steaks to Mexican to French to vegetarian to Italian to Armenian, all within a few tight blocks from the new mall. A list of possibilities would fill the column; best you pick up one of the numerous newspapers and handouts around town and work from the ads and recommendations therein.

A bit afield is the rare dining experience that takes place up the Castle Creek Valley at the Ashcroft ober Aspen ski-touring layout. Not quite two miles beyond the snowbank that marks the plow's farthest incursion is the Pine Creek Cookhouse. There's only one way to get there and that's by ski. Evenings, Greg and Kristine Mace, who operate the Cookhouse and the touring center, take dinner reservations for about 20 persons. They supply X-C gear, miner's lamps, and guides. After a leisurely tour through darkening aspen groves and across open valley meadows sparkling in the starlight, the skiers are welcomed to a rustic cabin and bid to warm themselves around the potbellied stove. Candles flicker on several family-size dining tables, and the air is scented with the spices of Hungarian cooking. Greg tends to the drinks (he has Heineken on tap, but his bar is so tiny he has to go outside to draw a Stein), and Kristine, his Hungarian-born wife, is the chef.

It's uphill skiing to the Pine Creek Cookhouse but just enough to stir appetites equal to Kristine's pork loin and

chicken paprika dishes. Given the shared experience of skiing, drink and wine, and good food, it's often a high-spirited group that gathers itself a couple of hours later for the downhill run back to the road. That's when guides like Steve and Missie Pruden earn their pay. The night I was along, they stayed an extra half hour rummaging along Castle Creek for an errant ski which had disassociated itself from an errant guest, who had disassociated himself from the normally accepted course of the trail.

The cost for this agreeable evening out is around \$15 to \$20, depending on your menu selection, and it includes all the borrowed equipment and service. Make reservations the day before.

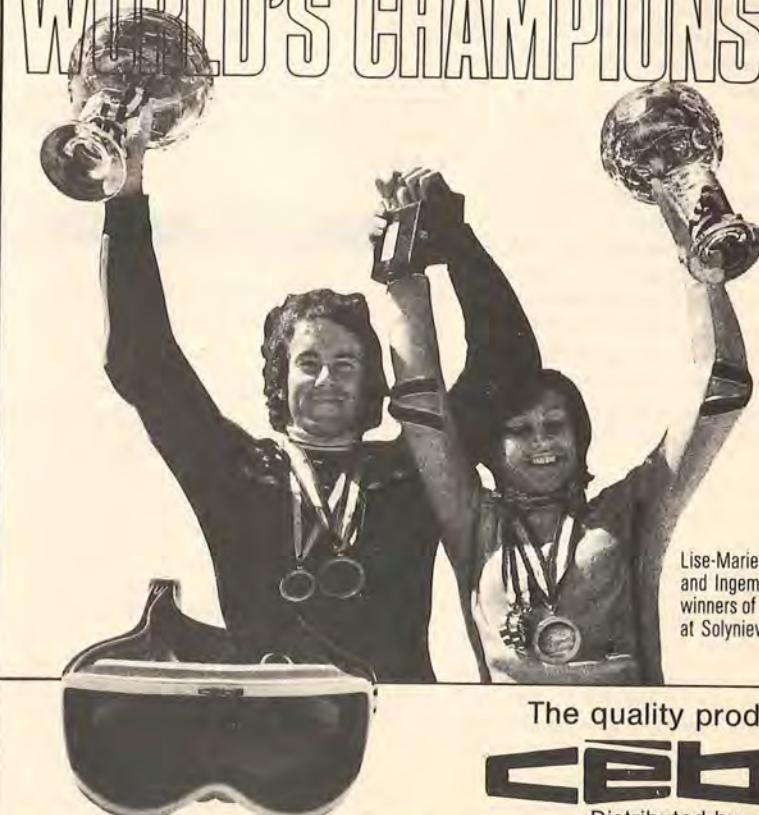
Later on in the evening, impromptu opportunities for jazz and country and rock and listening and dancing or just bellying up to the bar present themselves on nearly every Victorian blockfront. *LEGALIZE BLUEGRASS* read the signs around town, and that appears to be a particularly popular art form in Aspen these days. The hottest fiddler of one country group I snapped my fingers bloody to was an Oriental girl, not much bigger than her fiddle.

There's still silver in Aspen's hills, only it's too expensive now to hack it out. Boom and bust and boom again, all ac-

cording to the price of silver or the depth of snow. Hildur Anderson, curator of the Aspen Historical Society Museum, remembers boom Aspen when the population was bigger, and probably even wilder, than it is now. In slower times, the row of boxes hanging on the wall behind the front desk of the Hotel Jerome—cubbyholes for room keys and messages—was adequate to serve the entire town as its post office. Last year, in the time of little snow, it was also a time of little bust; but for those of us who held on to our reservations and lucked into new snow, Aspen was never better.



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BODY-SLAMMING STEEPECHASE

Photos and story by Dave Marlow

The search for powder snow goes on and on and on and... The other day, someone suggested I try the new Steeplechase area at the Highlands and I thought why not - powder isn't that easy to come by any more. The skiers in Aspen are getting better and better and all of the mountains are usually packed with moguls by noon. We planned a trip into Steeplechase on a Saturday a couple of weeks ago and it was just a stroke of rotten luck to get a foot of new snow that Friday night. What do you do? Well - we skied it anyway.

We went to the top of the mountain only to find the Loges lift closed. The patrol was back in the Steeplechase area making sure it was avalanche-safe. (I imagine they had to make a few turns in there, too). They finally opened the lift and up we went. Steeplechase starts almost at the very top of the mountain and presently has four runs dropping 1,100 vertical feet down the Castle Creek side of Highlands, with a cat walk at the bottom which returns you to the mid-way Merry Go-round restaurant. It's steep, about 32° grade, and the skiing is strictly advanced and expert. Highlands is planning to open several lifts back there in about 2 or 3 years with a total vertical drop of 1,800 feet. Steeplechase gets good snowfall, but it also collects snow which is blown off the rest of the mountain. Overnight accumulations of up to 4'-6' are not uncommon... Not bad, huh? The new Steeplechase area increases the total skiable acreage at the Highlands by about 35%. A very worthwhile addition.

I was lucky enough to be about the fifth person down that day and caught a couple of shots of my powder-hound friends really having a good time. As you can see, the skiing was great.

For our interested beginning powder skiers, we've put together a sequence of the technically correct fall. For skiing powder correctly please refer to Ski Magazine's fall issue with Corky Fowler. Our skier is Pierre Poudre, ace body-slammer fresh from packing out a greater portion of the French Alps. Let's move onto photo #1. Here's Pierre cruising along in his normal unstable and uncomfortable upright position. Photo #2 shows Pierre a little more comfortable catching the outside edge of his uphill ski, initiating the perfect fall. Photo #3 shows Mr. Poudre becoming extremely comfortable (note the smile) preparing for his seat drop-face plant body slam. Photo #4 shows Pierre totally relaxed and totally buried signaling that everything is perfect. Well-done, Pierre. We all appreciate your approach to the perfect fall.

I'll make a deal with Aspen Highlands. I'll send Pierre back to the Alps so he won't pack the powder in Steeplechase in exchange for their concerted effort to keep Steeplechase bottomless powder and free of very large bumps. That sounds fair, don't you think?

Dave Marlow is a certified photographer and crazed person living in Aspen.



1.



2.



3.



4.

IT FINALLY HAPPENED!
I'VE FINALLY HAD
A DAY WHERE
NOTHING WENT WRONG!



SCHULZ

Highlands to hold pro downhill race Sunday, Feb 19

Aspen Highlands and the Celestial Seasonings Herb Tea Co will sponsor a professional downhill race on the Olympic Moment of Truth course Feb 19.

The Celestial seasonings Herb Tea Cup race series for professional ski racers is now in its third year at Aspen Highlands, however, the series has never before included a downhill race.

The highly challenging course originates at the top of Loges Peak at an elevation of 11,800 feet, and descends 2,700 feet over varied terrain that includes the very steep Moment of Truth run.

The race course will be the same as that for the Nor-Am championship for amateur racers scheduled for Feb 15.

Comaprison of the times between the amateurs and professionals should be interesting, according to Highlands President Whip Jones, who announced the downhill Tuesday along with Celestial Seasonings President John Hay.

The Herb Tea Cup series consists of five giant slaloms and the downhill, with the final two giant slaloms scheduled for March 5 and March 12.

Purses for the five giant slaloms total \$12,500, while the purse for the downhill will be \$4,500.

Close to 100 racers from around the country are expected to vie for the downhill grand prize of \$1,500.

Wilson victor in freestyle; leads season standings

Kim Wilson of Aspen captured first place and \$350 in Friday's freestyle contest at Aspen Highlands.

Wilson's consistent performances this season have brought him \$1,925 in earnings and 65 points toward the Dearborn Cup that will be awarded to the leader in the season standings.

Second in the Friday contest was Erik Pielstick of Winter Park, while Aspen's Pat Hardy was third.

Rounding out the top five finishers were Steve Phipps and Dan Pierce.

Second in the season standings at this point is Hardy with 46 points, while Pierce has 42 and Phipps 38.5.

The performances at Highlands have been improving each week as the skiers perfect different maneuvers, according to program director Paul Chapin.

He says that although the contest format favors the skier who is accomplished in the three disciplines of moguls, ballet and aerials, there are still semi-specialists like Mark Jackson, who executed a 150-foot double spread eagle off the jump Friday.

The freestyle contests are held each Friday at noon on Floradora Run. A total of \$850 is awarded to the competitors who must combine mogul skiing, ballet and an aerial in a single run.

Highlands Cup: 75 mph downhill course

Jim Hudson from the University of Colorado and Maria Maricich from Sun Valley won the men's and women's divisions of the Saturday Highlands Cup, one of the premier downhill ski races in North America.

The race was part of the Elbert Series for A racers and was followed by the Sunday Buttermilk Cup slalom on Racer's Edge.

Aspen's Dave Stapleton, who recorded a third-place finish in the Highlands Cup, won the men's slalom.

Kelley Swales of Aspen was second in the women's slalom after a ninth-place finish in the downhill.

According to competitor Joe

Harvey, the Highlands Cup course at Aspen Highlands was one of the most difficult in this hemisphere and posed every kind of challenge for the racers.

Low Tuck

Out of the start at Loges Peak, he said, the racers tucked low through a long straightaway.

Passing the top of Olympic Lift, he said, there were two fast pre-jumps and a sharp roll over which the competitors careered at speeds of 70-75 mph.

Harvey said the spectators on the deck at Cloud Nine got some excitement as they watched this part of the race because a mistake in timing could send a racer 70 to 80 feet into the air.

From there, he said, the course continued along Grand Prix through a series of turns.

"The journey through these turns was made less boring by the necessity of spending a considerable portion of the time in the air," according to Harvey.

Moment of Truth

The women's course ended at the bottom of Olympic Lift, however, the men continued down Willy's Corridor at 65 mph before they confronted their last serious obstacle: the very steep Moment of Truth, Harvey said.

Harvey said the four gates on Moment were the most difficult in the race and that the descent involved a period of weightlessness followed by a compression that threatened to send the skier's knees through his chest.

Following Hudson were Scott Hoffman from Ogden, Utah, Stapleton, Nick Maricich from Sun Valley, then Mark Lewis and Jeff O'Neill.

Harvey said Paul Major, one of the race favorites, switched abruptly from downhilling to freestyle when he executed a helicopter off the top of Moment.

Among the women, Leith Bear of Durango placed second, followed by Toni Leuthold of CU, Doni Waldman of Sun Valley and Mary Mathews of Mt Hood, Ore.

Aspen Racers

Aspen racers Patti Kent, Swales and Laurie Strang placed eighth, ninth and 13th, respectively.

Sunday, John Buxman turned in the fastest time on the first run of the slalom, just ahead of Stapleton.

When Buxman didn't finish the second run, Stapleton became the winner, followed by Mike Dorris, Dale Pearson, Major and Aspen's Mike Maple.

Phil Volkhausen of Aspen placed 13th for his best finish of the year.

Bear won the women's division, followed by Swales and Sheri Miller. Many of the Aspen women entrants failed to finish the two runs.

The Nor-Am finals are coming up Feb 15-17 at Aspen Highlands, and with most of the US Development Team scheduled to be on hand, the Aspen team will face a stiff test.



On the course of the Buttermilk Cup slalom held Sunday on Racer's Edge. Michael Kennedy photo.

THE ASPEN TIMES

Vol. 97 * No. 6

February 9, 1978 * Aspen, Colorado

81611 * 20 Cents * 3 Sections



**Racers hit 75 mph during
the Highlands Cup Downhill
Story page 3-C**

Powell takes downhill as Mill DQ's

US Development Team skier Doug Powell, 20, captured first place in the men's North-American (Nor-Am) race series downhill final Wednesday at Aspen Highlands.

Powell's winning time was 1 minute 39.78 seconds or an average of about 60 mph over the demanding course that began at the top of Loges Peak and ended at the bottom of the steep Moment of Truth run.

Chief of course Peter Looram had set gates almost in giant slalom fashion to slow the racers before they hit the lip on Moment that sent many of them flying well over 100 feet in the air, but racer after racer still failed to negotiate the corner that was the most difficult of the race.

Among the Moment of Truth casualties was Aspen's Andy Mill, this country's top downhill racer, who had returned from Europe to ski in his home town.

Carrying tremendous speed, Mill's skis came apart in the compression before the Moment of Truth jump, and Mill wisely pulled off the course rather than risk a crash.

Fast Line

Mill, who finished sixth at the



On the course in the Nor-Am downhill. Everybody called the race the best US downhill of the season. Andy Hanson photo.

Innsbruck Olympics, had made several mistakes on the upper portion of the course, according to US team coach Martin Burger, so the Aspen skier had to attempt a very fast and dangerous line lower down.

Powell who ran the course first and didn't have to cope with the ruts that sent several late starters tumbling, said he deliberately "dumped" some of his speed in the turns above the compression.

He called the left turn through the compression and the ensuing jump the crux portion of the course and said it was extremely difficult to make the turn because of enormous centrifugal force that drove the skier down and backward.

Although he said that portion of the course was more like a giant slalom than a downhill, he said the race was very challenging.

Not Like Europe

Powell, who has been racing in Europe on the World Cup and Europa Cup circuits, made a comment similar to ones Mill has made in the past: that racing in the US is simply nothing like racing in Europe because of the quality of competition, the difficulty of the courses and even the size of the crowds that exist there.

He said he had never skied on a course in better shape than that at Aspen Highlands.

Powell estimated his top speed at 70 mph.

The top Aspen finisher was

despite being the last racer on the course.

Mike Maple placed 34th.

Second Place

In second place behind Powell was Mark Lewis of Purgatory in 1:40:56. Third was Jim Hudson of CU in 1:40:98. Hudson, who was almost disqualified because a gatekeeper confused his bib number, is the son of former Rock Cup winner Sally Hudson.

Cory Murdock of Lake Tahoe and Billy Taylor of Orchard Park, NY, tied for fourth.

The course had a vertical drop of 795 meters, the FIS standard for downhill. There were 33 gates including the finish. Sixty-one skiers raced and there were no injuries despite some spectacular crashes.

Burger called it the best US downhill of the season and said it is imperative that more such races are held here if US racers are ever going to compete evenly with the Europeans.

The Nor-Am giant slalom begins at 11 am Thursday on Golden Horn and Thunderbowl.

Favorites are Peter Dodge of the US Team, Stapleton and Yamaoto of Japan.

The slalom begins at 10 am Friday on Thunderbowl.

Densmore and Caudill top town GS field

Debbie Densmore and Robin Caudill were the winners in the Thursday town giant slalom held at Aspen Highlands.

The competitors skied a long, demanding course that began at the top of Golden Horn and finished at the bottom of Thunderbowl.

Densmore's winning time among the women was 3:01:23. Annie Vores placed second.

Caudill was followed by Bill Hesselschwerdt and Norm Kosciusko.

The next race will be a slalom March 9.

Downhill Cup for pros set at Highlands

The Celestial Seasonings Downhill Cup will be held at 11 am Feb 18 at Aspen Highlands, after training sessions Feb 16-17 and qualifications Feb 18.

Total purse for the event is \$4,500 with \$1,500 going to the winner.

The course will begin at Loges Peak and end at the bottom of Moment of Truth.

Dave Stapleton, who placed eighth in 1:41:72.

Stapleton, who finished far ahead of the rest of the field in the western men's Nor-Am standings, said before the race that his goal this week is the men's combined title for the best results in downhill, giant slalom and slalom.

Catch Powell

Although Stapleton is a giant slalom and slalom specialist, the eighth place finish may make it hard for him to catch Powell if the eastern skier competes in the rest of the week's races.

Powell, however, said Wednesday that he may forego the remaining races because of a lingering injury.

Aspen's Mark Tache had a good run through the steep section on Moment of Truth and placed 16th.

Aspen Ski Club coaches later said that although the Moment was the most exciting part of the course, the race was won or lost on the flats above, and that Tache

Can the Pros Beat the Amateurs?!

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Race Time: Sunday, February 19 at 11 am

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Merry-Go-Round license changed

The liquor license granted to the Merry-Go-Round Restaurant on Aspen Highlands was modified by county commissioners Monday.

The modification will allow manager George Gordon to install fencing and make other expansions necessary to handle and control summer concerts like one held last summer.

Gordon said he has already received queries about two possible concerts next summer — one from the Eagles and Linda Ronstadt.

