

Stokes Nature Center  
History & Lore of Logan Canyon Podcast Series  
Beaver Mountain Ski Area

Harold Seeholzer loved the outdoors, snow, and skiing. He and his wife Luella wanted to create a place for family recreation during the winter, so in the late 1930s, Harold and other local ski fanatics installed the first lift at Beaver Mountain, a single rope tow. There was no road to Beaver Mountain, so skiers parked on the highway and hiked about a mile to get there. Because of this inaccessibility, operations were moved to the Sinks area a few miles farther up the canyon, but this area had its own problems, and little potential for growth. So in 1945, ski operations at the Sinks shut down.

Beaver Mountain still had great potential, despite its problems. Thanks to the efforts of county commissioner El Ray Robinson and others, money was obtained to make the site accessible, and a road and parking lot were built. Further developments came to Beaver Mountain with the help of pledges made by the Mt. Logan Ski Club, the Forest Service, Cache Chamber of Commerce, and Harold and Luella Seeholzer. In 1949, a new tow rope was added, and in 1950, a 2,700 foot T-bar was installed.

In 1961, Harold and Luella along with their four children officially formed a corporation. They continued to improve the resort, adding more lifts and buildings. Although the resort was a great and expanding success, one dream remained unfulfilled. From the beginning of his skiing career, Harold Seeholzer dreamed of having a chair lift that went from the base of Beaver Mountain all the way to the top. Harold died in 1968 without seeing this dream realized. However, his family continued to pursue the idea, and in 1970, a 4,600 foot double chair lift was installed at Beaver Mountain. Appropriately, it was named "Harry's Dream."

In 1997, the ski resort came under the care of Harold's son Ted, his wife Marge, and their children: daughter Annette and her husband Jeff West, and son Travis and his wife Kristy Seeholzer. Each family member does their part to keep the place running. From plowing and grooming the snow to selling tickets and working in the shop, the Seeholzer family operates the resort. Marge manages the ticket office. Jeff and Travis help out wherever needed. Ted oversees the entire operation. Company meetings consist of six family members. And the operation continues to grow.

After 1997, the Seeholzers added a new maintenance building and a beautiful lodge addition to accommodate the increasing number of skiers. They converted Harry's Dream into a triple lift, and in 2003, they put in a new lift, which added 400 acres to the resort. They named it Marge's Triple Lift. In 2009, they added a conveyor lift, similar to a moving sidewalk, which has been helpful in teaching new skiers. The Seeholzers have future projects already in mind, and continue to dedicate themselves to making Beaver Mountain Ski Area grow and prosper.

In the winter months, an average of 740 skiers per day enjoy the slopes of Beaver Mountain. Today, Beaver Mountain Ski Area encompasses 1,100 acres and is the oldest family-run ski operation in the country.

Sources:

Ted & Marge Seeholzer.

Sweeney, Michael S. *Last Unspoiled Place: Utah's Logan Canyon*. National Geographic Society, 2008.

Beaver Mountain Ski Area website: <http://www.skithebeav.com>.