

Gary Ewing
Salt Lake City, UT

Date of Death: 7/4/2003

"Gary Bithell Ewing, an Intermountain ski racer and later sports film distributor, crossed the finish line passing through the Pearly Gates, Friday July 4th. He had been bed-bound for several months because of emphysema and gained his freedom on Independence Day surrounded by his family.

Born in Salt Lake City, son of Lott Lincoln and Mona Bitwell Ewing, he was a firecracker of a child and never outgrew his strong personality. One day, while playing with a life-long friend, raced his derby (car) from Foothill Boulevard, down 17th South to 13th East, of course with no brakes. He and the same friend in their teenage years stole an airplane and buzzed East High School. That was how Gary lived: full speed and never looking back.

Gary attended East High School where he sang with the A'Capella Choir and was on the ski team that won the Knudson Cup. During a ski jumping demonstration at the fairgrounds in the summer with snow shipped in from the mountains, he climbed a rickety wood structure along with other young ski jumpers and described it (as) "scary as hell," but jumped anyway. He received a skiing scholarship to Dartmouth College, was a member of the ski team and graduated in 1959

Returning to Salt Lake City he joined colleagues in a film distribution company, American National Enterprises and Sunn Classic Pictures. In 1973 Gary combined his knowledge of film and love of sports by opening his own film distribution company, Sports World Cinema which he owned and operated for 20 years. He was the first person to buy exclusive rights to sporting events for home video distribution.

He met his future wife, Janice Bristol, proposed to her on the ski lift in Park City and they married in 1968. Together they became certified professional ski instructors and taught skiing together for many years at park City Resort. He coached his son's soccer team for seven years and was also a tennis instructor. He had a special interest (in) World War II history and was funny, quick witted and creative. During his illness he maintained a positive outlook and enjoyed the time he had with his children.

Preceded in death by his mother and father, sister, Camille Temple, nieces, Julie and Meaghan Wright, he was survived at the time of his death by Jan Ewing; son Eric and daughter Mrs. Matthew (Kimberly) Hodgson; and grandchildren, Sidni, Ethan and Colby.

Eric's unselfish and limitless devotion to Gary over the course of his illness was truly a gift of love and a reflection of the attention and caring Gary gave his children when they were young.

A Celebration of Gary's Life will be held on Saturday, July 12th at 11:00am at the Church of Religious Science, 5448 (900 E. A memorial service will also be held in Grand Isle, Vermont on Thursday, July 17th. In lieu of flowers, Gary requests donations to the American Lung Association Smoking Prevention Program, 1930 S 110 E, 84106.