Commissioners feel that the site is a good one for such concerts since the parking is available and other facilities are at hand.

Gordon said the size of the crowd is limited by lift capacity — 800 an hour in summer.

Skiing on the back...

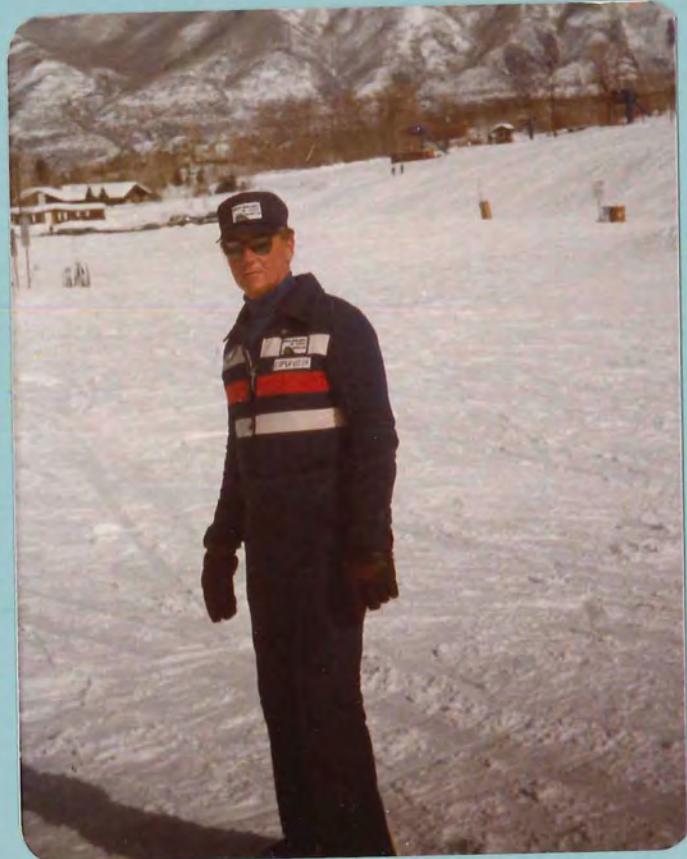
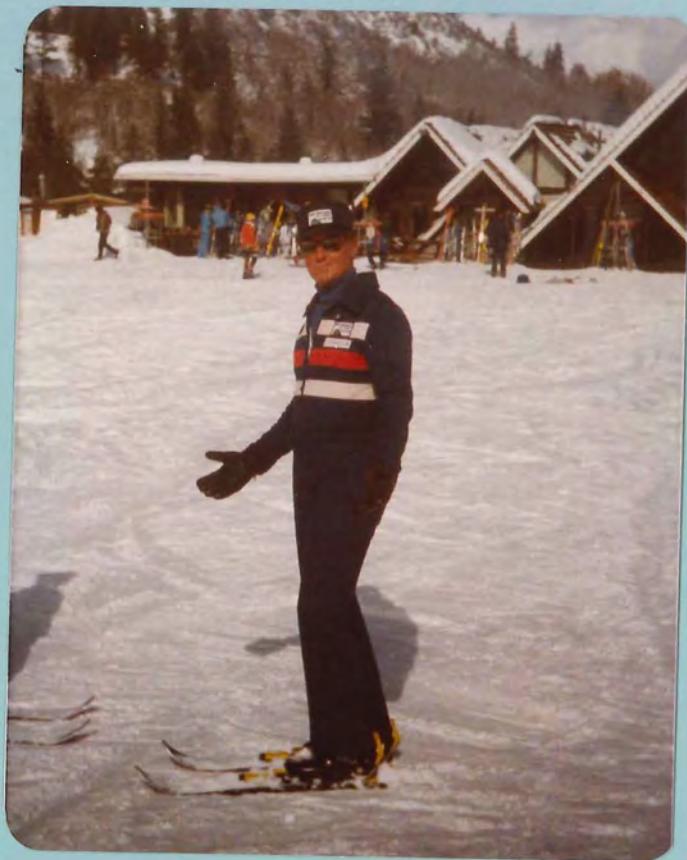
Tickets Pulled

Interestingly, on Aspen Mountain, you'll get your ticket pulled for skiing the Spar Dumps within the permit area because not only could you fall in a mine shaft there, but if you kick off a slide it might bury innocent passersby in the Spar Gulch below.

So, don't try to emulate those nice figure eights the ski patrol puts on the Spar Dumps after every storm.

Highlands is notorious for pulling passes, even those of its own employees, but Ski Patrol Director Dave Wright admits that they can't catch you if you're heading off the back of Loges Peak since the first part of the journey is spent in heavy tree cover and they don't spot you until you're well up on the ridge.





The free Aspen Flyer

No. 14

For the week of Feb. 25-March 3, 1978



The start of the Celestial Seasonings Downhill Cup at Aspen Highlands. The ski racers were zooming down the very challenging Highlands downhill course all last week as first the North American Trophy Series men's finals brought top amateur skiers to Aspen, then the pros took over for the first-ever downhill held as part of the weekly Celestial Seasonings series. Michael Kennedy photo.

Inside Aspen

Season's Greetings

Holiday Issue
Volume 1 Number 6

Aspen's Most Complete Entertainment Guide

A Free Guide to:

- Dining and Shopping
- The Arts
- Local TV and Movies
- Where to go/What to see



FREESTYLE SKIING COMME AU HOME

by Vincenne Buonpane



The 1977-78 season is the sixth year of Friday Freestyle Contests at the Aspen Highlands. The contests begin Friday, December 23, and are held every Friday at noon through the end of the season. "Freestyle skiing," a formal euphemism for hotdogging, has suffered growing pains and internal problems as it shot from the ranks of amateur showing-off to professional tour status within a five-year period. This year, at least, looks to be a respite from the intense competition it has generated.

Various ski areas may stage their own freestyle shows or special exhibitions, but on the whole, freestyle competitions are back to base one.

The base, or what remains after considerable stardom and glory-seeking, like a battered war veteran seen standing as the clouds of debris clear the air, is Aspen Highlands' original weekly program of freestyle contests on Friday afternoon. Uncluttered by superfluous mechanics and judging criteria, and offering a weekly purse of \$850 split among the top ten winners, Aspen Highlands has been the only area in the country to stage the contests on a weekly basis with no other sponsor involved.

This year, Bud Green, president of the Dearborn Wire and Cable Company, offered to co-sponsor the event, said Skip Gilkerson, director of customer services. The title has been changed to the Aspen Highlands-Dearborn Freestyle Contest, but the format remains the same. Green added \$100 to the weekly purse and a \$1,000 cash prize to be awarded in April to the season's top winner. He also had a silver trophy made that will remain at the Highlands permanently. Each season's winner's name will be engraved on it, and miniature trophies will go to the season's top three winners.

The direct result of the tours' demise is that the Highlands-Dearborn Contest will be offering some of the hottest hotdogging around, simply because there are no other contests being staged in the nation, and there are plenty of competitors willing and anxious to compete in this sole competition.

Rumors have it that Ed Lincoln, last year's Men's Overall Aerial Champion; his wife, Joanie Teorey, the 1976 and 1977 Women's World Aerial Champion; Marian Post, two-time Women's Overall Champion; and Scott Brooksbank, winner of the overall Professional Freestyle Association title in 1976; will be competing frequently at Highlands. They're also people who competed at Highlands years ago before getting into the pro tours.

Kim Wilson, a former member of the Chevrolet Freestyle Tour, said, "Highlands pioneered the professional contests and acted as a springboard to the professional level. It was a great place for the amateur to learn how to perform

and compete on a professional basis. It offered good exposure in the field and acted as a good testing ground. Now there is nowhere to go from Highlands, because the tours are defunct.

"It means that the competition will be much keener at the Highlands, and it will be difficult for the amateur to break in."

Dan Pierce, a granddaddy of the sport and a Highlands regular competitor, views the Highlands program as a refreshing return to the aesthetics of freestyle competition. Pierce was named the Ballet World Champion in 1974, and has competed in freestyle competitions in Europe as well as the United States. "The competitions were becoming more and more serious, with such large purses involved," he said, "so that the fun factor was being taken out of it. It used to be that everyone was everyone else's friend and was willing to work together and teach one another different stunts. But

with the big bucks factor thrown in, there was less togetherness and openness and it was much more pressured. You'd see people going off to practice by themselves, and being very secretive about what they were working on . . . there was very little spirit left."

Freestyle went rampant, he conceded, because there was no precedent set for the competitions and things quickly got out of hand. "Freestyle went directly professional and now it's back to a more reasonable level."

He added that the tours were set up so they encouraged the specialist to appear. "Whereas before you had to be good in the three disciplines, mogul or bump-skiing, ballet, and aerials, the tours encouraged people who were good only in one area, making it harder for the person who is good in all three events, but not spectacular in just one area.

"People who were former gymnasts competed exclusively in aerial competi-



Photo by Jim Kuhnweiler

tions and naturally had the edge," said Pierce.

And former racers Kiki Cutter, Judi Nagel, Sandra Paulson, and Rosi Fortna, all ex-Olympians, were infiltrating the women's mogul contests.

Unlike the professional competitions, the Highlands contest is made up of the three events and competitors are judged on their dexterity in all three, and then receive an overall score as well.

The mogul event is judged on fast, aggressive, controlled and continuous skiing with turns that should be carved and controlled and with spontaneous aerials thrown in. Ballet points are determined by the grace, poise and choreography of the skier's routine, while aerials are judged on their aerial acrobatic strength, aggressiveness, and technical correctness.

Wilson said that this year's aerial competitions should be hot because the competition for new variations has become so keen. As of 1975, inverted aerials, or flips, were banned from competitions because of the high risk involved. "Inverted aerials were a definite advantage," he said, "and had much to do with who was named the winner. It's just as well they've been outlawed because it encourages a more dazzling array of uprights."

This year the Highlands-Dearborn competitions will expand to a field of 25 contestants, said Freestyle Coordinator Paul Chapin, whereas last year's field was generally held to 20.

Prospective contestants are accepted first on a past money-winning status, then on a major competitor level and then on a qualified competitor basis. Judging is done by a panel of three experienced freestyle judges. The event takes place on the Floradora run above the Merry-Go-Round Restaurant and lasts



Photo by Andy Hanson

about an hour.

Whether freestyle skiing competition will return to its grand scale or not, the Highlands program has effectively weathered the sport's storms. The added

sponsorship by Dearborn, and the expected influx of seasoned competitors can only serve to strengthen its position as a welcome stomping ground and reliable home base.

aspen good-time guides

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THE WINTER SHOP

Kim Wilson: from cornfields to king of the hill



chris cassatt photo

by John Sabella

It seems accurate and not entirely tactless to say that Kim Wilson is an exhibitionist on skis.

Wilson, 22, is the current leader in the quest for the title of Aspen Highlands-Dearborn freestyle champion.

A solid victory Friday, his sixth of the season in the weekly freestyle contests held at Highlands, put him comfortably out in front in the season standings for the Dearborn Cup with 90 points and \$2,450 in winnings.

Runner-up Pat Hardy trails with 65 points and \$1,135, while Erik Pielstick, in third place, has 63 points and \$1,340.

If Wilson remains on top through the season-ending contest March 31, he will receive \$1,000 in addition to his total winnings at that time, and his will be the first name engraved on the Dearborn Cup, which has been donated by the contest co-sponsor, the Dearborn Wire and Cable Co of Illinois.

Hopeless Contortions

Even when he isn't competing, Wilson tends to ski hard through the bumps. He frequently pops into the air and twists his body into apparently hopeless contortions, only to return to a semblance of normal posture at the last moment possible for a successful landing and the immediate resumption of furious turns.

He is well-known at Highlands, and people tend to stop and watch his bump runs when he is free skiing.

This is the time of year when the bumps have grown big, angular and jarring. To ski them fast, in the fall line, requires quick, resilient legs, especially if the snow is hard.

It also requires the ability to relax and respond to obstacles that crop up too suddenly to anticipate so that you must absorb the bumps and roll the knees

spontaneously, instantly, as if by instinct.

Wilson's bump runs occur within a corridor not much wider than his body. His upper trunk remains quiet, facing always downhill. His thighs are horizontal, while underneath, the knees and feet crank the turns with methodical rhythm.

Avalement

He turns twice on every bump, once on the way up the front and again on the way down the back. The instantaneous edge sets don't slow his speed significantly, so that the run becomes an exercise in rapid-fire avalement, or swallowing the moguls with the legs.

He jumps on the merest whim and tries to land on the back of an approaching mogul so that he can use the gully for recovery, but he does not survey his landing field so that he must be prepared to absorb a landing on awkward terrain.

In the contests, the skiers are instructed to leave the ground as often as possible during their bump runs so that the spectators at the Merry-Go-Round Restaurant below are treated to an exhibition that transcends the distance.

Get Some Air

In the jargon of the freestyleists, the objective is to "get as much air" as possible.

Wilson intersperses his competitive journeys through the moguls with a series of aerial maneuvers: a 360-degree spin or helicopter, a spread-eagle split, another split in which the legs are splayed front and back instead of to the side.

His performances are marked by aggressiveness and energy.

He attacks the bumps, and while some of the contestants seem always on the verge of disaster, Wilson's acrobatics display a controlled intensity.

In the Highlands freestyle format, bumps give way immediately to ballet on a groomed section of Floradora Run, and the

abandon of mogul skiing must instantly become the sculptured poise of dance.

Relative Abilities

It is here that the relative abilities of the contestants become readily apparent, for while luck and the necessary willingness to risk a hard crash can produce a creditable performance through the moguls and perhaps even off the jump, it is impossible to feign the delicate movements of ballet.

Here, as in the moguls, Wilson displays an aggressive style that carries him across more of the hill than is the case with most of the other competitors, and his routine is more active with a greater variety of maneuvers.

There is a dynamism to the performance, and a steady grace, although there is not the flourish of the more balletic Dan Pierce.

The aerial flight off the big jump at the bottom of the freestyle course is the climax of each performance.

It is the point where spectators and competitor are physically closest and where even the most sedentary onlooker feels a palpable explosion of force as the skier drives through the compression and springs upward across the catapulting lip.

Moment of Flight

There is a moment of flight, a moment of the suspension of time when the arcing body seems to float without weight and without speed, before the onrushing ground restores the reality of force and the proximity of disaster.

It is at the instant of impact that the collective consciousness of audience and performance is most unified, with a blend of spectators of rubber-necked curiosity and apprehension, for it is then that each onlooker shares with the competitor the vicarious thrill of danger.

Wilson is an accomplished jumper, although there is not a

great deal of variety possible in the aerial event as it is now regulated, and there is less room to distinguish the competitors here than in ballet.

For his most recent winning performance, he executes a 360-degree helicopter high above the heads of the spectators who line the landing area. He adds a spread-eagle just before touching down and the brief schuss onto the flat below.

Less Fortunate

Other competitors are less fortunate and miss their landings.

Erik Pielstick, for example, tries a remarkable jump called a corkscrew — a helicopter with the skis spread and the tips dropped — and he too adds a spread-eagle at the end.

He crashes spectacularly but pops back up on his skis, and the difficulty of the attempt and the quality of the rest of his performance are good enough for second place despite the mishap.

Of this most spectacular and most dangerous of the three freestyle disciplines, the aerial, Wilson says the competitor must retain a manageable sense of fear, a healthy respect for the possible consequences of a mistake.

If you're standing at the top of a jump contemplating a new aerial and aren't afraid, he says, then you must wait until the fear comes and master it before making your attempt or you are a likely candidate for an accident.

Inverted Aerials

Of course, now that the most dangerous aerials — the inverteds as the freestyleists call them — have been banned from competition, freestyle jumping has lost much of its dare-devil character.

In the early days of freestyle, according to the competitors, before the three disciplines had been refined and perfected, it was often the most reckless leaper who claimed victory in the freestyle contests.

For the price of entry, a wild

man could cast prudence aside and attempt a multiple flip that could land him in the hospital, or in the driver's seat of the new car awarded for first place.

The stakes were high, but then so were the potential rewards in the era of the lavish prizes that had accompanied the whirlwind growth in popularity and exposure of the new sport.

Hot Dogging

In those days, it was known as "hot dogging" which connoted not a disciplined sport but a kind of adolescent bravura.

According to Pierce, a relative oldtimer, organized hot dogging got its start here in Aspen in 1971 when filmmaker Dick Barrymore assembled a group of local hot shots for a filming on the Ridge of Bell.

Soon, there were other organized competitions for the hot doggers, and the wilder the thrills and spills, the better everyone liked it.

Within only a few years, national sponsors and television had embraced hot dog skiing, the contests featured purses as large as \$50,000 and the top skiers were making pots of money.

As the three disciplines were distinguished and refined, the rag-a-muffin hot doggers became accomplished "freestyleists," complete with their own professional organizations which regulated the contests and held qualifications to weed the crazies from the performers who could compete without maiming themselves.

Such control was necessary because a rash of injuries had given the sport a black eye and serious problems when it came time to negotiate with insurance agents.

Fleeting Celebrity

Freestyle skiing achieved a fleeting celebrity, and some of the stars of the sport began to receive more media attention than their ski racing counterparts, but it all ended as quickly as it had begun.



Wilson, posing for the cameras and not in competition, executed dozens of these high kick spins one after the other, while "spotting" like a ballet dancer. He didn't bat an eyelash, but did admit to a little dizziness. Chris Cassatt photo.

