TIMBERLINES

FOT Work Day is still scheduled at the Lodge. Much has been cancelled.

—page 3

"What is the most important thing in the world? It is people! It is people! It is people!"

—page 4

Born of a Crisis

The country is in the midst of an economic crisis that may be the greatest threat to the Nation's democracy, second only to the Civil War.

—page 6

TIMBERLINE LODGE

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FALL 2020 NUMBER 44

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR FRIENDS OF TIMBERLINE PRESIDENT

If a place can love people, it's Timberline Lodge. Like a silent snowfall arriving on a calm winter night, appearing gracious and polite to all at first encounter, this iconic destination

knows rich experiences and irreplaceable memories await creation there. It is a sanctuary like no other. Upon arrival, some of us seek inspiration or celebration, some seek rest or solace, still others want simple permission just to linger and do nothing but daydream. Reclaim a perspective that only time away from the routine brings. Nothing energizes like getting away for childlike fun and outdoor recreation. But, regardless of intent, once there we all experience providence.



Now, suddenly, the uninvited and unwanted realities of a global pandemic are upon us without warning. If these difficult and uncertain days of disruption have revealed anything, it is that people need people, but people also need place. And so, it seems, place needs people. Timberline Lodge wants us there as much as we need to be up on Mount Hood with our National Historic Landmark. It's a mutual engagement. Know that during these strange times FOT has continued to carefully do what we can and take action on what is practical and necessary. We remain in pursuit of our current objectives and are guided by the collaborative partnership between the United States Forest Service, R.L.K. and Company, and FOT. Communication is frequent and productive.

As our FOT Vice President Jeff Jaqua wrote recently in an email, "I hope none of us forget that Timberline Lodge was born of a global crisis. Recognition of our history will guide us forward. Timberline will remain an icon and an expression of the promise and hope of the American people." Well stated, Jeff. With an eye on the here and now but also with thoughts of tomorrow, I encourage you to reach out with your suggestions or ideas. Thank you for your support of FOT.

Brent Dahl

FOT President (503) 699-6555 brent.dahl@outlook.com



TIMBERLINES

Publisher/Editor— Friends of Timberline

PMB 219

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Printed by GISI Marketing Group

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WHAT'S STILL ON UP AT THE LODGE?



FOT Work Day Planned for September 13

Each year, Friends of Timberline plans a Work Day to turn its attention to tasks at the Lodge. Volunteers from FOT and friends of those "Friends" have been very generous with their time in the past, making the FOT Work Day both productive and enjoyable. This year's work day is on the calendar, and will be held if it can be safely done in the COVID19 environment.

The amphitheater reconstruction is an FOT past project of which we are justifiably proud. Like any external structure at the Lodge, it requires periodic rejuvenation to maintain. Last year, the weather prevented the normal biennial cleaning and restaining, so this year's Work Day project will focus on that task. If you are available and willing, we could use your help once more. The brushes, buckets, rags and gloves are furnished, and the task usually takes eighteen or so volunteers about three hours to refurbish the benches. The Lodge rewards all of us worker bees with a nice lunch. If this appeals to your sense of "giving back to the Mountain", please let Mike Gentry know at michaelgentry04@comcast.net, or (503) 636-0061 and he will add you to the work list and keep you informed on the status of the decision-making on whether the Work Day will occur.



Same Time—Next Year

With the ongoing coronavirus concerns, several normal events will not be held this year.

Annual meeting, auction and dinner. The social distancing/dinner seating restrictions make it impractical to hold the annual Friends of Timberline weekend in early October at the Lodge. There will be a virtual Annual Members Meeting around then to conduct our required business. Those members desiring to tune in and participate should send their email addresses to fot1@comcast.net so that an invitation can be sent out.

Timberline Mountain Music Festival. With the uncertainties around the social distancing protocols, RLK has cancelled this popular annual event as well. More information and a look at some past performances can be found at https://www.timberlinelodge.com/events/mountain-music-festival-2019.



