



## WHAT IS YOUR SPURS IQ?

### **Who were the first inhabitants of the Yampa Valley?**

The Ute Indians, who summered here in Steamboat Springs, enjoyed the medicine springs and abundant hunting. They were moved to a reservation in Utah. The aspen grove behind Old Town Hot Springs is an old Ute burial ground. The name Yampa actually comes from a flowering root, similar to a carrot that proliferated throughout the valley. The Utes ground this into flour and used it as a staple in their diet.

### **How did Steamboat Springs get its name?**

The French fur trappers used to come over Buffalo Pass on their way from St. Louis to Browns Park. Their early journals refer to this area with two names: Big Bend for the bend in the Yampa River as it moves through town and Steamboat Springs for the chugging sound that came from the spring located across the river from the current library. The sound reminded them of the steamboats back home. The spring stopped chugging around the time that the railroad was brought in but some old timers claim that the local kids used to try to plug it up by throwing in rocks and that is what stopped the chugging.

### **Who was the first settler of Steamboat Springs?**

James Crawford came in response to an article that talked about how this area was a wonderful place for hunting. (The power of public relations!) James was impressed by the many springs, the beauty of the mountains, and decided to stay. He established the town and planned the original streets. He was a teetotaler and the original lots downtown still have covenants that prohibit the selling or making of any alcohol. This is why the red light district was located on the south side of the Yampa River in an area known as Brooklyn and because of that, the train depot was located at the opposite end of town.

### **Why is Lincoln Ave. so wide?**

Cattle were driven down Lincoln Ave. to stockyards that were on the west end of town where they were loaded onto cattle cars. The stockyards were located at the Depot on 13th St. Many of the cattle came up from Toponas and Yampa south of Steamboat.

### **Who is credited for introducing the sport of skiing to Steamboat Springs?**

A young man from Norway by the name of Carl Howelsen got the towns people excited about recreating on skis. He organized the first winter carnival in 1914 on Woodchuck Hill where the Colorado Mountain College is now. Howelsen Hill is named after Carl and is the oldest continuous operating ski area in the state. Prior to Carl Howelsen's arrival, skis were used as transportation and called snowshoes even though they didn't resemble traditional snowshoes we think of, which were inadequate for travel in the deep snow. The skis were usually homemade and measured 8 to 12 feet long!

### **How many springs are in the area?**

There are more than 150 springs in the area. Some are hot enough to cook eggs in the water, which is what the Crawford family and other early settlers did.

### **When did the Steamboat Ski Area get its start?**

Jim Temple broke ground on the Storm Mountain Ski area in 1958. The town was very skeptical because they considered themselves a summer resort only. At that time, Rabbit Ears was still very difficult to pass in the winter.

The Grand Opening wasn't until 1963 when John Fetcher and others opened the ski area to the Public. It was a brisk 40 below zero and only one customer showed up to ski. The mountain manager with a frosted windshield backed into the only other car in the parking lot belonging to the only customer that showed to ski opening day. (It was a rough start).

Buddy Werner was the first American skier to pose a threat to the European ski racers of the time. Buddy was tragically killed in an avalanche in France. In 1965, the mountain was renamed after Buddy. It took an act of Congress to change the name of the mountain from Storm Mountain to Mt. Werner in his honor.

### **What is the current population of Steamboat Springs?**

Within the city limits the population is estimated at 12,000 people. When our lodging is full we are at over 30,000 people.

### **What is the altitude of Steamboat Springs?**

Steamboat Springs is 6,795 feet above sea level. An interesting note is that in the 1990 census, our altitude matched our population exactly! The top of Mt. Werner is 10,568 feet.

### **What is the average snowfall?**

5 year average – 362.8 inches

10 year average – 340.15 inches

1995/96 – 460 total inches, 216 inches in the month of January alone.

2007-2008 we had the highest snowfall on record- 489 inches! Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp. stopped counting the day the ski area closed.