Wilson

The season of 1975-76 was when the Marion Posts and Scott Brookbanks were making big money on the national tour, but by the following season the sponsors and the TV cameras had begun to disappear, and the ski areas wanted no part of freestyle.

This season, except for local contests at the few receptive areas like Highlands, freestyle skiing in the US is dead.

That means that a competitor like Wilson, who toured professionally in the past, now finds his competitive skiing limited to Friday afternoons at his home ski area.

He voices no lament over the demise of the big money contests, however. In fact, the competitors

at Highlands with touring experience all say that the pressure of the big contests took the fun out of freestyle, and that the weekly contests here are ideal: challenging but low key.

Demanding Aspect

There is one respect in which they say the Highlands contest format is especially demanding: the fact that the three disciplines, moguls, ballet and aerials, must be performed in a single run on a single pair of skis.

The competitors are graded not only on how well they perform in each of the disciplines, but on how smooth their transitions are from one event to the next, and on a nebulous quality called spectator appeal.

Wilson, the best of the bunch so far, got his skiing start in an un-

likely locale: the cornfields around Gary, Indiana.

Interestingly, Pierce and Hardy are also from the Midwest, and Wilson says the flatlands produce freestylers the way the East has traditionally given this country most of its alpine racers.

Perhaps the phenomenon is explained by a Pierce comment that he "got bored" just turning left and right at Midwest ski areas and took up freestyle to ward off ennui.

Pirated Snow

Wilson and his big brothers pirated snow from all over the neighborhood and packed a little trail in their backyard, where they learned to ski.

He learned well enough so that he later became the state slalom champion, although he admits that such a title there was less of a distinction than it would have been in Colorado or Vermont.

He also found that he was the best trick skier among his cronies.

After high school, Wilson made what amounted to a quantum leap for an Indiana skier: he entered junior college at Northwest Michigan in the locale of such relatively enormous ski areas as Boyne Mountain.

Hardy happened to be one of his fellow students, and the two of them spent their spare time trying to out-trick each other on skis.

Two years of college behind them, they both wound up in Aspen.

Wilson has spent most of his three years here as a jack-of-all-trades at the Highlands Inn, and has recently taken a job with the Hart Ski Co.

Although his job keeps him on the road, he always makes it back to the Highlands by Friday at noon.

He says more college is in his future, but that the same doesn't hold true for professional skiing.

Skiing-wise, he says, what he envisions for the future are mountaineering trips launched from a little ranch in Montana.

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No. 400	11:40 am	2:34 pm	March 1, 1978
No. 302	2:25 pm	5:20 pm	March 1, 1978

FLIGHT	DEPART	ARRIVE	EFFECTIVE
No. 301	12:45 pm	1:50 pm	March 1, 1978
No. 401	5:05 pm	6:10 pm	March 1, 1978
No. 303	5:50 pm	6:55 pm	March 1, 1978

FLIGHT	DEPART	ARRIVE	EFFECTIVE
No. 400	11:40 am	3:05 pm	March 1, 1978

FLIGHT	DEPART	ARRIVE	EFFECTIVE
No. 401	4:20 pm	6:10 pm	March 1, 1978

FARE INFORMATION

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FLIGHT	DEPART	ARRIVE	FREQUENCY
#202	9:55 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	Sat. only
# 10	11:05 a.m.	11:40 a.m.	Daily
#204	12:10 p.m.	12:45 p.m.	Sat. only
#206	1:10 p.m.	1:45 p.m.	Sat. only
#208	2:15 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	Sat. only
#210	3:25 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	Sat. only
#212	4:25 p.m.	5:00 p.m.	Sat. only

FROM ASPEN TO GRAND JUNCTION

FLIGHT	DEPART	ARRIVE	FREQUENCY
#101	8:15 a.m.	8:50 a.m.	Sat. only
# 11	9:50 a.m.	10:25 a.m.	Daily
#103	11:05 a.m.	11:40 a.m.	Sat. only
#105	12:05 p.m.	12:40 p.m.	Sat. only
#107	1:10 p.m.	1:45 p.m.	Sat. only
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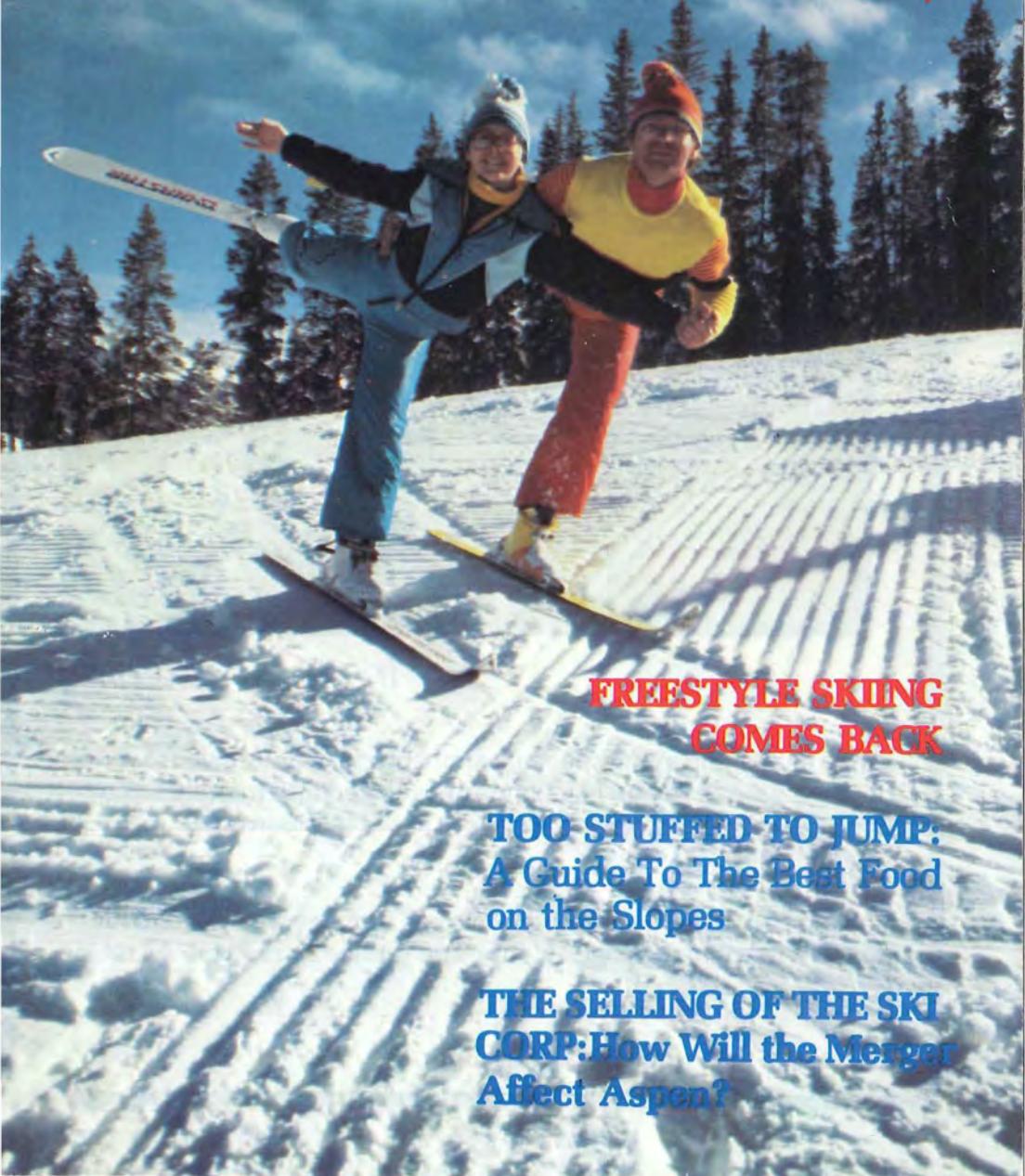
THE GUIDE

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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS...
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February

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**FREESTYLE SKIING
COMES BACK**

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HOTDOGGING MAKES A COME-BACK AT HIGHLANDS

“We built a castle without a foundation and it crumbled. Now, we have to start over again from the ground up."

That's the analogy Anne Lincoln uses to describe what has happened to freestyle skiing.

Lincoln, 21, was lucky enough to see the castle in its glory. She was part of the Professional Freestyle Association (PFA) tour in the glamour year, 1975-76, when sponsors shelled out big money and TV cameras caught the action.

That was the year



Marion Post won \$29,000 in prize money and earned a total of \$65,000 including what she made on endorsements from various sponsors.

There were eight contests that year, including three in Europe, and the purses ranged from \$30,000 to \$50,000 per contest. Not bad for a sport in its infancy.

It was an especially good year for the women competitors. Colgate was their sponsor and, in a development rare in sport, they were winning more than their male counterparts.

Scott Brooksbank, the men's leader, won only \$21,000 and the men said, "Wait a minute! What's going on here?"

They shouldn't have complained, because the PFA tour was about to breathe its last.

Although the tentative tour schedule last season was fantastic, according to Lincoln, TV coverage slumped, sponsors pulled out, and the number of contests dwindled to three for the men and two for the women.



This year, she says, except for local contests, freestyle skiing in the U.S. is stone-dead.

There is a World Tour in Europe with eight contests and maximum purses of \$30,000, Lincoln says, but there simply are no sponsors for the three contests held in the U.S. and two in Canada that were supposed to be held this winter.

While it may be dead nationally, however, freestyle skiing is alive and well in Aspen, where the freestylers show their stuff at noon every Friday on Floradora Run at Aspen Highlands.

The weekly Highlands contests feature only \$850 in prize money (\$350 for first place) but they draw skiers like Lincoln, like her older brother Ed who is the reigning world aerial champion, like Dan Pierce who has a world ballet championship to his credit and like Kim Wilson, a former touring pro who started off this season with wins in the first two Highlands contests.

Pierce, 30, has been around from the beginning, and he talks readily

about the rise and fall of freestyle skiing.

He says organized freestyle, or "hot dogging" as it was then called after the trick surfers, got its start in 1971 right here in Aspen on the ridge of Bell Mountain, where film maker Dick Barrymore assembled a group of hot skiers so he could photograph them.

The first contest saw some wild mogul skiing through the big bumps on the ridge, according to Pierce, who says that Chevrolet, Skiing Magazine and the Waterville Valley ski area organized two more contests that same year, one at Waterville and one at Vail.

And in those early days anybody who could come up with \$25 could enter the freestyle contests, and the wilder the thrills and spills the better the crowds and judges liked it.

Those were the days, he says, when a competitor who was gutsy and lucky enough to pull off a trick he had never tried before and might never attempt again--like a

Sports



The sport of freestyle has evolved into a very exacting discipline.

double back somersault-- could drive home in the new car awarded for first place.

Pierce had begun ballet skiing years before in the Midwest, where he says he "got bored" just turning left and right so he started doing tricks like royal christies and tip rolls.

At the first Winterskol Hot Dog Contest, held on Aspen Mountain's Magnifico in 1972, Pierce was at the starting line.

It was basically a bump run with one aerial, he says, and most of the competitors played it straight: skiing hard and fast and flying off the jump.

When Pierce delved into his bag of tricks --graceful ballet maneuvers--the crowd was intrigued. When he snowplowed to control his speed just before the

jump, the crowd booed. But when he sailed out of Magnifico Gulley in a flying royal christie, the boos turned to cheers and Pierce had won his first-ever hot dog contest.

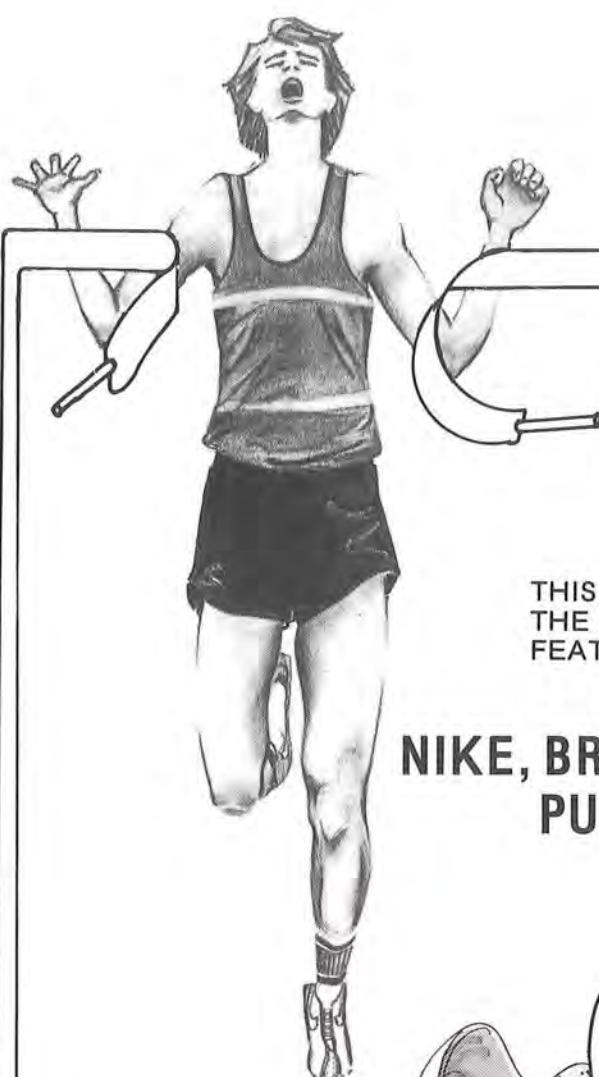
That year, he says, Chevrolet again held its two contests at Waterville Valley and Vail, and Barrymore held another contest on the Ridge of Bell.

By 1973, freestyle skiing had begun to take hold and Chevrolet sponsored a total of four contests, including new ones at Heavenly Valley and Sun Valley.

That was also the year that Highlands held its first freestyle contest on Limelight.

After the last of the Chevy contests at Sun Valley, Pierce says, 25 or 30 competitors got together and decided that they were being taken advantage of by contest

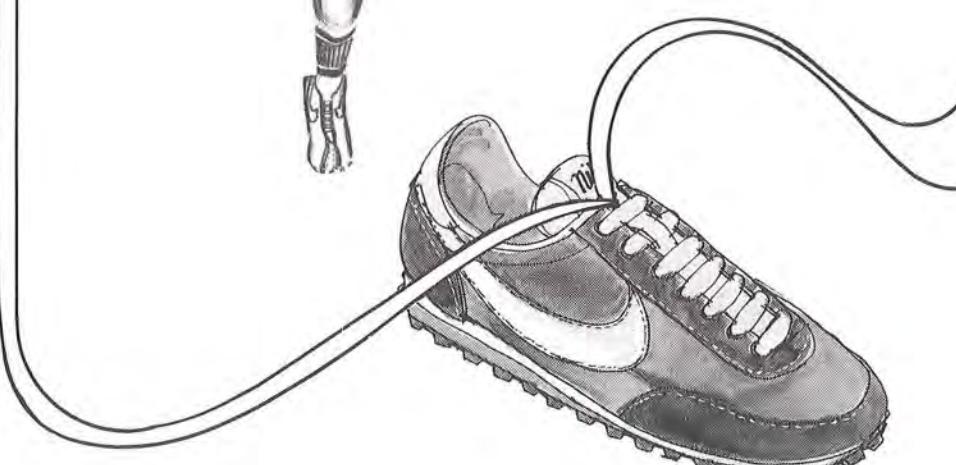




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Sports



Except for the Local Contests Hotdogging in the US is Dead.

sponsors who built improper jumps, or who told the freestyle skiers to go out and risk injury in six inches of new snow.

To protect themselves, they formed the International Freestyle Skier's Association(IFSA) which was designed to oversee all organization-details including public relations and insurance for the competitors.

All contests held the next year were IFSA sanctioned, he says, and the organization began holding qualifications before each contest to weed out the crazies from the accomplished freestyle skiers who could perform feats like inverted aerials without breaking their necks.

That kind of control was necessary because a rash of injuries was beginning to give the sport of freestyle a bad name and serious liability problems, Pierce says.

IFSA ran things for two years before a splinter group decided to form its

own organization, the Professional Freestyle Association(PFA).

In the ensuing battle between the two groups, according to Pierce, IFSA fizzled and turned into a group called AFSA (American Freestyle Skiers Association) which continued to fight PFA for the title of number one freestyle tour.

PFA won, he says, but it was a Pyrrhic victory because the group lost its TV ties and sponsorship, and after the one big season, PFA fizzled too.

So the national tour and the big time contest are a thing of the past, but Lincoln says the sport of freestyle has evolved into a very exacting discipline.

"No longer can you just be the wildest to win," she says. "Now, you have to be a technically expert skier first and have acrobatic training on top of that."

When there was big money in the offing, she says, the freestyle tour changed from a casual affair to serious business in which you couldn't succeed unless you trained hard all year round.

Pierce agrees, but he isn't sure it was a change for the better.

"When the big money came in, the fun factor went way down," he says.

Now, according to Pierce, the weekly contest at Aspen Highlands represents what a freestyle contest should be.

This year, Dearborn Wire and Cable Company is co-sponsoring the Freestyle event. The title has been changed to The Aspen Highlands Dearborn Freestyle Contest, but the format remains the same. Another \$100 has been added to the weekly prize money and a \$1,000 cash prize will be awarded at the close of the season to the competitor who has amassed the most points by April. In addition to the cash awards, a trophy engraved with the seasons highest scoring competitor will be kept on display at the Highlands.

The competitors have only one run in which to display their skill at all three disciplines---ballet, moguls and aerials---and they must do it on a single pair of skis.

