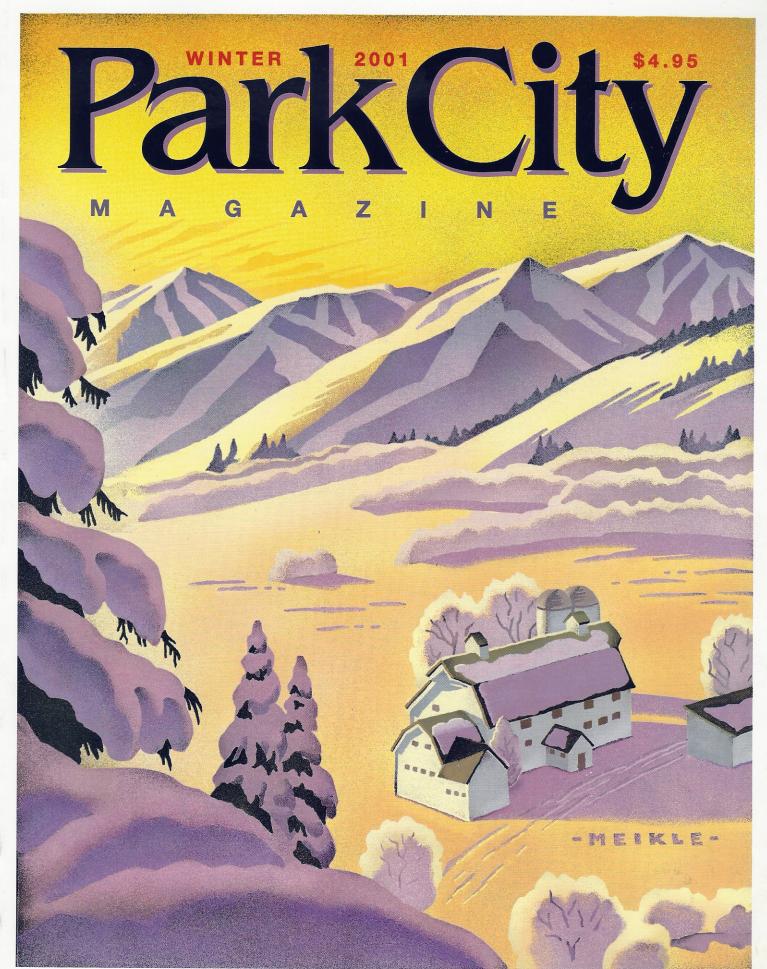
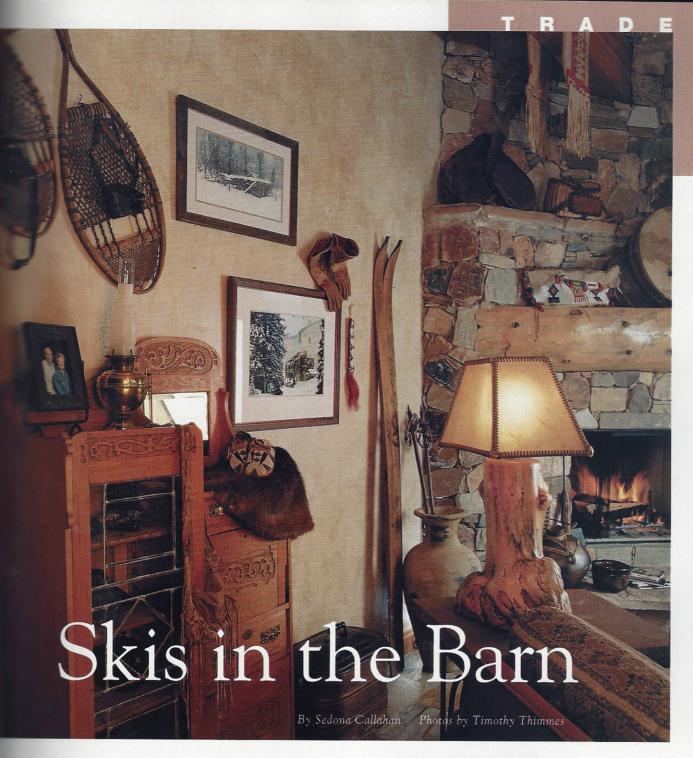
YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO PARK CITY





Decorating with Antique Skis and Snowshoes kiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing are what Park City is all about this time of year. When not in use, the skis lean against a wall in the garage, while the snowshoes are left in the trunk of the car — just in case there's a serendipitous break in the day's schedule. But some Parkites have taken their love of snow-play a step further, and have brought the equipment inside, adding winter recreation décor to their living environment.



