

He 'Swims,' Survives Alta Slide

By BRYAN GRAY
Deseret News Staff Writer

Forest ranger Ronald Perla took a 70 mph "swim" on a massive snowslide that swept him down an Alta mountainside Friday and buried him in an airless tomb of snow.

Searchers, flagged to the spot where he was buried by an arm that stuck out of the snow, rescued Mr. Perla just after he passed out.

He described how he rode the avalanche 1,500 yards after a cornice of snow gave way — about two minutes later, he just as he and fellow Ranger Ray Lindquist were preparing to blast it with dynamite.

HEARD CRACK

"I knew what it was as soon as I heard the crack," said Mr. Perla. "My rope broke from the heavy snow, and I started falling."

"I said to myself, 'You'll have to take it from here, Ron!'" Whipped along by the heavy snow that encased him, he roared down the mountain slope at a speed of 70 mph.

"I tried to swim on top of the snow so I wouldn't get buried," he said. "If a person is buried in this wet snow for even an hour, his chances for survival are very slim."

"I stayed on top of the snow, but when I came to a rest around the Rock Garden ski trail, the snow fell on top of me and covered me up."

With no oxygen in his trap of snow, he fainted — but not before he stuck his hand out to mark the location.

BLURRY FACES

"I came to consciousness a cornice of snow gave way — about two minutes later," he just as he and fellow Ranger Ray Lindquist were preparing to blast it with dynamite.

"I didn't feel any particular pain. I was just too groggy and numb."

Refusing hospital treatment, he said his main concern for the future is his wedding Monday.

He will marry Carolyn Cotton at the First Unitarian Church in Salt Lake City.

The ranger noted that normally he wouldn't have been up on the mountain. He had already blasted a cornice off a mountain ledge last month.



Searchers probe with poles in snow for other victims after Alta avalanche. Arrow shows path of Ranger Ronald Perla's ride on crest. Note slide width.

Beats Death In Alta Slide

By PAUL SWENSON
Deseret News Staff Writer

ALTA — A soundless snowslide stole the thunder of an intended dynamite blast at 11:30 a.m. here Friday and swept a snow ranger on a mile-long ride down a mountainside.

Ronald Perla, 31, Alta, suddenly had less than hours of avalanche training that had taught him to "swim" atop the white tide rather than be carried passively to a snowy burial.

Mr. Perla was buried but came to rest with one hand above the surface.

He was found by skier Jim Shaffer who saw the gloved hand above the snow and dug him out. He had stopped breathing, but began gasping for air as his chest was freed. He was uninjured except for shock.



Jim Shaffer

... found ranger

The ocean of heavy, tightly-packed snow broke loose from atop 11,068-foot Mt. Baldy Friday just as Mr. Perla, two other snow rangers and a ski instructor were preparing to trigger the avalanche themselves by blasting off a cornice.

It caught three skiers in its wake, tossed three more like matchsticks out of its path — and out of danger — and kept some 200 rangers, ski patrol-

was carried a considerable distance on top of the slide and was able to ski out. Kenton Knorr, 2337 Chadwick St. (1414 East), Salt Lake City, lost his skis but walked out of the slide area unhurt.

Mr. Perla and three other rangers were preparing to blast off the cornice as a danger to skiers in the "ballroom" area of the Alta run. It was in the "ballroom" that some skiers were knocked off their feet by the slide.

The relatively happy ending to the avalanche was in stark contrast to the desperate probing by searchers immediately after the slide when there were reports of five people missing.

When a lone ski of a small Salt Lake boy, Byron Lang, 10, was discovered in the snow, it was feared he may have been buried. He was later found safe, however. Another skier, Brad Shurtliff, was also feared lost as the rescue operation began but was found.

Mr. Perla's plunge down the mountainside and subsequent survival to tell about it was de-

See RANGER on Page B-4

OUR MAN JONES

Tombstone For Old Jake

By HARRY JONES

Grandpa Jackson down in Strawberry Flats had a saying which I never forgot — "Never buy a tombstone from a mailorder house."

