



The Ancient Skier

P. O. Box 15712 • Seattle, WA 98115

Spring 2012

FAREWELL TO IRV PRATT, FOUNDER OF ANCIENT SKIERS

Irving H. Pratt, born July 10, 1918 in Seattle, died April 17th, age 93. At Franklin High School, he excelled in football and track. He began skiing before WW II, jumping at Snoqualmie, racing in the Silver Ski races at Paradise and helping found and build the Penguin Ski Lodge at Stevens Pass.

Irv served in the Navy in WW II throughout the Pacific. He graduated from the University of Washington where he met Arleen. They married in 1949. Living on Mercer Island, they raised their family, and were active in horseback riding, boating, swimming and skiing. They were charter members of the MI Presbyterian Church.

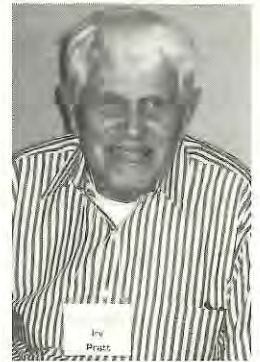
He loved hiking in the NW and frequently led hikes with neighbors and church groups. He had a special fondness for the Olympic Mountains.

In 1982, Tom Hill, an old ski buddy from the late '30s, talked with Irv about the possibility of forming an organization of older skiers to preserve early ski history. By word-of-mouth, Irv arranged a dinner at the Sand Point Officers Club with over 100 attending. The outcome was the Ancient Skiers Association. As many of the group had skied or worked at Sun Valley previously, he arranged to have an annual reunion there, the first being in 1983 with about 30 present. Every year Irv's legacy grew to a membership now of approximately 1,000 with 250 to 300 attending Sun Valley reunions.

In the interest of preserving skiing history, Irv also founded the Northwest Ski Museum and Hall of Fame. So far, it has been a valiant struggle to create a museum, but the Hall of Fame has been inducting members since 1987.

Irv was completely dedicated to the Ancient Skiers and, with the help of Jim Whitman, his old Penguin buddy and best man at his wedding, carried on the affairs of the group until it became too large for him to handle alone. The Association is forever indebted to his devotion.

His wife of 60 years, Arleen, preceded him in death. He is survived by his children, Gail Pratt-Shea; Carol, Gary, Mary Lynn, and Richard Pratt; and nine grandchildren. A memorial service will be at 2:00 p.m., June 17th (a change from the Seattle Times notice) at the Mercer Island Presbyterian Church.



Published in The Seattle Times on May 5, 2012

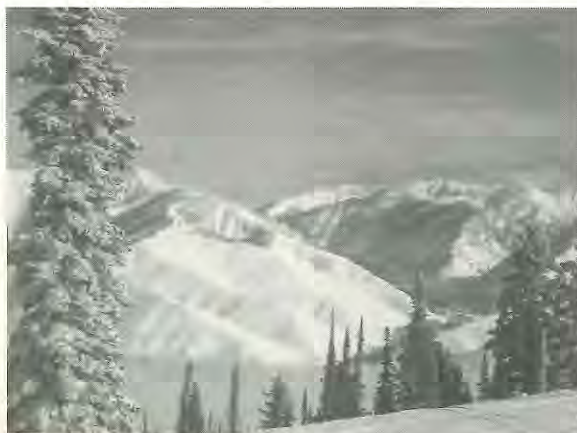
~ edited by John Hansen

29th SUN VALLEY REUNION WEEK

The week of January 14 to 21, 2012 was another success, complete with Sun Valley magical weather, including a great dump of snow midweek. The highlights were many and big smiles meeting old friends began with the Saturday Registration party hosted by Bob and Lynn Nicholson. Mixing and meeting seemed to be a hit with everyone. It is good to see old friends and welcome new members.

Sunday afternoon was the prime time party hosted by the Sun Valley Company which is always a hit.

Monday was the Western Theme dinner hosted by Ross and Glenda McLaughlin and those two know how to throw a party. Len Gerber entertained us with a Cowboy Poem entitled Reincarnation. We loved it!!! The music and the food, BBQ ribs and BBQ chicken, were terrific.



Tuesday, we went to the Heritage Museum and enjoyed margaritas and the many new exhibits. The Museum party was hosted by Lynn Nicholson, Nick Parish, and Skip Kershaw.

Wednesday was Nordic Day at the Valley Club. Skiers were on their own and then met for lunch in the Valley Club dining room. Thank you Pat Berg for organizing the day.

Thursday was Nastar hosted by Marlys Gerber. The race was cancelled due to TOO MUCH SNOW. So the prize went to Allan Beall, who spent two days getting to Sun Valley from his home in Kauai. Good job Allan. See you at the race in 2013.

