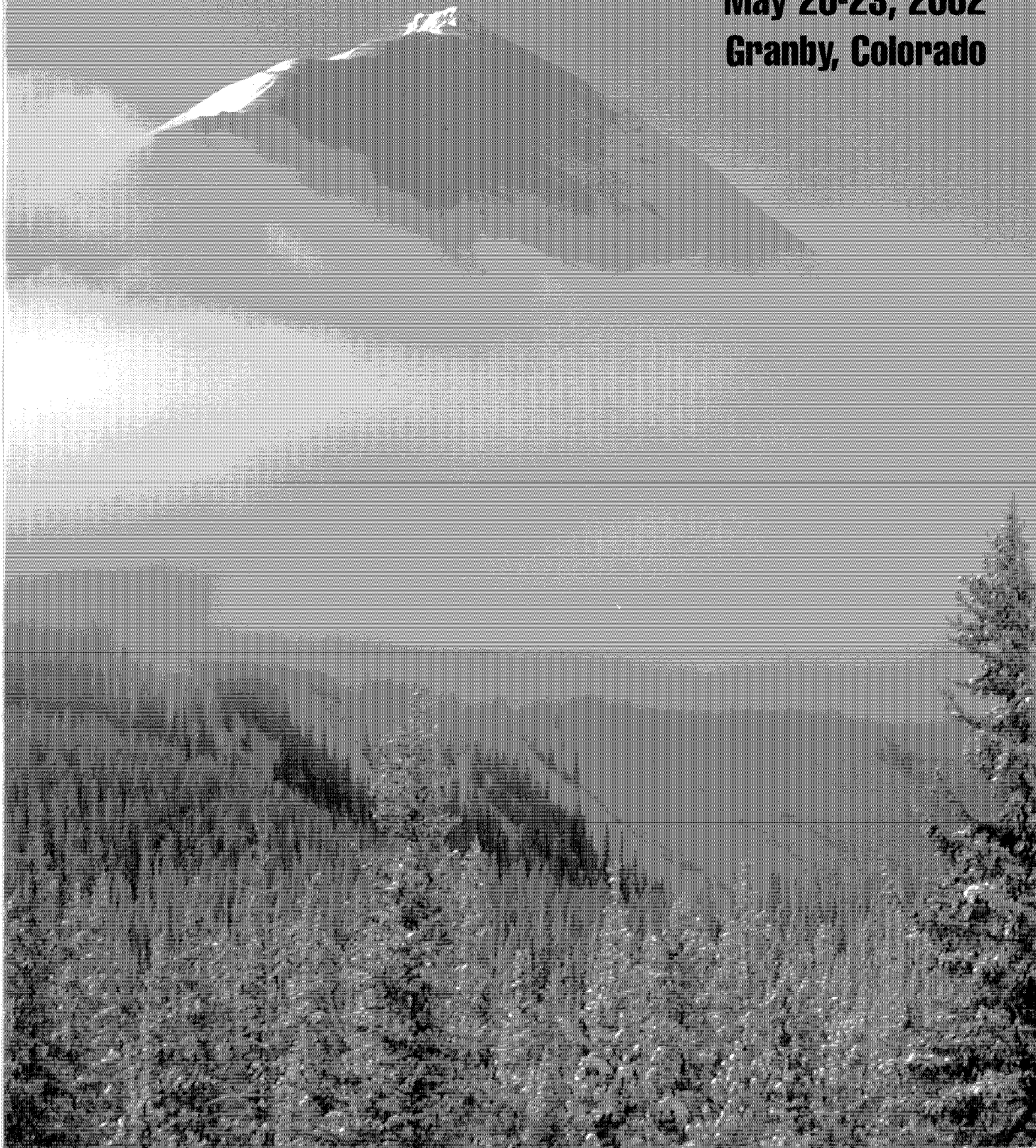


70th Annual Meeting
Western Snow Conference

May 20-23, 2002
Granby, Colorado



PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
WESTERN SNOW CONFERENCE
GRANBY, COLORADO
MAY 20 – 23, 2002

SEVENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

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Kelly Elder

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
2002 WESTERN SNOW CONFERENCE

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MINUTES OF THE 2002 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
WESTERN SNOW CONFERENCE

Welcome to the conference: Frank Gehrke

- The meeting of the Executive Committee for the 70th annual meeting of the Western Snow Conference (WSC) was called to order by the General Chair, Frank Gehrke, 20 May 2002.

