

February 1, 1961

Dear Board Member:

You recall, of course, that the Board authorized the Meany Committee to lease a snow tractor for the 1961 ski season to provide transportation to Meany in lieu of the discontinued N.P.R.R. passenger train. The terms of the rental contract are: Rental \$480 per month, including sales tax; 30% of this (\$144) to apply on purchase; Purchase price \$4800, including sales tax. Stating this differently, out of each month's rental, \$336 will not apply on purchase. Thus, if decision is made to purchase, there will be considerable money advantage to the Mountaineers if decision is made soon.

Your Committee originally intended to report on the snow tractor operation in time for the March Board meeting; by this time experience with the operation, it was thought, should lead to sure conclusions as to desirability of exercising the purchase option.

However, experience to the end of January has been so successful (details will follow) that your Committee would like to recommend purchase now, in order to save the \$336 per month not applicable to purchase.

We present observations and statistics on the success of the operation to the end of January, 1961:

<u>PERSONS ATTENDING, 1961 SEASON VERSUS 1960 SEASON (1)</u>			
	<u>1960 (2)</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>Increase Factor</u>
OVERNIGHT	299	374	1.25
DAY ONLY	52	148	2.85
	351	522 (3)	1.50

(1) Comparison is for Christmas vacation and four weekends in January for both the 1960 and 1961 seasons.

(2) 1960 was year of highest attendance up to now.

(3) Total excludes 38 overnight and 45 daily who attended during two early-December weekends this season, since Meany Hut did not operate on these same weekends in previous season.

<u>GROSS INCOME, 1960 SEASON VERSUS 1961 SEASON (1)</u>		
	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
FOOD	\$1177	\$1275 (2)
TOW	361	494 (3)
PROPERTY FEE	402	504
SNO TRACTOR		
Riders @ \$1.00		478
Extra \$0.25 surcharge on ski tow		210
	<u>\$1940</u>	<u>\$2961 (2)</u>



(1) Comparison covers Christmas vacation and four weekends in January, same for both seasons.

(2) Light Sunday lunch (\$0.50) being served this season instead of Sunday dinner (\$1.00) served last season.

(3) Excludes the \$0.25 surcharge added to tow fee this year to help pay for tractor.

### TRACTOR BUDGET

(Extracted from Hut Budget so as to show separately)

ITEM	1961 WITH Rental Tractor	1961 WITH TRACTOR Purchased 2/10/61	1962 WITH Owned Tractor
INCOME			
Rides @ \$1.00	\$1370		
\$0.25 surcharge on tow fee	590		
	\$1960 (1)	\$1960	\$1960
EXPENSE			
Rental	\$1910	\$ 610 (2)	-----
Amortization	-----	960 (3)	960
Fuel	140	140 (4)	140
Lubricant	10	10	10
Miscellaneous	250 (5)	250	90
Repairs	-----	-----	120
Truck Haul	80	40	-----
Insurance	70	70	70
	\$2460	\$2080	\$1390
NET GAIN (or LOSS)	\$ (-500)	\$ (-120)	+ \$ 570

(1) Income projection based on 1.20 x (1960 Overnight) plus 2.50 x (1960 Daily). These increase factors are less than the actual increase factors to end of January.

(2) Rent to February 10 is \$870 less 30% applicable to purchase.

(3) Amortization of \$4800 purchase price in five years.

(4) Eight barrels of gas; twelve were purchased, but four of these will remain for next year.

(5) Miscellaneous includes: Benches, Tarp, Tools, Tachometer, Ski Rack, Road Drag, Gas Dump, Rope, etc. Most of this will not have to be repeated.



REVISED HUT BUDGET, 1961 SEASON (including Tractor)

ITEM	SEPT., 1960 Budget With Rental Sno Tractor-- (Sept)	JAN., 1961 Revised Budget With Rental Sno Tractor	JAN., 1961 Revised Budget With Sno Tractor Purchased February 10
INCOME			
Meals	\$2850	\$3150	\$3150
Property	812	1230	1230
Tow	963	1320	1320
Sno Tractor	1326	1960	1960
Miscellaneous	60	60	60
	<u>\$6011</u>	<u>\$7720 (1)</u>	<u>\$7720 (1)</u>
EXPENSES			
Food & Services	\$2430	\$2680	\$2680
Hut	270	270	270
Tow	285	280	280
Committee	50	50	50
Insurance	250	320	320
Property Taxes	50	50	50
Replacement Fund	800	800	800
Miscellaneous	60	60	60
Sno Tractor	<u>2050 (2)</u>	<u>2460 (2)</u>	<u>2080 (2)</u>
	<u>\$6245</u>	<u>\$6970</u>	<u>\$6590</u>
NET GAIN (or LOSS)	\$ (-234)	+ \$ 750	+ \$1130

(1) Income projection based on 1.20 x (1960 Overnight) + 2.50 x (1960 Daily). These increase factors are less than the actual increase factors through January.

