Bill Briggs (Inductee), Alan Engen (Chairman of Board), Axel Andresen (inductee) received
by son Bruce Andresen, Stein Eriksen (Inductee) and Jim Gaddis (Emcee and Board Member).
See story on page 6

Intermountain Ski Hall of Fame
Honors 3 in ‘03
Bill Briggs, Alex Andresen, Stein Eriksen
Chairman’s Letter
by Alan K. Engen

The year 2003 has been a very busy and productive one for the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation. Comments from around the country about the museum are resoundingly positive. While challenges continue to occur, we are pleased to report the museum looks forward to 2004 with enthusiasm and an ongoing commitment towards its success as a world class facility.

I am very pleased to acknowledge Ms. Connie Nelson as our new Director of Museum. Connie replaces David Amidon who did a commendable job of helping get the Joe Quinney Winter Sports Center/Alf Engen Ski Museum built. Connie has been with the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation since early 2002 and brings a wonderful sense of enthusiasm and passion for what the museum has to offer. Please do not hesitate to contact her for any questions you might have.

2003 was indeed a special year for us in that we were able to showcase the museum to the International Skiing History Association in April. Having this special group at the museum and being able to show them what the facility has to offer was a highlight for us. In addition, according to records retained, over 50,000 visitors from all parts of the U.S., Europe, and Asia, came through the museum facility. Considering the museum has only been open to the public since early June 2002, we consider this a very positive indicator of the museum’s success. In September, the second annual Intermountain Ski Hall of Fame ceremony was held at the Quinney Center. Three legends and ski pioneers were inducted, namely Stein Eriksen, Axel Andresen (posthumously), and Bill Briggs. All those in attendance had a great time and especially enjoyed the remarks by Stein as he recounted his early skiing history.

As I write this letter, it is snowing out, offering a strong reminder that it is time to begin serious thoughts of the winter ski season ahead. In getting ready, one of our goals is to have a new “improved” web site operating by early 2004. Please take a look at www.engenmuseum.org.

On behalf of the entire Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation board of trustees, I would like to extend our very best wishes for a joyful holiday season and a very successful year in 2004….and, please come and visit us at Utah Olympic Park.

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Cover
Intermountain Ski Hall of Fame awards (l-r): Bill Briggs (Inductee), Alan Engen (Chairman of Board), Axel Andresen (Inductee), received by son Bruce Andresen, Stein Eriksen (Inductee) and Jim Gaddis (Emcee and Board Member).

Photo by Rossmiller Photography
The Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation has named Park City resident Connie Nelson as the acting executive director of the Alf Engen Ski Museum and the Joe Quinney Winter Sports Center here.

According to Alan K. Engen, foundation president, Ms. Nelson served as assistant director since the $10 million center/museum opened in the spring of 2002. She succeeds Dave Amidon who resigned as director in early August.

In her new role, Ms. Nelson’s duties include management of business operations at the Center, including liaison with Utah Olympic Park, community relations, tour programs, event management and marketing. Prior to joining the museum staff, Ms. Nelson was a senior manager for business operations at Utah Olympic Park from January 2000 through May 2002, including the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, which had bobsleigh, luge, jumping and combined competitions at the park.

Spencer P. Eccles

Spencer P. Eccles is a securities analyst for Wells Capital Management. He has a Master of Business Administration from Brigham Young University. Spencer has been a long time supporter of the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation and has a history of not only being an accomplished alpine skier, but has also been involved in ski industry management. In 1995-1996 he was the assistant coach for the United States Ski Team Men’s World Cup Downhill and Super-G teams. Spencer then worked for the Salt Lake Olympic Organizing Committee (1997-2002) as the venue manager for Snowbasin Ski Area, site of the Olympic Alpine Downhill and Super-G events for the Olympic Winter Games of 2002. His enthusiasm, insights and knowledge are appreciated and very valuable to the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation Board of Trustees.

