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...and the interview will be transcribed...
JA: Mr. Perri, where were you born?
AP: Helper, Utah.
JA: Helper.
AP: Yeah. We lived there when I was just a baby I guess, and came to Salt Lake. And then from Salt Lake we moved to Bingham, and we lived there a few years—Garfield, Utah, when that was a town.
JA: Was your father involved in the mining industry?
AP: No. He was a shoemaker by trade. He made shoes. In those days you go in and get fitted and they'd make your shoes for you.
JA: When were you born if I can ask?
AP: June 4, 1913.
JA: Okay. And your parents names? What were your parents names?
AP: My mother's name was Matilda Notti, N-o-t-t-i and my father's was Bruno Perri. They were immigrants from Italy.
JA: From Italy?
AP: Uh huh.
JA: Okay. Did they come over to the United States when they were young or--
AP: Yes.
JA: --as children or--?

AP: Separately. My dad came first, and then my mother came over and left three children there and sent for them when you get enough scratch.

JA: Yeah. Do you happen to recall what year your dad came over, your mother [inaudible]?

AP: Well, my dad probably came over in 1910, and he ended up in Trinidad, Colorado; and then his father-in-law, my grandfather was there, and he had some kind of a job. I never did find out what it was, and my dad was working for him and they didn't get along because father-in-law and son-in-law.

JA: Yeah.

AP: So the old man, my father, went to Helper and opened up a shoe shop there.

JA: I'll be darned.

AP: Then he sold that and moved to Salt Lake.

JA: So your parents--were they married when your father came over, but they came over [inaudible]?

AP: Oh yeah. They were married. They had three children in Italy.

JA: Older brothers and sisters of yours.

AP: Yeah. A sister was the oldest and two brothers.

JA: And then your mother came over later with your father.
JA: Okay, well, that's interesting. And so you lived in Salt Lake for a short time when you were young and then they moved to Bingham?
AP: Yeah. And then to Garfield and then to Salt Lake.
JA: Back to Salt Lake.
AP: And then my dad had two shops uptown. One at 108 East Second South and one at 369 South Main. He stayed there a long time.
JA: And he made shoes.
AP: Well, later on no one--
JA: Yeah. Made--.
AP: Yeah. A lot of his old customers, they quit having shoes made.
JA: So he was in the shoe business--.
AP: Yeah. And he repaired shoes.
JA: Yeah.
AP: Because there wasn't enough money in--.
JA: Making them.
AP: Yeah. He use to give me hell because I would--if he had to go someplace and the customer came in I would take the--whatever the guy wanted on his shoes, and take the soles off and the heels and have them ready for my dad when he got back. When the customer was gone he sure gave me heck. He just told me I don't
want you to be a shoemaker. It's no good. I wished I had learned to do it. I could do it. I used to watch him by the hour making shoes.

JA: When did you first become interested in skiing? Can you tell me about how you first became involved in skiing?

AP: Well, the way I got involved was when I was in the army, my wife and her father—he lived across the street. And my father-in-law owned a service station in Holladay. And so he knew everyone that was going up the canyon because that was the closest service station then. And he knew Mr. Launer that owned the Alpine Rose Lodge, and then my wife and her father bought the place while I was in the army, and then when I came home I had to go there because that's where our money that we were saving was invested. And so I stayed there for awhile, and I knew Zane from up on the mountain and I'd go outside once in a while and help him because I've always done that kind of work. I'm an ironworker by trade, and I know knots and splicing and wire rope, different things, welding. So that's how I got into it. And then Millicent a couple of years later was going to be built right where it is now, Millicent lift, and there were all my old buddies that I worked with
before the war. So I got it back into the union and started working on the ski lift and a little while later why they turned the ski school over to Kay Smith.

JA: Yeah.

AP: And they turned the job of managing Millicent over to me. That's how I got interested.

JA: Okay. Well, a few more details there. Let me go back just a minute. Where did you go to school?

AP: I went to the Salt Lake Schools--Franklin and West Junior, West High.

JA: West High.

AP: Yeah. And I then I think I went a quarter to the University of Utah.

JA: Oh did you?

AP: Yeah.

JA: Now, what did you do after school. How did you get into the trade of the ironworker and that sort of thing?

AP: Well, I worked on the railroad a long time.

JA: After high school?

AP: Yeah. And then construction work started up pretty heavy because of the war. So I went up and took out an apprenticeship as an ironworker.

