

UP ON THE MOUNTAIN / food, drink and conversation

Denise Linck/Cyndi Bacon

It is the season for skiing and many people are heading for the slopes over Christmas vacation only to find that there isn't any snow. Don't let that ruin the holiday. Look into the restaurants and night life that surrounds Mt. Hood.

There's a wide variety of food and beverage on the way up the mountain that would tantalize ole' Kris Kringle's tastebuds. For the early bird who went without breakfast, there's Elmer's Pancake and Steak House in Gresham. Elmer's is open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and serves 25 tantalizing varieties of pancakes and waffles. The menu also boasts an assortment of omelettes, sandwiches and seafood to feed a hungry skier or even a misguided snow ball thrower. Relax in the lounge with a drink or have them served at the table.

For a little piece of Switzerland, Heidi's Swiss Village in Boring is the place. The atmosphere is that of a Swiss village nestled deep in the trees, complete with gift shop, bakery, delicatessen, candy shop and restaurant. Heidi's is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. It's an ideal place for the whole family, with a wide choice of food to eat. Swiss pastries and dinners including steaks, spicy chicken and clam strips are included on the menu. The delicatessen offers an assortment of beer and wine to quench your pine thirsts.

For a gourmet delight, there's the Forest Inn at Aldercreek. A continental cuisine, from fillet Mignon cream au Morrelles to Australian lobster tails broiled in the shell, specially prepared by proprietor/chef

from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. If skiers still aren't tired after a day on the slopes, live entertainment is available for dancing pleasure every weekend.

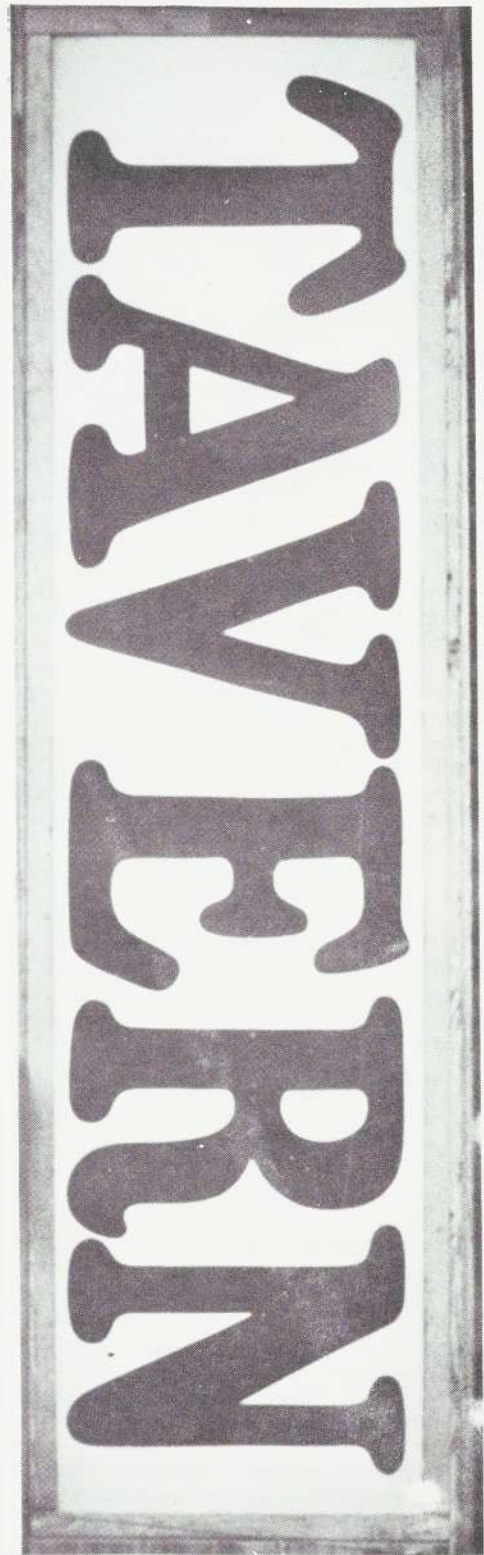
The Whistle Stop Tavern offers an array of beer, wine, sandwiches and snacks. It features the famous "Whistle Burger". The atmosphere here is basically local clientele, but newcomers are welcome.

