If you are a "graduate" (or even a dropout) of the Deseret News Ski School any time over the past 49 years, you won't want to miss the 1997 Ski Affair, presented by the University of Utah Marriott Library's Ski Archives Program... and some 500 nostalgia-bent ski enthusiasts.

That is because the Deseret News will be honored by the Ski Archives for its continuing contribution to skiing in the Intermountain Region the same year the school observes its 50th anniversary.

The annual Ski Affair is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 23, 1997, at the Little America Hotel and Towers in downtown Salt Lake City.

With an estimated 250,000 students of the newspaper's ski school since its inception in 1947, it is advisable you make your reservations early because seating will be limited, says Dave Amidon, Ski Archives chairman.

The Ski Affair is the largest public fund-raising effort for the Ski Archives Program, which was started in 1989 to locate, preserve, catalog and make available to the public a professionally-maintained record of the region's skiing history. Since its start, the program has gathered scrapbooks, photo albums, newspaper clippings, historic files and documents and has them on file along with video and audio interviews with prominent ski figures.

Festivities begin with a 6 p.m. reception and a silent auction, which has become a bargain-hunters paradise. Dinner and the awards program follow. For most, the reception is a throwback to another era as diner-donors renew acquaintances and reminisce about the days of old, and not so old.

Also popular is the annual video presentation produced and narrated by Larry Warren, KUTV Ch. 2, which showcases the region's skiing past. The S.J. and J.E. Quinney Award for outstanding service to skiing, the Ski Archives award for contributions to the sport, and the Sue Raemer Award for the Ski Archives exceptional volunteer are among the awards to be presented.

The Deseret News will be joining the following past Ski Archives honorees: ski instructors Bill Lash, Junior Bownous, Earl Miller, K. Smith; ski area developer, ski instruction pioneer, and world ski jumping champion Alf Engen; competitors Suzy Harris Ryttig, Dick Movitz, Corey Engen, Dev Jennings, Jack Reddish; the ski areas of Alta, Beaver Mountain, Brightton, Magic Mountain, Snowbasin, Sun Valley, Snow King and Timp Haven; 2002 Olympic Winter Games promoters Gov. Calvin L. Rampton, John W. Gallivan, James R. Jack, and Tom Welch; members of the Tenth Mountain Division of World War II acclaim; and Ski Patrollers of the 1930's and 1940's.
**Morton, Engen: Pioneers Personified**

By Mike Korologos

Hollywood could not have written a more dramatic script.

Two gentle giants of the ski world, working for decades closer than ski soles and wax, die within days of each other. And that’s after spending their last days in adjacent rooms in the same hospital. Indeed, history is fraught with irony.

The passing of Chick Morton on July 14th and Alf Engen on July 20th, all but wrote “finis” on a ski era, not only for Alta where they both plied their trade for decades, but for the West and, indeed, the nation. There will be no one to equal Chick Morton in ski area management nor no one to equal Alf Engen in the area of ski technique. Their lifelong efforts on behalf of skiing helped shape the sport to the worldwide popularity it enjoys today.

Morton was manager and then President of the Alta Ski Lifts Company from 1958 until his death. Engen was director of the ski school at Alta that bears his name from 1948 to 1989 and recipient of virtually every ski award imaginable, including membership in national and local ski Halls of Fame. They both personified the phrase “history in the making.”

Pioneers in the truest sense of the word, these behemoths of the sport set the standard for ski lift companies and ski schools. But they never waivered in their passion to extend friendship to all comers—from royalty to the less advantaged.

Their work, fortunately, has been duly recorded via photographs, videotape recordings, hours-long interviews and audio reports by the Ski Archives Program of the University of Utah’s Marriott Library. In fact, Engen and Morton played major roles in the establishment of the Ski Archives, since the Alta Ski Lifts Company was the catalyst for its founding and a treasure of historic photos and documents were given to the library during the observance of the company’s 50th anniversary in 1989.