JA: Okay.
And then I went from building to building, worked at Geneva quite a while, and Utah Oil; and then I got drafted.

Okay. You worked at Geneva. Did you live down in Utah Valley at all or--?

No. We traveled.

Traveled down.

Car pool.

Okay. What year did you go into the service do you recall?

'45.

'45. And all those years during the war you were working at Geneva Steel were you?

Yeah.

I guess steel production was really going pretty big in those days for the war effort.

Uh huh.

And you remember when you were released from the service, when you mustered out of it?

Well--.

Were you in the army?

Yeah.

Okay.

Gee, I don't really remember. I think I was in the army twenty-four and a half months. The Millicent
lift was finished in '47, and so I was out maybe--I went in in '44 and I got out at about '45 and a half. Between '45 and '46 here.

JA: And then when you came back from the service you say that your in-laws--?

AP: Well, we all lived in the lodge.

JA: Okay.

AP: And they had a home here. We had two children. I had them before I went into the army and so the kids stayed down here with their grandmother.

JA: I see.

AP: And we stayed up and worked in the lodge.

JA: Was that Launer's?

AP: Yeah.

JA: And so that's how you got to know Zane and--.

AP: Yeah. And there wasn't anyone going up there. Not very many people in the summertime. So Henry, my father-in-law and myself and my wife we got the place going pretty good especially in the summertime. And then Zane when he bought the T-bar from Kay Smith he started a pretty good business up there.

JA: Yeah. What was your father-in-law's name?

AP: Henry Florence.

JA: Henry Florence. And so when you came home from the war you worked in the lodge up there?
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AP: Yeah.

JA: And then you met Zane and were helping him out with the ironwork and steel work and putting in the--now, did you assist in installing the Millicent lift?

AP: Yeah.

JA: Did you help with that?

AP: Yeah.

JA: Okay. I guess it was--do you remember who made the Millicent life--where you got the towers and that sort of thing?

AP: Well, the towers were just punched and prefabricated, I think, at Steel Engineers. They had a rotary crane that went around the yard and it would pick up steel and then turn it and put it in a certain area. And then at that time you couldn't get to the top of Millicent other by team of horses. They'd pull all these pieces of iron up the mountain and then some of the steel for tower ten would be at three, and [inaudible] we had awful--bundles.

JA: Horse teams would pull the [inaudible].

AP: Horses, yeah. You'd get in a certain area and you'd have a team of horses going downhill pulling with block and tackle and the other team pulling up. That's how the top terminal was built, and tower eleven and twelve, ten, nine, seven, well, all the
towers. The horses took it up.

JA: Yeah. The horses actually took the towers up.

AP: You know what a lattice tower is. They put up four uprights and then diagonal--

JA: Oh, okay.

AP: --and then tapers in.

JA: Sure. Okay.

AP: Nuts and bolts.

JA: Yeah. I was picturing in my mind the single towers like they have now.

AP: Yeah.

JA: It was a lattice.

AP: Yeah.

JA: Now, did the horses pull it up on a drag sled or wagon or how did they do it?

AP: They would pull them up on wagons and then skid some in.

JA: Now, were you working for Zane at that time?

AP: No. I wasn't working for anyone.

JA: You were helping out?

AP: Yeah. Business had just started a little bit in the lodge.

JA: Do you remember what it was like putting those towers in place?

AP: Well, everything. Yeah. Right from where you put a
stake in the ground in front of the tower and one in
the back, and go all the way up the mountain and then
you put your tower in there.
JA: Now, did you pour concrete bases for them?
AP: Yeah.
JA: And you guys [inaudible]?
AP: Some of the places mixed them in a wheelbarrow and
some of them the horse and wagon. They would take
sand and gravel up for certain places.
JA: You'd mix it right there on the spot?
AP: Yeah.
JA: And just pour it and then set the uprights.
AP: Put anchor bolts in.
JA: Okay. Anchor bolts. And then did you help install the
cable and chairs and all that stuff.
AP: Yeah.
JA: Okay, at that point, now, that was '45?
AP: Around '47.
JA: Putting in the--?
AP: '46, '47 when they started because we used to call a
season up there July, August and winter.
JA: Uh huh.
AP: Because there is still a lot of snow and you can't
get started until the latter part of June.
JA: Now, who was it that actually built the first
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Millicent, the single chair?

