



Lift Lines

== No. 122, Feb. 2011 ==

Mountain High Snowsport Club, PO Box 2182, Portland, OR 97208



Rediscovering historic trails on Mt. Hood



This issue is a labor of love and may have some historical value. Sorry it took so long to collect all the interesting information and photos about the historic trails. Read about the history of early skiing on Mt. Hood, and then go ski it. Be part of the effort to revive these old trails. The Glade trail, when groomed, can be skied by anyone. The other trails are ungroomed and require a bit more skill and preferably good snow. See pages 6 - 10.

Exploring the side-country trails around Timberline is made easier on the **Ski the Glade Trail Day** (March 5) and also by the upcoming **Timberline Spring Pass**, which offers 3 months of skiing (March, April, May) for only about \$100. The exact price for this Spring has not been announced yet.

This issue also reflects some changes among our members. Some got married (page 3), some passed away (page 4 - 5).

It is now time to sign up for some activity before the Winter is over. You can choose between one of the two **Cancer fund-raisers** (page 12), or the **Ski the Historic Glade Trail Day** (page 10), or one of the fun **trips** (pp. 13-14).

We are now gathering nominations for **Man and Woman of the Year** (p. 16).

We need more people to **volunteer** to help the club in at least two ways:

- Volunteer to host a party or organize some fun activity.
- Serve as a club officer. In the May elections, we'll need a new President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

To start, come to our monthly Board meetings (open to everyone). See p. 15.

The Historical Trails issue

- * Fatal ski accident, pp. 4 - 5
- * Historical Trails rediscovered, pp. 6 - 10
- * PACRAT racing, p. 11
- * Fight against cancer events, p. 12

*Note the color code.
Our club is blue.*

2010 CALENDAR

Blue: Mountain High events
Red: NWSCC / FWSA events
Black: General events

Feb. 4 (Fri.): GSTraining - Skibowl
Feb. 6 (Sun.): PACRAT Race 3 Skibowl -
CANCELLED due to lack of snow
Feb. 12 (Sat.): Mt. High Chocolate Party
at Terry & Brad Swan's place.
Feb. 18 (Fri.): GS Training - Timberline
Feb. 22 (Tue.): Mt. High Social + movie
night at Gray Gables, 6 pm.
Feb. 25 (Fri.): GS Training - Timberline
Feb. 26-Mar. 7: FWSA International
Ski Week Interlaken Switzerland
Feb. 27-Mar. 5: Bergfreunde Lake
Tahoe Sampler trip
Feb. 27 (Sun.): PACRAT Race 3 Timber.
Feb. 28 (Mon): Mt. High planning meeting

Mar. 5 (Sat.): Ski the Glade Trail Day
Mar. 5 (Sat.): Turkey Slalom - Schnees
Mar. 6 (Sun.): Memorial Cup GS -
Skiyente
Mar. 6-7: Oregon Cancer Ski Out
Mar. 11 (Fri.): GS Training - Location TBA
Mar. 11-12: Hope on the Slopes
Mar. 13 (Sun.): PACRAT Race 4 Mead.
Mar. 19 (Sat): Mt. High Day at Meadows
Mar. 20 (Sun.): PACRAT Race 5 - TBA
Mar. 25-27: Crystal Mt. trip

Apr. 1 - 3: Far West Championships
Alpine Meadows, Lake Tahoe.
Apr. 8-10: Bachelor Blast (all clubs)

Mt. High

Let's Have Some Fun



PACRAT/NASTAR Races, p. 11



Ski the Trails March 5 (p. 10)



OR Cancer Ski Out Mar. 6-7



Hope on the Slopes: Mar. 11-12

Historic Trails on Mt. Hood

In the good old days before we had ski lifts, people would hike up from Government Camp, or get a ride to Timberline Lodge, and then ski back down to town.

The Alpine and the Glade trails are the best known. The **Alpine trail** starts not far from Timberline Lodge (a right turn from the Thunder trail), then goes past the bottom of the Stormin' Norman lift, briefly coincides with part of the Kruser trail, and then splits off to the right of Kruser, out of bounds but well marked, and ends up at the top of the Summit Ski area, on the upper end of Government Camp.

The **Glade trail** starts right under the top of the Jeff Flood express and stretches diagonally in a straight line, crosses the Kruser trail and continues toward Government Camp, emerging between the Huckleberry Inn and Cascade Lodge.

