



# Mt. Hood Guardian

Volume 13, Issue # 1

*The newsletter of the Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum*

Winter 2012

## **Nancy Spencer selected as museum volunteer of the year.**

Traditionally board members of the Mt. Hood Cultural Center & Museum are not eligible for the Volunteer of the Year award. The Museum Board of Directors waived this policy for 2011, so Nancy Spencer could be recognized for her many years of volunteer service to the organization. Nancy has been a board member since the non-profit was organized in 1998. In addition to her board member duties, Nancy is a dedicated museum collection cataloguer and curator. The collections crew works one or more days a week and has been doing this since we started the collection in 1999. Nancy rarely misses a collections work day. Our collection of papers, photographs, books, and historical objects exceeds 10,000 items and are all stored in our archive vault. Nancy is the only person that knows where every item in the collection is within the various drawers, boxes and shelves in the archive vault. She recently confessed as to her motive for arriving early on collections day. "It like Christmas morning to see what has been donated during the past week" she confessed. "If it is written historical material I need to read it before it can be catalogued correctly and that is fun" she added.

The Museum Directors and the community thank Nancy for her dedication to preserving Mount Hood History.



Nancy Spencer, MHCC&M Volunteer of the Year 2012

## **Cloud Cap the other Mount Hood Lodge**

Part 2 or the rest of the story of Cloud Cap Lodge, by Dale Crockatt will appear in a future issue. In the last issue Dale shared the history of this historic lodge from its conception in 1884 up to 1954 when the lodge was transferred to the Hood River Crag Rats.

## **Skyway to Timberline was real.**

"You got to be kidding" or "No way" is the most common reaction from museum visitors when they see photographs or exhibits about the SKIWAY. Of all the items on display in the Mt. Hood Museum the SKYWAY items draw the most questions to the docents. If you were not around Government Camp in the early 1950's it is hard to believe the story of the Skyway. The museum has tried to tell the history of this uncommon early tram, but visitors still want to hear it from a docent. They cannot believe a city bus loaded with skiers, pulled itself from Government Camp to Timberline Lodge. The only tangible evidence that such a contraption existed is photographs. The steel towers that supported the cables the bus ran on have all been removed. The base building has been drastically remodeled into condominiums. Even the cleared swat of trees under the cableway has begun to reforest itself. Once we convince visitors that the Skiway really did exist, the next question is how did it operate?

How the Skiway bus was propelled the three miles uphill to Timberline Lodge is difficult to explain. Technical drawings, design specifications, and operational manual were never prepared for the project. Modifications to the towers, pulleys and mechanical parts were made often during the trams short life. The simplest explanation of how the Skiway worked is: Suspend a 40 passenger bus from four fixed steel cables, much like a person hanging on a zipline. Tie another cable on each side of the bus to the base station and to the top station. Wrap these cables around the friction wheels that replaced the bus tires. Make these cables tight, apply power to all four bus wheels and if all goes well the bus will pull itself up over 38 towers to the unloading platform just west of Timberline Lodge. The driver moved to the rear operator's seat and drove the bus to the lower terminal. Passengers could flip the seat backs so they could face the direction of travel.

The idea of a tram to transport skiers from Government Camp to Timberline Lodge as the idea of W.D.B. Dadson, a Mount Hood skier with a vision. He gained the support of Dr. Otto George a Government Camp physician who operated a small clinic especially to treat injured skiers. Cont:

**The Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of Mt. Hood, the guardian peak of the Oregon Country, while serving the social and humanities needs of the mountain community**

They formed the Mount Hood Aerial Transportation Company in 1946. Myrl Hoover joined them with the plan to use old buses for the tram cars. He knew all about buses as he owned Mount Hood Stages an affiliation of Trailways Bus Company. They hired Pointer-Willamette, a logging equipment manufacturer, design the tram. They used skyhooks, suspension towers, and carriers designed for logging and just substituted a passenger bus in place of logs they were used to working with. The ever optimistic owners wanted to double their capacity with a second bus. A second bus was installed, but it could only operate in tandem with the first bus, because there were no provisions for the buses to pass each other. When working in tandem, the first bus had to wait at the top station for the second bus to complete is full round trip. The second bus was rarely used for this reason.