AP: It was a group of men and they called themselves Brighton Recreation.

JA: Brighton Recreation.

AP: Yeah.

JA: And do you remember--?

AP: Leonard Brennen and--.

JA: I was just going to ask if you remembered some of those men where that you worked with.

AP: Yeah. The Schubach family, the ones in the optical.

JA: Okay.

AP: Well, there were a lot of stockholders at one time, and one would sell out to another until a few of them were left. One of them was Dr. Guy White, and then he got controlling interests and sold out to Zane.

JA: Okay. Now, did Kay help with the construction of that singles chair?

AP: Yeah. Same time I did.

JA: Kay was involved in that.

AP: Yeah. Kay talked--I forgot his name. He owned Continental Bank. He talked him into putting up some money and being a stockholder.

JA: Was that Cosgriff?

AP: Yeah. Walt Cosgriff.

JA: So it was soon thereafter that Kay started the ski
school wasn't it?

AP: Yeah. About the same time. About 1947. The season of '47-'48 I think. I'm not sure, but it was the same time. I'd forgot the date that Brighton Recreation, the Brighton lift started, Mount Millicent, but it was February of '48. I think so.

JA: Okay. That sounds about right. Yeah. That sounds about right. And what was your involvement later on? Where did you go from there? I mean from helping with the Millicent lift and putting that stuff in, where did you go from there?

AP: Well, I stayed there about ten years, more than--about twelve years and then I went down to Solitude.

JA: You were operating the Millicent lift?

AP: Yeah.

JA: Were you basically in charge of maintenance of it, upkeep?

AP: Everything. Personnel and whatever that we had.

JA: Were you employed by Brighton Recreation?

AP: Yeah.

JA: By the group of stockholders?

AP: We were on Forest Service permit.

JA: And you were on a separate permit from Zane--

AP: Yeah.

JA: --and the Brighton area? And so you operated that
until what? '58, '57?

AP: Oh, I left around '61, '62 and went down to Solitude.

JA: Do you remember when Zane acquired the Millicent lift?

AP: Well, it could have been around '46?

JA: I mean the single chair that Brighton Recreation [inaudible]?

AP: Oh, the single chair?

JA: Do you remember when he bought that out?

AP: Our lift?

JA: Yeah.

AP: Oh yeah, you said single. I don't know. Could have been.

JA: Was that before you left?

AP: Yeah.

JA: So you were actually--?

AP: After I left.

JA: Oh, that was after you left to go to Solitude?

AP: Yeah. Yeah. I went back to ironworkers for awhile.

JA: Oh. Okay.

AP: And then I was going to work one morning--I used to work up there with Zane on the weekends, and we were going to work early one morning and his windshield was dirty. And we came around the bend up there where the South Fork Store is and restaurant; and the sun
was shining and we couldn't see like when you go around a curve. And there was a snowplow backing up and we hit it. And I was sitting in the center and everybody was on top of me. Zane got hurt pretty bad.

JA: Did he?

AP: Yeah. And I got hurt pretty bad. So that's when I was out of work a long time.

JA: Oh, were you?

AP: Yeah. About a year and then I went over to Park City and stayed there three and a half years.

JA: So you were laid up in the hospital for any length of time after that accident?

AP: Well, just a couple of weeks.

JA: But you spent some time recuperating at home I imagine.

AP: Yeah.

JA: You don't recall what year that was do you?

AP: Well, it was around '62, '63.

JA: Okay. And at that point you were out of it for a little while and you say you went back to Park City? You went over to Park City?

AP: Yeah. I got offered a job over there.

JA: Okay. Do you remember who offered you the job or who was involved?

AP: Jim Jacobs.
JA: Jim Jacobs. Was he one of the owners of the Park City area?

AP: No. He's a manager.

JA: And what were you hired to do at Park City.

AP: Well, they hadn't finished the lift yet. But most of the work on the gondola was finished and they were just checking it all out and I was learning the way the cabins fitted onto the cable. And we were having a heck of a time because all those things--well, it was real small. It leaves the cable and runs on a roller and then it drops down on the cable and leaves the rollers and same place on different towers. And I got in on all that because I wanted to learn about gondolas and I figured that one day they would make chair lifts that way. And now they're doing that. They're putting one at Solitude--a couple of them there.

JA: Oh, that's right. The detachable--

AP: Yeah.

JA: --high speed.

