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KUED The Alta Experience

Interview of:

DAVID QUINNEY

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1 PROCEEDINGS

2 Q. Are you -- are we ready?

3 A. That's definitely sour grapes talking.

4 I mean, crud's okay, but, I mean, really.

5 Q. Umm --

6 A. I was actually skiing up there last year,  
7 with a friend of mine. My barber, Carol.

8 And it had been about a -- you know, an 18-  
9 or 20-inch dump. And for some reason, they had Sug --  
10 Supreme closed. It was closed all morning.

11 And Carol left about noon. Had to come down  
12 and go to work. And we were just -- you know, she took  
13 off, and I just -- we were on the back side, so I  
14 cruised on over, just on the off-chance that they'd  
15 open it.

16 And as soon as I hit the bottom of the lift,  
17 they opened it.

18 And I caught maybe the third chair. And got  
19 to the top, and just right down the face. All by  
20 myself. Not a track anywhere. Blue sky, sunshine.  
21 Just like the good old days. I'm going, God. This is  
22 pretty cool. I remember this.

23 Q. When you think about that, what -- I mean,  
24 what is the -- what is the sensation of like -- get  
25 the -- what is the sensation of like getting that first



1 track? Getting that super freshy, where you can  
2 actually look back up the hill and see where you've  
3 been?

4 A. It's great. There's no -- I mean, there's  
5 nothing like it.

6 It -- it's so seldom now that you get those  
7 conditions, because; A, you've got to ski -- if you  
8 want to get any tracks at all, or decent snow, you've  
9 got to go in the middle of the blizzard. And probably  
10 ski in the trees.

11 And it's -- it's extremely rare anymore to  
12 be able to go out in the sunshine and cut tracks down a  
13 nice face, and be able to look back up and look at your  
14 tracks without somebody skiing across them by the time  
15 you hit the bottom.

16 Q. Yeah. When you think about that, try to  
17 contrast a little bit that -- try to contrast a little  
18 bit. You know, when --

19 When did you start skiing?

20 A. I started skiing when I was two years old.

21 Well, I can't really say I was skiing when I  
22 was two, but I was going up to Alta when I was two.

23 My parents would take me up. My  
24 grandparents would take me up. Let me play around down  
25 on the flats while they skied.



1                   So it's been -- I'm 56 now, so, what,  
2                   54 years?

3                   Q.    When you think about, you know, over the --  
4                   that course in time, when you probably hit the stride,  
5                   when you really understood what the skiing was all  
6                   about.

7                   And obviously it's very important to your  
8                   family. I mean, your dad was a ski jumper. That kind  
9                   of got -- isn't that how -- that got Joe into -- into  
10                  the concept of skiing?

11                  A.    Well --

12                  Q.    How did that all work?

13                  A.    All those guys -- I mean, my -- my father,  
14                  my grandfather, Joe. Their friends.

15                  Yeah, they were -- my father was -- was into  
16                  ski jumping, and my grandfather was a jumping judge.  
17                  But they all skied before Alta became a ski area. When  
18                  it was still kind of a -- it wasn't really a mining  
19                  town anymore, it was a ghost town. And George Watson,  
20                  I suppose, was -- was the last remaining resident, the  
21                  mayor.

22                  But those guys used to take off and drive up  
23                  to Alta, and strap on the skins, and climb to the top  
24                  of the mountain, and ski down.

25                  Where they'd do a -- they'd do a tour over



1 the top, and leave a car over in Big Cottonwood Canyon.  
2 And hike over to Brighton, and ski down there, and  
3 drive down and do the loop.

4 So they were -- they were skiing there long,  
5 long before the -- the lift ever went in. The first  
6 lift ever went in. In 1939.

7 Q. Did your grandfather ever talk much about  
8 how that -- you know, how the whole Winter Sports  
9 Association, how they got the idea to try to -- to try  
10 to build that lift?

11 Did he ever talk much about that?

12 A. Well, Joe -- Joe himself never really talked  
13 a lot about it. But you -- you'd pick up bits and  
14 pieces, you know, as you get older.

15 And evidently there was an Austrian count.

16 Now, I can't really remember his name right  
17 now, but --

18 Q. Count Von Loginstein.

19 A. Something like that.

20 But he -- he came over, and he wanted to  
21 build -- he was looking for a place to build a lift.  
22 And he actually looked in Utah, and he -- and he looked  
23 at Alta.

24 And then he looked in Sun Valley. And he --  
25 he decided on -- on Sun Valley.



1                   So that's where the first lift went up. And  
2 that was in 1938.

3                   And I think what happens was is that they --  
4 all the -- all the boys around here saw the first lift  
5 go up, and they said, you know, that's a pretty good  
6 idea. And we are really tired of -- of hiking to the  
7 top of the mountain in skins and spending all day to do  
8 it for a half-an-hour run coming down.

9                   So it -- I do remember this story.

10                  Joe -- the Forest Service approached Alf  
11 Engen. Because they also wanted to see some skiing  
12 developed here. And they said, Where do you -- they  
13 asked Alf, they said, Where do you think would be a  
14 good spot for a ski area?

15                  And Alf threw on his skins, and he, you  
16 know, went up into the mountains. And he checked out  
17 Brighton, and he checked out Solitude, and he checked  
18 out Alta. And, you know, all over the place. And he  
19 finally decided on Alta. And he said, Yeah, this is  
20 where it ought to be.

21                  So, in the meantime, my grandfather, who was  
22 really tired of hiking, and had a law practice  
23 downtown, basically went around with his hand out to  
24 his -- to his business associates, and said, Look. We  
25 want to build this ski lift. And he started collecting



1 donations from his friends.

2 And, at the end of the day, I think he -- he  
3 collected \$10,000.

4 And they -- and they knew they had -- you  
5 know, all that -- there was still some old miners  
6 around that had the mining know-how, and they still had  
7 some old mining equipment and gear and whatnot.

8 And so they used the technology of the time,  
9 which was the old mining stuff, and the \$10,000, and  
10 built the first chair lift. The Collins chair lift.

11 And that's how Alta started.

12 And, you know, it's funny, because I know  
13 for a fact that Joe never, ever, ever suspected, or  
14 ever had an inkling of any idea that it would grow into  
15 what it grew into.

16 I mean, basically the deal was, Okay, we've  
17 got this great place to ski. We've got a chair lift.  
18 We'll just charge people a nominal price, because, you  
19 know, we don't want to lose any money on it. You know.

20 But I don't think, from the outset, they  
21 ever really looked to make any money on it.

22 They just -- they just wanted to ski, and --  
23 and have everybody contribute enough so that nobody  
24 lost any money, and they could meet their expenses, and  
25 everybody would be fine with that.



1           Q.    It seems that that is still kind of almost  
2 the way it's run to this day.

3                    You might have a little more insight into  
4 that than me.

5                    I mean, they're starting to do -- make it.  
6 But do you think that there is a -- you know, a direct  
7 lineage of how things have always been run up there,  
8 from -- from the Fred Spire days, you know, through  
9 Chick, you know, even up into Onno?

10           A.    It's -- it's really hard to say.

11                    Of course with -- with each new generation,  
12 people will -- will come in and -- and bring their own  
13 thoughts and ideas as to how things are -- are supposed  
14 to be done.

15                    I think the advent of snowboarding, and,  
16 conversely, the refusal to allow snowboards at Alta,  
17 hurt business to a certain extent. And so they've --  
18 they've had to make up for it in -- in different ways,  
19 to get people up to Alta.