Off of Welches Road on Highway 26 is Bowman's Resort. Where else could you get a 16 ounce platter of barbecued spare ribs with all the trimmings for only \$6.95? Other entrees include jumbo prawns and Chinook salmon. A coffee shop and lounge also accent Bowman's plush atmosphere. Skiers can also enjoy live music Tuesday through Saturday evenings.

A log cabin atmosphere invites snow seekers to enjoy moderately priced breakfast, lunch and dinner at the Barlow Trail Inn at Zigzag. Winter hours are from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. with the bar remaining open until 2:30 a.m. for beer, wine and cocktails.

The Zigzag Inn offers more log cabin comfort in a warm family atmosphere. Enjoy a 23 ounce steak, king crab or lobster tails 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday and 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

For those with a flair for tacos and tostados as well as other fine Mexican food, there's Don Pablos in Rhododendron. Don't let this small restaurant's appearance fool you. Some people say it's the best Mexican food in the area. Hours are from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.



D'Alessio. All dinners served are of fine quality and include soup, salad, choice of homemade dressing, baked potato, individual loaves of bread, dessert and beverage. Nearly 1,000 hungry customers are entertained weekly, so reservations are a must.

Next door to the Forest Inn is the Ivy Bear, also owned by D'Alessio. It offers much the same quality food as the Forest Inn but the atmosphere is not as fancy and food is moderately priced. Wiener Schnitzel, fried chicken and the popular Dutch Sandwich (ham, cheese, tomato between two slices of bread dipped in beer batter and fried) for only \$2.90.

Beer and wine are available for dining pleasure as well as an assortment of bottled wines. The Ivy Bear is open 4:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. weekdays and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. It is closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

If an authentic Swiss atmosphere is in order then the Chalet Swiss at Wemme is the place to go. Medallions of Beef aux Châtaignes priced at \$9 and Escargot Bourguignonne (snails) priced at \$3.75 are included on the menu. Steak, seafood, sauerbraten, cheese fondue and special desserts are also offered. Cocktails, beer and wine are available.

Hot spiced wine and broil-it-yourself steak may be enjoyed at the Inn Between. Teriyaki sticks, a variety of sandwiches, beer and wine are available here everyday

The Alpine Hut located in Rhododendron offers steaks, chicken, seafood and a special hot crab sandwich as well as hot buttered rums for the cold and hungry. Hours are from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday.

Oriental dining at moderate prices can be found at the Log Lodge. The menu also includes homemade pies and serves breakfast, lunch and dinner every day beginning at 8 a.m. Hot spiced wine and hot buttered rums are also featured.

For fast and friendly service ala cafeteria style there's Darr's Restaurant located conveniently at Government Camp.

Another bright spot at Government Camp is The Huckleberry Inn. Pastries, juicy hamburgers, sandwiches and breakfasts are regulars on the menu, with nothing priced over \$4.25. The lounge boasts it's namesake Wallbanger and other mixed drinks as well as Michelob and Blitz on tap. Hours are Sunday through Thursday 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday night they are open around the clock.

Giant pizzas are an American favorite and some of the best can be found at the Ratskeller at Government Camp. Cocktails, beer and wine are served and live music and dancing can be found on the weekends.

For those who'll be skiing at Timberline Lodge, there's the Cascade Dining Room. The specialty is Coulubiatic a la Tim-

berline for \$7.85 consisting of Oregon Chinook Salmon baked with eggs, mushrooms and seasoned rice in a flaky dough crust. Veal oscar, chicken and steak can also be found on the menu. Hours for the dining room are noon to 2 p.m. for lunch and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for dinner. The Ski Deli can be sought for snacks including hot dogs and soft beverages. The Blue Ox room is a cavernous bar at the lodge serving cocktails, beer and wine from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Even if there is no snow on Mt. Hood, Christmas vacation can still be a winter wonderland. Eat, drink and be Merry.

Editor's note: See detailed restaurant/bar description in Arts section.

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