The directors of the company were sincere, highly enthusiastic and optimistic. They used catchy words and beautiful brochures to promote the project. The names *Skiway* and *Cloudliner* were used in the same brochure. Colorful articles describing the venture appeared in national magazines and newspapers. *Conde Nast* magazine described it as the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang of the mountains. 425 local skiers purchased stock in the proposed World's Longest Ski Tram, and dreamed of floating over the forested hills to Timberline for a day of skiing.

Construction of the tram got off to a rough start in 1948. Logging crews started to clear the right-a-way from the top and bottom. Work was abruptly stopped after a week, when a survey mistake was discovered. If the two logging crews continued clearing they would never meet in the middle as planned. The US Forest Service was highly upset that trees outside of the right-a-way had been needlessly cut. Construction was a very difficult task given the lack of a service road along the 3.1 route and the complications of untested mechanical systems. One construction worker was killed when struck by a runaway cable car. The owners remained optimistic and even applied for a Forest Service permit to extend the tram to the summit of Mount Hood and in a second phase to Cloud Cap on the north side of the mountain. The Forest Supervisor rejected their application saying it was premature because they had not completed their first project.

Finally on January 3, 1951 the Skiway opened for business. A new bar would be opened just for the celebration party at Timberline Lodge. Mechanical and lack of customers plagued the Skiway and it stopped operating during the 1956 season. The most successful part to the venture was perhaps the restaurant and souvenir shop at the base terminal. The museum has an exhibit of Skiway souvenirs. A few of the bus seats are still in use in Charlie's Mountain View bar. The terminal building houses the Thunderhead Condominiums. Periodically the idea of a tram to Timberline is revisited and may become a reality in the future. Tram technology is not an issue today, economics is.

## Cultural Center Events

### Mount Hood Collectibles

#### **Exhibit continues through March 15, 2012**

This invitational exhibit features the private collection of local historian Gary Randall. Collected over many years the collection includes Real Photographic Postcards, souvenirs, advertising material, and anything featuring Mount Hood. This is the first of the museum planned collectible exhibits. If you collect something and would like to share it with the community, let us know and we may ask you to exhibit in the future.

#### **Ski the Glade March 3, 9:00 AM**

Plan now to ski the 10<sup>th</sup> annual event that combines skiing, history and fundraising for the museum. Once a year the old Glade Trail is opened and groomed from Timberline Lodge to Government Camp especially for this event. Participants get a full day of pampered skiing complete with continental breakfast, luxury shuttle buses, trail guides, ski patrol services, lunch, prizes and Apre's Ski wine party all for \$100 each, or \$90 for museum members. Advanced tickets required. Call 503-272-3301 to reserve tickets.

Honored guest of this event will be Lee Perry. 2011 was Lee's 50<sup>th</sup> year as Professional Ski Instructor of America. His PSIA profile refers to Lee as the Pied Piper of Adaptive Skiing. (see Photo Supplement #2)

#### **Ski Heritage Week April 8-9, 2012**

The International Ski Hall of Fame will hold their annual Ski Heritage Week at several Ski Areas in the Pacific Northwest. The MHCC&M is honored to be involved in this event while the participants are on Mt. Hood and staying at Timberline Lodge. The museum will lead a special Ski the Glade run on Monday followed by an open house at the museum.

#### **Steiner Cabin Tour August 11, 2012**

The date of this popular annual tour of vintage log cabins is being announced early, so you can save the date. The details of the tour will be release in June, but the date will be as above.

#### **Barlow Road Ride August 25 -26, 2012**

This is a two day out and back century (100 miles) road bike tour from the end of the Oregon Trail to Government Camp. This scenic and historic route retraces the famed Barlow Road of 1845. Read the complete event description and register to ride at [www.barlowroadride.com](http://www.barlowroadride.com). Support volunteers are also needed for this event to benefit the MHCC&M. Volunteers can sign-up on the ride website or call the museum.

