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WINTER SPORTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON: 1934 - 1950

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WINTER SPORTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON: 1934 - 1950
An Excerpt from *Early Skiing on Snoqualmie Pass*
Written for the Husky Winter Sports Club¹



U.W. Ski Team at First Intercollegiate Ski Tournament against Dartmouth, Sun Valley, December 1937. Photo by Sun Valley Publicity Department.

¹ Copyright 2018, by John W. Lundin, john@johnwlundin.com. John is a lawyer and long time skier who splits his time between Seattle and Sun Valley, Idaho. He is a U.W. graduate (B.A. 1965, J.D. 1968) and is author of *Early Skiing on Snoqualmie Pass* which was named outstanding regional ski history book by the International Ski History Organization in 2018. He is working on his second book, *Sun Valley, Early Days Under the Union Pacific Railroad*, and is a founding member of the Washington State Ski & Snowboard Museum on Snoqualmie Pass. His website is www.johnwlundin.com.

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INTRODUCTION

Skiing at the University of Washington goes back to January 1934, when the University of Washington Ski Club formed with a membership of 100 men and women. The club developed a race course at Paradise on Mt. Rainier, rented a cabin at Paradise for the season, and formed a ski team that trained at Paradise and Snoqualmie Summit. The University Book Store ran a bus to Paradise on weekends in 1934, and in 1936, rented ski equipment and offered a bus service from Seattle to Snoqualmie Pass on Sundays. The Washington Ski Team dominated west coast competition during the 1930s and early 1940s, regularly winning Pacific Coast Championships. University of Washington skiers competed in many of the country's major races, with racers such as John Woodward, Darroch Crookes, Bill Redlin, David Fairies, Gus Raaum and others establishing national reputations.

The U.W. Ski Club was different from the Washington Ski Club, an organization formed in September 1934, as a consolidation of Snoqualmie Pass skiers and the Paradise Ski Club. Its goal was to organize and host ski races sanctioned by the Pacific Northwestern Ski Association (PNSA), the regional affiliate of the National Ski Association, and to enter all competition on the Coast "as far as possible." In spite of being a brand new organization, the National Ski Association awarded the Washington Ski Club the right to host the National Downhill and Slalom Championships and Olympic Trials for the 1936 Games held on Mt. Rainier in the spring of 1935. **U.W. skiers** raced in the tournament, five local skiers were selected to go to Europe for the U.S. Olympic ski team, and the event put Washington skiing on the national ski map. The club sponsored most of the major Alpine ski races locally until World War II.

After the Sun Valley Resort opened in December 1936, the **U.W. Ski team** competed in its tournaments, including the Intercollegiate Ski Tournaments held over Christmas vacation, the Jeffer's Cup pitting western states against each other, and the Harriman Cup that was the country's biggest race, attracting the best skiers in the world. In December 1937, Sun Valley's first Intercollegiate Tournament featured Washington, the West Coast champions, against Dartmouth, the East Coast champions led by its famous skier Dick Durrance, the country's best ski racer of the 1930s. Dartmouth prevailed but Washington won the event in subsequent years.

The first mention of the **Husky Winter Sports Club** was during W.W. II. In 1945, the Associated Students of the University of Washington purchased the Martin Ski Dome from Northern Pacific Railroad, located at the eastern portal of N.P.'s tunnel under Stampede Pass. In 1938, inspired by Union Pacific's Sun Valley Resort and the Milwaukee Railroad's Ski Bowl at Hyak (opened in 1938), N.P. planned a major ski resort at Martin, with a tram and a lodge for 200 - 300 people. The facility was never built, but N.P. operated a small ski area, the Martin Ski Dome, before W.W. II, reached by train, with a small overnight lodge and no ski lift.

Led by **U.W.** ski coach Gus Erickson, the **HWSC** acquired and remodeled the small lodge at Martin and added two rope tows, creating the center of **U.W.** skiing from 1945 - 1949, for both its ski team and recreational skiers. **U.W.** skier David Fairies was on the U.S. Olympic

team in 1948, competing at St. Moritz, Switzerland where Tacoma's Gretchen Kunigk Fraser won a gold and silver medal, the first ever for a U.S. Skier. The Martin lodge burned down in spring of 1949, and U.W. skiing was changed to Yodelin, east of Stevens Pass.

Norwegian exchange students who came to the University of Washington and other Northwest schools in the late 1940s, made the Husky jumping team one of the dominant teams in the country, and the Northwest a hotbed of ski jumping competition.

The following material is taken primarily from John W. Lundin's *Early Skiing on Snoqualmie Pass*, published by History Press in 2017, his unpublished book *History of Ski Jumping in Washington, the Influence of Norwegians on Northwest Skiing*, his essay on HistoryLink.org, *Skiing at Martin, the Northern Pacific Stop at Stampede Pass*, Essay 10615, and the *Seattle Times* historical archives.

I. DEVELOPMENT OF SKIING IN WASHINGTON

SKI JUMPING WAS INITIALLY THE MOST POPULAR WINTER SPORT

Initially, skiing in the Northwest was dominated by Nordic events, ski jumping and cross-country skiing, influenced by the region's many Scandinavian immigrants who brought the skills with them to this country. From the teens until the late 1940s, ski jumping was the favorite of all winter sports. Ski jumping tournaments were held all over the Northwest, from Canada to Oregon, bringing the best ski jumpers in the country to local ski areas to compete, events that were watched by thousands of spectators and followed by many more. Ski jumping tournaments were held at Mt. Rainier from 1917 to 1924; at Cle Elum from 1924 to 1933; the Seattle Ski Club on Snoqualmie Summit from 1929 to 1942; Leavenworth from 1929 to 1978; and at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl at Hyak from 1940 to 1950. Jumping tournaments were also held at Mt. Spokane and Mt. Hood in Oregon.

Top ski jumpers were treated much as NFL quarterbacks are these days, whose exploits were widely publicized by local newspapers, and the competition for the longest jump was closely followed all over the country. Norwegians dominated ski jumping in the Northwest as they did throughout the country. World famous ski jumpers competed here, including Olav and Sigurd Ulland, Sigmund and Birger Ruud, Reidar Andersen, Alf & Sverre Engen, Torger Tokle, Gustav Raaum, and many others. Gustav Raaum listed nearly 200 Scandinavians who jumped in the Northwest over the years.

From the late 1930s to the end of the 1940s, a number of the country's most important ski jumping tournaments were held in the Northwest. The Milwaukee Ski Bowl sponsored the jumping portion of the National Four-Way Championships held in three Northwest ski areas in 1940; the National Ski Jumping Championships in 1941; tryouts for the U.S. Olympic jumping team for the 1948 Games held in 1947; and the National Ski Jumping Championships in 1949. The Leavenworth Winter Sports Club hosted National Ski Jumping Championships in 1959, 1967, 1974 and 1978. American distance records were set in Northwest jumping tournaments in 1941 and 1949 at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl, and at Leavenworth in 1941, 1965, 1969, and 1970. Jumpers and spectators were tough - 5 to 10,000 spectators drove on icy roads or took trains to tournaments, hiking long distances to stand in the snow all day.²

The **University of Washington ski team** became a national force in the late 1940s, when a number of Norwegian ski jumpers, led by Gustav Raaum, attended the school as exchange students and competed for the **U.W.** Ski jumping in the Northwest attracted other Norwegian students to attend other colleges and universities as well, continuing the region's involvement in this phase of the sport.

ALPINE SKIING EMERGED IN THE 1930s

² Lundin, John, *Cle Elum Ski Club, 1921 - 1933*, HistoryLink.org Essay 10169

In January 1931, the *Seattle Times* described how popular skiing had become in the Northwest. Until five years ago, *Vogue* carried pictures of St. Moritz in January and February.

Now Seattle and its slightly less pretentious friends, Portland and Vancouver, have discovered winter in seven or eight places; the western haut monde migrate every weekend in cars and gets its fill of skiing, of tobogganing, of unexpected falls...And everyone skis....

Then there are the expert skiers, some of the most foremost in the world today, members of the Seattle Ski Club and nucleus of the decidedly thrilling winter meets. The headquarters of the Ski Club are almost as picturesque as the members. They are in an abandoned construction camp in Snoqualmie Pass where the members, including almost the whole Norwegian community, have built a timber jump with one of the steepest landings in the world - a hill three or four degrees steeper than the famous Hollmenkollen Hill in Norway.

And the tournaments - pageantry and color - with expert ski jumpers and lovers of winter sports coming from Canada, from the East, and even from abroad. The meet at Leavenworth, in the Stevens Pass this weekend; the winter sport tournament at Banff and Lake Louise in February; and the annual meet in Snoqualmie Pass in March. Each one with its following of two or three thousand people, and the bracing thrill of the cleanest of sports.³

In January 1932, the *Seattle Times* said “the whole world seems suddenly to have gone skiing.” A few years before, skiers at Snoqualmie Pass had the hills to themselves, but then along came Ben Thompson “and skiing began to rise in importance.” Ben and his mates at the Seattle Ski Club built facilities and gathered jumpers, and “crowds began to grow where no crowds ever were before, that is, before the advent of skiing.” Now, those crowds “plunge into the mountains Sunday after Sunday in quest of snow.”⁴

The *Seattle Times* of January 18, 1933, announced “Thousands Hit Snow Trails,” and described the number of skiers who traveled to the mountains every weekend.

Spread along Snoqualmie Pass from North Bend to Cle Elum were automobiles Sunday and Saturday - and from those machines, etched in the snow, criss-crossed and twisted, were thousands of parallel grooves, mute testimony to a Washington yen for skiing... Crowds have been anywhere from 2,000 to 4,000 every week-end since the first snow fell - and they grow larger every Sunday.

³ “Whence Goes Western Haut Monde for Skiing,” *Seattle Times*, January 25, 1931 (page 25).

⁴ “It Isn’t News, But!,” by Alex Shults, *Seattle Times*, January 17, 1932 (page 24).

And that was only one sector of the skiing front. Ben Thompson, Paradise Lodge manager and ski veteran, made an added report from the foot of Mount Rainier. "There never have been such crowds of skiers as we've seen this year," he said. "They come Saturday and ski all night. They have what used to be nice, unmarked snow crossed and criss-crossed and sometimes tumbled where they took an easy spill - and they keep coming in bigger numbers."....⁵

In September 1933, the Seattle Ski Club added a slalom event to its tournament sponsored by the Pacific Northwestern Ski Association winter racing schedule. Until then, the organization's tournaments had been limited to nordic events, either jumping or cross-country. Slalom skiing, "which calls for the highest sort of skill," had been introduced by Ben Thompson when he was in charge of winter sports operations the prior winter at Rainier National Park, and "caught on by wildfire." Thompson had read about slalom racing in *Der Winter* magazine and believed the sport would be popular in the Northwest.

The race is entirely a downhill affair between staggered sets of flags. A skier, hurling down as speeds as great as fifty miles an hour, is compelled to pass between the narrow rows of flags, make right-angle turns at full speed, whip and swivel his way down the twisting trail to the bottom. Spills are frequent. Matchless grace is necessary.⁶

On November 10, 1933, the *Seattle Times* described the excitement over the upcoming ski season which was expected to be bigger than ever. A fast new sport called slalom was becoming popular, which was

a sport for swift skills and certain nerves. You start at the top of a 2,000 foot slide. There are flags placed at intervals along the 2,000 feet and you steer dexterously in and out of this path of flags. Fine, if you know how to do it! The skiers in their bright colored clothes, winding in and out of the flags, darting like flamingo winged birds to the bottom of the slide, reminded one somewhat of the highly colored balls in a pushball game being released from their grooves. It's decidedly a sport for the young and adventurous, is this slalom.

In the winter of 1933-1934, weekly slalom races were held at Paradise Valley on Mt. Rainier and the University Book Store awarded medals to the winners. The *Seattle Times* said "[s]lalom racing - a downhill invention between staggered sets of flags which compel the skier to use every turn in the book - has grown tremendously in popularity the last two years. It has been incorporated into the Seattle Ski Club's tournament plans for this year." The slalom races at

⁵ "Thousands Hit Ski Trails, Summit, Paradise Valley Jammed with Skiers," *Seattle Times*, January 18, 1933 (page 16).

⁶ "Slalom Racing Incorporated in Ski Program," *Seattle Times*, September 20, 1933 (page 16); "Hi-Ya, Maestro! Ski School Boss is Oldtimer," *Seattle Times*, January 19, 1933 (page 19) .

Paradise were training grounds for a number of the Northwest's best ski racers.

The *Seattle Times* reported that for the ski season of 1932, Mount Rainier National Park opened 15 cabins, and 42 new cabins opened in 1933. Dozens of Seattle couples leased quarters for the 1934 season at the new 35 room Winter Lodge, along with 37 rooms in the old lodge. "There's dancing in the lobby at night, there's skiing on the side hills in the gleam of a big searchlight that plays on the snowbanks, giving the whole scene the effect of a tinsel Christmas postcard." Alpine skiing had grown in popularity, creating speculation that it might displace ski jumping as the primary winter sport. The paper noted the "growing interest in winter sports," as 2,500 skiers were in local ski clubs, 3,000 to 5,000 spectators attended ski jumping events at Snoqualmie Pass, 400 cabin reservations had been made for that winter at Paradise Valley, and 10,000 persons "participate in some form of winter sports every weekend."

By 1934, ski equipment, although quite primitive by today's standards, started to become a bit more available and high-tech. According to *The Mountaineers, A History*, ski equipment was rudimentary and difficult to obtain in the sport's early days. Piper & Taft, a Seattle Retailer, advertised skis for sale in *The Mountaineers* annual publication beginning in 1912. In 1920, Tacoma's Kimball Gun Store advertised skis in the club's annual, and in 1922, Seattle Tent and Awning opened its OutDoor Store selling Northland skis and skis from Sweden "in 6 ft. to 8 ft. lengths, in pine, ash and hickory." By 1928, Eddie Bauer's store in Seattle stocked "a full line of skis imported from Europe."

By the early 1930s, equipment had improved and could be obtained from a number of outlets making skiing more accessible. The *Seattle Times* of January 17, 1932, said few years before, it was hard to find ski equipment to buy, but that year, one Seattle store sold 2,000 pairs of skis in one month, and another store stocked thousands of dollars of skis, straps, mountain clothing, etc. The University Book Store in Seattle sold a full array of ski equipment. "Boots were \$6, skis were \$3.50, ski jackets \$3.95, bindings \$3.50 to \$4.50, Norwegian bamboo poles \$2.25, and wax 35 cents." "By 1933, skiers could purchase the latest downhill cable bindings, which allowed for both touring and downhill skiing. Metal edges were become popular in Europe, but most skiers in the Northwest considered them for experts only since they required delicate skill in edging."

