



The Historical Herald

PO Box 514 Bartlett, New Hampshire 03812
www.BartlettHistory.Org

Bartlett Historical Society's Newsletter

January Issue 2017

January 2017

Your Historic Society is excited to publish the first newsletter of 2017. We hope you find it informative and interesting.

We are focusing this issue on the ski areas that are part of Bartlett's history.

You will also find a schedule of our 2017 program presentations so you can plan ahead.

We thank our supporting sponsors who pay for this newsletter. Contact us if you would like to show your support by becoming an advertiser. It's ONLY \$40. per issue or \$150 for four issues.

Simply Stated, We Say Thank You

"Thank You" from the Board of Directors of the Bartlett Historical Society to all who have responded to our appeal for support for the Bartlett Historical Society Museum. Response to our initial appeal for support for the Bartlett Historical Society Museum fund has been very heart warming. In just a few short weeks, over 100 people have responded with generous donations and pledges totaling over \$65,000 (15% of goal). This is a wonderful start to our campaign to raise the \$450,000 needed to renovate the St. Joseph Church building and transform it into a museum for all to visit.

Looking at the donations received, many are from people local to the Bartlett (including Glen and Intervale) as well as other towns in the Mount Washington Valley and greater New Hampshire. However, we have also received many responses from people all over New England and in places as across our great country including Florida, Texas, South Carolina, California and Oregon to name a few. Many donors have included a note expressing their appreciation for our effort to save this historic building. Along with those comments, people have related stories about attending mass at St. Joseph's after a day of skiing or hiking; some have said that they received their first communion or other sacraments in this church; yet others have added personal notes about their connection with this building and the Bartlett community. We are saving all of these notes as a part of our effort to transform the church into a museum.

The generous response that we have received is also helping us demonstrate the growing level of grassroots support for this project. This demonstration will, in turn, help us encourage many others to put their support behind this effort. It will also help us as we approach foundations with applications for grant funding as they base their decisions, in part, off of support shown by people such as yourselves.

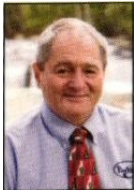
We obviously have a long way to go in our fund raising effort but your support has kept us energized for the work that remains to be done. Your continued support is critical to our effort. If you know of other friends or family members who might be interested in supporting this project, please pass the news of our project on to them. More information can be found at http://bartletthistory.org/church_main_page.php.

Again, we simply and sincerely say "Thank You" for your support and generosity.

We hold meetings every month and all are welcome to attend. Find the date and time at our website. **Www.bartletthistory.org**

President's Message:

Greeting Members & Others,



As I write this, seven inches of “white gold” has arrived supplying us with a much needed blanket of snow. This, coupled with the recent cold temperatures has provided our local ski areas with the ability to make snow to provide us with a great Christmas vacation and start to the winter season. Sometimes we all complain about the cold and the snow, but it is a life-blood to our winter economy and one we all, in one way or another, benefit from. Skiing is the main focus of this newsletter and as you read Dave Eliason’s article, you will realize what an important part this valley, and Bartlett in particular has played in the development of the ski industry locally, nation wide and even globally. Dave’s article may very well pique your interest to do some more digging on your own on the history of skiing locally and beyond. One source you might enjoy (and one many are already aware of) is the New England Lost Ski Area project. Go to www.nelsap.org web site for some eye opening and interesting discoveries. Who knows, maybe there used to be a “ski area” in your back yard.

I have two perpetual pleas; one is to increase our membership, each quarter we seem to have new and interesting people join our ranks and we know there are others out there who would be interested and I’d ask each one of you to try to recruit one. Secondly but equally as important is the need for young blood in the society. As time goes on and your current leadership may start to slow down, there is a desperate need for others to jump in and be the next leaders. Hopefully you can help us find them.

In closing, on behalf of your Board of Directors, I would like to express our sincere thanks to each and every one of you for your membership and involvement in the society. My fellow board members join me in wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

Norm Head, President

Can you identify this location and these buildings? Just as a guess, this picture dates to about 1900.

This is in the area of today's scenic vista in Intervale. We think the large white building at center is the Intervale House Hotel, now the site of the scenic vista rest stop. Those barns might still be there today?

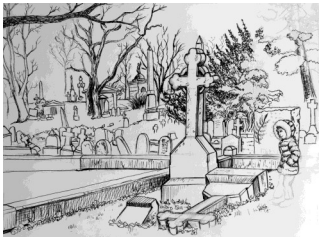


Coming Programs and Events for 2017:

Unless otherwise noted, all programs will be held at the Community Room in the school and will start at 7:00 p.m.

Jan 18, 2017---- "Saving Graves"

Jess Davis, local teacher and cemetery conservator, will give a presentation about the value of early graveyards and the importance of preserving them. She will discuss the projects she conducts involving students, including her latest in Bartlett's Stillings Cemetery. Davis will also give practical tips for caring for family monuments and answer cemetery related questions from the audience.



April 12, 2017—Locals Night---be entertained with reminiscences from speakers from different villages of Bartlett with stories of yesteryear and bring your own stories. Current speakers are

Carroll Hayes, Marilyn Chappee, Gail Paine and others to follow.

June 2017---Currently open but working on a good one.