20                    The three things would be one of those  
21 things, I would suspect.

22                    They -- they put in the -- the high speed  
23 quads, which --

24                    Hey, that's a complete difference in -- in  
25 the old philosophy. Which was, when my grandfather



1 was -- was the chairman of the board, he and Chick  
2 believed in maximizing the ski experience. The actual  
3 ski experience itself. And they would rather have  
4 people -- if you have a big crowd in the canyon, they  
5 would rather have people waiting in line, and have a  
6 good ski experience when they finally got to the top of  
7 the mountain, than pumping them to the top of the  
8 mountain and having a real crowded ski experience  
9 coming down.

10           And I think that's -- that's a real notable  
11 change. The technology was there, certainly, to get  
12 people up the mountain faster when my grandfather was  
13 still alive. They just -- they just flat refused to do  
14 it. Because they -- they didn't believe in having a  
15 crowded mountain. They'd rather have a crowded lift  
16 line.

17           So it's changed in that way.

18           And, with the advent of the equipment, the  
19 wide skis, the more forgiving skis and things, you'll  
20 find a lot of people, as we were talking about earlier,  
21 going out into areas that normally, 20 years ago, you'd  
22 only see the very best skiers going out, because they  
23 were -- they were competent to do that.

24           But the new equipment has pretty much made  
25 it possible for a lot of skiers, that wouldn't have



1       been able to do it in the past, to do it now. And they  
2       do.

3               So I think the mountain gets skied out a lot  
4       more that way. And that -- that's changed a lot. From  
5       the way it used to be.

6               But I don't know that you're getting really  
7       that many more skiers per day in. I mean, you can only  
8       put so many cars in the parking -- parking lots. And,  
9       of course, UTA runs the buses up the canyon, but I -- I  
10      really don't know how many skiers come and go that way.

11              So, yeah, it's changed. And -- and I  
12      think -- I -- it's become much more expensive to ski.  
13      Janet and I actually were doing an interview with  
14      KUER -- oh, a few years back. And a person called in,  
15      and they were really upset, because skiing had gotten  
16      so expensive.

17              And basically I -- I had to say that, yeah,  
18      it has gotten expensive, and everything else associated  
19      has gotten expensive. The equipment, the clothing, the  
20      this, the that. The gasoline to get up.

21              And it just -- it's not real easy anymore  
22      for your basic family of four, say, to -- to equip, and  
23      clothe, and bring everybody up, and pop 50 or 60 bucks  
24      for a day pass, and take everybody skiing for the day.  
25      It's -- it's really expensive.



1                   And --

2                   Q.   Yeah, it's --

3                   A.   And I think, you know --

4                             And I'm kind of sorry to see that happen,  
5                   because part of Joe's philosophy was always, you know,  
6                   Alta is a place to make skiing affordable for the local  
7                   person.

8                             He didn't -- you know, he wasn't really all  
9                   that hot on destination skiers coming in.  And he  
10                   didn't really care whether the lodges did well or not.  
11                   You know?

12                            He just -- he figured that his -- his job  
13                   was to take local skiers from the bottom of the  
14                   mountain to the top of the mountain, period, the end.

15                            And then, when it -- they started things  
16                   like snowcat grooming, and heavy ski patrol presence,  
17                   and avalanche control, and all of the things that go on  
18                   in the ski lift company, it kind of -- it -- I think it  
19                   kind of overwhelmed him.

20                            I don't think he ever thought, for a New  
21                   York second, of any of that when he -- when he first  
22                   got started with it.

23                   Q.   Yeah.  That it was just --

24                   A.   Yeah.

25                   Q.   -- you know, uphill conveyance, and, you



1 know, if you're good enough to get down --

2 A. Exactly.

3 Q. -- you can do it.

4 Or eventually, you know, they would ski pack  
5 an area, but -- side stepping.

6 A. Or -- or it just gets skied out and bumped.

7 I think -- I think Russ Harmer had a real  
8 uphill battle when it came to talking Joe into, you  
9 know, actually grooming runs.

10 But, yeah, that's just kind of the way Joe  
11 was. You know?

12 And -- but -- but he was always reasonable.  
13 He'd always listen to Russ.

14 And in the end, he'd always say, Yes, go  
15 ahead.

16 Q. That -- you know, kind of paint a picture of  
17 Joe's relationship with Chick Morton.

18 They've -- you know, I've heard that -- the  
19 stories that --

20 A. Oh.

21 Q. -- Alta was Joe's mistress, and, you know,  
22 every -- what was it?

23 A. Did Janet tell you that?

24 Q. Yeah.

25 A. Uh-huh.



1 Q. Janet told me that.

2 And that, you know, on -- was it every  
3 Tuesday or something, they would go to lunch, or --

4 A. Every Tuesday. Every Tuesday, Chick would  
5 come down and they'd have their weekly meeting. They'd  
6 go to lunch.

7 And usually they'd go to the cafeteria in  
8 the basement of the First Security Bank building.

9 And that's usually where he took me, when,  
10 you know, I'd go down and have lunch with him.

11 But, yeah. Every -- every Tuesday they'd go  
12 to lunch, and they'd talk things over.

13 And they had probably as close to a  
14 father-son relationship as you can have without  
15 actually being father and son.

16 And I think -- I think they both had a great  
17 amount of mutual respect for each other.

18 And Joe never questioned Chick. If Chick  
19 said, This is what needs to be done, Joe would say,  
20 Then go ahead and do it.

21 And Chick was great. He was -- I'd -- I  
22 worked for Chick for a lot of years.

23 I used to work summer crew up there from the  
24 time I was, oh, 14 years old until I was 19.

25 And I taught skiing later on, up there, and



1 I ran the junior racing program up there.

2 And Chick was always -- he was -- he was  
3 hard, and he was stern, and he was strict, and he was  
4 fair. Extremely fair.

5 He -- he was a really, really good guy to  
6 work for.

7 But he -- he was pretty much no nonsense.

8 And everybody knew exactly where they stood  
9 with Chick. He always treated everybody equally.

10 And, as I said, extremely fairly.

11 But he -- yeah, he and Joe, I think, had a  
12 real special relationship.

13 Which was -- you know, it was funny, because  
14 Chick started out at Alta, as the bartender at the Alta  
15 Lodge.

16 And he went from bartender to manager at the  
17 Alta Lodge. Over a number of years.

18 And then went to GM of Alta ski lifts.

19 So, I mean, you know. That -- that's a  
20 pretty good rise to fame.

21 You know, only at a place like Alta can a  
22 bartender become the GM of the ski area. It's pretty  
23 good.

24 Q. When you think about that, was there -- did  
25 you ever know Fred Spire at all?



1           A.    I -- Fred -- I knew Fred a little bit.  I  
2           was pretty young when Fred was around.

3                     He used to come over to our house from time  
4           to time.  He and my father were pretty good friends.

5           Q.    But then I've heard stories that, you know,  
6           sharp as ever, and just a -- what a great guy.

7           A.    Yeah.  Buck is great.

8                     You know, I see him about once a year at  
9           the -- at the ski affair, and that's -- that's about  
10          it.

11                    But, yeah.  Buck -- Buck was great to work  
12          for.

13                    The -- there was another guy up there, too,  
14          that unfortunately has passed away the last -- oh, it's  
15          been two or three years now.  Hans Brogel.

16                    And he was -- he was one of the other  
17          foremen up there.

18                    And -- oh, he was a piece of work.

19                    Hans -- I'm not sure, but I think Hans came  
20          over with Fred.

21                    And Hans was a real interesting character.  
22          He was -- he was the typical, absolutely the typical  
23          German.  Tall, blond, blue eyes.  You know, very Arian  
24          looking.

25                    And Hans' history was interesting too, in



1 that he was in Germany during World War II, as a young  
2 boy. I think he was 12 or 13. Something like that.

3 And he had been inducted into the Hitler  
4 Youth Corps. And was just about ready to strap on the  
5 helmet and rifle and go as a last ditch defense of  
6 Germany when the war ended.

