



LOIS DUPRE SHUSTER

Lois Dupre Shuster, a name written large on the Allegheny Mountain landscape found she had something in common with the iconic Walt Disney. They were both pioneers in the operation of resorts that were also self-governing municipalities. For Lois, the resort is Seven Springs, the sprawling four-season complex that began life as a fledgling ski area, launched by Adolph and Helen Dupre. Lois became part of the Western Pennsylvania resort dynasty when she married the Dupre's eldest son Phillip. The year was 1955.

Lois was vital to the burgeoning operation and, through her own skills and dynamic personality became Mayor of Seven Springs Borough, a position she held for 50 years while actively working on a rapid expansion of the ski resort. Skiers were rolling in. But many needed all those little things that make a day on the slopes memorable – like skis, boots, hats, gloves and the winter fashion parkas, pants and accessories that 1960's skiers were demanding. They also needed a rental shop. And so, the slope side shops that she developed recognized that one-size does not fit all. If a skier had feet the size of snowshoes, she had a boot to fit.



Life was going well for the Dupre family. Its success was seemingly boundless. For Lois and Phillip their family had also grown. In addition to the resort commitments, they were now parents to a brood of six. Then tragedy entered their lives. The private plane being flown by Phillip, a Korean War veteran crashed in rugged Blue Ridge Mountain terrain of North Carolina. He was 47. It was May of 1978,

Lois forged ahead. She moved into Phillip's seat on the Seven Springs Board of Directors and became the resort Vice-President. She remarried, and with Raymond Shuster, a Borough Councilman at her side, Lois remained active and continued to contribute to the resort and its world class retail and rental shops until the complex was sold in 2006.

