



# sitzmarke

april 1977





# space city ski club

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VOLUME 9, No. 12      APRIL 1977

## SKI MEETING

MONDAY — APRIL 11, 1977 — 7:30 P.M.

Sonny Look's SirLoin Restaurant      So. Loop W. at So. Main

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## CALENDAR

APRIL 11 . . . . . APRIL GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 19 . . . . . BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

APRIL 23 . . . . . TENNIS TOURNEY

MAY 6 . . . . . VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

MAY 9 . . . . . MAY GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 25 - JULY 1 . . . . . PLAYA BLANCA MEXICO TRIP

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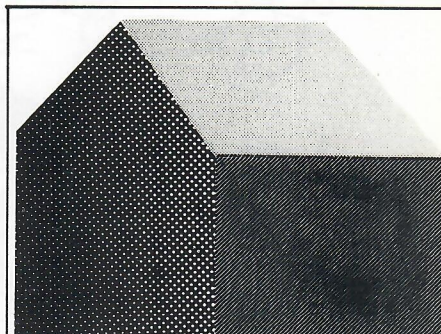
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by Sy Liebergot

Well folks, this is the last month of the *Year of the Rock* and my last column. At this writing, with the Winter Park and Copper Mountain trips successful history and Mt. Hood a certainty, the trips score ends with SCSC 8½, Rock 6½. The Rocks lose.

When we began the 13th year of club operation, I set some pretty basic objectives: continue efficient club operation, have successful ski trips, formalize trip volunteer procedures (for consistency), promote lots of Sitzmarke pictures and stories of the members, have interesting meeting programs and non-skiing activities, and attempt to frequently communicate any other aspects of club operation to the membership.

The name of the game for SCSC is trips. Braniff International became our third airline carrier in order to provide more scheduling flexibility and offset the effects of any airline strike (Continental subsequently did go on strike for about a month). In spite of the lack of snow this year, we still managed to run more than half our trips, but not without problems. We sweated the termination of group airfares to Denver and its effect on our already tight ski budgets. Almost every trip was fraught with last minute go/no-go decisions based upon the snow conditions and harangues with the

# head of the lift line

condominium management people to allow us to cancel or reduce a trip size with no penalty. In most cases, we were able to accomplish this with little or no penalty to the Club. All of the foregoing combined to present a most difficult year of responsibilities for Trip Directors and the trip volunteers under the super leadership of V.P. of Trips, Jim Benefield. I cannot conceive of a ski year more full of problems demanding quick reacting, creative and correct decisions. Jim and his band proved capable of all this.

The lack of snow this year did not exactly create the best atmosphere for generating skiing enthusiasm. Lee Grona, V.P. of Programs, did her best to provide interesting skiing related programs to the monthly meetings but the elements were against us. The Summer Bash picnic and the major non-ski event and ice skating was popular again. Some non-ski activities were not offered because the officers felt we were repeating them too often. Our meeting expenses increased and to offset this (insure the meetings remain a no-cost Club item), guest fees were increased by \$1.00 and drink prices increased by 25 cents. Meeting attendance this year was slightly greater than last year with the mindblowing exception of the 1159 that came to the September meeting. Remember the dreaded Jericho horn?

Membership processing continued to become more efficient as a result of the efforts of Duff Trimble, V.P. of Membership. Duff and his multitude of table volunteers (more than 100 this year) have had the arduous task of processing everyone into the meetings, and I'm sure those that were involved have *not* forgotten the September meeting crowd. We are doing business with a new computer company to handle the membership listing and that is progressing smoothly. A membership waiting list was begun after the 1400 member limitation was reached last October and the member-

ship limitation bylaw was readdressed as the result of a proposed bylaw amendment to allow an increase beyond 1400. The proposal was voted down by the membership. I'm certain we'll see more proposed changes to the bylaws in the future. Also, we were able to convince the Rocky Mountain Ski Association (RMSA) to allow us to have complete flexibility in providing the RMSA membership cards and lift ticket discount coupons to our members.

Linda McDuffie, our very efficient V.P. of Publications, was able to produce the high quality Sitzmarke we have become accustomed to in spite of a paucity of copy that resulted from the lack of trips. Deadline and printing schedules were adjusted to insure delivery of the Sitzmarke into your hands earlier during the meeting months than in past years. In spite of increased printing and mailing costs, our publication remained within budget due to a 20% increase in advertising revenue.