7 So he was -- he was spared that. And  
8 immigrated to the United States, and wound up at Alta.

9 But he -- he always -- even though he had a  
10 great sense of humor, he always had sort of that German  
11 Hitler Youth Corps thing about him. Right?

12 So you've got -- you've got Hans, and you've  
13 got Buck, who was -- of course is Japanese.

14 And the two of them together, sometimes, if  
15 they were working together, were absolutely hysterical.

16 We were -- we were sitting in the top steel  
17 of Sugarloaf, at the top terminal of Sugarloaf one  
18 summer, and they were changing the chairs. And we had  
19 to manually crank up the counterweight, to take the  
20 stress off of the cable, so that they could change the  
21 chairs out.

22 And we used these great big giant coffin  
23 hoists, because the counterweight for a chair lift is  
24 tons and tons and tons of concrete.

25 And so we're sitting there taking turns on



1 the coffin hoist, and I'm in there with Hans, with  
2 Buck. And it's Hans' turn on the coffin hoist, and  
3 he's cranking on this long handled thing.

4 Well, it gets away from him, and starts  
5 ratcheting down.

6 And Hans, without even thinking, tries to  
7 grab it. And the coffin hoist handle just absolutely  
8 beats him to death and throws him in the corner of the  
9 counterweight housing.

10 And he is pretty beaten up.

11 And Buck is sitting in the other corner, and  
12 he is laughing so hard, tears are coming out of his  
13 eyes.

14 And finally, Hans looks at him and says --  
15 he says -- heavy German accent. He says, Vat do you  
16 sink is so funny?

17 And Buck just looks at him, and he's still  
18 just crying, he's laughing so hard. And he -- he says,  
19 good God. No wonder you people lost the war.

20 And Hans looks at Buck and says, Vell, you  
21 didn't do so hot yourself.

22 So the two of them together, the two of them  
23 together were just priceless.

24 And -- and the -- that -- you know, the  
25 thing that made Alta Alta, you know, was -- it was the



1 people. All of the people. You know?

2 From -- from the instructors to the guys  
3 that would load you on the lift, to the patrolmen.

4 And they would come back year, after year,  
5 after year.

6 And I think a big reason of that, getting  
7 back to Chick is, I don't think they were making a lot  
8 of money.

9 I know when I was working up there, I wasn't  
10 making a lot of money. But it was such a great place  
11 to work, and Chick was so fair, that, you know, people  
12 just loved it.

13 And -- and it was -- it was their spirit and  
14 their soul that really made the place what it was, and  
15 what gave it sort of its mystique.

16 And I don't know that we have that much  
17 anymore. I think that's changed a lot.

18 And, you know, I'm sorry to see that go.

19 Q. Do you think it's more -- because it's more  
20 business like, and the whole -- you know, keeping the  
21 whole operation going, that some of that camaraderie,  
22 or some of that, you know, I guess more leaning towards  
23 getting skiers on the mountain, and making money, as  
24 opposed to, you know, just providing that -- that  
25 simple service that you talked about?



1           A.    I think -- I think that's a lot of it.

2                    I also think that there are a lot more  
3 people skiing.

4                    You know, the population of the valley is --  
5 has tripled, or quadrupled since those days.

6                    And, you know, when I was -- when I was in  
7 high school, you'd go up there, and -- and -- even  
8 though, you know, you might -- there might be the same  
9 actual number of -- of skiers at Alta, they would  
10 always be the same guys. You know, they'd always be  
11 the same people.

12                   Because, I mean, you know, there wasn't a  
13 Snowbird, and -- you know, there was Brighton, and  
14 there was Solitude, and there was Alta. There wasn't a  
15 Park City, there wasn't a Deer Valley.

16                   You know, there -- there are the Ogden  
17 areas, that had been around a long time. But pretty  
18 much, along the Wasatch Front and Salt Lake, it was  
19 Alta, and it was Brighton, and it was Solitude, period,  
20 the end.

21                   So, you'd go up, on the weekends, or during  
22 the week -- well, on the weekends, because you're in  
23 school. And you'd see the same people.

24                   And -- and they were always skiing at Alta.

25                   So you got to know everybody. Everybody got to know



1 you. You know?

2                   You'd -- you'd hop on the lift, and Joe  
3 Okamora would be sitting up in the -- in the lift  
4 control tower at -- at the bottom of Wildcat. And he'd  
5 hang his hat out and say Hi, how are you doing. Stuff  
6 like that. So it was --

7                   You know, they -- they had a great old  
8 fountain at the bottom of Wildcat. What was just  
9 really a hose coming out of the mine. You know, and  
10 you could get a drink of water. That's gone.

11                   Just all of these -- all of these great,  
12 great things.

13                   And maybe it's just me being nostalgic, and  
14 remembering the way things used to be. You know?  
15 Sounding like an old man.

16                   But those things have changed. You know?

17                   Just this year they put in a computerized  
18 turnstyle thing.

19                   So you don't have interaction with, you  
20 know, somebody checking your ticket.

21                   And it just -- it -- it just seems much more  
22 impersonal, perhaps? Than it used to be?

23                   And maybe that's necessarily the way it  
24 needs to be, if you're going to run a business  
25 officially and try and keep prices down.



1           Q.    Be part of the -- you know, one of the -- in  
2 industry.

3                    It is, you know, no different than the  
4 Kennecott Mine, or, you know, agriculture. It's  
5 something that adds to the economy of the state.

6           A.    Well, yeah. And those are -- yeah. We were  
7 talking about that earlier.

8                    I -- I don't think Joe ever suspected that  
9 it would become an industry. In any way, shape, or  
10 form.

11                   But -- but you're right. It has become an  
12 industry, and it's become a highly competitive  
13 industry.

14                   And I know -- I know that management up  
15 there now are just holding the door against letting  
16 snowboarders in. You know? They're just being really  
17 stubborn about it.

18                   And -- and I applaud them for doing that.  
19 But it -- it makes you wonder, how long can they  
20 continue?

21                   And, you know, there are other people like  
22 me, saying the reason we ski at Alta is because they  
23 don't have snowboarders.

24           Q.    I mean, I -- I'm a recovering snowboarder.

25           A.    You're a recovering snowboarder.



1           Q.    And I actually like made this -- in my  
2           opinion. You know, and I don't have that, you know,  
3           look into the old days of what it was like up there. I  
4           only have, you know, a 13- or 14-year experience.

5           A.    Well, and -- and the other thing about Alta  
6           is, so much of it is what we call, you know, the  
7           back-country skiing. The hiking into the bits and  
8           pieces, and little secret pokes, and glades, and the  
9           Devil's Castles, and --

10                  All of those places that you have to really,  
11           you know, work to get to.

12                  And it makes me wonder, well, how would a  
13           snowboarder get up here?

14                  You know, how would a snowboarder get out to  
15           high Devil's Castle? Or around -- all the way around  
16           on Catheryn's pass area?

17                  Or a lot of places, for that matter.

18           Q.    -- at east Castle, or, you know, even up  
19           to -- to upper Sunspot, and then out to Eddie's, or Gun  
20           Slide.

21           A.    Yeah. Exactly.

22           Q.    Now, I don't -- not being -- knowing how a  
23           snowboard works, I know it would be a drag. And  
24           then --

25           A.    Literally.



1 Q. Literally.

2 And then, when you get -- when you think  
3 about, once you are -- once you ski Yellow Trail, how  
4 are you going to traverse out? You're going to get  
5 stuck. You know?

6 Or if you go over on to High Greeley and  
7 come out the Willows, you know, you're going to get  
8 flatted out there.

9 A. Oh, it happens all the time over in  
10 Snowbird. You know? They'll go over into Mineral  
11 Basin, and they'll get down into the flats someplace,  
12 and they'll say, Well, how do we get out of here?