In Memoriam

Louis C. Lorenz

The Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation is saddened by the loss of one of its Charter Board Members, Lou Lorenz. Lou passed away on September 14, 2003 at age 79. In addition to being a great friend to all whom he associated, he played a significant role in the development of ski instruction in the Intermountain region. Included in his many accomplishments were his being a founding member of the Intermountain Ski Instructors Association and a Charter Member of the University of Utah Marriott Library Ski Archives. In recognition of his many achievements, spanning half a century, Lou was honored by induction to the Professional Ski Instructors of America-Intermountain Division Hall of Fame in 1996. The board of the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation will truly miss Lou and expresses special thanks to him for his efforts in helping to create the Joe Quinney Winter Sports Center/Alf Engen Ski Museum.
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INTERMOUNTAIN SKI HALL OF FAME

Eriksen, Briggs, Andresen Enter Intermountain Ski Hall of Fame

By Mike Korologos

—Stein Eriksen, who has received virtually every major accolade ever afforded a skier, was visibly humbled.

—Bill Briggs, the so-called “father of extreme skiing”, was still extreme – this time extremely thankful.

—And the late ski jumping aficionado, Axel Andresen, would have jumped with pride.

That was the essence of the ceremonies on September 27, 2003 that inducted the three into the Intermountain Ski Hall of Fame at the Joe Quinney Winter Sports Center. The threesome joins the inaugural class of Junior Bounous, Zane A. Doyle, Alf M. Engen, Sverre Engen, Kaare “Corey” Engen, Gretchen K. Fraser, W. Averell Harriman and S. Joseph “Joe” Quinney.

Some 90 invited guests saluted the honorees at a reception and dinner that preceded the awards ceremony. The awards are glass plaques bearing the honorees’ likeness and a synopsis of their contributions. Identical plaques hang in the Hall of Fame at the Quinney Sports Center at the Utah Olympic Park near Park City. The Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation and the Ski Archives of the J. Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah sponsor the annual installation banquet as well as the Hall of Fame.

The highly decorated Eriksen, gold and silver medal winner at the 1952 Olympic Winter Games in Oslo and current director of Skiing at Deer Valley, voiced his sincere pleasure at the Hall of Fame recognition afforded him by Utah and Intermountain Area. His honors include National Ski Hall of Fame status, three gold medals in the 1954 World Championships and being named Knight First Class by His Majesty the King of Norway.

The ever-effervescent Briggs of Jackson Hole, WY, a one-time country-western bandleader, ski song performer and yodeler, could have put his remarks into verse, but instead told the admiring audience of his pleasure at being honored in a few well-chosen sentences.

Bruce Andresen, son of storied Alex Andresen, accepted the award on behalf of his late father who was recognized for his numerous ski-pioneering endeavors, including winning the first amateur ski jumping tournament recorded in Utah at a site called Dry Canyon near the University of Utah in 1915.

According to Alan K. Engen, president of the non-profit Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation that built and is operating the $10 million Quinney Winter Sports Center, the Hall of Fame selections were made by knowledgeable historians from Utah, Idaho and Wyoming. Selection criteria focus was on outstanding achievements in skiing competition, skiing innovation, ski sport development and significant contributing to the overall promotion of skiing. He said Hall of Fame selections originate with volunteer members of the Ski Archives advisory board and that priority is given to those who have made contributions to skiing that resulted in significant benefits to the Intermountain Area over a long period.

Dr. Greg Thompson, assistant director of the Marriott Library and co-founder of the Ski Archives, told the gathering that the “Ski Archives has become a unique entity in the academic world and may be the most extensive in the country.” He also noted the intellectual heart of the museum is a unique arrangement with the Marriott Library. “By design,” he said, “the museum is the public arm of the Ski Archives as it educates visitors and displays the history of skiing in the Intermountain Region.”

Jim Gaddis, Park City, former collegiate All-American and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) skiing champion while competing for the University of Utah in the early 1960’s, served as master of ceremonies. Alan Engen and Dr. Thompson presented the awards.
Axel Andresen (1896-1969)
Axel Andresen is recognized for pioneering the sport of ski jumping in Utah. He immigrated to Salt Lake City from Norway in 1912 and in 1914 organized a group of ski jumping enthusiasts in the Salt Lake Valley who held the first amateur ski jumping tournament in 1915. In 1923 Axel was instrumental in forming the Norwegian American Athletic Club, the first ski club west of the Mississippi, which became the Utah Ski Club in the early 1930’s. This organization attracted world-class jumpers to competitions in Utah. In ski history, Axel Andresen stands out as a true ski pioneer.