Bartlett Historical Society Officers & Directors

Norman Head, President — Bert George, Vice President
Hannelore Chandler, Treas — Kathleen Howard, Curator
Phil Franklin, Secretary
Member Volunteer, Dave Eliason, Website
Member Volunteer, Mike Chandler, Advice and Assistance
Member Volunteer, Jess Davis, Cemetery Restoration

Coming Programs and Events for 2017 (continued)

October 18, 2017----**Bob Cottrell** will be presenting: Harnessing History: On the Trail of New Hampshire's State Dog, The Chinook



All our programs are free and open to the public. We always appreciate donations at the door to help cover our expenses. Thank you.

We thank our members for their timely dues and contributions.

If you would like to join the Historical Society, speak to any of the Directors named above.

We also encourage anyone with an interest, to participate at whatever level they feel comfortable.

Bartlett Historical Society Museum – Project Status

The Bartlett Historical Society Museum project has several phases designed to accomplish our ultimate goal of hosting a ribbon cutting on the steps of our new museum here in Bartlett Village. We've already worked through some of the initial phases of laying the groundwork for the project; we have collaborated with the Bartlett School Board to secure the long term lease for the building plus received their encouragement to renovate the building. Finally, we launched the fund raising effort for the renovation of the building. We are continuing to move forward toward that ultimate goal of opening our museum to display Bartlett's history.



Renovation Funding Campaign

The campaign to raise the \$450,000 to renovate the building started in mid-October with a mass mailing to 3,500 people who are listed on the tax roll for the town of Bartlett. In the letter, we appealed to everyone to consider a gift or donation to the BHS Museum Fund. We are happy to report that the response to our initial appeal has been very good. To date, we have received a net of about \$65,000 in donations (including cash / checks / pledges less expenses) or 15% of our total fund raising effort. While we are off to a great start, we have a long way to go to achieve our funding goal.

To provide some detail into the dollars and cents, we offer the following:

We have received \$49,000 cash / checks from about 120 donors

We have another \$15,500 in pledges from eight donors

Our campaign expenses, already deducted from the figures above, have been held to \$4,200 (mainly for printing of campaign materials and postage)

If you are one of the people who has already donated to our project, we sincerely thank you for your generosity. We know that every dollar counts in your personal budget and appreciate you setting aside money to help our effort.

If you have not donated yet, please consider making the BHS Museum Fund one of your tax deductible contributions. We know that there

If you have not donated yet, please consider making the BHS Museum Fund one of your tax deductible contributions. We know that there are many worthy causes pulling at you for your support. We encourage you to be a part of an effort to save an historic building, open that building to the public as a new museum and be able to proudly say that you were a part of this effort.

Getting the Word Out About the Project

An important facet of any fund raising campaign is the publicity and marketing of the project. The marketing for this project means being at different places where we can talk with people and inform them about our museum renovation project. Since September, members of your BHS Board of Directors have been at:



The Bartlett Town Hall Primary Day Polling Station with information about the project and encouraging people to explore our www.BartlettHistory.org website to learn more about the museum project;

The Jackson Historical Society Art Show where, by the gracious invitation of the JHS President, Warren Schomaker, we had a museum project information table and offered collectable books for sale to the art viewers (proceeds from book sales went to the BHS Museum Fund);

The Bartlett Town Hall Election Day Polling Station where we again met a great many people and talked with them about the museum project as they waited to vote;

On November 14, we had a "Dine-to-Donate" evening at Joseph's Spaghetti Shed; Beth Carta-Dolan, Joseph's owner, graciously donated 20% of the evenings receipts to the museum fund;

Norman Head and Phil Franklin represented the Bartlett Historical Society in early December on the Mount Washington Valley Promotions "Charity Chatter" television program. There, Norm and Phil talked about the BHS organization, the museum project and even did a recap of the snow roller project;

On December 10, we collaborated with the Bartlett Recreation Department to sponsor a Breakfast with Santa.

Continued next page

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While the main focus was on the excitement of Santa's arrival for the children, we also again let people attending know of our museum project and that our share of the event proceeds (all donations at the door) would be directed to that project.

Additionally, we have been featured in the Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce public relations materials and the Mount Washington Valley Promotions Charity Chatter November flier.

We will continue to publicize our museum project over the coming months as we continue raising money for the renovation work. Any help you can provide will be appreciated.

Kennett High School Student Engagement

In September, Phil Franklin contacted Kevin Richard, Superintendent of Schools for SAU#9, to see if we could engage some high school students in the project by having them build a 3-D model of the future museum plus associated drawings of the building. Kevin immediately connected Phil with Joe Riddensdale, the Computer Aided Drawing & Design teacher, at Kennett High School.

Phil and Joe met to review the project and agreed to move forward with the engagement of the students in a real-world project. Phil provided some initial drawings and added several photographs and measurements for the students to use as a part of their work for the museum. We are expecting to see the finished product very soon and will have more to write about this engagement in our April 2017 newsletter.

What Have We Been Hearing About the Project?

As we noted above, we have been out and about at several different events plus talking with people around town. When we talk about the project, people are excited. We hear things such as:

"We're very happy that you are saving this church; I had my [first communion] there back in 19xx".

"This project is a great idea as it will be good for the Village and the area in general".

Continued next column.

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"We used to attend mass at Joseph's every Saturday evening after skiing; we're happy to see someone saving the building".

"What happened to the cross on the church?" (Referencing the cross that has been leaning to one side over the church entry for several years; the answer - we took it down before it fell down and stored it for safe keeping).

