

SKI CHAIRLIFT INNOVATOR, CURRAN, DIES

OMAHA, Neb. (P) — James M. Curran, who in 1936 designed the first ski chairlift built in the United States, is dead at the age of 64.

Curran retired a year ago after 39 years with the Union Pacific Railroad where he was a bridge engineer. He died Monday.

Curran was commissioned by W. Averill Harriman, then chairman of the board of Union Pacific, to design a ski lift for Sun Valley, Union Pacific's Idaho resort. Curran said he got his ideas for the lift by watching South American banana boats unloaded with a conveyor belt.