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KUED The Alta Experience

BOB WOODY

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2

P R O C E E D I N G S

3

Q. -- for me, so we get that correct?

4

A. Bob Woody. B-O-B, W-O-O-D-Y.

5

Q. And, now, you grew up back East, but you

6

came to Utah?

7

A. I was raised in the Army. And then I went

8

into the Army.

9

After I got out of the Army, I went to

10

college, and then met Barbara. And we felt, like you

11

did at one time, I've got to come West.

12

But I had lived, briefly, in Colorado? I

13

think Colorado Springs, one summer. And I'm going

14

to -- I had -- I felt the Rocky Mountain high, even

15

before John Denver wrote that song. But that captured

16

it for me, when --

17

I was on a Rocky Mountain high.

18

Q. With that, what -- I guess what -- when did

19

you first start skiing?

20

A. I think it was about 14 years old. And

21

begging my father, Please, dad, I've got to have a pair

22

of skis. And he bought them, for five bucks, and put

23

the edges on himself, and.

24

I think the poles cost 250, and the boots --

25

they had the square-topped boots, and those cost about,



1 I think 350.

2 But that was big money then. No doubt.

3 And mostly, we just kind of trunked around,  
4 and.

5 The Brookshire State Parks, Brookshire  
6 Mountains in Massachusetts, they have some state parks  
7 around Pittsfield. We're talking about that area.  
8 Which was the first place -- one of the early  
9 New England skiing destinations.

10 And it would -- you'd walk up and ski down.

11 If you really got exotic equipment, you got  
12 some climbing skins, and those were seal skins.

13 And those were good. Go up -- went up to  
14 Mount Washington with them, and --

15 And, you know, and I had a very supportive  
16 mother, who would tend to see this was good. And  
17 she -- she -- I -- I was addict -- I became immediately  
18 addicted to skiing, before -- even before I was on  
19 skis. Just the image and the idea of it.

20 Q. Well, kind of paint that picture. What --  
21 what -- what was the -- the idea of skiing that you had  
22 in your mind that --

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. -- made you kind of romanticize about it?

25 A. Well, it was spiritual. It was definitely



1 spiritual. Honorable, noble. It was glamerous. It  
2 had the quality of exploration to it.

3 And being, so to speak, in the wild, or  
4 being where the wind blows, and you could feel the snow  
5 in your face, and where you were dealing with nature,  
6 and you are nip -- nipping in it, or overcomeing it.  
7 And that was a challenge. It was great then.

8 There wasn't any -- there were no gondolas  
9 to comfort you. And if a chair lift was remote, maybe  
10 you have to go up to Lake Placid, New York, or Stover  
11 to get on a chair lift.

12 But this real technological leap forward  
13 were rope tows, which started in New England. And we  
14 got used to them, and hanging onto them when they slid  
15 through your hands. And you just stay in a single spot  
16 sometimes in the spring. Zhhh, zhhh. They'd un --  
17 (inaudible) -- the grip.

18 Q. Because the rope would ice up?

19 A. Well, it would get wet, and your gloves  
20 would tend to let them slip through.

21 So one of the things they did, they had  
22 little Rossin niche. You could put powder on your  
23 gloves, and that would tend to grab for you.

24 But typically your gloves got really wet and  
25 damp and that time of year. Spring is when they -- the



1 rope tows would slip through your hands.

2 And depend -- depending on the grade a lot.

3 Place like Suicide 6, which was a run like  
4 the steepest, I think, I think since College Face. And  
5 that -- you would really slip on that one.

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. But, God, you get good strong hands.

8 Q. Let's talk a little bit about when you came  
9 to Utah, and when you came to Utah and were skiing  
10 here?

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. What was -- where was the first place you  
13 skied?

14 A. I came to Utah from Burley, Idaho, is where  
15 I did duty. My pennance -- pennance, so to speak, for  
16 being a reporter. And that was in 1957 I got an  
17 invitation to come to the Tribune.

18 And I came down tentatively, expecting to be  
19 here about five years and then being off to become a  
20 foreign correspondent somewhere. But I think once you  
21 get the snow here, you say, no, I'm hooked.

22 And no one offered me a job as a  
23 correspondent, besides.

24 So being in Utah was being foreign  
25 correspondent, enough, I found out, because most people





1 at that time, back in 1957, had only the vaguest idea  
2 what Utah was.

3 They imagined guys looking like Quakers, and  
4 with large black hats on them, and women with bonnets,  
5 and slamming locusts into the ground.

6 And the imagery was so prevailing and  
7 pervasive among people outside this state, that they  
8 didn't really understand. You could really put up a  
9 great electronics industry in here. Then other kinds  
10 of developments that became, and particularly  
11 computers, and electronics, so.

12 When I came here, the most exotic industry  
13 had been started with the missile industry. Before  
14 that, it had been -- Kennecott had been put more lunch  
15 on Utah tables. And then the other company around,  
16 U.S. Steel down in Orem. They were it. They were the  
17 industrial backbone.

18 Then you had these little small  
19 manufacturers. Manufacturers (inaudible) basically  
20 produces a food. Put them in tin cans. And that was  
21 the Utah Manufacturer's Association.

