



The Ancient Skier

Fall 2017

BOB CRAM, RENOWNED SKI CARTOONIST, LEAVES AMAZING LEGACY

Inspirational ski cartoonist and speaker Bob Cram passed away peacefully in his sleep July 29th at Horizon House in Seattle.

Bob continues to be known for his artistic and humorous expressions in magazines, books, films and television. As ski writer Morten Lund noted in a story about cartoonists in a 2005 Skiing Heritage issue, Bob, as America's skiing's "court jester," had the most productive career of any American ski cartoonist.

Bob, a native of Seattle, began his skiing at age 11, when he became a Boy Scout so he could go skiing with the troop. On his first trip to Snoqualmie, he shared a pair of skis with a pal. From that day on, Bob was hooked and started washing cars and waxing floors for ski money.

On one of his early ski trips, Bob recalled he did not have enough money for lunch and a ski tow ticket, so he spent the day hiking up the slopes trying to learn to turn without falling. As Bob wrote in Ski magazine in 1966, his first ski outfit included all-wool pants, plus skis, poles, and bindings purchased at the University Cycle Shop for \$5.95. He attended Roosevelt High School during most of the war years, and, with other skiers, pooled gas ration coupons to be able to get to the slopes.

Drawing came early

In his early years, he also possessed an irresistible urge to draw, sketching action figures while in class. Stan Butchart, who later ran the rope tows at Swauk Ski Bowl on Blewett Pass, recalled Bob being in his mechanical drawing class at Roosevelt, where the teacher would often let Bob sketch cartoons as soon as he finished the more mundane engineering assignments.

On the heels of graduation in 1944, Bob found himself reporting to Fort Lewis, where he joined the 66th Infantry Division. Soon after being shipped across the Atlantic, he boarded a troopship, the S.S. Leopoldville, which carried more than 2,000 American soldiers and others deploying to fight in the Battle of the Bulge, and which was jolted by a strike from the German submarine U-486 in the English

Channel. Bob was able to escape quickly onto a destroyer escort lashed alongside, but more than 750 others were not so lucky and perished in the incident. Bob stayed with the 66th until near the end of the war in Europe.

Just in time for the winter of 1945-46, Bob was transferred to a military police unit in Salzburg, Austria, where he could ski at nearby Zell am See. He took Arlberg ski lessons from Hans Pichler, one of the instructors Hans Hauser had recruited at Sun Valley during its second year of operation (1937-38). Bob skied every afternoon, and, as his friends noted in his nomination to the Northwest Ski Hall of Fame, it was in Austria where Bob developed his graceful signature turns.

On return to Seattle in 1946, Bob made use of the G.I. Bill to further pursue his education at the newly opened Burnley School of Art and Design, with the goal of using his talent as an artist in the field of advertising. During his four years at the school, now known as the Art Institute of Seattle, he joined the Seattle Mountaineers and skied and raced weekends with friends at the Meany Ski Hut. There, in 1947, he met his future wife, Martha.

First cartoons appeared in 1949

In 1949, Bob published his first ski cartoons in an issue of the University of Washington Columns magazine and began teaching skiing at Snoqualmie Pass. Teaching was fun, and Bob took up instructing with Buzz Fiorini's ski school, which he did on his available weekends for eight years. In the winter of 1952, Bob spent several weeks working in San Francisco and used the opportunity to ski at Squaw Valley, where he met two men who were to be lifelong friends: Gordy Butterfield, who was on the ski patrol, and Warren Miller, who was living in a trailer and, go figure, was shooting a ski movie.

Later in 1952, he married Martha and started developing his art career in advertising working for the Martin and Tuttle Agency in Seattle. Here he produced illustrations for everything from Grandma's Cookies to Alaska



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BOB CRAM LEAVES AMAZING LEGACY *Continued from Page 1*

Steamship Company advertisements. Later, he landed more lucrative work for Frederick & Nelson department store, and, in 1957, he joined Miller, MacKay Advertising, where he worked on a cartoon series to be printed on Rainier Beer cans.

