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Joe would just say no to Albion Basin development

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As a person with a more than casual interest in Alta and Albion Basin, I feel obligated to voice my strong objections to any further development in the basin, especially the kind being proposed by a descendant of Joe Quinney, who was the prime mover behind the development of Alta as a prime ski resort.

He, with some others of like mind, saw the unparalleled potential at the top of Little Cottonwood Canyon, and largely because of his vision and dedication to the dream, it became a reality in 1938.

I speak with some authority here. While Joe was still active as the president of the Salt Lake City Winter Sports Association, later to be known as Alta Ski Lifts, I became the first lessee of the Watson Shelter in Collins Gulch above Alta.

Later, in 1967, after he started developing the skiing in Albion Basin, he offered me the opportunity to build the first skier's warming hut in the basin at the base of the new Sugarloaf Lift, which I did in time for the beginning of the 1968-69 ski season. My wife and I named it the Alpenglow Inn.

During those years, Joe and I, along with his general manager Chic Morton, his son Dave, and some others had several conversations about the various possibilities of future developments in the Basin. And we all were quite adamant that it should never become a housing development.

There were already a few skiers' cabins high in the basin, and a few modest chalet-style homes on Patsy Marley Hill. But that was years before the Aspens, Deer Valleys, Sun Valleys, etc., started sprouting multi-million-dollar "cabins," so none of us saw what might be coming.

Some years ago, JoAnne Shrontz, one of Joe's grandchildren, planned to build a lodge on the property in question, which would have certainly increased overnight sleeping capacity and been a substantial boon to Alta's economy. So the objections were not too numerous. But when she and her husband tragically died in an airplane accident, those plans came to naught.

Now, however, JoAnne's son and heir is proposing this Aspen/Deer Valley/Sun Valley-type development, which no doubt would enrich him substantially, but surely wouldn't do anything

for the pristine beauty of Albion Basin (where, incidentally, my daughter's and wife's ashes have already been strewn, and where I and others of my family plan to join them when our time comes).

I firmly believe Joe Quinney would join all other thinking people in strenuously opposing this subdivision.

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