



Centennial/Bicentennial Committee

Box 1976, Vail, Colorado 81657 (303) 476-5613

For Immediate Release

August 14, 1975

VAIL DESIGNATED AS BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY BY PRESIDENT FORD

VAIL, COLORADO--This Colorado ski town will be designated as a Centennial/Bicentennial community today by the presentation of the bicentennial community flag and certificate to Mayor John A. Dobson by President Gerald Ford.

There is a special significance to the designation of Colorado towns under the bicentennial program, since Colorado is celebrating its centennial observance during 1976, while the nation celebrates its bicentennial.

The designation as a bicentennial community signifies that the town receiving this honor has qualified by sponsoring bicentennial community projects in three thematic areas: Heritage, Horizons and Festivals. In Vail the projects are: Heritage - a Colorado Ski Museum; Horizons - a Vail Bicentennial Horizons Fund; and, Festivals - Vail America Week.

The Colorado Ski Museum, which will open in January of 1976, will tell the story of 100 years of Colorado skiing, including pioneer skiing miners in the 1860s and 1870s, the distinguished Tenth Mountain Division ski troops who trained at Camp Hale, Colorado during World War II and up to the present, when Colorado's most famous ski visitor is the President of the United States.

The Horizons Fund, supported by private and corporate donations, will fund worthy youth-oriented community projects, following the Horizons concept of developing programs for future generations of Americans.

Vail America Week, July 3-9, 1976, is a 7-day long festival commemorating Colorado mountain history and will include an America Day Parade, on July 4, a Pioneer Day

John A. Dobson
Mayor, Town of Vail

Robert W. Parker
Chairman

J. Dudley Abbott
Heritage

M. Dale McCall
Festivals

Helen H. Kidder
Horizons

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Rodeo and Trappers Rendezvous, a Western Music and Dance Festival and an Antique Buggy, Wagon and Auto Show.

The Community of Vail believes it may be the youngest American town to be designated as a bicentennial community. Vail was founded as a resort in 1962 but did not become a Colorado town until 1966. Therefore, Mayor Dobson may preside over the youngest bicentennial community in the 50 American states.

Press Contact: ^{*****} J. Dudley Abbott, 476-5288
Pam Conklin, 476-5601