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Rib Mountain Ski Club

Berg Memorial Scholarship

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The History of Granite Peak

When I was ten years old, my dad thought it would be a good idea to teach me and my sister Ava how to snowboard. Without consulting my mother, he went out and bought us brand new equipment not knowing if we would like the sport or not. Lucky for him and his sanity, both my sister and I fell in love with snowboarding. There was just something about the atmosphere at Granite Peak that made the whole experience fun and inviting. As someone who has been hitting the slopes of Granite Peak since the fourth grade, I've wondered for some time about the history behind Granite Peak and the very runs I spend my winters enjoying.

In 1937, the ski area on the slopes of Rib Mountain opened. At the time of its opening, the ski area had a total of six runs open and was one of the first ski areas in North America. Runs were made accessible by one t-bar that was powered with a 85 horsepower Ford V-8 motor, a stark contrast to the hill now with its five chairlifts and two magic carpets. Resident of Wausau from 1947 to 1964 and a skier in his youth, my grandfather James Kleiber shared an interesting connection our family has in relation to the ski hill.

“My dad’s brother, uncle George as I called him, was actually one of the guys that helped put the generator in for the snow machine up there,” Kleiber said. “I think that’s pretty cool.”

Though the hill only had six runs at its opening in 1937, Granite Peak has since been expanded to a total sixty-eight runs and in growing up in Wausau, my grandfather saw both the ski hill and ski equipment change with time. Since Granite Peak Ski Area took over the ski operations

References

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granite_Peak_Ski_Area

<https://www.skigranitepeak.com/history-of-granite-peak>

https://www.skigranitepeak.com/why_granite

Personal Interview: James Kleiber, Resident of Wausau from 1947 to 1964 and skier