

## A Guide to the SKISTERICAL MAP of MT. HOOD RECREATION AREA

Lloyd Musser, Curator, Mt. Hood Museum

Background: This 1940 Pictorial Map combines historical and hysterical information to make a comical and informative freehand map of Mount Hood's south side. Snow skiing was a growing sport and ski jumping was a major spectator sport. The alpine village of Government Camp was jam packed with skiers and visitors on the weekends. The State Highway Department bragged that they created parking places for 5000 cars along the highway in Government Camp. The Oregon State Police assigned a contingent of State Police to direct traffic and deal with any issues that might arise with the crowds on weekends. The Great Depression of the 1930's was over. People had some money to spend on recreation and Mount Hood was only 60 miles from Portland.

The artist was Gene Gayer of The Dallas, Oregon. Mr. Gayer was born in Tory, Indiana in 1910 and died in 1983. There is conflicting information as to Mr. Gayer artistic talent and interest. His obituary was mute as to artistic interest, it merely said he owned a jewelry store in The Dallas.

Every caricature, symbol and word on this pictorial map has a fact or story associated with it. A lot of this history and information has been documented in published books about Mount Hood, while others are not easily referenced. I have lived and worked on Mount Hood for 50 years. Always an eager historian, I have always listened when long -time residents of the area talk about local history. I had an extra duty assignment for many years of my US Forest Service career as the Ranger District Cultural Resources Specialist, which is a bureaucratic title for a historian. I have volunteered the last 20 years as a curator for the Mt. Hood Museum, and in that capacity archived thousands of documents and photographs related to Mount Hood history.

Recently I was challenged to document the history or the "rest of the story" associated with the caricatures on this map. Much of the history contained in this guide is condensed from the most popular Mount Hood history books. The rest of the guide I just somehow know and I would be hard pressed to recall the source of my knowledge. Over the course of many years, one picks up a fact here and a clue there and suddenly the history comes together.

This guide is not meant to be read as a standalone document but rather as a reference when viewing the SKISTORICAL MAP. This guide will work with either the original 1940 map or the reproduction printed by Darr Company in 1973. The original measured 16' x 22" while the Darr printing is 12" x 16". Everett and Ida Darr built a new Mountain Shop and restaurant near their gas station at the west end of Government Camp in 1973. They resized the map and printed it on lighter paper to use as placemats in the restaurant. The museum now sells the leftover placemats until the supply runs out. Copies of the original 1940 map can be found, framed and hanging in many vintage cabins in the area. Not many copies of the Darr printing survived as they had pancake syrup or catsup spilled on them at the restaurant.

The guide is designed to be used with a virtual clock face imposed over the printed map. The position of the clock numbers become invisible reference points. The guide starts with 12 o'clock being at the top center of the map, where the summit of Mount Hood can be found. The center of the clock will be Timberline Lodge. As additional aid to locating places on the map or in the guide, approximate inches from center along the path of imaginary hour hand will be given. Example: 3:00 – 3 inches: A skier is shouting "Ski Heil", or "good skiing" in English.

Location

Caricature and history

12:00 4.5" Summit of Mount Hood. The elevation is shown as 11,253'. The actual elevation of the summit has been the subject of much debate over the years. Thomas Dyer in 1854, claimed to be the first person to summit Mount Hood and measured the elevation at 18,363 feet. Both claims were later proved false. Today the USGS put the official elevation at 11,240'.

The building depicted on the summit is a US Forest Service Forest Fire Lookout. It was built in 1916, by Lige Coalman and staffed every summer through 1933. The harsh weather finally claimed the building. Attempts to rebuild it in 1941 were foiled by bad weather. The lack of manpower and funds during the war spelled the end of any new lookout building on the summit. The cable, hardware and the four cylinder Ford engine rusting above Crater Rock were left by the Forest Service after the 1941 attempt to rebuild the lookout. The old lookout was well photographed as all climbing parties took a photograph in front of the lookout to prove the summited Mount Hood.

12:00 3.5" Below the summit to the right of Crater Rock find a small building with a red cross flag. This is the location of the ill-fated US Forest Service, mountain rescue equipment cache and staging shelter. Built of stone, cement and steel roofing in 1934, the building was completely destroyed by freezing water, falling rocks and avalanches in two years.

"no speed limit" is a reference to the 1939 National Downhill Championships ski race held at Timberline. The starting gate was actually at the base of Illumination Rock, not Crater Rock as shown here, and ended below the Lodge in Salmon River Canyon. The race course was 2.75 miles long and dropped 4500' in elevation. It was steep and fast, thus the note "no speed limit". Some east coast competitors refused to participate.