The excitement expressed by people is encouraging to us as the leaders of the project. Of course, there have been some who questioned different aspects of the project - that is going to happen and we talk with these folks as well to explain what we are doing and why. The overwhelming majority of people, however, express their encouragement and support for our effort and its eventual success.

Status Summary

Going forward, we will continue to provide updates to the project through our member email listings and the upcoming newsletters. We will continue to promote the project and raise awareness of our fund raising campaign. In the meantime, if you have questions about the renovation project, our future use of the building or how to donate, please contact us. The primary contacts are Norman Head, BHS President at 603-986-6278 (email - normiejoe@gmail.com) or Philip Franklin, BHS Secretary at 860-638-7966 (email - phil@bartletthistory.org) or for more information about the project, please visit

http://bartletthistory.org/church_main_page.php.

As always, we thank you for your continued support.

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This newsletter is paid for by our sponsors. We thank all of you for making this possible. Your support is appreciated.

This month our focus is on the Ski Areas of Bartlett

First, let's take a look at some important dates in Skiing History:

Recreational skiing began in Oslo Norway in the 1850's. At this time skis were primarily made by their users.

In 1879 the first ski manufacturer was based in Minnesota by Martin Strand.

In 1882 the first modern ski club in America was organized as the Norske Ski Club in Berlin, New Hampshire.

In 1910 Johannes Schneider at 17 years of age created the stem Christie turn, the basis for what later became known as the Arlberg Technique.

1920 marked the first paid ski instructor in a U.S. ski school, Henrik Jacobsen was hired by the Lake Placid Ski Club.

In 1924 the first Olympic Winter Games were held in France.

1926—First ski shop in the United States opens in Boston under owner Oscar Hambro from Norway.

1927—Otto Schniebs emigrates from Germany to Waltham, Mass. to become the first Arlberg instructor in the U.S.; becomes coach of the Harvard team, official instructor for the Appalachian Mountain Club based in Boston, then history's most successful college ski team coach beginning in 1930 at Dartmouth College, finally setting up an early ski school at Lake Placid in 1936.



Skis in the early days consisted of little more than boards with a vine toe piece and hemp straps.



Systems slowly improved over the years and by the 1950's the Beartrap binding and specially made hickory skis prevailed. *(Probably Northland)*



Followed by the modern safety release binding with brakes. *(Marker Binding)*

- 1929**—Peckett’s-on-Sugar Hill ski school, near Franconia, NH, founded by Katharine “Kate” Peckett to become the first resort based ski school in the U.S.
- 1932**—North America’s first rope tow is invented by Alex Foster and installed at Shawbridge, Quebec. It is powered by a Dodge automobile, jacked up on blocks, with a rope looped around a wheel rim. In 1934 the first rope tow in the U.S. was installed by Bob & Betty Royce of the White Cupboard Inn at Woodstock Vermont.
- 1936**—Benno Rybizka, a top instructor from Hannes Schneider’s St. Anton ski school, brought to Jackson, NH, by Carroll Reed to head up Reed’s new Eastern Slope Ski School headquartered in what is now the Wildcat Tavern
- 1938**—First U.S. Ski Patrol established at Stowe under Minot Dole as chairman of national committee. A chairlift opens at Alta, Utah, constructed from mining hoist parts, financed by Salt Lake businessmen.
- 1939**—Hannes Schnieder arrives in the United States and takes over leadership of the ski school at Mt. Cranmore. Schneider also developed the first groomed slope by cutting down trees and completely clearing the south slope of Mt. Cranmore.
- 1948**—Gretchen Fraser becomes the first American to win Olympic ski medals – a gold in the special slalom and a silver in the Alpine combined on February 5 at the Winter Games in St. Moritz, Switzerland.
- 1949**—Mad River Glen, Vermont; Squaw Valley, California, both opened. Howard Head markets the aluminum Head Standard, the first commercially successful aluminum ski.
- 1952**—First artificially-made snow is made at Grossinger’s resort in New York; Fahnestock, New York, two years later, becomes first ski area to make snow on regular basis.
- 1957**—The first useful aluminum ski poles are made by Scott.
- 1967**—The first World Cup Competitions staged. Credited with the Cup’s inception are U.S. Ski Team Coach Bob Beattie, French Ski Team Coach Honore Bonnet and French journalist Serge Lang.

Reference Material: <https://skiinghistory.org/history/timeline-important-ski-history-dates>



Thanks go to *Matty B's Mountainside Café* at Attitash for helping us publish this newsletter. We appreciate your support.

Skiing in our region began at Black Mountain in Jackson and Cranmore in North Conway but Bartlett also had its share of ski slopes over the years.

The slopes cut by the CCC on Bear Mountain in Bartlett was among the first viable skiing venues in this region.

There was also Stanton Slopes in the 1930's and Intervale Ski Area in the 1940's. During the early 1960's there was talk of a huge ski resort at Saunders Mountain and Mt Tremont near Livermore in Harts Location to be named **Sawyer River Skiways**. A proposal was also made for **Big Bear Ski Area** on what was then known as Rogers Mountain (now Bear Peak). In 1965 these ideas culminated in the Attitash Ski Area, which is the only survivor. There was once a ski jump at the base of Cathedral Ledge on land that is part of Bartlett.

The tough nature of the ski business is demonstrated by the high failure rate. Since the 1940's there have been hundreds of ski areas started in New Hampshire of which only a handful survived to the present day.

More details on lost ski areas can be found at <http://www.nelsap.org/>



Prehistory: Rock paintings and skis preserved in bogs show that hunters and trappers used skis at least 5000 years ago.