Thursday afternoon we went to the Opera House for a ski movie, "The Best of John Jay," and for beer and popcorn.

~ continued on page 5

ANCIENT SKIERS GO MODERN

Several years ago at a Summer Board of Directors meeting, VP Len Gerber suggested investigating sending our quarterly Newsletters by e-mail. Moving at glacial speed, this Newsletter will be the first mailing by e-mail to about 20 percent of our membership.

As we have members who do not have e-mail, the Newsletter will continue to be sent to them by U.S. mail. If you received this Newsletter by U.S. mail and would prefer receiving it by e-mail, contact Carole Taylor, Roster Committee Chair, at tayloraskiers@comcast.net and request that your name be added to the e-mail list.

BECOME A LIFETIME MEMBER

The Ketchum/Sun Valley Historical Society invites you to become a lifetime member. Lifetime membership has many benefits including free admission to our Ski and Heritage Museum. This lifetime membership is being offered until late summer when the museum will begin charging admission to help defray the operational costs.

Individual lifetime memberships will be \$200 and family memberships will be \$300. Your membership will include free admission to all museum displays and exhibitions, 10 percent gift store discounts, events and membership parties as well as discounts to rent the museum for private parties.

A lifetime membership would make a great gift for grandchildren, graduation, anniversary or wedding gifts. It also ensures that our group will help continue to preserve the rich heritage of the Wood River Valley and keep Sun Valley's legacy first and foremost in the ski world of the United States.

The details of the lifetime membership can be viewed at the museum's new website: <http://ksvhs.com> under "Lifetime Membership." Or come by the museum. It is open from 12 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and Saturday afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m. Please call Megan at 208-726-8118 for more information.

NOMINATIONS TO THE NORTHWEST SKI HALL OF FAME

At our Biennial Banquet October 7, 2012, members of the Northwest ski community will be inducted into the Northwest Ski Hall of Fame. The inductees will be selected from nominations submitted to David Gossard, President of the Northwest Ski Museum and Hall of Fame at 1410 East Pine St., Seattle, WA 98122, 206-324-5081. Or send your nomination by e-mail to carolyn@gossard.comcast.net. Nominees may be from the skiing community at large and are not limited to members of the Ancient Skiers organization. Nominations should be submitted with statements from others supporting the nomination.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BUSINESS CARD

Our Membership Chair, Mary Lynne Evans, has created a business card which may be given to folks who are interested in our Ancient Skiers.



The card explains how to get an application for membership. Call Mary Lynne 206-769-8419 to order.

SAVE THE DATE FOR HALL OF FAME BIENNIAL BANQUET

Our Biennial Banquet for induction of members from the Northwest ski community to the Northwest Ski Hall of Fame will be held **Sunday, October 7, 2012** at the Nile Country Club. Details are still being finalized. The registration form for the banquet will be sent with the Summer Newsletter in mid-July.

DARING DEEDS RECOGNIZED

Chuck Welsh and Dick Byerley were presented with special Sun Valley Sun Awards at the 29th Sun Valley Reunion Week Friday night banquet.

In 1948, Chuck was in the first party to make a ski descent of Mt. Rainier (see article in the 2011 Winter Newsletter). Dick is known in the Guinness' Book of World Records as the "oldest man to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro" at the age of 84.

These were certainly major accomplishments deserving of special recognition.

STEVENS PASS 1948 AVALANCHE STORY FOLLOW-UP

Several years ago, in an A.S. newsletter, John Hansen wrote about an avalanche that occurred in 1948, the Sunday before Christmas. It blocked the Stevens Pass Highway and tumbled a car with two young teenagers into the valley a couple of hundred feet below. Jim and Lou Whittaker and John rescued them (fortunately the boys only had minor injuries). Jim and Lou's car wasn't blocked by the avalanche and they were able to take the boys back to Seattle with them.

A side note: Jim and Lou were the stars of the Seattle University basketball team with strict orders from the coach not to go skiing, so when the morning P.I. headline read, "WHITTAKER TWINS RESCUE PAIR IN STEVENS PASS AVALANCHE," their basketball careers ended.

Another side note: Jim visited Sun Valley this winter, crossed paths with John and related this follow-up which occurred at a recent signing of Jim's book. A woman, with tears in her eyes, came up to Jim and exclaimed that she was so thankful to him for rescuing those boys in the 1948 avalanche. One of them had become her husband!