IT IS PEOPLE! — Jon Tullis

For as long as I've been at Timberline Lodge, this place has been a whirlwind of activity. Nearly two million annual visitors has meant the engine of commerce and the workings of a robust hospitality enterprise must run on all eight cylinders, and that means most rooms occupied, the ski area operating, the kitchen always cooking, restaurants and bars filled with music, laughter, and conversation, service levels always being checked, and little problems always getting ironed out. Meanwhile, a purposeful historic preservation program and our challenging maintenance operation made it seem as though somewhere on the property a hammer was always swinging, a wrench always turning, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The public was always welcome to come inside except for during the wee hours when the Lodge is reserved for registered guests. But even then, people were always stirring. Everything seemed to operate on momentum, a continuum, a work in progress, and nearly every day was as busy and as wonderful as the previous day. Even when other national disasters occurred such as that on the horrible morning of September 11, 2001, the Lodge was busy. In fact, people would flock here in search of a spiritual grounding following past national disasters. The Lodge provided a touchstone of familiarity, and a comforting sense of permanence. But not this time. The Covid-19 shutdown simply meant that we were to suddenly throttle back on this engine of hospitality, take it out of gear, and throw it into idle, which honestly felt more like reverse!

On March 16 as the threat of the virus seemed very real, we voluntarily closed the ski area out of an abundance of caution. Following Oregon Governor Brown's executive order on March 23, we closed the restaurants and 471 employees were laid off or furloughed.

In New Zealand, the Maori have a proverb: He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata! He tangata! He tangata! Translated that is "What is the most important thing in the world? It is people! It is people!"

Following the Forest Service's recreation site closure the Timberline Road was closed, effectively shutting down access to the entire south side of the mountain. Climbing was shut down just as climbing season was getting started. A heavy spring snow fell and filled the parking lots with nearly a foot of the white stuff. The plows were no longer rolling. For a clear lot, the snow would have to melt, but that was okay, there was no need to park cars. Then, we had a string of beautiful bluebird days. Dang, this would have been a great Spring Break! Instead, a sense of quiet overtook the entire place, and a sense of loss began to set in.

I continued to come to work on most days as a part of the management team asked to stay on and help shelve things. Once that was accomplished, we turned our attention towards developing a business recovery plan. Meanwhile a skeleton crew would keep the Lodge in good shape, keep that engine idling. Fueled by a sense of determination and the adrenalin that comes with sudden change, we took the opportunity to disinfect and deep-clean the facility, but that wound down after a week or so, as did the remaining lodge guests. Technically, hotels were not in the Governor's closure order, but by now people were of course staying at home. The momentum was gone. Only a faint sense of inertia remained.

I had plenty of time to ponder things. A lot of people are suggesting that this quarantine period is an opportunity to contemplate what we all value most. Walking though the big empty main lobby, it struck me. Through the floor-length windows fresh snow glistened in the trees, and the sun shone through to illuminate the richly grained oak floors. Inside, everywhere I looked was wonderfully crafted architectural and decorative beauty as well as evidence of our hard work keeping it all looking good over the years. That provided me with a brief surge of pride, but my mind shifted to what was desperately missing; the magic of the human spirit. This place was built of the people, by the people, and for the people. It needs its people! I stood there missing my co-workers sharing in our camaraderie and a common purpose. I missed our customers enjoying our hospitality services. I missed the small talk, the Timberline stories, the silly questions, the chatter, the kids, the crackling fire, the couples cuddled up on the couches, and the folks sitting off on their own, quietly reading a book.



Without a flame, the fireplace in the headhouse at Timberline expresses the emptyness of the Lodge without its bustling family of guests.

Timberline Lodge has a way of immediately embracing and inspiring people. It was built as a response to another global crisis, the Great Depression, and as WPA Administrator Harry Hopkins wrote at the time, it was to be "an investment in social usefulness." It was meant to provide a place to celebrate our life in the mountains, and as President Franklin Roosevelt said, it was to be "a place to play for generations of Americans in the days to come." Arts and crafts and passing on the skills of building trades were at the core of the project, providing a symbol of hope and purpose comprised its spirit, but its essence was found in creating a sense of community. Harry Hopkins wrote that only then would it achieve "the WPA's full purpose."

In New Zealand, the Maori have a proverb: He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata! He tangata! He tangata! Translated that is "What is the most important thing in the world? It is people! It is people! It is people!"