The **Blossom trail** is a less well known third option, which has recently been revived thanks to the efforts of **Mike and Holly Cullen**, who were inspired by Holly's father and ski patroller **Corky Kosko**, who has skied this trail 60 years ago.



Mike and Holly Cullen

The trail is well marked on a Forest Service map from 1941. It was considered an advanced trail, as it is a narrow path through the forest.

The **Blossom trail** begins from the Kruser trail, almost exactly half way between the Glade and Alpine trails. Mike Cullen has spent the summers of 2009-2010 carrying a ladder up the mountain and updating the old trail markings on the trees with new ones. The new signs are in the form of a letter "B", no larger than about 10" x 10".



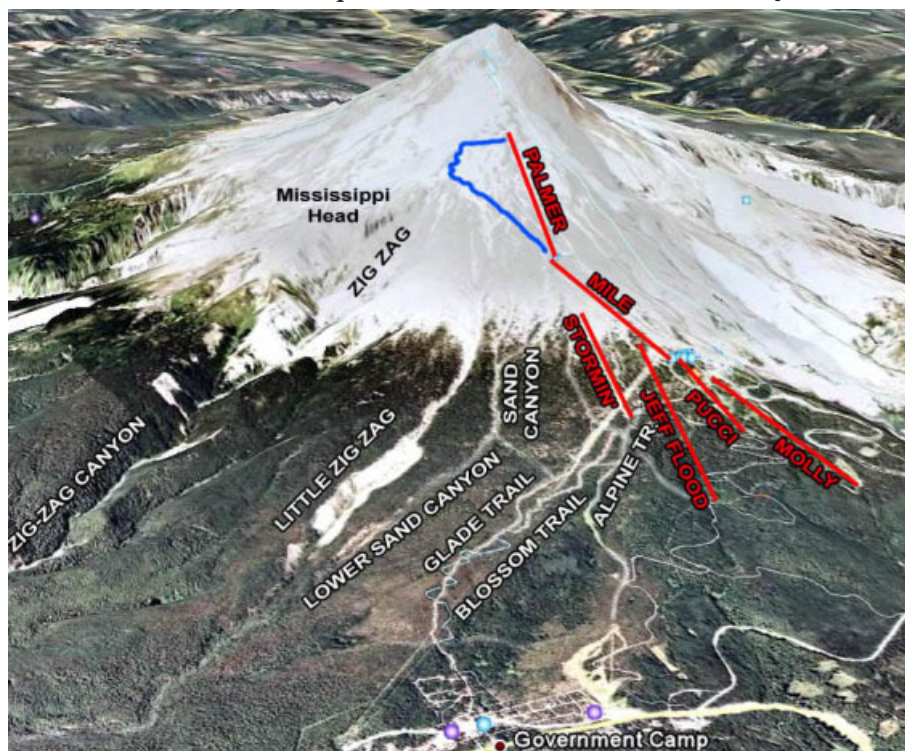
Mike Cullen leads a group on the Blossom trail

The Blossom trail meanders through the forest in between the Glade and Alpine trails. The old historic trail always stayed between these two, but the Glade Trail has changed its course over the years, due to the Skiway tram, so now the Blossom trail ends with a series of side trips on both sides of the Glade trail. Either way, both historically and now, the

Blossom trail ends at the same place in Government Camp as the Glade trail.

Sand Canyon is a fourth option, starting a bit west of the Stormin' Norman lift, out of bounds. Emilio Trampuz hiked down the canyon in the summer to see how far one can go safely. To his surprise, it turns out this is a well-known trail to the locals. Many years ago, someone had strung up a large orange

sign between two trees right over the canyon. The sign says: "Exit here to the Glade trail". Exit there to the left, and you will end up safely in Government Camp. If you stay in the canyon and keep going down the hill, it will take you a few hours of hiking and crossing a stream several times, eventually to emerge at the Little Zig Zag river falls and eventually Kiwanis Camp road (which is actually the old version of Highway 26). You will hit Kiwanis Camp road about 2 miles west of Government Camp, and from there, it's another 2 miles to the new Highway 26.