AP: And the cable goes about 1,000 feet a minute. The gondola in Park City went 600 feet a minute, and it was a good idea and it still is. You just sit in the chair and pretty soon you coast out. There'd be four people in the chair and then it goes to the top. The
chairs, after you get out, they stop it and then put them back on a big horseshoe over the thing and they grab back on and go to the bottom and they come off. Well, have you been to the one at--I mean the gondola at Park City.

JA: Park City?
AP: Yeah.
JA: I have. About ten years ago I believe it was.
AP: Yeah.
JA: But it was a long time ago. So they were installing the gondola at that time and you were helping out with that.
AP: Yeah.
JA: Now, how long did you say you worked at Park City?
AP: Three and a half years.
JA: Okay. Until what? Probably about '65 or--?
AP: Yeah. Approximately. I don't remember. I was pretty kind of bored with that job. It was almost ten, twelve hours a day, seven days a week.
JA: What type of stuff were you doing?
AP: Well, I was in charge of maintenance and operations. But I had to be there.
JA: Yeah.
AP: And then they went and unionized themselves which is a good idea, but I just thought I better get out
because it's just like you had to be born in Park City to get along with it.

JA: Oh really?

AP: Yeah.

JA: You felt that there was differences between--did you feel like an outsider a little bit?

AP: Yeah. Quite a bit.

JA: Did you?

AP: Yeah. I would hire somebody from Salt Lake and some of the employees would come up and tell me I better get rid of them. The guys didn't like it, and so I thought, well, I'd get rid of them. But almost all the guys who were working for me up there and they lived there had sold their homes and they're down in Salt Lake working.

JA: Oh, really?

AP: Yeah. I see them once in a while in the different grocery stores.

JA: Uh huh.

AP: I never say anything about how I was treated. I just say hello and go on about my business. I met one I liked I'd talk to him.

JA: So you felt pressured to hire people from Park City?

AP: Yeah.

JA: And you say you just kind of got bored with things at
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Park City.

AP: Well, it was too many hours and they closed the lift, and there was some talk that they were going to sell it, they were going to do this and do that, and finally, I found myself out of there. And I didn't feel bad at all.

JA: Were your hours in the summer as bad as they were in the winter.

AP: Well, we started a pretty good business up there drawing people to Park City, and they would ride up and back.

JA: So that they would operate the gondola during the summer for tourists.

AP: And between seasons they had a chalet at the top, and they use to run parties and have a meeting or big dinner and then ride back down.

JA: So you were working just as much in the summer.

AP: Yeah. I'd have to be there at night when they had the parties at the top.

JA: Do they just operate the gondolas during the summers or do they operate any chairlifts during the summer for the tourists?

AP: They didn't have any--oh, well, later on we had two chairlifts, number one and number two at the top. And they didn't operate those in the summertime. Just for
JA: Just the gondola?
AP: Yeah.

JA: Just the gondola during the summer?
AP: Yeah.

JA: Okay. Did you leave Park City and go straight to Solitude?
AP: No. I left Brighton in about 1960, '61 and stayed there just the time it took to build two lifts and they were homemade. And they didn't work because he didn't use a gear box. He used rollers on a big hub on top of the [inaudible], and the rollers would squeeze against this tub like thing. It worked good, smooth and then the minute you got weight on one side the rollers would peel off. They were made of rubber.

JA: Oh, gee. So that was Solitude.
AP: Yeah.

JA: So you ended up going, you actually went straight from Brighton to Solitude.
AP: Yeah.

JA: And who was at Solitude that made you the offer or how did you know?
AP: He sort of hounded me and Boyd Summerhays was in the restaurant business. He was a good friend of Bob Barrett.
JA: Bob Barrett at Solitude?
AP: Yeah.
JA: Okay.
AP: And then Barrett sold out to these people that are there now. I never went back there. I don't know what it was, I just didn't like the--
JA: You actually only worked at Solitude what? Part of the season or what?
AP: About a whole year.
JA: Just about a year.
AP: Yeah. One summer and one winter.
JA: And you helped him--when I say him it was--I'm sorry, I've forgotten the name that you just gave me.
AP: Barrett?
JA: Barrett.
AP: Yeah.
JA: Now, he's the one that offered you the job at Solitude basically or what?
AP: Yeah.
JA: Was it a job offer?
AP: Oh yeah. He even gave me a bonus for helping him. And I thought, "Well, maybe that's where I ought to go." I never did make any money like other people made. I thought, well, I'll go with him because some friends of mine, when they were kids chased a bear up there,
you know, went down a mine shaft and they tried to get him out of there and they set fire to the mine shaft. When I saw the smoke I couldn't imagine what it was. I grabbed a shovel and I went right over the hill to where Solitude is, and I threw a few shovels full of dirt down the shaft. But it didn't do any good and pretty soon the Forest Service came up and they put it out. And I told the guy, "Boy, I'd give anything to have this area because you can't see it from the road." You can now because of the trees. When Barrett offered me the job we went over there about three or four times from Millicent around the lake, the dam at Mary.