Bob's penchant for ski cartooning grew alongside his art career in advertising while, over the years, he and Martha were raising their young family of three children. Bob started with ski cartooning for the UW Daily and National Skiing magazine and, in 1958, produced his first book, "The Jolly Skiers," as a promotional give-away for a one-year subscription of Skiing magazine. He produced a regular cartoon series in Skiing with each devoted to a specific topic, such as the "Four Types of Ski Instructors," "Why Do You Ski," and "The Olympic Games and How to Go for Less." His cartoons were a regular feature in Skiing through 1962.

In 1963, KING-TV asked Bob to replace outgoing weatherman cartoonist Bob Hale. He gladly accepted and naturally excelled as the station's popular weatherman for eight years, making the ever-changing Seattle weather entertaining. Known as the cartooning weatherman, Bob's ability to warm the Seattle chills with nothing more than a smile, a flat marker pen, and the ability to draw noses on clouds provided enjoyment and useful information for tens of thousands of viewers. His cartoon characters included Milli Bar, Big Hi and Onshore Flo, a cast he would draw on large panels prior to airtime. Then, during the show, he would add the funny, finishing details.

Ski-Nanny became a TV favorite

Drawing on his immediate success as weatherman, Bob started a weekly television series, Ski-Nanny, where he produced and hosted half-hour KING-TV telecasts on Fridays during the winter. As Bob noted in his 2013 book, "That's Ski Life," over a nine-year period he and his crew produced nearly one hundred programs and were able to visit many of the major resorts in the West, even sending a film crew to Europe for a few shows. In producing Ski-Nanny, Bob was able to meet many of the skiing greats of the era and recalled playing tennis at the Seattle Tennis Club with Jean-Claude Killy after the filming of a show. As Bob notes in his 2013 book, one of the big thrills of this period was not having to pay for

a lift ticket!

As if producing regular ski films and serving as weatherman was not enough, in 1964 Bob began drawing multi-panel, single-subject cartoons for Ski magazine. In a notable January 1966 issue of Ski, he collaborated with Bob Bugg, ski cartoonist from New York. In the comical piece, he and Bugg traded short commentary with illustrations reminiscing around the amusement and differences they each found in their early skiing experiences.

During this period, Bob began illustrating books for others, and, in 1971, at the recommendation of his ski publisher friend Bill Tanler, a former Seattleite, he produced his own book. The result was "Here Come the Skiers," which features a collection of his cartoons from Ski and Skiing. In 1972, he illustrated local outdoor author Harvey Manning's "Backpacking; One Step at a Time," and, in 1983, he collaborated with Morten Lund on "The Real Skier's Dictionary."

Northwest skiers knew him

After a 25-year career in television, films, and cartoons Bob garnered some of the highest visibility of most anyone in the Northwest ski industry.

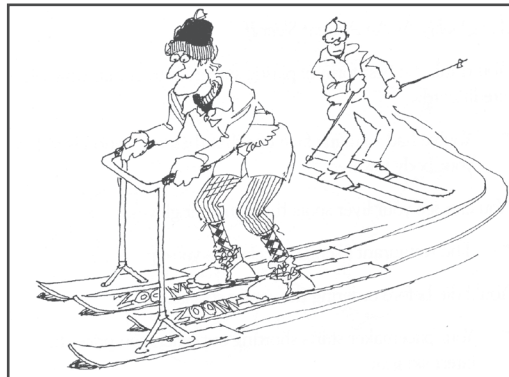
During and after that career, Bob and Martha enjoyed many ski trips, including helicopter skiing and leading ski tours to Sun Valley and Europe. Their favorite area was Sun Valley.

Bob is not only remembered as a master in cartooning and artistry, he is recalled by the Ancient Skiers and many others as a charismatic, fun-loving emcee for skier gatherings and other benefit events. He also was a charter member of the Seattle Graphic Artists Guild and was inducted into the Northwest Ski Hall of Fame in 2004.

In retirement, Bob and Martha moved into Horizon House in Seattle and Bob became the "artist in residence," helping illustrate resident newsletters and wall spaces. He continued skiing into his 80s and golfing well into his 90s.

Martha passed away in 2015, and she and Bob are survived by their three children, Robin, Sara and Doug, and five grandchildren, along with numerous friends and legions of fans.

~Kirby Gilbert.