## Arts Cabins News and Classes

### **ARTS CABINS Class Schedule Posted on Webpage**

It is not too early to plan next year's art classes. Classes have been added for the spring, summer and fall. The number of students in each class is limited, so sign-up early to get the classes you want. Check out the class schedule at [www.artscabins.org](http://www.artscabins.org)

## Curator's Journal

This newsletter space is devoted to news about the Museum Collection. Donations to the collection are listed to recognize the donors and inspire others to contribute items to the collection. The museum collection provides the resources for museum exhibits, traveling shows and research.

### Recent Collection Donations:

#### Accessions: October – December 2011

**Bill Keil** – large collection of personal archive papers, letters, maps, photographs and books related to his career as a writer, reporter and photographer for newspapers, magazines and television. Subjects of the collection include: Mount Hood history, skiing, climbing, outdoor recreation, search and rescue, public land management and logging.

**Shane Mill** – vintage ski boot trees.

**Roger Mockford** – K2 Skis, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division commemorative model and Mt. Hood Ski Patrol cap once used by Stu Mockford.

**John O'Brien** – 12 Ski instruction books.

**Katherine Valls** – large map of Government Camp.

We wish to thank the 52 individuals who donated items to the museum collection during 2011. The volunteer cataloguers are still processing some of the donated items, but here are some highlights from 2011 donations. The oldest archive object is a 1916 letter on U.S. Forest Service stationery from Lige Coalman to Oregonian reporter, Fred McNeil agreeing to lead him on a Mount Hood climb. A rare children's book, printed in 1887, titled Childhood Wonders. Finally, a Mt. Hood Ski Patrol, Johnson leg splint, circa 1950-60's. A reader of the newsletter found one in a garage sale, after our plea for one of these now rare Mt. Hood inventions for the collection. Two donors located, scanned and donated many vintage photographs of various Forest Fire Lookouts on the Mt. Hood National Forest. Our goal is to compile a collection of photograph of all the 132 lookouts that once existed on the Forest. Perhaps the most unique donation was a used leather postcard of Mount Hood, found in a London, England antique shop. The most politically incorrect would be the ski race promotional materials sponsored by Salem cigarettes. The set of vintage stopwatches use for many years to time all ski races in the Pacific Northwest might be the most historically significant donation of the year, due to the number of ski racers timed with these watches over the decades before the advent of electronics. The most humorous item would be the Wy'east Climbers thundermug trophy. The most outrageous has to be the outhouse door from the Wy'east Climbers cabin.

We are currently looking for K2 skis, and anything related to K2. A special exhibit will be installed to commemorate K2's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this winter.

### History Trivia Quiz

The trivia question in the summer issue of the Mt. Hood Guardian newsletter was, **"What was the Tahoe at Timberline Golf Tournament? Why would the trophy be named the Emilio Pucci Cup?"** No one came forth with an answer to this true mystery behind the trophy. After the Fall issue of the newsletter went to press, museum friend Mick Scott reported he had solved the historical mystery. Intrigued by the trivia question Mick researched newspaper archives and pieced together story behind the trophy.

"Tahoe at Timberline" was a benefit for the Rehabilitation Institute of Oregon that included dinner, dancing, gambling and of a golf tournament at Bowman's (now Resort at the Mountain). The gambling took place at Timberline Lodge which was transformed into a Nevada-style nightclub for the evening. The event was held annually for a number of years in the 1970's. The weekend event had wide appeal; buses brought groups from Yakima, Bend and Portland.

This benefit paid for an accessible paved path between the parking lot and the C.S. Price wing and a wheelchair ramp in the lodge lobby after the new wing was constructed. Previously \$5,500 in proceeds paid for a van with hydraulic lift for transfer of wheelchair patients.

An article published in 1964, reveals that sportswear designer, Emilio Pucci contributed an array of hardware for a contemplated ski race. The donation had been announced in 1962 during the Timberline Lodge 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The article reports the first running of the Emilio Pucci Cup was May 4, 1964.

If the trophy cup was used as an award for a ski race it was not engraved as such. All the engravings are for the winners of the golf tournaments in the 1970's. The trophy is on display in the Clubhouse Gallery of the Museum. If you missed the original trivia quiz you can read it at [www.mthoodmuseum.org](http://www.mthoodmuseum.org) in the summer 2011 newsletter, along with a photograph of the trophy. We thank Mick Scott for research on this subject.