22 Q. So why don't we talk a little bit about --  
23 these are some of the histories.

24 How about the Utah skiing as a -- as a  
25 destination?







1 Utah. Namely, to push for the Utah Olympic Games. And  
2 Ski Utah -- Ski Utah came into being in about 1969,  
3 because you -- we had to bid early for the games. Like  
4 I think we had to go to Rome in 1966 to --

5 So Ski Utah had been started in the early  
6 '60s. But this was the first time there was sort of a  
7 consciousness of Utah skiing.

8 And the Ski Utah winterobe in 1966. And  
9 put in a bid for the '72 games. And the -- for the  
10 International Olympic Committee. And it represent --  
11 it was representing the United States. We were  
12 astonished that we would even be permitted to represent  
13 the United States. But we beat out Lake Placid, and  
14 somebody else, and -- and in -- in the local race.

15 And by 1972 -- or when we went to make the  
16 bid was in 1966. In Rome. And Japan got it.

17 I think there was kind of a guilt trip,  
18 because Japan had been destined to have the Olympics,  
19 in I believe 1950 -- '40 -- no, excuse me, 1939, and  
20 they didn't get it because they had gone to war.

21 Q. Right.

22 A. And we had all gone to war, and so that  
23 Olympic games was the -- was not held.

24 The first winter Olympics, I think, after  
25 the wars was in St. Borlich, and that was when our



1 friend Dev Jennings, who had been a military skier for  
2 the Tenth Mountain Division, skied for the United  
3 States.

4 And Susie -- Susie Whittick was to be in it  
5 too. And I think there was some brew haha with the --  
6 the gentleman who was the head of the international --  
7 head of the International Olympics Committee, Avery  
8 Brindage. A very gruff old man, but with a textured  
9 voice.

10 And as I -- Susie could really tell you more  
11 about that --

12 Q. Yeah.

13 A. -- disappointment.

14 Q. I know the whole --

15 A. Well, you know --

16 Q. -- story.

17 A. -- the story. Yeah.

18 And she's still a hell of a skier.

19 Q. Oh, yeah.

20 I know. She's a nice woman, and she's --

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. -- great, and her husband Bill.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. Why don't you talk a little bit about what

25 Alta was like in the 1950s when you came out?





1           A.    I think I had my first look at Alta after  
2 coming to the Tribune in 1957. August of '57. I  
3 probably said, God, I've got to take a look at this  
4 place.

5                        So I took Barbara up to Alta, and there we  
6 saw it. This mag -- this magnificent -- but it was in  
7 the fall. I could not really get a measure what it  
8 was. It -- until that time. So I didn't understand  
9 its -- I had heard of its dynamic. Had no difficulty  
10 believing that it was what it was. Good powder skiing.

11                      And we go up there, and I remember seeing  
12 the mass of Mount Superior. Oh, wow. I could hardly  
13 wait to get up here.

14                      But for many years I didn't get to go  
15 anywhere, because at the Tribune, and having four  
16 beginning, middle-aged adults, I only got to ski on the  
17 weekends, and mostly at the Wasatch Mountain Club.

18                      And that was because they did their own  
19 touring. And if you didn't have \$3.50, I think it was,  
20 for the lift at Alta, that was Collins, you didn't go  
21 skiing. You just went touring.

22                      And that was a joy, though, in its own  
23 right.

24                      In 19 -- by 1970, however -- oh, it had  
25 been, I think in 1964, however, I got -- was invited to



1 correspond for Ski Magazine. Oh, yeah. You bet I can  
2 do that.

3 And I did that for the next, I think six or  
4 seven years.

5 And I made it my business to go to the  
6 resorts every now and then. It was duty.

7 And as you say, you can get duty fatigue if  
8 you think you're doing it because of duty.

9 But I got to do a lot of skiing. And  
10 resorts would tend to say, Well, you represent Ski, so  
11 here's a ticket for you. And that was all right.

12 But in 1973 I suspended that, and could no  
13 longer do it. That was after, certainly, the  
14 corruption of Watergate. And, you know, just don't  
15 take those things, at all. Period. That's the policy  
16 of Ski Magazine.

17 So I ended any kind of ticket gratuities at  
18 that time.

19 And the Tribune had a very strong policy  
20 against it. Against taking any kind of gratuities, as  
21 the word was put. And you sure in hell did not want to  
22 get caught on somebody's list, because it would be  
23 worse than death if you did.

24 Q. So would that -- at -- after you toured  
25 around for a while, at what point did you become, say,



1 a serious Alta skier?

2 A. I think I became a serious Alta skier after  
3 I retired.

4 When I was 65, I enrolled in the University  
5 of Utah. They had a course up there called How To  
6 Become a Ski Instructor.

7 And I enrolled in it, thinking, Well, this  
8 is going to get me a lot of skiing. But, in fact, what  
9 it got me was classroom work. A knowledge of  
10 technique, that -- the physical aspect of dynamics of  
11 technique the psychological effects of teaching, or how  
12 to teach various people -- various students, and  
13 depending upon whether they were people who liked  
14 experimentation or whether they followed by example, or  
15 whether they had to be told one, two, three.

16 So you learned an awful lot about  
17 methodology of teaching.

18 But in the process, we would go up to Alta.  
19 This is the beginning of 1961. And we'd go up to Alta,  
20 the ski -- the ski students would. There were several  
21 of them at the U.