Bill Briggs (1931-)
Bill Briggs has been recognized as the “Father of Extreme Skiing” after accomplishing the first ski descent of the Grand Teton on June 16, 1971. He also recorded first descents in the Bugaboos, Middle Teton, Mt. Moran and Mt. Owen. He pioneered a 100-mile ski traverse from the Bugaboos to Rogers Pass, establishing him as one of the greats of ski mountaineering. After directing the ski schools at Sugarloaf USA and Woodstock in Vermont, Bill became a mountain guide in the Tetons, purchased the Snow King Ski School, Jackson, Wyoming in 1967 and introduced his revolutionary “Certainty Training Method” (CTM). Bill is a rare combination of climbing guide, formidable mountain skier, inventive instructor, country-western bandleader, and collector/performer of ski songs and alpine yodels.

Stein Eriksen (1927-)
Stein Eriksen is recognized as the father of freestyle skiing for performing some of the earliest somersaults on skis. After winning gold and silver medals in the 1952 Olympic Winter Games and 3 gold medals in the 1954 World Championships, this native Norwegian moved to Boyne Mountain, Michigan as its ski school director. Similar positions followed at Heavenly Valley, Aspen Highlands, Snowmass, Park City Ski Area and Deer Valley Resort. In 1982 Stein was inducted into the National Ski Hall of Fame and in 1997, Stein was named Knight First Class by His Majesty the King of Norway.
Guests enjoying the view and reception

Barbara Amidon, Chair, Ski Hall of Fame and Mel Fletcher

Mike Korologos

Stein Eriksen and Jim Gaddis

Bill Briggs receiving award from Dr. Greg Thompson

Dinner guests

All photos this page: Rossmiller Photography
Back in the early 1940’s, three annual competitive ski races were considered major events in the Intermountain region. The most prestigious was the Harriman Cup (named for Averell Harriman), which began in 1937 at Sun Valley, Idaho and ran consecutively each year through the 1957-58 ski season. The Harriman Cup included both a downhill and a slalom event which fully tested the skiing skills of even the most talented of the great athletes who competed. It was open to both amateur and professional skiers from America and Europe. Dick Durrance won the first Harriman Cup event.

The second most widely acclaimed was the Snow Cup, which was held annually at Alta beginning in 1940. This particular tournament was a Giant Slalom and, like the Harriman Cup, was considered one of the top competitive ski events for U.S. Olympic team consideration. The Snow Cup was named for Herbert Snow, a Salt Lake businessman who underwrote the cost of the perpetual trophy. While the Snow Cup event still exists and is conducted annually, it no longer enjoys the national prestige it once had and no one seems to know where the original trophy is located. Winners of the first Snow Cup event were Barney McLean and Gretchen Fraser.

The third, and perhaps much lesser known, was the Alta Cup. This event involved a combination of three tournaments (downhill, slalom, and giant slalom) and was held near the end of the ski season at Alta beginning in 1942. The Alta Cup, like the Snow Cup was open to both men and women skiers but did have qualifying “pre-races” in order to compete in the main Alta Cup annual event.

The Alta Cup was founded by James “J” Laughlin, who first came to Alta in 1940 at the invitation of then ski school director, Dick Durrance. He immediately fell in love with the resort and shortly after, purchased the Alta Lodge and eventually became a primary stockholder in the operation of the Alta ski area. When Laughlin started the annual Alta Cup event, he had a specific purpose in mind.....which he had engraved on the large silver bowl. The engraving reads as follows:

THE ALTA CUP
Presented to the Alta Ski Club
in memory of Henry Hughart Laughlin
for annual ski competition at Alta.

As information, Henry Hughart Laughlin was J. Laughlin’s father. From what has been learned, the senior Laughlin was not himself a skier but was dearly loved by his son.

Like the Snow Cup and Harriman Cup, the Alta Cup drew top level skiers from around the North American continent to compete. The major difference was that the event was short lived, spanning only five years duration (1942 through 1946). Why it was discontinued is not entirely known; however, the best explanation seems to be that the Snow Cup and Alta Cup became a confusing issue to those outside the Utah area since they were both major events at the same physical location. The names Snow Cup and Alta Cup became clouded and some began to think they were one and the same.

The winners of the Alta Cup, during its short life span were as follows:

1942 – Barney McLean/Virginia Gurnsey
1943 – Jerry Hiatt/Virginia Gurnsey
1944 – Dick Movitz/Mary Jane Griffith
1945 – Barney McLean/Barbara Kidder
1946 – Johnny Fripp/Rhona Wurtele

The last Alta Cup tournament was held in April, 1946. For the next almost six decades, the prestigious perpetual silver bowl disappeared from view. In more recent years, those who remembered the annual event would on occasion ask, “Whatever happened to the Alta Cup?” Since J. Laughlin passed away in late 1997, he could not answer the question.
The Way Things Used To Be

By Joe Arave

Before Redford’s Sundance There Was . . .