The postage is terrific, but that wasn't the reason for Grandpa's sage advice.

It was on account of old Jacob Henry.

Jacob had moved into the valley for his health. He wheezed quite a bit. Grandpa gazed skyward many a time thinking a whistling swan was flying over when Jake walked by the house.

Jake had made a fortune in Chicago and just puttered around on his showplace in the valley. He called it farming, but he never raised anything. He spent his time doing a little fishing and hunting. He had a couple of horses, but didn't ride much.

Jake was in his 70s, but his wife was still in her 40s and admitted to being 30, when they first moved to the valley.

They had a hired man about 50 who came with them from Chicago. And because Jake didn't do much farming, the hired man spent his time doing household chores.

That's what he was doing the day old Jake was done in. The hired man was taking Jake's duck hunting gun out of the cabinet when it suddenly went off.

Old Jake got the full charge. He was dead before the echo died away.

Grandpa said old Jake got hit so squarely that not one pellet went astray. They didn't have to sweep up a single one off the floor.

The widow said later that nothing else was disturbed in the living room ... and that was something to be thankful for.

She wanted to leave the valley immediately after the funeral, but there had been talk around the valley and down at Penney's store ... what with the hired man being more the widow's age than the dearly departed.

So at Grandpa's suggestion, the widow let the hired man go and stayed on in the valley for a respectable time.

It was Grandpa's idea that she buy a huge tombstone — it later became the show piece of the valley until they got the stained glass window in the chapel.

Because Jake was from Chicago, the widow ordered the

See OUR MAN JONES on Page B-4



Mr. Jones

DESERET NEWS

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Saturday, April 22, 1967

B1

Junction Crash Injures 12

ECHO JUNCTION — Twelve persons were sent to hospitals Saturday, shortly after 5 a.m., following a truck-car crash on U.S. 30 near Echo Junction.

Utah Highway Patrol troopers said Claudia Taylor, 19, Ogden, car driver, apparently fell asleep at the wheel. Her vehicle careened into a stone wall of the canyon area and smashed head-on into a truck of young boys on a Church outing.

MINOR INJURIES

Raimund Goeckeritz, 30, 6910-1545 East, Salt Lake, driver of the truck, was being treated for minor injuries at Summit County Hospital, Coalville. Ten youths were hurt and are being treated there also.

Miss Taylor is in serious condition at Dee Hospital, Ogden. The only one seriously injured in the Church group was Kent Compton, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Compton, 768 E. 4300 South, Salt Lake. The Compton youth suffered a concussion and remains unconscious.

OTHER YOUTHS

Other Salt Lake youths treated at Summit County Hospital were Lynn Reynolds, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Reynolds, 4062-5th East; Craig Farley, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph C. Farley, 829 E. 4125 South; Richard Watson, 12, son

See ECHO on Page B-4

SKI MASK BANDIT GETS \$200 LOOT

A young bandit wearing a ski mask over his face threatened a teenage grocery store employee with a rifle early Saturday and escaped with more than \$200.

Robert Tate, 17, 1760 Downing Ave. (1825 South), told police that he was leaving Blae's Market, 620 E. 1st South, with a friend shortly after midnight after closing the store.

Carrying a paper sack containing the day's receipts, he walked toward his car parked in front of the store.

The bandit emerged from the side of the store, and, pointing a rifle at the two youths, demanded, "Drop the bag on the ground."

The boys were then ordered to get in their car and drive away.

Liquor Club Issue Heads For Court

The problem of whether Salt Lake City can regulate liquor locker clubs and close them down or require them to move away for noncompliance appears to be headed for the State Supreme Court.

Gov. Calvin L. Rampton called together law enforcement officers of four counties to meet with state officials Friday afternoon in an attempt to agree upon meaning of the amended state law.

The new law says cities, counties and towns "shall" license liquor locker clubs.