My grandfather would ski to a one-room school house four miles, and snowshoe to collect sap from maple trees for syrup.

While some Park City homeowners have engaged professional designers to embellish their living spaces with antique ski paraphernalia, others have lovingly scraped, sanded, painted, and displayed treasured heirlooms found in the attics of their family homes, combining their own interests with

nostalgia for earlier days.

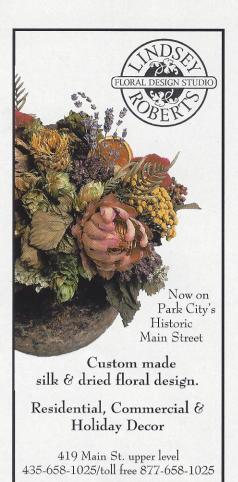
Mike Conti displays antique snowshoes and skis throughout his house: up the stairway, in the bedrooms, everywhere. Julie Lavender, with the help of designer Kristin Zollinger, created a one-of-a-kind coffee table from an old sleigh she found in an antique store in Salt Lake City, with a salvaged window as tabletop. Teresa and Bill Lowe-Lovett fashioned an unusual porch swing from an original Park City Mountain Resort lift chair, while Marion and Chuck Strong have adorned their living area with 100-year-old Indian snowshoes, along with other Native



include a pair of Norwegian skis with bear-trap bindings, with a ridge top design for shedding snow from the skier's boots: handcrafted skis from New England, many dating from the 1800s; a pair of Bear Paw snowshoes made for collecting maple syrup; a pair of child's bamboo "push sticks;" "fence-slat" skis; and adjustable ice skates made in the 1920s. Displays can also be found at San Francisco Design on Bonanza Drive, where World War II Alpine snowshoes might be found, as well as Mountain Timber Furnishings on Rasmussen Road, where a 40-year-old toboggan built to carry eight people was recently exhibited.

Typically, a pair of good skis in the 1920s and '30s would cost from \$2 to \$7 a pair. Today, their prices in retail shops range from \$150 to \$400. Snowshoes are similarly priced. Sleighs can be found in the \$700 to \$1,200 range on the Internet, where solid brass-cast sleigh bells are also for sale.

Miller takes the challenge out of mounting the winter sports equipment by offering suggestions for wall hanging. "I take a screw out of the binding



I was recently up in a loft, passing skis down to a farmer through the floorboards. He'd had them since he was ten years old. He's 85 now."

Miller sands away years of accumulated farm dirt, bird droppings and embedded hay, and applies wood finish to the skis, poles and snowshoes. Skis made in the 1920s and '30s were square at the tip, to keep them from splitting, and those made from ash, a roft wood, would wear out quickly, perps in a matter of weeks. The harder oods — oak and maple — held up to ougher skiing. Some have designs etched into them, demonstrating the pride ski-makers took in their work.

When Miller's collection is ready, he resells items to antique, furniture and design retailers. He has personally decorated public rooms in some of Park City's hotels, including The Summit Smokehouse at Park City Mountain Resort, the Park City Marriott, The Canyons, and The Lodges at Deer Valley.

Southwest Indian Traders on Main Street carries some of Miller's collection, where sample displays may

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Some Parkites have adorned their living area with 100-year-old Indian snowshoes, along with other Native American art and summer recreation equipment.

of the ski and drill a hole through the wood, anchoring it into the wall, and then replace the binding. I wire poles together at the straps and baskets and drill the wire into the wall." Miller also conceals screws within the bindings of snowshoes, displays sleds by looping wire around the rudder, and

uses wire to hang boots and skates. "I don't like anything to be obvious," he says. Skis and poles can be hung vertically, horizontally, or criss-crossed. He also suggests leaning skis, poles and snowshoes against a wall next to a fireplace for a casual display, "like someone just left them there."

Miller likes to help people understand the antique skis they have, and offers assistance through his e-mail site [info@skis.com]. *

- Mark Miller: [888-753-7807]
- Mountain Timber Furnishings: [435.615.1029]