

The Story of Louie the Chimp



Louie the Chimp was an ape of many talents. He was a movie star (his screen name was “Jack”), a spy, snowboarder, skateboarder, and hockey player.

He came to my attention when I was publishing a ski/snowboard newspaper called *Sierra Ski News* in the Northern California area.

My Contributing Editor, Sam Morishima, was a ski/snowboard school instructor who utilized a training device called the “Endless Slope.” It was basically a treadmill for skiers and snowboarders so they could learn the finer points of going down the slope without actually setting foot on the snow.

One day he told me he was going to train a chimp to snowboard for a movie. The chimp named Louie lived at a No. California chimp sanctuary and had already been in several sports-oriented movies. Sam used a combination of the

Endless Slope and real on-snow training to teach Louie. The chimp loved it! There was no CGI or person dressed up as a chimp for this movie. Louie was really snowboarding...and was quite good!

The movie was called *MXP: Most Xtreme Primate* and was as entertaining as it was silly. I never got to meet Louie, but I began writing a regular column in my newspaper called, “Boardin’ with Louie”. This ADAM Multimedia Disk is based on one of those columns.

I don’t remember the exact details, but the owners of the sanctuary where Louie lived eventually had to close due to a lack of funding and the chimps were dispersed to other sanctuaries and zoos throughout the United States.

Louie went into retirement at the Little Rock Zoo in Arkansas in 2009. Sadly, he passed away at age 8 in 2011. From reports I’ve read he had suffered from an autoimmune disease from birth that was dormant, but flared up in the last few weeks of his life.

If you’d like to learn more about Louie’s snowboarding adventures, go here:

<http://www.endlesslope.com/louie.htm>