Salt Lake City Public Safety Commissioner James L. Barker Jr. described present enforcement of the law as "a farce."

"I will advise the City Commission to enact a new ordinance to control liquor locker clubs effective next month," he said.

At Gov. Rampton's suggestion, Paul G. Grant, assistant city attorney, turned over a copy of the proposed ordinance to Mr. Hansen who agreed to study it.

Mr. Hansen, in answer to questions at the meeting, said that locker clubs might have to

See LIQUOR on Page B-4

Commissioners Wield Ax On County Budget

By STEVE HALE
Deseret News Staff Writer

The Salt Lake County Commission Friday laid the groundwork for whacking more than a million dollars from this year's budget — amidst indications that a tax cut may be possible next year.

"We'll either cut the budget next year, or I'll go back to running a service station," Commissioner Philip Blomquist said Saturday.

He operated a service station before election to the two-year commission post last fall.

Commissioner Blomquist, who is the finance commissioner, expressed confidence that the commission will "establish some kind of a cut in the mill levy" next year.

BUDGET SESSION

The commission went through an all-day budget-logging session with department heads Friday, and the upshot was a net saving of \$1,048,000 to the taxpayers, according to Commissioner Blomquist.

This means the county will be operating at \$2.6 million less than last year, and that the county will be able to "hold the line" on taxes this year.

"Even more amazing than that is the fact that we didn't cut the budget for recreation, and we added \$50,000 to the capital improvements account for

buying land for parks and capital development," Commissioner Blomquist said.

He said the reduction amounts to about 10 per cent of the unexpended budget — which is just about \$11.2 million.

A public hearing on the amended budget will be held Thursday at 10 a.m. in the County Commission chambers.

BIG REDUCTIONS

The big reductions were in budgeted sums for construction of a clubhouse at Mountain View Golf Course at West Jordan (\$100,000); poor fund (reduced \$398,000 from the budget of \$2,503,325); and the Highway

Department (cut \$100,000 after an earlier slash of \$250,000).

It wasn't entirely a penny-pinching session Friday for the County Commission, though. The engineer's fund got a raise of \$16,000; the planning department's budget was hiked \$43,000; \$9,000 more went to the finance department for administration; \$30,000 was set aside for a personnel department, and \$45,000 was budgeted for a contracts negotiator's office.

Commission Chairman Oscar Hanson Jr. applauded the department heads for their cooperative spirit in working out the budget revisions.

Hansen Jaguar Economy Car?

The Jaguar automobile that Attorney General Phil L. Hansen bought for his use as a state car "isn't as expensive as people might think," an aide said Saturday.

The assistant said the Jaguar, "an economy, six cylinder job," cost \$400 less than the cost of a new Oldsmobile.

Mr. Hansen turned over the 1965 Oldsmobile Luxury 98 sedan he had been driving for the Jaguar.

Trade-in allowance was \$2,286, and an additional \$2,300 was paid to Schettler-Williams, Inc., 1716 S. State.

The Jaguar is a sedan with automatic transmission, power steering, chrome spoke wheels, tinted glass, seat belts and whitewall tires.

It has no radio or air conditioning, Mr. Hansen's assistant said, adding:

"Since the Legislature saw fit to cut the budget, the attorney general decided to economize and got an economy model Jaguar."

No bids were called, but a state official said this is not necessary.

The state recently bought a \$4,275, 1967 Oldsmobile Delta 88 for Treasurer Linn C. Baker, with \$2,580 trade-in deducted from the cash price.

Four firms bid on that sale. Gov. Calvin L. Rampton drives a new Lincoln Continental every year on a \$150-a-year lease agreement with Ford Motor Co.

Facilities For Everyone Surround Flaming Gorge

By EVELYN LAMB
Deseret News Correspondent

A variety of new facilities for the boater, fisherman, water skier, camper and nature lover are being readied for the summer season at Flaming Gorge reservoir north of Vernal.