That is what we at Timberline value most. It is people. We miss you and we need you. It is you that will allow us to get back to work, restart this engine of hospitality, and allow us to achieve the full purpose of this place. Outdoor recreation will play a vital role in people's physical and mental health following this period of isolation. We can hardly wait for that day to come, that return of hope, purpose, and people. We'll get there together, and when we do, we'll be ready.

Jon Tullis Timberline Lodge Oregon May 1, 2020



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Friends we will sadly miss...

Kurt Mezger 1937 – *May, 2020*

Renowned chef Kurt Mezger passed away at 83. Those who enjoyed fine European cuisine on the mountain undoubtedly recall dining at Chalet Swiss. Born near Zurich, Kurt began his three year apprenticeship at age 16, and over a number of years worked in some of the finest resorts and hotels in Switzerland. In 1964, Kurt went to work for Westin Hotels at Portland's Benson Hotel, followed by five years with American Airlines Sky Chef. But he was feeling the yearning to have his own restaurant on Mt. Hood, a natural choice since he had a cabin on the mountain and a love of skiing. Kurt opened Chalet Swiss in 1972, steeped in alpine wood décor and replicated rustic Swiss farm furniture, enhanced by big hanging leather strapped cow bells and copper pots. Kurt enjoyed greeting guests at their tables whenever available, and the waitresses wore traditional Swiss attire, lace up dirndls with aprons and puffy sleeves. Singing and yodeling often accompanied many fine meals. After closing the restaurant around 2000, Kurt often could be seen skiing with the Ski Cats or riding his bike with a group he called his "immigrant friends". His protégé' Brigette Romeo continued featuring his recipes at her restaurant Still Creek Inn until it closed. Kurt was often found at the golf course bar in the Resort on the Mountain in his gentlemanly attire, and many friends would gather to hear him reminiscing with a smile in his intriguing accent. He is survived by his son Martin and his grandson Henrik in Switzerland.

Editor's note: Your newsletter editor loved Kurt's osso bucco and since he only made it on occasion, asked to be put on his "osso bucco hotline" so he could drive up. Every now and then, a message would appear on his phone from Kurt in his Swiss accent announcing "Mike – ve haf osso bucco!" It was always worth the drive, as were chats with him when he could emerge from the kitchen.

Tad Michel

March 22, 1926 - February 21, 2020

Former Timberline Lodge General Manager Tad Michel passed away in February with his wife Pamela by his side. Born in Poland in 1926 and displaced by the occupation of Poland at the end of the war, Tad immigrated to Australia in 1948 and graduated from the University of Melbourne. He served as an executive with the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne and was invited to do the same for the 1960 Olympics in Squaw Valley. Moving into the hospitality industry, Tad served as general manager for a number of exclusive resort hotels including two ten year periods at Timberline. While at the Lodge, he worked with the filming crew of "The Shining" and was flown to London as a consultant to Stanley Kubrick. During his hotel career he mentored many young hotel management executives and chefs who remain "family" to this day to this classic gentleman. He will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Nel Rand *December 16, 1936 – February 28, 2020*

Oregon Crafts Movement participant Nel Rand passed away at 82 after decades of contributions to the textiles crafts in Oregon since the 1970s. A gifted novelist (Mississippi Burning) and teacher as well as a craftswoman, she taught classes from her studio in Portland. She received an Oregon Arts Commission Grant in 1996, and made several wonderful hand hooked rugs for the Lodge.

TIMBERLINE CURATOR'S CORNER

First and foremost, a collective "Thank You" goes to Jeff Kohnstamm for guiding Timberline Lodge through the breaking Covid-19 storm, keeping the basic levels of operation going to protect our treasured landmark. As state and local regulations ease toward the new normal, every step forward helps.

Friends of Timberline took a much appreciated step in April by providing funds to help pay for art and craft restoration projects that were placed on hold due to no funding caused by no business. Needed work projects totaling about \$60,000 came to a halt. Before the pandemic halted work, RLK had sent FOT a donation from the sale of the Pucci lift chairs. FOT then decided to return the donation along with providing additional funds for a total of \$20,000 in order to sponsor crafts-



men to complete a number of unfunded GT restoration projects. The completed projects include restoration of fifteen Cascade Dining Room chairs and refinishing four bookcase tops, four hex tables around the fireplace, fifteen wood arm rest sets, a wheelbarrow bench and miscellaneous table repairs. Many aged oak floor boards were given loving attention, and upholstery needs were

also attended to. With over two million visitors a year, the main lobby areas were showing extreme wear. The "before and after" photos accompanying this article are a sample of what was accomplished.