JANNETTE BURR JOHNSON, WARREN MILLER INDUCTED INTO SUN VALLEY SKI HALL OF FAME

On February 1, 2012, eleven persons active in the Sun Valley area were inducted into the Sun Valley Ski Hall of Fame. Among them were two of our Ancient Skiers who join the following inductees: Jenny Busdon, Dick Durrance, Charlie French, Hans Muehlegger, Pete Patterson, Ntala Skinner Quintilio, Michel Rudigoz and Bill and Anne Vanderbilt.

Jannette Burr Johnson was born in Seattle in 1927. She grew up skiing during the mid-'40s on the Mountaineer's Meany Ski Lodge rope tow hill with a steepness of 35 degrees at the top. She out-skied all the guys on that hill including Bob Cram, Ross McLaughlin, Chuck Welsh and John Hansen.

She was highly competitive and a fearless racer during the immediate post-World War II period. Burr was also a champion water skier, competing in that sport into the 1950s. Her father, Wally Burr, credited as the grandfather of water ski makers, built her water skis in the basement of their Seattle home.

As an alpine ski racer, Jannette won the North American downhill in Banff, Canada in 1950 and the national downhill title that same year. In 1950 and 1954, Jannette participated in FIS competition in Sweden and was a member of the U.S. Olympic team in 1952 in Oslo, Norway. In 1954, she was America's only medal winner with a bronze in the giant slalom at the FIS championships. Throughout the 1950s, she was a regular competitor on the national and international ski circuits.

In Sun Valley, Jannette received the Diamond Harriman Pin for winning five Diamond Sun races. She was a Sun Valley ski instructor for 36 years and once skied as double for Lucille Ball in the film "Lucy Goes to Sun Valley."

Jannette is also a member of the National Ski Hall of Fame, the National Water Ski Hall of Fame and the Northwest Ski Hall of Fame.

Jannette spends her time between Sun Valley and Seattle.

Warren Miller is an American ski and action film maker. He founded Warren Miller Films and produced, directed and narrated his films until 1988. His credits include over 500 sports films, several books and hundreds of published non-fiction stories. His annual films are renowned for their stunning photography, witty narrative humor and the impressive athletes. He has received wide acclaim for his promotion of modern skiing through his films spanning over 60 years and is an iconic figure in action sports filmmaking.

Born in Hollywood, Calif., in 1924, Warren quickly took up the hobbies of skiing, surfing and photography. Upon his discharge from the Navy in 1946, he bought his first 8 mm movie camera. He and a friend moved to Sun Valley where they camped in the parking lot of the Sun Valley resort and lived out of a teardrop trailer. They earned a living as ski instructors.

Warren would often show his skiing and surfing films to friends, making jokes about their exploits throughout the showing of the film. When he began to receive invitations to show and narrate his films at parties, it occurred to him that he could turn this hobby into a business.

In 1949, Miller founded Warren Miller Films and began a long-standing tradition of producing one film per year. Soon he was showing the films in 130 cities each year.

He remains an active writer, artist, philanthropist and luminary in the sports industry.

Warren spends his time between the Yellowstone Club in Wyoming and his home in Deer Harbor on Orcas Island, Wash., with his wife, Laurie.

Remembering Joy Lucas February 15, 1917 - November 25, 2011

Lucky Joy Lucas was a pioneer in the ski industry. Yes, her real first name was Lucky but we were the lucky ones as she settled on ski teaching and gave her time to us. Joy was the first woman to become a Certified ski instructor in America. She was on the Board of Directors of the Pacific Northwest Ski Instructors Association (PNSIA) and was its Executive Director. She set up the first office in a bedroom apartment near Sea-Tac which was shared with the Pacific Northwest Ski Association (PNSA). Tina Rieman was the editor of the Newsletter and Joy helped her get it out by mimeograph.

Joy became the Ancient Skiers Newsletter editor when John Hansen called for help. She brought Tina in to take over when her health failed but continued as "editor emeritus". Joy loved to write and in 2006 produced the "Ancient Skiers of the Pacific Northwest," a history of the Ancient Skiers. We are all the beneficiaries of that great effort.

Joy kept the PNSIA-NW membership in order. She became known with affection as Mother Superior. She organized instructor Symposiums and placed instructors in similar ability-level groups to make learning more fun.



The instructors were a hard-playing group and she kept some of them out of jail, literally. I remember a "lost" bus at a Bogus Basin Symposium one year. If you don't know the story, talk to an old timer. It is written up in a PSIA-NW newsletter and is probably online.

Joy worked at the office year around. Summers were spent organizing for the coming year. Putting out dues billings, ski school insurance billings, and planning Fall seminars kept her busy. It took three years to break someone in to help out as each task usually happened only once a year.