Members present:

- Frank Gehrke, General Chair
- Bob Swanson, Secretary/Treasurer, Past General Chair
- Don Huffman, General Chair Elect
- Jack Hannaford, Awards Committee Chair, Past General Chair
- Kelly Elder, Editor

- North Continental
 - Ron Abramovich, Vice chair
 - Bob Whaley

- South Continental
 - Randy Julander, Chair
 - Mike Gillespie
 - George Ingersoll

- North Pacific
 - John Lea, Chair
 - Scott Pattee

- South Pacific
 - Bruce McGurk, Chair
 - Rick Kattelman
 - Larry Martinez

Minutes of the 2001 Executive Committee meeting:

- The minutes of the 2001 Executive Committee Meeting were printed in the proceedings. Moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as printed.

Secretary's report: Bob Swanson

General chair's distinctive tie:

- Last year we decided that we should have a distinctive tie for the General Chair while he is in office and then give the regular tie when he becomes Past General Chair. The special tie would be passed from General Chair to General chair and the past General Chair would receive the standard Past General Chair's tie. Jack Hannaford suggested a 3 ½ inch snowflake that is used on the awards plaque for the special tie. It could be put on a leather thong.

The Secretary/Treasurer had the snowflake with 4 gem stones representing each of the WSC's regions created. He passed it around for the members to inspect. It was then placed on the current General Chair in place of the past general chair's tie.

Notification of WSC meeting date and call for papers:

- A new system of notifying the members of the annual meeting was used this year. Post cards were mailed to all who have either paid the dues or attended a WSC meeting in the past ten

years. The information on the conference and/or who to contact for presentation of a paper/poster was posted on our web site. Those without Internet connections were given a name and telephone number to call to obtain the same information.

Postage for mailing postcards is considerably less than for first class. We have not had good service with bulk mailing, as the notices are often delivered several weeks after they were mailed. There was general agreement that this system was satisfactory and should be continued.

WSC Laptop computer

At the 2001 WSC Executive Committee meeting, the Secretary/Treasurer was given verbal permission to purchase a laptop computer for the WSC. This computer would contain all of the current records for the WSC and would be passed on to subsequent Secretary/Treasurers. The Secretary/Treasurer purchased an IBM laptop with 700Mhz Celeron processor, 20Gb hard drive, built in network and modem connections for \$1036.46.

Frank Gehrke requested that the Secretary/Treasurer be reimbursed for the cost of this computer. Randy Julander so moved. The motion was seconded by Ron Abramovich and approved.

Treasurer's report: Bob Swanson

Income and expenses for 2001 are shown in the table below.

	Apr '01 - Mar 02
Income	
2002 Income	
Dues	
Life or Retired Member (2002 WSC Proceedings and dues)	20.00
Total Dues	20.00
Registrations	
Late Life, Student of 1-day	150.00
Pre Life, Student or 1-day	600.00
Late Registration	200.00
Pre Registration	3,440.00
Total Registrations	4,390.00
Banquet	1,890.00
Spouse's Program	225.00
Technical Tour	910.00
Vendors Fee	
Extra Vendors Table	25.00
Vendors Fee - Other	600.00
Total Vendors Fee	625.00
WSC Ties	60.00
Total 2002 Income	8,120.00
2001 Income (Income for the year 2001. Some received in 2002)	
Banquet (Refund)	-35.00
Dues	