Painting: Håkon Håkonsson, the two-year-old future king of Norway, being taken from Lillehammer to Østerdalen in 1206. Ultimate safety for the prince lay further on, in Nidaros (now Trondheim). The intrepid Birkebeiner skiers are Torstein Skevla and Skjervald Skrukka. Painted in 1869 by Knud Larsen Bergslien (1827-1908).



Cemetery Work in Bartlett - Jess Davis -

If you would like to volunteer to help with any aspect of this cause, have questions about cemetery restoration or have rare information on small graveyards in the Bartlett area, please contact me at jessdavis314@yahoo.com.

Skiing on Bear Mountain;

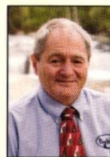
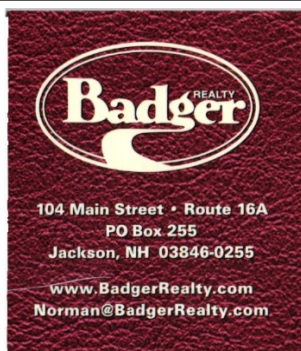


Long before Attitash, there were very popular ski runs on Bear Mountain. This 1941 photo looks north towards Mt Washington and Bartlett Village. These trails were used extensively for Nationally sponsored ski racing events such as the U.S. Eastern Amateur Ski Association time trials of 1941. These trails were popular with advanced skiers of the day and was rated as one of the top four most difficult trails in this part of New Hampshire. These trails were never serviced by mechanical lifts. These rugged skiers hiked up the mountain as no ski lifts/tows were ever installed for these trails. Skiers may have gained some access by the newly built Bear Notch Road but I can find no supporting evidence for that theory.



Thank you Kate & **True North Vet** for helping make this Newsletter possible.

(True North Vet is a stones throw west of Bear Peak.)



Norman J. Head
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The Ski Areas of Bartlett

Stanton Slopes



One of the areas profiled in the book, “Lost Ski Areas of the White Mountains,” is the old **Mount Stanton Ski Slope** that ran in the 1930s and into the 1940s in Bartlett, on the north side of the Saco River, at what is now the Stillings Grant subdivision. Part of its claim to fame is that a young skier named **Pete Seibert** (1924-2002), a Massa-

chusetts native who went on to develop the **Vail ski resort** in Colorado, skied there as a kid growing up in Bartlett. Seibert was born on Aug. 7, 1924, in **Sharon, Mass.** He spent much of his youth in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, where he practiced with Austrian instructors who had left Europe as war seemed imminent. By 15, he was winning races. According to **Jeff Leich** of the New England Ski Museum, Seibert's father arrived in town in the 1930s to serve as a civil engineer with the **Civilian Conservation Corps** as they performed forestry projects in the **Bear Mountain** area, and the family rented the **Stanton farm**.



Here are some photos we found showing Sanford and Gertie Trecarten and folks clamoring up the ski slope. The date is during March of 1940.

More Details and larger, more detailed pictures at www.bartlettHistory.Org.

Search for “Stanton Slopes”

Sanford W. Trecarten

Birth: Jun. 16, 1912

Bartlett

Carroll County

New Hampshire, USA

Death: Nov., 1979

Bartlett

Carroll County

New Hampshire, USA

Son of Warren and Velma (Thompson) Trecarten

Family links:

Spouse:

Gertrude V Stanton Trecarten (1901 - 1974)



Seldon Hannah

(1913-1991) was born in Berlin, N.H. and established a legacy in seeking out desirable ski area locations and was involved with the development of more than 250 ski

areas and countless explorations of potential sites. He was a nationally renowned skier and instructor as well. In 1958 he founded the firm Sno-engineering and in 1969 he became an independent consultant. Seldon did everything from the design to the actual construction of the trails. Some of his more notable projects were Cannon Mountain, Loon, Mittersill, Wildcat and Waterville Valley in New Hampshire; Burke and Stratton in Vermont; Sugarloaf and Sunday River in Maine; Winter Park and Vail in Colorado.

During the 1930's and 1940's it seems everyone who had access to a hill on their property had the vision of making it into a ski area. There were dozens of ski areas in the Mt Washington Valley area and many Inns developed their own ski slopes as well. At one time there were at least nine ski areas in Jackson alone.

As time went by folks began to envision larger endeavors and during the 1960's the U.S. Forestry Service investigated many sites in the White Mountains and employed the services of Seldon Hannah to determine which areas had the makings for a good ski area. To name just a few in and near Bartlett were The Sawyer River Skiway (at Livermore) and Mt Willard Ski Area. He identified Bear Mountain (on the Bear Notch Road) as having the perfect vertical drop and elevations for a large ski resort.

Major obstacles to successful ski resorts were the same now as they were then; snowless winters and a lack of capital funding.



Thank-You to **Jono Mulkern** at **HEAVENS SKI SHOP** in Glen for helping make this newsletter possible.

Big Bear Ski Area:



January 1963: The Bartlett Recreation Development Corporation gets SEC approval to sell 75000 shares at \$4.00 each. The developers planned to be open for the 1964 season.

This 1966 photo shows slope clearing at Big Bear. Trails at Attitash in distance.



At the time, the concept of selling vacation house lots adjacent to ski areas was a new idea. Pinkham Realty was named the selling agent for 45 lots on 32 acres in what would be known as Alpine Village. The lots sold for \$1000 to \$2000 each and 17 were sold immediately.

