

Sample Ski Area from Ski the Great Potato: Idaho Ski Areas, Past and Present, by Margaret Fuller, Doug Fuller and Jerry Painter

## 61. QUIGLEY GULCH

**Location:** In the canyon of Quigley Creek one mile northeast of Hailey. The creek is a tributary of the Big Wood River.

**Base elevation:** 5,400 feet

**Vertical:** unknown, varied with the passengers and the driver

**Years:** 1932-1936, although documentation for skiers using the lifts is available only for 1936

In January 1931, the newly-formed Hailey Chamber of Commerce held dog sled races the last weekend in January with the help of the local American Legion. The races along the main street were so successful it inspired the Chamber to plan a big winter carnival the following January

The second weekend in January 1932 Hailey held more dogsled races. It wasn't too successful since many of the inexperienced dogs refused to run at all and others "showed a decided preference for fighting." But Les Outzs, Jr., age four, drove his father's winning team through town after the race. Two weeks later was the winter carnival. The most important part of the program according to the *Hailey Times* was the tobogganing and skiing in Quigley Gulch. The old powder house was overhauled and a stove installed for "a sort of waiting room." Downtown they had ice skating, the dog races, and a dance. People could ride out to the gulch in bob sleds pulled by horses.

Others skied, hiked, or used webs (snowshoes) to get there. At the gulch, there were skis and toboggans for all and dog teams pulled some of the toboggans back up the hill. The newspaper article didn't say that any skiers were pulled back up the hill in the toboggans, but they may have been. First honors in skiing were awarded to Max Russell of Cascade and Floyd Wilson was perhaps the best among the locals.

There was another winter carnival with more tobogganing and skiing in Quigley Gulch in 1933. In 1934 and 1935 there was not enough snow for the paper to write about skiing and tobogganing at Quigley. All it said was "Much to the disgust of winter sports fans that nicely prepared toboggan slide up Quigley Gulch east of town would make an ideal setting just now for a nudist colony, so far as snow covering is concerned."

In January 1936, the *Hailey Times* reported that the boy scout troop of Hailey led by Eddie Foster opened their "annual winter sports playground." They ran it on Sundays and it consisted of a hot dog stand and three large toboggans drawn by horses that were driven by the boys. The boys used the toboggans to provide taxi service from town and for a ski lift. The scouts' ski lift was evidently the second ski lift in Idaho. Lookout Pass began their rope tow on January 1, 1936. Sun Valley was only the third ski area to have ski lifts in Idaho. Its chairlifts started running when the resort opened on December 21, 1936 - and there wasn't any snow until December 31.

The ski course in Quigley Gulch in 1936 was over half a mile long and began at a saddle north of the toboggan slide. The scouts held a competition for the day's best skiers. Donald Wilson and Preston Poole tied for first prize and received \$2.50 each for skiing the course without a pole and without falling. Their time was one minute and 15 seconds. A.T. Glenn took movies of the star performers and of the "grand upsets" of some of the skiers, and of toboggan spills. When one of the authors read that Les Outzs, Sr. took movies, and found out his wife was still alive, she was eager to see them. She was disappointed when Dorothy Outzs told her the movies were only of dog sledding

Once Sun Valley opened in December 1936, the paper made no more mention of skiing or tobogganing in Quigley Gulch. The first six miles of the gulch is now home to irrigated hay fields and pastures. Hailey skiers who don't want to ski at Sun Valley can ski at Rotarun on the west side of town.