JA: At Mary. Okay

AP: Yeah. And then we went over behind Solitude and then we were in the area. So that's what made me go over there because Millicent wouldn't do anything. They didn't put any lifts in or more lifts or get a snow packer. That's the thing that makes skiing is the snow packer.

JA: The snow packer. Yeah. The groomers and all that.

AP: Yeah.

JA: Yeah. I believe Zane Doyle told me, I can't remember when it was, but he made his first snow packer out of some pieces of machinery. He altered the wheels or
something and made some big tracks for it or something. Do you remember anything like that?

AP: The only thing I remember that Zane made was the roller that you pulled. Big roller.

JA: Uh huh.

AP: Yeah. But that wasn't too big of an operation at that time because you could flatten out an area so wide and the skiers would go out and make it wider, you know, and pack it. But it helped.

[END OF SIDE ONE]

JA: Now, this Mr. Barrett at Solitude, he offered you the job and you went down and helped him put in the lifts.

AP: Yeah.

JA: And you say it didn't work properly.

AP: No.

JA: What did he do after that?

AP: What'd I do?

JA: What did Barrett do after that to correct the problem to get things--?

AP: Well, he tried to run it. He got a few guys to go up there. He had a pilot, his private pilot, and they took it over and they did the same thing. It would run and then it would quit, and they put a lot of things in it and it was awful.
JA: So he had a lot of problems with the lift itself.
AP: Yeah.
JA: It just wouldn't run right.
AP: Yeah. All the time was running Millicent -- what was it -- thirteen, twelve years, I never had it closed down at any time. Stay there all night sometimes working on the deals that fasten the chairs on the cable.
JA: How do those attach to the cable?
AP: Well, there are some attachments, at that time ones on Millicent were free to turn because the cable will turn.
JA: Oh.
AP: But if you have something like a fixed grip then the chair hangs and you can see the chair will go out on an angle like that a little bit but it won't go over. And then people get in it so they have a fixed or one where the cable will turn. The wire rope.
JA: Yeah. Twists with [inaudible].
AP: And it twists quite a bit.
JA: Does it?
AP: Yeah. If it's free to turn.
JA: Free to turn.
AP: Yeah.
JA: So you just stayed with Solitude one year. They had
all the problems and then it was at that time you decided to go to Park City?

AP: No, they didn't start building until about maybe a year or two later.

JA: And what were you doing during that time?

AP: I was in charge of maintenance and personnel on the lift, the guys that worked there.

JA: Okay. Did you say there was about a year between the time you left Solitude and time you went to Park City?

AP: Yeah.

JA: Okay. What I was wondering is what did you do in that year's space?

AP: Well, like I was saying about I was riding to work one morning with Zane and we hit a snow plow.

JA: Okay.

AP: Because when I went to Park City I still had my arm in a cast, and I got injured pretty bad in my arm.

JA: But you'd already been to Solitude?

AP: Yeah.

JA: You'd already been to Solitude then?

AP: Yeah. And then I went back to Millicent.

JA: Okay. So that just didn't work out the thing at Solitude at all?

AP: No.
JA: And so after the accident you went to Park City after you recuperated.

AP: Yeah.

JA: Okay. I see now. So you went back to Millicent after the thing didn't work out at Solitude.

AP: Yeah. Zane wanted me up there and it wasn't a bad job. I don't know. I always thought almost everyone that went to Brighton were ousted some way or other.

JA: Somewhere along the line.

AP: Well, it seemed like somebody that was in charge just—even later on Kay Smith, everything. Boyd Summerhays went up there and he was—his place burned down and my father-in-law was up there. He was having a hell of a time. Too much work, and it seemed like the only people that benefited out of Brighton was Zane. He's pretty smart.