Jane Cook performed the unsung job of Club Secretary with Buddah-like wisdom and patience. Minutes of at least two meetings per month, the responsibility for the drink tickets, pins/patches/decals sales volunteers, and the lift liner volunteers, publication of the Club directory, and keeping the master calendar free of conflicts, I'm sure was just enough work for her. We were pleased to be able to provide quality SCSC baggage tags to you this year for only 50 cents, and regret that budget considerations required cutting back to only one directory during the year.

There may have been a lack of snow in the mountains, but no such thing in the department of the treasury. Our larger-than-life treasurer, Bob Marwin, was literally "snowed" with having to write over 1000

(continued - Page 4)



checks this year, most of which were refunds for canceled trips. The workload on this officer was excessive, and it's evident the future club treasurers will need some kind of dedicated assistance. Several people acted irresponsibly this year by stopping payment on their checks, evidently to avoid any loss to themselves, such as the \$10.00 trip cancellation penalty. As a result of this at least one person had his membership revoked and another may suffer membership revocation and possible legal action is pending. An audit committee was organized to examine the Club's books which were found to be in good order. Bob attempted to inform you all where your dues go with his Mt. Budge story and with typical directness figured out the solution to dispose of surplus, pre-purchased booze from the canceled trips is to throw PARTIES. Approximately 320 of you that attended the two Snow Wake Parties discovered what a great idea that was.

As for myself, the year has been mostly fun, thanks to a highly motivated and competent group of fellow officers. Thanks also to the membership for always having a positive response to the work of the Executive Committee. I'm looking forward to turning over the gavel at the May meeting to your new president, Jim Benefield.



*Keep your tips up!*

# Was Mary Jane Really

by Ken Dominy

Saturday, March 5, twenty-seven happy believers, including three last minute converts, Doris Lyle, Kay Lyle, and Roger Maupin, departed IAH on Texas International Flight 938. After consuming copious quantities of "eye openers" in the V.I.P. Room (thanks to Stan Sabel and Travis Mask), we were treated to breakfast at 35,000 feet enroute to Denver.

Arriving in Denver, we were met by a Grayline/San Juan Tours bus and snow-capped mountains to the west. After the usual stop at Apple Jack's, we continued our pilgrimage with another convert, Robin Lee, who claimed he hailed from California but saw the error of his ways and joined with us anyway. The bus ride could not have been more enjoyable owing to the foresighted Tom Mercer, who provided pre-mixed bloody marys, screwdrivers and other beverages (as if we needed them).

The certainty of good skiing conditions was obvious by the time we reached the snow-flocked trees and lofty heights of the Berthoud Pass, some 11,000 feet above sea level. Descending into the Fraser Valley to the 8,000 feet elevation of Winter Park proved no detriment to snow accumulations. Before long we were in sight of Winter Park and the comely Mary Jane, populated by varicolored skiers enjoying the fresh foot of new snow which preceded the week-end.

The first stop in Hideway Park was made at the Winter Park Sports Shop to pick up previously reserved equipment, and then on to the Hideway Village Condominiums. There we experienced some delay in check-in and baggage but the problems were soon rectified, and the group splintered into gastronomic factions to have a multi-pronged assault on the town at Hideway Park.

Having satisfied our appetites and slept, we arose the next morning to a cloudless day and frantically searched for the shuttle bus to the ski area's manicured slopes. Beginners Pat Bourke and Margaret Morton found their places in ski school as did Lynn Higginbotham and other veterans who wanted to hone their skills before confronting Mary Jane. The crowds were evident but the lift lines, through long, were not insurmountable problems to our eager group. Sunday was the last day we would experience any such inconveniences, as the Denver hordes retreated, leaving the entire resort to a handful of fortunates.

Sunday night found our now close-knit clan at Mercer's condo trading "zingers" and clever lies regarding our prowess on the slopes and in other pursuits.