13 They can't really take off their boards and  
14 walk out on their feet, can they? Because they'll  
15 sink in to their hips.

16 Q. Yeah.

17 A. So.

18 But -- I mean, who knows? Who knows if  
19 snowboards will ever come to Alta.

20 You know? Alta is a hold-out.  
21 Deer Valley's a hold-out. And what is it, Taos? New  
22 Mexico?

23 Q. Taos went open to snowboards this year.

24 A. Did they?

25 Q. Yeah.



1 A. So are we the only hold-outs?

2 Q. No.

3 A. Or is it Mad River Glen? Yeah.

4 Q. You know, and they're right in the hot bed  
5 of where the snowboarding allegedly was --

6 A. Yeah. Exactly.

7 Q. -- developed.

8 That's kind of the difference.

9 A. Yeah. Sometimes you -- I've been up there  
10 in snow so deep, that that's the only way to get down.  
11 I mean, you -- you -- it's so deep that you have to go  
12 straight. And you -- you never get enough speed to  
13 actually start turning. Where you just -- or you just  
14 come to a stop.

15 And you've got to be careful where you're  
16 skiing too. It's -- you've got to have enough pitch.  
17 If it's too flat, you don't move either.

18 So, yeah, it's -- it's a little bit  
19 different than ice skating in that respect, I suspect.

20 Q. When --

21 A. That, and also, you can't get very far  
22 forward on your ice skates.

23 Q. No. You fall down.

24 Or if you had toe picks like figure skates,  
25 those would stick in and --



1           A.    Yeah.  Down you'd go.

2           Q.    Umm, when you think about, like the high  
3    traverse, did it used to be that, you know, a lot of  
4    people would just go up high traverse, and kind of go  
5    past Annie's, and Jake's, and -- or was that west face  
6    skied a whole lot?

7           A.    Oh, the west face has always been skied a  
8    lot.  It's always been skied a lot.  But, I mean, it --  
9                The first -- the first to go, the first to  
10   go is always High Rustler.  That's the prize right  
11   there.

12                    And I think I've -- I've gotten tracks in  
13   High Rustler once.

14                    And then Greeley Bowl is the next to go.  
15   And then -- and then the west side.  And then -- and  
16   then the real, real Intrepid guys, you know, take on  
17   the trees.  He'll get into Eagle's Nest, or Lone Pine,  
18   or Christmas Tree.  Get down in there.  But High  
19   Rustler is always the first to go.

20           Q.    When you think of High Rustler, you know,  
21   have -- skiing that run, top to bottom, on a powder  
22   day, and you saying getting actual first tracks on  
23   it -- I don't think I've ever gotten first tracks.  But  
24   have gotten it pretty -- you know, when it's --

25           A.    Pretty close?



1           Q.    Talk about, you know, the feeling when  
2           you -- when you're up on top, and you're ready to go.  
3           Talk a bit about why that run is so great.

4           A.    The pitch is -- the pitch and the fall line  
5           are perfect.

6                     It's -- it's wide open.  And it's long.  
7           It's long, it's steep, and it -- if the snow is deep,  
8           then it's -- it is one of the perfect powder pokes, in  
9           my opinion.

10                    Plus, it's -- it's north facing.  It's got a  
11           north facing aspect, so generally the snow will tend to  
12           be lighter on the north facing aspects.  And in the  
13           trees, of course.

14                    And it will stiffen up -- you know, anymore  
15           it doesn't matter, because it's gone by 11 o'clock.

16           Q.    Right.

17           A.    But -- but it used to be, if you -- if you  
18           could get to areas a day or even two days or three days  
19           after a storm, the east facing and the west facing  
20           stuff was always the first to -- to degenerate, when it  
21           came to the snow quality.

22                    The northern exposures and the trees always  
23           held up the best.

24                    But High Rustler is just -- it's High  
25           Rustler.  It's -- it's world famous.  And to get first



1 tracks on High Rustler is -- is something that you'll  
2 always remember. And just -- I don't think I can get  
3 up early enough to get high tracks on first Rustler --  
4 I mean first tracks there anymore.

5 But it was -- the one -- the one time I did  
6 it, it was fun. It was fun.

7 Q. When you -- go back a little bit and talk  
8 about the concept of skiing as -- you know, as a family  
9 affair.

10 I mean, you -- you're pretty much  
11 third-generation skier.

12 A. Mm-hmm.

13 Q. Why do you think it was such an important  
14 aspect of, you know, your growing up, and your -- you  
15 know, who you are?

16 A. That's just what we did. You know?  
17 That's -- that's what you did in the winter.

18 I mean, my God, what else would you do in  
19 Salt Lake, in the winter, if you didn't ski? You  
20 know? They're long, cold.

21 I mean, everybody was -- this year,  
22 especially. Everybody was dying because, you know,  
23 snowing every other day, and it was snowing into May,  
24 and everybody was going, God, we're tired of winter.

25 Well, you know, we've been in drought for



1 ten years. This is the way it was -- always used to  
2 be.

3 So, yeah, that's what we did. We skied.

4 You know, Joe was running Alta, and so we --  
5 we sort of had the family thing going on up there.  
6 And -- and my father was -- he was a competitive skier  
7 before the war. Used to compete with, you know, Alf  
8 Engen, and Spherry Engen, and Jack Reddish, and, you  
9 know, all of those old guys. I won't go into -- you  
10 know, how many of them there were, but --

11 So, you know, that's what he did. He skied.

12 And also, one of -- probably my best friend  
13 growing up was Alf's youngest son John Engen. So,  
14 yeah, it's --

15 That's just what we did. We skied.

16 And -- and we skied at Alta.

17 Of course when we -- when we got older, when  
18 we got into high school and started skiing  
19 competitively, and racing, then we skied around quite a  
20 bit. You know, because there were -- there were  
21 different races in different areas.

22 So, you know, we'd ski, not only the local  
23 areas, in -- and Ogden, but Jackson Hole, and Sun  
24 Valley, and Pinedale, Wyoming, and places like that.

25 So --



1                   And after a while, you know, that's just --  
2                   you don't even think about doing anything else.

3                   Plus the fact that it's just so much fun.

4                   Q.    I mean, that's what -- on that note,  
5                   let's -- and you mentioned Alf Engen. Did you know Alf  
6                   very well?

7                   A.    Yeah.

8                   Q.    Talk a bit about -- you know, I've heard --

9                   A.    I knew Alf really well.

10                  Q.    I've heard quotes -- you know, and every  
11                  time I see a picture of him, or you see him -- you can  
12                  always pick him out, even in the very old pictures of  
13                  him. You know, from the 20s.

14                  He's always got that huge smile on his face.

15                  A.    I -- okay. Well, let me put it to you this  
16                  way.

17                  His son John and myself were mutual best men  
18                  at each other's weddings. We lived very close to each  
19                  other, in -- in Holladay. And John and I grew up  
20                  together. And it -- really, I used to, every weekend,  
21                  I'd catch rides up the canyon with John and Alf. And  
22                  Alf would be going to work, and John and I'd go skiing.

23                  And he drove this great -- I'll never forget  
24                  it -- little black -- about a '62 Volkswagens bug.

25                  With a ski rack on the back of it.



1                   And the defrosters never worked, so, you  
2 know, if we were going up or down in a storm, or  
3 whatever, Alf was always -- had a little window like  
4 that. And he'd use his glove, you know, and he'd  
5 polish it off so he could -- so he could see out of it.

6                   But, you're right. Alf, for as many years  
7 as I knew Alf, never heard him say one bad thing, or  
8 one negative thing even, about anything, or anybody.