Blossom Trail revived!

by Mike Cullen

This story began when **Corky Kosko** would tell his daughter **Holly** about how much fun it was to ski the Blossom Trail 60 years ago when he was a member of

MHSP, Patroller #172. His stories kindled her interest in knowing where the trail was located. Her early attempts to find information failed. The trail had been somewhat forgotten for most of the past 50 years.

Her interest continued and she found someone that remembered the Blossom Trail and told her to contact **Bruce Haynes** with the Forest Service, so she did. Bruce remembered the trail and led a Summer hike on the trail to mark it with flagging tape. A year later, he led another hike accompanied by **Lee Perry** to mark it again. Lee lives on Blossom Trail Rd, in Government Camp and remembers the trail well. In fact, a tree on his lot once had one of the original signs marking the trail.

With the trail well marked for a Summer hike, we decided to improve the markings for possible Winter

trips. We worked within the guidelines established by the USFS for additional markings and opened the door to being able to ski the Historic Blossom Trail that was rated for Experts Only on the really old trail maps.

The trail is no steeper than Glade or Alpine, but it is much narrower in some places. If you think about the ski equipment used 60 years ago, the Expert rating really makes a lot of sense. It was the "tuck and squeeze" between some of the trees that Corky loved so much about skiing this trail.

Today, the Blossom Trail is alive again with a few of us skiing it much the same way that Corky did 60 years ago, tucking and squeezing through some of the narrower sections, only we are using modern equipment. A few extra small trees have grown along the trail since Corky skied it, but I am sure he would feel they just add to the fun of skiing it.

With respect for the Glade and Alpine Trails, I agree with Corky Kosko that the Blossom Trail is the most fun.

Mike Cullen, mike.t.cullen@att.net

NOTE: For further historical information, I recommend contacting **Lee Perry**. Lee is at Timberline most every weekend heading up the Powderhound Ski School. He is a walking encyclopedia on Mt. Hood history. I have his phone number if interested, or just ask anyone at Charlie's if they know where Lee is.



Holly Cullen-Kosko and her dad Corky Kosko.



Mike says: "We took that ladder down the trail 3 times over 2 Summers to get the trail marked as it is today. Thank goodness it is very light."

Mike Cullen marking the trail with the letter "B".

The Good Old Days at Timberline - Rescue on the Blossom Trail - December 1949

- by Harold "Corky" Kosko -



The good old days at Timberline, December 1949. A strong storm at Timberline Lodge. The one way road from Government Camp to Timberline was closed due to drifted snow. At the time, the Forest Service ran the ski patrol. I had come home from college in Corvallis, to work for John

Helmer's men store to make money for my ski trip. The day after Christmas, I left for the mountain. The room they now have as a display was the old ski patrol first aid room. They had a cat in the room, and that is where I stayed for the week.

I was the only patrolman at the lodge. The ranger told me they had a call from Government Camp informing us that a skier was overdue. The ranger asked me if I would make a sweep of Blossom Trail. It had been a busy day, and all the toboggans were at Government Camp. The road was closed, and they were unable to return the toboggans to the lodge.

It was about 3 p.m. when I started the trail. The snow had stopped falling for the time being. I had gone just over half way down the trail, and there was the skier lying about 20 feet off the trail. He looked to be about 30 years old. After seeing his right leg twisted, I knew it was broken. I could not determine if the left leg was also broken. Thank goodness, I had just finished 2 terms of first aid at Oregon State. The skier in great pain was worried that I was going to leave him. I was afraid he was going to go into shock and knew I had to work quickly with the few things I had with me, and the sun was starting to set.

Without a toboggan, I had my work cut out for me. My skis were the old army types with holes in the tips. I had a small backpack, which contained rolled bandages and a new packet of close line rope. The first thing I did was to set his leg. I used my ski poles to make a splint. He had broken his poles, so I used them to splint his other leg. Now I had to get him to Government Camp.