One year, she fell skiing, broke her leg and was told she would never ski again. The doctors didn't know the strength of her will. The next winter she was back on the slopes! Not only did she teach, she and her husband Jim ran the Evergreen Ski School for 18 years. She knew the PSIA-NW organization from all sides, which made her so valuable.

"It Started in the Mountains," documenting the formation of the development of ski schools in the Northwest, was written by Joy. It was fun being on the committee with Joy,

~ continued on page 6



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1) An awesome reunion group of bionic skiers
2) Nelson Bennett, Madi Kraus, John Woodward
3) Linda & Don Orton 4) Len Gerber presenting special recognition plate to Marlys Gerber, Reuion Chair 5) Ross & Glenda McLaughlin
6) Peter & Sally Kennedy, George Kohn 7) ????
8) Carolyn Gossard, Bill & Jill Price, Dave Gossard
9) The Band
10) Chuck Welsh, Ingrid Whittaker, Nelson Bennett, George Kohn 11) John Hansen & Carole LaRoche



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ANCIENT SKIERS 2013 - 30TH ANNUAL SUN VALLEY REUNION - PLAN NOW FOR NEXT YEAR

Arrangements have been made for the 30th annual Sun Valley reunion January 19-26, 2013. Good news: the 5-out-of-6-day lift package on Baldy will be the same for all ages. There is no longer a higher rate for under 60!

Enclosed with this Newsletter is the Sun Valley Room Reservation form for booking rooms and lift packages. There is no longer a reservation code so be sure to make your reservation under the Ancient Skiers Association name. This will get us a booking commission which is used to reduce our expenses and keep our event fees as low as possible.

If you were here in January, 2012 and made reservations for 2013, please reconfirm your room reservation and inform the reservationist that you are a member of the Ancient Skiers Association and your room should be booked under our organization. Call Sun Valley at 1-800-786-8259.

The form for registering for the reunion events will be sent out with the October Newsletter. The deadline for sign up will be November 28, 2012. If you plan to be away from your home in November, arrange for someone to send in your registration form before the deadline. Changes in reunion registration will be permitted through the first week of January.

The program for the next reunion will be similar to the last and will be outlined in the registration form sent with the October Newsletter.

~ Marlys Gerber, Chairperson

29th S.V REUNION WEEK *from page 1*

The program was hosted by Patti and Dick Moulton. We thank them and we're looking forward to the program in 2013.

Friday was a dinner dance hosted by Peter and Anne Marie Wick. What a grand finale. The band was great and the food delicious, with two bottles of wine per table hosted by the Sun Valley Company. (Thank you Sun Valley!) The program was special, with Peter presenting Sun Valley Sun Awards to Chuck Welsh and Dick Byerley.

Lou Whittaker asked all the guests who had knee, hip, shoulder and/or any other body parts replaced to come up to the podium. Over 30 people went to the front and it was wonderful to see that Ancient Skiers will go through a lot to keep skiing through the years. What a group!!!! See you next January 19-26th

~ Marlys Gerber, Chairperson



From the Mountain Rides Bulletin January, 2012

“John Woodward (on left) after two runs on Baldy, top to bottom. John’s golden for sure and a real inspiration. At 97 years young I would bet that this is the oldest descent of Baldy in history.”

~ David Glasscock, Mountain Rides Bus Driver (shown pictured with John).

- 1) Peter & Anne Marie Wick present Golden Sun Awards to Chuck Welsh & Dick Byerley
- 2) Jeanine Louden & Marlys Gerber,
- 3) ????????
- 4) Chuck Welsh
- 5) Members of the Reunion Committee: The Wicks, Moultons, Bill Price, Pat Berg, Nick Parish, Skippy Kershaw, McLaughlins & Nicholsons



Reunion photos: George Kohn and Lee Rosenlund



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CHANGES AFTER WINTER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Lost Members (last two newsletters returned, no forwarding address) If you have information about any of these please email Carole Taylor at tayloraskiers@comcast.net: Furneaux, Jean A.W.; 6300 Flotilla Dr. #306; Homes Beach, Florida, 34217 - no such address, unable to forward? Had been ok since the last roster 12/2010.

CHANGES AFTER 2012 ROSTER

New Members

DeBruler, J. & Melinda; 10207 NE 23rd St., Bellevue, WA 98004; 425-462-8008; melandj@msn.com; j@accutintbellevue.com

Ewing, Mike & Barb; 3150 Graf St. #7, Bozeman, MT 59715; 406-587-2834; STLHEAD@BRESNAN.net

Finnila, Jim & Marilyn; 21648 NE 67th St.; Redmond, WA 98053; 425-868-8132; Jimmyfinn@comcast.net

Godfred, Bonnie; 2920 74th Ave SE, Mercer Is. WA 98040; 206-304-9403; bonniegodfred@gmail.com

Martin, Alexander (Sandy), 316-2020 Cedar Village, North Vancouver BC, Canada V7J3P5.