To summarize the relationship between Big Bear and Attitash, in the early 1960s, two major ski area proposals surfaced for the Rogers Crossing area just east of downtown Bartlett. [Big Bear](#) was proposed for a peak known as Rogers Mountain, while a separate ski area was proposed for Little Attitash Mountain. The privately property based Big Bear reportedly faced issues acquiring funds, whilst Attitash reportedly faced issues in obtaining agreements to use National Forest land on its upper elevations. Earle Chandler led development of Big Bear, while Phil Robertson (formerly of [Cranmore](#)) managed Attitash.

While trails for both areas were cut, Big Bear never saw the light of day. Some associated with the stalled Big Bear development reportedly moved over to Attitash. Work on the area continued into the winter of 1964-65, including the installation of new chairlift towers after Christmas.

It would take another 25 years and different ownership for the Big Bear idea to become reality in the form of Bear Peak, constructed under the direction of Les Otten's LBO Enterprises.



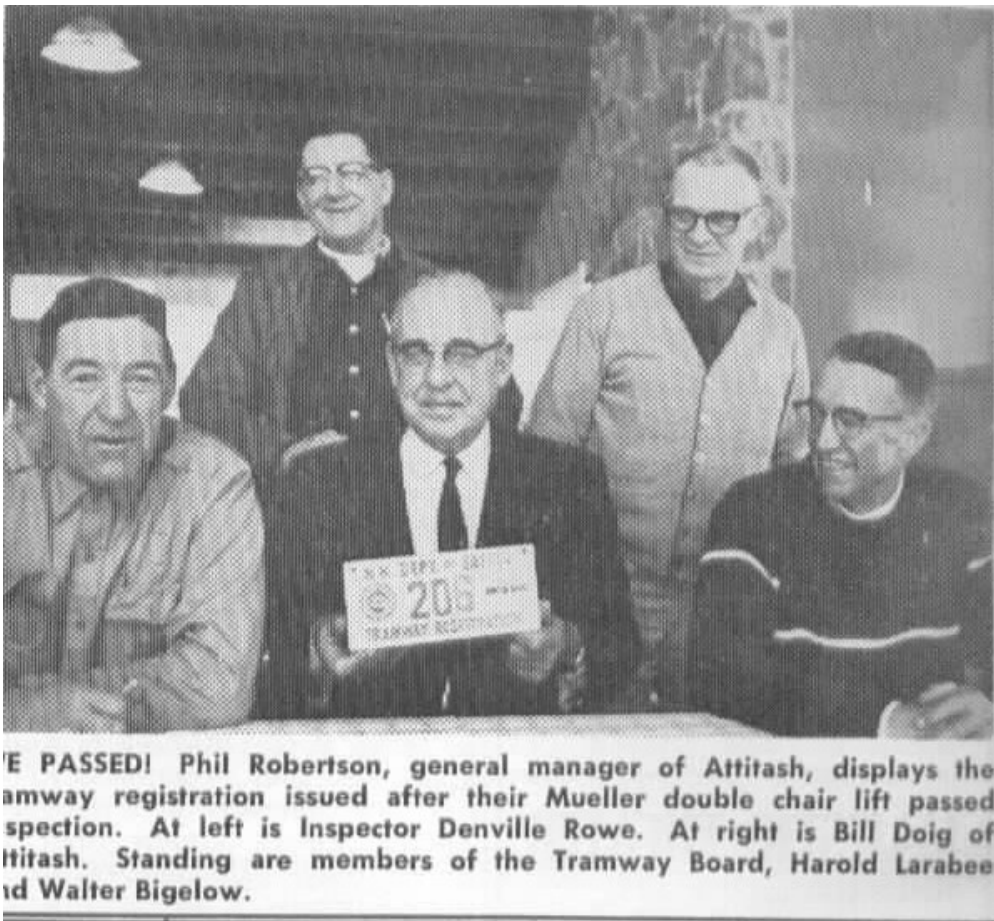
By the fall of 1966 Big Bear Ski Area looked like this. Where the excavated material was taken is not known by this editor. Doug Eliason is barely visible at right.



Mt. Attitash Lift Corporation:

January 26, 1965 marks the first ever opening of Attitash. It has a 3600 foot double chairlift, 4 trails and 2 slopes. The skiing will be free on this day. In the future there will only be a limited number of tickets sold to eliminate lift waiting lines. The ski shop is operated by Carroll Reed and the restaurant is operated by Ruth Leslie of Mt Cranmore fame.

As a side note, the new ski area, TYROL, in Jackson opened for the first time three days earlier.



Phil Robertson (center) was instrumental in establishing the American Standard Safety Code for Aerial Tramways. Here he accepts the registration certificate for the new lift at Attitash.

Side Note: Phil never came to work without a suit and tie.

Mt. Attitash Lift Corporation:

Attitash opened in January 1965, calling itself "the red carpet ski area" for its customer service focused on limiting lift lines by limiting ticket sales. But quietly dropped by the end of the decade.

Phil Robertson, perhaps recalling the success Cranmore had in developing an entirely new form of ski lift with its Skimobile, became an advocate for a cog monorail ski lift at Attitash. In early 1967, a full-size model was installed at the base, and the line of the track was eventually cut to the summit. "Reality set in" when construction planning started, recalled Thad Thorne, and the uncertain prospects of obtaining financing and Forest Service permission for the expensive, unproven experiment caused its quiet abandonment.