In 1934, Ray Anderson and Ben Thomson formed a partnership to make ski equipment in Seattle, producing A & T skis. George Aaland, a skilled cabinet maker and skier, believed a laminated ski would be stronger and warp less than skis made from a single piece of wood and steamed into shape. Anderson was the president of General Furniture Store that had the woodworking equipment and laminating know-how to produce a laminated ski. Ben Thompson, a ski instructor, became sales manager of the new company and Aaland was the shop supervisor. Anderson obtained patents for laminated skis in May 1933. Splitken, a Norwegian company, applied for a similar patent. A & T produced the first laminated skis in the U.S. In 1934, A & T began producing the first steel ski pole, stronger than the bamboo then used, and also produced the first cable binding in the U.S., an improvement over leather heel straps. The company became

one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of ski equipment.

In 1934, ads appearing in the *Seattle Times* show that A & T sold its laminated skis for \$12, which was much more expensive than other skis, bindings for \$5.75, poles for \$1.50 to \$2.00, Swiss boots for \$16.50 and ski parkas with a hood for \$8.50. Eddie Bauer sold skis ranging from \$1.75 for Mountain King skis, \$1.75 for

Tub
Ash
\$3.8
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\$4.4
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For Balance of Season

EDDIE BAUER

Announces a

CLEARANCE

SKIS

and

SKIING

EQUIPMENT



SKIS!

Mountain King Skis
Black Ash, 6-ft. **\$1.75**
6 1/2-ft., \$1.85; 7-ft., \$1.95

Tubbs' Ash Skis
2-groove, first quality, lastly above cost of restocking. 5 1/2-ft. **\$1.75**
6-ft., \$1.85; 6 1/2-ft., \$1.95

Mountain King Skis
First quality ash, 6 1/2-ft. **\$3.45**
7-ft., \$3.55

Winner Hickory Skis
Western finish, 6-ft. **\$3.85**
6 1/2-ft., \$4.05; 7-ft., \$4.20

Strand Hickory Skis
Natural finish, first quality, 6-ft. **\$4.45**
6 1/2-ft., \$4.65; 7-ft., \$4.85

Anderson Laminated Hickory Skis and Anderson Harness at Lowest Prevailing Prices

Anderson Laminated Hickory Skis and Anderson Harness at Lowest Prevailing Prices

Imported Ski Wax, all brands, each 30c
2 for 50c—3 for 75c

SEBERG'S Gasoline Norwegian Ski Harness \$2.45

MOUNTAIN KING Ski Harness \$1.95

SKI POLES—Yonkin cane, roed rings, chrome leather reinforced. Pair \$1.45

NORWEGIAN PROCESS GROUND WAX. Preserves gliding surface perfectly. Large jar 50c

SKI POLES—Fine quality Yonkin cane. Patented snow rings. Pair \$1.25

SKI POLES—Yonkin cane, roed rings, chrome leather reinforced. Pair \$1.45

ANALD RIDGE-TOP SKIS
Clear hickory, 6-ft. **\$9.00**
6 1/2-ft., \$9.50; 7-ft., \$10

SKI-WEAR!

MEN'S SKI PANTS, wool \$4.95

LADIES' SKI PANTS, wool, Navy, Brown and Green \$4.45

MEN'S SKI JACKETS, wool, with zipper \$4.45

LADIES' SKI JACKETS, wool, Navy, Brown and Green \$3.95

Reg. 75c STOCKING CAPS, Special 25c

SKI CAPS 95c and up

Reg. 75c MITTERS, Special. 25c

SOCKS 25c and up

LILLQUIST FINNISH SKI WAX 20c
For all-around use, in handy tubs. This wax is applied cold and is well suited for slipping as well as speed, depending on how applied. Complete instructions.


BAUER'S SPORT SHOP
215 SENECA STREET

Seattle Times, February 5, 1934.

bs
skis,
5
Win
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skis,
5
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skis,
Can
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shoe
\$5.4

ski...for your life

this Winter



Anderson-Thompson makes fine SKIS

\$12

This noted Seattle maker has several improvements for your approval in his 1935 skis. Laminated model at \$12. Other skis of various types, 2.50 to \$35.

Ski Bindings 5.75

Ski Poles 1.50-\$12

Socks, Imports! \$1

Ski Parkas—long jacket with hood 8.50

Swiss Boots at 16.50

Warm Mitts only 85c

all ski accessories, of course.

Frederick & Nelson's Men's Shops, First Floor—Just Inside Pine Street Entrances.

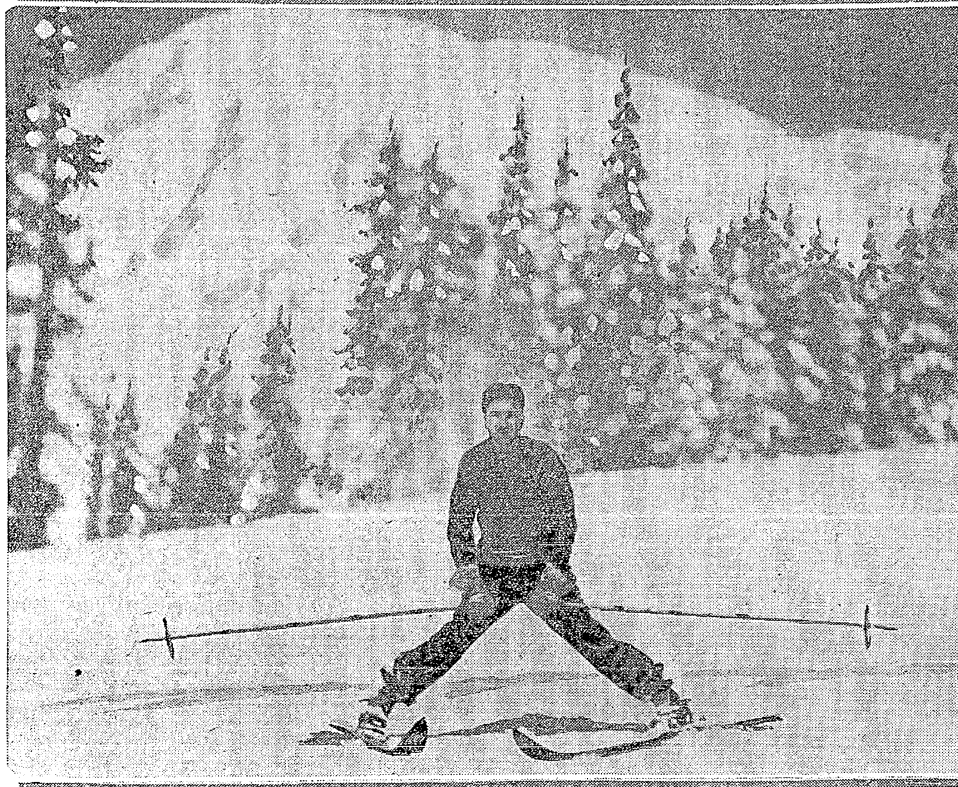
Seattle Times, February 5, 1934.

⁷ Gilbert, Kirby, "Anderson & Thompson Ski Company Was Ski Industry Pioneer," *Ancient Skiers Newsletter* winter 2014; Kjeldsen, *The Mountaineers, A History*, page 82; Lund, Mort, "Timeline of Important Ski History Dates," International Ski History Association website; "It Isn't News, But!," by Alex Shults, *Seattle Times*, January 17, 1932 (page 24).

Since Alpine skiing was new in the Northwest, the *Seattle Times* published a series of seven ski lessons between December 17, 1933 to January 28, 1934, where Ben Thompson, “a former winter sports director and chief guide at Mount Rainier, one of the Northwest’s best students of skiing,” explained “how to learn, how to develop, how to master the fundamental turns on which all skiing success is built.” Lessons were published on Sundays, followed by a week of practice for the students, then another article appeared. Pictures of Thompson and other local skiers were used to demonstrate the lesson of the week.

Lesson No. 1, “First Balance; Then Try Stemming” Lesson No. 2, “Uphill Climbing, Downhill Running, Level Riding;” Lesson No. 3, “How to Crouch, Added Running Balance...Comes With its Use;” Lesson No. 4, “Get Up, One Always Falls; But Do it Easy Way;” Lesson No. 5, “The Lifted Stem, Simple Turn...But Very Sudden;” Lesson 6, “Christies, Stem, Stick, Pure Open Turns Explained;” Lesson No. 7, “The Telemark, and to be Different, Some Ski-Skating.”⁸

FIRST, BALANCE; THEN TRY STEMMING



Ben Thompson, Northwest ski expert, stems for his pupils, readers of *The Times*

Seattle Times, December 17, 1933.

⁸ *Seattle Times*, December 17, 1933 (page 25), December 24, 1933 (page 21), December 31, 1933 (page 25), January 7, 1934 (page 25), January 14, 1934 (page 25), January 21, 1934 (page 22), and January 28, 1934 (page 24).

During the winter of 1933 - 1934, two major developments took place that contributed to the growth of Alpine skiing in the Northwest. The University of Washington Ski Club was organized that year to take advantage of skiing's growing popularity.

First, the Seattle Municipal Ski Park was opened on Snoqualmie Pass by the Seattle Park Department, making skiing available to the public. Second, the first Silver Skis Race was held on Mt. Rainier, a free for all from Camp Muir at 10,000 feet to near Paradise Lodge at around 5,000 feet. This event, which was held from 1934 to 1942, became an iconic race for the Northwest that attracted the country's best skiers and helped to popularize Alpine skiing.

When Alpine skiing first become popular in the Northwest in the early 1930s, it was done mainly through private clubs, particularly on Snoqualmie Pass, whose ski hills were narrow runs cut through trees. Interest in downhill skiing grew when the Seattle Park Department opened its Municipal Ski Park on Snoqualmie Summit in January 1934, after the Civil Works Administration provided funds to clear the hill using C.C.C. labor and to build a warming hut. Seattle's Municipal Ski Park made skiing accessible to the public for the first time, was the country's first municipally operated ski area, and legions of new skiers were brought into the sport. Skiing was so new that Seattle's Park Department provided ski lessons in an ice arena in town, and there were often nearly as many spectators at the Pass to watch the action as there were skiers. Until 1938, there were no ski lifts in Washington, and skiers had to hike, climb or herringbone up the slopes before they could ski down. This limited the sport to the most adventurous and athletic.⁹



Warming Hut at Municipal Ski Park. Seattle photo archives, # 30371.



Crowds & spectators at Ski Park. Seattle Photo archives, #31169.

⁹ Lundin, John, "Seattle's Municipal Ski Park at Snoqualmie Summit (1934-1940)," HistoryLink Essay 10362.

In the spring of 1934, the first Silver Skis race on Mount Rainier was held. Hans Otto Giese, a German immigrant who became an important figure in Northwest skiing, convinced Seattle Post Intelligencer reporter Royal Brougham the race would show the rest of the country that the Northwest had great skiing, and the newspaper agreed to sponsor it. Brougham called the race the “Kandahar of the Northwest,” and the “Kentucky Derby of downhill racing.” Competitors had to hike for three hours from Paradise Lodge at 5,400 feet, up the mountain to Camp Muir at 10,000 feet using skins on their skis, and ski down glaciers and snow fields to finish at Edith Creek Basin near Paradise Lodge, a distance of nearly four miles. Racers dropped 1,424 feet in every mile they skied, one foot in five. The pitch gave racers maximum speed of “slightly better than sixty miles an hour” before they traveled 300 yards. Snow conditions could range from sheer ice to slush, according to the *Seattle Times* of April 26, 1938.

Otto Lang, a famous Austrian ski instructor who opened the first Hannes Schneider Ski School in the country on Mt. Rainier and Mt. Baker in 1937, described the race in his autobiography.

For racers, the climb to the starting point, a matter of two or three hours, was laborious and exhausting...The course was in its natural condition, whether there was a heavy layer of freshly fallen snow, an icy crust, windblown moguls, or treacherous gullies...

The weather could be a factor, with a sudden bank of dense fog rolling in and obliterating the course...The terrain was varied and undulating, interspersed with long, moderately pitched, straight runs. A punishing, steep schuss led to the finish line above the finish line above the main lodge, Paradise Inn, at 5,200 feet. With a vertical drop of 4,800 feet and a total length of 3.25 miles, it was not technically demanding but a leg killer nevertheless because of the sheer distance covered and the terrain, where one either had to go straight at high speed or make a lot of tiring, time-consuming turns...¹⁰

¹⁰ Lang, *A Bird of Passage*, pages 106, 107; Galvin, “The ‘Silver Skis Races’ on Mount Rainier,” Sahalie Historical Note #11, Sahalie.org.

II. 1934 - UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SKI CLUB FORMS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN SKIING

The **University of Washington** Ski Club was organized in the winter of 1933 - 1934, to take advantage of the advances in Alpine skiing. A ski team was organized and club members skied at Paradise on Mt. Rainier and at the Municipal Ski Park on Snoqualmie Summit.

The first mention of **University of Washington ski club** came in December 1933, when the University of Washington Ski Club rented a cabin on Mount Rainier. "We feel that the interest on campus in skiing has now reached a point where recognition of the sport is imminent," said the school's athletic director, adding that competitive teams representing the **U.W.** would be added to the list of recognized activities under the direction of the A.S.U.W.

The **University of Washington Ski Club** was formally organized on January 11, 1934, and a nominating committee was formed to recommend officers. Jim Wilson and Jack Hillyer were appointed as representatives to the Seattle Ski Council, "which cements all the ski-minded organizations of Seattle through the medium of representatives working for the common good." The Council was working to resolve transportation problems of getting from Seattle to ski areas by getting better bus rates. Fred Ball of The Mountaineers reported that "a satisfactory rate had been achieved," and information would be given to member clubs about how to make reservations. The Council represented the Seattle Ski Club, Mountaineers, Commonwealth Ski Club, Washington Alpine Club, Y.W.C.A., Boy Scouts, University Ski Club, Torvig Ski Club, Seattle Council P.T.A., Helen Bush School for Girls, Kendall Peak Ski Club, Mount Rainier National Park Company, and the Seattle Park Department. Instructions for beginners would begin at the Seattle Park Department's ski site at the Summit the following week.

The **U.W. Ski Club** wasted no time in beginning work. The following weekend, Jack Hillyer was one of a number of experienced skiers who provided ski lessons for 100 beginners at Snoqualmie Pass at the new Seattle Park Department Ski course. A 700-foot slalom course was laid out and 17 skiers competed in a race. The "diligent course of training" produced excellent results. The Ski Club, with 100 members, elected officers on January 16, 1934, with Fred Thieme selected as president. The club decided to develop a racing course at Paradise Valley on Mt. Rainier which became the ski team's primary training site.¹¹

Getting to Paradise was not easy. Skiers had a long multi-hour drive from Seattle or Tacoma to Narada Falls on Mount Rainier, where the road was closed because of snow. According to the *Seattle Times*, cars should be equipped with chains to reach Narada Falls. From

¹¹ "Ski Season Definitely on Today, Snow Abounds; Slalom Races Set," *Seattle Times*, December 17, 1933 (page 27); "U.W. Ski Club is Set, Gets Cabin," *Seattle Times*, December 31, 1933 (page 25); "Winter Sports Committee, New Chamber Move," *Seattle Times*, January 7, 1934 (page 25); "U.W. Club Formed" & "Transportation of Skiers is Solved," *Seattle Times*, January 12, 1934 (page 22); "Instructions Given 100 New Skiers," *Seattle Times*, January 15, 1934 (page 13).

the Falls, there was a mile and a half walk to reach Paradise Lodge that “is not difficult. Fifty minutes of ordinary walking does it... Parking is the most serious problem.” “The trip back down from Paradise to Narada Falls was considerably more exciting as they skied back to their cars by way of ‘Devil’s Dip’ - a mess of holes and bumps in the trail caused by skiers who did not know how to ski - and fell - creating hundreds of ‘bathtubs.’ No one knew to fill in the holes.”