9                   It could be snowing four inches an hour, and  
10 blowing 50 miles an hour, and it was a beautiful day.  
11 You know?

12                   He was just -- he was just flat happy to be  
13 alive. Flat happy to be skiing at Alta. Flat happy to  
14 be doing exactly what he was doing.

15                   And it just -- it exuded from him.

16                   And -- and -- and to the day he died, he  
17 never, ever, ever had anything bad to say. Never  
18 complained. About anything.

19                   He was -- couple of years before he died --  
20 I guess Alf was 88 when he died. And he was teaching a  
21 lesson, about three years before, maybe four years  
22 before. Somewhere around in there. And he was in the  
23 meadow.

24                   And some kid came down the mountain out of  
25 control and hit him. And took out his knee. And put



1 him off skis for the rest of the year.

2 And Alf never had a bad thing to say about  
3 the kid. He was only concerned that the boy was all  
4 right. Didn't hurt him. You know?

5 These things happen. He didn't mean to hurt  
6 me. It -- that was just sort of the kind of guy he  
7 was.

8 He always had a smile for everybody, and was  
9 always nice to everybody. Always liked everybody.

10 So, yeah. Alf was great.

11 Q. That's a rare quality in --

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Joe. The statement  
13 of Alf was off skis for a couple of months is off mic.  
14 You can't use it.

15 If you want that, you might want to have him  
16 repeat that.

17 Q. Did you know Jay Lauchlin at all?

18 A. I didn't know Jay well, no.

19 Jay, as I'm sure you know, was in New York.  
20 Had a publishing business there.

21 He and my grandfather were -- were very good  
22 friends.

23 But I think I only met Jay a couple of times  
24 when he would come out to ski.

25 One time in particular, Jay would -- after



1 they got the initial bunkhouse built, or the new  
2 bunkhouse -- not to be confused with the old bunkhouse,  
3 which used to be up across the highway where the --  
4 where the sheriff's office is now.

5 But the new bunkhouse, which is now the old  
6 bunkhouse, Jay used to stay upstairs in -- in what we  
7 affectionately refer to as the VIP room. Which is not  
8 really a very VIP room, but it's a room. And the price  
9 is right.

10 And so Jay was -- Jay was in town. He was  
11 skiing. And I was staying up that night, and I was  
12 down in the black hole with Russ Harmer and Jane  
13 Harmer. They weren't married at the time. And a --  
14 another cat crew guy by the name of Kim Sorenson.

15 And Russ -- and the black hole was in the  
16 basement, or actually the ground level of -- of the  
17 bunkhouse.

18 And they called it the black hole because  
19 you'd walk in there and -- and there were precious few  
20 windows, and those were just in the two rooms that --  
21 that Kim and Russ were staying in.

22 And they had a little bar down there, and  
23 they had a little refrigerator down there, and Russ had  
24 his music. Russ always liked his music. And he liked  
25 his music loud.



1                   And so we were in the black hole, playing  
2                   loud music and drinking some beer, and playing some  
3                   more loud music and drinking some more beer.

4                   And pretty soon we were playing loud music  
5                   and drinking beer at about 11:30 at night. And I guess  
6                   the music was loud enough that Jay was unable to sleep.  
7                   And he came storming down the stairs into the black  
8                   hole, and he was mad, damn it.

9                   And everybody pretty much knew that Jay was  
10                  one of the bosses, you know? And don't make the boss  
11                  mad.

12                  And after -- after chewing us out pretty  
13                  well for the better part of 20 or 30 minutes, he -- he  
14                  turned and stomped back upstairs, and the party was  
15                  over. And everybody went to bed.

16                  But I -- I didn't know Jay that well. That  
17                  was -- that was one of the few instances I -- I really  
18                  had to interact with Jay.

19                  But I didn't really want to like talk too  
20                  much to him, because I was afraid it might get back to  
21                  my grandfather, and that would not have been a good  
22                  thing.

23                  Q. Do you -- at one point in time you were the  
24                  marshall up there?

25                  A. Yeah. Yes, I was.



1 Q. How did that go?

2 A. Let me say I -- I graduated from --  
3 actually, this university. And my good friend, that I  
4 grew up racing with, along with, you know, John, and a  
5 bunch of other guys, was a guy by the name of Jeff  
6 Anderson.

7 And Jeff owns the Rustler Lodge.

8 Took it over from his -- from his father,  
9 Lee Bronson.

10 And Jeff, at that time, was -- was working  
11 as an administration assistant for Mayor Leavitt. Bill  
12 Leavitt.

13 And the town had just kind of come into  
14 being a few years earlier. And the marshall up there  
15 was looking for a deputy. And the marshall up there  
16 was a guy by the name of Gene Huber. And Gene Huber,  
17 and his wife, came to Alta and established the original  
18 Deep Powder House. Which is where the Shallow Shaft is  
19 now.

20 That -- that was originally this great old  
21 ski shop.

22 And so -- so Huber was -- was a lifetime  
23 Alta-ite. If that's a word.

24 And Gene was the marshall, and he was  
25 looking for a deputy.



1                   And I was -- I was fresh out of school, and  
2 I had no real prospects. An English major.

3                   And I was -- I was teaching up there at the  
4 time. I was teaching them ski school, and running the  
5 racing program -- the junior racing program.

6                   And Jeff said, you know, Why don't you come  
7 up and work with me, and go to work for Huber as  
8 deputy?

9                   So that's what I did. And I, you know, went  
10 to the police academy, and drove -- drove a '73 orange  
11 jeep, with -- with retro dome lights on it. And  
12 cruised around with my attack trained guard dog, the  
13 wonder Samoyed Cheka, who was -- who was my buddy. And  
14 did that for about -- almost four years. While I  
15 was -- you know, I was also teaching up there, and I  
16 was also running the racing program.

17                   But it was -- it was a pretty good job. It  
18 was pretty boring in the summertime. There was nothing  
19 to do. In the wintertime, it was primarily -- not  
20 really any law enforcement as much as road control,  
21 avalanche -- avalanche and road control, and search and  
22 rescue. Things like that.

23                   Q. With that, was that -- that Samoyed related  
24 to the one that the -- you know the Neff and Shirlee?

25                   A. Oh, yeah.



1 Q. They had -- they had a Samoyed too.

2 Were these dogs related?

3 But I guess what I'm getting at is, why is  
4 Alta different than maybe Park City, that might have --  
5 or even Snowbird? It's the next-door neighbor that  
6 owns all of the hotels, and owns -- you know, they want  
7 to try to get their more people, more business. That  
8 kind of thing.

9 Whereas Alta, you know, the ski lifts is the  
10 ski lifts, and the lodges are the lodges. Do you think  
11 that's --

12 A. As it has always been. Right?

13 And it gets back to what we were talking  
14 about earlier.

15 Alta was originally intended as a place for  
16 the local skier to be able to come up, bring a family,  
17 and ski affordably.

18 And it didn't really care whether anybody  
19 came in from out of state or not. It was -- that  
20 was -- that was never, ever part of the equation. The  
21 original equation.

22 So when the -- the lodges started being  
23 built -- well, Union Pacific built the Alta Lodge  
24 initially.

25 And the Rustler and the Snow Pine followed



1 suit.

2 They -- they were their own entities.

3 But it was -- it was not something my  
4 grandfather, or really Chick, for that matter, was ever  
5 really concerned with.

6 As a matter of fact, and -- and I can -- I  
7 can still hear Jeff complaining bitterly about this,  
8 from the time, you know, when we were a whole lot  
9 younger than we are now. But his guests could not --  
10 the lift company would not supply lifts -- passes to  
11 the hotels so that they could sell them to their guests  
12 in the morning at breakfast. Right?

13 The guests from all of the hotels had to put  
14 on their skis, go down to the ticket office, like  
15 anybody else, and buy a ticket.

