

Tales from Two Valleys

Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows skiers will delight in reading the familiar and not-so-familiar accounts of how these two leading Sierra resorts got started. Eddy Ancinas' well-researched book will also appeal to anyone interested in the history of skiing in the 1950s and '60s, when the sport exploded in popularity. This growth was due in large part to such pioneering visionaries as Wayne Poulsen and Alexander Cushing at Squaw Valley. Lesser known is John Reily, who dreamed of a family-oriented resort at the adjacent valley, which later came to be called Alpine Meadows.

Eddy Ancinas tells the story of the ongoing conflict between Poulsen, who had the land, and Cushing, who had access to financing. The two strong-willed men disagreed on "just about everything," she writes. Poulsen was later voted out of the corporation at a stockholder meeting when he was traveling out of the country.

Ancinas also describes how Cushing applied for the 1960 Winter Olympics to get publicity for his five-year-old resort, which had only one chairlift at the time. It had been assumed that the Games would go to one of the established European resorts. By clever political maneuvering, Cushing succeeded in having the Games awarded to Squaw Valley. After near disaster—first a lack of snow, then

almost too much snow—the Games were a great success. Among other things, athletes enjoyed the first and only Winter Olympics where they could walk or ski to all the venues from the Olympic Village.

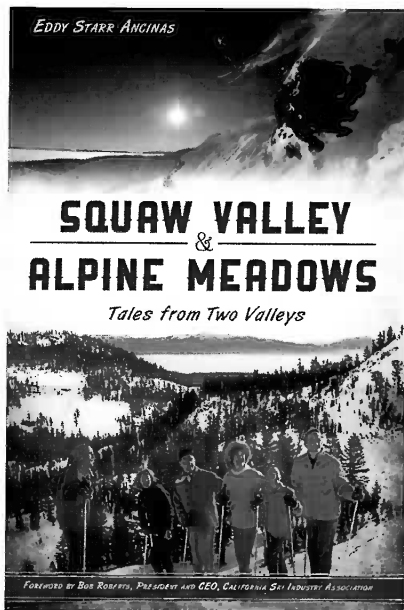
Ancinas accurately describes the continuing conflict between Cushing and the various state and federal agencies that control safety and conservation issues. She concludes that Cushing's guiding philosophy was, "It is easier to beg forgiveness than to ask permission."

In 2010 a private equity firm, KSL, bought Squaw Valley and a year later, Alpine Meadows, consolidating the two valleys. Ancinas asks a relevant question: "Will the ski experience defined by Poulsen, Cushing and Reily be forever changed from a way of life to a highly developed form of industrial tourism?"

The dedication "To Osvaldo—for getting on the chairlift with me" refers to Ancinas' husband, who was a member of the 1960 Argentine Olympic team. Eddy and Osvaldo live and have raised

their family in a house on the Truckee River, between Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows. —Henrik Bull

Tales from Two Valleys: Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows by Eddy Starr Ancinas; History Press, February 2013; softcover, 160 pages; \$19.99 at www.historypress.net.



Matchless Ski Memories



A subscription to **Skiing History** marks you as a true lover of the sport.

Each issue of this lively bimonthly magazine is filled with warm, beautiful, funny and exciting evocations of skiing's glorious past.

The \$49 annual cost also includes a subscription to *SKI* or *Transworld Snowboarding* magazine and memberships in the International Skiing History Association (ISHA) and the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame.

Simply call **(906) 485-6323**, place your order with a credit card, and we'll do the rest.

Take advantage of our new rates for gift subscriptions. The first gift subscription costs \$49, and additional gift subscriptions are just \$40 each.

For people who love the sport of skiing.

SKIING HISTORY

WWW.SKIINGHISTORY.ORG