22 And go to Alta, and -- and they'd just  
23 best -- their best instructors would teach us. Teach  
24 us, under the -- under the ages of Harold Goodrow, who  
25 was the Alta curmudgeon of the time.



1                   And they made us good skiers. They made us  
2 much better than we were.

3                   And so that was great. I got to do that for  
4 15 years. Wonderful way to get -- leave this skiing  
5 world.

6                   And after -- then I got into cross country  
7 skiing -- racing, in about 1980. Before I retired --  
8 ten years before I retired, because it was something --  
9 him -- involved in recovery from deadly disease. And I  
10 thought, Why don't I do this?

11                   And it was marvelous what I did, in giving  
12 you the physical aerobic endurance as well, to go with  
13 your strength skiing.

14                   Q. Do you need to -- okay.

15                   A. No.

16                   Q. Let's talk a little bit about skiing powder.

17                   A. Mm-hmm.

18                   Q. And go ahead and wax poetic a little bit  
19 about that.

20                   A. Yeah.

21                   There are powder days and there are powder  
22 days. And there are powder days when you are fit to  
23 ski powder. That is you have the mode. You're just  
24 right, and everything is coming together. And those  
25 are zen days. Those come rarely. But you do it, and





1 then you have magic ability to make it. And I did it.

2 I remember coming down High Rustler once.  
3 Regular long skis. And it was a zen day. I was going  
4 through that powder, and just carving those long wide  
5 turns.

6 And there was a couple of three instructors  
7 who were -- I noticed were standing by the side of high  
8 Rustler. And I think they had exhausted themselves.

9 But, because I had that internal zen, that  
10 is so rare, that I -- I went right by them. And I  
11 thought, This has got to last forever. But it doesn't.  
12 So you find yourself clumsily falling on days when  
13 you -- how could I do that? You know?

14 And perfectly good snow, and in powder. But  
15 one day of good powder skiing, your personal zen,  
16 doesn't make you have that every day. That is a  
17 magic -- it's a gift of God.

18 And then -- but it's whisk. It's gone away  
19 from you. And you don't know what you did that was  
20 wrong, but you -- just all over yourself. And I'm sure  
21 you know what I mean.

22 And -- but it -- it was delicious.

23 And I think powder is the only other sport  
24 I can think of that makes you scream with joy.

25 And you hear people whooping down in the



1 powder, and you know there's something about the  
2 powder, the ripping it up, that gives you this  
3 tremendous high. And the essence.

4 They called it virgin snow, I suppose.

5 There's an equivalent -- equivalence of  
6 that, or -- supposedly. The symbolism.

7 And there you are, the first to get down  
8 them.

9 It's got to the point, however, where you  
10 could rarely be the first, particularly if you got up  
11 to a resort any later than nine o'clock or 10:30,  
12 because it would be pretty well shredded by the time  
13 you got on to it.

14 And as I became lazier and lazier -- not  
15 lazier and lazier, more laggard in my ways, I probably  
16 missed a lot of powder. But I knew how to find it, in  
17 the little crannies and shade that people don't  
18 normally ski in.

19 If you think about it, there's so many ways  
20 to ski powder, that -- Alta powder, that don't  
21 necessarily mean being on -- on the regular slopes.

22 So you might not get a long run, you might  
23 not get good -- get linked turns any distance, but you  
24 still get to ski powder.

25 That's the -- that's the pleasure of Alta,



1 is the niches and the hidden crannies.

2 But, I say, it was a great pair. Of course  
3 Alf Engen was the master of powder, the Alta powder  
4 technique, so.

5 Q. Talk a little bit about that concept,  
6 because that's one of my favorite aspects of skiing  
7 Alta.

8 A. Mm-hmm.

9 Q. Is that, you know, even after -- after  
10 everyone's come up and shredded the powder, there's  
11 still all of these little stashes that you can find.

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Let's talk about maybe what your strategy  
14 might be on a -- on a given day, if you were --

15 Say you realized that, you know, West  
16 Rustler was the place to go find the stash. Where  
17 would you maybe look for some --

18 A. On West Rustler? Over by Stone Crusher.  
19 Something like that.

20 I didn't really look that hard for it,  
21 because the West Rustler, and let's say Stone Crusher,  
22 were pretty intimidating slopes to me. And where you  
23 could traverse them over the -- on the cat track.

24 And I went through the ropes on the cat  
25 track one day, and I took out the cat track ropes, and



1 I think I went down Stone Crusher, up -- tumbled upside  
2 down and over.

3 I see people going by me up there, with  
4 their skis, and I said, Help. Help. I was scared.  
5 Because I was really stuck down there.

6 But, then, I said, I don't want to get in  
7 this situation again. By myself.

8 But I see guys do it, and I see them peel  
9 off and head down those, and, Wow. Zip, zip, zip, zip,  
10 zip.

11 But at my -- being above the median age, I  
12 don't have that zip, zip, zip, or I don't have the  
13 whatever it takes to do that.

14 Q. How about the -- you talked a little bit  
15 yesterday about almost like the brotherhood of skiing.  
16 Where --

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. The difference between maybe the casual  
19 skier, or somebody who really feels the skiing --

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. -- as a -- as a lifestyle.