Monday and Tuesday provided beautiful Spring skiing conditions with temperatures soaring into the mid 50's and suntans (burns?) for all. This heat wave made inroads on our snow and by Wednesday, some rocks were showing through the now well-packed snow. But not for long because that night the snow began again for 36 continuous hours, providing 19 inches of new snow on Winter Park and 22 inches on the Mary Jane area. Thursday and Friday were devoted to an almost extinct art, skiing powder.

The majority of the group (sans Joe Pizzitola, who had a bum knee, and a few ski schooler's) spent one morning skiing together and taking pictures. Unfortunately, it was during this run that Marty Matras hurt his shoulder and Margaret Morton took a backward fall ending with a "whiplash" neck. We regretted losing their company on the slopes, but were grateful that these were the only injuries to our otherwise healthy collective body. Marty and Margaret were able to enjoy Tom



# That Kind of Girl?

Mercer's chili and such gourmet delights as Bananas Foster, ably concocted by David Warren, famed former flamber of fast feasts for the "Court of Two Sisters" in New Orleans.

Other evenings were spent in general revelry at such fine eating establishments and public hours as "The High Country Inn", "Dr. Generosities", and the "Swiss House of Fondue". The Boo Hoo party Friday night turned out to be another mirthful occasion, begun as a birthday party for Betsy Romere, followed by games (?) for the unabashed at Mercer's condo. A splinter faction revisited the C's 3 Disco, scene of a prior nights raid by SCSC'ers. A few of the not-so-faint-at-heart, ((Earl and "Lovie" Beard, Robin Lee, Libby Marks et al) actually claimed they enjoyed the brisk evening stroll (three quarters of a mile uphill) back to the Hide-way Village.

Saturday, the 12th, was unavoidable. On a beautiful a day as one could wish for, with fresh snow and sunshine, we assembled our belongings and bid farewell to Winter Park. We had entertained hopes of being snowed-in as the report filtered in about blizzard conditions having closed all roads into Denver as well as Stapleton Airport. But the only delay was to the bus which arrived just fifteen minutes late, due to a small snowslide at Berthoud Pass. All experienced a pleasant ride back to Denver amid books, backgammon and beer.

The airport departure went smoothly except for a few anxious moments provided by Andrea Meltzer's untagged baggage and Sandra Palmer's almost missing the plane. Where was she? Where else . . . in the bar!

*Left, top: A good time was had by all on the bus ride to Winter Park. Below: The Scullery Rats after the "Chili Party" cleanup.*



*Top Photo: Tom Mercer (standing); Bob Copple (sitting). Bottom: Around the table at Corona Station - Libby Marks, Lovie Beard, Doris Lyle and Earl Beard.*



*Photographs provided by Kay Lyle*

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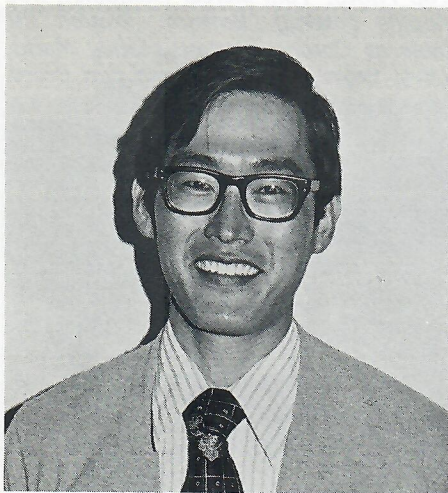
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*George Hirasaki*  
By Beth Nolen

As a climax to his ninth year of membership in Space City Ski Club, George "Kamikaze" Hirasaki has earned the spotlight, and his nickname, through his outstanding endeavors on this season's trips to Crested Butte, Vail, and Lake Tahoe. Starting with unique flair, George injured his shoulder in a slightly less than controlled jump which resulted in his competing in the Texas Cup races with only one

## markemaker

ski pole. Reviving his racing spirit a month later at Vail, George entered his first NASTAR race and brought home a bronze medal. On his Lake Tahoe outing in March, he won a silver NASTAR despite a slight stiffness from a hip/rock collision the day before. What a way to maintain a reputation of never having had an incapacitating injury!