Elizabeth Chambers and Nina Olsson continue on portions of the Save America's Treasures restoration work,



assessing over one hundred guest room watercolors and cleaning two large WPA wood marquetry murals and three wood carved murals. The remaining six linoleum carvings located in the Barlow Room await restoration to be completed by November.

Linny AdamsonTimberline Curator













BORN OF A CRISIS — Jeff Jaqua

The country is in the midst of an economic crisis that may be the greatest threat to the Nation's democracy, second only to the Civil War. Unemployment is at 25% and only one-quarter of those that are desperately seeking work are receiving any kind of public relief. Neither the President nor the Congress can seem to come up with a unified path forward. The crisis is global. Many people around the world have lost faith in their governments and are turning to totalitarianism and autocratic dictators for leadership. Many in the United States believe that capitalism may have run its course and that the government has failed them. Familiar social norms are upset. Political institutions that once provided stability now seem totally ineffectual. Fear and hopelessness create an opportunity for a new authoritarian political order encouraged by some and simply acquiesced to by others. Labor disputes, protests, social disruptions are common across the country, some turning violent. Protestors march on Washington D.C. Security at the White House is increased, iron gates are chained shut and armed troops are stationed on the grounds. Eventually, under orders from the White House, armed U.S. military troops clear the streets using mounted cavalry and tear gas. The date: July 1932.

On July 2, while the country was in the depths of the Great Depression, New York Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt flew to Chicago to accept the nomination of the Democrat Party for President of the United States. He concluded his acceptance speech with: "I pledge you, I pledge myself, to a new deal for the American people. Let us all here assembled constitute ourselves prophets of a new order of competence and courage." The words "new deal" had no particular significance to Roosevelt or his advisors. Though he did not give extra weight to the term, those that heard the speech and reported on it did. "New Deal" soon came to define his campaign and ultimately his presidency.

Many learned and legitimate voices in the country were so exasperated with the ineffectiveness of both the current administration and Congress that they counseled Roosevelt to seek some level of dictatorial powers or at least some temporary authoritarian mandate. Though there are indications that FDR considered this route, he clearly saw the results of such action in Europe with the rise of dictators and fascism, and chose against it. Instead he believed he could work within proven political institutions and familiar norms to institute real systematic change that would ultimately gain wide long-lasting acceptance and a democratically derived new order. He also believed,

given the seriousness of the threat to the democratic principles of this country, that he had to work fast and take bold actions.

FDR campaigned with a promise of a "new deal" and went on to win the presidency. The economic crisis was no better and had actually worsened since his acceptance of the party's nomination. Fear was rampant and affected all Americans. In his inaugural speech on March 4, 1933, FDR told the nation "that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Here was a message not only to the American people but to the entire world. The United States would not abandon its democratic principles by succumbing to fear and thus retreat to failure. On March 5, the day after FDR assumed the office of the presidency, in an ironic strange twist in the march of time, the German Reichstag reinforced FDR's warning of the dangers of fear by placing absolute power in the hands of Adolph Hitler.

Roosevelt wasted no time in taking bold and aggressive actions. His creation of a dizzying array of alphabet agencies is well documented, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) being one. The WPA was founded in 1935 specifically to employ three and a half million people that were currently on relief. FDR saw the public relief program to be "a narcotic, a subtle destroyer of the human spirit." It would be more costly but his intent was to "substitute work for relief." He also wished to provide an opportunity for citizens with life experiences and skills to work together to contribute to the American dream and create places of value for future generations. Timberline Lodge became a highlighted project of the WPA.

