

Way We Were

For: March 6, 2013
Skiing the hard way

During the winter of 1953-54, skiing at Park City's first resort, Snow Park, must have become boring for Les Roach on the left and Mel Fletcher on the right. Although they probably owned store-purchased skis, they chose to have fun with barrel stave skis on Burns Alley Ski Run. Mel even went a bit farther and skied without a shirt or jacket. Snow Park was located where Deer Valley Resort stands today. It was built by Bob Burns and Otto Carpenter and consisted of a T-bar lift and a warming hut. The resort operated from 1946 to 1969. Burns was killed in 1981 by an explosion and a fire in his machine shop. Carpenter was encouraged to expand Snow Park and add more challenging ski runs higher on the mountain. However, the mine company who owned the land denied his request and on June 21, quietly closed Snow Park. Carpenter died in 1969 and Fletcher in 2010 at the age of 92. Deer Valley Resort named the lower building Snow Park Lodge and the two lower lifts the Carpenter Express and the Burns Lift.



1986.3.3

Caption: Les Roach and Mel Fletcher enjoying the spring skiing weather.
Credit: Park City Historical Society & Museum, Mel Fletcher Collection



1986.11.1

Caption: Snow Park Ski Resort single chair T-bar lift.

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