The U.S. Forest Service said many of these will be completed for the start of the summer recreation season which ordinarily begins on Memorial Day, May 30.

Others will proceed during the summer and some are just in the planning stage.

Of interest to boaters is a 100-foot extension of the Sheep Creek Bay boating ramp. A new restroom near the ramp is nearing completion and surfacing of the parking lot is scheduled.

At all Forest Service boat ramps, traffic dividers will be installed. Additional docks are being built for boat loading, and a dock for launching water skiers is under construction.

Reef markers to protect boaters are being placed and debris is being collected and burned. Seven additional camp units are being prepared for boaters at Hideout campground and a new water system installed.

Surfacing has been laid around 160 family campsites in the National Forest portion of Flaming Gorge and a new camping-picnic area on the canyon rim between the Red Canyon Lodge and the visitor center will be ready this summer.

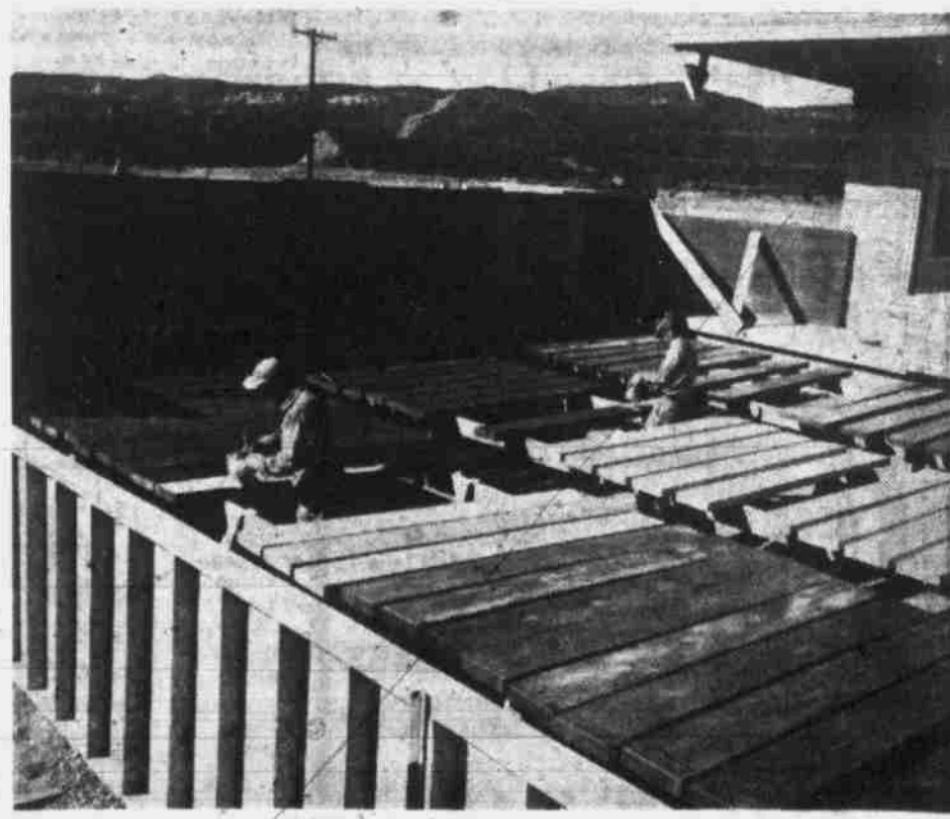
Three more picnic and rest stops have been completed between Red Canyon and Sheep Creek Bay. Also an improved water system will be built for the Canyon Glen picnic area in Dutch John draw.

Fiberglass coating has been placed on tables and benches

See NEW FACILITIES on Page B-4



A 100-foot extension of Sheep Creek boating ramp is being completed for early summer use. A new restroom also is being built near ramp.



Ray Murray and Yeldon Eaton apply coats of fiberglass resin to table tops which will be placed in various Flaming Gorge camping locations.