16 And Jeff fought that for years and years and  
17 years.

18 Yeah, he just -- a little convenience for my  
19 guests.

20 Well, you know, we don't really care about  
21 your guests. They're not our primary -- or our primary  
22 constituent. Our primary constituents are the local  
23 skier.

24 So that's -- that's how that whole thing,  
25 you know, sort of evolved.



1                   So you have -- you have the hotels, which  
2                   are part of the town. And then you have the lift  
3                   company.

4                   And I -- I've always thought that there is a  
5                   little bit of -- oh, what's the word I'm looking for?  
6                   Not jealousy. But a little bit of antagonism, perhaps,  
7                   between the two entities. Because, you know, the lift  
8                   company likes to say, Well, you know, the hotels  
9                   wouldn't be here if it weren't for us, and the hotels  
10                  like to say, Well, the lift company wouldn't be doing  
11                  nearly as well as it is if it weren't for us.

12                  But I think -- I think they're starting to  
13                  get along a little bit better. At least I know that  
14                  Jeff's guests can now, you know, buy a lift pass at the  
15                  hotel over breakfast, and -- and just go out and ski.

16                  Q. And pay with a credit card. I remember that  
17                  was a big deal up there.

18                  A. Oh, yeah. Well, you know. It -- if you  
19                  start getting in credit cards, and that raises your  
20                  expenses, then you have to raise the lift price to the  
21                  local skier.

22                  Once again, it was -- it was always, always,  
23                  always geared as a ski area for the local skier, and  
24                  make it as affordable as you possibly can.

25                  Q. Do you think that it's still -- do you think



1 that maybe has changed a little bit?

2 A. I think it's changed a lot.

3 I mean, you said it yourself. What's --  
4 what's a day pass up there now? Close to 60 bucks?

5 Q. 60 bucks. Yeah.

6 A. That's a lot of dough.

7 You take -- you take the average guy,  
8 downtown Salt Lake guy, that's, say, you know, he has a  
9 wife and he has 2.3 kids, or let's say three kids.  
10 Because it's Salt Lake. That's five people, at 60  
11 bucks. That's \$300 in passes alone.

12 You know, pair of skis. Without bindings is  
13 six, \$700 now. Unless you -- you know, pick it up used  
14 at Play It Again Sports, or something like that.

15 The clothing. The boots. The gloves. The  
16 goggles are over 100 bucks.

17 I mean, skiing is expensive. And I just --  
18 yeah. I think it's changed a lot.

19 I think it's changed a whole bunch.

20 I mean, I still remember a day pass, \$2.50.  
21 And they had an old, you know, beaten up shack at the  
22 bottom of the Alta Lodge rope tow, that was about four  
23 feet square, and was just big enough to hold Buck  
24 Sasaki's sister-in-law. It was this little Japanese  
25 girl by the name of Linda, who's about four-foot



1 nothing. And she'd sit in there, and she'd sell the  
2 passes.

3 So, yeah, it's changed a lot.

4 Q. And that -- Ken Louie told a sorry that his  
5 first job was to put the passes on people's jackets.

6 So they'd sell it, and then he would -- he  
7 and his brothers and sisters would go out and have to  
8 put the passes on people's jackets.

9 A. Yeah. With a wire?

10 Q. Yeah. With a --

11 A. And a lead -- a lead thing with two eyes in  
12 it, and they'd slide the eyes over the wire and then  
13 crimp it down.

14 Q. And that they couldn't do it with their  
15 gloves on, and that's why Buck got the kids doing it,  
16 because he didn't want to take his gloves off.

17 A. Yeah, that's for sure. Yeah. Well, you  
18 know. Kids -- we were fairly numbed to the pain in  
19 those days. And it was a good thing, because we used  
20 to get really cold. Really cold.

21 It was leather boots, and it was black  
22 stretch pants made out of -- I don't know. A wool  
23 blend of some sort. And a wool sweater. And a  
24 non-waterproof down parka. And you would get wet, and  
25 you would get cold. And you would get really cold.



1           So, it's -- it's -- it's good that ski  
2 clothing has come as far as it has.

3           That's for sure.

4           Q.   When you think about -- and we can talk  
5 about this, the old Collins lift, the single chair.  
6 Was that -- that was still around when you -- when you  
7 started skiing?

8           A.   Oh, yeah.

9           Q.   So talk about -- about riding that chair,  
10 and what that was like.

11          A.   The Col -- when I started skiing, the  
12 Collins chair and the Germania chairs were the only  
13 chairs.

14                They didn't have Wildcat, they didn't  
15 have -- you know, the Albian basin was not open at all.  
16 Certainly no Sugarloaf or Supreme. And just the two  
17 chairs.

18                The -- and the Collins chair was -- the very  
19 first time I got on the Collins chair, I think I was  
20 maybe five years old. And I snuck on.

21                I -- I was supposed to be -- I was supposed  
22 to be on the rope tow at the Alta Lodge, and my aunt  
23 Jan and my father were up on the mountain skiing.

24                And I snuck on. And it scared me to death.

25                I hung onto the pole, with both arms, all



1 the way to the top. And when I got to the top, I rode  
2 it around the bullwheel, and rode it right back down  
3 again. I was scared to death.

4 But the old Collins chair, and -- and, of  
5 course, it was before grooming, or any kind of snow  
6 control. They used -- the snow used to get so deep,  
7 and the chair was really so low hanging that they had  
8 to literally dig a trench through the snow for the  
9 chairs and the skiers. Especially at the bottom.

10 Once you got about half-way up, it was -- it  
11 was okay. But right at the bottom, it was so low that  
12 they'd have to dig a trench.

13 And it was rickety, and the chairs were  
14 hard, and --

15 It was great. It was great.

16 You can still sit in those chairs, if you go  
17 to the shallow shaft for dinner. They're wonderful.

18 Q. Traction cable that pulled the chairs along.

19 A. Mm-hmm.

20 Q. And then there was the static cable,  
21 that -- the rollers on each chair had the individual  
22 shived wheels on it, that it rolled, as opposed to the  
23 shived wheels being on the tower and fixed grip on  
24 the -- on the single traction cable. So --

25 A. Yeah, I think that -- some of that high tech



1 mine technology that they were putting together.

2 I mean, I -- I can't tell you what the  
3 design of the original lift -- the Warm Springs lift at  
4 Sun Valley was. Whether it was similar to that or not.  
5 But, yeah, that was the Collins chair of -- all right.

6 And really, it seemed pretty dependable. I  
7 can't ever remember it breaking down.

8 But those lines certainly were long. It  
9 would take forever to get to the top of the mountain on  
10 that thing. It was a 15-minute ride.

11 Q. And then, I guess as time went on, the run  
12 down got quicker and quicker?

13 A. Yeah. As -- as -- as you get better and  
14 better, the runs get quicker and quicker.

15 When you're not very good, as a little kid,  
16 it can take all day to get down.

17 That's for sure.

18 Q. Were they still selling single ride tickets  
19 at that time?

20 A. Oh, yeah. Yeah. They sold single ride  
21 tickets up --

22 As a matter of fact, I think they will still  
23 honor -- if -- if you should happen to find an old  
24 single ride ticket, from, say, 20 years ago, or  
25 30 years ago, I think they'll still honor that.



1 I'm not sure now, with the new turnstyle  
2 type of gate they have.

3 Q. Yeah. How would you argue with the -- with  
4 the attendant?

5 A. No. You can't argue with the attendant.

6 And I don't think you can take it to the  
7 ticket window and turn it in for a full-day pass. So  
8 maybe those days are gone.

9 But, yeah, they had single ride tickets.  
10 They come in a ten -- ten-ticket book. Kind of like a  
11 movie ticket. You'd just tear it out and hand it to  
12 the person.