They are scored on the basis of how well they perform each discipline, as well as on their "continuity," or how smoothly they make the transitions from one discipline to another.

And to put together a run with good execution of all three disciplines as well as good continuity is tough, Pierce says, but he looks like he's having plenty of fun again.

As for the future, Lincoln says that regional, amateur programs are healthy, and that they must continue to grow before a professional tour again has a chance.

"It was instant professionalism without an amateur base that killed us," Pierce adds. ☺

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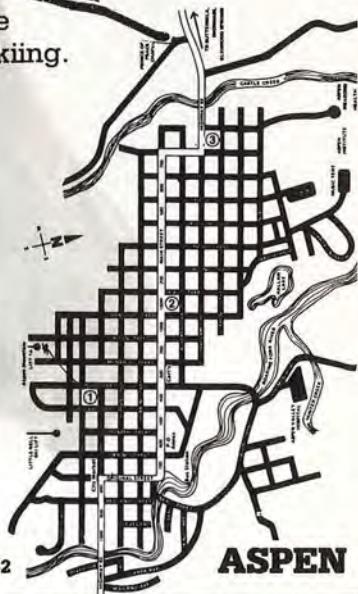
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over mountain.

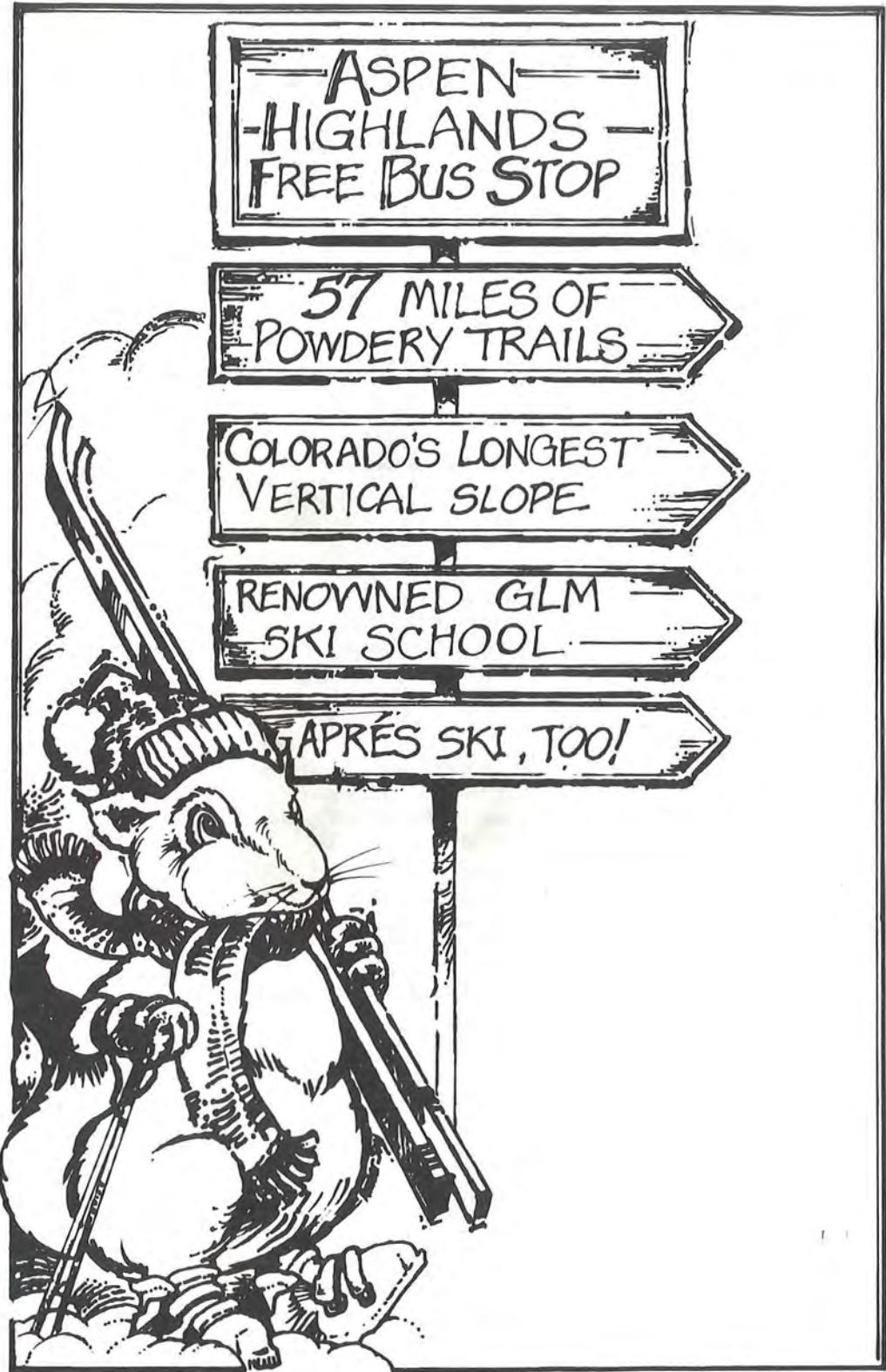
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make your apres ski adventure at the base of our mountain
—in the Christian Endeavor or the Club Bar lounge.

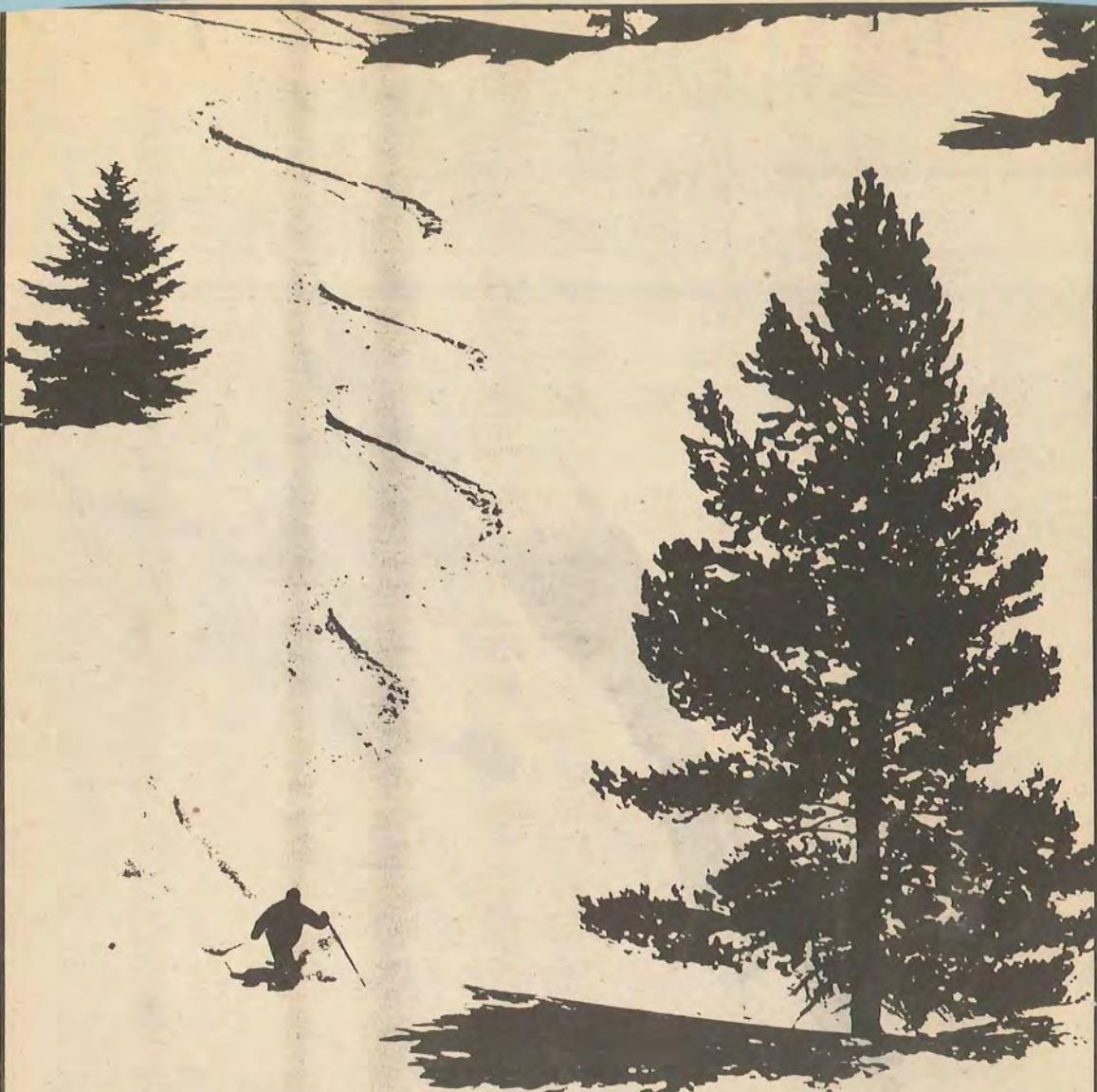
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John Sommers: Thank God I'm A Country Boy!



by Evaleah Graham

"Country music is a simple kind of music. It doesn't require a great deal of musical understanding. The lyrics and music are simple and easy to identify with for a lot of people," John Sommers says.

Sommers is like the country music he plays, laid back, down to earth. His likes and tastes are not ostentatious, even though he has been around and is in the type of business that lends itself to flashy, pretentious vainglorious actions. He's just a country boy, from the city.

He is a musician, an artist, an entertainer, and a songwriter who just happened to be in the right place at the right time.

That right place and right time happened to be the Blue Moose (now Pablo's) nightclub about four years ago. The circumstances surrounding that lucky positioning include a song and a singer.

"I was playing with Liberty at the time and I had written a song for the group, Thank God I'm A Country Boy." Sommers continues, "John Denver came in to the Blue Moose one night and heard the song, and several months later I started working for him."

As everyone knows, that became one of Denver's trademark songs, joining Rocky Mountain High and Country Roads in popularity with audiences. The single record sold over a million copies, Sommers says. It was released as a single after appearing on Denver's Back Home Again album.

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A gold record, the Back Home Again album, sits on a side wall out of the way, in Sommers' home surrounded by other memorabilia of his musical life, a poster announcing Sommers and another musician playing somewhere, sometime ago; another poster depicting another group he has played with, and a wooden plaque with the lyrics of Country Boy inscribed on it.

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"I didn't want to ruin my needle so I only played a few seconds of it. It was Montovani or something like that. They just slapped our label on the record," he exclaims.

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The lanky, soft-spoken 37-year-old (even though he doesn't look that old) recalled how the golden composition came about. "I had been to a Christmas party at Bobby

Mason's and got up the next morning at 6 am to drive to Los Angeles.

"I made the trip in 17 hours and when I got there I had most of the lyrics written in my head and had part of the tune in mind. We (Liberty) went to California to make an album, but at the last minute we ended up not doing it."

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"I wanted to do other things," he says. "I liked touring, we traveled first class wherever we went. I became financially secure," but things kept getting bigger and bigger, and he wanted to get back to simpler things again.

"It's awe inspiring to play before 20,000 people, but it just doesn't have the intimacy of smaller audiences. It is easier to communicate with a few people than thousands.

"It's just like the college classes that hold 400 people as opposed to a smaller classroom. You get more out of the small class than a large lecture room," he says.

Another drawback, is playing the same songs over and over, something is lost, that special magic, it becomes automatic.

Hot Licks

Sommers now plays with the Blue Grass Hot Licks, a local band comprised of four sometimes five musicians. They perform every Sunday and Monday night at Don Giovanni's and on Saturday nights play at the Pepper Mill at Snowmass.

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Sommers is a self taught musician. "I took violin lessons when I was in fifth and sixth grade, and learned how to play the guitar when I was at summer camp."

Ever since then he has been playing music, learning from records mostly, he says. "I play the record at a slower speed and listen to the technique. You can pick up an awful lot just by listening."

His first professional musical experience came about as a junior at Whittier College in California. "A group of us wanted to start a band and we needed a banjo player. So I went down to the hock shop and bought my first banjo, and got a Pete Seeger 'how to' book," he says.

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Gradually he built up his proficiency so now he can play four instruments, at least, the guitar, fiddle, mandolin and banjo.

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Fiddle

When asked which instruments he favors the most he instantly replied "The fiddle. There is something extra special about a fiddle, maybe because it's a small delicate instrument, or because it is made from wood, or maybe just because it is such an intimate instrument.

"You can feel the vibrations as you play. You get close to it, and wrap yourself around it, caress it. There is no other instrument that sounds like it in the world."

Sommers says he has been influenced mostly by the folk singers of the 60's, the Kingston Trio, Limelighters, Flat and Scruggs, and the Dillards.

"Playing last week as an opening act for John Stewart was a nice trip," he says. Stewart was part of the Kingston Trio before it disbanded. "I followed him since the Trio days, and it's kind of funny how things come full circle."

Country Music

Sommers says his interest in country music is because "There is so much drive and life in it. It's exciting music."

"Country music is my real love, and bluegrass is a part of country music. It's easy to define bluegrass because certain instruments are used, the five string banjo, fiddle, mandolin and a six string guitar. You don't find electric guitar or a pedal steel guitar in bluegrass."

"It is a happy lively music. When it's played right there is a certain drive and energy there. There is something about the combination of instruments, an acoustic sound that you can do so much with. When it's played right, it's not that easy to play."

And Sommers certainly can play it right, like an artist. But he doesn't consider himself an artist. "I've never really thought of myself in terms of an artist, I think of myself as an entertainer," he says modestly.

Musician

He also sees himself primarily as a musician and not a songwriter. "I would like to write some more, but I had trouble dealing with how to follow up on a hit song like Country Boy. I had to prove that I could still write, but I'm letting go of that idea. If I can write another song, good."

Country Boy isn't Sommers' only composition, Denver has recorded two other Sommers songs, River of Love, written in 1963, on Denver's Farewell Andromeda album, and In A Grand Way.

Sommers and Steve Weisberg, another Denver ex-musician teamed up and wrote an instrumental, Pickin At Sundown, which appears on Denver's Live album.

Superstar

But Sommers knows one thing he doesn't want to be and that is a solo performer. "I have always seen myself in a band, that's what I am, a band member."

Another thing Sommers doesn't want is superstar status. "I was working for a guy who had a great desire to be at the top and he made a lot of sacrifices to be there. I don't want that."

So, what does Sommers really want? "If I can make a living with my friends making music that's great. I still want to live in Aspen; I'm enjoying myself here."

Sommers summed up his hopes and aspirations by saying, "Maybe I'll get a dog from the pound this summer."



Halfway through a "fist roll." Action at Friday's freestyle contest. Photo by Aspen Studio of Photography.

Pat Hardy winner in freestyle competition

Pat Hardy won first place and \$350 in Friday's Aspen Highlands-Dearborn freestyle contest on Floradora Run.

Hardy did a series of spread eagles, a helicopter and a pole flip in the moguls skied smoothly through the ballet section of the course and did a helicopter with a spread eagle off the jump.

Second was Dan Pierce who collected \$150. Pierce did helicopters, spread eagles and a tip roll in the bumps, a front pole flip and a "pierce pirouette" in ballet and a

twister backscratcher spread eagle aerial.

Erik Pielstick, last week's winner, was third, while Kim Wilson finished fourth.

Wilson now leads the season standings for the Dearborn Cup with 73 points and \$2,025. Hardy stands second with 56 points and \$985, while Pierce has 49 and \$865.

Fourth through seventh are Pielstock, Steve Phipps, Jeff Carter and Rich Coulomb.

Aspen Cup races at the Highlands

The KSPN Aspen Cup race series moves to Aspen Highlands this weekend for slalom and giant slalom races sponsored by Sabatini Sport.

Along with the 60 Aspen kids there will be 20 Copper Mountain racers. Races will start at 10:30 am each day.

Freestyle contests will be held weekly at Aspen Highlands through March 31. The contests begin at noon Fridays on Floradora.

Tache third in Nor-Am slalom Friday

Robert Hill of the US Ski Team won the North-American Trophy Series men's giant slalom final Thursday at Aspen Highlands.

Friday, Scott Hoffman of the Intermountain Division won the slalom.

Hoffman's time was 111.59 seconds. He was followed by William Dorris of the Pacific Northwest Division in 112.91, then Aspen's Mark Tache in 113.75.

Tache had the fastest second run with 54.80 seconds, and Aspen Ski Club coach Peter Looram said everyone who saw the race was impressed with Tache's fluid style.

Europa Cup

The third place finish and a

19th place the day before (after starting 42nd) gives Tache an excellent chance of being selected for the US team that will travel to Europe in March for Europa Cup races, according to Looram.

Aspen's David Stapleton, who led the men's western Nor-Am standings going into the final series of races, finished ninth in the giant slalom with a time of 2 minutes 59.55 seconds. Hill's winning time was 2:55.79.

Stapleton had the fourth fastest time in the first run of the giant slalom.

Friday, he had an excellent run going in the first run of the slalom before he hooked a tip 10 gates from the finish and fell.

Giant Slalom

Following Hill in the giant slalom were Ikuo Yamamoto of Japan in 2:56.81, Cory Murdock of the US Team in 2:57.48, Gregg Hann of Canada in 2:57.98 and Peter Dodge of the US Team in 2:58.69.

Aspen's Mike Farny was 36th, while Mike Maple was 45th.

Looram said the giant slalom was marked by the best conditions of the season here, with sun and hard snow which help up well enough so that even the late starters had good runs.