The Ancient Skiers of the Northwest, by Joy Lucas, described the primitive conditions faced by Northwest skiers in the 1930s. Ski clubs leased rooms and cabins at Paradise Inn, Guidehouse and Tatoosh Lodge.

Lodging at the room ran 75 cents a night - bring your own sleeping bag. A room cost \$16 a season and one came and went by way of the third floor windows, there was so much snow. Occupants filled the rooms each weekend, having 4 or 5 people sleeping sideways in the bed and others sleeping on the floor in their sleeping bags. Cabins leased for \$15 for the season. Each weekend they hiked in and tried to find their cabin - first they located the bamboo pole left in the snow the previous week, then dug down to the trap door and then climbed into the cabin - sometimes as deep as 10 - 15 feet...

Tatoosh Lodge leased rooms but allowed no cooking - but one could have a coffee pot. Ah, the many fragrances of coffee that came from those coffeepots! Sauerkraut and weenies, stew, soup or other pungent odors - all cooked in the coffeepot!

Little was known about downhill skiing in the 1930s, and skiers learned the hard way - on their own.

Those who could turn, became self-appointed instructors. Until ski schools began, reading “How to Ski” books was the only way to learn more about the sport...

About 1934, Scott Osborn, Johnny Woodward and I [Tom Hill] were skiing in the woods above Snoqualmie Pass. In those days we used a telemark or stem turn to go to the left, and an open christie to go to the right. Thus favoring our right or stronger leg for either turn. If we were unable to perform both maneuvers, a skid stop and kick turn would have to be employed. At one point, resting to catch our breath, Johnny exclaimed, “Gee, that’s wonderful, you guys can turn both ways.” About two years later, he was representing the United States in the slalom and downhill at the Olympics in Europe. Catches on fast, doesn’t he?

Northwest skiers who grew up experiencing these primitive conditions were blown away when the Sun Valley Resort opened in December 1937, offering a luxurious, high end ski facility in the mountains of Idaho with a chairlift to take skiers to the top of its mountains. The story of Don Fraser, who learned to ski at Mt. Rainier and was on the 1936 U.S. Olympic team that competed in Germany, highlights the differences in the ski experiences.

Don [Fraser] visited Sun Valley for the first time in 1937, with Don Amick, to race in the Harriman Cup. As guests of the Union Pacific and Sun Valley, they were given first-class tickets aboard the Portland Rose. When they stepped off the train, a warm bus took them to the Sun Valley Lodge, where all the movie stars were standing around waiting to see the great skiers - and they walked in dressed like bums. They felt like kings to stay in the Lodge, since they were used to the old Guide's shack at Mt. Rainier.¹²

When Seattle Municipal Ski Park was formally dedicated the third weekend of January 1934, the **U.W. Ski Club's** Rena Cox was one of seven contestants for ski queen, "a competition predicated on skiing activity." Later in January, the ski club "decided that competition is the soul not only of trade but of skiing - and with that in mind a team of slalom racers will be formed to enter slalom tournaments in the Northwest." **U.W. Ski Club** members would enter the Seattle Ski Club's annual tournament on February 4, 1934, and compete against the University of British Columbia at Grouse Mountain outside of Vancouver in March. Ben Thompson would be the club's coach when the ski team trained at Snoqualmie Pass, and Darroch Crookes would coach at Paradise. The Beaver Lake slalom course on Snoqualmie Pass would be used to train for the Grouse Mountain event since it "more closely parallels that steep runway." Team tryouts were set for February 11, 1934, at both Snoqualmie Summit and Paradise. Bill Millington was named the ski team chairman.

On February 18, 1934, a ski program was held at Paradise with a slalom race and a seven-mile cross-country race designed for the **University of Washington Ski Team** that was training for its meet at Grouse Mountain in March.

Another event was scheduled for February 25 at Paradise, featuring slalom and downhill races for the **University of Washington ski team**. However, the snow conditions did not permit races to occur. Darroch Crookes and Alf Moystad picked an eight-man ski team to compete against University of British Columbia and the College of Puget Sound at Grouse Mountain at the first International Skiing Championships in a 3 ½ mile cross-country race, slalom race, and a downhill-hill relay race. The cross-country team included Bill Millington, Fred Thieme, Phil Hilditch, and Bob Hill. The downhill relay team included Howard Richmond, Mart Chamberlain and Park Williams. The slalom team included Richard Chamberlain, Thieme, Millington, Hilditch, Williams and Jack Hillyer. The U.B.C. won the tournament but the **Washington Ski Team** had "at least a moral victory." Washington skiers won more points in the cross-country, downhill and slalom than the other teams, but had no competitors in the jumping event, making them ineligible to win the tournament. In the cross-country, Washington skiers placed second through ninth. Washington won the downhill relay, and in the slalom, its skiers placed first, second and third.

An All-University Day would be held at Paradise on March 21. Invitations were sent by the U.W. athletic director to the University of British Columbia, College of Puget Sound,

¹² Lucas, Joy, *The Ancient Skiers of the Northwest*, pages 5, 7, 21, 30

Washington State College, Oregon State College, and the University of Oregon, asking them to send competitive four-man teams to race in slalom and downhill events. The carnival would start with a four-mile cross-country race and a dance on Saturday night at Paradise Lodge. Team events were scored between the **University of Washington** and the College of Puget Sound in men's and women's downhill and slalom events.

The **University of Washington** administration decided in March 1934, that ski team members would be entitled to a minor sports emblem. Those eligible for the letter included the skiers who raced at the Grouse Mountain tournament.

Several **University of Washington** skiers competed in the first Silver Skis Race on Mt. Rainier in April 1934, on a five-mile course from Camp Muir at the 10,000 foot level to Paradise Lodge at 5,590 feet. Jack Hillyer of the **U.W. ski team** was one of a dozen or so pre-race favorites in the race. Other **U.W. Ski Club** entrants included John Woodward, Clayton Nordstrom and Rena Cox in the woman's event. A junior race was run for skiers under 18.

The first Silver Skis race featured a mass start, with all the competitors starting at the same time and the first one to the finish line won. 66 racers started the race, 44 finished and four were hurt in the first half mile of the race, with 2,726 spectators watching. Don Fraser of the Paradise Ski Club won the men's race (and won again in 1938) in a time of 10 minutes 19.6 seconds, finishing just inches ahead of Carleton Wiegel, and Marguerite Strizek won the women's race. *Fraser Wins the 5-Mile Ski Dash* said the *Seattle Times* of April 23, 1934. **U.W. Ski Club** racers finished as follows: Martin Chamberlin, 18th; Howard Richmond, 19th; Robert Hill, 20th; John Woodward, 30th; and Jack Hillyer, 40th. The race was held from 1934 to 1942, and after the war in 1947 and 1948, and became one of the Northwest's iconic ski races that helped to popularize Alpine skiing and made Northwest skiing known nationally.

The Silver Skis race of 1934, featured a mass start, where all the competitors lined up and started at once. This resulted in a number of collisions as the course narrowed with serious injuries. Equipment was rudimentary, and some racers used jumping skis. Dr. Emil Cahen wore football shoulder pads. Alf Moystad, who finished third, said he would wear a football helmet next year. Hans Grage broke the heel of his right ski early in the race, fell 16 times, and managed to finish in 10th place. A biography of Wolf Bauer described his race. "In the 1934 Silver Skis, a stampede of a race down Mount Rainier, he had the lead when he did a high-speed somersault. He broke a ski and lost both poles and his goggles but still managed to finish fifth in a field of 60." "Most unique starter of all was Martin Tverdal, Seattle Ski Club jumper. He took to the starting line heavy jumping skis, no ski poles. His speed was high - but he needed the poles. He went tumbling, parallel with the rock island below Anvil." Don Fraser said Tverdal "was whirling end over end like a top."¹³

¹³ *Seattle Times*, January 12, 1934 (page 22), January 15, 1934 (page 13), January 17, 1934 (page 14), January 19, 1934 (page 20), January 25, 1934 (page 14), February 2, 1934 (page 22), February 17, 1934 (page 7), February 24, 1934 (page 19); February 25, 1934 (page 26), February 26, 1934 (page 12), March 6, 1934 (page 16),

Austrian ski instructor Otto Lang described the unusual start of the 1934 race in his autobiography.

The oddest part of the first Silver Skis race was that the competitors lined up straight across the wide open slope at the start, and at the signal all sixty-five of them pushed off simultaneously. This mass start was an invitation to mayhem, with racers building up speed rapidly, crisscrossing each other's lines of descent at random, crashing into each other, or desperately trying to avoid disaster. It must have been frightening for all participants. Based upon that year's fiasco, the mass start was abandoned and the procedure adopted of sending competitors on their way at one-minute intervals, which made a lot of sense. Still, it resulted in some hair-raising collisions of the course, due to skiers' disparate technical ability.¹⁴

Don Fraser described the 1934 race where the gear was rudimentary and techniques hazardous. There was a steep three hour trek uphill from Paradise Lodge to Camp Muir where the race began, with some racers wearing seal skins, some in canvas socks, and others using Klister wax.

We lined up, spread across the Muir Glacier, possibly ten to twenty feet apart, in all different kinds of what we called "ski gear." From riding breeches and corduroy pants to gabardine knickers and jumping suits. Skis were a motley variety, too, both with and without metal edges but with lead slabs nailed on tip for additional weight. Originally, I had intended to use metal handles mounted on the front of the skis, but found that at high speed, control was a real problem. I used Bildstein heel springs and Armstutz springs from the ankle to the ski. Boots, also, were whatever. There were few ski boots, as such, on the market. I used a Wisco hiking boot shaped somewhat like a squared off ski boot. I think they cost new about \$8.00 or \$9.00...

Otto Sanford fired his starting pistol and approximately 54 of us started off simultaneously down Muir Glacier. Some us started straight down the fall line toward Paradise, four and a half miles and five thousand feet below, others choosing to zig zag their way down. The snow was hard and the surface mostly ice on the upper part of the course, with large sun cups (dips from previous melting) most of the way down. About half of the time, one was air-borne due to the depressions and ridges, and my heavy, stiff jumping skis with the added lead weights were not the best choice.

Fortunately, I was soon out in front of the mob headed for Little Africa, so I didn't witness the many terrible collisions that took place just behind me. One in particular, was between Ben Thompson, a Mt. Rainier summit guide and partner in Anderson and

March 11, 1934 (page 25), March 17, 1934 (page 7), April 15, 1934 (page 24), April 24, 1935 (page 19).

¹⁴ Lang, *A Bird of Passage*, pages 106, 107.

Thompson skis, and Stan Borgersen, which resulted in a badly broken jaw for Ben and dislocated shoulder for Stan. There were many such collisions and some serious injuries. Hans-Otto Giese had a smashing collision with another racer and each berated each other, claiming right-of-way, while precious seconds went by. Near McClure Rock and above Panorama, there were large mounds (like small jumping hills) and one was airborne one hundred feet or more on each one. The speed at this point was far more than any of us had ever gone before - even on a jumping hill. Tired legs took their toll. Many skis and poles were broken and some God-awful falls took place. I had my one and only fall at this point and minutes went by trying to unravel. It was then that Carleton Wiegel caught up with me.

From there down Panorama, across the left side of Alta Vista, through snow that was by now mostly mush, we skied side by side, and it was only when we approached the finish line at Paradise that my cross-country training made the difference and I was able to finish a few feet ahead of Carlton.

What a race! From ten thousand feet at Camp Muir to less than five thousand feet at Paradise with the winning time over nine minutes. Fifty four competitors with a simultaneous start. From ice to slush at the bottom...

John Woodward, a member of the **University of Washington ski team**, described his experiences in the 1934 race.

I busted my tip clear off. We used to ski in a real low crouch, which in that case was not a good idea, because the speeds got so high. The snow, you know, in that first one [1934], was like a dry, cold wind had dried out the spring snow. It was like little ball bearings of ice. It's the fastest snow you could ever have. We all got in a crouch, and all of a sudden the wind was screaming and the fronts of the skis are vibrating and sort of flying in the air. I'd read in Peter Lunn's book about wind checking. He said, 'Boy, you better do that.' Well I'd never tried it at that speed, so I didn't lean far enough forward, so when I stood up a little too quick, it was like fifteen pillows hit my chest and BOOM. When I stopped rolling the tip was gone. I went down to McClure Rock. I put the bad tip on top of the other one [while skiing down], and I finally got down to McClure. So I took my number off and I took my skis off and I stood them up and finally some of the U.W. ski team started coming down and they said, "Oh, come on John. Be a good sport and finish." So I said, "Oh well, okay." So I put my number back on, put my skis back on, wrapped my long thongs and then waited for them. So we went on down.

After the first three or four skiers [and the subsequent crashes], everybody looked ahead and they didn't see anybody and they thought everybody's gone. But they didn't look behind them. So everybody just, from then on, they just skied down and they'd talk to their friends on the side and the friends would say "Keep going! You're doing great! There's only a couple ahead of you!" But you'd think, "No, gosh, they're all long gone,

hours ago.” The leaders were out of sight. You got up and you didn't look behind you. Here I had been fooling around and guys were still coming down the hill. I think I finished 30th. As soon as I got close to the finish they wouldn't wait for me anymore. They used to wait for me. I'd ski with the [broken] tip laid on top of the other. I'd ski that way and then all of a sudden it'd slip off. I'd go a ways and it'd catch. They'd wait for me at first, then I got near the bottom and they said, "You can make it down from here, John." So they took off. They were 25th and 26th or something and I was 30th, I guess."

Woodward described a dangerous situation that resulted from one of the injuries involving Mel Borgerson.

The ski patrol was bringing him down in a toboggan. They weren't trained in those days, and they both fell down and the toboggan got away. He's strapped in and it's heading for the top of Edith Creek Basin. Right below Panorama, you know, those cliffs there. He was heading right for that and he knew it, so he rocked himself back and forth and finally rocked and turned himself upside down and skidded to a stop, with him underneath the toboggan.

