



The three new owners of the former Whitetail Club and Resort on Monday reveal the former Shore Lodge sign that had been on display at the McCall hotel until the name was changed in 2000. The sign was recovered and the name was officially changed back to Shore Lodge on Monday. From left are partners John Sabala, Rich Hormaechea and Joe Scott. See High Country Week, Page B-1, for stories on the event as well as more photos.

Wostalgia flowed on Monday as the new owners of Whitetail Club and Resort announced they were changing the name of the hotel on Payette

Lake back to Shore Lodge. In a ceremony viewed by invited guests and cameras from Boise television stations, new owners Joe Scott, Rich Hormaechea and John Sabala unveiled a 6-foot by 10-foot wooden sign that had marked Shore Lodge for years.

The hotel had been called Shore Lodge since its opening in 1948 on the site of the former Shellworth Campground.

The name was changed after extensive remodeling by San Diego hotel owner Douglas Manchester who purchased the lodge in 1989.

The lodge was briefly called Manchester at Payette Lake during the remodeling which began in the fall of 1999, but was changed to Whitetail Club and Resort by the time the lodge reopened in June 2002.

"We are excited about waking up Shore Lodge and bringing it back to life with the memories we used to have," Hormaechea said of the 77-suite facility.

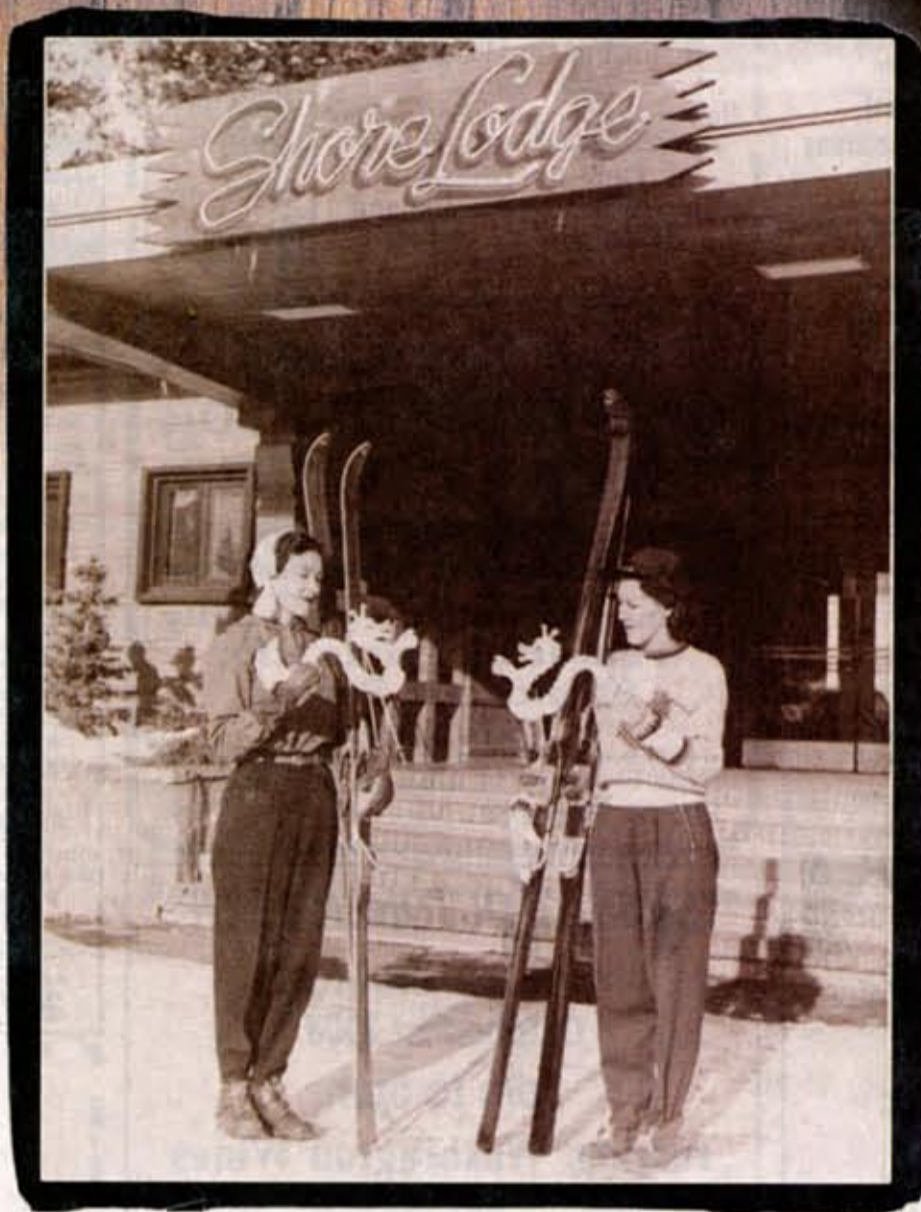
The new owners are hoping the name change will appeal to those who remember the former Shore Lodge as a community gathering place.