Harold "Corky" Kosko at Timberline

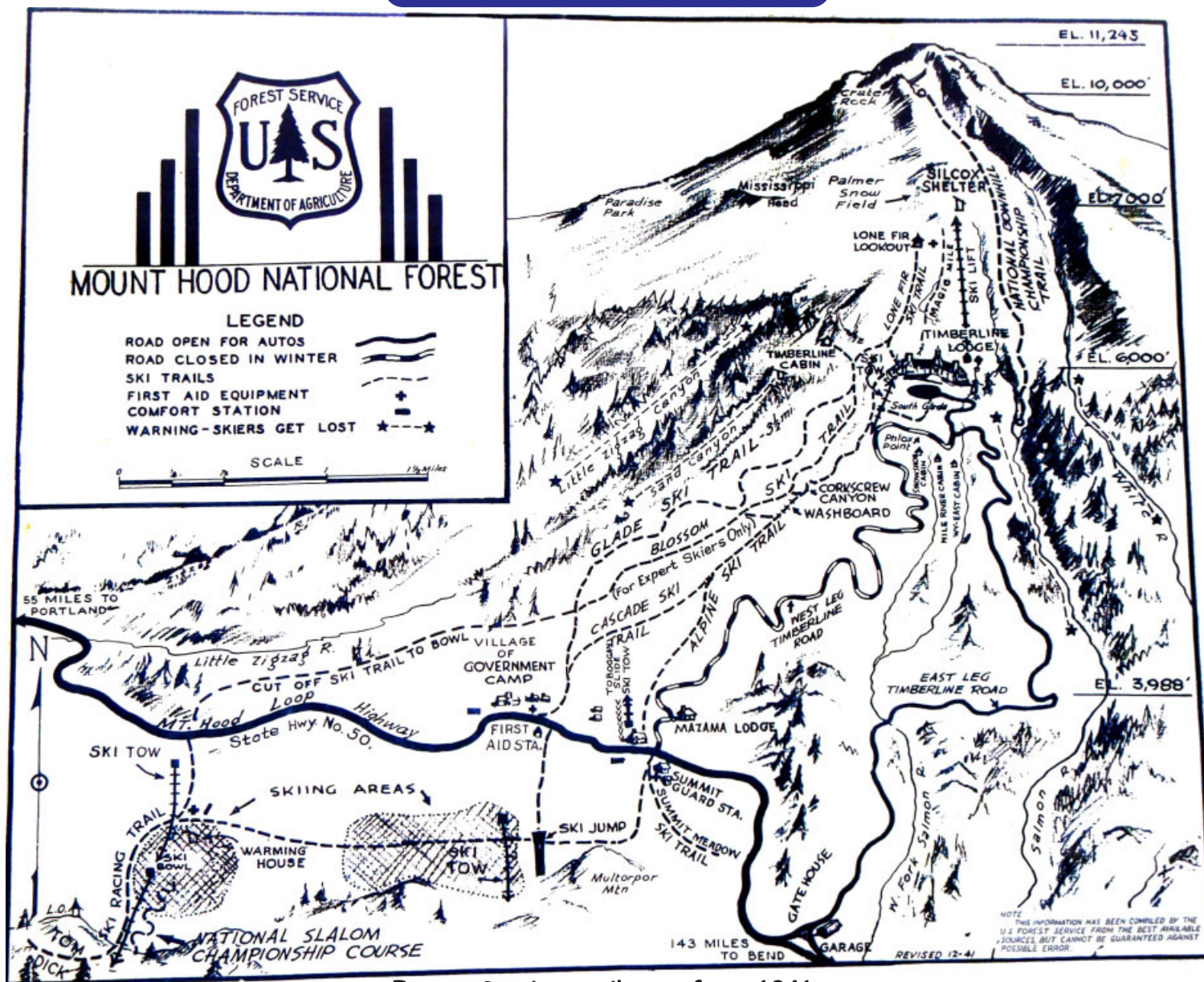
I took his skis and mine, putting his in the center and mine on the outside. I used my rope to tie all the skis together. I took my pocket knife and cut some branches to lay on top of the bindings and then laid my parka on top of that. I then had to get him on my makeshift toboggan. Working together, we made the painful transfer. He was lying with his head on the back end of his skis. I took some rope and ran it through the holes in the tips of my skis, and put as much traction as I could on his legs. I took the balance of the rope and ran it through the holes and made a harness for myself. I had to make sure that when I pulled him the tips stayed on top of the snow.

We started out for Government Camp. It was dark by now. I can't remember how long it took, but it was such a workout that I didn't get cold in just my tee shirt. We made it to the old hospital at the end of Blossom Trail, and I was so tired I never got his name. I spent the night at the hospital and the forest service returned me to Timberline the next day.

