

ONE JOURNEY: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MR. BOB

MARCH 2020

ME AND TRUCK

When I finished university, I worked the summer, paid off what I owed to my mom and dad for school, and then headed off into life. I found an old truck, \$500.00 bucks if I remember right, and fixed it up in the back with a bunk, a place for my skis, a little hot plate. I was ready. I headed out in early winter, down through BC and then to Whistler, just the beginnings of a resort back then. I worked on the ski patrol there; then headed south to Jackson Hole and places south. It was a perfect storm of a winter. I met Gordie Blake in Alta, who I had skied with at Sunshine, then went off to Colorado.



[Me and Truck, 1969.](#)



Me and Mazda, 2015.







High Rustler at Alta, one of skiing's great runs.

The west was different then. More cowboys and empty country, no sub-divisions. Jackson Hole had no millionaires, just elk and a few skiers. Aspen was funky, Vail was a brand new resort, Snowbird was still just a developer's dream. I loved it.

At the end of skiing in Colorado I went west into Utah and discovered the desert. I stopped at Tex's boat launch in Moab. He and I hit it off immediately.

Writing me and truck

And just to complete the story of that winter. While I was in Africa, through the long hot

nights on the savannah, I sat down and wrote the story of that winter. It was to change my life, yet again. When I had it done, I sent it to my sister. And on a lark, sent a copy to [SKIING magazine](#), the skier's bible in those days. They bought the story. I had done what many of us dreamed of doing in those days, just going skiing for a winter. It had a huge impact on skiers of that era. Years later I would meet people and they would start talking about reading this story about ski bumming.... As recently as 2006 I was skiing at Kimberley and ended up introducing myself to a guy on the lift, who said, "Bob Jamieson? As in Me and Truck?" Bizarre, 35 years later. It ended up in a collection of ski stories called **THE SKI BOOK** (1982) with Hemingway, John Updike, Leon Uris, Irwin Shaw and Author Conan Doyle. And in **SNAPSHOTS OF MY BROTHER** (1982) where it was used in a high school creative writing course. Even more bizarre.

That time and that story would follow me for much of the rest of my life.

Opinion: 'Skiing' Was the Magazine the Sport Deserved

The vertical ceased print publication this winter, after 70 years of great stories, Marc Peruzzi Feb 14, 2017

<https://www.outsideonline.com/culture/books-media/ode-skiing-magazine-1948-2017/>

"My favorite *Skiing* story from the early 1970s was written by Bob Jamieson. Neither flowery nor tension-riddled, the narrative simply *Me & Truck* simply documented Jamieson's extended road trip as a penniless ski bum wandering from resort to resort, sleeping in his truck, discovering new places to ski, and meeting kindred spirits. That story, and the magazine, captured what it was to be a skier in that moment in time. That's not easy to do."

The entire story of that winter is available in the archives of SKIING magazine November 1972 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=sgQEkZdKffYC&lpg=PP1&pg=PA136#v=twopage&q&f=false>