"In the old days if there was any sort of special event, this was where you came to," said Joe Scott, another one of the new owners. "It was fun to hop in the boat, come to the dock, walk up to the patio and socialize."

As an incentive for new customers, the lodge is cutting its room rates by an average of 30 percent, Sabala said.

Winter rates go as low as \$99 for a "Garden View" suite that faces the parking lot or a \$139 for suite overlooking the lake.

See LODGE, Page B-14



TIES THAT BIND

New owners revive beloved Payette Lake landmark

STORIES BY TOM GROTE
The Star-News

Welcomed back

Two people with long ties to Shore Lodge heartily endorsed Monday's announcement of the name change of Whitetail Club and Resort back to Shore Lodge.

Ann Lloyd Edwards is the widow of John Edwards, who was manager of the lodge from 1959 until 1991. John Edwards died in 1996.

Edwards, a native of England who spoke in a thick brogue, was known for being either brusque or charming, depending on his mood and his audience.

He also was known for his frugality. "People look out onto the lake and ask, 'How do I make a living in McCall?'" Edwards said in a retirement interview with The Star-News in 1991.

"My advice is to watch the squirrels," he said. "They work their ass off in the summer and gather nuts, and then they chew on them all winter."

"I think John would have been absolutely thrilled," Ann Lloyd Edwards said on Monday about the name change.

"He would have been very, very pleased to have the openness the lodge presents now," she said. "It has a real welcoming effect. It is a wonderful thing for our community."

See WELCOME, Page B-14

Sign of the times

The former sign that marked Shore Lodge would have been lost to the burn pile if a contractor had not visited Sher Clark in 2000.

Clark, who worked in various positions at the lodge for 11 years, was in the administrative office during the wholesale renovation of the lodge that began in the fall of 1999.

Part of the renovation included renaming the lodge, first to Manchester at Payette Lake and later to Whitetail Club and Resort. The work took 2-1/2 years to complete.

That meant the 6-foot by 10-foot wooden "Shore Lodge" sign had to go.

"The main contractor came in and said he was told to burn it and asked if I wanted it," said Clark, who is now retired.

Clark immediately accepted the offer, noting Shore Lodge had great meaning for her husband, Gary, who was born in McCall.

See SIGN, Page B-14



AT TOP: A pair of snow bunnies stand at the Shore Lodge entrance in the early days. ABOVE: Clockwise from top left - Shore Lodge is remembered fondly for the summer patio breakfast service, which had a distinctive family atmosphere. The lodge at its opening in 1948. Joe Scott shows off a replica of the lodge logo, which will once again represent the resort. Ann Lloyd Edwards and Ozzie Annen share memories (see "Welcomed back" at left).

Who are those guys?

Here are brief sketches of the holdings of the three partners who now own Shore Lodge and Whitetail Club and Resort in McCall.

• **Aiscott Real Estate:** Headed by Joe Scott of Boise, chairman of the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation and the grandson of Joe Albertson who founded the Albertson supermarket chain in 1939.