Necessity is the mother of invention. It wasn't the toboggans you see today, but it got us there!

Harold "Corky" Kosko, Patroller #172

Published in the Mt. Hood Ski Patrol's February 2007 issue of "Sno Job".



Forest Service trail map from 1941.

Note that the Glade trails wiggles around more than it does today. It was straightened out when the Skiway bus/tram was installed around 1950. The Blossom trail more or less merges with the Glade trail near the bottom.

Let's Go Ski the Trails

You can ski these trails any time you have ski buddies to carpool with. If you leave half the cars in Government Camp and half at Timberline, you can ski it at least once.

But, wouldn't it be great if we could take several runs and ski all these trails in a single day?

Once a year, you can do just that, on Ski the Glade Trail Day, the first Saturday in March. Mt. Hood Museum provides shuttles on that day.

Only the Glade trail is officially open, groomed, and patrolled. The rest is out of bounds. Ski it at your own risk.

Safety from Getting Lost

1. All trails can be skied safely if you stay on the trail, and follow the signs.
2. All the trees in between the Glade and Alpine trails can be skied without fear of getting lost, because sooner or later you will run into either of the other trails or will end up in Government Camp. Just don't ski it alone, in case you get injured.
3. The trees between Sand Canyon and the Glade trail potentially carry the danger of getting lost. The trees all look the same, and nothing marks the boundary traverse from the Sand Canyon to the Glade trail. Maybe we should paint the trees along that traverse, or tie ribbons to them. If you get carried away and go too far, you will end up with hours of hiking along the Little Zig Zag river.
4. Everything west of Sand canyon (toward Portland) should be avoided below timberline. Zig Zag canyon can be skied for a few turns above 7,000 feet and Little Zig Zag canyon is OK above 6,500 feet. **If you turn back east before you hit the trees, you can get back to Timberline's lifts.** But, once you get below 6,000 feet (below timberline), it can be very difficult to exit the canyons other than hiking all the way to the bottom, which can be quite an ordeal.

Ski the Historic Glade Trail Day



March 5, 2011 (Saturday) The Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum holds this annual event under permit from the US Forest Service. The historic Glade Ski Trail is opened and groomed for this participatory living history event. This once popular downhill ski trail starts at Timberline Lodge and ends in Government Camp, a distance of three miles.

According to **Lloyd Musser**, Museum Curator and this event director, "this event helps fulfill our mission of preserving and interpreting the history of Mt. Hood. This is a chance for Grandparents to ski with their grandchildren and share the memories of

skiing the Glade Trail, when it was the biggest ski adventure on Mt. Hood."



Lloyd Musser

Participants are treated to a red carpet day of skiing. Skiers are shuttled to Timberline in comfortable airport shuttle vans, escorted by local guides and senior members of the Mt. Hood Ski Patrol, and served a hearty lunch.

Shuttles will run from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM allowing ticket holders to make several trail runs. The events of the day are recounted at the Apre's ski wine party, where prizes are awarded. Wearing vintage ski clothing is encouraged.

The event is possible through the support of Timberline Lodge, Luxury Accommodations, Valians Ski Shop and Mt. Hood Ski Patrol.

Participation is limited to 75 skiers. Tickets are \$100.00 per person. Members of Mt. Hood Cultural Center & Museum receive 10% discount. For more info, contact Lloyd at 503-367-3946.

Tickets may be purchased at the museum, or by calling 503-272-3301. Visa is accepted.

Background information on Mt. Hood trail skiing is available on the Museum's webpage in an article entitled **Trail skiing on Mt. Hood a Long Standing Tradition**. See it at: www.mthoodmuseum.org.



Lee Perry

Lee Perry - Guest of Honor

The guest of honor for the 2011 Ski the Glade event will be long time Mount Hood ski instructor **Lee Perry**. Lee first skied the Glade Trail in 1943. He has skied the trail every year since, except when he served in the Korean War.

Asked if he every rode the Skiway Tram to access the trailhead at Timberline Lodge. He said "once, it was too noisy and scary, plus it was cheaper to ride the Timberline shuttle bus for 25 cents a ride. The shuttle was also faster than the Tram, so we could get in more runs on the trail."

