



Al “Buzz” Bensinger



An early advocate of Pennsylvania skiing, **Buzz Bensinger** was born in 1921, appropriately, during a snow storm! He was one of several local skiers who worked in the late 1940s to build a small portable rope tow on a single narrow ski trail on his brother's property. This was the beginning of an effort to develop the sport of skiing in eastern Pennsylvania by the group, which included World War II veterans. Their research led to the development of a ski area on the lower part of Big Pocono Mountain and a former cornfield, which originally included two rope tows and three trails. A hot dog stand and outhouses comprised the base area development. Other local skiers and ski club members helped to operate the fledgling resort on weekends. The lack of snowmaking (it had not yet been invented) and poor attendance

led to the demise of the area after only two years.

In 1958 the Bensinger brothers, Buzz and Chud, worked with several others to develop another Pennsylvania ski area. Surveys, negotiations, and financial arrangements led to the creation of the Camelback Ski Corporation. This effort was supported by the existing Pocono area resort and motel operators in return for promises to improve ski area facilities. Camelback Ski Area opened on December 13, 1963, and has expanded to thirteen lifts, thirty-two trails and slopes, and

the base area and infrastructure required to support a major ski area. He was a significant contributor to the book *“Camelback; The Downs and Ups of a Banana Belt Ski Area,”* donating his writing skills, as well as financial resources. Buzz served Camelback as Counsel, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Director for a total of forty-two years. He was involved in financing the resort's expansion and became a significant stockholder. As part of the expansion, off-season activities were developed, including Camelback's Alpine Slide. In June 2005 Camelback was sold to new owners, who have continued the development and expansion of the area into a year-round resort.

Buzz was a co-founder, incorporator, and is Treasurer and a Director of the Pennsylvania Ski and Winter Sports Museum & Hall of Fame. He has continued to serve the museum in these capacities since its creation in 1995. His efforts and financial contributions to the organization have helped expand the displays, publications, and activities of the museum and the Hall of Fame. He presently heads a committee which is planning and financing the creation of a DVD, which will feature the history of winter sports in Pennsylvania.

Buzz Bensinger has been a family lawyer since 1950, along with his brother, in the practice started by his father in 1907. He now practices with his daughter and a colleague. He maintains the firm offices in Stroudsburg and resides in Stroud Township.