22 Can you talk a little bit about that?

23 A. Well, there was certainly, an early skiing,  
24 a sense of fraternity and knowing each other.

25 And, because the rel -- everybody kind of





1 knew everybody in the ski world. I hesitate to say ski  
2 industry, which is what it's morphed into.

3 But, in skiing, everybody knew us. So every  
4 now and then you would see one of those Austrian skiers  
5 that had become legend. And if you were up in  
6 New England, possibly you would see them up Pinkham  
7 Notch, or Stowe.

8 And the oldtimers, of course there was one  
9 at that time.

10 It was just understood. You got along.

11 And nobody stole anything. You'd leave your  
12 pack by the side of the trail, and it would be there  
13 when you came back down.

14 This was understood. And there weren't any  
15 ski thefts. Nothing like that.

16 I think skiing, beginning in about the early  
17 '60s, became, quote, when somebody says, We ought to  
18 promote our ski industry. And you never hear about our  
19 ski sport anymore, it's your ski industry.

20 And, because, then, it became a marketing  
21 tool. And with it -- with marketing, it -- it assumed  
22 all -- I could say crassness. But it did. It kind of  
23 killed off the -- the romance. And pretty soon you're  
24 saying to yourself, sitting in these highly, highly  
25 engineered restaurants, and then -- I can't say that's



1 at Alta, but certainly when we lost that little cabin  
2 at Brighton, and we said, Well, there it goes.

3 Q. Let's talk a little bit about that. The  
4 fact that, while, you know, down the -- down the road  
5 of Highway 210 you have Snowbird, and that's one --

6 A. Mm-hmm.

7 Q. -- ski concept. Let's talk about the  
8 concept of Alta, and what makes it magical up there.

9 A. Alta did not yield to any concepts that I  
10 know of. I assume there was -- be some bickering about  
11 there, between mayors and other operators, as there  
12 normally would be, but he's, I believe, was allowed --  
13 independently followed his bliss. And so as a result,  
14 you had this -- quite a bit of diversity. Didn't have  
15 anything institutionalized like a McDonalds up there,  
16 or McSki.

17 There was -- all the food was, so to speak,  
18 brought in, and done on the spot. It was fresh, and it  
19 was good. And I can't remember ever seeing any  
20 institutionalize d food up there at Alta.

21 And, of course, first year there was  
22 bringing sack lunch, or something like that. But as  
23 time went on, and my salary improved, I think I started  
24 eating at the Watson Shelter.

25 So -- of course occasionally at the Alta



1 Lodge, which had exquisite lunches. And that was just  
2 the -- I owe this to myself. I worked hard all week.  
3 And that's the way it went.

4 And then, when I was -- finally got the  
5 teaching mission for the University of Utah, we got  
6 tickets to eat at the -- at the Alpine -- not the  
7 Alpine, but the -- you mentioned the name of it.

8 Q. The -- oh, the Alpine Glow and the Albian?

9 A. Not the Alpine Glow so much as at the --  
10 now, what is the -- what is that one where you -- it's  
11 the top of the driver's road. Just before you go into  
12 the --

13 Q. Isn't that the Albian?

14 A. Alf's Place.

15 Q. Yeah.

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. I guess that was the Alpine Glow, and then  
18 they changed the name.

19 A. Not -- at that -- the Alpine Glow was down  
20 below, in that basin.

21 Q. Oh, okay.

22 A. Yeah. It was where you skied --

23 Q. Oh, yeah. Over by --

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. -- by Sugarloaf.



1           A.    Yeah.  Really at the base of Sugarloaf.

2                    The -- Alf's Place, I believe, is in a --  
3 the -- right at the top of the parking lot.

4           Q.    Right.

5                    As we think about --

6           A.    Or just below it.

7           Q.    Yeah, the difference between the fact that  
8 Alta is really only a lift company, as opposed to being  
9 a resort.

10          A.    Mm-hmm.

11          Q.    Can you talk a little bit about, you know,  
12 maybe why that's different than other destinations you  
13 might go?

14          A.    It was different because I don't believe it  
15 was caught up in the sund-- surge of interest in skiing  
16 that came on in about the late '50s or early '60s.

17                    And I don't know what really created the  
18 surge except people discovered it.

19                    I think the Tenth Mountain Division  
20 Veterans, and the -- in many respects, started it, by  
21 their own.  After getting out of the Army, they all  
22 wanted to be back in skiing again.  So like Pete  
23 Sibirg, at Vale; Larry Jump at Arapaho, and a whole  
24 number -- a number of resorts and situations were  
25 started by those guys.





1           I think that came on big after World War II,  
2 when affluence -- American affluence was getting as big  
3 as it ever had been.

4           We had the world to ourselves. We had the  
5 world markets to ourselves, because all of the other  
6 industries had been bombed, blackened, or dismantled,  
7 and they just weren't in the ability to compete with  
8 us.

9           So we were sitting in fat city. And when  
10 you are in fat city, you can be doing the things that  
11 you normally associated with what rich people get to  
12 do.