1:00 far right: Airplane flying above the clouds, with a small tank on the side of the airplane. Out of the clouds comes powder snow according to the text. Wikipedia says cloud seeding to produce snow was discovered in 1946. This map was made in 1940?

2:00 3.0" "Ski all year" Young women skiing in shorts. There were no ski lifts above Silcox Hut in 1940, and the Mile chair lift only ran in winter, however, skiers would climb from the Timberline Lodge parking lot to make a few ski runs, sunbath and have a picnic.

"To Sun Valley" Sun Valley was the place to ski in the 1940's. Ski trains ran from Portland to Ketchum Idaho. The Hollywood movie stars skied at the Valley. Otto Lang operated the ski school here as well as at Timberline Lodge and Mount Rainer.

2:10 2.0" "Ski here Oct – June" Silcox Hut the upper terminal of the mile long Riblet Ski Chair Lift opened in May 1939. Sun valley's first chair left open in 1938. The Timberline lift had steel towers. Ski chairlifts were a game changer to the skiing world.

2:15 5.0" Via the magic of the artist pen we can see Cloudcap Inn, which is on the North side of the mountain, but on this map it is peaking over the ridge. Cloudcap Inn was built in 1889 and operated as a resort, until 1950. To save the historic building the Crag Rats were given a permit to maintain the building and use it as a base for mountain climbing search and rescue.

3:00 3.0" A skier shouting "ski heil" or good skiing was usually shouted three times in succession at ski events ski race awards. The greeting is not related to "sig heil" the Nazi rallying cry.

3:00 5.0" One skier is riding a single chair ski lift. Local legend has this one-mile-long Timberline chairlift was the second chairlift United States. This steel towered lift one mile in length, was actually the third chairlift built in the United States. Sun Valley was the first in 1936. The second was in 1937 at Belnap Resort area in New England.

Center It is fitting the Timberline Lodge be in the center of this map as it has been the center of Mount Hood skiing since it was built in 1937. Funded and built as a President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, depression era project it is a National Historic Register Site and operates like a hotel.

3:20 3.0" Two buses loaded with skiers. The planners of Timberline Lodge did not plan to allow automobiles to travel to the Lodge. Visitors were supposed to park in Government Camp and ride a shuttle bus to the Lodge. The U. S. Forest Service built two new ski trails, Glade and Alpine from the Lodge, down to Government Camp, for skiers to return to their cars.

Mt. Hood Stages, a bus company borrowed the name from the horse drawn stagecoach days. Automobiles provided public transportation to Mount Hood

area from 1906 until small buses appeared in the 1920s. Mt. Hood Stages, had a bus route from Portland to Bend via Government Camp and naturally added Timberline Lodge to their destinations. Over the years many bus companies have provided bus service to Timberline Lodge. Even today visitors can ride the bus to Timberline and ski, bike or hike back down to Government Camp.

3:25 3.0” “Nile River Club” depicted as a cabin with a sailboat is actually the Nile River Yacht Club. This club was not into sailing and had no connection to the Nile River. This skiing club was made up of some of the best pranksters in the area. The Nile River Yacht Club cabin was located near the latest Wy’east Climbers cabin. These cabins were built in 1934 and removed in the 1960’s for lack of septic systems and building code deficiencies

The oldest cabin in this cluster is the Phlox Point Cabin. This structure was built in 1920 by the U.S. Forest Service and used as a guard station and storage for rescue equipment. It later became a cabin for the Timberline Ski Club. Most recently it was under permit to the Boy Scouts and used by small groups of older scouts. As we entered the new century in year 2000, the Boy Scouts needed to align their building needs with their program and budget needs. They gave up the Phlox Point Cabin permit, but retained their Nanich and Watzek lodges. Phlox Point cabin became a on the ski hill restaurant, operated by Timberline Lodge.

4:00 5.0” “The worlds wildest mountain drive road”. The artist really took some liberty in depicting the access road to Timberline Lodge. Remember the planners did not expect visitors is to drive their cars to the Lodge. The idea was to lay the road gently on the land and avoid large cuts infills. The single lane loop road started east of Government Camp at what today is known as Snowbunny Snowplay Area and the Trillium Lake Road junction. The one-way uphill road was a very slow speed road. The uphill section was referred to as the East Leg Road. The downhill section was called the West Leg Road. This section wound downhill through the present Jeff Flood ski runs and mountain bike park. The road passes the BSA Nanich Lodge, the Trails Club Tyee Lodge, and the Mazamas Lodge. The road passes through the ski runs of the Summit Ski Area before joining US 26 near the new Timberline Lodge junction.