Answer the Winter 2012 Trivia Quiz and win a prize. What world famous physicist failed to return from a hike? The scientist protested when he and his family were found by searchers, that he was not lost, it merely got dark and he hunkered down for the night.

**Errors and omissions:** Gary Randall Photography, was omitted from the list of auction item donors in the last issue.

## Mt Hood Cultural Center and Museum

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email: [info@mthoodmuseum.org](mailto:info@mthoodmuseum.org)

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### MUSEUM STORE AND ART GALLERY

*Get all you holiday gifts here in one stop.*

The art gallery has a lot of new works of art. Several new artists have placed their work on consignment. Should you need a small gift or want to make a major art purchase, you will find some high quality, original, local art in the Museum Art Sales Gallery.

The museum store stocks a number of local history books, as well as unique posters, and cards. Check out the collection of historic photographic prints. A large selection of note cards and postcards are always in stock. We now stock Friends of Timberline, Senior Center and Hoodland Women's Club merchandise.

Show you membership card and save 10%.

Return Service Requested

### MUSEUM & VISITOR CENTER HOURS

Open everyday, except holidays 9 - 5  
Admission: donations accepted

## New members, Contributors and Volunteers: October – December 2011

### Memberships

#### Patron

Linny Adamson  
Donald Shivers  
Lisa Miller  
Lloyd Musser  
William Sack  
Jim Campbell  
Richard Buscher  
Karen Schmidt  
Marianne Kedding-Lang  
John Marker  
Patrick Buddenbaum  
Alan Goudy

Kent Pothast  
Lenore Martin  
Daryl Lovro  
James Feldman

#### Family

Ellen Mitchell Patterson  
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Kelly Brown  
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Bruce Rothman  
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Dale Parshall  
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Gary Geddes  
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Jeri McMahan  
Gail Boyd  
Steve Borge  
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Steve Caldwell  
John Berry  
Tom Arp  
Dave Ewen

Chuck McGinnis

#### Individual

Ray Steiger  
Patty Kruse  
Maryanne Hill  
Eleanor Wiese  
Jeff Nicholson  
Julie Cohan  
Ed Elliott  
Sharon Goodwill  
Carol Mondon  
Lesli Bekins

Ron Snell  
Roger Mockford  
Sara Plympton  
Elizabeth Trainor  
Alma Reick  
Betsy LaBarge  
Barbara Manildi  
**Recreation Clubs**  
Schenee Vogeli  
Pacific Northwest  
Ski Association

#### Donations

##### General Fund

Micheal Menashe  
Margaret Branson  
Nick Rinard  
Scott Farleigh  
Patrick Bullard  
Tim Dole  
Golden Poles  
Chalet Assoc.  
Jerry Schmidt  
Richard Edminston  
Barbara Manildi

Peter Melrose  
Sharon Goodwill  
Lee Perry  
**In Honor Birthday**  
**Maryanne Hill, 90<sup>th</sup>**  
Pat Hallgren  
Lloyd & Mo Musser

#### In Kind Donations

Skibowl  
Precision Artist  
Cheryl Maki  
Carl Gatzke

#### Volunteers

Marilan Anderson  
Lee Perry  
Judy Gilsdorf  
Bev Shivers  
Signe Merz  
Greg "Chopper"  
Moreno  
Tom Farrentello  
John Delong  
Bonnie Jondahl

### Board of Directors

Bing Sheldon  
Gene Grant  
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Nancy Spencer  
Dave Butt  
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Matthew Drake  
Jerry Schmidt  
Hans Wipper  
Lesli Bekins





## LEE PERRY

### THE PIED PIPER OF ADAPTIVE SKIING

In the early 1960s, Lee Perry would go to the homes of kids who had lost a leg, knock on the door, and ask their parents if he could take them to the slopes. "I told them I wanted to teach their son or daughter how to ski," Perry said. "I'm surprised they didn't throw me out of the house."