13           I fortunately lived in a -- briefly in a  
14 part of the country where it was not like you had to go  
15 up there in a limosine. You could get up there in a  
16 bus, or it -- it just is in Salt Lake City.

17           And -- or pool rides. And then, when I  
18 started skiing, you had to pool ride, but that's just  
19 when gas rationing started.

20           But it -- it was a -- it was fun to be  
21 crowded in a car, and your body heat warming everybody  
22 else in the car, and putting mist on the windshield,  
23 and everywhere else, because the ventilation systems  
24 weren't that great then.

25           Then -- there was joy. There was a real joy



1 in it, and anticipation. Because skiing only really  
2 came of age in the United States in the 1930s. Late  
3 1930s.

4 And there was skiing before that, no doubt.  
5 Lake Placid in the '20s, where they had the 1928  
6 Olympic games.

7 But I -- I saw it caught on, but I thought,  
8 This is the biggest it's ever going to get.

9 I remember sometime like in 1939, they said,  
10 there's 30 million skiers in the United States. Wow.  
11 Can't get any bigger than that. Well, gosh, it did.  
12 It became a popular sport.

13 And I say popular, meaning everybody was  
14 doing it. And I don't think they share that same  
15 romance that we early skiers had, thanks to movies that  
16 had come out of Austria, and the John Jay films, and  
17 the early films about skiing, which were primarily  
18 dealing with skiing that was fun, and you did other  
19 things besides merely be an exhibitionist.

20 And they had humor to -- humor in them.  
21 John Jay's films.

22 So after a while, it's -- I think it got to  
23 be when you have seen one ski film, more or less you've  
24 seen them all. They've been done there to hit you in  
25 the face.



1                   And I can't identify with ski films, where I  
2 see people doing things I would never be able to do.  
3 Can't even dream of doing. You know? So that -- that  
4 kills it off right there. You've got to be able to  
5 identify with the product that's being --

6           Q.    How about the concept of what --

7           A.    -- shown.

8           Q.    How about the concept of what, you know --  
9 why don't you talk me through a really great ski day at  
10 Alta. Maybe one you can remember, or one you can  
11 imagine.

12          A.    All right. I'll do that.

13                   Get picked up early at my front door here.  
14 A cup of coffee. Head up that canyon.

15                   It is a gorgeous day, but it happens to be a  
16 weekday. And so they have the road practically all to  
17 ourselves.

18                   It snowed that night. Probably around four  
19 inches. You get up and you get your ticket in a timely  
20 way.

21                   Then you have another cup of coffee, and  
22 then you head for the lift.

23                   You get on that lift, and then your headed  
24 up, either Collins or Wildcat. And you -- you're not  
25 going to wreck yourself at first, so you don't come off



1 Wildcat and go down through the bumps, you go around  
2 the cat track and kind of loosen up. And you say, God,  
3 this is a great day. And you look and you can see some  
4 of the lingering clouds, of course, are still hovering  
5 over the mountain. But it's crystal clear, and you  
6 know it's going to be, not only a great day, but a warm  
7 day.

8           And the snow is light, and the crews have  
9 been out packing. So if you want to ski the packed,  
10 you can do that. But actually we want to get off the  
11 packed and dip into the powder. Let's experiment.

12           So we do that. And pretty soon you're  
13 howling. And about 10:00 you say, I'm tired. Let's go  
14 down Watsons. Have a cup of coffee. And you do. You  
15 have a cup of coffee, and you -- and some chocolate  
16 cake to go with it, to fire up your -- your energy  
17 again.

18           And there are people in there you know. You  
19 stomp around. A lot of hellos. Hello, hello, hello.  
20 How are you doing and all of that stuff.

21           And it's a warm, comaraderie feeling, I said  
22 that is peculiar to Alta.

23           At the midday, you may stop at Alf's, and --  
24 and have one of the cheeseburgers there.

25           And if you're teaching for the University





1 ski school, you will have a meal ticket in your pocket,  
2 and you get one of these wonderful burgers. And that's  
3 just -- and I quote, a beverage coffee, of course.  
4 Heavily laced with chocolate.

5 And by then, the afternoon, you're really  
6 feeling bitter about skiing than you did in the  
7 morning, because it takes a morning of warm-up.

8 The warm-up of skiing is slow. It --

9 Then, once you warm-up in the afternoon, you  
10 can -- you can do no wrong. You just ski like an  
11 animal. And you're pulling in all together, all of the  
12 techniques that the instructors have told you about,  
13 where your shoulders should be, and how your body mass  
14 moves through the -- over the skis before you even  
15 begin to tour -- turn. And you have it all together,  
16 just perfect.

17 Then you come -- now you have that final  
18 run. Say, listen. I wonder if we can make the lift  
19 before they -- it closes. So that would be a  
20 challenge. And you skate up to the lift, just get  
21 aboard before it -- they pull the closing gate over it.

22 That is great, because you've had -- you had  
23 adventure. You've had -- tested yourself. And you  
24 have skated up to get on that lift.

25 So that's it.



1                   And then you have that final run. And the  
2 clouds are at -- are kind of gathered around Superior  
3 maybe, and then you have, if it's late in the season,  
4 you have the Alpine Glow there, that turns your --  
5 (inaudible).

