



PHILLIP KRESS DUPRE

Being a pioneer means taking something that was and transitioning it to something that will be. It's the transition that provides the stuff of which legends are made. Skiing is no different. In Pennsylvania ski history Phillip Kress Dupre was a true pioneer. During the early years in the development of Seven Springs Mountain, Phillip worked hand in hand with his father, Adolph in taking a rugged patch of Allegheny Mountain terrain from family farm to four-season resort. An average day might find Phillip teaching skiing, patrolling, selling buck-fifty lift tickets for a rope tow, milking cows and shoveling manure. All in a day's work. After his marriage in 1955, he and his wife Lois raised 6 children and launched a self-governing Pennsylvania Borough around the mountain resort. Phillip was its first Mayor and then Lois took the reins as the resort demands grew and Phillip served as both co-owner and Vice-President. They were bringing world-class skiing, snowmaking and resort innovation to Western Pennsylvania and setting the statewide standard.



But first, the Korean War claimed Phillip's attention. The young ski area developer was Air Force bound where he discovered a love of flying. Brother Herman stepped in to guide the mountain's growth. On Phillip's return the brothers along with Lois began adding to the Mountain attractions. There was a full-service ski shop and a ski rental department that housed an unheard of 3,500 pair of boards. Activities blossomed with horse drawn sleigh rides, ice skating, horseback riding, fishing, and skeet shooting. Phillip's contributions extended to acquiring construction permits and planning for future development to include the restaurants that have become a vital part of Seven Springs lure. But for Phillip, his family, friends and resort staff his role came to an emotion-numbing end in May of 1978. Flying his private plane over the densely wooded Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, the veteran pilot went missing. Several days later, a Civil Air Patrol search party found the downed aircraft. Phillip did not survive. For his immense contributions to Pennsylvania Snow Sports, today Phillip becomes the 5th member of his family to be inducted into our Hall of Fame. He joins his father and mother, Adolph and Helen, brother Herman and widow, Lois. His was a full and dedicated life, cut short at 48.