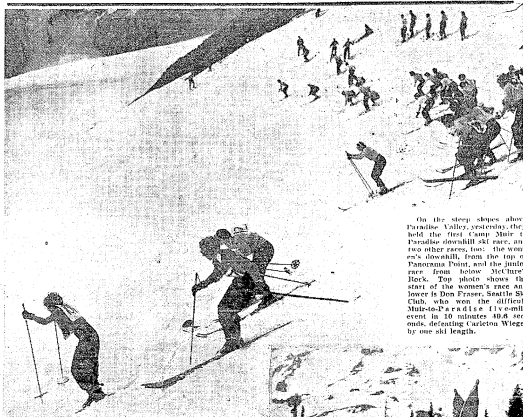
The first Silver Skis race in 1934 was the only time the race ended at Paradise. "That really messed it up," Woodward remembered, "because in that wet snow it was really slow." Later races finished in Edith Creek Basin, which, while not much higher than Paradise, had steeper slopes down to the finish. The mass start was eliminated after 1934, replaced by the more conventional method of starting racers one at a time in regular intervals.¹⁵

The Washington Ski Club formed in September 1934, as a consolidation of "transplanted Snoqualmie Pass skiers who divided their skiing time between there and Paradise" and the Paradise Ski Club, with an initial membership of 160. Its goal was to organize and host ski races sanctioned by the Pacific Northwestern Ski Association (PNSA), the regional affiliate of the National Ski Association, and to enter all competition on the Coast "as far as possible." The club's constitution said its purpose was to "promote and advance the knowledge of skiing, to encourage skiing, and to cooperate with other skiing bodies for the advancement of skiing and other activities." The club offered instruction to its members in slalom, downhill, cross-country racing and jumping "by skilled teachers." Illustrating the racial attitudes of the time, active membership was available to "any person 18 years of age or over, white, and citizen of the United States." The club was housed in the guide shack at Paradise Valley and offered limited accommodations for weekend skiers. Dr. Otto D. Sanford was the club's president, Ed Newell was the club's ski director and Hans Grage was chairman of the ski instruction committee.

¹⁵ Galvin, Dave, *Sahalie Historical Note #11, The "Silver Skis Races" on Mount Rainier*; Fraser, Don, *The Ski Race of All Time*, in Lucas, *The Ancient Skiers of the Northwest*, page 18;
<http://www.alpenglow.org/ski-history/notes/comm/bauer-wolf.html>;
<http://www.alpenglow.org/ski-history/notes/comm/woodward-john.html>;

In spite of being a brand new organization, the National Ski Association awarded the Washington Ski Club the right to host the National Downhill and Slalom Championships and Olympic Trials for the 1936 Games to be held on Mt. Rainier in the spring of 1935. Its bid won out against one submitted by the White Mountain Ski Runners of Boston. Ed Newell was chair of the club's race committee in charge of all the technical details for the Olympic trials and National Championships. The Women's National Championship and Olympic Trials were subsequently awarded to the Washington Ski Club. Five local skiers were selected to go to Europe for the U.S. Olympic ski team, and the event put Washington skiing on the national ski map. The club sponsored most of the major Alpine ski races through World War II.¹⁶

DOWNHILL SKIMANSHIP-THEY HAD IT



On the steep slopes above Paradise Valley, yesterday, they held the first Camp Muir to Paradise downhill ski race, and race after race, too, the women's downhill, from the top of Panorama Point, and the slalom race from below McChere's Rock. Top photo shows the start of the women's race and lower is Don Fraser, Seattle Ski Club, who won the slalom. Multitude of a 0.15 a five-mile event in 10 minutes 48 seconds, defeating California Wiegert by one and a half lengths.

CREW DRIVE HAS OARSMEN'S HELP

Bumping Races Start Today

Eight University of Washington crews today started a series of bumping races which will be held every day this week and tomorrow on the "head of the river" off the 1934 skis. The bumping races, the first ever scheduled in Western United States will be a feature on Washington's racing schedule in the future. Crews start by draw in single file, separated by a length, and a "bump" will be scored when the stern of the advanced shell is lapped by the bow of a crew coming from behind. A "bump" gives the crew pointing in the advanced position over the crew that is "bumped." Crews will start each race in the order in which one previous race was finished. The series will close Saturday.

By G. M. V.

University of Washington oarsmen, who in past campaigns have pulled the silver trophy (winner in National) regatta on the Skokholm River for the everlasting glory of the Purple and Gold, and managers who had spread to the Hudson River, have stepped up behind the effort to send Washington 1934 racing machines to this year's regatta.

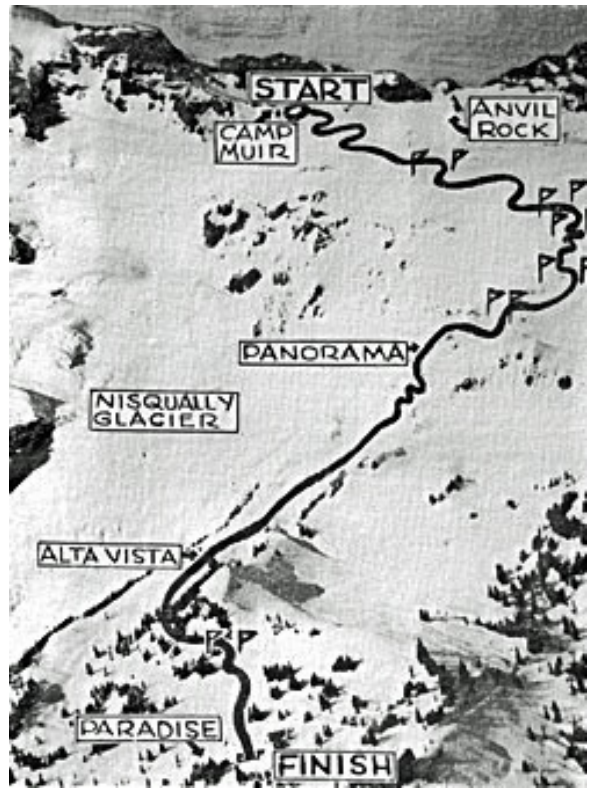
Finishing themselves securely behind the U. of W. Alameda crew drive that will get under way May 15 to raise approximately \$1000, which to finance the trip of the varsity and exchange crews and the oarsmen and managers of past campaigns have organized the 20 activities of the drive.

From 1911 through 1932, ten racing squads were sent to the Hudson River through the generosity of Seattle and Northwest persons who in annual crews drove down the funds to make the trip possible.

To show their appreciation of the opportunities given them in the past and their desire to continue the tradition of the 20 season, have been named.

16 FROSH TRACK MEN SELECTED

Sixteen of the University of Washington freshmen track and field athletes who yesterday will oppose the College of Puget Sound here in dual competition in the first meet of the season, have been named.



Silver Skis Race course from Camp Muir to Paradise Lodge, Mt. Rainier.

1934 Silver Skis Race showing women's mass start & Don Fraser with trophy. *Seattle Times*, April 23, 1934.

¹⁶ *Washington Skiers in the 1936 and 1948 Winter Olympics*, HistoryLink.org Essay 10786; "Brand New Ski Club is Formed," *Seattle Times*, September 9, 1934 (page 27); "Skiers Combine Clubs: Hope to Get State Body," *Seattle Times*, October 23, 1934 (page 14); "Ski Olympics," *Seattle Times*, October 29, 1934 (page 5); "Ski Bid Due Today, Seattle After Slalom Races, Downhill Too," *Seattle Times*, December 2, 1934 (page 27); "Work Opens on Ski Championships," *Seattle Times*, December 4, 1934 (page 18).



Property of Museum of History & Industry, Seattle

Hans-Otto Giese, Don Fraser, Alf Moystad at 1934 Silver Skis Race. Picture from MOHIA



Silver Skis trophy. Picture from Matt Broz family.

III. SKI SEASON OF 1935 IS DOMINATED BY THE NATIONAL DOWNHILL & SLALOM CHAMPION SHIPS/OLYMPIC TRYOUTS ON MT. RAINIER

Interest in alpine skiing grew significantly when the country's first National Downhill and Slalom Championships were held on Mt. Rainier in spring of 1935, which were also the tryouts for the U.S. Olympic team for the 1936 Games in Germany. Alpine skiing appeared for the first time in the 1936 Winter Olympics. This was only the second national championship tournament held, the event was widely publicized, and the selection of five Northwest skiers for the U.S. Olympic team generated huge interest in alpine skiing locally. The tournament put Mt. Rainier and Northwest skiing on the national map. This was the big event of the year, and **U.W. skiers** spent the season training to participate in it.

The **U.W. ski team** trained at Paradise many weekends. On January 22, 1935, Ed Newell announced that time trials would be held to select the school's team to compete against the University of British Columbia. Newell laid out a slalom course from Paradise Inn to the top of Devil's Dip, and used the newly created expert's trail from the Inn to Narada Falls for a downhill course. In the slalom, John Woodward was 1st, Archie Kram 2nd 2nd, and Don McClellan 3rd. In the downhill, Bob Lamson was 1st, John Woodward 2nd, Don McClellan 3rd, Bob Hill 4th and Archie Krom 5th.

At Tacoma Day on Mt. Rainier at the end of January 1935, Seattle skiers won first place in three of the races with a number of **U.W. ski team** members participating. "Despite crusted snow made extra rough by wind-blown ridges, ski riders from the Washington Ski Club and the **University Ski Club** gave a crowd of 1,500 a convincing demonstration of their ability at slalom and downhill racing." Seattle's Carlton Wiegler won the men's race, followed by Paul Sceva, Jr. (who would be on the U.W. ski team later in the decade), and **U.W. skier** John Woodward who took 3rd. Other **U.W. skiers** included Otis Lamson, Fred Thieme, Bob Hill and Jack Hillyer. In the men's slalom at Paradise Valley the end of February, the U.W.'s John Woodward took 4th in a race won by Hans Grage. In early March, the **U.W. ski team** met The Mountaineers in a cross-country race at its lodge on Snoqualmie.

On March 10, led by John Woodward, the **U.W. ski team** won the Intercollegiate Slalom Championships "by an emphatic margin against the University of British Columbia, and College of Puget Sound." **U.W. skiers** won the top five places in the six-mile cross-country course - John Woodward, Bob Lamson, Howard Richmond, Mart Chamberlain and John Carey. In the slalom, Woodward and Richmond placed one and two, and Fred Thieme took 3rd. In the downhill, U.W.'s Howard Richmond won, followed by John Woodward, Fred Thieme, Max Krom and Bob Lamson. Seattle's Grace Carter won the women's downhill and slalom races followed by Tacoma's Ethlyne Smith.

The Northwest Downhill and Slalom Championships were held the third week in March 1935, on Mt. Rainier at the Junior Chamber of Commerce's fourth annual spring carnival. Racers competed on the courses to be used for the upcoming National Downhill and Slalom

Championships. “75 experienced, hardy racers” entered into the race seeking to be one of 30 skiers to qualify for the upcoming national event. Cars could drive to Narada Falls, and Paradise Lodge could be reached by a one-mile hike on a well-packed trail where five switchbacks “make the climb easy. A slow, steady walk does it for anyone, without disabilities, in much less than an hour.” A huge crowd showed up for the event.

Hjalmar Hvam of Portland’s Cascade Ski Club and Le Roy Caverly of the Washington Ski Club tied for first in the downhill, followed by Ken Syverson, Darroch Crookes and Don Fraser, all of the Washington Ski Club. **U.W. skiers** placed as follows: John Woodward was 5th, Bob Hill, 16th, Howard Richmond was 24th, Volney Richmond 25th, Bob Lamson 27th, and Fred Thieme 30th. Ex U.W. skiers Bob Hill placed 16th and Jack Hillyer 21st. They were eligible to be chosen by the Pacific Northwestern Ski Association for the national event on April 13-14. Other U.W. racers placed outside the top 30 - P. Spaulding, Lyle St. Louis, Don Amick, Jack Doctor, Don McLellan. The women’s downhill race was won by Dorothy Brigham, followed by Beth Paskill, Grace Carter, and Ellis-Ayre Smith, all of the Washington Ski Club. The slalom race set for the next day had to be postponed because of a blizzard on the mountain. The Northwest Slalom and Combined Championships would be determined at the following weekend’s International Invitational Ski Tournament at Mt. Baker.

The downhill event at the Mt. Baker tournament held in late March 1935, was won by the **U.W.’s** John Woodard who “outsped a crack field of 59 snow racers.” He beat second place Hjalmar Hvam from Portland by eight minutes. Hvam was followed by Washington Ski Club’s Hans Grage, Don Fraser, Wolf Bauer (Mountaineers), and Ken Syverson (WSC). In the Northwest Slalom Championships, Don Fraser edged out Hjalmar Hvam for the title. **U.W.’s** John Woodward finished 14th. Hvam won the combined title by a wide margin. The Pacific Northwestern Ski Association selected eight representatives to race in the upcoming National Downhill and Slalom Championships/Olympic Tryouts: Hjalmar Hvam, Portland, Cascade Ski Club; Washington Ski Club’s Don Fraser, Seattle, Carleton Wiegel, Tacoma, Ken Syverson, Tacoma, Hans Grage, Seattle, Darroch Crookes, Seattle; John Woodard, Seattle, **University of Washington Ski Team**; and Emil Cohen, Seattle, Seattle Ski Club. Ellis-Ayr Smith of Tacoma won the women’s slalom, followed by Grace Carter of Seattle, and they were selected to represent the PNSA in the national event. Skit Smith, Ellis-Ayr’s sister, finished third.

The weekend before the National Championships, the **University of Washington** met Dartmouth’s ski team on Mt. Rainier in a slalom race. The event “for the first time in skiing history links the eastern college front with the west.” The strong Dartmouth team, East Coast champions, defeated the Huskies 100 to 75.80, with Dick Durrance, the No. 1 skier in the East, winning the race. Darroch Crookes, the No. 6 racer on the PNSA team, became eligible for the **U.W. team** by registering at the school before the race. Crooks finished second behind Durrance. John Woodward finished fifth.

Dartmouth impressed today, there is no escaping that. There was a fluency of skiing, a brilliant demonstration of th a much-discussed “tempo turn,” the high-speed which sent

them scudding through the difficult flushes laid out by Ben Thompson. Their technique between flags was splendid. They know their turns, and today they knew their wax...Please remember; There are Northwest skiers who impress the Dartmouth five perhaps as much as Dartmouth has impressed the West.