Growth at Attitash continued with the summer Alpine Slide in the mid-1970s, the installation of snowmaking after several snowless winters in the early 1980s.

In 1994 Attitash was acquired by LBO Resort Enterprises, headed by Les Otten. During his time at Attitash he accomplished the expansion to Bear Peak in the foot print of the 1963 Big Bear Ski Area. A hotel was also added at the site during that time.

Eventually Great American Skiing Company was dissolved and the ownership of Attitash passed to Peak Resorts, which also owns Wildcat, Crotched Mountain and Mt Snow in Vermont as well as numerous other resorts in the Mid-west.



It's January 4th, 1965 and with opening day less than 3 weeks away, a helicopter is called in to set the final lift towers. It seemed like a really big deal to those of us around at the time.



Lewis Mead was the Buildings Manager

Mt. Attitash Lift Corporation:



Thad Thorne was here from the start as the Mountain Manager and later the General Manager of Attitash until it was sold to LBO Enterprises in 1994.

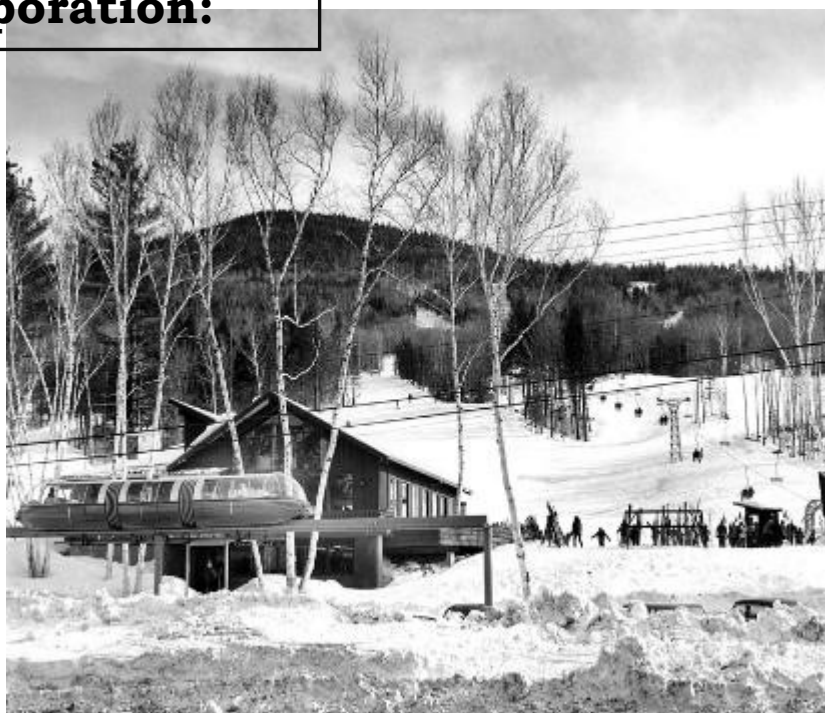


ANN AND STEVE SHERLOCK

Husband and Wife Team at Attitash

Earlier in the season. The Simal needs no assistance in most

Ann & Steve Sherlock ran the Ski School at Attitash beginning in 1966. Other members of the Ski School are Bill Terry, Bill Barnes and Tom Mahoney.



An idea of General Manager Phil Robertson in 1966 was a monorail lift system. This is about as far as it went and the idea died quietly when it became apparent there was quite a leap between the idea and the reality.



*2016 marked sky valley's 70th
year of family operation*

*Thank you to all those who helped it
happen...you know who you are.*

*Thank you Sky Valley Motel for helping to publish this
issue of the Historical Herald.*

Mt. Attitash Lift Corporation:



Mike and Sandy Bannon ran the ski school for many years.



Richard Jones operated the Red Carpet Ski Shop from 1970 until 1994.



Fran Doane was in charge of the food service department.



George Seaman (*left*), a stockholder and Director, skied every day and Steve Nealley was the maintenance man.



Manager, Thad Thorne did everything from selling tickets to operating grooming equipment.



Intervale Ski Area



In the mid 1930's Bartlett was home to a ski area that was part of a multi-resort empire called Ski Tows Inc. assembled by brewing heir Fred A. Pabst, Jr. Finding skiing more congenial than taking a position in the family business, Pabst embarked on building ski areas around the northeastern US and nearby Canada in the mid-1930s. One of his early locations was Intervale Ski Area in Bartlett, just behind the New England Inn and near the base of the Maple

Villa Trail. As he did at many of his other areas, Pabst installed an early J-Bar lift, which was the state of the art in ski lifts at the time. In 1939-40 the Eastern Slope Ski Club obtained help for Intervale by the Works Progress Administration, which did slope and trail work and built a footbridge over the East Branch to allow for parking on Town Hall Road. That was the peak year of Pabst's "chain store" of ski resorts, and Intervale contributed 10% of his total receipts of \$33,664. In the next few years, it became evident that the war and the far-flung nature of Pabst's empire were both hurting his business, and he began to retrench, ultimately moving many of his J-Bars to Bromley, Vermont, where he could concentrate on a larger, consolidated operation.