JA: He must have done something right I guess, huh?

AP: Well, when he bought out Kay Smith, his father-in-law had a lot of money. He bought Kay Smith out and then they built the Majestic lift and that made them.

JA: That's when Brighton kind of took off is when—.

AP: Yeah.

JA: Now, you say Zane got some financing from his father-in-law?

AP: Yeah.
JA: And then they built the Majestic.

AP: Uh huh.

JA: Now, do you remember when Zane bought the single chair at Millicent? He tore that down after he bought it. Didn't he tear the single chair down after he bought that or--?

AP: Well, yeah. About three years, four years later. Yeah.

JA: And then he put up a double chair. Well, what did you do after Park City?

AP: I stayed with the ironworkers.

JA: So was it basically at that time you got out of the ski business?

AP: Yeah.

JA: Out of the ski [inaudible].

AP: I used to go up there and work on weekends with Zane or anytime he needed me. They called on me all the time.

JA: Did they?

AP: Yeah. I went up there a few years ago, three or four it was and we took out a lot of towers on the Lake Mary lift.

JA: Uh huh.

AP: And we put new stuff in the top terminal, put in new towers and the whole driving unit at the bottom.
Well, we practically built a new lift out of it, and put a new cable.

JA: So over the years Zane has kind of relied on you a little bit.

AP: Well, I could say that.

JA: Yeah.

AP: Yeah. Even his son Mike is in charge of everything up there. I still go up and help him. In fact, I was there day before yesterday and the day before that. But I was up there only on—I want to build a carport here. I went up and got some pipe for uprights.

JA: Uh huh. I'll be darned. So you're retired now?

AP: Yeah. I've been retired about ten years.

JA: So you retired as a ironworker?

AP: Out of the ironworker's union.

JA: Uh huh.

AP: I went back to ironwork. I liked it because it was—I got paid by the hour and I was through work at night. I didn't have to worry about anything.

JA: A little bit different then when you were running ski lifts huh?

AP: Yeah.

JA: You could be at work at any time at night I suppose.

AP: Yeah.

JA: Now, were you yourself ever a skier? Did you ever ski
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much yourself?

AP: Later on. Later on when I was in Park City why I knew a little bit about skiing. I just got some Head skis and pretty good boots.

JA: Yeah.

AP: You cheat, they call them cheaters.

JA: Uh huh.

AP: But now they have shorter skis, the hills are packed, you don't have to ski in deep powder and when we first started out in Brighton why people would come to Brighton with two pair of skis. If the hill wasn't packed then they would go to a limber ski for deep snow that would bend.

JA: Yeah.

AP: You sit back on them a little. I went to a lot of places, ski areas, when I was working up in the mountains. Yeah, I learned quite a bit from--.

JA: Did you go around to see how other lifts operated--

AP: Yeah.

JA: --and things like that?

AP: And I skied the hills and so I got--not the secret but the thing to do would be use the snow packer because they were making those snow packers all over. You could make them out of drums like oil drums.

JA: Uh huh.
AP: They made them out of everything.
JA: I'll be darn.
AP: It wasn't anything. Well, all that you had to do was put two wheels and then run two by fours and then put something in the center and put a fork out there and then tow it.
JA: What do they tow it with?
AP: Snowcat.
JA: Just a cat.
AP: Yeah. And there were about three or four people that make snowcats. The best one was Thiokol, the one like they have in--Mike has about four of them in the Brighton area. And people in Winter Park, Colorado they have the best grooming than anyone. God, they had terrific--they even had snowplows on them to knock the moguls down and they'd work all night and get that thing ready.
JA: So you went to Winter Park, Colorado?
AP: No. I just went there to--.
JA: You went there just to see?
AP: Yeah. Every winter I'd go there.
JA: You visited there.
AP: Did you know that's owned by Denver. That's the closest ski area at that time. I don't know now.
JA: Yeah.
And it belonged to the city of Denver.

I'll be darned.

And that's what I thought when I was in Brighton. That's what we need is a snow packer but like I said they didn't put out any money for a new lift or a snowcat. And snowcats were around $20,000 to $30,000.

That was when you were working for Brighton Recreation?

Yeah. All they were interested in is the money they were making and paying the guys who owned stock.

So they just--okay, so they just paid off all the stockholders.

Yeah. If they had just put a snowpacker in we'd been on top of everything.

Do you remember some of the other resorts that you visited to see how things were running and that sort of thing.

