

# INNS

LIFESTYLE



# MOUNTAIN CHALET

BY JANE WILSON

People who look for that "home away from home" ambience when they travel will like the Mountain Chalet. Ralph and Marian Melville have owned and operated the lodge ever since he built the first phase 32 years ago.

Today there are 44 rooms, in "every configuration imaginable," plus four two-bedroom apartments (with full kitchens, balconies and fireplaces). Rates range from \$76 to \$192 in the high season.

Probably 80% to 90% of the Mountain Chalet's guests most weeks are return visitors, some who have been coming back for 30 years. So comfortable do some guests feel that they appear at

breakfast in their pajamas and robes!

A hearty, all-you-can-eat breakfast is served daily at the Home Plate Restaurant (price included in room rates). In the evening the Home Plate serves homecooked fare at reasonable prices.

A good-sized outdoor heated swimming pool in the courtyard becomes a focal point during apres ski time, as does the lobby, where cider, hot chocolate and tea are served daily ("the coffee pot is always on").

A Monday night tradition is the Gluhwein party, where hot spiced wine is served after skiing.

Located at the base of Aspen Mountain, the Mountain Chalet is within walking distance of many shops, restaurants and chairlifts.

Until seven years ago the Melvilles lived right at the chalet; their continuing presence on-site, and the reputation they've built around fairness, honesty and hospitality remains the big draw.

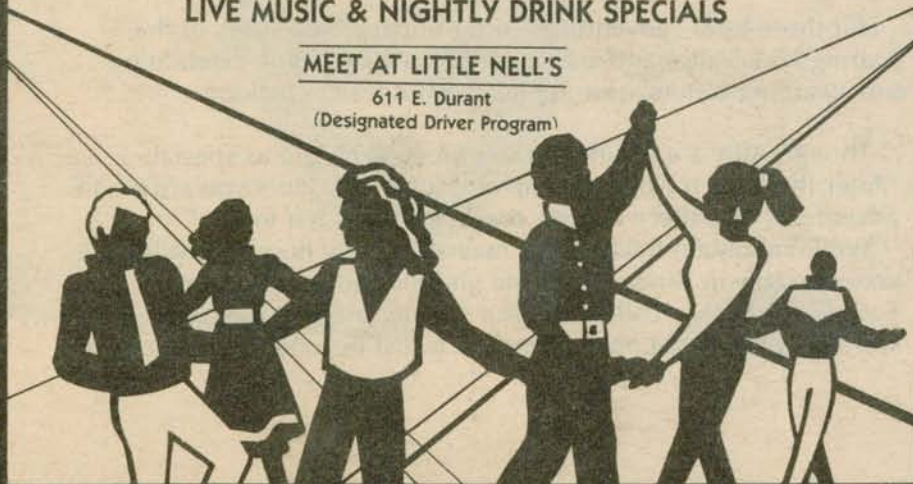
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