

Thursday, April 5, 1979

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Boy, 'n' it's snow joke, party on the mountain schuss a grand gathering

By SALLY GERAK

*"Because of you my skis still fly,
My knees still bend and we know why,
Forever, and ever, it's you."*

So sang the old-time skiers to their host Everett Kircher at an awards banquet last Thursday night in the Boyne Mountain Lodge dining room. They were showing their appreciation for the 30th anniversary party Boyne USA owner Kircher staged last week.

Over 200 skiers accepted the invitation to return to Boyne for five days of skiing and lodging at 1949 prices — \$49 for the week. That price will probably make newer devotees of the sport long for the good old days, but scrapbooks and movies shown during the celebration indicate that perhaps the good old days weren't all that great.

When Boyne opened in the late '40s, skiers had their choice of one beginner run and one advanced slope serviced by a one-place chairlift that required a 20-minute

wait. Snow making in those days was in the hands of the Almighty.

Today, Boyne Mountain skiers can choose between 14 runs and four triple and two quadruple chairlifts. Those are in addition to tow, making a combined capacity of 13,650 skiers per hour. High-powered Boyne-developed snowmaking machines can produce up to eight tons of quality snow per minute and have been patented and sold across the country and overseas.

Granted, skiing in the spring corn snow of last week necessitated a lot of hard work but none of the oldtimers seemed to mind. As Peggy Gemmel said, "When we have the muscles to do it, and are over 50 — that's great!"

Though not many of the skiers were really in racing condition, most were good sports and donned racing bibs for the oldtimers race scheduled for Thursday. Area residents who distinguished themselves by placing in this 50-and-over event are Marilyn Keyes, Peggy Gemmel, Jean Thorburn and Renna Frankel.

In the men's division, Dick Heinen, Ed O'Neill, Dick

Keyes and Jim Thorburn schussed through the gates in award-winning times.

Numerous complimentary activities occupied the anniversary celebrants — daily ski lessons, parties, fondue fetes, pizza parties and nightly dancing to a band "well-rehearsed for playing the golden oldies."

Sandy and Dick Corey, David Finney, Pat and Gene Hill, Marge and Jack McFarlane, Sue and George Whitehead, Barbara and Chuck Yeare, Mike McManus, Inge Gutheim, Sam Greenawalt and Edna and Don Thomas were some of the localities who joined in the gaiety.

Denise Baldwin, who took her four children along for the bargain ski week, marveled at all the Kircher generosity. "I couldn't go away for the weekend for the little that we spent," she exclaimed. "It was fantastic!"

Floral arrangements arrived daily at the lodge from old skiers who were unable to attend, as well as from guests who just wished to show their gratitude for the memorable week.

There were cookouts on the skating rink enjoyed by



Lois and Everett Kircher, right, tossed the skiers party of the year when they invited 200 skiers back to Boyne Mountain to celebrate for a week at '49 prices. Their guests, led by Ed O'Neill, composed a song in honor of their hosts.

Walter Frisch, Ivan and Renna Frankel, Roscoe Goddard, Lori and Steve Hacke, Joanne and John Hawthorn, Marge and Chuck Ashton, Doris Whitney and Paul Scallan.

Sharing in the nostalgia was Kircher's wife Lois, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Moore of Birmingham, Jewell and Vera Roycraft, Priscilla and Carl Rasmussen, Nancy Sietoff, Shirley and George Pfaffman, Kathy and Dick Heinen and Bob Pojak.

Others who joined in the celebration included Yvonne and Doc Smith, Marshall Greene, Mary Doe and Cy DeMeulemeester, Irene Christensen, Jane and John Bartley, Rita and Bob Barron, Midge and Ted Surra, Sally and Andy Nauseda and Ed O'Neill.

The musical tribute to Kircher, by Peggy Gemmel, Inge Gutheim, Ed O'Neill and Bob Pojak, expressed the gratitude of all who were present.

*"Because of you we still survive,
To ski and feel so much alive,
And never, never grow old."*



Renna and Ivan Frankel found lots of reminders in Boyne Lodge scrap books before they took part in the week's oldtimer's race. The books reminded the guests of the days when the world famous resort boasted one beginner run and one advance slope.

Today, the resort offers 14 runs and multiple chair and tow lifts. The snow making machines developed at the resort are now sold across the country and overseas.



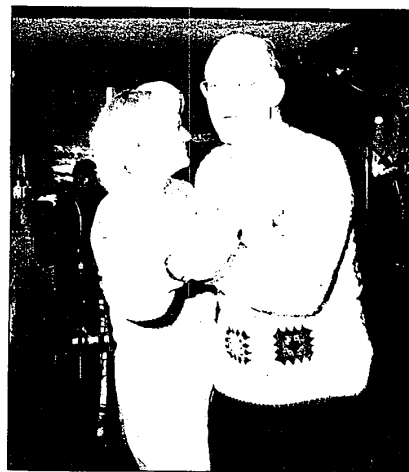
The non-stop, five-day activities schedule included ski lessons, cocktail parties, and a grand award night

dinner for Kircher's guests, including Bob Pojak, left, and Edna and Don Thomas.



Peggy Gemmel, left, composed the musical tribute that Beverly Broughton and other guests paid to the Kirchers. Peggy also distinguished herself in the oldtimers race.

"I couldn't go away for the weekend for the little we spent. It was fantastic!"
— Denise Baldwin



Jean and Jim Thorburn were both award winners during the 50-and-over race that highlighted the reunion. Other events to entertain the guests were cook outs on the skating rink and nightly dancing to the golden oldies.



George and Susan Whitehead skied at Boyne Mountain during the first seasons when a week of skiing cost \$49 per person for lifts and lodging.