This is an impressive record, however, considering George's nine years of skiing, which began the year after receiving his PhD in Chemical Engineering from Rice University and accepting employment with Shell Development Company. Tales of past excursions as related by several SCSC members from Baylor School of Medicine enticed George to join the Club in 1968, and spend his first week of earned vacation learning to ski on the slopes at Crested Butte. Fully captivated by this initial outing, he has since not only taken frequent advantage of Club trips, but also combined vacationing with friends

## markemaker

and extending business trips to enable him to increase his proficiency by skiing such areas as Steamboat, Telluride, Taos, Alta and Park City, Mammoth Mountain in California, as well as Zermatt, Switzerland, and Zugspitze, Germany.

George is also active in a repertoire of non-ski activities which serve as diversions from his work routine at Shell. When he's not engrossed in his present project of developing a process to recover oil left by general technology, he enjoys sailing in local rigattas, backpacking and fly-fishing, or scuba diving anywhere from Belize to Hawaii. His diving experiences have recently inspired his interest in photography to include underwater captivation. While at home he practices lapidary, specializing in opals and jade, or cultivates his horticultural successes, primarily roses and orchids.

If you've not met George on a ski trip or at a Club meeting, look for him at SCSC ice skating parties or bike trips.

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6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

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Nancy Ainsworth  
Judy Allen  
Leona Allen  
Bob Allgeier  
Kathy Allgeier  
John Anderson  
Miles Anderson  
Nancy Anderson  
Shirley Andries  
Robie Arnold  
Tom Baldwin  
Bill Barr  
Ron Bartosh  
Dorothy Bell  
Anne Benefield  
Jim Benefield  
Donna Berglund  
Debbie Birney  
Mike Birowski  
Virginia Blalock  
Augusta Blount  
Lee Bollinger  
Meg Bouffard  
Pat Bourke  
John Boynton  
Charlotte Briscoe  
Marie Brocato  
Pat Burchett  
Art Camero  
Debbie Carnegis  
Ken Cary  
Jay Castille  
Roy Caviness  
Bill Chalmers  
Penny Chancey  
Clive Clark  
Kathy Coats  
Ray Coker  
Jane Cook  
Wayne Cook  
Robert Copple  
Ann Cornish  
Joe Cotrone  
Linda Crawford  
Bobbet Cross  
Warren Cross  
Lucy Crowgey  
Ben Crump  
George Darling  
Gayle Davies  
Jim Davis  
Bill De La Garza  
K. J. Denison  
Ken Dominy

Don Doucette  
Marjean Doucette  
Charles Dutton  
Keith Eastin  
Tamara Egan  
Gary Elston  
Dale Englefield  
Margie Fanette  
Beverly Fecel  
David Ferrell  
Andy Fitzpatrick  
Tom Fitzpatrick  
Margaret Fraser  
Patti Free  
Ron Free  
Carol Froelich  
Harry Gaston  
Dvosha Gay  
Julius Glogovscan  
Will Green  
Lee Grona  
Mel Gross  
Jane Gustafson  
Linda Hagopian  
Davad Hahn  
Donna Hahus  
Merlyn Harger  
Dave Hargett  
Jane Harrington  
Peter Herbert  
Carol Hill  
Virginia Hodge  
Ike Hoffman  
Debra Holmes  
Leslie Holmes  
Ron Honefenger  
Milton Howe  
Ernie Howerton  
Martha Huebel  
Janis Hughen  
Michele Hughen  
Bonnie Hughes  
Gil Igo  
Lorraine Johnson  
Susan Jones  
Adele Jowid  
Jerry Kearby  
Mike Kelly  
Cindy King  
Karol Klopp  
Virginia Kolter  
Steve Kroger  
Barry Kumins  
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Adrianne Lewis  
Sy Liebergot  
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Gerald Maley  
Rita Marsh  
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Connie Mayeux  
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Marcia McElravy  
Joan McInnis  
Jim McIntyre  
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Lorri Mitchell  
Sheila Murphy  
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Kay Nevels  
Roy Nice  
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y. It is reprinted  
mission.

ith - you mind if I

call you Stein?

Smith: You can call me anything  
you like but just watch your lan-  
guage, there may be girls around.

Gazette: *Stein, in your many years  
on the slopes, you must have seen  
many types and groups of skiers. Is  
there any one particular group that  
sticks out in your mind?*

Smith: Well, there was this Texas  
group here a couple weeks ago -  
Spaced Out Ski Club I think it was,  
it had to be one of the worst  
bunches I've seen on a hill at any  
one time.