6                   You know, I think I can indulge a drink.  
7 And so head down to the Alta Lodge, and -- which is  
8 rare. Not many people do that. But I -- now and then  
9 you would say, Oh, let's go in there and have a drink  
10 before we go. And we do.

11                   And you talk, and you see people in there  
12 you kind of know. But the Alta Lodge, of course, at  
13 that time of day, is really not a public place. It's  
14 more for the guests.

15                   Q. There's like a -- it's like a clique. Or  
16 whatever.

17                   A. Mm-hmm.

18                   Q. Alta clique.

19                   A. Mm-hmm.

20                   Q. Let's talk a little bit about why Alta might  
21 be a little bit --

22                   A. Cliquish?

23                   Q. Either cliquish or --

24                   A. Yeah.

25                   Q. -- you know --



1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. The majesty of --

3 A. They only ski at Brighton. Well --

4 Q. Yeah.

5 A. Or, you know, some other popular resort.

6 I think it's because Alta has history to it.

7 But it also has no affectations.

8 And so -- it's sort of like belonging to the  
9 Alta Club, which I never belonged to. But if you  
10 belonged to the Alta Club, you never had to explain  
11 yourself.

12 If you ski at Alta, you don't have to  
13 explain yourself in any way. I think it explains it  
14 for you.

15 They're like, if you ski Alta, Well.

16 Because I think the '80s, and certainly the 90s, Alta  
17 was -- become fairly well known. You'd have  
18 internationals there. You'd have guys -- if you ride  
19 with them on the lift, they might be Liverpool --  
20 Liverpudians from Liverpool, England, or they might be  
21 from anywhere else in the globe, because Alta had  
22 become discovered. It was no longer the greatest  
23 secret never told. And that occurred quite late,  
24 through the '60s and '70s. And the '80s I'm sure. And  
25 so going on.



1           That, plus, if you get up to Alta now, you  
2 would probably find it's just as -- people -- many  
3 people from other places as there are from Salt Lake  
4 City.

5           In 1957, it was basically a Utah resort.  
6 Drawing from the local community. And it was still  
7 loved. And I think it's still loved and respected now.  
8 Because it has main -- it has been stalwart, and it's  
9 never resorted to cheap tricks to get people to come to  
10 it. And I think it's -- it's -- you just feel it. I  
11 don't think you can explain it.

12           I've been to other places, and -- I mean  
13 summer. Rarely in winter anymore. But they don't have  
14 it.

15           I think Sun Valley has it, in a way. I've  
16 been there in winter, on other occasions. And Sun  
17 Valley's got a good bit of the magic. Goes back to Sun  
18 Valley serenade.

19           Q.   Sonya Henney's tutu?

20           A.   Sonya Henney's tutu. Exactly. It happened  
21 in Sun Valley.

22           That -- that, in a way, was --

23           Who was it? Auto Lang that did --

24           Q.   Auto Lang.

25           A.   -- did the photography there. And was so





1 magic that -- you know, that's where it hooks you.

2 I got hooked on Sonya Henny, and through my  
3 first love.

4 I was crazy about her.

5 Q. What do you think the attraction is at Alta?

6 A. Alta, it is that it's innocent. Still  
7 innocent.

8 Although it's got to be run like a business,  
9 and I recognize that. I've started, later years, when  
10 I started working for ski business, or correspondent  
11 for them, I understood that when you're an Alta lift  
12 manager, like Chick Morton, you've got to go out and  
13 look at the sheaves, and the chair lift, and worry  
14 about them. Are they going to -- is something going to  
15 fall off? And dump some skiers on the ground? It is  
16 not fun and games for the people who do -- are in the  
17 operations.

18 They do it, I'm sure, because basically they  
19 had a love and affection for skiing, but they have,  
20 also, an understanding of the -- how -- let's say aware  
21 you have to be of what's going on around you.  
22 Particularly the operations.

23 And it isn't just like you can put up a rope  
24 tow anymore. You have to have inspections, you've got  
25 to survive. You can't just deal with having a bad



1 event.

2           Avalanche (inaudible) also became a --  
3 developed at Alta, and so, I think that --

4           We've had avalanche deaths up there, but  
5 they've been rare. The first one was in 1938, I  
6 believe they had the first avalanche death ever up  
7 there, in Snake spit -- Snake Pit. They did not have  
8 another one until 1969. And I remember it because it  
9 was -- not happened at that time.

10           Because one, avalanche control had become so  
11 good. And somebody got caught, some weird thing. I  
12 think it was off --

13           Q. Was that the one where -- was that the one  
14 where part of the castle came down and hit the frozen  
15 secret lake and then jumped?

16           A. No. No. That wasn't it. That was a later  
17 time.

18           And I do remember that, because I was  
19 walking up when a very sad Alta hand was coming down,  
20 and said, you know, that's -- it had injured somebody.  
21 I think it was a little girl or such, am I right?

22           Q. Yeah.

23           A. Yeah.

24           And that's rare. And I think -- I could see  
25 he was affected by it.



1                   And the -- generally speaking, I don't know  
2                   that there had been -- when you go, like from 1939  
3                   over -- 1930 -- '69, without avalanche death, that's  
4                   pretty good.

