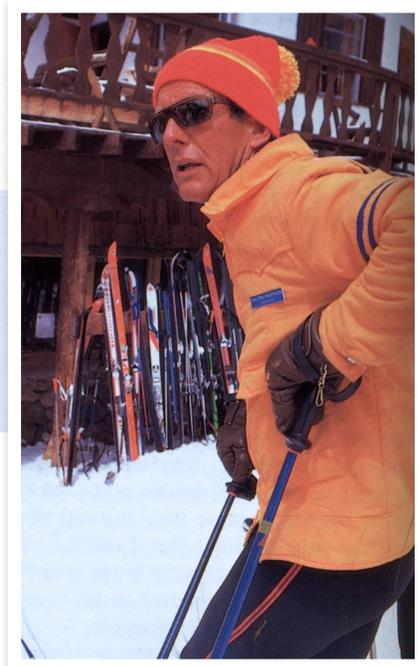


## *New Mexico Ski Hall of Fame*

2010



# Chilton Anderson



Chilton Anderson bought a ranch in Taos in the 1950s to raise Black Angus cattle. Chilton had skied a little back in Vermont growing up and ventured up the road to Ernie Blake's newly started Taos Ski Valley in 1956. Although he wasn't comfortable doing anything more than a snowplow, Ernie needed instructors early on and hired Chilton. He improved his skiing abilities well enough to become head of the ski school in years to come, but was probably more valuable the first few years by virtue of being tall enough to replace the T-bar cable by hand as it fell off the towers regularly.

In the early days the ski instructors were jacks-of-all trades and packed the steep hills on foot, acted as ski patrol as well as teaching ski classes. In 1962, Chilton helped Jean Mayer add 28 rooms to his newly finished St. Bernard Hotel and then helped build six A Frame lodges next door. Chilton was an amateur cellist and enjoyed playing chamber music with other local and visiting musicians. In 1963, Chilton and several other musicians founded the Taos Music School to bring a select group of professionally orientated advanced students together with professional musicians for 8 weeks of hands-on training.

Chilton realized that the St. Bernard Hotel at the Ski Valley was mostly vacant in the summer and a partnered with Jean to host the school at the St. Bernard.

The Taos Music School has grown and prospered through the years and has established chamber music as a powerful presence in Taos. Chilton Anderson is now Director Emeritus of TSM.

Ernie was famous for firing people and Chilton was no exception. He was hired, went to assistant ski school director then fired, then hired again as assistant director then fired, then hired and fired again several more times. He became the supervisor and finally senior supervisor. He was made an honorary ski patrol member and sheriff when one day he cut the ski ticket off of tennis player John Newcombe for skiing out of control. Chilton said the thing with Ernie was that you were fired until you showed up for work the next morning. Ernie put it another way by saying that Chilton would never leave, he always came back.

Chilton made an important contribution to the Town of Taos and the Taos Ski Valley over the 37 years that he was an instructor.

Chilton passed away in Taos at age 85 in March, 2014.