In 1947 The Stimpson family purchased and operated Intervale Ski Area. The area featured a Poma lift installed in 1956, a 40 meter ski jump used by school teams, and a Tucker Sno-Kitten for grooming. "There is just about the right amount of ski terrain for the capacity of the lift," wrote Sel Hannah after looking over the area for a potential buyer in 1961. "The surrounding terrain lends itself to expansion. The area can double." Hannah estimated it would cost about \$175,000 to put in a double chair and expand the area to match it. The New Jersey resident did not pursue the area, and by the early 1970s Intervale was leased to Eastern Mountain Sports, the outdoor retailer, which operated it as a nordic center for several years.

Text credit: <http://newenglandskimuseum.org/the-ski-history-of-bartlett-new-hampshire/>



Drawings By:
Greta George
Bartlett, NH
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We thank Greta and all our advertisers for their support. This Newsletter would not be possible without their help.

Greta's phone # 603 738 4958

Intervale Ski Area

Richard Stimpson



Priscilla Stimpson



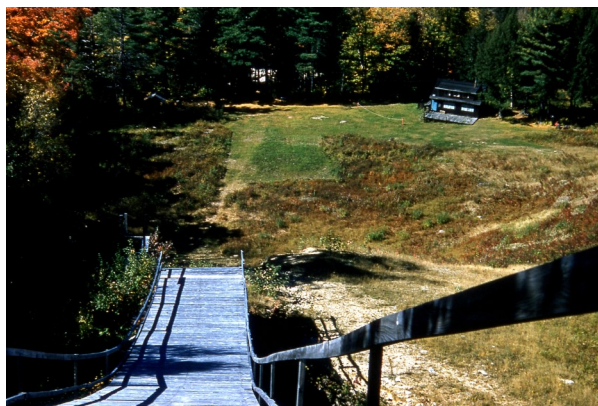
Priscilla Stimpson and Dave Eliason serving up the burgers and dogs, about 1966.



Ski Jump at Intervale was 40 meters tall.

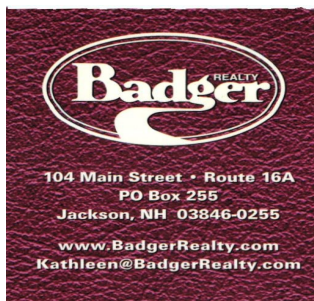


View from the top; and warming hut



All parking was accessed by the "swinging bridge" to the lot on Town Hall Road.

Thank you to Kathleen for helping to make this newsletter possible.



Kathleen Sullivan Head

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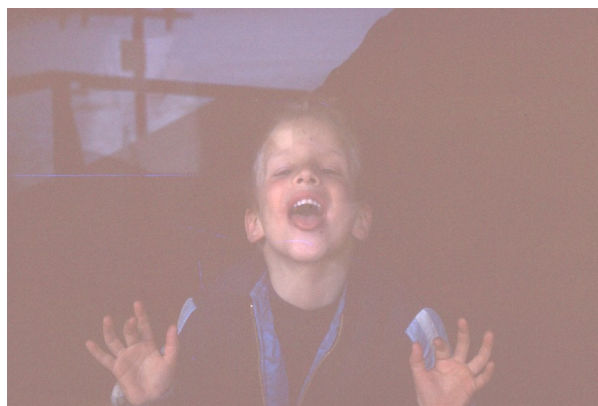
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Intervale Ski Area



The Stimpson's lived in the upstairs of the warming hut for a time, they also had a house on Rte 16A in Intervale. Their children, Lisa and Richard Jr., were frequently seen in this truly "family-operated" establishment. I recall Ephraim Drew ran the lift and Roland Hall was manager of the top-house shack. Francis Savard was the cook at the warming hut most of the time. These photo's were taken in 1966.



The Stimpsons' divided their time between the ski business in the winter and the tennis business in the summer. After the snow melts they head for Hyannisport where Dick owns a tennis court construction business and also teaches the game to aspiring athletes.

Recollections of the Intervale Ski Area

An Interview with Rich and Pam Stimpson

by Phil Franklin

Rich Stimpson and his wife, Pam, have made their home in what was the warming hut of the Intervale Ski Area. Rich, the son of the owners of the ski area, Richard "Dick" and Priscilla Stimpson, said that his memories of the ski business are few but from our conversation, he and Pam added many details about the family business that are not captured in other articles. As we sat and talked, the Stimpson's looked through many pictures showing a very busy slope with people skiing and enjoying the company of friends. Today, the slope that once provided winter entertainment and sport is now overgrown with young trees, the ski jump is gone and the warming hut has been expanded by adding rooms for the Stimpson family's home.

While the ski area is no more, the memories of the slopes and ski business are still fresh. It was evident from our conversation that Dick and Priscilla were the heart and soul of this slope. Rich described his father as a very generous and innovative person. For example, Dick always let Bartlett kids ski for free (regular ticket price for a weekday was \$1.00 and a weekend ticket price for a day was \$3.00). He, along with Priscilla, also extended their generosity to the people in the town by helping anyone who needed a hand. Running a small ski operation, he needed to be very conscious of costs so before he bought a snow-cat for trail grooming, Dick fashioned his own human powered grooming device made from a set of wheels and skis extended across an axle. This groomer would be pulled up the mountain by Dick and then he would ski down the mountain with the groomer in tow. While it was a labor intensive task, it worked. While Dick ran the ski operation, Priscilla ran the warming hut serving soup and burgers.

Pam commented that Priscilla always said how cold it was being in that hut, even though, ironically, it was a "warming hut." Dick and Priscilla did what needed to be done to run the ski area.