Only eight of 72 racers disqualified during the race.

Difficult Courses

The slalom courses were in equally good shape, he said, although the difficulty of the courses meant that only 23 racers finished Friday.

In the women's finals held at Winter Park, Aspen's Patty Kent turned in her best performance of the year with a ninth place finish in Thursday's downhill. Kent's time was 73.14 seconds, behind the 71.88 turned in by winner Laurie Graham of Canada.

Aspen's Belinda Brownell finished 17th in 74.20

145.99. The US Ski Team's Lindy Cochran broke the Canadian hold on first place in the Saturday slalom with a combined time of 76.70 for two runs.

Swales placed 23rd in 82.56.

The racers are now competing in the US Nationals which are scheduled to run through Feb 28 at Lake Placid, NY.



Aspen's Mike Farny on the Nor-Am giant slalom course. Joe Harvey photo.

February 23, 1978 The Aspen Times Page 13-C



Hard left on the Celestial Seasonings Downhill Cup course. Tom Reinerth won the race and \$1,500 with a time of 1 minute 44.44 seconds, almost five seconds slower than the amateurs who ran in the

Nor-Am last week, but course conditions were different. Marc Milligan was second and a pair of Aspenites, Whit Sterling and Yvon Tache, were third and fourth. Michael Kennedy photo.

The Best of the Best:

by Tom Carter

Ask ten different skiers which are the best ten runs on Aspen's four mountains and you'll get at least a hundred different answers. But we didn't ask ten, in the interest of brevity, and here is what we found.

Granddaddy Aspen Mountain, the first hill developed in our area, must offer the finest in variety in its Ruthie's Run, believes long-time patrolman Harvey Carter. It's gentle and wide enough to thrill without intimidating the intermediate skier, but long and steep enough to boast International Ski Federation homologation as a top-flight international downhill trail.

Ruthie's begins at the top of Lift No. 1 and ends up at the bottom of the mountain. It has moguls, flats, steeps, cut-backs, pitches, inclines, yaws, gulleys, and sharp turns, and anyone who gets bored with Ruthie's should consider trying a new sport.

Carter believes the face of Bell Mountain also to be one of the best runs, spite of its relative shortness. It is steep enough to ski deep powder with ease, yet not so steep that a brief mistake means a runaway. True, it does get moguled up, sometimes rather badly, but the moguls are rarely unskiable. The proximity of so many trees on the slope grants a sense of daring to the skier who doesn't mind them, and a descent down the entire run without a fall will soothe even the most jaded ego.

Next on Aspen Mountain, Carter thinks, is Silver Queen, partly owing to mystique, granted by a sense of loneliness on the trail which isn't heavily

skied. The upper section of Silver Queen has been somewhat emasculated by the mighty bulldozer, but when a skier gets to the top of Elevator Shaft he has a thrill coming to him. There are rolls and dips and turns, and The Shaft itself is steep enough to delight anyone who claims he "likes 'em best that are just flattened out enough to hold snow." If you like it steep and lonesome, Silver Queen is for you. Incidentally, Elevator Shaft is the steepest ski trail on any of the Aspen area mountains, a sweet 42 degrees.

Swinging way out west next, to the mighty Snowmass area, the skier is dazzled with such a variety that choosing is a bit uncertain. For this puzzle, Snowmass pioneer Don Rayburn finally settled on Slot.

Slot is an expert trail, offering a tantalizing variety in change of pace, Rayburn thinks. This change of pace will appeal enormously to the skier who is a bit weary of skiing table-top smoothness and homogeneous grades which are great for laziness, but a bit dull for the tiger who likes to have his knees slammed up and down while he sits back, tips forward, angulates or does whatever else is required to stay on his protesting skis. There are plenty of bumps and the opportunity to gain as much speed as one thinks he can handle.

Of course, the Big Burn is another favorite of Rayburn's, as it is with many other skier. This immense, tree-speckled hill seems to go downhill forever and its lateral boundaries appear impossibly far away. It is steep enough to be exhilarating yet gentle enough not to scare the Bogners off the timid. Anyone

Floradora



Thunderbowl

Silver Queen



Big Burn

Aspen's Top 10 Burns

can and does handle the Burn with confidence and its very size keeps it from seeming crowded, even when it is.

Snowmass's little brother, Buttermilk, is largely considered a beginner's ideal area. This conception delights the beginner and intermediate, for they believe they can handle it with great skill. And they do.

It also delights the knowledgeable hot-shot, for the avant-garde shuns the Milquetoast image and seeks "the big mountains," while the less vain expert skis the uncrowded variety of Javelin.

Don Jenson, patrol chief at Buttermilk for nearly as long as there has been a Buttermilk, talks less about Javelin than about Homestead, the happily traveled trek from the top of No. 2 lift heading west. It gets a heavy tourist traffic, says Jenson, and that appeal is well-founded in its physical layout.

Less than terribly steep, it is an ideal terrain for the skier just up from sea level to catch his breath without torturing his legs. Plenty wide enough to allow a mistake and plenty steep enough to thrill all but the super expert, Homestead offers a wonderful re-training ground for those in a slump.

And when they get out of that slump, the Floradora trail at Aspen Highlands is the perfect hill to rejoice on, according to Skip Gilkerson, public relations director on that towering mountain. It's great intermediate terrain, he says, full of nice moguls, challenging, wide and—best of all—visible to all who love to admire and those who love to be admired from the lift.

Golden Horn-Tunderbowl are per-

haps less visible, but offer some of the most exhilarating terrain changes to be found in the Aspen area. Not only do they offer championship slalom and giant slalom slope configuration, they are wide, just smooth enough to really let the old skis run if you wish (but with enough bumps to please the more daring), and are relatively free of hordes. Furthermore, points out Gilkerson, spring skiing on Thunderbowl is excellent, for it catches the late afternoon sun, providing benevolent snow and fine light; one feels it is noon still at 4 o'clock.

But the real dazzler, claims Gilkerson (with complete lack of modesty), is the new Steeplechase on the east ridge of Highlands. Not only is Steeplechase the finest terrain in Aspen, he feels it is far superior to anything in the Rocky Mountain region, including the fabled "back" bowls in Vail. Gilkerson backs up his opinion with echoes from many knowledgeable Aspen powder aficionados.

It is consistently steep, he says, has no benches, and a skier can stop anywhere without worry of poling his way across a flat. Twelve hundred vertical feet were opened this year, but hopefully another 650 will soon be added to that, creating a trail that has no match anywhere in the west.

Gilkerson emphasizes that Steeplechase is for the expert-only skier, the lover of the "steep and deep," as they say, and that, Friends, is his opinion.

Couple that with the opinions of the other observers, and they may not match yours, as we said at the beginning.

But we didn't ask you yet.

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Chris Corlett photo

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"Playing last week as an opening act for John Stewart was a nice trip," he says. Stewart was part of the Kingston Trio before it disbanded. "I followed him since the Trio days, and it's kind of funny how things come full circle."

Country Music

Sommers says his interest in country music is because "There is so much drive and life in it. It's exciting music.

"Country music is my real love, and bluegrass is a part of country music. It's easy to define bluegrass because certain instruments are used, the five string banjo, fiddle, mandolin and a six string guitar. You don't find electric guitar or a pedal steel guitar in bluegrass.

"It is a happy lively music. When it's played right there is a certain drive and energy there. There is something about the combination of instruments, an acoustic sound that you can do so much with. When it's played right, it's not that easy to play."

And Sommers certainly can play it right, like an artist. But he doesn't consider himself an artist. "I've never really thought of myself in terms of an artist, I think of myself as an entertainer," he says modestly.

Musician

He also sees himself primarily as a musician and not a songwriter. "I would like to write some more, but I had trouble dealing with how to follow up on a hit song like Country Boy. I had to prove that I could still write, but I'm letting go of that idea. If I can write another song, good."

Country Boy isn't Sommers' only composition, Denver has recorded two other Sommers songs, River of Love, written in 1963, on Denver's Farewell Andromeda album, and In A Grand Way.

Sommers and Steve Weisberg, another Denver ex-musician teamed up and wrote an instrumental, Pickin At Sundown, which appears on Denver's Live album.

Superstar

But Sommers knows one thing he doesn't want to be and that is a solo performer. "I have always seen myself in a band, that's what I am, a band-member."

Another thing Sommers doesn't want is superstar status. "I was working for a guy who had a great desire to be at the top and he made a lot of sacrifices to be there. I don't want that."

So, what does Sommers really want? "If I can make a living with my friends making music that's great. I still want to live in Aspen; I'm enjoying myself here."

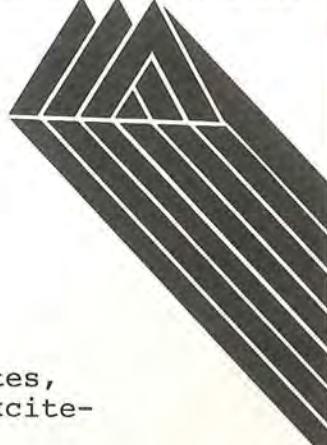
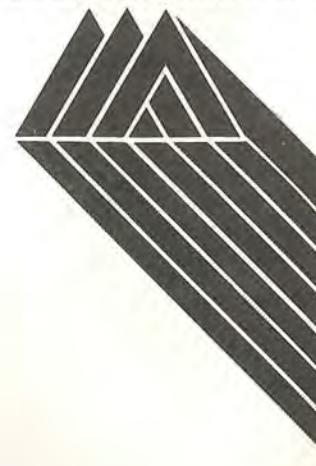
Sommers summed up his hopes and aspirations by saying, "Maybe I'll get a dog from the pound this summer."



ASPEN HIGHLANDS SKI NEWS

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Dear Skier:

Last fall all of us at Aspen Highlands stood by with great expectations awaiting the first snows of the 1977-78 ski season.

Forecasters and old time Aspenites alike were predicting a normal, if not record breaking snow season and happily they were right!

The balance of the ski season promises an even greater thrill and as warm weather approaches we look forward to magnificent spring skiing, with just the right mixture of blue skies, white snow and that golden bronze sun.

There's a wide variety of activities at Aspen Highlands which range from Snow Puppies Ski School for youngsters to the exhilarating challenge of Aspen Highlands' new deep powder area called "Steeplechase," said by many to compare to the awe inspiring Bugaboos of the Canadian Rockies.

As President of Aspen Highlands, I'd like to extend my personal invitation for you to join us at your earliest convenience.

And don't forget that Aspen Tennis Ranch at Aspen Highlands begins operation right after the last of this year's snow flies!

We look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

W. V. N. Jones, Pres

Whipple Van Ness Jones, President
Aspen Highlands Skiing Corporation

Dear group planner or race director:

Aspen Highlands, a #1 NASTAR area in the United States, would like to invite your group to experience the excitement of recreational racing.

During your next visit to Aspen Highlands, include a special NASTAR race for your group. Beginner to expert skiers can enter, and everyone has a chance to win gold, silver and bronze medals, a la Olympic style! No matter how you finish the course, the racing thrills and consequent improvement in your skiing make the experience a sure winner.

This season, Aspen Highlands will also offer a NASTAR clinic to groups and ski clubs. A pacesetter teaches the elements of racing in combination with on-the-hill practice, and everyone from novice to seasoned racers benefits. Another benefit is instruction in proper choice and maintenance of skis.

The cost of the clinic is only \$10.00. We'll even include the cost of race registration.

When planning your next Aspen Highlands vacation, add that extra touch -- a NASTAR race.

To make arrangements, contact me at: Aspen Highlands, Box T, Aspen, Colorado 81611 (303) 925-5300.

We look forward to seeing you at Aspen Highlands.

Buzz Fedorka
Buzz Fedorka
Director of Racing

STEEPLECHASE OPENS

Steeplechase, a major addition to Aspen Highlands ski area, is now open.

The Announcement was made by Whipple Van Ness Jones, president of Aspen Highlands.

Steeplechase, with a vertical drop of 1,200 feet, increases the size of Aspen Highlands by 35 percent and is the first in a series of planned expansions in the new Castle Creek complex adjacent to Aspen Highlands. The completion of Castle Creek will open up 1,800 feet of vertical drop.

"This area features powder skiing as fine as exists anywhere in the United States," Dave Wright, head of the Ski Patrol, said. "Comparable to the back bowls at many famous areas, Steeplechase is custom-made for advanced intermediate and expert skiers.

"It has actually been in preparation for four years. The first year, only the ski patrol was permitted to ski the area. During the following season, employees with ski patrol personnel were allowed. Last year, the public could ski Steeplechase on a guided tour basis. Now, it's open to everybody."

The area, which will have lift service in the future, is currently accessible from the top of Loges Peak, with an exit via the Boomerang Cat walk. Very little tree cutting was done to form the area, resulting in a glade-like setting comprised of natural runs.

"It's a major undertaking to open a new area," Wright said. "Of paramount importance was the preservation of wooded areas and sites for installation of chairlift towers.

"We passed the environmental test with flying colors, since our trails are mostly natural and lift towers will be flown in by helicopter, to avoid affecting the aesthetic qualities of the mountain."

Extensive snow surveys have been completed and Steeplechase rates as an excellent area for skiing.

"It's in a good geographic location for snow," Wright explained. "Castle Creek not only receives heavy snowfall, but is a collection point for snow blown off other portions of the mountain. Accumulations of four to six inches often result from night-time winds.

"As for safety, we have thoroughly cleared the area of any potential avalanche hazards, and are constantly monitoring. To further insure skiers' safety, Steeplechase will be closed following any storm until potential problems have been eliminated by proven methods.

Aspen Highlands also offers advanced ski school classes for the powder conditions in the Steeplechase area. These classes are offered in the interest of improved safety and enjoyment of Steeplechase.

THE LONG AND SHORT OF SKI SCHOOL

"You can have just as much fun on longer skis," says Charles "Lefty" Brinkman, director of the Aspen Highlands ski school. "The secret to good skiing is to stay over the ski, no matter what the length."

Even though Aspen Highlands has a large GLM (graduated length method) ski school, they encourage students to extend themselves to the long ski as quickly as possible in their learning process.

The GLM teaches balance and emphasizes the fun side of the sport, the progressions to the long ski strengthens the importance of balance.

According to Brinkman, "We want a person to be so stable they can ski on either uphill or downhill ski at any given time, and still be solidly over their skis."

With the opening of their new powder area, Steeplechase, special classes on long skis are being conducted in the area.

Brinkman subscribes to the philosophy of encouraging people to do things they wouldn't do on their own...to get them to extend themselves just one more step.

Brinkman, who heads a staff of 150 of the finest instructors available in the area, grew up in Philadelphia and became a competitive figure skater, having finished second behind world and Olympic champion Dick Button five times.

He arrived in Colorado in 1940 to skate for the Broadmoor Hotel, and attended Colorado College. He planned to become a doctor, but moved to Sun Valley, where he was president of the figure skating club there, and became interested in skiing.

He learned to ski and teach skiing under the auspices of Friedl Pfeiffer who was then head of the Aspen Ski School, in the early 50's. He taught for Pfeiffer and Fred Iselin for five years until 1963, and when Iselin became ski school director at Aspen Highlands, Brinkman followed. Brinkman has been head of the Aspen Highlands ski school for four years.

Aspen Highlands ski school charges \$13.00 for a full-day group lesson; \$33.00 for three full-day lessons and for a five-day group lessons package, the price is a bargain at \$50.00. For children 12 and under, a full-day group lesson is \$11.00.

Private lessons are \$20.00 per person per hour, adding \$5 per person an hour up to three people. An all-day private lesson is \$90.00.

A special package rate is offered for \$95.00 which includes five days of group lessons and lift tickets. A freestyle clinic is also offered for those who wish to learn to "boogie through the bumps", or just improve their basic ski technique.

A special feature at Aspen Highlands is a mini-instructor's clinic, which is a training program for instructors, in which the public can participate. It takes students from the beginning stages through the fundamental stages of both GLM and long skis to the advanced forms of skiing. These clinics are conducted during a period from three to six days.

For those who enter the weekly NASTAR races, held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, racing director, Hans Schwarz conducts race clinics for two hours prior to the races.

Aspen Highlands, with 77 miles of trails for skiers of all abilities, has the longest vertical drop of any area in Colorado -- 3,800 feet. The area is independently owned and operated by Aspen Highlands Skiing Corporation.

THESE PUPS ARE PIPS!

Snow Puppies, a unique children's teaching program at Aspen Highlands, Colorado, provides more than just ski lessons. It is designed to enhance the overall character of the children participating.

The Snow Puppies program is for children aged three to six years old. For only \$17 per day, they receive lift tickets, instruction and a hot lunch. The hours for the daily program are 9:30 to 3:30.

Aspen Highlands Snow Puppies directors Bill Reynolds and Kristin Lawrence feel it's an ideal place for children to learn to ski. Classes are limited to three snow puppies per instructor, and close supervision is maintained to insure the children's safety.

For the parents, it's a great way to save money, as the day's activities are far less expensive than a baby sitter.

The child that finishes the Snow Puppy program learns more than the basic mechanics of skiing. They are taught to cope with daily activities, and encouraged to develop a higher level of independence.

Kristen and Bill provide a feeling of camaraderie among the groups of children. They also use gimmicks, such as using expressions as "peanut butter" and "jelly" as substitutes for right and left skis; and a "piece of pie" is the snowplow. They also use ropes, poles, Mickey Mouses and Donald Ducks to assist in their teaching.

"The rewards of the program are great," according to Bill Reynolds. "We not only watch the children grow and develop, but we continue to follow the graduates as they progress to the more advanced slopes."