McEwan, Shelley; PO Box 131, Sun Valley, ID 83353; 916-803-6993; Shelley.mcewan@mac.com

Mertel, Chuck & Nancy; 814 Hillside Dr. E. Seattle, WA 98112; 206-328-5833; 206-724-2805

Molitor, Donald; 2012 NE Ravenna Blvd, Seattle, WA 98105; 206-522-3000; molitorUD@aol.com

Polwarth, John & Glenda; 5055 Ivanhoe Pl NE; Seattle, WA 98105; 206-526-7388; john.polwarth@gmail.com

Underwood, John & Mary Ann; PO Box 3601, Bellevue, WA 98009; 425-883-2662; cell: 206-910-2662;

johnw@junderwood.com

Underwood, John & Mary Ann; PO Box 1004, Sun Valley, ID 83353; 208-726-2662; maryann@junderwood.com

Warner, Earl; PO Box 348, Auburn, WA 98071; 360-789-3026; earlw46@hotmail.com

Worswick, Stan & Ann; 7820 Olympic View Dr; Gig Harbor, WA 98335; 253-851-3711; bigwickys2@yahoo.com

Roster Corrections and Additions

Hoffman, Carole to Carole La Roche; PO Box 575, Ketchum, ID 83340; 208-726-4200; CD007@comcast.net

Nyquist, Jody; new phone 206-714-3931

Strait, Gail B. & Joan; 38 Country Club Dr. SW, Lakewood, WA 98498; 253-984-0775; jrsgbsmd@comcast.net

Whitman, Jim & Huong; new phone: 206-434-8082

Whittaker, Lou & Ingrid; new email: Louingrid@centurytel.net

Passed Away (look for obits in future newsletters)

Bebe, Hans; December 31, 2011 Lyle, Ron; January 2, 2012

Blohm, Ralph; January 2012 Nussbaum, Jim; 2011

Gossard, Clint; April 11, 2012 Pratt, Irv; April 17, 2012

Stingl, Karl; January 20, 2012

Sweeney, Jim; February 2012

Woodward, Craig; 2012

Kruse, Bob; 2011

Withington, Bob; 2012

Simonson, Hank; 2011

Tupper, Jim; 2011

Margaret Graham; 2011

REMEMBERING JOY from page 3

Kay Haley and Willa O'Conner. The committee expanded as we went. Working at a picnic table, near the water on Camano Island, the book took shape. Many stories were told that wouldn't/couldn't make it into the book but we loved every one of them. If you haven't read PNSIA-NW history, you can pay tribute to Joy and purchase a book from the PNSIA-NW office to learn more about those early years of ski school history.

Joy was a hard worker all her life. Her father was a Forest Ranger and she grew up in the woods. She came to Seattle and attended Broadway High School, graduating in 1938. Joy modeled and drew illustrations of women's clothes for ads for the Bon Marche and worked in ski retail as well.

Joy had four children. One died at the age of two from TB. Michael, Katie and Dave, and their children, still carry on their mother's outdoor legacy. Dave is a PNSIA-NW Divisional Clinic leader, examiner and president.

Joy's love of art expressed itself again in later years. She drew hand-painted note cards adorned with colorful birds and flowers. Joy served other people and thoroughly enjoyed her friendships and associations

There will be a private family service at Chinook Pass to celebrate her life when the snow is gone.

~ Her friend, Kathy Hand

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Bylaws of our organization stipulate that the President will chair meetings of the Board, supervise the affairs of the organization, and perform other duties as required. "Other" of those duties might be that John should set a skiing example for the membership. So, for the 25th consecutive winter, John spent the winter at Sun Valley. He skied 100 days this year accumulating 1,167,000 feet of vertical. Maybe he was just trying to catch up with other Ancient Skiers like Bob and Margi Albrecht, also at Sun Valley, who skied many more days than John and had a lot more vertical under their skis. "It's a tough job but someone has to do it."

Ancient Skier Officers

John Hansen	President
Len Gerber	Vice President
Ed Taylor	Secretary
Frank Leibly	Treasurer
Mary Lynne Evans	Membership Chr.
Richard Merritt	B.O.D. Member

Newsletter Editor

Tina Rieman
tinarieman@tumwater.net

Membership Applications

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tayloraskiers@comcast.net