As noted in other articles, Dick purchased the ski area from Fred Pabst in 1947. This purchase came about after a conversation between Dick and Fred at a ski convention in Hanover, NH. The Stimpson's ran the Intervale Ski Area from 1947 to 1968 when they decided it was time to focus on Dick's other occupation of being a tennis instructor at the Hyannis (MA) Tennis Club. After they exited the business, they leased the operation to Danny Grant who ran the area from 1969 to about 1976. EMS started a cross-country ski trail system for a short period but that also came to an end. After the last cutting of trees to maintain the slopes in 1976, nature took over and the trees regrew to where they are today. A point of interest is that in 1955, the Schussverein Ski Club, an elite ski club from Boston, MA, made a bid to purchase the Intervale Ski Area but the Stimpson's were not interested in selling so the deal never came to be. Also, the Intervale Ski Area could not be expanded up the mountain because the property above the top of Intervale was owned by the owners of the Cranmore Ski area.

Pam and Rich told of many other interesting details such as the fact that the Stimpson's had a lease with Dartmouth College and Kennett High School for use of the facilities for ski team practices and competitions. This included ski racing and ski jumping. They also told of the Boston and Maine Railroad Ski Train that used to bring weekenders up from the south on Friday afternoon and back on Sunday home on afternoon.

Continued on next page...

Intervale Ski Area

Interview continued from previous page

It is also interesting to note that the Intervale Ski Area never had any snow making equipment but they were never without snow for operations. Winters of several decades ago were indeed much snowier as we could see in the pictures from the piles of natural snow atop the warming hut.

While the Intervale Ski Area is now but a memory, it still lives on with the memories told to this writer as well as with many people in Bartlett who remember the ski area, dared to fly off the ski jump (the Kennett High School ski jump distance record holder still lives in Bartlett), and others who were more casual about their ski adventures. On behalf of the Bartlett Historical Society, we extend our thanks to the Stimpsons for their time and for sharing their family memories.

**I might have another
advertiser for this spot**

OBITUARIES

RICHARD MARSTON STIMPSON, 87, owner and operator for many years of the Intervale Ski Area and former tennis pro at the Hyannisport Club, died on Tuesday, March 23, 1999. He was born in 1912 in Brockton, Mass. the second of three children born to Alvah Stimpson of Belfast, Maine and Mary Fox of Galway, Ireland. In 1936 he graduated from Northeastern University with a degree in Business Administration.

PRISCILLA STIMPSON: It is with great sadness that the death of Priscilla Stimpson on Dec. 11, 2005, in Intervale, is announced. The cancer she had successfully fought off ten years before, returned and got the better of her. Born on May 11, 1929, in Worcester, Mass., to parents Haskell and Marguerita Williams, the family later moved to Cape Cod, where Priscilla discovered her love of sailing and the ocean.

She graduated from high school and attended her beloved KATIE GIBBS SCHOOL IN BOSTON, where she managed to paint the town red as well as acquire her valuable skills as a secretary. Various jobs ensued, and in 1954 she met and married the very charming and handsome Dick STIMPSON, and together they ran the INTERVALE SKI AREA.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

We always welcome and appreciate cash donations from our members and friends including:

G, **WAITING FOR NAMES IF ANY ???**

S

B

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

Intervale Ski Area



During the 1960's, the 40 meter ski jump was home to many State sanctioned competitions. In the photo below Norman Head is a score-keeper, sporting his Wildcat Parka (all the "cool guys" had Wildcat Parkas, and they were not easy to get.)



NORMAN: who are the other 2 guys????

Up until the mid 1960's the "men's" and "ladies" facilities consisted of this outhouse. My recollection is that each side had a "two-holer" and one did their business as quickly as possible as it was un-heated.



References and Further Reading:

<http://newenglandskimuseum.org/>

<http://www.bartletthistory.org/bartletthistory/>

upperbartlettvilleStantonSlopes.html

<http://www.nelsap.org/nh/stanton.html>

<https://www.skiinghistory.org/history/timeline>

<https://www.skiinghistory.org/>

<http://www.newenglandskihistory.com/NewHampshire/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sel_Hannah

Please remember that much of the information contained in this newsletter is also available at our web site. You will find much larger versions of many of the photographs and more details. Use the index or the google search box to find what you seek.

[Www.BartlettHistory.org](http://www.bartletthistory.org)





The Historical Herald

You can find all these stories and hundreds of other topics at our web-site:

BartlettHistory.Org Take a look sometime.

Do YOU have an interesting story or picture to share?

We would like to include it in the next issue of The Historical Herald.

Speak with any of the Directors shown on the 3rd page of this newsletter to share your story or pictures. **You may be surprised how many people will enjoy hearing from you.**

From one old-timer to all the other old-timers and young-timers alike.

*Gene
Chandler*

The Bartlett Historical Society thanks Gene for his support in publishing this newsletter.

Time Passes: January—36 Years Ago



It was a sad day during the winter of 1980 when the Harry Rogers homestead and barns, at the aptly named Rogers Crossing, burned to the ground. The fire was sparked in one of the barns by an electrical malfunction. Livestock and chickens perished in the fire but there was no loss of human life. All that remains today is the barn in the foreground.

The Bartlett Historic Society Board of Directors hopes you have enjoyed this issue of The Historical Herald.

Norman Head, President — Bert George, Vice President
Hannelore Chandler, Treas — Kathleen Howard, Curator
Phil Franklin, Secretary