On April 11, 1935, it was announced that Don Fraser broke his leg and would not race in the National Tournament. He was hurt in an informal race between the Northwest's downhill and slalom team "and darkened the team's hope of winning in the national championships." Fraser, No. 2 man on the Northwest team, was racing Carleton Wiegel (No. 3 man) and Hans Grage (No.4 man) when he struck a bump, "hurtled fifty feet into the air, and landed not on a downhill slope, but on the uphill side of a gully." Grage and Wiegel were hurt at the same place - Wiegel sprained his ankle and Grage wrenched his back. The starting order for the National Championship Downhill race was announced. The **U.W.'s** Darroch Crookes would ski in the number 1 spot and John Woodward in 15th position.¹⁷

National Downhill & Slalom Championships/Olympic Trials

The U.S. National Downhill and Slalom Championships and Olympic tryouts dominated the skiing news in the winter of 1935. Ed Newell was in charge of the event. There were 59 entrants: 8 from the East; one from the Middle West; 13 from the Rocky Mountains; 12 from California; 14 from the Pacific Northwest; 10 from Canada; and one from Austria. PNSA sponsored racers from the Northwest included Hjalmar Hvam of the Cascade Ski Club of Portland; Washington Ski Club members Don Fraser, Carleton Wiegel, Ken Syverson, Hans Grage, and Darroch Crookes (freshman member of the **U.W. ski team**); John Woodward of the **U.W. Ski Team**; and Emil Cahen of the Seattle Ski Club.

Austrian Hannes Schroll, a ski instructor at Yosemite Valley, won the downhill, beating "the brilliant" Dick Durrance by one minute and seven seconds, skiing through pea soup fog. According to the *Seattle Times*, Schroll was "a tornado on skis; a whooping, yodeling fool who doesn't respect fog, ice, precipeses, avalanches or tradition."

Schroll didn't fall. He went leaping from snow terrace to snow terrace, and sometimes as far as 60 feet. On one such wild venture he leaped nearly 70 feet, landed on one ski, fought wildly for balance, and recovered. With the Alpine exuberance that had made him so much a Rainier facaire, he yodeled mightily, waved his Alpine hat, covered with medals won in European competition, and tossed it to the winds. Before he hit the snow, he was 300 yards away.

¹⁷ *Seattle Times*, January 22, 1935 (page 10); January 28, 1935 (page 14); January 22, 1935 (page 10); January 28, 1935 (page 14); February 25, 1935 (page 15); March 2, 1935 (page 12); March 10, 1935 (page 20); March 11, 1935 (page 14); March 21, 1935 (page 21); March 24, 1935 (page 21); March 2, 1935 (page 12); March 25, 1935 (page 14); March 2, 1935 (page 12); March 31, 1935 (page 14); April 1, 1935 (page 1); April 7, 1935 (page 19); April 19, 1935 (page 17); April 14, 1935 (page 1); April 1, 1935 (pages 1, 14, 15); April 15, 1935 (page 15);

The highest Northwest skier in the downhill was Darroch Crookes “**University of Washington freshman** member of the Washington Ski Club). **U.W. skier** John Woodard finished 11th, and **future U.W. skiers** Paul Gilbreath 12th and Otis Lampson 21st. Schroll also won the slalom with Durrance finishing third. John Woodward finished 7th in the slalom, Darroch Crookes 9th, and Paul Gilbreath 13th.

Schroll swept the tournament and won the combined title, becoming the National Downhill and Slalom Champion. Dartmouth racers dominated the American finishers with Dick Durrance, “undisputedly America’s No. 1 skier,” finishing 2nd in the combined, and E.H. Hunter and A.E. Washburn finishing 4th and 5th. Livermore from Boston finished 3rd in the combined. **U.W. skiers** finished impressively with John Woodward finishing 6th and Darroch Crookes 8th, and **future U.W. skiers** Paul Galbreath 12th, Otis Lampson 13th and Paul Sceva, Jr. 14th.

Schroll’s sweep of the races and his dominance over U.S. skiers meant that the whole method of American downhill and slalom skiing must be radically revised. “The Dartmouth upright style seemed best when it was glimpsed a week ago. But the leaping, pumping, crouching, swinging Schroll proved his style superior, which America’s Olympic team...must face next February in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.”

Ethelyne “Skit” Smith won the women’s National Slalom title “in running away style,” beating Grace Carter of Seattle by three seconds. In the downhill, her sister, Ellis Ayr Smith, who had only been skiing a couple of seasons, “made a thrilling run down the side of Panorama to Edith Creek Basis in the remarkable time of 1:57.6 to best a field of 14 competitors.” Ellis won the women’s downhill, beating Grace Carter by 36 seconds, “falling only once. Most of her competitors were somersaulting 5 to 15 times in their do-or-die races against time.” Ellis Ayr finished fourth in the slalom, and “the big thrill of the day” came when it was announced that she had won the Combined National Championship title. Grace Carter was second in the Combined, and Skit, who placed 11th in the downhill, was sixth.

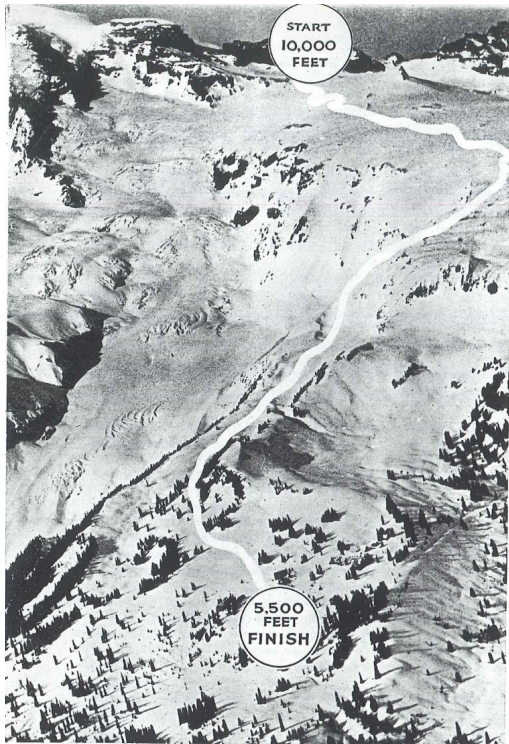
The event’s three best U.S. skiers, who were “almost certain to be selected to the Olympic squad” to compete in Garmisch, Germany, included Dick Durrance of Dartmouth College, who was first of all U.S. competitors; E.D. (Ed) Hunter Jr. of Dartmouth College, third in the combined; and Robert Livermore, Jr. of the Ski Club of Hochgebirge, Boston, who placed second in the combined. Five skiers from Seattle or Tacoma were selected to go to Europe for the U.S. Olympic team - Ethelyne “Skit” Smith (national slalom champion), her sister Ellis-Ayr Smith (national downhill champion) from Tacoma, and Seattle’s Grace Carter, **U.W. skier** Darroch Crookes, and Don Fraser. John Woodward of the **U.W. Ski Team**, “missed the U.S. Olympic team only by a whisper.”¹⁸

In October 1935, the *Seattle Times* said Seattle and Tacoma will send five men and women to the Olympic Winter Games in Garmish-Partenkirchen, Germany. “Those are Don

¹⁸ Lundin, John, *Washington Skiers in the 1936 and 1948 Winter Olympics*, Essay 10786.

Fraser and Darroch Crookes, both of Seattle, for the men's U.S. Olympic team, and Ellis-Ayr and Ethelynne Smith of Tacoma and Grace Carter of Seattle for the women's Olympic team." The Tacoma and Seattle sections of the Washington Olympic Ski Committee will work to raise funds to send their athletes - they planned to raise half of the funds necessary. The article described the unusual way that several of the team members had been selected.

Don Fraser never competed in the National Championships or U.S. Olympic trials. Four days before they were held, boring at high speed down the series of snowbanked terraces high above Paradise, he leaped a bank...80,90 feet. In fact, he overleaped it, landing on an uphill slope, in skiing, you can't do that. The speed is too severe. He ripped ligaments in his leg, and was carried out in a toboggan. But Eastern skiers, who had seen him pass them, said he ought to go. He was chosen for the team on reputation and past record. Darroch Crookes of Seattle had no 1933-1934 competitive record. He was working. He went back into competition that winter, placed high in the Nationals. On the strength of his showing and the knowledge that he had fine powers, he was chosen. Ellis-Ayr Smith won the national women's downhill race. Her sister Ethelynne - "Skit" to her intimates - won the national women's slalom race.



The Downhill and Slalom course at Rainier National Park—scene of the Olympic Tryouts and National Championships.



Ellis-Ayr Smit (National Downhill & Combined Champion) & Ethelynne "Skit" Smith (National Slalom Champion), Mt. Rainier, 1935. Picture from Tacoma Library.



Upper left: "Skit" Smith; Center: Ellis-Ayr Smith; Right: Grace Carter; Lower Right: Darroch Crookes; Left: Don Fraser, Washington's entries in the skiing events of the Olympic Games at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

Washington skiers on 1936 U.S. Olympic team. *Ski Magazine*, 1936.



The 1936 Olympic squad. Left to right: Lily Swann, Mary Bird, Ellis-Ayr Smith, Grace Carter, Otto Furrer, Hannes Schneider, Herman Tcholl, Helen Boughton-Leigh, Clarita Heath, Elizabeth Woolsey and Marian McKean.

Women's U.S. Olympic team, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany 1936.



Don Fraser, Dick Durrance, Darroch Crookes, U.S. Men's Olympic team, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany 1936.

The 1935 Tye said the **U.W.** easily defeated the University of British Columbia and College of Puget Sound at the inaugural University of Washington Invitational Ski Tournament. Led by John Woodward who was first in the slalom and cross-country and second in the downhill. "The second and final meet of the season, against Dartmouth, was a different story," as the Huskies were trounced. Darroch Crookes was the only threat. In the National Championships on Mt. Rainier, John Woodward finished 7th in the slalom and 11th in the downhill, while teammate Darroch Crookes finished 9th in the slalom and downhill.



Minor Sports



MINOR SPORTS at the University of Washington received a decided uplift during the 1934-35 season when ice-hockey, skiing and volleyball were introduced for the first time as regular Husky competitive sports. Boxing, because of lack of material and experience, was dropped from the year's schedule.

ICE HOCKEY—Ice hockey came back to the University of Washington after an absence of ten years, and in a three-game series with the University of British Columbia, the Huskies won their first intercollegiate series and the trophy that has been in possession of the Canadians since 1924. Coached by Don MacKenzie, former professional star, the Huskies lost the first game, 4-3, in an over-time scrap, but came back to defeat the Canadians, 2-1, at Vancouver. In the third and deciding game, Washington easily won, 8-4, at the Ice Arena. Members of the team were: Mickey Reid, goal; Doug Mavor, Harold Smith and Jack Litsey, forwards; and Roy Holland, Ted Faulkner and Ed Gault, defense.

VOLLEYBALL—Although they failed to win the Northwest League title, Washington's first varsity volleyball team won a majority of their matches to tie for second place in the year's standing. In the Northwest AAU tournament, the Huskies were eliminated in the second round. Members of the team were Nick Mihailoff, captain, Dick Greene, Jack Graham, Harry Bernow, Jack Beatty, Bill Dmitrieff, Vern Drye, Andy Anderson and Oscar Huseby.

WRESTLING—The 1935 season proved disastrous for Coach Len Stevens' Huskies, as the Washington grunt-and-groan men dropped their first decisions in two years of competition. WSC upset the Huskies in a dual meet in Seattle, 20-13. In the triangular minor sports meet at WSC, Idaho won first with 32 points, the Cougars second and Washington third. Members of the team were Stan Rich, George Terara, Leroy Bronemann, Ad Curtis and Mel Borgerson.

SKIING—By amassing a total of 321 points in the inaugural University of Washington Invitational Ski Tournament, the Husky skiers easily defeated the University of British Columbia and the College of Puget Sound. John Woodward led Washington with firsts in the slalom and cross-country races and a second in the downhill. Howard Richmond copped the downhill race and took second in the slalom event.

The second and final meet of the season, against Dartmouth, was a different story. The five-man team from the east trounced the Huskies 200 to 145.07. Darroch Crookes, who placed fourth in the downhill and second in the slalom, was the Huskies' only threat. Members of the team were Darroch Crookes, John Woodward, Howard Richmond, Fred Thieme and Bob Hill.

In the national championships held at Rainier Park, John Woodward captured seventh place in the slalom and eleventh place in the downhill race, while his team-mate, Darroch Crookes, placed ninth in the slalom and downhill races.

RIFLE—Although they were undefeated in national intercollegiate rifle competition, the Husky sharpshooters bowed to a great Oregon team in the Hearst National rifle matches and were only able to place second. The trophy they received represents the ninth award they have won since 1928.

Washington won first in the Ninth Corps Area Intercollegiate Gallery rifle match with eight other western schools competing, and in their initial start in the Missouri Valley

SWIMMING . . .
Crossen, Johnson, Crawford, Ditcham, Medico, Marshall, Selce, Mason
Hardy, Coach Terney, Knappenberger

FENCING . . .
Dusley, Coach Aurenheimer, Richards, Hardy, Greenwood

BOXING . . .
Rich, Brea, Fiden, Plumb, Coach Kande, Sampson, Fide
Cohen, Mason, Eldridge, Hill, Roe

1935 CUP . . .
Richard, Fartin, Miller, Murphy, Curvinski, Edworthy, Korch, Stappan, Clifford, Hansen

ROCKERY . . .
Le, Gregory, Frazer, Footmoch, Dowd, Hamilton, LaBran, Quinan, Sgt. Hagwood
Slater, Sanders, O'Mera, Mitchell, Haring, Lovegrin, Kasala, Josephson
Corwin, Spalding, Shephard, Bronson, Stricker, Brunan, Lynn

U.W. Tye, 1935

IV. **SKI SEASON OF 1936: WASHINGTON WINS ITS FIRST PACIFIC COAST INTERCOLLEGIATE SKI CHAMPIONSHIP**

In November 1935, Ed Newell, chairman of the race committee for the National Downhill and Slalom Championships/Olympic Tryouts held on Mt. Rainier the prior April, was named coach of the **U.W. ski team**, who “will be serious contenders in slalom and downhill racing this season.” Newell graduated from the University of New Hampshire where he was on its ski team. He was volunteering his services to the university to build up the support for the ski team at the University. He planned to hold training workouts every weekend to prepare the team for the competitions held later in the season. *Seattle Times*, November 28, 1935 (page 23).

In 1936, the University Book Store rented ski equipment and offered a bus service from Seattle to Snoqualmie Pass on Sundays, leaving at 7:15 a.m., arriving two hours later, fare \$1.50.

The **U.W. Ski Team** “broke into first class collegiate competition” when it competed at Yosemite Valley in early February 1936, in the Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Championship tournament for the first time into what had been a California event. The **U.W.** competed against Stanford, U.S.C., U.C.L.A., Sacramento Jr. College, Whittier, Fresno State, and Reed College of Portland, Oregon. Five U.W. racers competed in downhill, slalom and cross-country, including John Woodward, the team’s No. 1 skier, Captain Bob Lamson, Fred Thieme, Bob Higman and Mort Chamberlain. “**Washington In Coast Win**” said the *Seattle Times* of February 3, 1936. “Fleet ski-runners from the **University of Washington** held the Herbert Hoover trophy today, emblematic of the Pacific Coast Intercollegiate championship. The Huskies humbled nine stalwart competitors,” which included 50 racers, to win the tournament. **Washington skiers** won the first four places in the cross-country race, U.W.’s Bob Higman and Bob Lampson placed first and second in the slalom, and Huskies captured three of the first ten places in the downhill in front of 1,000 spectators. Austrian skier skier Otto Urback, skiing for Reed College, won the downhill in a “remarkably fast time” with John Woodward placing second. The University of California took second and Nevada third.