Last season, over 625 children went through the Snow Puppies program, including store and restaurant owner's children, Aspen Ski Corporation official's kids, and Wildwood and Country Day School children.

This year, they have had over 800 in the program with a record of teaching 98 percent of the children to ski.

"Not bad statistics," says Kristin Lawrence. "I doubt that any other ski school in the country of this kind has had this kind of success."

Hopefully, next year, they can cut trails in the trees between the pomas and create a European terrain garden. Another plan includes the only sanctioned race in the country for three, four and five-year olds.

"SKIERS RELISH FREESTYLE HOTDOGGING"

Freestyle ski competition is alive and well at Aspen Highlands, according to Whipple Van Ness Jones, president of the ski area.

"Even though there is no longer a major freestyle skiing circuit in Colorado, we have assembled a program this year, in co-sponsorship with Dearborn Wire and Cable, Co., which promises to be the best ever at the area," Skip Gilkerson, manager of customer service for Aspen Highlands, said.

Freestyle enthusiasts have a chance to display their talents every Friday. Competition begins at noon above the Merry-Go-Round restaurant at Aspen Highlands.

"To my knowledge, Aspen Highlands is the only remaining Colorado ski area, and one of the few in the entire country, to sponsor Freestyle events," Gilkerson said. "And the way we conduct our Freestyle competition is unique. At most areas, three events -- moguls, ballet and aerials -- are held at different times.

"Each competitor at Aspen Highlands must perform the three elements in one continuous run, which requires incredible skiing ability and concentration. You've got to do it right the first time."

To "do it right," contestants must perform a series of extremely difficult and dangerous tricks in a graceful manner. Among the most often attempted maneuvers are daffies, splitting the ski forward and back; spread-eagles, legs and arms spread in mid-air; single helicopters, 360 degree turns in the air; and spectacular high flying aerials.

"We judge the ballet and aerial portions of the contest on the basis of smooth and flowing execution and style," Gilkerson said. "When it comes to freestyle, entrants boogie down the mountain through the bumps (moguls) in the most spectacular fashion possible, and are judged on quickness, precision and the number of times they can get in the air off the bumps. It takes a special breed of skier to perform all this successfully in 45 seconds.

A bevy of the "special breed" are at Aspen Highlands this season to test their skills. Among the regular competitors are Danny Pierce, former world ballet champ, Ed Lincoln, former aerial champion and Kim Wilson and Pat Hardy who have been international circuit competitors.

To compete against these world renowned hotdoggers, entrants must sign up at Aspen Highlands from 3 to 5 p.m. the day prior to the event.

"We allow a maximum of 25 competitors each week, so the talent on that hill is tops in the profession," Gilkerson continued. "To insure that it is, the ski patrol or hotdogging department of customer service must view the prospective entrant before he or she can be certified to race. In addition, all contestants must attend a meeting prior to the event to become fully informed about rules, scoring, and so forth.

Once admitted to the corps of the weekly elite, contestants must perform before a panel of five judges, including Dave Wright, head of the Ski Patrol; Charles "Lefty" Brinkman, Ski School supervisor; and Gilkerson. Two additional judges are selected for each race.



"Judges award a maximum of 20 points in freestyle, ballet and aerials, and in addition, assess a maximum of 20 additional points for overall continuity -- good use of the course, balance, style, smooth transition and safe skiing techniques," Gilkerson explained.

"A total of \$850 in cash prizes are awarded weekly. Dearborn Wire and Cable Co. contributes \$100 and Aspen Highlands \$750. Weekly first place winners receive \$350 and a pin."

Points are given weekly for first through tenth place finishers, ranging from 10 to 1. At the end of the season, weekly points are totaled and season winners announced.

The top finisher for the year's competition receives \$1,000 and his or her name is engraved on a trophy which remains in the Merry-Go-Round restaurant. Grand prizes are contributed by Dearborn Wire and Cable Co., the president of which is Bud Greene.

"We're enthusiastic about the upcoming season and all the thrills and spills that are part of the fun -- and risk -- of hotdog skiing," Gilkerson said. "Fortunately, the spills at Aspen Highlands haven't resulted in a serious accident in the six years the contests have been held here."

"Our excellent track record has resulted from a careful screening of applicants, so only the most qualified get a chance to wend their way down the tricky course."

The Aspen Highlands staff, in conjunction with Bud Greene, worked throughout the summer to assemble a hotdogging program that would appeal to participants and spectators alike.

LET IT SNOW

You've probably been inundated by now with statistics about the excellent snow conditions in the Colorado ski country this year.

An Aspen Highlands ski report started Christmas Day of 1977 shows 100 percent excellent ski days every day since then. And the next thirty-day period also looks excellent.

To date, Aspen Highlands has received 185 inches of snow this year, with 59 inches recorded at midway presently. Steeplechase, the newest addition to the Aspen Highlands area, has recorded powder conditions every day since its December 23, 1977 opening.

These statistics speak well for Aspen Highlands, and so are the patrons. Especially favorable comments have been received by the Aspen Highlands' customer department.

Judy Gran, a ski travel agent from Arcadia, California, said, "I had not skied the Highlands in three years, so I was favorably impressed with the changes that had taken place since my last visit -- especially the new Steeplechase area. WOW! What fantastic fun. It will go down as one of my all time great days of skiing ... my only complaint is the time went too quickly."

An unidentified traveler to Aspen Highlands was heard to say, "Skiing Steeplechase is the best thing I've found since the Bugaboos." The Bugaboos, a mountain range in the Canadian Rockies, accessible only by helicopter, is generally regarded as one of the best bowl skiing areas in the world.

Of course, Aspen Highlands has plenty to offer skiers of all abilities as the main portion of the mountain has 25 percent beginning, 50 percent intermediate and 25 percent advanced slopes. All skiers may take advantage of the ski school, headed by Charles "Lefty" Brinkman and touted as the best in the world.

"This year has exceeded just about everybody's expectations," Bill Comstock, marketing director for Aspen Highlands, said. "Prior to the Thanksgiving day opening, we sent out news releases describing the great prognosis for this coming season. We were optimistic and still understated our case."

"We've simply had more snow than we hoped for. I don't know exactly why, but neither do the meteorologists -- sure, the snowmaking had some impact, but the best overall explanation I've got is that the law of averages is tilting in our favor."

Comstock added that skiing conditions weren't the only positive aspect of this season.

"Our skier traffic is up 18 percent over the average for this time, and our season-end projections look even better. The best part of all is that, with our 10,000 per hour lift capacity, and the opening of Steeplechase, we've had virtually no overcrowding in the lift lines."

"In fact, many skiers have remarked that they're amazed that an area with conditions this good could have minimal waiting to get aboard the lifts."

For information about the conditions at Aspen Highlands and reservations, call (303) 925-5300.

THE LEGEND OF HERMAN THE ERMINE

Long before anyone knew there was silver in the hills around Aspen, a family of energetic ermines enjoyed an extremely ecstatic existence. Led by patriarch Berman, the happy group spent the hard winters snuggling together in cozy underground quarters. Summers were spent frolicking around the hills, searching for food, and enjoying all the creature comforts.

But in the latter 1800s, a new creature came upon the scene. This strange animal walked on two legs and wielded large pointed instruments. They started digging in the hills with these instruments, and constructed weird looking shelters in which most days were spent.

These were the silver boom days for Aspen, and the beginning of the end of the easy life Berman and his family had known. Not only were their homes in peril, but days were now spent dodging pick axes, shovels, and gruff miners who didn't consider that there were other inhabitants of the area.

The years went by, and the family was continually forced to move in search of peaceful quarters. They finally found refuge in an area inhabited by peace-loving Scandinavians. They spent many happy years in this land, known as the Highlands.

Decades passed, and Berman's descendant, Herman, found he had a new problem to contend with. Creatures holding funny looking sticks and riding on thin slabs down the hills of the Highlands. Overhead, these creatures rode up the mountain in strange contraptions suspended by a cable.

This was Aspen Highlands ski area, and Herman the Ermine knew he was in the middle of something big. He began watching the pastime which was capturing the hearts of so many people, and decided to try it himself.

Herman gathered some sticks and whittled away, and before long, he was set to go. He had a pretty good idea of what to do from watching the other skiers, and within a couple of days, Herman the Ermine was schussing like a pro.

But in his joy, Herman began getting careless. One day, as he was traversing a hill, a giant ski appeared over the top of a mogul, coming straight at him.

The next thing Herman the Ermine knew, he was surrounded by people in blue jackets. They covered him up, took him to a warm shelter, fed him, and monitored his recovery.

Before long, Herman was able to move around again. He was so grateful to the ski patrol that, upon his return to the hills, Herman the Ermine began helping anyone in need. Many a skier has since been given that little extra push by a small white fellow with a big heart.

To give the skiers an added pleasure, Herman even builds his molehills into moguls.

In recognition of his devoted efforts at Aspen Highlands, Herman the Ermine has been promoted. As of the 1977-78 ski season, he will be the official spokesperson, er.... spokesermine for the famed ski resort. Although he will be extremely busy with his new job, you might still see Herman the Ermine darting in and out of the Aspen Highlands slopes, helping those in need of assistance....

LIFT TICKET PRICE COMPARISON

	ASPEN	BUTTERMILK	SNOWMASS	ASPEN HIGHLANDS
All day	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$12.00
$\frac{1}{2}$ day	none	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00	\$ 8.00
Children	\$13.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 3.00
Over 65	\$ 8.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 3.00
Student Discount	none	none	none	\$11.00 (with proper ident.)
3-day ticket	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$30.00
Double 3- day ticket	\$72.00	\$72.00	\$72.00	\$60.00

NOTE: For all four areas, a 6-day ticket is \$77.00.

RESERVATIONS &
PACKAGE PLANS:

For information concerning lodging and reservations in Aspen or Snowmass, contact your local airline tour desk, the lodge direct, a tour operator in your area or a tour operator/reservations service in Aspen.

HIGHLANDS INN
RESERVATIONS:

Beautiful Country Lodge - The Highlands Inn, located next to the base lift at the Highlands. For reservations,
Contact: Highlands Inn
Post Office Box 4708
Aspen, Colorado 81611
303/925-5050 925-5130

Aspen Reservations, Inc.
Box 4546
Aspen Colorado 81611
303/925-4000
800/525-4014

Aspen Ski Tours
Box 320
Aspen, Colorado 81611
303/925-1384



The New 610 Comp. When suddenly you're a racer.

Construction: special glaswrapped foam core.

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Junior nordic nationals wrap up

By STEVE BEEDLE

JACKSON HOLE, Wyo. — "It couldn't have been any better," exulted Pete Ashley, Intermountain division coach and race organizer, at the conclusion of the Nordic Junior National Championships held here the week of March 5-11.

Reflecting upon the intense competition between 200 of the nation's finest junior nordic racers and jumpers, one participant who could have performed more consistently was Old Man Winter, a wizened gentleman notoriously fickle in Jackson Hole this time of year.

His idiosyncrasies kept the track conditions varying from a speedy icy glaze to a abominably slow slush, sometimes changing radically during the course of a race, playing havoc with the coaches seeding plans. The locals know all too well, only fools and newcomers try to out-guess the weather.

The real show was staged by the racers, themselves, and what a performance they put on. Never a dull moment — from a mixed relay won by the Intermountain Division team, with anchorman Lat Straley coming from nowhere to nip the leader, Rocky Mountain pacesetter Pat Ahern, by .88 of a second, on the first day of racing — to a narrow victory by Central's Mike Williams over Ahern in the special jumping conclusion to the competition.

There were some sparkling individual performances. Take Chrissy Lewis, for example. The Copper Mountain, Colorado, racer capitalized on her momentum from winning six of nine Rocky Mountain races this year to help her mixed relay team to second place; pace her girls' relay team to a first; post an impressive first in the 7.5-kilometer by almost a half-minute over Intermountain's Kelly Milligan, and run a strong second in the 5km behind Nancy Pease of Anchorage, Alaska.

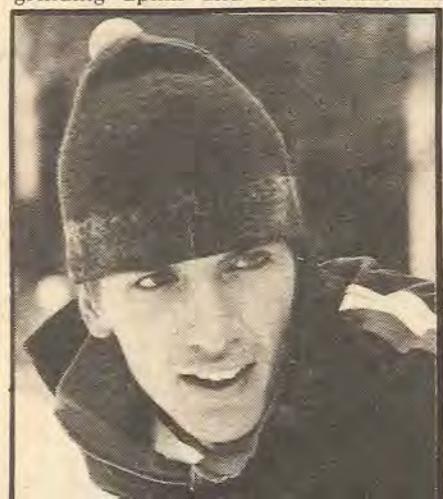
Galanes glides into win

STOWE, Vt. — Jim Galanes won his first race as a special runner when he topped the field of 45 men in the third stop of the Dannon Cross-Country Series here at the Trapp Family Lodge March 15. Esther Miller won the women's event for Canada.

With no waxing problems over the wet corn snow to bother him, Galanes, a 21-year-old former nordic combined competitor, covered the 9.5-kilometer track 42 seconds faster than Dan Simoneau, a member of the U.S. Junior Team from Livermore Falls, Maine.

Although the honors went to Galanes, Simoneau's feat was remarkable as he had returned from the European Junior Championships in Austria just a few days prior to the meet here. The 19-year-old sprinted the course in 27 minutes, 10.70 seconds to Galanes' time of 26:28.59.

Miller, the lone Canadian entry in the women's 5km race, demonstrated her strength as she poled up the final, grinding uphill and to the finish in



JIM GALANES

Omholz-Jensen photo

Kelly Milligan is another case in point. Joining in the first place for the IMD mixed-relay team, was only a start for the Moose, Wyoming, racer. On March 6 she picked up a sixth in the 5km, right on the heels of teammates Toni Jorgenson, of Sun Valley, and Edi Bennett, Jackson, who were third and fifth, respectively.

March 8 was another kind of day entirely for Milligan, as she fell right at the start of the girl's relay, and later found herself upside down next to a tree with her skis tangled in the lower branches. But March 10 she recovered in high style to place second behind Lewis in the 7.5km and added a third in the biathlon.

On the boys' ledger, Rick Solie, of Fairbanks, Alaska, was the most consistent racer with seconds in both special races, behind Kevin Brochman, from Cable, Wisconsin, in the 7.5km, and Carl Swanson, from West Yellowstone, Montana, by two seconds in the 10km. Solie also anchored the second-place Alaskan boys' relay team.

The best all-around competitor was Pat Ahern, the multi-faceted racer and jumper from Breckenridge, Colorado. Ahern captured the nordic combined, which was really no surprise, as he is the North American Junior Nordic Combined champion. Pat was second in the 55-meter special jump. He helped the RMD jumping team to a second behind the Central Division winners, and was 12th and 17th in the 7.5km and 10km cross-country races, respectively. Pat added a victory in the Gordon Wren Memorial Jump to his list of laurels.

Mike Williams, Ely, Minnesota, emerged as the junior nationals' top jumper with his win in the 55-meter event March 11. Williams was at his best, with leaps of 56, 57 and 57 meters. Ahern was second and William's brother Tim was third. Landis Arnold had the week's longest official jump of 57.5 meters, but the

18:18.47. Leslie Bancroft of the U.S. Baby Blue Team and Paris, Maine, actually made time on the last hill to move into second place with a clocking of 18:22.74, just over four seconds behind Miller.

Bancroft had been a bit slower than Joanne Musolf and Beth Paxson over the first four-and-a-half kilometers, but pulled ahead of them over the last and most difficult section of the course. Musolf, a White Team member who trains at Telemark in Wisconsin, ended up in third place with a time of 18:36.80. Paxson, of the Baby Blue Team and Charlotte, Vermont, took fourth .30 seconds behind Musolf.

Paxson and teammate Tracy Valentine, who finished fifth in 19:02.99, had also just returned from the European Junior Championships.

Kevin Swigert of the U.S. White Team and Ketchum, Idaho, was third among the men with a time of 27:16.20. Sten Fjeldheim, a Minneapolis skier who races for the Telemark, was less than two seconds behind for fourth place. North American 30km champion Craig Ward came in fifth in 27:19.57.

Fastest of the three Canadians entered in the men's event was Pierre Vezina of Beaupre, Quebec, who finished seventh behind Middlebury College racer Jim Goodwin.

With four of the six Dannon Series competitions completed, Ward was in the men's lead with 58 points from two wins. Switzerland's John Kreuzer, who competed only in the North American Championships at Lake Placid, was second with 45 points and Galanes stood third with a total of 40 points.

Musolf had the women's lead with 66 points to Miller's 51. Shirley Firth and Joan Groothuysen were tied with 45 points each.

landing was a little rough, as a fall wiped out his chances to do better than sixth.

In the team jumping, brother Tim got the upper hand, as he led his Central Division team to a first, with Mike's team in fourth. Ahern's RMD team was second.

Lat Straley made quite a splash with his miracle anchor leg to win the mixed relay. But the Pinedale, Wyoming, racer didn't hide in the woods the rest of the week. Lat, who combined with brothers Monte and Zane form a top-notch racing family, sped to a fifth in the 7.5km; placed fourth in the 10km, and anchored the Intermountain boys' relay team in a third-place finish. Straley edged teammate Rody Hagen to win the biathlon, while Carolyn Dobbins of Knoxville, Tennessee, took the girls' biathlon.