The one at Snow Basin?

Uh huh.

That was the only one, and then there was one up in Beaver someplace up past Logan.

Yeah. Beaver Mountain.

Is it? Is that the name of it?

Yeah.

I never did see that one. This guy up in Park City,
Carpenter, were—what the hell is the name of that area? It's a new one.

JA: Oh, Deer Valley.

AP: Deer Creek.

JA: Deer Valley.

AP: Yeah.

JA: Deer Valley. That's right.

AP: Yeah. Carpenter, he built his lifts out of quaking aspen tree. If he had trouble with a tower coming down he'd cut a tree down and put it in there and support it.

JA: When was this?

AP: This was way back around in '46, '45. There was always somebody up around Park City that had some kind of a rope tow. And Zane's first lift was a T-bar, and people would ski out from under the lift line and the cable would come off.

JA: Pull off.

AP: There was always some kind of trouble.

JA: I guess in those days you just kind of did things as you went along and—.

AP: Yeah. And you had to get on skis once in a while.

JA: Uh huh.

AP: I even got on skis and I packed the hill in certain places. Take shovel up with you.
ARDO PERRI #1

JA: Do you remember when you first started to working for Brighton Recreations, do you remember what the Brighton area looked like? What kind of buildings were there?

AP: Well, in Brighton itself there was the MIA home, the girl's home. It was a big one. It burned down and that building and then the Alpine Rose Lodge and then where the store is.

JA: Uh huh.

AP: That Jewell Bosen, he never did open in the winter time. He tried a few Sundays, Saturdays and Sundays, but people would go all the way down there and have lunch and then go back skiing.

JA: What? Now, Jewell Bosen?

AP: Yeah.

JA: Do you know how to spell his last name?

AP: B-o-s-e-n.

JA: B-o-s-e-n. He owned and operated the store.

AP: Yeah.

JA: Okay.

AP: And then there was where the present day building at South Fork, a guy named Ted Clines, he owned and operated that place for a long time and he sold out to this present owner. I don't remember.

JA: Was that an Inn?
ARDO PERRI #1

AP: Yeah. It's a lodge too.

JA: Okay. Do you remember the name—what it was called then?

AP: It was the South Fork store.

JA: Just South Fork.

AP: Yeah.

JA: Was the Balsam Inn still up there when you first went up?

AP: The what?

JA: The Balsam Inn?

AP: Yeah. That was Boyd Summerhays.

JA: That was Boyd Summerhays.

AP: But it was never opened until later on when Boyd got it and he started. He lived up there and he ran the place and they were doing a tremendous business.

JA: Uh huh.

AP: And then that burned down.

JA: Oh, that's right. I remember hearing about that.

AP: That's what I say. There was a curse. [laughter] And then he opened up on the Foothill Boulevard he called in the Balsam Embers.

JA: Oh, okay.

AP: And then he moved from there to where he is now—The Cowboy Restaurant, and he had a big restaurant upstairs, and he got tired of it. He was making a lot
of money but he got tired because that's when prices really started to go up and people would squawk about how much it cost for steak.

JA: Uh huh. Now, Launer's place, that's the Alpine Rose now.

AP: Yes.

JA: Was it called the Alpine Rose when you worked there or was it Launer's Inn?

AP: Yeah. That's the name Launer put on it. Edelweiss is how you say it in Swiss and the Alpine Rose Lodge. And my father-in-law sold out to one of my ex-bosses Dr. White that was a stockholder on Millicent.

JA: Uh huh.

AP: And he sold out to another outfit, and another outfit sold out. I went up there one day to get something and went down the basement and there was enough room down there to put four or five cars in the back downstairs. And it was just filled with junk. It even had the garbage in there, and I thought boy these people are fixing to burn the place down. You could tell. I couldn't prove it but it burned down.

JA: What was the name of your father-in-law's place?

AP: Alpine Rose Lodge.

JA: Is that what he called it?

AP: No. That's what Launer named it.
JA: Launer named it.

AP: Edelweiss.

JA: While your father-in-law was operating it do you remember the name of it?

AP: Alpine Rose Lodge.

JA: Okay. So it was there after Launer?

AP: After Launer.

JA: Okay.

AP: Yeah.

JA: I'm putting this altogether here.

AP: Oh, I see. See Launer and Kay Smith were very good friends. In fact way in the top of Alpine Rose Lodge, little stairways, little rooms up high in the attic, Kay Smith had a room up there.