At the Fifth Annual Seattle Junior Chamber of Commerce Spring Ski Carnival at Mt. Rainier in early February 1936, Hjalmar Hvam won his second downhill in a row, imitating the style of Hannes Schroll and “whizzing over a course that was actually longer and more difficult than the national downhill championship course” the prior year. “Coming over the crest of Panorama Slope, a 38 per cent grade, Hvam was traveling so fast he sailed more than 100 feet in the air before landing on the slope.” Paul Gilbreath was 2nd and Paul Sceva, Jr. 3rd, both from the Washington Ski Club. **U.W.’s** Len Robinson was 8th, John Woodward 15th, and Bob Higman was 21st. Hvam also won the slalom event and the combined title. Ed Newell, the **U.W. ski coach**, who skied for the Washington Ski Club (different from the University of Washington Ski Club), was second in the combined. The cross-country race was won by Whit Miller of the Washington Ski Club, followed by Fred Thieme of the **U.W. Ski Team**. The Washington Ski Team won the team title, followed by the Cascade Ski Club. It was learned “in two days of high-caliber, high-speed skiing, that the quality of Pacific Northwest competition has soared since the

National championships and Olympic trials at Mount Rainier a year ago taught the West Coast how little it really knows about the big time.” *Seattle Times*, April 5 & 6, 1936 (pages 17, 14).

The **UW ski team** competed at Paradise in a dual meet against Reed College of Portland in mid-February 1936. A Reed skier won the downhill, but **UW** skiers Bob Hill, Fred Thieme and Max Krom took second through fourth, Lon Robinson was 6th, Jack Doctor 7th, and John Woodward 8th. In the next day’s regular slalom races, **U.W.’s** John Woodward won, Walter Page was 4rd, Lonnie Robinson 5th and Dick Walter 6th, Bob Lamson, 12th; Bog Higman, 16th; Jack Doctor, 17th; Bob Hill, 20th.

The Pacific Northwestern Ski Association Championships were held on Mt. Hood in early March 1936. Strong teams were sent by the Washington Ski Club, Seattle Ski Club, Mountaineers, Spokane Ski Club and British Columbia. Cascade Ski Club’s Hjalmar Hvam “literally ran away from the fast field” in the downhill, riding “his skis with all the abandon of a dervish as he tore down the course.” It was obvious that Hvam followed the style that Hannes Schroll demonstrated at the prior years National Tournament on Mt. Rainier. Other Cascade Ski Club members took second and third. The **U.W.’s** John Woodward was sixth, and Bob Higman, Lon Robinson also finished. Hvam also won the slalom with Woodward finishing 4th, Higman 10th. Hvam won the combined, Paul Sceva, Jr. was second, and Woodward third. *Seattle Times*, March 1 & 2, 1936 (pages 19, 14)

The Silver Skis Race was held on Mt. Rainier on April 19, 1936. Hannes Schroll and Hjalmar Hvam were both entered giving the race special interest, although Schroll ran the course “hors concours” or outside the competition since he was then a ski instructor, making him a professional. There was also a women’s race and a junior race. Schroll had the fastest time but Hvam won the race, followed by Tom Mobraaten from Vancouver. The **U.W. skiers** were John Woodward, 9th, Jack Doctor, 15th, Lon Robinson, 17th, Mort Chamberlin, 35th, Robert Hill, 36th, and Fred Thieme, 37th. Carl Neu, a 17 year old member of Sahalie Ski Club, entered the junior race. Neu would later become the number one racer on the **U.W. Ski Team**. *Seattle Times*, April 18 & 30, 1936 (pages 4, 15).

The 1936 Tyee said the Huskies won the 1936 Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Ski championship by sweeping a majority of first places, followed by California. The **U.W.** swamped Reed College on Mt. Rainier and University of British Columbia on Mt. Baker.

WASHINGTON IN COAST SKI WIN

YOSEMITE, Calif., Monday, Feb. 3.—(AP)—Fleet ski-runners from the University of Washington held the Herbert Hoover trophy today, emblematic of the Pacific Coast intercollegiate championship. The Huskies humbled nine stalwart competitors to win the title with 353.38 points. University of California took second with 305.41 and University of Nevada was third with 299.97.

More than a thousand persons watched yesterday's closing slalom and downhill events on Badger Pass slopes. Washington, with an overwhelming lead as a result of winning the first four places in the cross-country race, was a top-heavy favorite to take the title.

The Seattle team placed first and second in the slalom and captured three in the first ten finalists of the downhill event.

Start of the downhill competition was Otto Urbach of Reed College, Portland. An exchange student from Austria, he won the event in the remarkably fast time of 1 minute 32 seconds for the slightly more than a mile course.

Warren Vanderbilt, University of California, was second, and John Woodward, Washington, third.

The slalom race, held in a driving snowstorm, again demonstrated the Huskies' superiority. Bob Higman and Bob Lamson placed one-two with Jeff Thomson, California, third.

There were fifty competitors for ski honors, second half of the winter games series which opened last month. Loyola University of Los Angeles was an easy winner in the speed skating and hockey tourneys but did not enter the ski events.

Other entries finished as follows:

- Reed College, Portland, 292.29.
- Sacramento Junior College, 291.61.
- University of California at Los Angeles, 271.54.
- Fresno State College, 266.64.
- Stanford University, 123.56.
- California Aggie, 119.56.
- University of Southern California, 72.43.

Yesterday's Results
Downhill—Urbach (Reed), first; Vanderbilt (California), second; Woodward (Washington), third; Mosgrove (Fresno State), fourth; Lert (U. C. L. A.), fifth; Thieme (Washington), sixth; Hertz (Nevada), seventh; Besio (Sacramento) and Thomson (California) tied for eighth and ninth, and Higman (Washington), tenth.

Slalom—Higman (Washington), first; Lamson (Washington), second; Thomson (California), third; Lert (U. C. L. A.), fourth; Thieme (Washington), fifth; Werner (U. C. L. A.), sixth; Woodward (Washington), seventh; Vanderbilt (California), eighth; Bowman (Reed), ninth, and Fuelsen (Nevada), tenth.

WOLF BAUER WINNER

Wolf Bauer won the slalom and downhill championships of the Mountaineer Club's annual ski tournament yesterday at Meany Ski Hut, Stampede, and Jane Stahmer won the women's slalom. Unusually fine snow conditions helped the tournament. Bauer flew over a badly avalanched, 30-degree slope for 400 feet in the downhill, flying through the at times for forty and fifty-foot distances.

The results:

Men's Slalom
Total time, minutes and seconds:

SKIING

Sweeping a majority of first places, Husky skiers won the 1936 Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Ski championship. Five Washington ski aces, including Bob Lamson, Fred Thieme, John Woodward, Bob Higman, and Mart Chamberlain, made the trip to Yosemite National Park.

The University of Washington copped 353.38 for first place, followed by the University of California, with Nevada and Reed College training closely.

In dual meets, the Huskies swamped Reed College 200 to 142 at Mt. Rainier, and the University of British Columbia 200 to 152 at Mt. Baker. Other members of the Washington 10-man squad were Max Krom, Bob Hill, Jack Doctor, Bill Millington, and Vauney Robinson.



NEWELL, LAMSON, HIGMAN, THIEME, WOODWARD, CHAMBERLAIN

U.W. Tyee, 1936

Seattle Times, February 3, 1936

On January 8, 1937, the *Seattle Times* published a list of the Pacific Northwest's leading competitive skiers, rated by the Pacific Northwestern Ski Club into divisions of merit based on their records in downhill, slalom, jumping and cross-country. Only two competitors were rated A in all four events - Hjalmar Hvam and Corey Gustafsson of the Cascade Ski Club. There were six skiers rated A in both downhill and slalom: Hans Grage and Paul Sceva, Jr. of the Washington ski Club; John Woodward of the **U.W. Ski Team**; Don Amick of the Washington Ski Club and Ed Newell of the Washington Ski Club.

Woodward was rated A rating in downhill and slalom, C in jumping and B in cross-country. Other **U.W. skiers** included Lon Robinson rated B in downhill and slalom, unrated in jumping and B in cross-country; Chet Higman, rated B in downhill and slalom, C in jumping and B in cross-country; Fred Thieme rated B in downhill and slalom, C in jumping and B in cross-country; Jack Doctor rated C in downhill and slalom, unrated in jumping and B in cross-country; and Max Krom rated C in downhill and slalom, and unrated in jumping and cross-country.

HVAM AND GUSTAFSSON, ONLY 'FOUR A' MEN IN WHOLE AREA

For the first time in Pacific Northwestern Ski Association history a classification committee appointed by President Peter Hostmark has attempted the sorting of the Northwest's leading competitive skiers into divisions of merit—and while changes necessarily will be made once the tournament is duly under way, the list was ready for publication today.

Only two men in the entire association are rated as straight "A" through the four divisions of competition—jumping, cross-country, downhill and slalom.

They are Hjalmar Hvam and Corey Gustafsson of the Cascade Ski Club, Portland. The classification committee was made up of Allan Granstrom, chairman, and Ken Binns. The classifications:

Name, Club	Downhill	Slalom	Jumping	Cross-country	Name, Club	Downhill	Slalom	Jumping	Cross-country
Hjalmar Hvam, Cascade	A	A	A	A	Ralph Follstad, Jr., Seattle	C	C	B	B
Hans Grage, W. S. C.	A	A	C	B	J. Garretson, Cascade	C	C	B	B
Paul Sceva, Jr., W. S. C.	A	A	C	B	Otto Rosand, Spokane	C	C	B	B
John Woodward, U. of W.	A	A	C	B	John Kjosness, Seattle	C	C	B	B
Don Amick, W. S. C.	A	A	C	B	Don Adams, Penguin	C	C	B	B
Ed Newell, W. S. C.	A	A	C	B	Dan Kjosness, Leavenworth	C	C	B	B
Roy Tangen, Cascade	B	B	C	B	Ed Martinson, unattached	C	C	B	B
Kjell Ovale, Seattle	B	B	C	B	John Magnuson, Seattle	C	C	B	B
Grant McConnell, Mazamas	B	B	C	B	Jesse Baird, Leavenworth	C	C	B	B
Bob Higman, Mtrs.	B	B	C	B	Joe Bradbury, Cascade	C	C	B	B
Boyd French, Jr., Cascade	A	A	C	B	D. Bradshaw, Cascade	C	C	B	B
Bill Miller, Mtrs.	B	B	C	B	R. Ofstad, Spokane	C	C	B	B
Scott Osborn, Mtrs.	A	A	C	B	Bill Brown, Cascade	C	C	B	B
Wolf Bauer, Mtrs.	A	A	C	B	Olaf Landy, Cascade	C	C	B	B
Hollis Lyman, Cascade	B	B	C	B	Olaf Lokken, unattached	C	C	B	B
Tom Hill, Mtrs.	B	B	C	B	Victor Larsen, Seattle	C	C	B	B
Corey Gustafsson, Cascade	A	A	C	B	Martin Moe, Jr., Seattle	C	C	B	B
Lin Bowman, Cascade	B	B	C	B	Arthur Corbett, Cascade	C	C	B	B
Jack Hiller, W. S. C.	A	A	C	B	Chet Higman, U. of W.	B	B	C	B
Cleve Knight, Cascade	B	B	C	B	Harry McAllister, Cascade	B	B	C	B
Bruce Rehr, W. S. C.	A	A	C	B	Ragnar Gustafsson, Cascade	B	B	C	B
Karl Hostetter, W. S. C.	B	B	C	B	Ole Tverdal, Seattle	B	B	C	B
Bob Donaldson, Mazamas	B	B	C	B	Martin Tverdal, Seattle	C	C	B	B
Vincent Broze, Seattle	B	B	C	B	Birger Rian, Seattle	C	C	B	B
Joe Halvax, Penguin	B	B	C	B	Herman Bakke, Leavenworth	C	C	B	B
Lon Robinson, U. of W.	B	B	C	B	Helge Sather, Leavenworth	C	C	B	B
Arnt Ofstad, Spokane	C	C	B	B	John Ring, Spokane	C	C	B	B
Jim Gillespie, W. S. C.	B	B	C	B	Palmer Torgerson, Seattle	C	C	B	B
Paul Gilbreath, W. S. C.	A	A	C	B	Arthur Granstrom, Seattle	C	C	B	B
W. L. Williams, Spokane	C	C	B	B	Howard Dalsbo, Seattle	C	C	B	B
Hans-Otto Giese, W. S. C.	B	B	C	B	Roy Nerland, Seattle	C	C	B	B
Art Wilson, Mtrs.	C	C	B	B	Einar Hermanson, Cascade	C	C	B	B
Dick Walter, W. S. C.	C	C	B	B	Ole Haugen, Cascade	C	C	B	B
Harley Lyman, Cascade	C	C	B	B	Eric Bolstad, Seattle	C	C	B	B
DeEz Chenoweth, Spokane	C	C	B	B	Don Fraser, W. S. C.	A	A	C	B
Olaf Skjersaa, Bend	C	C	B	B	Darrah Crookes, W. S. C.	A	A	C	B
Bill Thompson, Mtrs.	C	C	B	B	Carleton Wiegel, W. S. C.	A	A	C	B
Fred Carter, Mazamas	C	C	B	B	Howard Richmond, W. S. C.	B	B	C	B
John Carey, W. S. C.	B	B	C	B	Volney Richmond, W. S. C.	B	B	C	B
K. Whiting, Wallace, Idaho	B	B	C	B	Orville Borgersen, W. S. C.	B	B	C	B
Carl Neu, Mtrs.	C	C	B	B	Stan Bergerson, W. S. C.	C	C	B	B
Matt Broze, Seattle	B	B	C	B	LeRoy Caverley, W. S. C.	A	A	C	B
Bud Brady, Mtrs.	C	C	B	B	Emil Cahen, Seattle	A	A	C	B
John Anderson, Cascade	C	C	B	B	Bob Lamson, U. of W.	B	B	C	B
R. McJudy, Cascade	B	B	C	B	Alf Moystad, W. S. C.	B	B	C	B
W. Keltner, Spokane	C	C	B	B	Fred Thieme, U. of W.	B	B	C	B
P. Gillingham, Spokane	C	C	B	B	Jack Doctor, U. of W.	C	C	B	B
E. Darr, Spokane	C	C	B	B	Joe Dunford, Bulldog	C	C	B	B
Al Bogue, Spokane	C	C	B	B	Virgil Galvin, Spokane	C	C	B	B
Don Books, Penguin	C	C	B	B	Max Krom, U. of W.	C	C	B	B
					T. A. Berglund, Cascade	C	C	B	B

Seattle Times, January 8, 1937, page 17.

