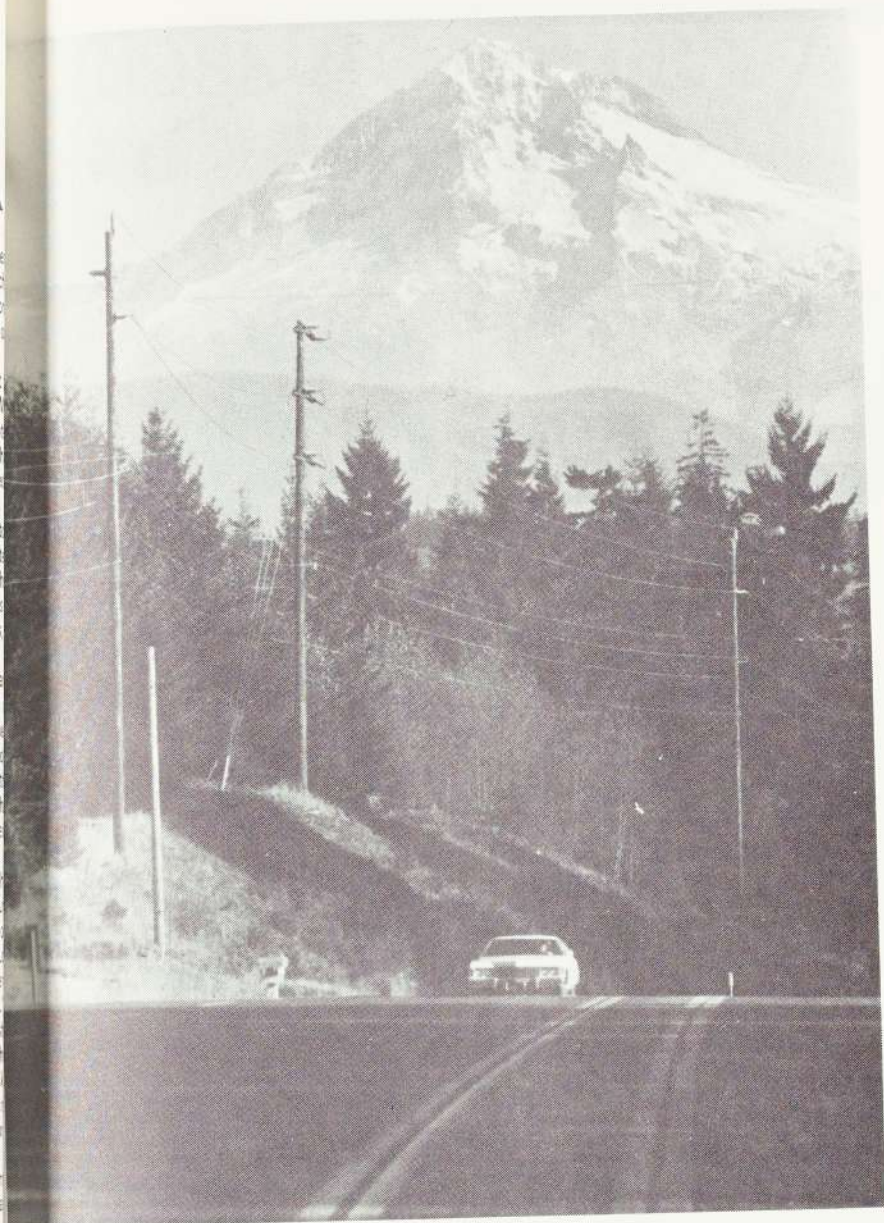




insight

Dan Ackerman

Howdy ski-fans!

Want to go skiing right now? You can -- but it would mean going to Colorado. It's the only place around with more than a trace of new snow.

Last year Thanksgiving weekend was Timberline Lodge and Mt. Hood Meadow's most profitable skiing weekend the whole season. This year Thanksgiving found Mt. Hood with only a trace of new snow.

The only ski lift running on Mt. Hood is the Magic Mile at Timberline Lodge. Only the top half of the run is skiable and that's due to last year's glacier snow.

Over the summer, Timberline Lodge's interior was remodeled. The lounge, restrooms, cafeteria, swimming pool, giftshop and fireplaces have all taken on a new look. With all that money spent on fixing up the lodge, a poor ski season could really hurt the area.

Mt. Hood Meadows hasn't had any big changes. The repair shop has been expanded and the rental shop purchased 500 new pairs of Nordica ski boots.

A new lift has been scheduled at the Meadows for next year, but details on that were not available.

Besides that, the Meadows is still the great ski area it's always been. I hope there will be enough snow this year to prove this true.

If you're looking for employment, the Meadows has part-time openings in all departments. If you like free skiing as a job benefit, you should check up on that.

Even though there isn't enough snow for skiing, don't ignore our beautiful mountain. Pack a lunch, take a hike and strengthen those ski legs while you're waiting for snow.