FURTHER REMEMBERING

Delight Mahalko

Ancient Skier Delight Mahalko passed away June 23, 2017, in Seattle. She was born in Santa Barbara, Calif., in 1935, and her father, a carpenter, moved the family to Seattle when she was four years old. Delight learned to ski with the Seattle Times Ski School at Snoqualmie Pass. After graduating from Roosevelt High School, she joined the Mountaineers, skiing at Meany and Snoqualmie slopes using rope tows and tow grippers. She loved the outdoors, including mountaineering, and climbed Rainier, Baker, Adams, Olympus, and Glacier Peak. On the summit of Mt. St. Helens, she met her husband-to-be, Harvey Mahalko.

In 1955, Delight graduated from the Auerswald Business School and started working for Mel Borgersen, a ski area consultant, one of the founders of Crystal Mountain, and Crystal's first general manager. She worked for Mel until his retirement, finishing her career with the Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association and leaving her mark on more than 30 ski resorts across the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

Both Delight and Harvey were avid skiers and original stockholders in Crystal Mountain, Inc. In 1973, they joined the Enumclaw Ski Club and became active in the ski racing community at Crystal. Delight officiated many races around the region as chief of timing & calculations. In 1983, she was elected to the Crystal Mountain board of directors and served as treasurer for 14 years.

In their later years, Delight and Harvey traveled extensively around the world, including many ski trips to Europe and Canada. Delight is survived by her sister, Beverly; her husband, Harvey; and son David.

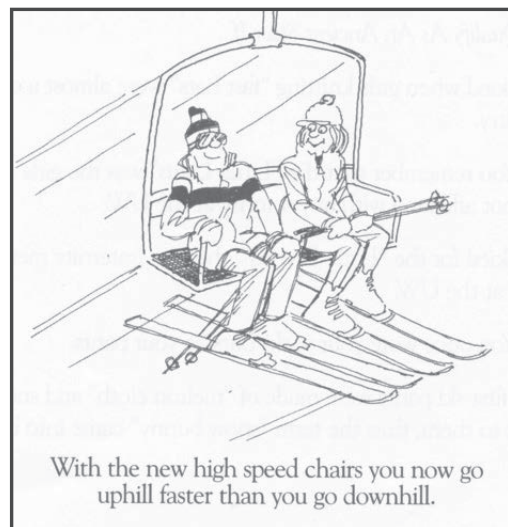
~ 35th ANNUAL SUN VALLEY REUNION SET FOR JAN. 20-27, 2018 ~

With fall well along, its time to think about skiing and making plans for attending the Ancient Skiers' 35th Reunion. Our Sun Valley week will start with registration from 3 to 6 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 20, in the Sun Valley Inn Continental Room.

You will get your packet with name tags, Reunion event schedule, and information about ticket exchange privileges. There also will be a no-host bar for all to enjoy while visiting with other Ancients, and sign-up sheets will be available for the week's various activities.

The committee is planning several events, including an outing to the Sun Valley Museum of History on Wednesday afternoon and a retro fashion show and contest on Tuesday afternoon in River Run Day Lodge. There will be fun prizes for the ancient men and women daring enough to model their coolest retro outfits, so get busy looking deep in your closet to be ready for this fun-filled new event. As usual, the week includes the fabulous Monday Western dinner and Friday closing banquet with entertainment.