Gazette: *Why do you say that?*

Smith: There must have been more  
than a hundred of them, half of  
them couldn't ski at all, another  
half was all the time drinking the  
Schnapps on the slope, and the last  
half skied so fast that they were al-  
ways out of control.

Gazette: *That's three halves.*

Smith: You tryin' to tell me my  
business? They started out to be a  
big group but a bunch of them  
must have gotten sick because by  
the end of the week there were  
only about fifty skiers left. There  
was this guy, Sy Liederkranz or  
something like that, he was, I think,  
president, and another guy, this  
little guy with a mustache, named  
Plummer, were constantly taking  
those poor little girls to the top of  
the vertigo inducing Olympic runs  
and doing nasty things. They took  
Diane Yarberry, Janet Pickell,  
Linda McFarland and Surely Andries  
to the top of KT22, pushed them  
off. I didn't see them again for the  
rest of the week. You couldn't miss  
Sy - he was the one skiing with the  
heating pad taped to a vulnerable

spot and all the time blowing his  
horn too.

Gazette: *Didn't you have them ar-  
rested or something?*

Smith: Of course not, it was none  
of my business. *Bill Pipes* was how-  
ever arrested by the National Forest  
Service, for unauthorized trail mak-  
ing on Kirkwood Mountain. Speak-  
ing of legal things, I noticed that  
Ted Widmer had to leave the trip  
early. I didn't understand why, but  
he kept mumbling something about  
a Deputy Sherrif and a paternity  
suit.

Gazette: *Were there any injuries  
that you know of?*

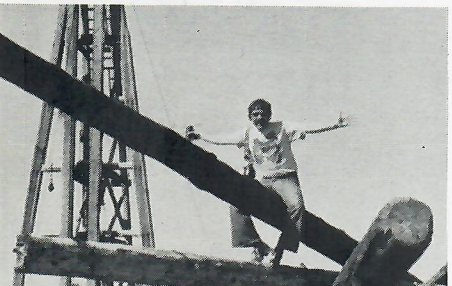
Smith: Yes, Jerry Chiles and Bob  
Spencer were taken to the hospital  
with multiple lacerations after  
being pushed into a craps table by a  
Harrah's cleaning lady. Something  
about her being told to get all of  
the trash off the floor. And, I al-  
most forgot, Jane Barnes broke  
either her ankle or her neck, I could-  
n't tell, when a wild jack rabbit col-  
lided with her at a high rate of  
speed on one of the slopes at Sqaw  
Valley. Margie Fannette and Greg  
Thompson each suffered a broken  
lens while trying to record the feats  
of the skiers.

Gazette: *What was the most bizarre  
incident you witnessed during this  
week?*

Smith: There was this one chick, I  
think her name was Penny Wiggins,  
who never skied, she got on the  
chair lift and kept riding it around  
and around and around and around.  
It was incredible. She got on at nine  
o'clock in the morning and got off  
at four in the afternoon. Her skies  
touched the ground only twice. In-  
credible!

Gazette: *All kidding aside now  
Stein, weren't there any good skiers  
out there?*

Smith: Yes, I'll have to admit, I  
have never seen one group more  
thoroughly dominate a NASTAR  
Race than this bunch. Their skies  
were so hot they virtually turned  
the snow into water as with gazelle-  
like moves they darted in and out  
of the gates, cascading down the



Top: Bo Diddley! Next: We all remember Bo!  
Next: Keith Eastin presenting award to Barry  
Kumins. Next: Jane Barnes has cast autograph-  
ed. Bottom: What are you doing, Jim Plummer?



By Keith Eastin

mountain, until the thrill of victory was theirs.

Gazette: *Aren't you being a little overly dramatic about this thing?*

Smith- I calls them as I sees them. At any rate, by the end of the day, Harry Gaston, Keith Eastin and Barry "Hotwax" Kumins won silver medals. Another guy, who was identified to me only as "Kamikase Hirasaki" also won a silver as he was skiing the area completely out of control and accidentally skied through the gates and across the finish line in near record time. Jim McIntyre, Jim Guild, Jim Plummer, Jack Schlach, Leona Schraeder and Janet "Fireball" Pickell took bronze medals away from the same race.

