



Is Vail's Bridge Street broke(n)?

Letters to Vail

V a i l H o m e o w n e r s A s s o c i a t i o n

Fair and Equal Treatment: Preservation

May 16, 2026

Founders Frustrations and Disappointments: Austrian immigrant Ernst Larese, his brothers, the Oberlohr and Stauer brothers, many other families, and individuals from throughout the European Alps relocated to Vail in the early 1960s. Pioneering families, too numerous to mention by name, heralding from Europe, are among the early residents and dreamers who were instrumental in developing the foundation for what was to become Vail's Tyrolean style.

The Tyrolean influence helped establish Vail as a destination for European visitors, along with visitors from throughout North America. Today, many long-time residents, visitors, and property owners feel that the character and charm of the Town is being threatened or destroyed by redevelopment, without concern for what helped establish the community's personality in the first place.

Simone Larese, Ernst's daughter, spoke in a [Vail Daily article, 04/10/2026](#), recounting the pending closure of the Blu Cow restaurant, a nostalgic Vail institution, founded by the Larese family. The Blu Cow falls in the same category as the Red Lion and Los Amigos bar and restaurant, which are being transformed by redevelopment. The contributions and concerns of Vail's early residents/developers deserve to be recognized and heeded, not erased from memory.

“I think the ownership class here, the landlords of Vail, in general, have shown a lack of respect for the culture and character of the town, and I think the leadership, the people in power, are showing weakness in dealing with it,” Larese stated.

“What angers me the most is listening to these meetings where they talk about redesigning the heart of the village in a way that preserves the Tyrolean look and feel,” she said. “They used us to create the Tyrolean aesthetic, and now they’re just discarding us when we’re an actual Austrian family who helped bring that Tyrolean theme to Vail in the first place. It just feels like such a slap in the face.”

Larese says the outpouring of support surrounding her situation, in which she is [being asked to leave her space by April 15](#), has been immense.

“It’s been really heartwarming to see how special this business that my dad started building 50 years ago has become to people,” Larese said.

According to the Vail Daily reporter, “The heartfelt messages have helped balance out her ongoing anger at the situation, in which she feels the redesign of the building, which will result in the loss of her restaurant, is a mistake that will damage the character of Vail Village.”

The TOV received over 700 messages concerned with the commercial and residential expansion of the [Red Lion building](#). It, along with the closure of the Blu Cow and Los Amigos nightclub and restaurants, all nostalgic icons of the Vail experience, has become an issue of widespread concern. It is not to be ignored, nor is it an easy task to address.

*******Membership*******

The mission of VHA is, and always has been, to identify, research, and respond to issues that affect residential property owners in Vail. We have pledged to take a leading role in advocating for the mutual interests of full and part-time residents.

VHA is a non-profit funded entirely by voluntary annual membership dues and contributions. We rely on members like you to help sustain the work we do.

As a town, Vail continues to grow while space for development shrinks, creating challenges for the Town, developers, and those who call it home. It is extremely important for everyone who enjoys the community that has evolved through the years to stay informed and involved to ensure that the lifestyle and experience we have enjoyed are preserved for our enjoyment and for future generations. VHA can help sustain that vision through the support of our valued community members.

We hope you will take a few minutes to consider the value of a VHA membership and join us in working to support the Vail experience that we love. Contact: vha@vail.net