With this newsletter are two forms: "REGISTRATION FORM" and "RE-



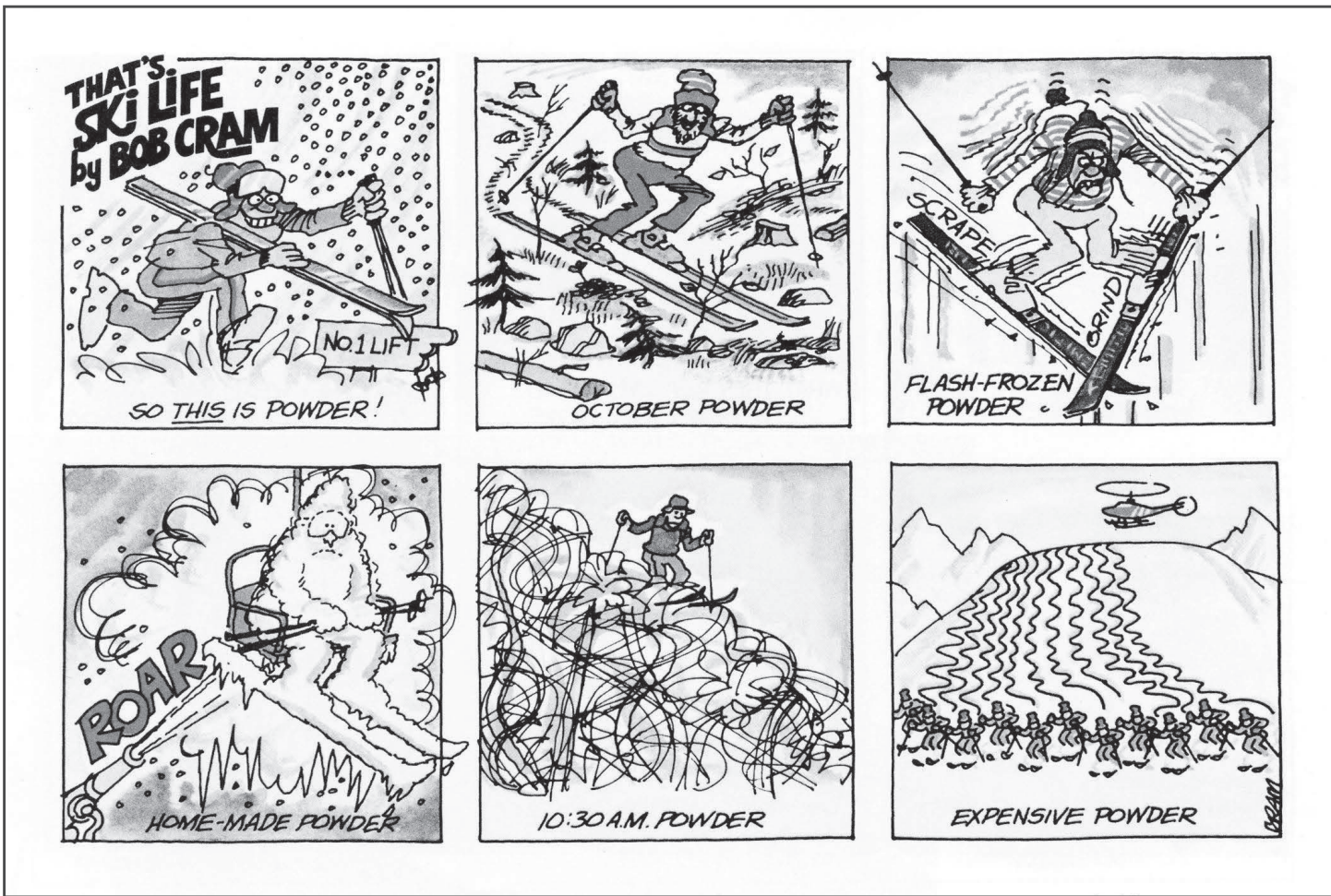
RETAIN THIS COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS." Fill out the registration form, total the event charges, and mail the completed form with your check made out to and mailed to ANCIENT SKIERS, P.O. Box 1295, Sun Valley, ID 83353, postmarked no later than Dec. 8, 2017. Please: no email responses. Copy the information from the Registration Form onto the Retain This Copy for Your Records form and bring it to the Saturday registration in case any discrepancies arise. You'll also find copies of the forms at the Ancients' new website: <http://www.ancientskiers.com/> (Click on "EVENTS" at the top of the screen and then select "Sun Valley trip.")

You will be able to purchase discounted lift tickets at the River Run Lodge inside ticket counter.

Questions?

Call Marlys Gerber at (206) 271-1575 or Robin Hagenau at (208) 720-7707





OF NOTE

The International Ski History Association is offering free trial memberships. Go to <http://www.skiinghistory.org> and click on Free Issue of Ski History.

The Washington State Ski and Snowboard Museum on Snoqualmie Pass celebrated its second anniversary on October 14th, 2017. The museum is typically open Noon-5 on Thursdays through Sunday. Please call 425-434-0827 for a recording that will have the open hours.

Ancient Skier John Lundin has a new book out titled "Early Skiing on Snoqualmie Pass."

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