

A flashback on skiing

By DICK REBBECK
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Any skiers who think the season is a little late getting started in the Black Hills this winter might check the records, or the memories of oldtimers. It has gotten started a lot later in past years.

Nearly 40 years ago, for instance, it was late January when the Tomahawk Lake Country Club was encouraging the public to make use of a new ski slide set up near



Rebbeck the seventh hole of its golf course seven miles out of Deadwood. To be exact, it was 1934 and in promising "all the thrills and possible spills skiers could possibly wish," that grand opening in a way marked a beginning of developed ski areas in the Black Hills.

Among the members of the club helping plan that slide, incidentally, was Ed Keene.

Today, of course, South Dakota boasts not only the Terry Peak ski area managed by Ed Keene and Deer Mountain ski area nearby but several smaller areas east of the Missouri River.

It would almost be fun to take a weekend and try one of those smaller rope tow areas as a journey back in time.

IN FACT, there was a time not too many years ago when even a rope tow was a luxury.

At least when I started skiing in southern Colorado rope tows were a rare attraction.

Those were the days of baggy ski pants smelling of moth balls, or of an uncle's old Army pants. If you had ski boots at all they were square-toed boxes designed to fit the unbreakable grip of bear trap bindings mounted on Army surplus skis. Some casual skiers made do with hunting boots jammed into the bindings.

Just a few years ago a fellow was seen skiing at the old Dalton Park slide wearing cowboy boots.

We never thought of wearing cowboy boots back in Colorado but they may have been more appropriate than the overshoes mothers sometimes forced upon their youngsters. Most kid's skiing was done in pastures where the big trick literally was to avoid catching an edge in a cow pie. It was much better

to hit them straight on than to skid through one in the middle of a turn.

Sometimes these objects were frozen. More often they were thawed or even fresh, for quite often there wouldn't be enough snow until the March storms and by then warm weather would be providing skiers a base of mud under the wet snow.

ANOTHER TRICK was to turn before hitting the barbed wire at the bottom of the hill, then stop without twisting a leg in those bear trap bindings. Some made it and some didn't. For those who didn't there was no

first aid and a 40-mile drive to the hospital in Pueblo.

The big treat was a trip to the Pikes Peak ski area where there was a tow to save the skiers the long herringbone climb to the top.

Come to think of it, maybe it wasn't so great then. Chairlifts, Poma lifts, safety bindings, comfortable clothing, warm lodges — plus a few years of aging — make a great difference. That is, there is a great difference in attitude toward skiing. I'm told I still go down the hill like someone dodging cow pies.

Jack Anderson—Sunday sc

By LESTER KINSOLVING

WASHINGTON — While most churches in the religiously active D.C. Metropolitan area have welcoming committees to greet newcomers, few if any can match the compelling effect of the Chevy Chase Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon), on Western Avenue between Connecticut and Wisconsin.

For the leader of the newcomers class is none other than the United States Government's holiest terror, the notorious "Square Scourge of Washington," syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, whose daily column is published by 946 newspapers with an estimated 67 million subscribers.

Anderson's activities as one of history's most devastating muckrakers have been amply chronicled in extensive magazine and newspaper articles — which provided only fleeting references to a central part of his life: active and dedicated church membership.

During an exclusive interview, America's political ombudsman revealed a firm adherence to (and ready ability to argue on behalf of) some of the Mormon Church's most unusual doctrines.

At the same time, he appears to be among a growing number of Mormon liberals (such as those who publish the unofficial but highly influential magazine Dialogue) who may very well bring about significant changes in the rapidly growing 2 million-member denomination. For example:

• Anderson recalls having

been baptized, more than once, on behalf of dead ancestors: "I don't remember just how many; not more than a dozen times, I think."

• He believes strongly in the Mormon doctrine that "As man is, God once was; as God is, man can someday become." This notable idea that God can somehow grow better, he explained in terms of "Our belief in eternal progression. To us, God is perfect — but God must progress, or else there is stagnation." As for man: "Whatever we are in this life is determined by past conduct in previous lives. This is only teaching that makes any sense out of the injustices of this world."

• When asked about the Mormon Church's most painful and embarrassing doctrine: its arbitrary exclusion of all blacks of African descent from the priesthood, Anderson replied with neither hesitation nor rancor:

"I have raised this question too, because I believe in civil rights. But this is a theological problem — in the same way that I don't believe that the Catholic Church is deliberately practicing segregation because it denies the priesthood to women."

Then, with an engaging grin, he deftly shifted the interviewer's (and this interviewer's) gears: "Say, aren't you an Episcopalian?"

(The Episcopal Church in the U.S. also denies the priesthood to women.)

While Jack Anderson is an active and loyal Mormon, he is