V. DEC. 1936 - SUN VALLEY OPENS, TRANSFORMING AMERICAN SKIING -
 UW SKI TEAM REGULARLY COMPETES THERE

The Union Pacific Railroad opened its Sun Valley Ski Resort in Idaho in December 1936, under the guidance of Chairman of the Board Averell Harriman, as a way to stimulate passenger traffic that had been decimated by the Great Depression. With the world's first chair lift (which was invented by U.P. engineers), Austrian ski instructors, an up-scale lodge, and international atmosphere, Sun Valley dramatically changed skiing in this country. Called the St. Moritz of the United States, it quickly became a national ski and recreation destination. Skiers and want-to-be-skiers came to Sun Valley for pleasure skiing on the huge mountains served by chairlifts, to learn how to ski from a staff of European experts, which gave it a colorful, international flavor, and to socialize with other like-minded people. The *Seattle Times* said the resort was 20 hours away by car and 24 hours by train, but Sun Valley might as well be Seattle's back yard there were so many Seattleites there.

SUN VALLEY'S FORMAL OPENING DUE ON DEC. 21

\$1,000,000 PUT INTO NEW AREA

Count Felix Schaffgotsch of Austria toured America, then sat down in the office of W. Averell Harriman, chairman of the board of the Union Pacific Railroad. He pinned his finger on a point ninety miles north of Shoshone, Idaho, and said:

"Right there." That was last spring. Because of the finger pinning, Sun Valley was born—a fashionable ski resort costing Harriman and the Union Pacific something more than \$1,000,000; offering a luxurious, ultra-modern hotel with accommodations for some 200 guests; sun-bathing in roofless ice igloos; mid-winter swimming in outdoor swimming pools fed by natural hot springs; ski-tows, one of which will provide chairs to raise the skier 1,470 feet in elevation on a 6,500-foot-long hoist, the other which gives the skier 650 feet of elevation above the valley level.

It opens December 21, Harriman announced this week.

Ray F. Stevens, noted Lake-Placid hotel man, and former Olympic Games bobsled champion, will manage the resort.

Hans Hauser, twice downhill and slalom champion of America, will head a staff of five Austrian expert ski instructors.

What its pulling power will be from the Seattle area remains to be seen. A number of Seattle skiers plan to invade Ketchum this winter for several days of skiing, to look over the area.

It is high in the Sawtooth Range, 5,900 feet above sea level. The hills run in all directions, which probably will cut off the wind considerably and give skiers better protection than in the glacier skiing they get hereabouts.

Its distance from the Coast and the East may be a factor against, but then the resort is not designed for overnight stays. It will cater to those prepared to stay a week or more, or take their vacations there.

Hockey Loses Roth, Famous As 'Iron Man'

BUFFALO, N. Y., Wednesday, Nov. 18.—One of minor league hockey's "iron men" is retiring from the game. Roter Roth, for eight years a

IDAHO'S NEW SLOPE--AND DISCOVERER



Upper—A photo taken from the slope of Elkhorn Mountain in the Sawtooth Range of Southern Idaho, showing Mt. Baldy in the background and the area which, December 21, will be dedicated as Sun Valley—the most ambitious ski development the United States has known. The Union Pacific Railway and W. Averell Harriman, chairman of its board, are responsible. But so is Count Felix Schaffgotsch of Austria (lower), who toured the United States last winter before recommending Sun Valley.

MARCH 5-8 IS TOURNAY DATE

(Continued from Page 3.)

Iron races are: Alfred Lindley of Minneapolis; Jack Taylor of Vancouver B. C.; Norman Knight, Banff, Ski Runners of the Canadian Rockies. In the jumping duel, Hans and Gunnar Gunnarsson and Ivald Nelson, all of Revelstoke, will be serious threats to the field.

The women limit their activities to slalom and downhill racing. In these affairs two Canadians are looked upon as probable winners. They are: Mrs. Tom Mohratten (Peggy Hartin), and Gladys Atkin, Western Canadian Championship winner.

The carnival is under the co-sponsorship of the Calgary Ski Club and Ski Runners of the Canadian Rockies, Banff.

Carnival gaiety will rule throughout the affair, even though keen competition is the order of the four days. A masquerade ball, honoring the winners, will be held in the Cascade Room of Mt. Norquay Ski Lodge as the finale.

Unbeaten in Two Years The University of California freshman gridders were undefeated in 1934 and 1935.

Helen Jacobs Is Made Member Of 'Big C' Society

SAN FRANCISCO, Wednesday, Nov. 18.—New honors have been bestowed upon Helen Hull Jacobs.

Because of her great supremacy in the world of tennis, the Wimbledon net queen was made an honorary member of the Women's Big "C" Society of the University of California.

Miss Crowell Finlay, president of the Women's Athletic Association of U. C., presented Miss Jacobs with a "Big C" blazer sweater and a gold "C" pin at a meeting of the organization in Phoebe Apperson Hearst gymnasium.

Colorado Gridders In 'Sugar' Workouts

COLORADO SPRINGS, Wednesday, Nov. 18.—Colorado College football players run through "sugar jump scrimmages" when they take train trips.

With Coach "Bully" Van de Graaf cocking a watchful eye, each player takes a cube of sugar and joins his mates around a table.

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Beginning in 1937, Sun Valley hosted international ski tournaments that attracted the top skiers in the world to its Idaho slopes, including the best of the Northwest racers, giving the resort a high profile. The best ski racers went to Sun Valley for tournaments that were held annually. Beginning in December 1938, the **University of Washington** ski team went to Sun Valley at least three times a year for ski races, and other top skiers from the state went for major races held annually.

Sun Valley's race year started with the inter-collegiate tournaments over the Christmas - New Year's holidays. College racers trained with Sun Valley Ski Instructors for a week before the inter-collegiate competition, awards were given to the winning team, and the Bradley Plate was given to the top male skier and the Cordelia Trophy to the top female skier. Next came the Western Interstate Ski Meet and Competition for the Jeffers Cup, which pitted teams from Far Western States against each other, with the winning team getting the Jeffers Cup, named for the President of the Union Pacific Railroad. The last major Sun Valley race of the year was the Sun Valley International Open/Harriman Cup Competition. The Sun Valley Open was often a National Championship tournament in Downhill and Slalom or a Four-Event Competition. Ski instructors were permitted to race against true amateurs, although for different honors. Harriman Cup Tournaments were the country's most prestigious and competitive events, attracting the best skiers in the world. "Just as it is the dream of every tennis player to compete once at Wimbledon, it is every ski racer's hope to participate in the famous Harriman Cup Races in Sun Valley."

In February 1937, the Pacific Northwestern Ski Association (PNSA) accepted applications for active membership from the Sun Valley Ski Club of Ketchum Idaho, the Yakima Winter Sports Club, the Associated Students of the **University of Washington**, and the Penguin Ski Club of Seattle, giving the PNSA 12 active clubs. The Anaconda Ski Club of Montana was expected to apply for membership in the fall, all of which "presages a tremendous growth in ski competition." This allowed the Sun Valley Ski Club to host tournaments that were officially sanctioned by the National Ski Association.¹⁹

The premier issue of *Ski* magazine published in January 1936, lauded Northwest skiing. The University Book Store rented ski equipment and offered bus service from Seattle to Snoqualmie Pass on Sundays, leaving at 7:15 a.m., arriving two hours later, fare \$1.50. The Northwest offered "one of the longest ski season in the world. Spring and midsummer skiing starts around March and continues as late as June or July. At these dates, we turn to the vast sunlit expanses of ski ground that lie between glaciers." One article said the Northwest was "the Switzerland of America" with perfect conditions for the advancement of skiing. "With a mild

¹⁹ "Ski Escalator Ready at Mt. Baker, Highway Travel to Peak is Speeded Up," *Seattle Times*, November 18, 1936 (page 44); "Yakima to Hold Ski Tournament; Course Improved," *Seattle Times*, January 10, 1937 (page 17); Lund, Morten & Gilbert, Kirby, *A History of North American Lifts*, Skiing Heritage Journal, September 2003; "Yakima to Hold Ski Tournament; Course Improved; Skit Smith Reports," *Seattle Times*, January 10, 1937 (page 17); "Association Grows," *Seattle Times*, February 8, 1937 (page 14).

climate and close proximity to population centers, golf may be played in the lowlands while skiing takes place among the mountain tops. Snoqualmie Pass was Seattle's closest skiing area, "a mecca for thousands who have but a day to spend."

SKI SEASON OF 1937

In January 1937, the **U.W. Ski Team** was selected - Captain Bob Lamson, Jack Doctor, John Cheney, Lonnie Robinson, Harold Stack, Bob Higman, Bill Hubach, John Woodward, Tom Hill and Walter Page. Phil Spaulding was an alternate. The U.W. would host the first Pacific Coast Conference Championship in downhill, slalom and cross-country at Paradise on Mt. Rainier on Mar. 27 and 28. *Seattle Times*, January 8, 1937 (page 17).

The strength of the **U.W. Ski Team** was seen the following weekend in the slalom race held at Paradise, with the *Seattle Times* saying "the **University of Washington** ski team is stronger than ever before, as witness the fact it took six out of the first ten places in the men's slalom race." Don Fraser, who was on the 1936 U.S. Olympic team, won the race but **U.W.** skiers finished as follows; Lon Robinson, 2nd; Bob Higman 5th; Tom Hill 6th; Bill Hubach, 8th; Bob Lamson, 9th; Jack Doctor, 10th; Harold Stack 19th; and Herman Garretson 24th. Tacoma's young skier, Gretchen Kunigk, won the women's slalom, defeating Skit Smith, a member of the 1936 U.S. Olympic team. "Miss Kunigk, a comparative novice on skis so far as experience goes, is developing rapidly into a headliner." Gretchen married Don Fraser in 1938, and in 1948, won gold and silver medals in the Winter Olympic Games in St. Moritz, Switzerland, becoming the first American to win any skiing medal at the Olympics. *Seattle Times*, January 10, 1937.

At a Spokane tournament held in February 1937, Hjalmar Hvam of Portland won the downhill and combined to be eligible to compete in the National Championships in New England in April. **U.W. skiers** placed as follows in the downhill: Len Robinson, 7th; Bob Higman, 19th; Walt Page, 21st; Bob Barto, 22nd; John Woodward, 24th; Tom Hill, 32nd; bob Lamson, 33rd. *Seattle Times*, February 16, 1937 (page 15).

In late February 1937, Don Fraser and Gretchen Kunigk won the McClue Rock-to-Edith Creek Downhill races for men and women at Paradise Valley on Mt. Rainier. Virginia Bowden of the **University of Washington** came in second. In late March 1937, at the Mount Baker tournament, Grace Carter "ran away with both the women's downhill and women's slalom," and won the combined title. Gretchen Kunigk came in second in the downhill, slalom and combined. Skit Smith tore ligaments in her knee in the downhill. Hjalmar Hvam of Portland "knocked predictions into a cocked hat by defeating Sverre Kolterud of Norway, one of the great downhill racers in the down-mountain race," and won the downhill, although Kolterud won the combined.

The Spokane Ski Club hosted the Downhill and Slalom Championships in mid-February 1937, the club's first major downhill and slalom tournament. 31 Seattle and Tacoma skiers entered, 11 from the Washington Ski Club, six from the **University of Washington**, five from the Seattle Ski Club, three from The Mountaineers, and six from the Penguin Ski Club entered

the tournament. The Washington Ski Club sent its "A" team, which included Don Fraser, Don Amick, Hans Grage, Jack Hillyer (a former **U.W. Ski Team member**), Ethelynn (Skit) Smith, Grace Carter, and Gretchen Kunigk.

The second Mountaineer's Open Patrol Race held on March 7, 1937, a 20 mile event along the crest of the Cascades from the club's Snoqualmie Pass Lodge to its Lodge at Stampede Pass, was described as "a grueling haul, designed only for the best cross-country racers of each club." The teams started at five minute intervals beginning at 9:00 am, and because of the lateness that some teams finished the prior year, and all teams not past the half-way mark by 2:00 would be turned back. The 1937 race was won by the three man team of Sigurd Hall, Bill Degenhardt, and Scott Edson, in a time of five hours, 12 minutes, and 5 seconds. "Condition of the long Cascade Range course, crusty." The **University of Washington** team consisting of Tom Hill, Walt Page and Harold Stack was second, with a time of 5 hours, 51 minutes.²⁰

The Mount Baker Downhill and Slalom Tournament held the third week of March 1937, caused controversy, as the *Seattle Times* said "Emotions Reign as Skiers Protest at Mount Baker Meet." Some of the competitors refused to ski the second slalom run arguing it was too late to hold it, it was snowing too hard, and they had enough competition. Hjalmar Hvam of Portland defeated the pre-race favorite Sverre Kolterud of Norway, "one of the world's great downhill racers," in the downhill portion of the tournament. Hans Grage of the Washington Ski Club "startled the spectators and his skiing friends by tying Kolterud." **University of Washington** racers finished strong in the downhill, as John Woodward was 5th, Bob Higman 16th, Lon Robinson 17th, Ragnar Qvale 18th, and Tom Hill 19th. Kolterud won the combined title, followed by Hvam, and John Woodward of the **University of Washington**. Grace Carter of the Washington Ski Club won the women's downhill, slalom and combined titles. Gretchen Kunigk finished second in all three categories, followed by Frances Bigham in the combined.²¹

Sun Valley's first major race was called the Sun Valley International Open Downhill and Slalom Competition, but later became known as the Harriman Cup after Averell Harriman. Held in the second week of March, 1937, it was the first major international Alpine ski competition held in the United States, and it was "the No. 1 tournament of the year, because it numbered all the skiing greats in its entry list." Two championships would be crowned - the open and amateur. "Ski instructors will be eligible only for the open title. Amateurs will be eligible for both." "The presence of the country's great ski teachers will add immeasurably to the quality of the competition," said the *Seattle Times*. On March 12, 1937, the *New York Times* published a picture of Darroch Crookes and Don Fraser skiing, saying "Olympians To Compete in National Title Meet." Fraser and Crookes were just two of a number of Seattle area skiers who entered the race including John Woodward, the U.W. ski team's top racer..

²⁰ Lundin, John, *Mountaineers Patrol Races at Snoqualmie Pass: A Grand Tradition Revisited*, HistoryLink Essay 10755;

²¹ "Emotions Reign as Skiers Protest at Mount Baker Meet," *Seattle Times*, March 22, 1937 (page 18).



Times Wide World Photo.

OLYMPIANS TO COMPETE IN NATIONAL TITLE MEET

Darroch Crookes and Don Fraser, who will be among the leading amateur skiers in the downhill and slalom races at Sun Valley, Ketchum, Idaho, tomorrow and Sunday.