FDR's objectives, as he implemented his New Deal programs, were never simply to spend money and build things. Every project, including Timberline Lodge, was a message that celebrated the potential of the American fortitude to conquer adversities and move forward. The U.S. Forest Service had an objective as well. It had a long held concept for a small, simple utilitarian structure on the south flank of Mt. Hood that would serve the growing numbers of climbers that were coming to the mountain. It didn't take long for the Forest Service's and President's objectives to find each other. However, to meet the very intentional bold and aggressive mission of the President, a small chalet on a mountain in the Pacific Northwest would have to be morphed into a project that would better deliver the President's message. The Forest Service got busy and by June 1936, ground was broken for the Lodge. By intent, the Lodge, including the site,

the design, the interior features and furnishings, and the artwork all were part and parcel of the message. It was designed to be bold, powerful, an exaggeration, a testimony of the American spirit, a statement that this country could rally to conquer the most aggressive challenges. In a 1977 memoir, Ward Gano, a Forest Service engineer who contributed to the structural design and served as the resident engineer during the 1936 construction season, disclosed that the massive size of the timbers used throughout the Lodge was designed primarily for architectural effect, not for structural purposes. Another example of this not so subtle messaging is the Pioneer Scene wood carving by Melvin Keegan and Valentine Weise, based on a drawing by Howard Gifford (one of the Forest Service architects of the Lodge) mounted in the south stairway. These three panels depict the trials and hardships faced and conquered by pioneers on the Oregon Trail in the mid 19th century, a perfect metaphor for the trials and hardships experienced by many Americans during the Great Depression. The next time you visit the Lodge, note the magnificently healthy and robust oxen used to pull the pioneer wagons hundreds of miles to the promised land of Oregon. It certainly would not have served FDR's message to depict a more accurate picture of what were likely pretty decimated creatures.

Timberline Lodge was included in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, only 36 years after President Roosevelt personally dedicated the completion of the Lodge in 1937. That short 36 years is an indication of the historic significance of Timberline Lodge. There are a number of required criteria for a property to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register, one of which is that it needs to be at least 50 years of age. This age requirement allows history to be defined from the perspective of the present. In other words, construction of a property that may have seemed consequential at the time may or may not be determined to be of importance in the inevitable course of history. All good regulatory requirements should have an exception for out of the ordinary situations. That is exactly the exception that came to play when Timberline Lodge was included on the National Register when it was only 36 years old. Notes, memos, directives, diaries, journals, and contemporary memoirs of agency bureaucrats, designers, architects, engineers, craftspeople, builders and artists involved with the concept and construction of the Lodge are evidence that they knew at the time that what they were involved in was historic – from day one. The exceptional historic significance of Timberline Lodge was verified in 1977 when it was designated a National Historic Landmark,

a special designation reserved only for the most exceptionally significant historic properties in the country. Again amazingly when the building was only 40 years old!

So, what is so exceptional about Timberline Lodge? Interestingly, it would never have been built if it had not been for the Great Depression. Actually, it was born of a crisis that threatened the very democratic principles that served as the foundation of our country. It was constructed to serve as a testimony of the American people's will and belief that they could overcome hardship. It was the expression of a nation's leader who believed in the strength and worth of the citizens he served. It was a message from a nation to itself that striving for the common good was possible.

As I write this in June 2020 a new economic and health crisis faces the country. Its conclusion remains unknown. Though things may seem different as we enter what will become the "next normal", the basic hope and purpose that is manifested in Timberline Lodge will remain. We may treat the old Lodge a bit differently, and we shouldn't be surprised if the old Lodge treats us a bit differently as well. Change will be inevitable. But the Lodge will stand and visitors will continue to find inspiration in its history. On your next visit to the Lodge take a moment to reflect on those that rose above their personal hardships to create this gift for the American people. Timberline Lodge was born of a crisis. May our responses to this current crisis be inspired by the actions of those who have gone before us.

> Jeff Jaqua Vice President Friends of Timberline

TIMBERLINE LODGE
MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST

DEDICATED SEPTEMBER 28, 1937 BY
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
AS A MONUMENT TO THE SKILL AND
EAITHFUL PERFORMANCE OF WORKERS
ON THE ROLLS OF THE
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

8

Friends of Timberline Merchandise



Pendleton Wool Blanket \$350

Exclusive Friends of Timberline design. The blanket is fully reversible, and equally dramatic on either side. Color is off white on one side, black on the other, with a red border.

