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# Shed mapping study nearing completion

By Diane Eastridge  
Staff Writer

A \$15,000 mapping project to determine the feasibility of building avalanche sheds at the base of Glory Bowl on Teton Pass should be completed by the end of this month, according to Don Diller, assistant chief engineer for the Wyoming Highway Department.

And although he said more money was needed before the next step of the study phase could be pursued, more than half the members of the state's Highway Commission said this week that they were willing to dedicate additional funds to the project.

Last year, the commission budgeted \$20,000 to produce mapping and infor-

## Highway Commission lends support

mation about the avalanche slide paths on Teton Pass. But according to Diller, who is in charge of the project, three-quarters of that money has been spent to take aerial photographs of the pass and plot the contour lines onto computer software.

Avalanche sheds are concrete structures built into mountainsides at the base of avalanche slide paths. They direct sliding snow over the roadway, keeping the road open and saving on snow removal costs.

Although Teton Pass has several avalanche paths, Glory Bowl has consistently been the most active, leading to repeated pass closures.

Business representatives on the west side of the pass, including Grand Targhee Resort owner Mory Bergmeyer, have promoted shed construction, claiming the avalanche-related highway closures are detrimental to their businesses because they keep prospective clientele away.

Many people, including the Teton County Commissioners, have also voiced concern about the safety of travelers along the stretch of unpredictable avalanche paths. Highway Department

snowplow driver Don Fisher was trapped in a Glory Bowl slide for more than three hours last January before rescue teams could get him out.

Robert Thompson of Big Piney, chairman of the Highway Commission, requested a report on the study, and Diller made a presentation at a commission meeting last week.

Thompson, outgoing commission representative for the district including Teton County, said he was concerned about safety on Teton Pass, and wanted to know the status of the department's associated work.

Diller showed the commissioners some aerial photos taken of the slide areas on the pass and some pictures of

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## County men vie for state highway job

Gill, Abi mentioned

By Diane Eastridge  
Staff Writer

Gov. Mike Sullivan will appoint a Teton County resident to an open seat on the Wyoming Highway Commission—probably this week—according to Dennis Curran, the governor's press secretary.

Curran said he didn't know who any of the nominees were, but four official sources said they were told that former Jackson mayor Ralph Gill had been nominated for the seat. Two of them said they knew former mayor Abi Garaman's name also had been placed in the hat.

Gill refused comment on the subject, and Garaman could not be reached.

Sen. John Turner, R-Sublette-Teton, said he had heard that both Gill and Garaman were up for the seat, and believed that "both would be a good voice for Teton County." Turner said he will be discussing the opening with Sullivan, and will provide "nominations and support," but wouldn't say for whom.

"This is a very demanding job, and there are people with a budget of more than \$220 million to deal with," Turner said. "The choice is the governor's, and it's an important one for Teton County this time around."

Highway Commission Chairman Robert Thompson of Big Piney currently represents Teton County's district on the board. His appointed term, however, expires next month.

There are seven Highway Commissioners appointed by the governor, with approval of the Senate. Each commissioner serves a six-year term, and each county within a district is represented on a rotating basis. Both parties are equally represented, and the opening seat is for a Teton County Republican.

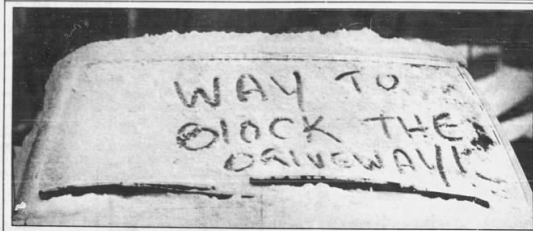
Thompson said Monday he believes there are "several really good people for the job in Teton County." He said he "heard Ralph Gill is up for it," and believes "he would be an excellent person for the job."



Ralph Gill



Abi Garaman



ROAD HOG

A snow-covered windshield was an easy target for someone wanting to leave a message Tuesday, someone whose driveway was inconveniently blocked for a while after the latest snowstorm, which ended Monday.

GUIDE PHOTO: JIM EVANS

## Philharmonic sellout predicted

By Winfred Blevins  
Guide Correspondent

Grand Teton Music Festival officers say they are seeing signs of a rapid sell-out of the New York Philharmonic's four concerts here next summer.

Festival spokesman Jeff Woodruff says that demand for tickets seems to be strong, and the festival already has a list of more than 200 requests. He also says he expects that the majority of tickets will be bought before they go on sale to the general public.

Ticket prices will be \$250, \$150, and \$50, and the most expensive tickets will include an invitation to a special social

event.

About a third of Festival Hall will be designated for each ticket price. Seats will be added on the floor in front of the stage and to each side on the stage to maximize seating capacity.

Tickets will go on sale on March 1 on a first-come, first-served basis. Before that date tickets will be offered by mail to contributors, season ticket holders, and VIPs.

After tickets are given to festival guarantors, Philharmonic contributors, the press, and others, there may be fewer than 3,000 tickets available for the four concerts together.

The festival is now accepting re-

quests for tickets, without payment, and will fill those requests after March 1 in order of the date received.

The festival women's committee, headed by Ann Moore and Liz Esperti is arranging a party for each weekend the Philharmonic is here, and the \$250 tickets include admission to one of the parties.

On July 9 a barbecue will be held at Teton Pines, and Gov. Mike Sullivan is expected to attend.

The second party will be held on Saturday night, July 15, after the final Philharmonic concert, or on Sunday, July 16, at an undetermined place. Phil-

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## Book gives vivid look at wild Alaska

By Judy S. Clayton  
Guide Correspondent

Erwin and Peggy Bauer are first-rate photographers and writers, and that professionalism comes shining through in their book, *Wild Alaska*, published last month by Outdoor Life Books.

The husband-and-wife team has traveled extensively in the 49th state, recording their impressions vividly in text and film. Erwin's visits to the Alaskan wilds span more than 30 years, and he draws from early trips as well as more recent ones—in his Volkswagen van with Peggy—for stories about the area.

Even without the spectacular photographs of wild-life, scenery and people, the book is fascinating, taking the reader with the Bauers on adventures through the state.

The introduction gives a brief synopsis of Alaska's history and geography. Chapters deal with such compelling spots as Denali National Park, Afognak, the Yukon and Katmai with their interesting denizens, human and otherwise.



Erwin and Peggy Bauer

Some of the Bauers' most compelling experiences are bear encounters. One memorable one is their observation of grizzly bear number 115, whom they called Frank, partially after local

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