Lee has been teaching skiing on Mount Hood as a certified ski instructor for 50 years. Perhaps his greatest contribution to skiing was his pioneering work teaching and developing equip-

ment for amputee skiing. The Portland Jaycee Ski School started an amputee ski school in 1963 under the leadership of Lee Perry. He went on to spread the techniques for instructing handicap skiers around the world.

Lee now enjoys teaching children to ski with the Powderhounds Ski School. Lee will ski the Glade Trail this year with the participants in this year's museum annual trail event and regale them with tales of the good old days. Note that, in the photo, Lee holds one of the original Blossom Trail signs.

Writers may contract Lee Perry at 503-272-3324 at his home in Government Camp at the end of the Glade Trail.

Ski Historic Glade Trail Day



March 6, 2010 (Saturday)

Government Camp, OR – The Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum will hold this annual event on March 6, 2010. Once a year, under permit from the US Forest Service, the historic Glade Ski Trail is opened and

groomed for this participatory living history event. This once popular downhill ski trail starts at Timberline Lodge and ends in Government Camp, a distance of three miles.

Before the advent of high speed ski lifts, highly groomed slopes and extreme snowboard acrobatics, skiing long trails was popular. According to **Lloyd Musser**, Museum Curator, “this event helps fulfill our mission of preserving and interpreting the history of Mt. Hood. This

is a chance for Grandparents to ski with their grandchildren and share the memories of skiing the Glade Trail, when it was the biggest ski adventure on Mt. Hood.”

Participants are treated to a red carpet day of skiing. Skiers are shuttled to Timberline in comfortable airport shuttle vans, escorted by local guides and senior members of the Mt. Hood Ski Patrol, and served a hearty lunch.

Shuttles will run from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM allowing ticket holders to make several trail runs. The events of the day are recounted at the Apré's ski party, where prizes are awarded. Wearing vintage ski clothing is encouraged.

Participation is limited to 75 skiers. Tickets are \$100.00 per person, a portion of which is deductible as a donation to the MHCC&M, a non-profit organization. Members of Mt. Hood Cultural Center & Museum receive 10% discount.

Tickets may be purchased at the museum, or by calling **503-272-3301**. Visa is accepted.

Background information on Mt. Hood trail skiing is available on the Museum's webpage in an article entitled **Trail skiing on Mt. Hood a Long Standing Tradition**. See it at: www.mthoodmuseum.org.

Recollections of the Glade Trail



Henry Bendinelli: Way back in the days when "Fanny" was nothing but a girl's name (and skis were long and skinny) many of us old-timers didn't have much money--at least not enough for (Good Heavens!) >> **LIFT TICKETS!!**

However, at good-ol' Mt. Hoodley, we "brokesters" had a secret weapon: **THE GLADE TRAIL!** At 3½ miles long, it extended from Timberline clear down to Guvvy. ("Government Camp" as the "Flatlanders" term it.)

If one was in the chips, you could pay 35 cents to the (strictly free-enterprise) shuttle-bus and thus do a lot of skiing for \$1.05. But if you were really **BROKE**, you could carry your skis up to the Timberline junction and -- **HITCHIKE** back to Timberline!

As all of you are skiers, you'll understand the term: "**ANYTHING** to go **SKIING!**" But then the bus fare was hiked to **FIFTY CENTS(!)** A major catastastroke.

A more sophisticated and "socially acceptable" way to ski for free, was to pass the Instructor's exam and get on the teaching staff. One could then catch the employees' shuttle in Guvvy, teach and ski all day, then bash on down the Glade trail in the late afternoon.

All you skiers should run the trail at least once in your lives. On Saturday, March 6th., the Glade Trail will be groomed! So, get your wallet out and click on the link below for more information: www.mthoodmuseum.org/schedule.html.

Jack Caldwell: When I was in high school 4 or 5 of the guys would get up **REALLY EARLY** so that we could be on the trail early. It wasn't groomed. We would ski



Glade, Alpine and Blossom (tight through the trees). We would hitchhike back up to Timberline. It was standard that if chains were required on the road to the lodge the hitchhikers would put them on. We often could get two runs in before lunch. Then we could get an afternoon ticket on the old Pucci tow for 50 cents. There were always novices on the trail waiting for the patrol sled. Once when they had two hurt skiers on a sled I carried their skis down, one pair under each arm. It was a fun time of life, to be broken up shortly by the war.