(2) See Tractor Budget. Increase of January, 1961 over September 1960 Budget due to ignorance that sales tax applies on rent; too low on insurance; too low on miscellaneous.

MAXIMUM PASSENGER CAPACITY OF TRACTOR PER TRIP

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>Original Estimate</u>	<u>Actual Experience</u>	<u>Increase Factor</u>
Up the hill, last 1/4 mile	15 persons	53 persons	3.5 x
From hut out to road	30	86	2.9
Riders on tractor	10	23	2.3
Tow behind on skis	20	66	3.3

As a result of capacity being so much higher than estimated, the number of scheduled trips necessary to service the Hut has been reduced from eight to five per weekend. This is a significant saving in the amount of driving time and the amount of fuel required.



### MECHANICAL CONDITION OF TRACTOR

Contract requirement was for Symington to furnish tractor "rebuilt to new condition." During the rebuilding process, the tractor was inspected several times weekly in the shop by Tom Van Devanter and Walt Little. The opinion of these inspectors was that Symington fulfilled his contract in every respect. As finally delivered:

- Motor was rebuilt; refaced sodium valves, new rings, new main bearings, new con rod bearings.
- Generator and Starter rebuilt; rebuilt accessories, new wiring.
- Transmission--rebuilt.
- Clutch--new.
- Differential--rebuilt.
- Steering Brakes--new.
- Driving Sprockets--new.
- Tracks--new.
- Tires--50% new, 50% slightly used.
- Wheels--used with new bearings.
- Hull--rebuilt, has 18" extra length more than standard models.

During the rental period to date the tractor has proved to be A-1 in all mechanical respects, and its power and performance have considerably exceeded expectations, as previously described. There has been no difficulty with cold weather starting; motor used no detectable amount of crankcase oil; motor does not overheat; hull and assembly show no defects.

Gasoline consumption is about 3.3 gallons per hour, instead of the 4 gallons per hour originally estimated.

We estimate the life of the machine as 15 years (the second-hand tow engine has already lasted that long), and the life of the tracks as 5 years, before replacement will be needed.

A similar tractor purchased new, would cost approximately \$7500, including sales tax.

Tractor has been operated by a special section of the Meany Hut Committee, headed by Tom Van Devanter. Drivers are carefully trained. No untrained drivers are permitted. Drivers are compensated the same as other Committee members, receiving a portion of hut fees free, amount depending on amount of service. It has not been found necessary to pay drivers an hourly wage.

If purchased, the tractor will be stored during the summer in the space underneath the present tow house, and immobilized by removal of certain essential motor parts. A tractor road to this location already exists. In the winter, arrangements will be made for storage at Rustic Inn; which, according to its owner, will be reopened next Season.



The purchase price of the tractor is \$4800, including sales tax. The following is quoted from our letter of March 28, 1960 to the Board. "In the first 31 years of Meany's history, the Mountaineers have invested \$7928 in the lodge and tow facilities. Over this same period of time the Hut has paid back to the Club an excess of income over direct expense in the amount of \$12,842." This is \$4914 more than invested.

Because the statistics were not available in time, this matter was not submitted to the Properties Division at its regular meeting. Hartcel Hobbs, head of Properties, suggested that if this letter was sent directly to all Board members from the Meany Committee, he would undertake to secure a recommendation from the Properties Division in time for the February 9 Board Meeting.

Sincerely,

MEANY HUT COMMITTEE

*Harvey Mahalko*  
Harvey Mahalko, Chairman

*(Composed & Compiled  
by Walt Little)*

Walt Little  
Tom Van Devanter  
Peggy Lawton  
Doug Damm  
Art Nation  
Jessie Hamlin

DM