Scott owns a home on the east arm of Payette Lake originally built by former Whitetail owner Douglas Manchester of San Diego.

The site formerly was the location of the Camp Tapawingo Boy Scout camp.

Aiscott is majority owner of Shore Lodge, Whitetail Golf Course and related properties.

• **RMH Company:** Owned by the Hormaechea family of Boise.

Other developments by RMH and related companies include Alpine Village, a residential and retail complex now under construction in McCall; Brookwood, a 387-home development in Eagle; Idaho Feedlot Co. in Eagle; and Forest River, an office complex along the Boise River near downtown Boise that includes the Cottonwood Grille.



John Sabala, Joe Scott, Richard Hormaechea

RMH is a minority partner in Shore Lodge/Whitetail.

• **Sabala Whitetail LLC:** Headed by John Sabala, a Boise native who was named president of Whitetail Club and Resort in early 2005.

Sabala's parents, Ron and Diana Sabala, led the effort to build the privately owned Manchester Ice and Event Centre in downtown McCall. The rink was built to honor Sabala's brother, Rich, who died in an auto accident in Utah in 1993.

Sabala Whitetail is a minority partner in Shore Lodge/Whitetail.

(Continued from Page B-1)

Also, the public is invited to an open house from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday to celebrate the name change. There will be complimentary food and drinks all day and live music on the patio from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The partners acknowledged the lodge is struggling financially but hope to reverse those fortunes under new management.

Sabala, who has been president since 2005, said the lodge has never made a profit under his watch, but the gap between revenues and expenses has been closing. "We're gaining on it," he said.

During Monday's ceremonies, Hormaechea and Sabala choked with emotion as they described their family's links to the lodge and McCall.

Hormaechea, a Boise developer, said his family has been visiting McCall more than 30 years, while Scott said his family has a 50-year history with the community.

"I taught water-ski lessons in the late 1960s," said Scott, 55, who is the grandson of supermarket chain founder Joe Albertson.

Sabala, 39, recalled when he and his brothers would release water snakes in the lodge's hallways, followed in hot pursuit by former manager John Edwards.

"My family cares deeply for the community and everyone in it," Sabala said. "We care about the traditions and legacies that have been built into this wonderful place."

No Change at Course

While the new owners are hoping more people will visit the lodge, the 18-hole Whitetail Club Golf Course will remain limited to the club's 120 members and guests of the lodge.

That may change later, but for now the owners want to respect the members who purchased memberships with the expectation the course would remain semiprivate, Sabala said.

The purchase of the lodge, golf course and undeveloped residential land west of the golf course was announced by Sabala in August.

At that time, Sabala and Scott were the only partners in the deal, the terms of which were not disclosed.

Soon after, however, Hormaechea said he talked with Scott and Sabala about coming on board.

"It was an opportunity for my partners - who are my kids," said Hormaechea, 72. "It needed an image change to our main market which is Idaho and the Treasure Valley."

Sabala said Hormaechea is a longtime family friend

and fellow Basque who has frequently advised him on lodge operations.

"He is the type of person you feel real comfortable with, and because of that he is very knowledgeable with what we have here," Sabala said.

Hormaechea was reluctant to criticize Manchester's operation of the lodge for the past two decades.

"He had a vision, and he spent an enormous amount of money to create it," he said.

"But it was the more exclusive sort of atmosphere and did not sell well," he said. "We're going to take it and make it more casual."

Sign

(Continued from Page B-1)

She had the contractor take the 800-pound sign to her home near Lake Fork, where it served as a windbreak for the couple's hot tub.

Sher Clark said she maintained the paint on the old sign and intended to keep it as a family heirloom, then she heard about the planned name change of Whitetail back to Shore Lodge.

She agreed to return the sign in trade - with her part of the deal still to be determined - but only on the condition that the new lodge owners preserve it.

If the sign ever appears in jeopardy, Clark said she wants it returned to her.

"Everybody we have talked to is excited to have Shore Lodge back," she said.