Gazette: *You've talked an awful lot about the skiing exploits of this group. Did they have any social life that you could detect?*

Smith: Oh yah, their life was so social, the National Health Service had a special team on the premises at all times.

Gazette: *What do you mean by that?*

Smith: Just forget it. When these people weren't skiing, they were partying. When they arrived in Tahoe from San Francisco, they were literally poured off the buses. One of the bus drivers told me that the fumes in there were so bad that he thought he would have been arrested for driving under the influence. And party - that whole bunch, all they did was party. The first night they were there, they had imported this guy, I don't know, from New York or New Mexico or Texas or someplace, at any rate he played a guitar and his name was something like Bo Diddley. At any rate, this Diddley fellow plays for this bunch from like eight o'clock until one in the morning. I mean he was playing right under my room and I couldn't sleep. I couldn't understand what was going on down there so I asked the trip chairman the next day. He said as far as he was concerned, the party was quite decorous and urbane. At least until nine-o'clock. He said he didn't remember much after that point. Brant Williams, chief of protocol for the party, confirmed



Nastar Winners.

rumors that the trip chairman put on a show of his own later on in the evening.

Smith: One of the nicest parties I have ever attended was one which the Club threw on Wednesday night in honor of Chuck Sheedy's 30th birthday. Everyone had a grand old time. Chuck, feeling so honored by the occasion, didn't show up for the ceremonies. I am told that his birthday cake has been hermetically sealed in a Hefty garbage bag and will be presented to the honoree at his next annual event. These people all partied again on Saturday night. Everyone on the trip thanked Jay Castille for his fine piano melodies, no one could find one fault with his playing; or for that matter could anyone find the piano, which did not show up.

Gazette: *Were there any good dancers on the trip?*

Smith: Well, there was a whole lot of dancing going on the trip, heh, heh, if you know what I mean. I guess one of the best dancers was Molly Rhodes. Susan Rehder received an award as most tolerant dance partner. Scott Brown had his own little dance with the law, in attempting to prove to the bartender at Squaw Valley that he was, in fact, of legal age.

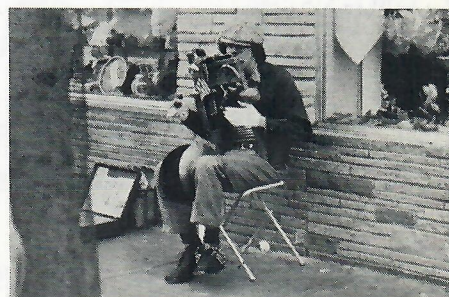
Gazette: *How did a group this large get all the way back to Texas?*

Smith: Carefully! The real problems occurred on the way here. I understand the Captain held the plane for nearly an hour while they checked Steve Russell's weight - they couldn't believe that 135 lb. figure he had given. Tom Fitzpatrick barely made the plane, he

said his horse came up lame on the ride to the airport. The plane also experienced an overheating problem caused mainly by the activities of Specer "Hotlips" King and one of the flight attendants.

Gazette: *I understand this group is proposing to come back to Tahoe sometime in the near future. Is there any advice you can give to our readers to prepare them for such a visit?*

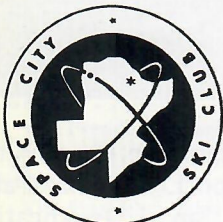
Smith: Lock up your booze and your women.



Top: Some really fun folks! Center: A one-man Band in Ghridelle Square. Bottom: Wine and cheese at Kirkwood.



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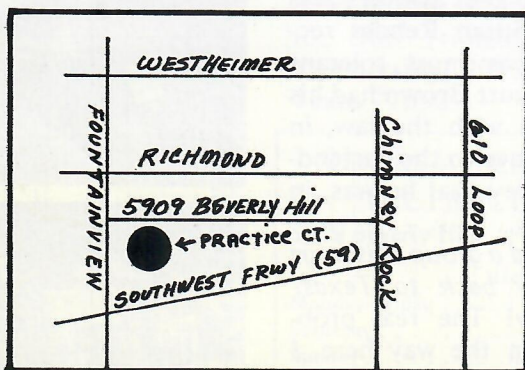
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