5                   Q.    Especially up there, where --

6                   A.    Especially up there.

7                   But you had guys like Monte Atwater, and,  
8                   you know, who are the pioneers in avalanche prediction  
9                   and control.

10                  And Rolan Perilla.

11                  So those guys made all the difference up  
12                  there.

13                  I don't know that we could have had skiing  
14                  up there, as popular as it is, without this tremendous  
15                  complex of knowledge that has gone with it.

16                  Nobody understands that, really, when they  
17                  go up the side of the roads, what it takes to get that  
18                  mountain in safe circumstance, because we go up there  
19                  every day and every week.

20                  And -- and only -- not -- except when the  
21                  road is closed. But generally speaking you don't feel  
22                  threatened when you go up there. And -- I don't. I  
23                  don't worry about it. That's what I'm in the sport  
24                  for.

25                  If I had to worry about it, I wouldn't be --



1 wouldn't be in it.

2 Q. I guess the last thing I'd like to know is,  
3 as you see, there's some changes happened throughout  
4 the years. You know, this lift came in, that lift came  
5 in, that lift came down. The only thing that remains  
6 constant is that mountain.

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. Let's talk a little bit about the character  
9 of the landscape up there.

10 A. To me, Mineral Basin was the way it was.  
11 And I got up on -- looking over -- looking over Mineral  
12 Basin and said, Please don't change it, God. Please  
13 leave that be. That's a reminder of how it was.

14 And that got changed about six or seven  
15 years ago, I think, when Bass put in a lift there.

16 And then, I guess a tunnel -- created a  
17 tunnel up there so you could get into it easier.

18 And then, when they had the Alta, a connect  
19 with Snowbird, I felt, There goes Alta.

20 I mean, I meant it -- I meant it in that  
21 way. I don't think it really did have any affect that  
22 way, in the spirit of Alta.

23 But I said, How can you connect up Snowbird?

24 I followed Snowbird for many years. I -- I,  
25 as a matter of fact, was introduced to the concept by





1 Dick Bass. And this little condo, he had, or, for  
2 starters, after he'd come over from Colorado, I think  
3 it was about 1968, and he told me what his dream was  
4 for those immense basins, which were about three times  
5 as immense as the total Alta complex.

6 And so be it. At that time, '69, you know,  
7 that was the dream.

8 You'd always looked up there as you passed  
9 Snowbird, said, Ah, wow. If somebody could only  
10 develop that. And sure enough, Dick Bass came along.

11 But I think it's been retrospectively said,  
12 Thank God it was he, not some other guy who'd put up  
13 phony swish chalets. But I think he brought in a very  
14 dynamic architecture, that still serves there.

15 It's below the profile of the road as you go  
16 up. And he did an extremely sensitive job. And it --  
17 it stands the test of time, now nearly what, 30 years,  
18 40 years later? It's a great area.

19 Q. With -- with that, you mentioned that when  
20 they connected the Mineral Basin to Snowbird --

21 A. Mm-hmm.

22 Q. -- Alta, the spirit of -- there goes the  
23 spirit of Alta.

24 What is the spirit of Alta?

25 A. I thought -- the spirit of Alta is that it



1 is still the way it was. The way we were.

2 And I still find a sense of that up there.

3 The way we were when we were much more unified with  
4 each other spiritually.

5 Even though you didn't make any contacts  
6 with the person, say, you didn't pledge allegiance to  
7 Alta or have brotherhood rights. You know, it was just  
8 that way at Alta. You'd get to get on the lift at  
9 Alta, and you'd be talking to anybody, and you'd be in  
10 a deep conversation.

11 Alta, you could learn an awful lot riding a  
12 lift. From some guy that was from somewhere else.  
13 Later on, it would be a physician, or a researcher of  
14 note.

15 And you could have an extremely -- a growth  
16 conversation.

17 By the time you got to the top, you had been  
18 enlarged.

19 And that's one thing about Alta. I treasure  
20 the rides up as much as anything. In the chairs.

21 I think, when they got clusters of chairs,  
22 that intimate kind of conversation kind of ended,  
23 because you get four in a chair, five in a chair, you  
24 just don't have that kind of one-to-one conversation.

25 Maybe that's a loss. But I can understand the need to



1 get more people up with the same lift, and it was our  
2 time.

3 When you go way back, when only one person  
4 per chair rode the chair, and that was then.

5 Q. Did you ever ride that old Collins chair?

6 A. Yes, I did.

7 Q. Talk a little bit about what that was like?

8 A. To me, that was high had tech. I was like,  
9 Wow. Because I had basically been brought up in a time  
10 of rope tows, or you did your own self-elevating, by  
11 climbing, or herring boning, or putting your skis over  
12 your shoulders and climbing up.

13 And it was really -- but you were in fit  
14 shape. But, no.

15 Yet each new gain in that way, to me, is  
16 high tech, and then high tech.

17 I think, as a -- (inaudible) put it, after a  
18 while I was looking at ski -- the nature of  
19 cross-country ski bindings. And he says, Do you know  
20 what? One of these days they're going to figure out a  
21 way to hold the heel down on them. Particularly the  
22 board exotic telemarketing skis.

23 And I laughed. Yep, you're absolutely  
24 right.

25 Someone said, Ahh, I've figured out a way to



1 hold the heel down.