Speaking of Rody Hagen, what a week he had. His late father, Grant "Tiny" Hagen sculpted the design for the medals awarded to the top ten finishers in each event. Rody took

home five of those medallions himself, the most of any competitor. In addition to the second place biathlon, he skied the initial leg on the winning mixed relay team; took a ninth in the 7.5km; helped the IMD boys' relay team to third, and placed fifth in the 10km. Not too shabby for a country boy.

After a week of extraordinary performances, the racers finally settled back to being just kids at a rock-and-roll boogie at the Ramada Snow King Inn following the awards banquet. Even coach Ashley took a moment to reflect. "You know," he mused, "things like the mixed relay finish you'll remember for the rest of your life. Who would have thought Lat was going to be first?"

Ashley, only allowing a moment for complacency, said, "We did well, really well. But we have to look forward to next year right now, by looking back to figure out what to do better because someone else is right behind."

Europa Cup nears finish

By CAMPBELL BALLANTYNE
European Editor

GENEVA — With five slaloms and the same number of giant slaloms still to be decided, 17-year-old Italian hope Lenardo David went into the lead with the Europa Cup standings with a series of good performances in races in Yugoslavia.

At Popova Sapke on March 2 he won a giant slalom and the next day added another 15 points to his total with a third place in the slalom.

The troupe then moved to Jahorina where David gained a second in the GS and a fifth in the slalom. These results raised his points to 120 and put him ahead of the previous leader, Swiss downhiller Silvano Meli. Two other Swiss downhills — Roland Lutz and Werner Spoerri — stood third and fourth.

Because there are no more downhills on the calendar, David became a strong favorite to succeed Peter Popangelov of Bulgaria as the Europa Cup holder.

The slalom at Popova Sapke was won by Franz Gruber of Austria, with Martial Donnet of Switzerland second ahead of David. In the GS, Alex Giorgi of Italy was second behind David, with Peter Schwendener of Switzerland third.

At Jahorina the giant slalom was captured by Hannes Spiss, a highly promising young Austrian who edged David by .53 of a second. Jacques Luethy of Switzerland was third. The slalom went to Roberto Burini of Italy, with Jan Bachleda of Poland second and Spiss third.

Women Europa Cup contenders meanwhile were racing in Switzerland and in the southern French Alps.

At Wangs Pizol in eastern Switzerland, Christine Loike of Austria added to her lead in the standings by taking third place in a giant slalom behind two teammates — Elizabeth Kraml and Uta Wedam.

Two days later at Auran in the French Maritime Alps Loike skied to victory in another GS to boost her point total to 114 and establish herself as a favorite to win the Cup. Second place in the race was taken by Torill Fjeldstad of Norway and third by

Endurance record set

McAFEE, N.J. — Two collegians set an endurance record here at the end of January to contribute \$5,000 to the Sussex County American Cancer Society. Ian Smith of Parsippany and Dave Brown of Lawrenceville, both students at Trenton State College, skied for 54 hours and eight minutes at Vernon Valley and Great Gorge ski areas.

Dagmar Kuzmanova of Czechoslovakia.

The winner of the slalom the next day was Wilma Gatta of Italy, with Olga Charvatova of Czechoslovakia second and Sigrid Totschnig of Austria third. Mary Seaton of the U.S. was 10th.

Hans Kirchgasser of Austria and the veteran Italian, Tino Pietrogiovanna, shared the honors in a FIS meet at Bormio, Italy, March 2-3. Kirchgasser won the downhill, leading a teammate, Herbert Steinthaler, and Mauro Maffei of Italy across the finish. Pietrogiovanna headed two other Italians, Bruno Confortola and Massimo Mandelli.

Othmar Kirchmair of Austria came out on top in a FIS slalom at Weissensee in Austria March 7. Jean-Pierre Barroso of France was second and Josef Hessenberger of Austria third. The slalom was won by Peter Rupitsch of Austria, with Barroso second and Karl Eggen of Switzerland third.

Americans score in Europa Cup

SCHLIERSEE, West Germany — Members of the U.S. Women's Alpine Team have been picking up Europa Cup and FIS points during recent competitions here and in France.

In an FIS meet here March 11-12, Liechtenstein's Ursula Konzett claimed a giant slalom victory with a time of two minutes, 14.66 seconds. Christa Zechmeister of West Germany was second and the U.S. earned three places in the top 10. Vicki Fleckenstein was seventh in 2:16.12, followed by Christin Cooper in eighth with 2:16.50. Cathy Bruce was 10th with a time of 2:17.08. Other American finishes included a 14th from Tamara McKinney and a 22nd from Leslie Leete Smith.

In the slalom March 12, Pamela Behr was the victor with a time of 94.84 seconds. The rising Czech alpinist, Dagmar Kuzmanova, placed second in 95.14. Cooper took a sixth with 96.23 and Fleckenstein placed eighth in 96.47. Mary Seaton was 12th for the U.S., Tania Tutt was 18th, Smith was 27th and McKinney finished 29th.

In a Europa Cup slalom March 8 at Walberg in France, Wilma Gatta of Italy claimed a win with a time of 89.57 seconds. Olga Charvatova of Czechoslovakia took second place in 89.65. Seaton finished in 10th position in 90.73 with Tricia Hellman 14th for the U.S. Lindy Cochran was fifth and Hellman 14th in a giant slalom the following day.



On the winner's stand after Friday's freestyle contest were, from left, Pat Hardy, Erik Pielstick, Bud Greene and Kim Wilson. Greene holds the Aspen

Highlands-Dearborn Cup that will be on display in the Merry-Go-Round Restaurant. Aspen Studio of Photography photo.

Wilson wins overall freestyle ski crown

Aspen Highlands' seventh consecutive season of freestyle ski contests ended Friday with a victory by Erik Pielstick, the director of the Winter Park freestyle program.

Pielstick scored a whopping 192.42 points on the strength of the many pole flips, shoulder rolls and dago bangers he performed in the moguls, and his spectacular double daffy cross-uncross aerial maneuver.

Pielstick won \$350 for his winning effort.

Second was Pat Hardy of Aspen. Hardy had another excellent performance and was a consistent high finisher all season.

Hardy won \$150.

Third was Kim Wilson of Aspen who had previously clinched the Aspen Highlands-Dearborn

Freestyle Cup which was awarded to the overall season leader.

Fourth and fifth Friday were Dan Pierce and Brian Medinis, both of Aspen.

Wilson garnered 112 points over the course of the 14 freestyle contests held this season to win the overall trophy.

After Friday's contest, Bud Greene, president of Dearborn Wire and Cable Co of Illinois presented Wilson with a check for \$1,000 for his winning performance.

Wilson was the most consistent of the freestyleists this season with six victories and total winnings of \$3,885.

Wilson's name will be engraved on the Aspen Highlands-Dearborn Cup, which will be on permanent display in the

Merry-Go-Round Restaurant.

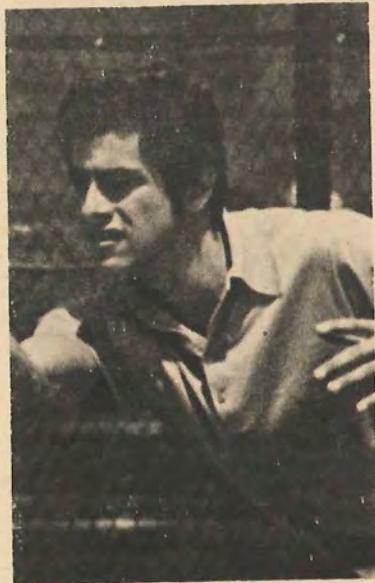
Pielstick and Hardy tied for second overall, but the \$150 second place award went to Pielstick because of his record of five wins and \$2,565 in prize money.

Hardy received \$100 for third place. He had a total of \$1,850 in winnings.

According to freestyle contest director Paul Chapin, 1978 was a very successful season for the Highlands contest.

He said the contest has gained a reputation among competitors as one of the best long-running contests in the country.

Spencer Segura to teach tennis here



Spencer Segura

Spencer Segura will be the head pro at the Aspen Tennis Ranch opening May 27 at the Highlands Inn, according to Jerry Sanders, general manager of the ranch and inn.

Segura, a world-ranking professional, is the son and teaching assistant of Pancho Segura, a renowned tennis player.

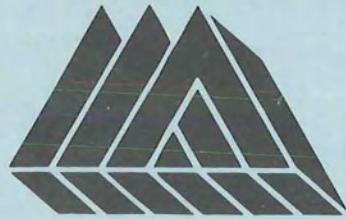
from the pro circuit to attend Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, but will spend his summers teaching at the Aspen Tennis Ranch. Most recently he has been playing team tennis with such partners as Ilie Nastase and Jimmy Connors.

Segura will conduct several clinics during the summer with his father and Connors, with dates to be announced in mid-May.

A very limited number of memberships are still available at the ranch. Those interested should contact Sanders at 925-5050.

VEJ

ASPEN HIGHLANDS RESORT GROUP



ASPEN HIGHLANDS SKIING CORPORATION

Post Office Box T
Aspen, Colorado 81611 U.S.A.

303-925-5300

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

November 24, 1977 to April 9, 1978

TO ALL EMPLOYEES AND THOSE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH
ASPEN HIGHLANDS SKIING CORPORATION:

The year 1977 - 1978 brings many new faces and many new opportunities to our fine ski area. This "Employee Handbook" is prepared to inform new employees, as well as those who have been with Aspen Highlands Skiing Corporation over the past years, of its policies and procedures. We know that you will find this manual interesting and we are looking forward to an exciting year of working together.

"IN ANY SERVICE ACTIVITY, IT IS THE MAN AS A MAN WHO COUNTS, AND THE NATURE OF THE SERVICE HE RENDERS THAT IS IMPORTANT, NOT THE TITLES HE BEARS NOR THE SURROUNDINGS IN WHICH HE WORKS. ANYONE WHO RENDERS A SERVICE IS IN A POSITION OF TRUST."

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY

Aspen Highlands Skiing Corporation, Aspen, Colorado is committed to equal employment opportunity and is an affirmative action employer. Aspen Highlands Skiing Corporation will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin, and will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated equally during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, recruitment, hiring, training, upgrading, demotion, transfer, compensation, benefits, layoffs and terminations.

W. V. N. Jones
W. V. N. Jones, President
Aspen Highlands Skiing Corporation



ASPEN HIGHLANDS TRAIL INFORMATION

TRAIL MARKINGS: ● Easiest

■ More Difficult

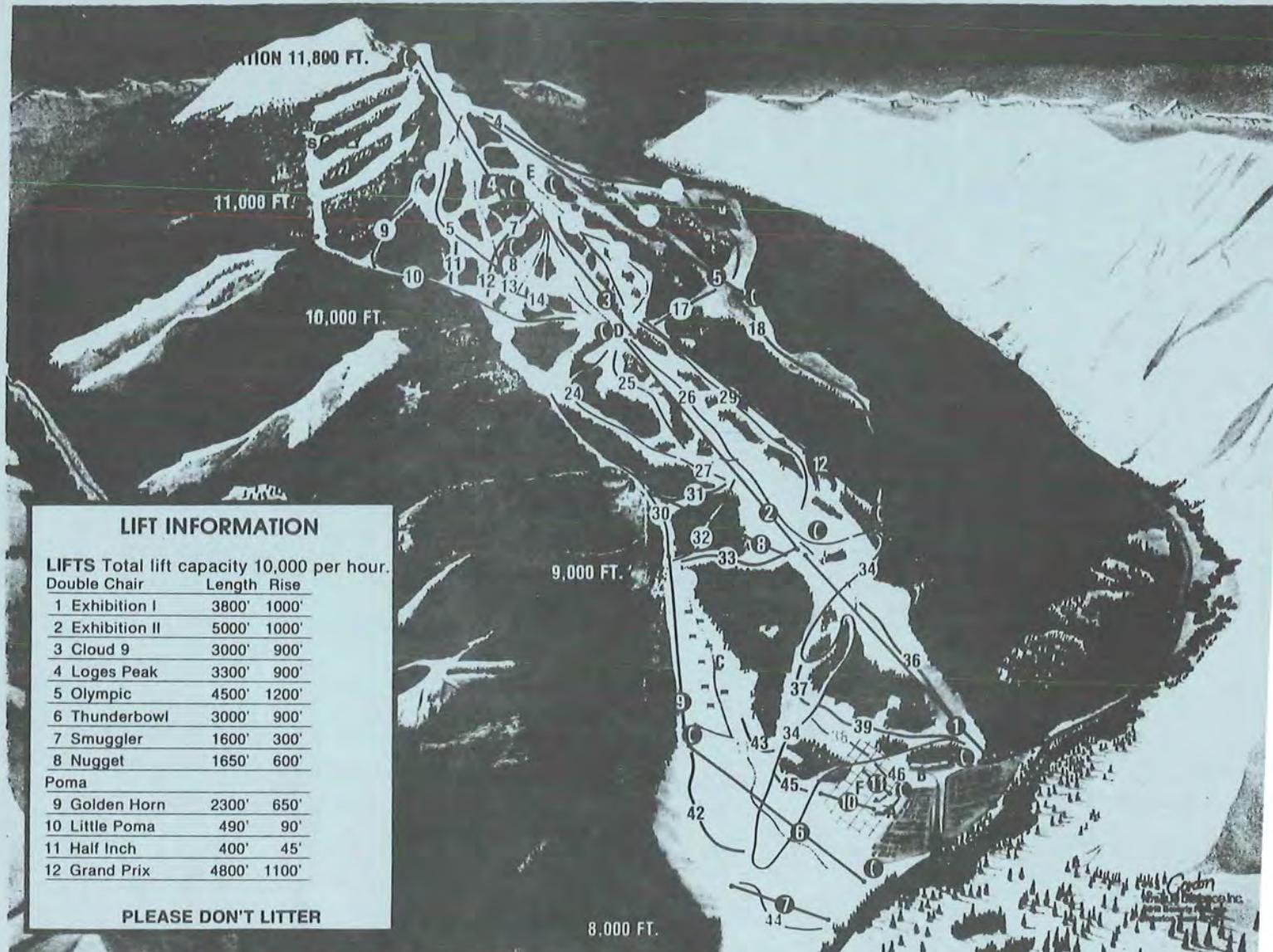
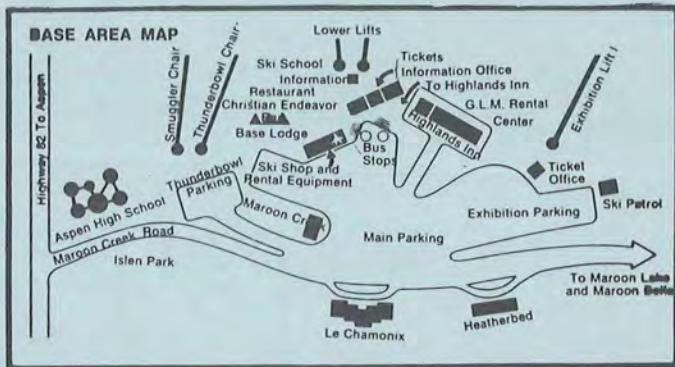
◆ Most Difficult

● Patrol Phones

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 Broadway | 15 Grand Prix | 30 T-Lazy-7 |
| 2 Loges | 16 Pyramid Park | 31 Suzi Q |
| 3 Hayden | 17 Midway-Grand | 32 Cakewalk |
| 4 Olympic | Prix Interchange | 33 Upper Stein |
| 5 Meadows | 18 Moment of Truth | 34 Park Avenue |
| 6 Kandahar | 19 Wine Ridge | 35 Golden Barrel |
| 7 Alps | 20 Heatherbedlam | 36 Lower Stein |
| 8 The Wall | 21 Floradora | 37 Upper Jerome |
| 9 Boomerang | 22 Gunbarrel | 38 Jerome Park |
| 10 Boomerang | 23 Deane's | 39 Jerome Bowl |
| Catwalk | 24 Prospector | 40 Golden Horn |
| 11 Interstate 70 | 25 Norway | 41 Thunderbowl |
| 12 Le Chamonix | 26 Exhibition | 42 Powder Bowl |
| 13 Easy Street | 27 Nugget | 43 Epicure |
| Catwalk | 28 Prospector Gulch | 44 Smuggler |
| 14 Andrew's | 29 Red Onion | 45 Limelight |
| | | 46 Half-Inch |

POINTS OF INTEREST

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| A. Base area & Cafeteria | D. Merry-Go-Round Restaurant |
| B. Highlands Inn | E. Patrol Hq.—Picnic Hut |
| C. Nastar | F. Snow making area |



I. INTRODUCTION

The main goal at Aspen Highlands is to provide our customers with the most pleasant and safe skiing experience possible; and it is through you that we can accomplish this.

Aspen Highlands has certain expectations of you so that we will maintain our reputation of having top-notch, COURTEOUS personnel. One of the most important assets at Aspen Highlands is EMPLOYEE FRIENDLINESS. Most positions require an extensive amount of public contact, with each of you representing Aspen Highlands. We want every customer to leave our mountain with memories of the friendly and helpful service he or she received.

Our success is basically predicated upon the consistent follow-through of the established company policies and lines of authority. Please be sure you adhere strictly to the lines of authority, bringing comments and problems to your departmental supervisor. Do not hesitate to do a little extra once your assigned job is completed. You would appreciate the same in return.

Another important trait we want you to develop is to be well informed. Either you should be able to answer a customer's question or know where to direct the customer for the proper information (Customer Service, Marketing, Ski School, Ticket Control, etc.). Knowing that you do not come blessed with answers to many questions, we have comprised a brief outline to give you an idea of the workings at Aspen Highlands. It would be to your benefit and our customers' to familiarize yourself with this outline. Also, feel free to ask your supervisor or other employees questions you may have. The more knowledge of the area you have, the happier our customers will be.