Life Member	160.00
Regular Member	1,915.00
Total Dues	2,075.00
Technical Tour (Technical tour \$35 in 2001)	-35.00
WSC Ties	195.00
2001 Income - Other	5.00
Total 2001 Income	2,205.00
Proceedings Income (sale to libraries etc)	
Sales	4,463.09
Shipping & Handling (Envelope and postage charge)	249.00
Proceedings Income (sale to libraries etc) - Other	0.60
Total Proceedings Income	4,712.69
Total Income	15,037.69
Expense	
Annual Meeting Expenses (All expenses related)	
Awards	
GeneralChairTie (General Chairman snowflake)	93.62
JE Church Award (Award for outstanding paper)	250.00
Awards - Other	298.80
Total Awards	642.42
Brochure	437.30
Hospitality hour	182.58
Mailing (Mailing proceedings, etc.)	110.22
Meeting Supplies (Audio Visual, etc)	59.34
Tour	425.00
Annual Meeting Expenses	5,176.06
Total Annual Meeting Expenses	7,032.92
Bank Charge	60.00
Check Withdrawal by Marron (Direct withdrawals at Portland)	150.00
Legal-Prof Fees	10.00
Office (Office Expenses)	
Canadian Postage (In US Dollars)	33.65
Metropolitan Presort	31.78
PO Box Rental	45.00
Supplies, Business (Includes Laptop computer)	1,207.28
Total Office	1,317.71
Overhead	
Merchant Account Charges (Charges for use of credit cards)	626.57
Total Overhead	626.57
Proceedings (Reproduction)	

Mailing	187.29
Printing	2,960.00
Storage	140.00
Total Proceedings	3,287.29
Uncategorized Expenses (Withdrawals by Marron for WSC expenses in Portland.)	300.00
Total Expense	12,784.49
Net Income	2,253.20

- As can be seen, total meeting income for the year 2001, was \$15,037.69. Expenses were \$12,784.49, leaving us with \$2253.20 to carry over to 2002. The 2002 Proceedings still need to be printed, but as usual, the cost of that printing will come partly from the 2002 conference income.
- WSC 2002 income is approximately \$8000 to date and includes dues and all other income.
- There was a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

2001 meeting:

- Sixty-nine registered and attended. Counting the Banff meeting, the North Continental area always has a lower number of attendees than the other sections.
- Meeting attendance can be predicted based on meeting location. We gain attendees from the region in which the meeting is held. Highs are always in Reno with about 160 members attending. The lows are in Canada with low attendance from the United States. This is likely due to difficulty of U.S. agency people going to a "foreign" country

2002 meeting: Kelly Elder

- So far, approximately 60 have registered. We need a few more to break even on expenses. Mark Williams is bringing his undergraduate class of 15 students, and they were given a special package registration price. Hopefully giving a discount to these undergraduate students will pay off in continuing or future interest in the Western Snow Conference.

2003 meeting: Larry Martinez

- Arizona will host that meeting. A committee consisting of the South Pacific section executive will coordinate the event.
- The likely location is the Old Town Hotel and Conference Center in Scottsdale. There was some discussion of the best date for the conference. Mid April is inconvenient for university personnel, late May is inconvenient for those working in the field. Some felt that even a week later than normal in April would help. The WSC 2003 committee will see what dates can be arranged with the Old Town Hotel, as April is still in their busy season.

2004 meeting: Jon Lea

- British Columbia is next in rotation. Jon has received some information for Kelowna and it is possible that the 2004 meeting will be held there. Nothing definite at this time.
- There is also a possibility of a joint meeting with the Eastern Snow Conference in 2004. Discussion included meeting at a site in the Mid-West to lower travel costs for both conferences. Tom Carroll agreed to look into this and to report to the general chair.

Awards committee: Jack Hannaford

- Jack Hannaford reminded the Tech Program Committee Chairman to pick the best paper, best student paper, and best poster.
- Best photo award – Manny Martinez to select. None submitted to date.
- El Farsante was presented to Phyllis Snow for numerous commissions and omissions.
- Art Crook Award. No action or contact on this.

Wilderness committee: Frank Gehrke

- Frank passed an amended statement around. Considerable discussion revolved around a new problem regarding non-motorized access to back country sites.