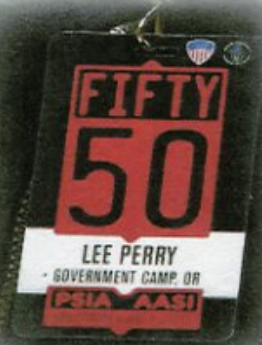
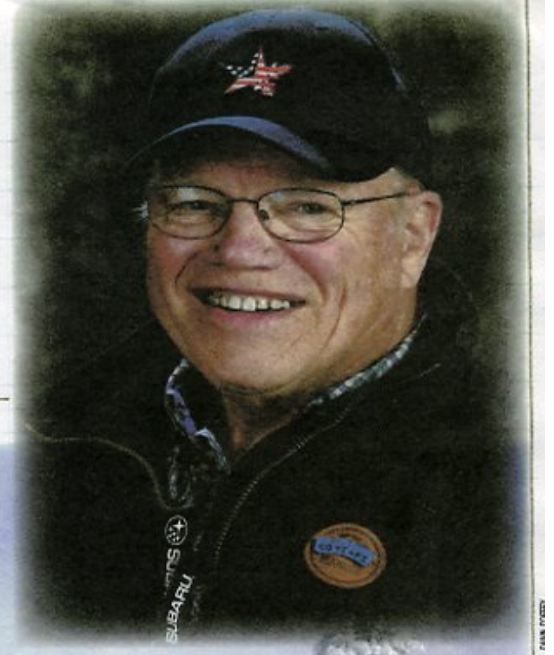
It was a time when the medical community thought skiing was just a sport for breaking legs, and it seemed insane to risk bringing one of those kids home in a cast. But Perry—honored this past April as one of PSIA's esteemed 50-year members—was more interested in what the sport could do for their heads, and how they felt about themselves. The literal and figurative pull of gravity, the freedom of swooping down the mountain, and the breathless beauty of the great outdoors, he reasoned, will always do more for a person's self-esteem than any psychology or self-help class.

"Some of these kids had never been seen outside the house before without their prosthetic leg and long pants," Perry said. "For many of them, the first time they did so was when they got on the lift."

Perry, a Korean War veteran, had seen a friend lose a leg in combat. In Portland, Oregon, two of his friends had lost legs, and he always thought it was strange that they would socialize in the summer, but in the winter, while he was off skiing, the friendship would take a hiatus. "I just thought that wasn't right," Perry said. He not only decided to teach them how to ski himself, but started building equipment for them as well, breaking skis for the tips and machining outriggers in his shop.

Along with legendary amputee ski instructor Dick Martin, Perry formed the J.C. Amputee Ski School in Portland, which became a beacon for adaptive students and instructors across the Pacific Northwest. In 1965 he led the way in helping to write the first instructional manual for adaptive skiing, *Amputee Ski Techniques*, which was published by the Portland Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Still teaching and still skiing today, Perry has a modest way of explaining why it has been so important to him to introduce hundreds of adaptive skiers—especially kids—to the world of winter sports. "I guess I just like people," Perry said. Though when pressed, he says that seeing so many of his Korean War comrades adapting to their wounds when they returned to the states certainly provided the spark. He said, "Of course you have to do something, when you see things like that." ■



Lee Perry will be the guest of honor for the Mt. Hood Museum's 2012 Ski the Glade.

This article originally appeared in the 2011-2012 PSIA-ASSI *Accessories Catalog* and is reprinted here with the permission of the Professional Ski Instructors of America (PSIA) and American Association of Snowboard Instructor.





Aerial view of Government Camp in 1933. View is from over the present day Burton Shop, looking east of the main street in the village. All the commercial building in this view eventually would burn down. As a point of reference Cascade Ski Club Lodge parking lot is now located where the Sinclair Gas Station is shown in this photograph. Note the large number of automobiles in the photograph. An estimated 10,000 people were in the village to watch the ski jumping contest on Multorpor Mountain. To reach the jump hill everyone had to walk the trail from the vicinity of the present Valian's Ski Shop, past the Cascade Ski Club House, cross the wetlands under the present highway overpass, and proceed to the jump hill just east of the present Multorpor Lodge. Tickets to watch the jumpers were \$0.50.