Engen was honored by the Ski Archives Program in 1989, as a pioneer of the sport and was lauded for his world record-setting ski jumping exploits, his ski resort developments, and for coaching the U.S. Olympic Team in 1948. A museum bearing his name and housing numerous items of his many ski triumphs is planned for the Utah Winter Sports Park, four miles north of Park City. Ironically, this park is a mere kick turn from Ecker Hill, site of some of his world record-setting ski jumping victories. Alf’s son, Alan, runs the ski school at Alta and is spearheading the museum project that is being developed in close liaison with the University of Utah’s Ski Archives Program. The Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002 will stage the bobsled/luge, ski jumping and Nordic combined competitions at the Park during the Games.

Morton was honored by the archives program in 1995 when he was presented the S.J. and J.E. Quinney Award for outstanding achievement and contribution to Utah’s ski development. During his years of service to Alta, Chic served as President of the Utah Ski Association, the Intermountain Ski Areas Association, and on the board of directors of the Forest Service Recreation Association. In 1985, for his many years of promoting tourism in Utah, he was honored as the first member of the state’s Tourism Hall of Fame.
The Utah Ski Archives would like to introduce the following new members of the Advisory Board. We are excited about the expertise and talents that these individuals bring to the mission of the Utah Ski Archives.

John Aalberg - John was born in Norway, and competed at the national level as a junior ski racer. John earned a degree in Sports Management before moving to SLC in 1983. He skied for the U.of U. in 1984 and 85, winning three NCAA championship titles. He also ran track and cross country, earning All American honors in cross-country running. John earned a BS in Computer Science and began working for Unisys in 1988 as a software engineer where he remained employed until he took a position with the SLOC as Sports Director/Coordinator/Planner for the 2002 Olympic Cross-Country Venue. John also participated in two Olympics (92 and 94) and one World Championship (93) for the USA, and won five National Championships (91-94) as well. John is married to Kirsten Culver Aalberg who is also a former Olympian (92) and World Champion Speed Skier.

Steve Bills - Steve is in his third year as Director of the Snowbird Ski School. He started with Snowbird in 1977 as an instructor, and became a supervisor in 1984. Steve started skiing at Timphaven with the late Ray Stewart. He started his racing career at Timphaven where he came to know Junior Bounous. He then raced with Junior at Snowbird on the original Snowbird team, and later coached at Snowbird. Steve is President of PSIA. He has also served on the PSIA Board of Directors, on the Intermountain Demonstration Team from 1980 to 92, and as Coordinator of PSIA National Academy. Steve is married and has three children who are skiers.

Norm Burton - Norm has a background in finance and is an Associate Broker for Real Estate Exchange in Ogden. Norm is the Director of the Snowbasin Ski School, a position he has held since 1988. Norm taught for the Miller Ski School at Snowbasin from 1968 until 1981. He was a senior supervisor in the Deer Valley Ski School from 1982 - 1988. Norm is a Past President of PSIA and PSIA - Intermountain. He has held numerous other positions with PSIA, including Vice President of Operations, Administrative Vice President, Examiner, Certification Vice President and served as a member of the PSIA Board of Director as well.

Marsha Irwin - Marsha has been a friend of the Raemers for many years. Her husband Scott has been a ski instructor at Alta for 29 years. Marsha graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in marketing. While at the University she worked in the Marriott Library. She is a Senior Sales Engineer for Lucent Technologies. Marsha recently completed a three year term on the Board of Directors of the Crimson Club.

Lester Keller - Lester has been the Western Alpine Competition Director for the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association for the past seven years. Prior to this position, he was the head Alpine Coach for the University of Utah Ski Team, Head Coach for the Canterbury Regional Team in New Zealand and Program Director and Head Coach at two Colorado Ski Resorts. He holds a Masters Degree in Sports Psychology from the University of Utah; is a FIS T.D. and is certified as a level 4 Master Ski Coach by the U.S. Coaches Association. He has published many articles related to competitive racing, including editing the recent Alpine Athletic Competencies Guide published by the U.S. Ski Team.

Cal and Dodie McPhee - Cal and Dodie McPhee bring a great skiing heritage and a wealth of experience with them to the Ski Archives Advisory Board. Dodie remembers carrying borrowed skis to the Bonneville Golf Course when she began skiing in 1946. Dodie and Cal married in 1950 and Dodie graduated in nursing in 1951. Cal operated Little Mountain Ski Area for 19 years. Dodie would help, serving hotdogs, doughnuts, and hot chocolate, and would help the little ones with mittens and gloves.