Sundance Resort, recently named by the editors of Ski Magazine as one of the best small ski areas in the country, has not always been Sundance. Before the little ski area nestled in the shadow of majestic Mount Timpanogos was purchased by Hollywood actor Robert Redford, it was known as Timphaven. Soon after Redford and four other investors acquired the area, his partners insisted the name be changed to Sundance capitalizing on Redford’s success in the popular movie “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid”.

Timphaven, located on the North Fork of the Provo river, was founded and built by Ray Stewart, his brother Paul and their wives Ava and Hilda. Ray Stewart’s family homesteaded the land in the canyon before the turn of the century and in the 1930’s used the area to graze sheep.

In the early 1940’s, Ray moved from Salt Lake City, where he had been working, back to Utah County to work at the recently constructed Geneva Steel plant. Ray loved the mountains and skiing. While living in Salt Lake, Ray had joined the Wasatch Mountain Club and enjoyed ski touring with other pioneers of the sport. After returning to Utah County he decided to build a rope tow on family land in the area then known as Stewart’s flat. The first rope was built with $125.00 and a lot of sweat. It was nearly 500 ft. long.

The challenges they faced in operating the tow were many. The county was reluctant to plow the road as far as Stewart’s flat and during the first year of operation the Stewarts and the stalwart skiers had to hike nearly a mile to reach the area. Because batteries used to start the tow engine could not be left in the extreme cold, they had to be carried back and forth on a daily basis. During a 1991 interview Ray recalled that he ruined more than one jacket with battery acid.

Ray, Ava and their children all worked hard to make the area a success and provide the residents of Utah Valley a fun and exciting place to ski. Ray worked nights at Geneva Steel and during the day operated the tow. While Ray ran the lifts, Ava prepared chili and cooked hamburgers to serve to hungry skiers from a little shack known as Ava’s Diner. Their children helped out wherever they were needed.

After a few years Ray expanded the tow to 1,000 feet for more uphill capacity. In the late 1940’s Ray bought out his brother and soon after, added a T-bar. In 1953 Ray heard of a single chair lift that was for sale. It was the chair at Rasmussen’s Ranch in Parley’s Canyon near Kimball Junction. Ray got some help and headed to Rasmussen’s to dismantle and transport the 2,600 ft. single chair lift they had purchased for $3,500 back to Timphaven. Ray and his helpers worked hard to survey the line, install the towers, and get the lift operating before the ski season began. In the early 1960’s a double chair was installed. The area also boasted a 40 meter ski jumping hill.

In 1969 Ray sold the area to Robert Redford, and Timphaven became Sundance Resort. The name was later changed to Sundance. In 1993 Ray and Ava Stewart were honored by the University of Utah Marriott Library Utah Ski Archives for their efforts as Utah ski area pioneers.
Museum News

New www.engenmuseum.org Site
In the winter of 2002-03, Alan Engen, Alta’s director of skiing, questioned the late J. Laughlin’s daughter, Leila Laughlin Javitch, if she perhaps knew where the Alta Cup existed. Her response was a “not sure,” but she agreed to look around some of the property owned by the Laughlin family in New England and see what she could find. In the fall, 2003, Leila telephoned Alan and said, “I have located the old Alta Cup. It is in very tarnished condition after all these many years; none-the-less, you can still read the inscriptions and the winners very clearly. My brothers and I are happy to donate it for display purposes to the Alf Engen Ski Museum.” She went on to say, “In finding the Cup, I actually looked through all the closets in my father’s house located in Connecticut. They were completely stuffed since Dad didn’t throw out anything.”

Therein comes a story, full circle! The old prestigious Alta Cup silver bowl, tarnished but still in wonderfully preserved condition, returned to Utah in October, 2003, thanks to the very generous gift of the Laughlin family. The Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation also wants to extend particular appreciation to Leila for her efforts in locating the Cup. It will, no doubt, be restored to it’s beautiful shiny luster which was showcased on many occasions in the early 1940’s. For Utah, it is a true skiing heirloom deserving of a special place in Intermountain ski history.