Since it is nearly impossible to get Americans out of their automobiles, the U.S. Forest Service built a new access road in 1950. It is located in between the East Leg and West Leg Roads. Using modern highway designs the travel time is now 15 minutes. The West Leg Road is paved and open to scenic driving in summer. The East Leg Road has been decommissioned.

4:00 7.0" Three pictorial images in this space appear to be fillers. "Bend Ze Knees" is a favorite saying of the Australian ski instructors, but no skiing ever took place in this remote area. The deer and elk grazing are a puzzled but this area is good deer and elk habitat. The drunk snowshoe rabbit is likewise a mystery however sometimes snowshoe rabbits get trapped in the roadway between the steep snow banks and run scared between the snow banks trying to escape.

5:00 7.0" "garage here" The US Forest Service built Timberline Road and maintained it. A huge garage was built at the beginning of the Timberline access road to house all the road equipment and snow plows needed to keep the road open. After the new road was built it became an Oregon State Highway. ODOT assumed responsibility for maintenance and snow removal. The huge garage was converted to a snow play lodge. The Commercial Club of Portland formed a nonprofit Corporation titled Snow Bunny Lodge and planned to operate as snow play for areas hundreds of school age children. Hundreds of children had their first, maybe only snow sledding experience at Snowbunny Lodge between 1952 and 1992. They catered too groups that stayed overnight and cooked her own meals. The old garage was beyond repair and was demolished in 1992. There is still an unserved need on Mount Hood for low-cost group accommodations for children to introduced to snow play.

"To CAL. not far" is comical as its 250 miles to California.

Sign "Mt Hood Lodge 6 1/2M" Refers to Timberline Lodge, which even today is often called Mount Hood Lodge by visitors and the press.

5:00 8.0" "map legend" map of the Mt. Hood Recreation Area an officially designated recreation area by act of Congress. It is too bad some congressional aide decided to abbreviate Mount to Mt. When congress renamed the Oregon National Forest to the Mount Hood National Forest in 1924. No one uses Mt. referring to Mount Adams nor Mount Jefferson or any other mountain. Why should Mount Hood be saddled with Mt. Hood as its official name decreed by law.

The artist also apologizes for the common mistake of referring to the US Forest Service as the forestry service.

5:00 5.0" "Red Devil Ski Hill" was a very small ski hill associated with the Summit House, labeled on the map as Summit Lodge. George Calvary originally built the summit house as his base for his horse packing business. His wife had a small café in the building. Calvary built the building 1924 and sold it to Ike and Albertina West. is in 1938. The West family named it the Summit House. They operated it as a café, ski rental shop, and had a gas station and tow truck. The little ski and

sledding hill was called "Red Devil". In 1978 the West's sold too RL Kohnstamm who has 1998 built low income employee housing on the little ski hill.

It is interesting that on the map Summit ski Area does not appear on the map. Summit Ski Area as built in 1927 and is the oldest ski area on Mount Hood. The map does say skiing and toboggan area.

The circle with the 50 inside refers to highway 50 which is what it was called before it changed to US 26.

5:00 7.0" "Swim Here and Hot Springs" this refers to the old community of Swim. Swim as a community before Government Camp existed. It was mostly a summertime community. They advertised swimming in hot mineral spring water was good for whatever ails you have. The water was likely heated with a boiler. The first ski jump hill on Mount Hood was here. Ski jumpers and spectators walked from Government Camp to Swim for the jump tournaments. Nothing remains at Swim today but a few private cabins.

5:00 3.0" "Pink elephant on skis" The meaning of this has been lost over time, if there was any real meaning to begin with.  
'Siberia" refers to the ice cream parlor by that name that was on the north side of the loop road in that area.  
"Studio Club" This cabin belonged to a Portland Camera Club. Club cabins were very popular on Mount Hood beginning in the 1920's . Most ski clubs had a cabin or lodge as well as climbing clubs, hiking clubs, nudist clubs, employee groups like the US Post Office employees, church groups, colleges and service and fraternal organizations, all had club houses on Mount Hood. That practice has largely passed now, as adults today do not relish the idea of sleeping dormitory.

5:00 7.0" "Summit G. S." The artist used his creativity to include the U.S. Forest Service administrative site on the map. The office and Ranger Station for the Summit Ranger District was located slightly to the right or east on the map. The site is located where the original Barlow Road crosses US 26. The site evolved over time from a Guard Station, to full blown CCC built Ranger Station. By 1965 the Summit Ranger District had be combined with the Zigzag Ranger District. Some of the buildings at Summit were retained and used to house the Fire Hotshot Crew and other employees. Today the buildings are used as art studios by the Cascadian Center for Arts and Crafts.