See New Board Members, Page 6

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**SKI AFFAIR 1997**

Send in your reservations NOW for the 1997 Utah Ski Archives Ski Affair

Thursday, October 23, at the Little America Hotel

Social hour and Silent Auction begin at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner at 7:15, Program at 8:15 p.m.

Become a member of the archives and join the party!
For more information call 581-7791
Deadline to RSVP is October 10, 1997
DON'T MISS IT!
UTES WIN NINTH NCAA TITLE UNDER MILLER

In their 19th season under the guidance of Ski Director Pat Miller, the University of Utah's ski team earned its ninth national title on March 5-8 at the 1997 NCAA Championships in Stowe, Vermont. In addition to their team wins, the Utes earned seven individual titles throughout the regular season and were all-conference winners.

Once again, Utah brought a full team to the '97 NCAA's: senior Christl Hager and freshmen Marianne Winge and Tina Kavcic competed in women's alpine; sophomore Alain-F Brit-Cote and freshmen Markus Leunig and Ryan Forsyth in men's alpine; freshman Kristin Tjelle and sophomores Stine Hellerud and Hailey Wappeet in women's cross-country; and freshmen brothers Rune Kollerud and Frode Kollerud and Senior Kurt Wulff in men's cross-country.

The first day of NCAA competition gained Utah its only 1997 individual title as Kristl Hager won the giant slalom for the third time in her collegiate career. This accomplishment made Kristl the only skier in NCAA history to win three individual giant slalom titles. Hager is the 32nd athlete to win a title under Miller.

The remaining alpine team made a strong showing as well, placing first in combined alpine scores (377), followed by Colorado (347). The Ute cross-country team mirrored the alpine effort by placing first with 309 points, and by nearly making a sec-

ond national champion when Rune Kollerud was nipped at the finish line by Alaska-Anchorage's Frode Lillefjell in the men's 20K. Denver posted a cross-country score of 294 to place second.

Combined team scores afforded Utah a 686 point win over second-place Vermont (646.5). “This group of athletes knew what they had to do, and put on some stellar performances in the final two days,” said Miller. “They showed a great work ethic and I am very proud of what they accomplished here.”

Eleven Utah skiers were named as All-Americans, ten were All-Conference, and seven Ute skiers won individual titles. Additionally, eight skiers maintained grade point averages during

See Miller, Page 6
MILLER LEADS UTES TO NINTH TITLE

Continued from page 5

the competitive season that placed them on the list of Western Athletic Conference Scholar Athletes. The ski program also volunteered six days to community service projects.

Under Miller's leadership, the ski team has won NCAA championships in 1978, '81, '83, '84, '86, '87, '88, '93, '96, and '97. In the last 17 years, Utah has not finished out of the top three. During the 22 years that Miller has been at Utah his skiers have been named All-Americans more than two-hundred times. Last year coach Miller received his second Don Reddish Award. It is an honor given by the University administration honoring coaching skill in sports and academics. Congratulations to coach Pat Miller and the skiing Utes.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Continued from page 6

Cal also operated Gorgoza ski area for 4 years. Cal served as Vice President of the Intermountain Ski Areas Association and as a member of its Board of Directors. Currently Cal continues a career as a boom welding specialist, and after retirement, Dodie has been coaxed back to work at LDS Hospital doing research on surgical patients.

Jim Sullivan- Jim is the manager of Snow King Resort in Jackson, Wyoming, a position he has held since 1984. Jim began at Snow King in 1973 as a ski instructor. He served as Assistant Ski School Director for 10 years before becoming resort manager. Jim received a Bachelor’s degree in sociology from Bellarmine College in Louisville, Kentucky, and later earned a

THE UTAH SKI ARCHIVES GROWS IN SIZE AND REPUTATION: ARCHIVES UPDATE

The Utah Ski Archives was founded to document skiing's colorful history through paper, film, and oral history, and in turn become a research and information resource. Although several new collections have been received this year, the receipt of any substantial collections will be postponed until the Manuscripts Division of Special Collections completes its move within the Marriott Library. The move, to take place during 1998, will provide a significant increase in space for the Manuscripts Division which houses the Utah Ski Archives.