2           So they have them actually. You can  
3 cross-mount them, or heavy mounts where the heel holds  
4 down. And you don't have the heel lift anymore, and  
5 you don't want this condition. You want to ski with  
6 your heel down, you can do that.

7           And the boots too, are tremendously exotic.  
8 That is the teleboots, and the back country boots. So.

9           The people I used to really admire were the  
10 first telemarketers.

11           When this came in as a way to save money.  
12 And you see them skiing with their leather boots. And  
13 they got damn good.

14           I was on High Rustler with two of them, and  
15 I remember that -- before they had the real telemark  
16 skis, and the real telemark boots, these guys went zip,  
17 zip, zip, zip, zip, down through the mogles.

18           And, wow. They was doing really daft --  
19 they were as daft as guys with their Head skis, or  
20 whatever. You know? They were good. They were just  
21 good.

22           So telemarket really evolved from a rather  
23 con -- almost contrived, although it wasn't contrived,  
24 because it was a very old form of turning, dating back  
25 to the 1870s. And it was a style developed in





1 Telemark, Norway. For starters. And when you had one  
2 pole, and each did it that way.

3 But it -- it came -- it became re -- re --  
4 it was re-adopted in the '70s.

5 Q. Why do you think Alta is the -- I don't  
6 know. It almost seems like it's the center of the  
7 telemark world. What do you think that -- there's so  
8 many people up there that ski with the telemark --

9 A. Mm-hmm.

10 Q. -- and the telemark style?

11 Why Alta? Why there?

12 A. Because Alta's good terrain. It's great  
13 terrain. And that's why they ski that telemark.

14 But I think they ski at -- telemark skis at  
15 Snowbird too, don't they? And also probably at  
16 Park City.

17 What you don't see at Alta though are the  
18 snowboarders. And I think it's wise that -- for both  
19 sides, the snowboarders and the skiers, that they have  
20 maintained a difference there.

21 Snowboarders have their own unique styles  
22 and ways of using the slopes, and they don't really  
23 jive with the skier. The skiers' routes. And  
24 (inaudible) going to be awkward moments that -- and  
25 when you -- you have to give way. And not that you



1 shouldn't give way, if you hear somebody coming down on  
2 you like an express train. And I can't say the  
3 telemarketers are rude, they are not. They are just  
4 raffish.

5                   But I -- I guess I would -- I haven't been  
6 brought up in a world where you only skied on skis, and  
7 that was the way to get down or up. It's hard to break  
8 that habit in need for an environment that you're  
9 familiar with.

10                  Q. That's great. I don't have any more  
11 questions for you.

12                  A. Well thank you.

13                  Q. Anything you need to --

14                  A. Need to say?

15                  Q. Something that's burning in there that's got  
16 to get out?

17                  A. I'll say Alta, I would say, is my favorite  
18 place in the world. One of my favorite places after --  
19 because of good fortune in assignments, I said London  
20 became the other favorite place. If I had London and  
21 Alta, I'd be extremely happy.

22                         But I'm not sure. I've never had London in  
23 the winter, so I don't know what London would be like.

24                  Q. So what makes Alta your favorite -- one of  
25 your favorite places in the world?



1           A.    The (inaudible), the spirit, and the  
2           friendliness.  In -- particularly Alta, and it's -- it  
3           has lots of characters in it.  Whether they're working  
4           in the -- at the front desk, or whether they're working  
5           at the cash register, they all have it.

6                        They don't patronize you.  They don't give  
7           you that, Yes, sir stuff, and they don't work -- come  
8           around in cumberbunds, say, May I escort you to your  
9           seat, sir?  Give you this exotic menu.  And -- with  
10          exotic prices.  They -- it's just Alta prices, and Alta  
11          fare.

12                       And I'm -- and there may be different fare.  
13          I don't know in Rustler and others, but I've never been  
14          there.  I've just basically been to the Alta Lodge, and  
15          where the -- get lunch.  And now and then, at the Alta  
16          Lodge, when it has an annual party, and then you get  
17          this tremendous fare, that's uncomparable.

18                       So the -- I guess I feel myself most  
19          fortunate to be here, and to have had Alta for an  
20          experience for 35 or 40 years.  More or less.  But more  
21          in my last, since retirement, than before.

22           Q.    You talked a little bit how powder skiing is  
23          kind of like doing heroin.  Yesterday.

24           A.    Yeah.

25           Q.    Elaborate a little bit on that for me.



1           A. Well, it's when you have the good day, and  
2 you -- you have it together, and your body has --  
3 reacts. This is what I call zen skiing. And then, you  
4 know, you can't -- you can do -- when you can do no  
5 wrong. And there are -- it's a very rare time you have  
6 that.

7                   I mean, I'm sure Stein Erickson had more  
8 than his share of doing the right things, so.

9                   But -- and Alf Engen, of course. But these  
10 were super athletes.

11                   But the rest of us, we just had to wait for  
12 that magic moment. And we don't know when it's coming.  
13 It's just that you get up there some days, and I'm,  
14 Wow. You get it together. And you say, Finally. I've  
15 caught it. And that's the heroin.

16                   Most of the time it's still pretty good.

17                                   (Whereupon, the recording  
18                                   was concluded.)

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