

Idaho still cranks calls

United Press International
EDGEMERE, Idaho (UPI) — History cranks on in northern Idaho's Hoodoo Valley — to the tune of four short rings and one long.

Members of the Hoodoo Valley Telephone Co. have not gathered formally for more than a decade. Nevertheless, the lines are open and four families still use old handcranked phones to communicate with one another.

It's not easy keeping such an operation going in this modern world, though.

"People steal the phone insulators off the poles because they're antiquated," says LaVelle Gornick, secretary of the telephone cooperative for more than 25 years. "We had to get the sheriff to get them to stop."

And the three dry-cell batteries each phone needs to operate are becoming difficult to obtain, she says. The phone lines also are in poor shape, mostly because fewer people have had to do more work to keep the system operating, since membership in the cooperative has declined.

At its peak more than 20 years ago, the cooperative served 27 families in the Idaho Panhandle valley, about three dozen miles northeast of Spokane, Wash.

But it was in the late 1950s that modern technology doomed the venture, Gornick says. A major telephone company updated its equipment and would not allow the Hoodoo cooperative to hook in, she says.

"They cut us off," Gornick said about General Telephone Co. "We even went into some legal hassle over that."

The cooperative was first organized with nine members in 1915. The central switchboard was at the general store at Clagstone. The total initial capital expenditure was \$413.06.

Each member owned his own

phone and was responsible for its repair. Members also were expected to maintain lines running across their property.

The telephone system bound together the community of Edgемere in more ways than one. In case of a fire or other emergency, five short rings would summon all members to an early-day conference call.

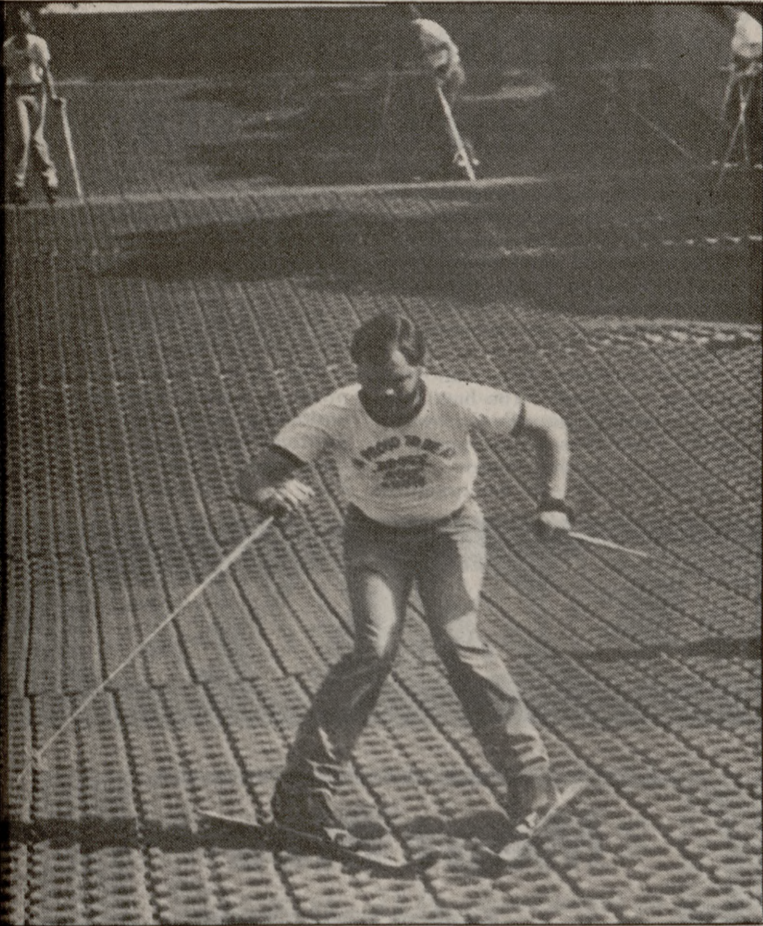


Photo by George Dolan

Senior aggie survives ...

Kenneth Meadows finishes one of his first runs on the recently refinished Mt. Aggie. Although few have suffered broken legs or

other injuries on the slope, many found that the heat was nearly unbearable.

Clements against education control

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Gov. Bill Clements says education in Texas is not a Democrat vs. Republican issue, but he and John White, national Democratic chairman, have opposing views about the Department of Education that are right in line with their respective parties.

Criticizing federal control of education, collective bargaining for teachers and the recently created Department of Education, Clements generated enthusiastic response from the 2,000 people attending Monday's State School Administrators and School Board Associations joint conference.

In what might be the closest thing yet to a Republican-Democrat debate, Clements, who is heading GOP presidential candidate Ronald Reagan's state campaign, addressed the conference after a speech by White.

Polite silence marked White's remarks, which included a reminder that President Carter had created the Department of Education, which the Republican platform calls for elimination, to meet the needs of education in the country and he saw no need to eliminate the agency.

"I don't think there is a single person in this room who would disagree that we have to reverse this trend toward centralizing education decisions in Washington, and that the closer control is to home, the better

we can make education for all of our children," Clements said.

He also said he would veto any legislation submitted to him proposing collective bargaining for the state's teachers.

White underscored the amount of federal funding for education received by the state, which he said began 15 years ago during a Democratic administration.

"I know Texas received \$677 million in federal funds for education last year," White said. "And with that money comes some strings, I know, and in some cases with more strings than I like."

White also said he approved of the education of illegal aliens as long as the federal government funded the additional costs.

Clements later expressed disappointment he and White did not conduct an actual debate of education issues. However, he declined a Houston television station's invitation for a debate with state leaders of the Carter campaign.

Mike Casserly, news director of KPRC-TV, said in a letter to Clements his station would provide time for the debate. The invitation was handed to the governor following his speech.

Clements rejected the invitation, but added, "If President Carter will come here, why, you can ask me and I'll be happy to debate him."

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