



*Taking a camera into the harsh, cold elements of a ski area presents its share of problems. Glare may be blinding, lighting may be tricky, cold may be intense. Snapping off a few photos of decent quality can be a genuine case of skiing on thin ice. It needn't be.*

BY BILL BRAUNSTEIN

A quick look at some of the photos on these pages should give you the inspiration to reach greater heights. Some of these were taken by Paul Ryan, who was a staff photographer for *Ski Magazine* from 1968 to 1970. His other credits include director of second-unit photography for *Days of Heaven* (an Academy Award winner for cinematography), camera operator for the film *Foxes*, a stint with ABC Sports and a recently finished three-dimensional film for Walt Disney World in Florida titled (what else?) *A Child's Imagination*.

Ryan is no stranger to ski slopes, both in this country and in Europe. After graduating from college, he quit an engineering job to take up ski racing. It was during this time that he developed his interest in photography that eventually led him to *Ski Magazine*.

"I think it was the motion, and the freezing of motion that attracted me to photography," he says. In any event, Ryan has skied the world over and has photographed more than 50 different resort areas, learning the do's and don'ts in the process. He rates Vail and Sun Valley as two of the most photogenic areas because of their rolling hills.

After about 20 years of photography, Ryan confesses that the thrill of opening up a package of freshly developed film never wears off. "It's a magic moment when the film arrives," he says. "I can never wait until I get home. I have to look at it right there." Ryan, of course, is rarely disappointed with his results. Here are some pointers he offers for folks looking to preserve a skiing expedition on film.

*Bright light, fast shutter speeds and calculated luck help capture a skier's airborne joy (left) and a racer's intensity (right). Shadows and glistening snow (above right) create a mood of solitary trailblazing.*