5:30 5" "Hills Place" Charlie Hill began spending summers in Mount Hood in 1924, as he health was better in mountain air. His first business venture was soft drink and knickknack stand across from the Battleaxe Inn. To attract customers, he had a

free telescope, trained on the mountain. He also had a young black bear cub on a chain that customers would give bottles of pop to.

Charlie built Hills Place in 1934, on the south side of the loop road. It sat directly across the street from the Battle Axe Inn, which was located on the property where the Huckleberry Inn is today. Hills Place was a no-frills café, that featured “juicy hamburgers” loved by both skiers and truckers. It was not a bar but you could have a beer with your burger. Maryanne Hill, Charlie’s daughter owned the business in 1969 when it burned down. The property remains vacant 50 years later. Dub and Vi Rogers who were leasing Hills Place at the time of the fire, built a new restaurant on the site of the burned down Battle Axe Inn.

“Battle Axe Inn” The largest building in the village sat in the center of the business area. Everett and Belle Sickler wanted a rustic log hotel, much like the lodge he had worked at earlier in Yellowstone National Park.

6:00 3.5” “Main Street” Today this is Meldrum Street and turns into Blossom Street after one block. Blossom Street ends at the National Forest boundary, beyond which is Glade Trail. This route was an early wagon road to Judge Blossom’s Summer Camp at the timberline. This is the route mountain climbers took to climb the mountain. This area was the first to be subdivided and cabins built along this street. The cabin depicted on the right side of the street on the map is the Dr. John Kelly Cabin. It was built in 1905 and remains in the family

The cabin on the other side of the street is Dr. Otto George’s cabin and medical office. He had an Xray machine and set broken legs for many skiers from 1940 to 1956 on weekends only.

4.0” “Tyrolean” This hotel and restaurant operated under a number of names and owners between 1933 and 1955. John Rafferty bought it, after his Government Camp hotel burned. It was known as Rafferty’s, Rafferty’s Inn, Tyrolean and it was Mountain View Inn, when it burned in 1955. It could accommodate 60 guests and was the only hotel in Government Camp after the Battle Axe Inn burned in 1950.

5.0” US 50, Mount Hood Loop Highway is depicted as a green swath on this map. The citizens of the village and the Oregon Dept. of Transportation were proud of this section of road. ODOT took the Governors orders seriously in 1926 and began plowing the snow in Government Camp to accommodate the skiers seriously. The cleverly widened the highway through the village to the point they could park 5000 cars on weekends. This would accommodate the 10,000 to 20,000 visitors who showed up for ski jumping tournaments. The visitors had to pay 10 cents and walk in the snow, over to the jump hill on Multorpor Mountain. A

contingent of State Police were normally dispatched to direct the traffic jam at the end of the day.

- 5.1" "Langlauf Gift Shop" A small shotgun style cabin at this location housed a number of businesses and characters over the years. At the time of this map, it was a gift shop. Langlauf is German for cross country skiing.
- 6:30 5.5" "Multorpor Mountain" There was a early rope tow here that was so steep the rope had to pass over sheaves. Riders used a metal gripper tool that could pass over the sheaves. A electrical fire burned the base in 1950. Everett Darr and Carl Reynolds were able to acquire a permit from the Forest Service and over the years built a lodge and ski lifts under the name Multorpor Ski Area.
- 7:00 3.5" "Cascade Ski Club" This club formed by Norwegians Ski Jumpers in 1928, thrives today as a family ski club.
- 5.0" "Ski Pole" There was a little cabin here that served as a ski shop and first aid station. Note the male figure to the right of the building using crutches and has his right leg bandaged. This was a common sight in the days before safety sik bindings and groomed ski runs.
- 7:20 6.0" "Cascade Ski Jump" also known as Multorpor Jump Hill was first used in January 1929. This north facing hill had better snow conditions that the Swim jump hill had as that hill faced south and the sun often the snow at times. As many as 10,000 spectators would attend ski jumping tournaments here in the 1930-40's. The remains of this jump can still be seen just east of the Multorpor Lodge.
- 8.00 8.0" "Tom Dick Lookout" This US Forest Service forest fire lookout station was a cabin built in 1933, had a unobstructed view of the south side of Mount Hood. The young male rangers that staffed the lookout in the summers had lots of female visitors as it was a short hike from the village.
- 8:10 7.0 "Ski Bowl Ski Tow" The first rope tow on Mount Hood was built in 1936 in the glacial cirque known as the upper bowl of Tom-Dick-Harry Mountain. The tow and ski runs were over 50 degrees slope. Only expert skiers could use the area. This is why the area was used for the National Ski Championships in 1939.
- 8:30 7.0 "Warming Hut" Because it was a ¾ mile walk from the parking area to Ski Bowl Tow the Forest Service had the CCC men build a warming hut at the tow base, in 1936. This building is now on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a skiers warming hut in winter and wedding venue in summer, operated by Skibowl.