Publications committee: Kelly Elder

- Every paper presented at WSC meeting is expected to be published in the proceedings. For this (200) meeting, authors were asked to have their paper in before presentation at the meeting. No paper, no presentation. One of the objections to publication in our proceedings is that it may make it difficult for the author to publish the same material in a formal journal. However, the author could cite "based on material originally presented at the Western Snow Conference..." and this might satisfy the requirements of journals.
- Kelly discussed the possibility of simultaneous publication of papers presented at our annual conference and subsequently published in the proceedings of the Western Snow Conference.
- We will be publishing the proceedings via Omnipress as they did a good job on the 2001 proceedings at a considerable savings over the cost of having them printed by Colorado State University.

Credit cards: Bob Swanson

- The Western Snow Conference's merchant account with Wells-Fargo via QuickBooks appears to be working well. More than half of those registered so far for this meeting have used a credit card.

Audit:

- The WSC books are open. Anyone can audit at any time. All books are in US \$.

Documents manager: Bob Swanson

- Jim Marron has been in control of the past proceedings in storage at Portland. He has also handled the orders for past and current proceedings (apart from those paid for by dues of the members). Bob Swanson is acting Documents manager until the stored volumes are moved to the Central Sierra Snow Lab. Randall Osterhuber will assume the role of Documents manager at that time. The proceedings will likely be moved sometime this summer.

Secretary/Treasurers position

- Bob Swanson has received an email from Randall Osterhuber stating that he would be willing to take on the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Randall could not attend this meeting because of a personal matter. Perhaps Randall will be Secretary/Treasurer by WSC 2003, or at least need only minor assistance from Bob to fulfill the role then.

Adjournment:

- Moved by Randy Julander that we adjourn. Seconded and carried.

Minutes of the 2002 General Business meeting
Western Snow Conference

Welcome to the conference: Frank Gehrke

- The General Business meeting for the 70th annual meeting of the Western Snow Conference (WSC) was called to order by the General Chair, Frank Gehrke, 22 May 2002.

Minutes of the 2001 General Business meeting:

- The minutes of the 2001 General Business meeting were printed in the proceedings. Moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as printed.

Secretary's report: Bob Swanson

General chair's distinctive tie:

- Last year we decided that we should have a distinctive tie for the General Chair while he is in office and then give the regular tie when he becomes Past General Chair. The special tie would be passed from General Chair to General chair and the past General Chair would receive the standard Past General Chair's tie. Jack Hannaford suggested a 3 ½ inch snowflake that is used on the awards plaque for the special tie. It could be put on a leather thong.

The Secretary/Treasurer had the snowflake with 4 gemstones representing each of the WSC's regions created. Frank Gehrke was wearing the tie and held it up for those present to see.

Notification of WSC meeting date and call for papers:

- A new system of notifying the members of the annual meeting was used this year. Post cards were mailed to all who have either paid the dues or attended a WSC meeting in the past ten years. The information on the conference and/or who to contact for presentation of a paper/poster was posted on our web site. Those without Internet connections were given a name and telephone number to call to obtain the same information.

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2001 meeting:

- Sixty-nine registered and attended. Counting the Banff meeting, the North Continental area always has a lower number of attendees than the other sections.

2002 meeting: Kelly Elder

- So far, approximately 60 have registered. We have enough registered to break even on expenses. Bob Swanson indicated that the registrations fees cover such things as the meeting rooms, coffee and refreshment breaks, projectors, screens and microphones, arranging the chairs, etc.

2003 meeting: Larry Martinez

- Arizona will host that meeting. A committee consisting of the South Pacific section executive will coordinate the event. Manny Martinez passed material received from the Old Town Hotel and Conference Center.
- A change of date to later in April than the normal WSC dates was suggested as being more acceptable to University personnel. The WSC 2003 committee will see what dates can be arranged with the Old Town Hotel, as April is still in their busy season.

2004 meeting: Jon Lea

- British Columbia is next in rotation. We have received some information for Kelowna and it is possible that the 2004 meeting will be held there. Nothing definite at this time.

Awards committee: Jack Hannaford

- Jack Hannaford reminded the area chairs that they need to meet with him following this meeting.

Wilderness committee: Frank Gehrke

- Frank passed an amended statement around. Considerable discussion revolved around a new problem regarding non-motorized access to back country sites.