Although the receipt of materials has been limited, the role of the Ski Archives as an information resource has expanded. This last year the reputation of the Archives grew as requests for information have covered a wider variety of topics and come from a growing number of sources. The demand for the film and video portions of the Archives has blossomed. Photographs continue to be in high demand. As the 2002 Olympics become closer, demand for information and materials is sure to grow.

The last few months have also seen requests for television and radio interviews. The increase in requests for information from the Archives and its growing reputation as a source for reliable information is exciting. Adding to that information base have been additional oral history interviews and several small collections. Information on the background and operation of Deer Valley Ski Resort has come from Bob Wheaton, Edgar Stern, and Chuck English. Interviews with John Hoagland are helping to document the role of the Forest Service in the preparations for the 2002 winter Olympics. Other new oral histories include Nelson Bennett, Jack Walker and Vern Nichols, Tom Mathews, Kent Matthews, and Jud Preston. Materials have also been received from Frank Whitney, Olympic competitor Darrell “Pinky” Robison, and Bob Bills, Bob Theobald, and other pioneers of the freestyle movement of the sixties and seventies.

The Utah Ski Archives wishes to give a special thanks to all those friends of the Archives who have donated information and resources that help the Archives fulfill its mission. If you have leads on information or materials please contact Joe Arave at 581-8589 or 581-8864.
WiLBY DURHAM TO RECEIVE QUINNEY AWARD

In January, 1962, a group of prominent Salt Lake area business executives met at the Ambassador Athletic Club for the purpose of organizing a club whose goal was to make Salt Lake City the “ski capital of the world” by helping it obtain and then host the Winter Olympic Games, “possibly in 1972 or 1976,” according to news reports at the time.


Originally called the Olympic Club of Salt Lake City, the group was incorporated with the State of Utah’s Secretary of State June 20, 1962, as the non-profit SKI UTAH ASSOCIATES. The original officers were savings and loan executive Gene Donovan, president; Ed Madsen, vice president; Wilby Durham, executive secretary; and Ike Hall, treasurer. Dorothy Hall was named to head the women’s auxiliary, with Gertrude Howard, vice president and Jane Allen, secretary.

That fledgling ski booster group was the forerunner to SKI UTAH, the promotional entity for the state’s $500 million-per-year ski industry of today. The organization now boasts nearly 300 members and was instrumental in the state’s 14 alpine and seven Nordic ski areas record 3.04 million skier days during the 1996-97 ski season.

While all the players at those Olympic Club and early-day Ski Utah meetings were self-proclaimed “winter sports enthusiasts,” one appears to have had more than a casual interest in furthering the cause of skiing in the area.

Enter Wilby Durham.

An active skier since 1930, his zest for the sport spilled over into promoting the sport any way he could, as noted by his willingness to serve as executive secretary of the then-new Ski Utah organization. His efforts didn’t end there. He touted the sport while serving in various positions with the Deseret News, where he was news editor, city editor, managing editor, circulation director and ultimately assistant to the general manager.

Also among his duties at the newspaper was a three-year stint as ski editor, covering all aspects of the sport in the Intermountain Region. It was during this period that he encouraged the newspaper to sponsor the Deseret News Ski School, in conjunction with Alta. Today, 50 years later, the Deseret Ski School claims to have introduced the sport to several thousand enthusiasts. His efforts didn’t end there.

For many years, his old Olympic Club pals served as officials and timers for countless ski races, ranging from peewee competitions, to Snow Cup races, to national championships and NCAA championships. Still feisty (a prerequisite for ski race officials) at 84, Durham keeps an eye on DuMac Inc., the printing and mailing operation he owned and operated for decades, which is under the management of two of his sons. He lives part-time in St. George and part-time in his long-time Salt Lake City residence in Holladay.