- 8:45 5.0" "Sitzmark" This refers to depression in the snow made by a skier falling backwards or a sits mark or some times called a bathtub. The skier above is falling forward and calling "Help Ole". This is likely referring anyone of a number of men named Ole involved in skiing on Mount Hood. Ole Langrud was asked once what do you call a man in a ski shop if you don't know his name? Ole's reply, Ole.
- 8:55 7.0" "Bear down" This maybe in reference to the fact that there seems to be a lot of bear sighting in this area. The Barlow Road immigrants named a place near here Bruin Run as there were lots of bear sightings here. The odd cartoon on the road is a auto headed downhill with skis strapped to the rear bumper. At the time this map was made "Yocum Falls" on Camp Creek could be viewed from the road. O. C. Yocum was the first settler to file a donation land claim and make his home in what is now Government Camp.
- 9:00 3.5" "Timberline Cabin" Lige Coalman built this shelter for the Forest Service in 1916. This location was also known as Camp Blossom. Judge Blossom, in the 18880's had pioneered a wagon road from Government Camp to this spot, were he liked to spend his summers. Skiers and mountain climbers soon stated using this shelter as their overnight camp on trips higher on the mountain.
- 9:30 5.0" "Sand Canyon" and "Little Zigzag Canyon" are drainages that start just west of Timberline Lodge and run parallel to the Glade Trail but veer to the west. Skiers and hikers sometimes venture into these canyons, and if they fail to bear left and return to the Glade Trail, they end up miles from Government Camp, down on Road 35. Sometimes these people will encounter darkness and may cause a search and rescue operation to be activated.
- 9:35 5.0" "Paradise Park" is a large damp meadow at the timberline on the Timberline Trail, 4.5 miles west of the Lodge. Paradise Park was a popular recreation spot before the Timberline Trail was built in the 1930's. A 6.0 mile trail that is very old, runs from the base of Laurel Hill, US 26 to Paradise Park. The Mazamas first clubhouse was at this trailhead and the used the trail on their summit climbs. This is the reason the artist shows a mountain climber and a skier at this location. The summer wild flower display at Paradise Park is the best on Mount Hood. The views from here include Mount Jefferson to the south, Mount Rainer to the north, Portland to the west and a close-up view of Mount Hood.
- 10:30 3.0" "Snowgo" This weird looking contraption is the world's first snowcat. This machine was invented by Ira Davidson, the WPA foreman of the stone masons building Timberline Lodge. It gained world-wide press coverage when the Forest Service used it to transport skiers to the starting gate of the 1939 National Downhill Championship Races.

- 10:30 3.5" "Come on Bruel" Lady and Bruel were the first St. Bernard dogs to be part of the ambiance of Timberline Lodge. One weekend the dogs followed Hank Lewis and reached the summit of Mount Hood just fine. Coming down, Lady slipped and slid her way down the chute. Bruel watched Lady's difficulty and refused to move. Hank climbed back up and tried to coax the dog down. Bruel would not budge. Hank finally just grabbed his collar and jumped off pulling the dog with him. Hank was called two more times to rescue Bruel from the top of Mount Hood, before the dog learn how to climb down by himself.
- 11:00 2.5" "Plenty vorlage" Vorlage is German for forward leaning position. This skier has to much vorlage and ended up head first in the snow.
- 11:30 2.0" "Lone Fir" This Forest Service forest fire lookout was located just above the timber line by a lonesome fir tree. It was in service from 1922 to 1964. It was a better lookout than the summit lookout, as it was below the clouds that often blanket the summit of Mount Hood.

We suggest the following books for more detailed history related to the tidbits in this guide.  
Mount Hood A Complete History, Jack Grauer, 1975-2015. Self published, out of print.  
Lonely on the Mountain, George Henderson, 2006, Self published, out of print.

A complete Mount Hood book list can be found [www.mthoodmuseum.org](http://www.mthoodmuseum.org)

The Mt. Hood Cultural Center & Museum gift shop stocks new, used and out of print Mount Hood history books.

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