AREA SUMMARY

Aspen: Elevation 7,800 ft.

Aspen Highlands:

Elevation - Base 8,000 ft.
Loges 11,800 ft.

19th Season

Short lift lines most of the time

Least crowded on weekends, visitors coming and going

46 Trails

57 Miles of Trails

12 Lifts (See Trail Map for locations)

Beginner's Area - Near Base Lodge

Lifts open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Aspen Tennis Ranch:

Open for summer operation

7 Courts

Professional Instruction

Package Plans available, through 925-5050 or write

Post Office Box 1168, Aspen, Co. 81611

Ambulance:

Service to Aspen Valley Hospital

Contact Ski Patrol or Customer Service if needed

There is a fee for the service

Bars and Restaurants:

Christian Endeavor Bar:

Neil Johnson, Manager

Located on Main Floor of Base Lodge

Open from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily

Live Music - Rock'n Roll, Blue Grass

Full Liquor License

Guests must be 21 years of age

Club Room Bar:

Neil Johnson, Manager

Located Upstairs in Base Lodge

Open from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily

Live Music - Small ensembles, occasional jazz

Guests must be 21 years of age

Base Lodge Restaurant:

Goerge Gordon, Manager

Located in Base Lodge

Open from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Excellent Food - Cafeteria Service

Bars and Restaurants (Cont.)

Merry-Go-Round Restaurant:

Gwyn Gordon, Manager
Located Mid-way on the Ski Slope
Open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Beer and Wine License
Outside Grill, Snack Bar and Cafeteria
Excellent Food and Service

Dunnavant's Restaurant:

David Dunnavant, Manager
Located Upstairs at Highlands Inn
Open for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
Full Liquor License
Newly Decorated and Remodeled
Live Entertainment in Bar Area
Excellent Food

Complaints:

Written complaints only ones accepted
Must be submitted to Customer Service

Customer Service Department:

Skip Gilkerson, Director
Hosts picnics for groups at Cloud 9 Picnic Shack
Nastar Races on Golden Horn
Racing Clinics
Buses to town every 15 min. in a.m. & p.m., every 30
min. in afternoon
Pro Races hosted by A.H.S.C.
Hot Dog Contests: Fri. noon on Floradora, starting Dec.

Emergency Messages:

We have no paging system
Emergency messages placed on boards throughout area
Messages given to Customer Service or Ski Patrol

First Aid Stations:

Ski Patrol Room - Top of Cloud 9
Merry-Go-Round Restaurant - Ski Patrol Table
Customer Service
Ambulance Service

Lockers:

Base Lodge
Merry-Go-Round Restaurant
Highlands Inn G.L.M. Rental Center

Lodging Near Area:

Highlands Inn
Maroon Creek Lodge
Heatherbed Lodge

Maps: Large ones on hill by Ski Lifts
Pocket size at Customer Service and Ticket Offices
Map boxes located at all lift terminals

Public Pay Phones:

Base Lodge Entrance
South side of Marketing Building
Merry-Go-Round Restaurant
Highlands Inn Lobby
Highlands Inn G.L.M. Rental Center

Rate Schedules:

Lift Rates:

One Day	\$12.00
Half Day (Starting 12:30)	8.00
Child, One Day (12 yrs. & under)	3.00
Young-at-Heart (65 yrs. & over)	3.00
Three Day (Good at Aspen Highlands Only, three out of five days)	30.00
Six Day - Four Mountain (Good at Aspen, Aspen Highlands, Buttermilk & Snowmass)	77.00
One Day, Student (With I.D.)	11.00
Season Ticket (Unrestricted)	300.00
Weekend Season Ticket (Valid Sat. & Sun. Only) . . .	150.00

Ski School Rates:

One Day - Group	\$13.00
Three Day - Group	33.00
Five Day - Group	50.00
Child, One Day, Group	11.00
Private Lesson, One Hour	20.00
(Additional, Up to three) each	5.00
Five Day Special Ski School Package (Includes Lessons and Lift Tickets)	95.00
Private Lesson, All Day	90.00
Snow Puppies (Includes Instruction, Lift Ticket and Lunch)	17.00

NOTE: All Lift and Ski School rates and times subject
to change without notice.

Reservations:

Made through Aspen Reservations Incorporated
Call 925-4000 for information

Sauna: At Highlands Inn, Guests Only
Bathing Suits Please

Skating:

Aspen Ice Garden
233 E. Hyman Street
Aspen, Colorado 81611

Ski Bobs, Ski Doos and Sleds:

Not permitted at ski area

Ski Equipment Rental:

G.L.M. Rental Center
Aspen Highlands Ski Shop
Approximately \$6-7 per day rental cost

Ski School:

C. W. "Lefty" Brinkman, Director
Number of Instructors: Approximately 125
Method of Teaching: G.L.M. and Aspen Highlands Method
Freestyle Instruction available
Ski School NASTAR on Smuggler every Thursday
Full-Day Lessons from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Half-Day Lessons from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m.
Meeting Place: Base Area, Ski School Information Building
Snow Puppies: 3-6 year olds. Fee includes lifts, lessons
and lunch. Director, Bill Reynolds
Class Selection: Individuals tested on hill for ability
Meet on Lower Poma

Ski Storage:

Highlands Inn G.L.M. Rental Center

Snow Mobile Rentals:

T-Lazy-7 Ranch on Maroon Creek Road
The ranch has special trails for riding snowmobiles
Snowmobiles cannot be driven in the ski area

Sleds: None allowed in ski area

Souveniers:

Base Lodge Ticket Office
Highlands Inn Gift Shop in Main Lobby
Merry-Go-Round Boutique at Midway

Swimming:

Reserved for use by Highlands Inn guests only
Bathing suits requested

Ticket Control:

Valerie Britt, Manager

Lyn Ericson, Assistant Manager

Office Locations: Inside Base Lodge, by Restaurant
Outside on east side of Marketing Bldg.
Next to Exhibition Lift

Refunds: NO REFUNDS, Purchased ticket can be re-used if validated.

We have no free lifts

Tickets needed by all people on mountain (including employees)

Tickets can be purchased for following day after 3:00 p.m.
at Main Ticket Office

Half-Day: 12:30 p.m. Tickets go on sale at 12:20 NO SOONER!

Ticket Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Main Ticket Office

8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Exhibition Lift

8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Outside Office

Credit Cards Accepted: American Express, Bankamerica (VISA)
Diners, Master Charge, Carte Blanche

Four Area Ticket - Good on all four mountains 6 of 7
consecutive days. Same price throughout the season

Toboggans:

Not allowed at ski area

Transportation:

To Aspen Highlands - Free Shuttle Buses. Run every 15 minutes in morning and afternoon, every 30 minutes around noon time.

All four areas have buses

City buses available for in-town travel

Warming House:

Top of Loges

Used by Ski Patrol

CORPORATE POLICIES

It would also be beneficial for you to become familiar with the various policies of Aspen Highlands Skiing Corporation. These policies have been listed below and are designed to help you, our customers and Aspen Highlands to have a pleasant working relationship.

Accidents:

It is the policy of Aspen Highlands' insurance company and therefore our policy, not to discuss guest accident cases with anyone outside our organization. In case our personnel are asked questions by investigators not associated with our insurance company, they are to refer the investigation to the Main Office.

Bus Service:

There is a special Aspen Highlands bus for employees which will pick them up at 7:30 a.m. in town at designated bus stops and transport them to work each morning. Employees are requested to use this service whenever possible. There will also be a down-valley bus with schedule to be announced by Don Robinson, V. P. Mountain Operations.

Colorado Ski Country U.S.A. Discount Card:

All full-time employees of Aspen Highlands Skiing Corporation are eligible for four Colorado Ski Country U.S.A. Discount Cards for the 1977 - 1978 ski season. The C.S.C.U.S.A. Card entitles you to ski almost any Colorado ski area (depending upon their policy) with half-rate skiing privileges. To obtain a card, ask your supervisor for an application form. Fill this form out completely, have it signed by your departmental supervisor and submit it to the Main Ticket Office.

1. The application form must be presented THREE FULL DAYS prior to the date of skiing.
2. The card must be signed by the employee before it can be authorized and signed for use.
3. When presenting the card at an area for the half-rate skiing privilege, show your season ticket as positive identification.
4. A separate card must be used for each day of skiing.
5. The exact date of skiing must be notated on your application form.
6. These cards are NOT transferable.

Driver's License:

Be sure to get your Colorado driver's license as soon as possible. The Colorado law states that, "If you are employed in Colorado, own or operate a business in Colorado you are a resident and must have a Colorado driver's license.... Any person becoming a resident of Colorado as mentioned above has a grace period of 30 days after becoming a resident to obtain a driver's license and Colorado vehicle registration providing he has a valid license from his home state."

Drugs:

The illegal use of drugs while in the Aspen Highlands area will result in summary termination of any employee. Their effects can endanger the employee as well as others causing serious accidents.

Excessive consumption of alcohol while working will also result in summary termination; it is dangerous at a ski area and presents a poor public image.

Dumping:

Dumping of personal trash in the Aspen Highlands dumpsters is not permitted.

Hourly Wages:

All employees hired on an hourly basis must use the time clock exclusively. Hours written by hand will not be accepted. Time cards are to be delivered to your supervisor by 9:00 a.m. Monday when due. If they are not received by that time, they will be held over for payment until next pay period.

Wages are paid bi-weekly or 26 pay periods per year. Therefore, a pay period ends every two weeks on Sunday and there are slightly more than two pay periods per month, as in December when there are three pay periods.

If you are hired on a hourly basis, you will receive a check based upon the rate times the hours for the work period covered as stated on the following page.

<u>Work Period Covered</u>	<u>Paydate</u>
Nov. 1 - Nov. 13, 1977	Nov. 18, 1977
Nov. 14 - Nov. 27, 1977	Dec. 2, 1977
Nov. 28 - Dec. 11, 1977	Dec. 16, 1977
Dec. 12 - Dec. 25, 1977	Dec. 30, 1977
Dec. 26 - Jan. 8, 1978	Jan. 13, 1978
Jan. 9 - Jan. 22, 1978	Jan. 27, 1978
Jan. 23 - Feb. 5, 1978	Feb. 10, 1978
Feb. 6 - Feb. 19, 1978	Feb. 24, 1978
Feb. 20 - Mar. 5, 1978	Mar. 10, 1978
Mar. 5 - Mar. 19, 1978	Mar. 24, 1978
Mar. 20 - Apr. 2, 1978	Apr. 7, 1978
Apr. 3 - Apr. 16, 1978	Apr. 21, 1978
Apr. 17 - May 1, 1978	May 5, 1978

If you are hired on a monthly salary, the salary is first multiplied by twelve to give a yearly salary and then divided by 26 to show what a bi-weekly salary is precisely. For example, if you have a monthly salary of \$400.00, you divide the yearly salary by 26 to get \$184.62 bi-weekly salary.

All pay periods end on Sunday: then the time cards are reviewed by the Department Supervisor and submitted to Accounting by noon on Monday. Paychecks are handed out on the following Friday. For example, if you work anytime during the pay period of 11/28/77 through 12/11/77, you will receive your check on December 16th.

Line of Authority:

All suggestions, complaints and problems should be voiced to your department supervisor, not to fellow employees or other department supervisors. When the chain of command is adhered to, things run much more smoothly.

Mail:

Due to the volume of company mail going out daily, the Main Office cannot handle personal mail for employees. Do not put your personal mail through Aspen Highlands mail. Take responsibility as soon as possible for getting a mailing address other than Aspen Highlands.

Meals:

Employees may purchase discount meals in Aspen Highlands Ski Area Restaurants by presenting their season ticket to the cashier. You must have your season ticket with you to get this benefit. The prices will be determined by the Restaurant Manager. The ticket will be stamped "Employee" for identification purposes. This privilege is given only to full-time employees, not dependents.

Parking:

Employee parking is provided in the Maroon Creek Parking Lot, located north of the Base Lodge. Please observe this and use only this lot.

Personal Appearance:

Aspen Highlands employees are in constant contact with the public. Therefore, they are expected to adhere to the appearance standards set up by Aspen Highlands. Employees must be neat and clean in appearance at work. Hair should be clean, well groomed and must not be longer than collar length for men. Mustaches should be trimmed and cared for; beards are not permitted. Hair styles and make-up should not be extreme, and clothing or uniforms should be cleaned and pressed.

Pets:

Pets are not to be brought to Aspen Highlands Ski Area. Their presence can be a nuisance to skiers and hazardous to motorists.

Punctuality:

It is important for the efficient operation of Aspen Highlands Skiing Corporation that employees arrive at work on time. Bus service is being offered to enable employees to arrive on the job punctually. Excessive unexcused lateness will result in termination.

Season Ski Tickets:

Full-time employees, their spouses and children, working for Aspen Highlands are entitled to a complimentary season lift ticket for Aspen Highlands Ski Area. There is a \$5.00 charge for dependents of full-time employees; \$2.50 for children of full-time employees; and a \$5.00 replacement charge in the event of a lost season ticket. The employee's supervisor will determine whether an employee is eligible for a season ticket. This information will be relayed to the Main Ticket Office.

Single employees will be allowed complimentary lift tickets for their friends, family members, etc. based on the policy as follows:

First Year Employees: One single day lift ticket may be used per month.

Second Year Employees: Two single day lift tickets may be used per month.

Years Beyond: Two single day lift tickets per month. Unused ticket privileges may be accumulated and used the following season. Department Head and Main Office approval must be obtained to do so.

In order to obtain a lift ticket, the employee must present to the Ticket Office a "Special Ticketing" form signed by his/her department head. These tickets are solely for the use of employees' friends and relatives. Selling or transferring the tickets is a violation which will result in the summary termination of the responsible employee.

Skiing:

Exhibition lift will be crowded during peak periods. Aspen Highlands guests and Ski School classes receive priority. Employees are urged to use Thunderbowl lift to minimize crowding whenever there is a line at Exhibition.

Any employee skiing beyond "Ski Area Boundary" and "Closed, Not Patrolled" signs will be summarily terminated. Other violations will be heard by a Violations Review Board.

We hope that all employees will observe the National Skiers Courtesy Code:

1. All skiers must ski under control. Control means skiing in such a manner that a skier can avoid other skiers or objects on the slope.
2. When skiing downhill and overtaking another skier, the overtaking skier is responsible for avoiding the skier below him.
3. Skiers approaching each other on opposite traverses pass to the right.
4. Skiers will not stop in a location which obstructs a trail, or stop where they are not visible from above, or impede the normal passage of other skiers when loading or unloading from lifts.
5. A Skier entering a trail or slope from a side or intersecting trail must first check for approaching downhill skiers.
6. A standing skier checks for approaching downhill skiers before starting.
7. When walking or climbing in a ski area, skis should be worn. Keep to the side of the trail or slope.
8. All skiers must wear safety straps or other devices (ski stoppers) to prevent runaway skis.
9. Skiers will keep off closed trails and posted areas and observe all traffic signs and other regulations as prescribed by the ski area.

No employee, while performing their job assignment for Aspen Highlands is permitted to ski recklessly. Skiing excessively fast, jumping, out-of-control, etc. are construed to be reckless skiing by Aspen Highlands. Any employee observed by his supervisor or any Aspen Highlands department head to be skiing recklessly while performing his/her job assignment will be summarily terminated.

Sledding, Tobogganing, Ski-Bobs and Ski Doos:

Aspen Highlands Ski Area is designed for the enjoyment of skiers. There is no separate area set up for the safe usage of sleds, toboggans, ski-bobs and/or ski doos. They are not permitted on the slopes at any time.

Cross-Country Skiing:

Cross-Country skiing is permitted in the Aspen Highlands Ski Area, but all persons must have a lift ticket for that day. No skier is allowed on the slope without a lift ticket.

Speed Limit:

Please observe the posted speed limits on Maroon Creek Road. Drive within these limits or slower as weather dictates.

Telephones:

Employees are asked to use discretion when on the telephone. The phones are for business calls and we have a limited number of lines. Keep conversations short. We are now being billed for directory information calls, so try other methods of getting phone numbers. The Main Office has extra Denver directories for those departments that need them.

Uniforms:

Depending on the employee's position, she/he may be issued clothing or equipment. Before receiving these items, an employee must first fill out the equipment loan form and return it to the supervisor. Special care is to be taken with the clothing and equipment. These items are to be returned to your departmental supervisor at the end of the season in good condition, or the item will be deducted from your paycheck. Employees will clean their uniforms as often as required per their departmental supervisor.

Violations:

The following list of violations is for your information, so please observe them. Should you witness a violation, please report it to Ski Patrol or your departmental supervisor using discretion during the sighting.

1. Skiing trail closure
2. Skiing avalanche closure
3. Collision (if witnessed with violator clearly at fault)
4. Reckless skiing (out of control)
5. Line crashing
6. Fraudulent use of ticket
7. Private lesson line violation Ski School
8. Unloading from lift at any except regular stations
9. Blind jumping
10. Alcohol and illegal use of drugs
11. Marijuana or its derivatives
12. Profanity and disorderly conduct

Workman's Compensation:

Any employee injured while working at Aspen Highlands Ski Area, must report the accident immediately to his or her supervisor. Your supervisor will provide you with a Workman's Compensation Claim Form which you are to fill out completely and return to your supervisor as soon as possible.