JA: So he stayed up there huh?

AP: Uh huh.

JA: Okay. Well, that's pretty interesting. Well, you've mentioned you've felt like there was kind of a curse on people that were up in the Brighton area. Do you have any more just feelings or remembrances of your involvement in those days during the years that you worked at the Millicent lift?

AP: Oh yeah. Oh yeah. Nostalgia. Gee, that drives me nuts. I went up there two days like I told you and got some pipe. Shoot, every rock you turned it over
and there was another memory. But I had a lot of fun up there. You know, you work long hours and it was just like every night was Chinese New Year.

JA: Oh really? [laughter]

AP: With me, yeah.

JA: Everybody got off work and do a little celebrating at night?

AP: Oh yeah. And do a lot of work.

JA: Yeah.

AP: Cut trees.

JA: You worked hard, yeah.

AP: I used cry when I cut a tree. I didn't want to cut it, and I think maybe that was part of the curse where you cut that tree down. I didn't want to cut a tree down, but they had to come down. I was even working for Kay Smith for awhile up there. I told him, "No, I don't want to cut any trees." And oh, he'd get mad.

JA: Were you working for Kay while you were at Millicent?

AP: Yeah.

JA: When he was running the ski school?

AP: Well, when we were building it in '46.

JA: Okay. Well, it's a pretty area.

AP: Yeah.

JA: It's a beautiful area.
AP: And to cut trees down. Gees, it just--well, that's about the only bad thing I ever did up there I think.

JA: Were there a lot of summer homes or summer cabins up there when you were there--

AP: Well--

JA: --or just a few or what?

AP: --yes. There was about five of them right in that area where the T-bar is now. I mean where the Majestic lift goes up, and there's about maybe ten or twelve in there now, cabins. There was one called the Decker and what was that guys name that I told you that owned Continental Bank?

JA: Cosgriff.

AP: Cosgriff. He had a cabin up there. Well, everyone who had a little bit of dough had cabins. The Smoots were up there.

JA: Oh really?

AP: A couple of our--Senator Bennett.

JA: Do you remember the Wasatch Mountain Club cabin?

AP: Yeah. That was up by the girls' home, MIA.

JA: Uh huh.

AP: I think that burned down too. People just used to like to go up there at night and build a fire, break in the place.

JA: Uh huh.
AP: There was a cabin way up on top of where you go over to go down to Heber, and that's where the one Snake Creek chair lift goes up. What is that? Three people ride in the chair?

JA: Yeah.

AP: Zane built that, and they burnt that down. There was a cabin at the top. There was another cabin that someone burned down and they had the same thing. You'd go up there and stay all night in it and you'd go into Alta around Wolverine and in there.

JA: Was it anywhere near Catherine's Pass or Lake Catherine or--?

AP: It might be, yeah.

JA: I was trying to think, Wolverine, huh. Well, that's really interesting. Do you ever feel like, I mean would you liked to have stayed more in the ski industry and been involved with the things that worked out that way?

AP: Yeah. Even today I'd like--well, I'd have to go back in a capacity. I wouldn't want to--yeah. I couldn't have done like Zane had done.

JA: Yeah.

AP: He had a backer, was his father-in-law, or any other place. I had a chance to go into ski lift business. I went up to a place in Idaho Falls, up Kelly Canyon, a
place up there outside of Idaho Falls called Ririe, and I lived with this guy Bud Johnson at his house, helped him build his lift. It was in those days they just started to put towers up with the big pipe. And then they eliminated all that work. And I helped put it in. That following winter after that he came to my house. I was living next door and he made me an offer and I should have taken it. He had two lifts built. He built another one after that one. Told me if I would come up there he would take just a certain percentage and I could have the lifts, and it was nothing.

JA: Huh.

AP: I thought oh, the hell with it. I don't want to live up here, and he would have done it because he had acres of land and he raised barley.

JA: Oh.

AP: And he had a big hanger like an airplane hanger. And it was just full of farming equipment, and he had the money. And he wanted something to do in the wintertime but he found out that having a ski lift isn't all a lot of fun and everything.

JA: A lot of work involved.

AP: Yeah. And he wanted to take it easy in the winter because he had worked all the time in the summer.
JA: Uh huh. Okay. Well, I guess we can go ahead and--.

[END OF INTERVIEW]