13 Then they'd -- you know. Technology  
14 advanced, and they got a -- a pass that you could  
15 punch. And it would have ten little punch marks on it.

16 Q. So when the punch hole -- they'd punch a  
17 hole for each run?

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. I've seen those.

20 A. When you couldn't read any -- when you  
21 couldn't read the numbers one through ten anymore, the  
22 ticket was done. You'd have to go buy another one.

23 Q. But it was, you know, just --

24 A. I'm pre-dating myself, is what I'm doing.

25 Q. Right.



1                   That little square --

2           A.    Yeah.

3           Q.    I mean, it's the sign shop up there now.

4           A.    It was powder -- used to be a powder cache,  
5 for years and years and years.

6           Q.    Yeah.

7           A.    That's where they'd keep all of the  
8 explosives for -- and all of the ammunition for the  
9 guns -- for the avalanche guns.

10          Q.    Have you ever been up there when they fired  
11 that 105?

12          A.    Yeah. Yeah. It was -- I used to do it all  
13 the time when I was the deputy marshall up there.

14                    You know, I'd go up early. And, of course,  
15 you know, you know everybody on the patrol. I had for  
16 years and years and years.

17                    And that was -- that was -- the -- part of  
18 the fun part of the job was you could go up and go out  
19 on the -- go out shooting in the morning, go up on the  
20 guns. And then, as soon as they'd shot everything that  
21 they could shoot, you'd go out on hand charge patrol.

22                    And you'd take a pack with 2-pound hand  
23 charges in it, and two guys would go out on a route.  
24 And you'd -- you'd tie yourselves together, belay  
25 yourselves together with a rope. And one guy would go



1 out on a -- on a slide path, and the other guy, on the  
2 other end of the rope, would be anchored in the trees.  
3 And he'd toss the charge into the slide path, and then  
4 beat it on back to the trees. And you'd wait for it to  
5 explode.

6 And if it didn't slide, then you'd just have  
7 to ski it, to get down to the next -- get down to the  
8 next spot where you'd have to go.

9 So that was one. Yeah. I used to do that  
10 every chance I got.

11 Q. I think one of the -- talked a bit about  
12 your grandfather. And I did hear one story that, you  
13 know, there was really -- he never really was keen on  
14 giving out free passes. Everyone kind of paid their  
15 way.

16 Can you talk a little bit about that kind of  
17 fiscal conservative? Maybe some lessons from your  
18 grandfather that he might have taught you?

19 A. Yeah. Joe was -- Joe was full of pearls of  
20 wisdom that way.

21 He -- he had a way of saying the word money,  
22 which sort of just exuded this reverence. That I've  
23 never heard anybody before, or since, ever -- ever put  
24 that intonation on one word like Joe used to put it.

25 But Joe was -- he believed that, you know,



1 the prices they were charging were fair. He didn't  
2 believe anybody ought to get a break. He didn't  
3 believe that, you know, you -- you ought to give --  
4 give a free pass to people over 80. The Octogenarian  
5 pass, I believe it's come to be known as.

6 Didn't believe in credit cards. Didn't  
7 believe in a discount for kids under 12. Never would  
8 have gone for Ski Free After Three.

9 He said, This is what it is. This is what  
10 it costs us to provide the service. And if -- if you  
11 want to benefit from the service, this is what it's  
12 going to cost you.

13 And it cost the same to run an 80-year-old  
14 up the mountain as it does a 12-year-old up the  
15 mountain. And that's really what you're paying for, is  
16 for a ride up the mountain, and not skiing down.

17 So when things like snowcats and Russ Harmer  
18 came along, it was -- it was kind of (inaudible) can  
19 say apoplectic, but.

20 But I think -- I think Joe's thinking, I'm  
21 not sure I want to go here at all.

22 I -- I remember, very well, walking into  
23 Joe's office, down at the Deseret Building one day. We  
24 had a lunch date. And I used to try and have lunch  
25 with my grandfather once a month. Maybe more often if



1 I could.

2 So this is my day to have lunch with Joe.  
3 And I walk into his office. And he's got Russ Harmer  
4 sitting in the hot seat.

5 And Russ is trying to talk Joe into new  
6 cats, because the old cats are wearing out.

7 And we have to have, not only some new cats,  
8 but we have to have a couple of additional cats,  
9 because I want to start grooming here, and here, and  
10 here, yadda, yadda, yadda. And Joe was grilling him to  
11 death. Why do we need this? Why do you need that?

12 Isn't it good enough the way it is? Why do  
13 we have to do that?

14 But at the end of the day, after Joe had had  
15 all of his questions answered by Russ, he said, Okay.  
16 And Russ got up, looked at me, and kind of smiled and  
17 walked out. And I sat down, and Joe never even said  
18 hello to me. He just looked up from his desk, and he  
19 said, You know, that Russ Harmer is a good man.

20 And he -- Joe was always fair. You know?  
21 If you could explain to Joe why you needed what you  
22 were asking for, nine out of ten times he'd say okay.  
23 Go ahead.

24 But at that point, Alta had, you know,  
25 expanded into a -- a business. A going concern.



1                   And, as I said earlier, I didn't think Joe  
2                   ever foresaw that. From the outset. I think it kind  
3                   of blindsided him.

4                   Q.    I guess I find it interesting that, you  
5                   know, Alta is a business. Has grown into this  
6                   business. But, you know, his primary -- his job, I  
7                   mean, his avocation was being a lawyer.

8                   A.    Mm-hmm.

9                   Q.    And this Alta thing was just something that  
10                  he did on the side. You know? So is that -- that  
11                  where the Alta is his mistress kind of idea?

12                 A.    Yeah. Exactly. Exactly.

13                 And he loved it. He did. You know? He  
14                 just -- but Joe was -- Joe was an outdoorsman in a lot  
15                 of ways.

16                 I mean, you know. Joe -- Joe was running  
17                 Cataract Canyon in high water in wooden dories for  
18                 God's sakes.

19                 I mean, you know, rubber rafts? We don't  
20                 have rubber rafts. We just run in them in drift boats.

21                 Now, these great big giant, you know, river  
22                 dories.

23                 You know. Loved to hunt ducks.

24                 I've shot ducks with my grandfather since I  
25                 was 14 years old.



1                   Loved his house at Bear Lake. But he never  
2 owned a power boat. Always a sail boat. You know? A  
3 small sail boat. But loved to go out and sail.

4                   So, yeah. It -- it just -- to my way of  
5 thinking, it just follows that, you know, Joe loved to  
6 be outside. He loved the mountains. You know, he  
7 loved Alta. And when I figured out that they could  
8 actually build a chair lift and not have to hike, he  
9 loved that even more.

10                  That's for sure.

11                  So, yeah, he -- it's not surprising that --  
12 that -- and I'm sure you probably got that from Janet,  
13 but -- who said Alta was Joe's mistress.

14                  And it was.

15                  Q. Can we stop tape for a second?

16                  What do you think Alta has this cache about  
17 it?

18                  There's kind of brand loyalty. What do you  
19 think makes Alta Alta?

20                  A. Its soul. Alta had -- had a soul. Maybe it  
21 still has a soul. I don't think it has the soul that  
22 it used to have. But it was -- it was the people. You  
23 know? But it --

24                  Things change all the time. Of course. I  
25 mean, you know. It necessarily has to.



1           But, for so many years, you know, people  
2           that worked at Alta, and lived at Alta, and were Alta,  
3           you know, came back, and back, and back, and back.

4           You weren't getting -- you weren't getting  
5           the college-age kids ski bum that just wants to come in  
6           and punch tickets, and ski for a winter and then leave.