For his decades of foresight and dedication to the sport of skiing in the region, the University of Utah Marriott Library’s Ski Archives Program will present Durham with its prestigious S. J. and J.F. Quinney Award, which it presents annually to an individual or organization for outstanding service and contribution to skiing. He will receive the award, made primarily of granite stone See Durham, Page 7

Some of the originators of Ski Utah Associates...Standing, Dev Jennings and Stan Nelson; Seated Wilby Durham and Jack Wilson.
TALES FROM THE ARCHIVES

Long time ski buddies Jack Walker and Vern Nichol have been skiing together off and on since the 1930s. When their skiing adventures began they were eager to imitate the jumping exploits of the professional jumpers of the day. Wanting to get to Ecker Hill and having no means of transportation they had to be a little resourceful. They would hitch hike up Parleys Canyon in hopes that someone would give them a ride. Vern explained, “We used to go up to Ecker Hill. I would get up and leave home about 3:30 in the morning and hike up 4800 South and meet Jack up above where the mall is and we would hike up to 2300 East and go up to east Millcreek. Usually the wind was howling down the canyon and it was bone chilling cold. So I would always walk on the lee side of Jack trying to stay warm. But Jack, true to his name was a real walker and sometimes I had to work to keep up.” Rising at such an early hour enabled them to catch a ride with a milkman by the name of Mr. Sharples who was on his way to the Heber Valley. They were so committed to ski jumping at Ecker Hill that they gained a bit of a reputation around school and on one occasion when they were found missing from school they ended up evading truant officers from the Granite School District in the forests around Ecker Hill.

Utah Ski Archives
J. Willard Marriott Library
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112-1179

ROBIN POUTON
WESTERN AMERICANA
558-C MLIB
A TRIBUTE TO DICK FRY, A FRIEND OF THE SKI ARCHIVES

Dick Fry, age 71, passed away May 22, 1997, after a sudden illness, the result of heart failure.

Dick learned to ski as a result of a chance street meeting with Lou Lorenz after they returned from duty in the U.S. Navy, where they met. Lou invited Dick to join him at Little Mountain where they began their ski teaching careers. The season was short, ending in February, and Alf Engen asked them to teach at Alta for the remainder of the season.

Dick joined the Alta Ski School in 1955, and became certified with the Intermountain Ski Association. He later joined the Professional Ski Instructors of America when the organization was created. Throughout his career, Dick never missed a spring clinic and was always one of the first to volunteer to instruct. He was a conscientious, caring instructor who loved the sport and wanted to share the knowledge and skills he possessed with his students.

The summer and fall seasons were spent with friends and family at their Bear Lake home where they enjoyed water sports, cycling, golfing, fishing and hunting. A tradition of many years began when Dick and his brother Stan would invite Alta management and ski instructors to enjoy the first weekend in August with them at their Bear Lake property. The place was packed with people. But many wonderful memories were created. Those memories of good times, food, and friends made possible by the Fry brothers’ generosity will be cherished by all involved.

This quiet, dignified, and gentle man was also a gifted artist. Western scenes, horses, early Alta and the mountains and deserts of Utah were among his favorite subjects to paint. Dick generously donated artwork to the annual Ski Affair silent auction. His paintings were popular and those fortunate enough to place the final bid considered themselves lucky indeed.

Dick will be remembered for his kind and gentle manner by his wife DeAnn, son Mark (Kathy), daughter Leslie (Jim Sage), his beloved grandchildren, and the many others who loved him.

DURHAM TO RECEIVE QUINNEY AWARD

from Little Cottonwood Canyon, Oct. 23, during the Ski Archives’ annual “Ski Affair” fund-raising dinner and silent auction at the Little America Hotel in downtown Salt Lake City. The event is open to the public but seating is limited.

The award is named after the late ski visionary and founder of Alta, Joe Quinney, whose family was presented the award in 1993. Other recipients are Nick Badami, former owner of the Park City Ski Area (now Park City Mountain Resort); Sverre Engen, ski pioneer and movie producer; the late Chic Morton, former president and general manager of the Alta Ski Lifts Company; and Earl A. Miller, founder and president of the Miller Ski Company of Orem, Utah, which gave skiers the 10-way release Miller Ski Binding and the ski break system.

P.S. — Staging the Olympic Winter Games, the goal of those ‘60s era ski boosters, will become a reality in 2002 — a little later than originally hoped, but what’s 30 years to a history group?