Publications committee: Kelly Elder

- Every paper presented at WSC meeting is expected to be published in the proceedings. For this (200) meeting, authors were asked to have their paper in before presentation at the meeting. No paper, no presentation. One of the objections to publication in our proceedings is that it may make it difficult for the author to publish the same material in a formal journal. However, the author could cite "based on material originally presented at the Western Snow Conference..." and this might satisfy the requirements of journals.

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Adjournment:

- Moved by Randy Julander that we adjourn. Seconded and carried.

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Will anyone remember us: Part II

As stated in part 1 of "Will anyone remember us", the snow surveyors of today have it pretty easy compared to our counterparts of years ago. In this rendition, we explore the travails of actually setting up a snow course in the early days. It is from the Diary of Paul Willmore, 7/16/1936.

It wasn't bad sleeping at the starting point of the Huntsville-Wheeler divide snow course. The only thing that wasn't quite all right was the water we forgot to bring up. After we had pitched in and finished the work on the course, we drove down towards Huntsville and took a swim in the Ogden River; out among the willows where the river is well protected from view. A little soap and a swim made us feel like new persons.

We bought 1 malted milk, 1 pineapple sundae, and 2 bottles of pop for our dinner while in Huntsville. Also a purchase of 1 film was made.

There is a ranch house north and a little west of Huntsville where we tried to rent a horse to help us up the Geertsen Creek Course, but they never had any free at that time. However, the big hard-boiled cowboys, as they pretended, recommended that we see a Mr. Graham south of the ranch and rent his horse. And so we did, just like the little red hen planted her wheat seeds.

It was 2 o'clock before we were on our way up towards the course. After we had run into the worst conglomeration of rocks that could be found, our trusty horse began to falter. Well, I am ashamed to admit it, but we finally pulled the soft footed old fellow thru several great bolder slides onto a more passable ground.

After leading the horse up to the ledges, we took the saddle and our packs off of the horse and commenced to hike upwards. The sun was nearly down when we got on top, but with a hurry and some hard work we managed to chain, mark and partly level before the stars came out. Well, after the stars were out we tried to map the course, which we did with a certain degree of accuracy. We took a shot on Polaris and our magnetic bearing checked in o.k. with this direction. The levels are not as refined as we usually put them out, but they give a fairly accurate picture of the rise and fall in the course.

After all had been done, we plodded towards the edge of the cliffs in the black of night. We didn't know which canyon was which canyon, so with some agreement we finally decided it would be best if we sat up until daybreak. And so we did. But sure enough, we got cold, so a fire was built. A large dead pine furnished the fuel for the fire. We would build up a rather hot fire and then move back so we wouldn't get burned, then the fire would die down and we would get closer too it. Thus, like the bellows of the old blacksmith, we would come close tot he fire when it was cool and go far away when hot. Like many laws our distance from the fire varied directly as the hotness of it.

After we bucked around on the rocks and in the dirt from 10:00 PM (7/16/36) to 4:00 AM (7/17/36), the morning rays of the sun gave us enough light to see which way we were supposed to go.

When we found out which way to go, we started down the mountain with a shimmy in our knees. The poor old nag was glad to see us--which also fit our sentiments towards the nag.

It was just an ordinary, fine going descent from there down until we reached the ranch with the large red barns. Our gallant hardened cow-boys said, "well, you made it". This signified that we came back alive and o.k. and fooled their ironic remarks that "Who should they tell about the disaster".

After the horse had been returned tot he kind Mrs. Graham, Dee and I went back down to Ogden. While in Ogden we bought us some ham and eggs at Ross and Jacks--so far Ross and Jack have given us excellent meals.

From Ogden, after having purchased 7 gallons of gas and 2 quarts of oil we drove to Bountiful, then up to the Wasatch Branch Experimental Station.

We have taken the afternoon off today to collect our data, and also to rest our tired bones and sleepy heads.

Howard Peterson left at 4:00 P.M. and gave us the key to the Station-- are we happy!

In conclusion to Paul's little outing, some things never change and site installations today tend to have the same problems: getting there, getting done and getting home!

Randy Julander
Snow Surveys, NRCS, USDA
Salt Lake City, UT.