7           You'd get the guy that would come in year,  
8           after year, after year. I mean, you'd have guys put in  
9           their entire adult lives up there.

10          You know, the Buck Sasaki's, the Joe  
11          Okamoras, the Hans Brogels, the Chick Mortons.

12          You know, these weren't ski bums. This was  
13          their place. And they loved it every bit as much as  
14          those of us that -- that grew up skiing there.

15          And because of that, and -- and because -- I  
16          think also because that -- you know, Alta was one of  
17          the first, that it -- it obtained its -- its venerable  
18          status, if you would.

19          But, yeah, I think it's the people. You  
20          know? And the soul of the place.

21          And maybe it's not reasonable to -- to  
22          expect that to always be so.

23          I mean, you were telling me that, you know,  
24          you -- you still feel it, and you've been skiing there  
25          for 13 years. And maybe I don't feel it as much as



1 I -- as you do, because I've been skiing there a lot  
2 longer, and -- and I just -- and I remember different  
3 things.

4 But, you know, Alta, I think will always be  
5 Alta.

6 The mountain will always be the mountain,  
7 unless somebody does something crazy, and, you know,  
8 start running lifts up Devil's Castle and Greeley Bowl.

9 And the snow will always be the snow. And  
10 I -- you know?

11 I really think the snow also is -- is what  
12 makes Alta. I mean, we haven't even touched on that.

13 But it -- it's like nothing I've ever skied  
14 anywhere else, and I've skied a lot of places.

15 But it's -- when it -- when it snows up  
16 there, the snow is good. And it's fun.

17 Q. What I find, for me especially, is that even  
18 if it is skied out, even if it's a couple of days after  
19 a storm, I have never gone up there and --

20 A. Yeah. Exactly. Exactly.

21 Q. And I guess a lot of people, you know,  
22 you've -- there's almost like two mindsets too. You  
23 know, there's some people that will never tell you  
24 where their secret stash is. That's mine. And blah  
25 blah blah blah.



1                   Let's go there again. You know, like it's  
2 some big secret. In lift line.

3           A. There are no secret stashes left on that  
4 mountain.

5           Q. I --

6           A. They've all been discovered.

7           Q. I've --

8           A. I'm -- I'm --

9           Q. I fully agree.

10          A. I'm fully convinced that they have every  
11 last one of them been discovered.

12                   You know, I thought I had a couple, but no.  
13 You know? I just -- sort of like, Oh, God.  
14 Somebody's already been here. Bummer.

15                   You know, I had tons of those little pokes  
16 over in the Wildcat trees. But, yeah, they all get  
17 discovered.

18                   You know, it was like we were talking about  
19 earlier. Everybody is on the wide boards now. On the  
20 wide skis.

21                   Hell, I've even gone to them myself.

22                   It took a while, but I -- I -- I finally  
23 came over to the dark side about three, four years ago.

24          Q. That's funny. That's like --

25                   You know, and she said, Skiing was ruined



1 when they went to plastic.

2           Once the plastic came, and it ruined  
3 everything. That was it. I gave it up. You know?

4           I guess it's kind of funny that everyone --

5           A. Yeah.

6           Q. -- has their -- you know, I guess their era.  
7 And that's one thing about Alta too. Is that you'll  
8 see the stuck-in-time -- the -- my buddy and I call  
9 them the stuck-in-time guys.

10           They've found a ski that worked great in  
11 1980, or 1970, or whatever it was, and still ski them,  
12 because they work perfectly. They're predictable, and  
13 they know how they turn.

14           A. The name of that ski is called the Miller's  
15 Soft. And you still see them up there from time to  
16 time.

17           I've still got -- I've still got an old pair  
18 of hot roots in my clos -- in my garage. That I  
19 just -- I really should take them down to Play It Again  
20 Sports, but I just have a hard time parting with them.

21           It's my -- it was my second pair. I bought  
22 them -- first pair I bought I loved, because I -- I'd  
23 made the mistake of taking them out in the bumps one  
24 day, and I bent them both. Not -- not a lot, just bent  
25 them just a little bit.



1 Q. -- track, right?

2 A. But God were they good in the powder. You  
3 know? Just that little bit of bend give it just that  
4 much more flotation. And they were spectacular. And I  
5 had them for years and years and years.

6 And somebody got into my garage one night  
7 and stole them. And the reason they stole them, I'm  
8 convinced to this day, was I had just put new bindings  
9 on them, and they stole them for the bindings. So I'm  
10 sure they probably, you know, took the bindings off,  
11 and the skis wound up in a dumpster someplace.

12 And I went out, and I found another pair.  
13 Because they'd been way out of production. So I  
14 looked, and looked, and looked. And then finally found  
15 a pair.

16 And took them out, and they just were not  
17 the same ski at all. I mean, they were the same year,  
18 the same vintage, same everything, except they weren't  
19 bent. And they just -- they never did ski the same.  
20 At all.

21 Q. I -- well, while we've got you here, talk a  
22 little bit about the legacy of Joe, and the ski museum.

23 A. Well, that's kind of a long and involved  
24 story.

25 It -- it initially -- it initially started



KUED Interview \* David Quinney

1 when -- when Allen Engen and John Engen approached me  
2 about putting up a small, parentheses, A-frame type of  
3 a building at Alta, to showcase Alf's memorabilia, and  
4 trophies, which were numerous, and some old skis and  
5 stuff like that.

6 And, yeah, we got together and we formed a  
7 board, and it just -- it kind of grew. It just -- it  
8 just kind of grew. I can't really explain it any  
9 better than that.

10 And Alf and Joe were -- were lifelong  
11 friends. From the outset. I mean, the two of them  
12 started Alta together for hell's sakes.

13 Yeah. They -- they'd known each other for  
14 years and years and years, and it just sort of -- it  
15 just sort of happened.

16 And it went from a -- the small A-frame at  
17 Alta to what it is now, and where it is now.

18 And -- which is a good thing, because, I  
19 mean, we wound up getting the Olympics, and then, you  
20 know, we had room to put an Olympic museum in on the  
21 second floor.

22 And Spence Eccles was in on the whole thing,  
23 and he was a -- you know. He was a -- a great Alpine  
24 racer in college here at the University. And so he --  
25 you know, he had, as I'm sure you know, a great deal to



1 do with the success of the Olympic games, and a great  
2 deal to do with -- with the install -- installment of  
3 the Olympic museum at the Quinney center.

4 But, yeah, it just -- it kind of grew.

5 Q. That's nice. And I think it's fitting that  
6 it has Joe's name on it, because, literally, you know,  
7 from the ten guys putting in a grand a piece, has  
8 turned into, you know, what Alta is. And the dominos  
9 kind of fall to the ski industry coming from Alta as  
10 being kind of at the forefront.

11 A. Yeah. It -- it's funny that you should say  
12 that it's nice it has Joe's name is on the building,  
13 which I think it's nice Joe's name is on the building  
14 too. But if Joe were sitting here right now, I -- I  
15 don't think Joe would like -- like it very much at all.

16 He -- he was never much of one to -- for  
17 demanding a lot of fanfare and recognition. You know?

18 He believed in -- he believed in giving. He  
19 believed in philanthropy. He believed in supporting  
20 charitable causes, but he always believed in doing it  
21 quietly.

22 And what was known to be more than a  
23 little -- a little bit critical at times of those that  
24 did not. Do it quietly.

25 So I -- I don't know if Joe would



1 necessarily approve of his name being on the building  
2 or not. But I think -- I think he would probably like  
3 the -- what's actually going on inside the building.

4 Because he was a big Olympic booster back in  
5 the old days, when everybody thought it was a good  
6 idea, except it never got here.

7 Q. Yeah. That's kind of interesting.

8 (Whereupon, the recording  
9 was concluded.)

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