

December 12, 1966

Mr. Bill Herb
President
Bellingham Chamber of Commerce
1147 State Street
Bellingham, Washington

RE: Annual Community Celebration

Dear Bill:

Here's one to throw in the hopper and see if it pops!

In search of a theme or activity that most closely represents an exclusive for this area, I would point to the old Bellingham slogan... "From Sea to Ski in Sixty Minutes".

It specifies two great areas of mass leisure-time participation, and implies a number of goodies in between – all concentrated in our immediate vicinity.

To dramatize this fact in a unique manner, may I suggest the following as the feature attraction of a late May celebration – what might be called
THE BELLINGHAM SKI-SEA RELAY MARATHON.

This one day race event would start in the early morning on the slopes of Mt. Baker and end in the late afternoon on Bellingham Bay.

Individual teams to be made up of say a maximum of ten members of either sex.

Winners to be determined on the basis of total elapsed time with the total legs of the race divided into about three sections in order to give multiple finish and start action and to keep the field bunched.

The following race legs are suggestions only and could be varied as desired:

1. SKIING – depending on the snow, start from suitable slope on Mt. Baker down to the lodge.
2. MOUNTAINEER – from the lodge cross-country down to North fork of the Nooksak River.
3. CANOE, KYAK OR SKIFF – down Nooksak to Glacier, and first finish.

4. Transport by car to Deming for second start.
5. HORSEBACK – cross country to Lake Whatcom.
6. WATER SKIING – across lake to Bloedell-Donovan Park, and second finish.
7. BICYCLE OR MOTORCYCLE – to Civic Field.
8. RUNNERS – by way of Sehome High School to old PAF dock.
9. FISH BOAT – to off Northside Boathaven
10. SAILBOAT – to finish off Port Dock.

Frankly, Bill, I would almost guarantee that the above – with a maximum of organization, a modicum of money and a minimum of promotion – would attain a good deal of regional and national publicity and could grow into a major sporting event!

Yours in optimism,

Fred Elsethagen

FB:lw
Cc: Nix Lidstone