

Vicoria Ann Freyer Shamer

(November 29, 1932 - August 29, 2003)

Vicki got an early start doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way. As a teenager in Pittsburgh, she retrieved two baseballs that had been hit out of Forbes Field and she succeeded in getting both balls completely covered with the autographs of the prominent ballplayers, managers and coaches of the era, including Jackie Robinson. Singing was also something that Vicki loved to do. At the age of seventeen she successfully tried out for a position with the company of the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, however, she lost the position when it was discovered she was too young. She went on to win several amateur competitions, competing against notable talents such as Shirley Jones. Parental disapproval, however, halted her ambition to pursue singing as a career.

Vicki became an officer manager and was employed for ten years by a major stock brokerage firm. During that period, she obtained her stockbroker's license and became one of the first women to hold this position.

Vicki started skiing in her mid-twenties and wanted to include her friends on her ski trips on a regular basis. She started a ski club, the Three Nines, which then rented a large, old house from the Seven Springs Ski Area. She was responsible for planning weekend social activities at the clubhouse, which helped Seven Springs grow from a small hill with only a rope tow to a destination ski area. Vickie was invited to join the Seven Springs Ski Patrol, and after completing the required training, she became one of the first female ski patrollers in Pennsylvania and the first at Seven Springs. She was followed by other young women who might not have had the opportunity if it were not for her example and leadership.

Vicki's club interacted with the Western Pennsylvania Ski Council, and Vicki's spirited approach re-energized the Council. Because of her apparent leadership skills, she was encouraged to accept an office in the Pennsylvania Ski Federation. Vicki was instrumental in reviving the Central Pennsylvania Ski Council, which had not been active for fifteen years. Through Vicki's efforts, ski representatives were invited to attend a meeting in Boalsburg, which resulted in the reactivation of the council, with the required number of clubs, by-laws, officers, and program activities.

Vicki married and moved to suburban Philadelphia with her husband, Bob. She soon founded a new ski club, the Ski Club of Delaware Valley. Vicki believed in and advocated all types of promotional activities to advance skiing as a Pennsylvania recreational sport. She constructed banners for the Western Pennsylvania Ski Council, the Eastern Pennsylvania Ski Council and the Pennsylvania Ski Federation, some of which are still in use. These banners have come to symbolize her unflinching commitment and continuing involvement to skiing.

Vicki's last achievement was helping to establish the Pennsylvania Ski and Winter Sports Museum's Hall of Fame. She was the driving force behind the inaugural luncheon for Hall of Fame inductees. Without financing to cover expenses and with minimal assistance, Vicki raised funds, recruited people to help, arranged for advertising, and other resources to make the Hall of Fame luncheon a success and an annual part of the Pennsylvania Ski and Winter Sports Museum program.