Size 64" X 80"

Collector's Plate \$35

Jennifer Lake collection created for the 75th Anniversary of Timberline Lodge. Limited edition signed and numbered collectors plate featuring "Snowflake Paradise." 8 1/2" diameter with a 22 karat gold rim Presented in a silk lined box.

To order call FOT at 503-295-0827 or e-mail fot1@comcast.net.

All items are plus shipping unless noted. Merchandise can be picked up at the FOT Portland Office by prior arrangement.





Friends of Timberline Exclusive Framed Trio of Ray Atkeson Photos \$300

The estate of Ray Atkeson has gifted the use of these three iconic images as a tribute to Timberline Lodge on its 80th anniversary. This is a limited edition of 80, numbered, and custom-framed. Ray's signature is embossed in the lower right corner of the matt.

Overall dimensions 25" x 12." Photos are 3-3/4" x 5" and 6-3/4" x 5-1/2."

This unique piece of art is created when you order. Please allow two weeks plus shipping time for delivery.



THE

Builders

The Builders of Timberline Lodge \$50

Created by the Works Progress Administration. Very limited quantity from original 1937 inventory. 30 pages of beautiful drawings by Virginia Darce,' Martina Gangle, and Howard Sewall The text documents the story of building the Lodge as if you were there.



Whether you frame it or wear it, don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the Timberline Silk Scarf, Created by Friends of Timberline to showcase the much loved iconic symbols of Timberline Lodge, this scarf is a limited edition with only a few left. It is a 35" square in silk twill with a hand stitched rolled hem. Be sure to indicate your preferenced border color: brown or ivory. (free shipping in the U.S.)



Your membership means more now than ever, due to the ongoing pandemic.

We hope you enjoy our newsletters. You receive them because you have been added to our mailing list for one of multiple reasons, including being a paid member of FOT. Membership is a very important part of our annual budget and normally contributes about a third of our annual support. FOT products sales and Special Event income contribute the rest. That has dramatically changed due to the pandemic. This year, FOT membership receipts will be the primary source of our income, yet our commitment to projects at the Lodge continues and has expanded. If you have received our newsletter and are not a paid member, we urge you to join now. Please use either the membership form in this newsletter or go to our website to join or make a donation. Membership benefits not available in 2020 will be honored in 2021. Think of us if you need a gift for someone who loves the Lodge.

Please help support FOT and our ongoing restoration projects at the Lodge.



Friends of Timberline is once again in need of suitable office space.

FOT is looking for new storage space to safeguard sensitive files and archival materials. If anyone knows of a commercial or other office space for lease, please contact Sarah Munro at sarahmunro@comcast.net or Schatzie Perkins at shatzperkins@gmail.com. Any leads or help locating a space would be greatly appreciated.

We need:

- 425-450 square feet
- Normal temperature/humidity controls
- Secure space
- Accessible weekdays and weekends
- 2-3 parking spaces
- Ground level (preferred) or elevator-served
- Adequate lighting and restrooms
- Target \$500-\$600/month
- Wi-Fi access would be a bonus



JOIN FRIENDS OF TIMBERLINE AND BE A PART OF HISTORY.

Membership Type

□ NEW OPTION!

□ New

□ Renewal

Membership Level

Preservationist

□ \$50 **□** \$100* **□** \$250

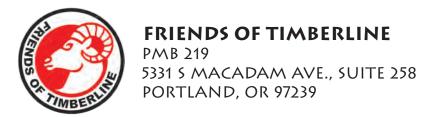
Friend

Timberline guest room rates each **\$1,000 or higher donors earn a	% discount at the Wy'East Store and 10% off time you stay (mid-week/non-holiday periods an additional gift of two tickets to the FOT Ansirst Saturday in October.) Minimum value \$17
Your gift is tax deductible to the fu	ill extent of the law. Friends of Timberline is a rust. Your support is needed and appreciated.
The Friends of Timber Ram's Head Pin is ava as our membership th you at all levels.	ailable Yes
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FRIENDS OF TIMBERLINE MISSION STATEMENT

To preserve and conserve Timberline Lodge, protect its historical integrity and communicate the spirit of its builders by providing counsel and raising funds and coordinating community efforts to accomplish these goals.