New York Times, March 12, 1937 (page 28)

Forty-four of the best European and American skiers entered the tournament, including eight ski instructors who were eligible for the open championships, and 36 amateurs. Six of the Northwest's best racers entered the Sun Valley tournament, although they faced tough odds. "The field is so brilliant that the Pacific Northwest's fine sextet of competitors, Hjalmar Hvam and Corey Gustafsson of Portland; Arnt Ofstad, Spokane; Don Fraser and Don Amick, Washington Ski Club, and Bob Higman, **University of Washington**, is somewhat dwarfed," according to the *Seattle Times*.

Given the outstanding field of European professional ski instructors and world class competitors, everyone expected a European victory. However, Dartmouth's Dick Durrance swept the tournament, winning the downhill, slalom and combined national championship titles, to the surprise of the assembled royalty of the ski world. When Durrance won the downhill, the *Seattle Times* said "Clean Sweep in Sun Valley Meet, Dartmouth Skier Captures Double National Title." "Dick Durrance of Dartmouth, the rocketing, tempo-turning young bullet from the land of no snow, Florida, poured on the heat against the greatest field of foreign and resident skiers ever assembled in North America." He even beat Walter Praeger, his Dartmouth coach who finished second in the combined and downhill events. "The Durrance victory definitely proved him one of the greatest skiers in the world." Hans Hauser, director of the Sun Valley Ski

School and the race favorite, finished sixth in the combined. An article about the race said “it took three days for the first racers to reach Sun Valley from the east coast, three hours to walk up the downhill course, and five minutes for Dick Durrance to win it.”

Northwest skiers were “taught a lesson in ski development,” said the *Seattle Times*, and did not have a chance against “the ski-quality they encountered.” Hjalmar Hvam of Portland was the highest Northwest competitor, finishing eleventh in the combined. John Woodward, from the **University of Washington** ski team, finished 17th in the combined, followed by his teammates Robert Higman (22nd), and Tom Hill (28th). Northwest finishers in the downhill were Hvam (11th), Ken Syverson, Paradise Valley (12th), John Woodward **U. Washington** (17th), Don Fraser Washington Ski Club (18th), Don Amick Washington Ski Club (20th), Bob Higman, **U. Washington** (24th), Tom Heard, Washington Ski Club (33rd), Jack Hillyer, Washington Ski Club (35th), and Tom Hill, **U. Washington** (36th). Northwest finishers in the slalom were Hvam, (19th), Bob Higman, **U. Washington** (21st), Tom Hill, **U. Washington**, (23rd), John Woodward, **U. Washington** (27th), and Jim Gillespie, Washington Ski Club (29th).²²

In early March 1937, a ski team from the Pacific Northwest competed at Banff, Canada for the first time. The team included Don Fraser and Grace Carter, 1936 Olympic team members; Don Amick, Washington Ski Club; Scott Osborn, The Mountaineers; and Helge Sather, Leavenworth Winter Sports Club. The **U.W.** sponsored an all-University day at Mt. Rainier with fraternity and sorority competition. *Seattle Times*, March 4, 1937.

The 1937 Silver Skis Race drew 51 men, ten women and 45 junior racers. **University of Washington** racers included Lonnie Robinson, John Woodward, Walter Page, Harold Stack, and Bill Hubbach. However, the race had to be cancelled because of heavy fog. *Seattle Times*, April 15, 1937 (page 25).

On December 26, 1937, the *Seattle Times* summarized some of the year’s important events that helped to make skiing in the Northwest outstanding. “The **University of Washington** took a step ahead in major skiing development by employing Otto Lang, distinguished Austrian skier, as coach. Ski club memberships swelled.”

The 1937 Tye said “Husky ski artists enjoyed a banner season, moping up the Northwest and Coast intercollegiate titles without a setback.” Washington took three firsts at the P.C.C. championships in February at Yosemite in February, to “win by a large margin. At the NW Intercollegiate meet at Mt. Rainier, “the Huskies swept the first three places in each event for an overwhelming vistory.”

²² *Sun Valley International Open, & Sun Valley Jumping*, Sun Valley Ski Club Report for Season 1936 - 1937, pages 5- 11, 20; “Brilliant Field to Compete at Sun Valley, Amateurs and Pros to Vie in National Meet,” *Seattle Times*, March 12, 1937 (page 18); “Dick Durrance Wins U.S. Downhill in Skiing, American Leads World Stars at Sun Valley,” *Seattle Times*, March 14, 1937 (page 14); “Durrance Makes Clean Sweep in Sun Valley Meet, Dartmouth Skier Captures Double National Title,” *Seattle Times*, March 15, 1937 (page 14).

Skiing

HUSKY SKI ARTISTS enjoyed a banner season, mopping up the Northwest and Coast Intercollegiate titles without a setback.

Defending their P. C. C. intercollegiate championship at Yosemite in February, Washington's team took three firsts to win by a wide margin. In the Northwest intercollegiate meet at Mt. Rainier, the Huskies swept the first three places in each event for an overwhelming victory. Competing against the world's best in the United



States open at Sun Valley, Idaho, in March, John Woodward, Bob Higman, and Tom Hill all placed.

Other stars of the season were Lue Robinson, Jack Dactor, Walt Fogg, and Bob Lamm.



Higman



Robinson, Lamm



Dactor

U.W. Tyce, 1937

VI. MILWAUKEE SKI BOWL OPENS AT HYAK IN 1938, BECOMES CENTER OF WASHINGTON SKIING

The period from the late 1930s to the start of World War II was a seminal time for Washington skiing, which the *Seattle Times* said was “concededly the greatest skiing area in North America.” Alpine skiing came to the forefront, Washington’s first modern ski resort opened and rope tows were installed at three ski areas, making skiing more accessible to the public, dramatically changing Washington skiing. In November 1937, the Forest Service reported that 186,000 persons visited National Forests in Washington and Oregon that year. Mount Hood had the highest number of winter visitors, 58,888. Snoqualmie National Forest was second with 46,070. Mount Baker Forest was third with 34,850, and the Wenatchee National Forest had 18,535. Ski developments at Snoqualmie Summit, Heather Meadows at Mount Baker, and Leavenworth caused much of the attendance in Washington National Forests. Twenty-thousand skiers visited Snoqualmie Ski Park and 2,800 was the largest single day, according to the *Seattle Times* of November 17, 1937.

Over the prior decade, skiing had become Seattle’s favorite winter-time sport, featuring areas on two mountain ranges, and the manufacture and selling of ski equipment had become a \$3 million industry, according to *Seattle Times* of July 24, 1938, *Skiing Leads as Seattle’s Favorite Winter-Time Sport*.

Within a comfortable four hours distance a half-dozen of the outstanding ski terrains in the entire nation, Seattle has become the hub of intense activity through the winter months. Every week-end finds 20,000 or more skiers turning to the glistening snowfields of the Cascades, Olympics, to Mount Rainier and Mount Baker...In the Cascades east of Seattle, ski-fans find opportunity at Snoqualmie Pass, Naches Pass, and a half-dozen other points. Newest of the areas is the Snoqualmie Ski Bowl, accessible by ski trains from Seattle and Tacoma.

In January 1938, the Milwaukee Railroad opened a ski area at Hyak, the east portal of its tunnel under Snoqualmie Pass. The new ski area was accessible by train in two hours from Seattle, had a modern ski lodge, an over-head cable ski lift known as a J-bar (known as a Sun Valley lift without chairs), and lighted slopes for night skiing. It was the state’s first modern ski area and it revolutionized skiing in the Northwest. The lift “will give skiers what they seek, a quick and painless ascent to slopes down which they may slide,” according to the *Seattle Times*. The ski area was initially called the Snoqualmie Ski Bowl, but was renamed the Milwaukee Ski Bowl after World War II to differentiate it from the Snoqualmie Summit ski area. The Milwaukee Ski Bowl changed local skiing and created some of the same excitement locally that Sun Valley had done when it opened. It was Washington’s first modern ski resort. The *Seattle Times* offered free ski lessons to Seattle high school students to encourage the growth of the sport.

In the summer of 1939, two world-class ski jumps were built at the Ski Bowl, for the jumping events that were part of the National Four-Way Championships held in Washington.

The best skiers in the country participated in downhill and slalom races at Mt. Baker, cross-country races at Snoqualmie Pass, and jumping at the Ski Bowl.²³

JOHN IN THE
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SNOQUALMIE
SKI BOWL
SATURDAY and SUNDAY
JANUARY 8th and 9th
Leaving 7:15 A. M. and 9:20 A. M.

Photos by Robert C. Schwann
Upper—Ken Syverson in action.
Right—Lodge at Snoqualmie Ski Bowl.

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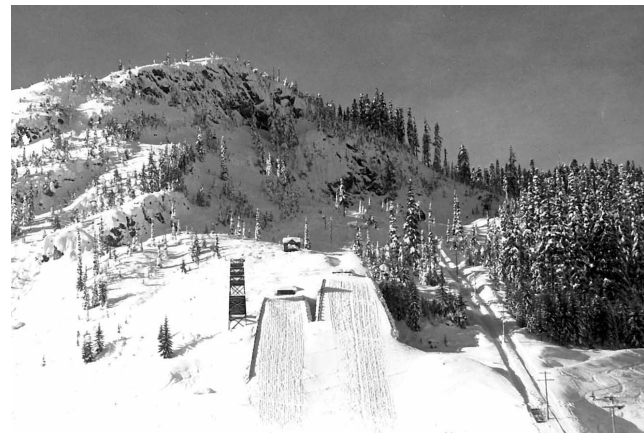
The MILWAUKEE ROAD
Seattle Times, January 5, 1938.



Ski Lodge at Milwaukee Ski Bowl. Picture from Milwaukee Road Historical Society.



Skiers & ski train, Milwaukee Ski Bowl. Picture from MOHAI.



Ski jumps, judge's tower, lift & jumper's warming hut, Milwaukee Ski Bowl. Picture from Walter Page.

²³ Lundin, John, *Milwaukee Ski Bowl, 1938-1950: Revolution in Local Skiing*, Essay 100601.

U.W. - Dartmouth tournament is Sun Valley's First Inter-college Meet

During the Christmas holidays of 1937, Sun Valley held the first of what became an important tradition at the resort, an inter-sectional ski meet for top college teams. The Sun Valley Ski Club hosted the event with John E.P. Morgan handling the preparations. Competition in the Sun Valley meet was in downhill, slalom and jumping. Sun Valley's new 40 meter jump, completed in the fall and named after Sigmund Ruud who helped to design the hill, would see its first action in the meet. Each school sent six person teams.

In December 1937, **University of Washington**, the Pacific Coast champions, met Dartmouth College, the Eastern collegiate ski champions. The *New York Times* of December 27, 1937, said "College Ski Supremacy at Stake in Dartmouth-Washington Meet, Leaders of East and West Coast Clash Friday and Saturday at Sun Valley."

The eyes of American skiers will be focused on Sun Valley...when two of the strongest units in the sport, Dartmouth College and the University of Washington, meet in an intersectional meet...to settle the intercollegiate supremacy of this country in skiing.

Dartmouth was the favorite, coached by European champion Walter Prager and headed by Dick Durrance who won the National Downhill and Slalom championship in Sun Valley the prior spring "over the most brilliant field of down-hill slalom men ever to compete in North America." Six person teams from each school competed in downhill, slalom and jumping. Dartmouth was led by Dick Durrance, national open and amateur downhill and slalom champion; Warren Chivers, national cross-country champion; Howard Chivers; Dave Bradley; and Steven Bradley; and John Litchfield. **Washington's** team included Bob Higman, Lon Robinson, Otis Lampson, Walter Page, Ragnar Qvale and Bob Barto.

Washington had won the first annual Pacific Conference title in 1937, led by John Woodward, by "making a clean sweep of the downhill, slalom and cross-country races." The famous ski instructor Otto Lang had been hired to coach the **Washington** team for the Sun Valley meet. Dartmouth had met **Washington** on Mt. Rainier in 1935, as a warmup to the National Championships, "and won handily; but since then, the Husky squad has...improved tremendously." Six person teams from each school competed in downhill, slalom and jumping. The meet "is the first time in college history that two teams as strong as these have ever met."

Union Pacific advertised its train service to the Intercollegiate Meet in Seattle newspapers, saying "only Union Pacific serves Sun Valley." "Sun Valley, at Surprisingly Low Cost, deep power snow, long, timber-free slopes, a summer-warmth sun." Accommodations were available at the Lodge or the new Challenger Inn, in the complete "mountain village." Rooms for two at the Inn cost \$2.00 a day, and meals for \$1.75 a day. A round trip ticket cost \$36.46, lower berths slightly higher. The accommodations at the Inn were cheaper than at the Lodge, but were significantly smaller for those who wanted to economize.

The mile and a third downhill course descended 2,000 feet from the summit of Bright Mountain, said to be off Ruud Mountain, named after Alex Bright, a member of the 1936 U.S. Olympic team who was on the Board of Governors of the Sun Valley Ski Club. The ski jump and slalom course on Ruud Mountain were used for the first time in the competition. Grandstand seats were constructed on the flat in Trail Creek Valley from the foot of Ruud Mountain to the Creek for 2,500 spectators, providing perfect views of the jumps and slalom races. Skiers would use the newly completed 1,835 foot chair lift for both events.

“Dartmouth Ski Team Sweeps Meet with **U.W.**,” said the *Seattle Times* of January 2, 1938, in spite of Durrance being unable to compete after spraining his ankle. Dartmouth won the downhill, and won the jumping competition “hands down.” Dartmouth took four of five places in the downhill, nine out of ten places in slalom, and scoring the best marks in jumping wining “hands down.” Otto Lang said **Washington** felt very good about the meet, and learned a great deal, but they were not used to that level of competition. After the meet, an exhibition of jumping in single, double and triple take-offs was done by Alf Engen, Walter Prager, Otto Lang, Max Hauser, and Whit Miller.

“The spirit of such an intersectional meet was excellent and attracted favorable comment from the skiing fraternity everywhere,” according to the *Sun Valley Ski Club Report, 1937 - 1938*. The Sun Valley Ski Club decided to sponsor a four-event collegiate meet over next year’s Christmas vacation, which would be an annual event thereafter, and soon “the flood of entries from practically every important college in the nation” exceeded expectations. Except for the war years, they were held every year until 1950. Every important college with a ski team would be invited, the **University of Washington** was a regular participant, and the event became an important part of the ski team’s annual schedule.

The **University of Washington** ski team, “already in the big time,” was destined for more competition. After competing against Dartmouth at Sun Valley, Idaho over Christmas vacation, Washington was planning a meet against Harvard and Yale during spring vacation of 1938, to highlight the school’s annual spring carnival. The **UW Ski Club** would crow a snow queen at the second annual two day Ski Carnival at Mount Rainier at the end of the ski season at a “gala-weekend” that would feature a ski dance on Friday night in Seattle and a championship tournament on Saturday. Downhill, slalom, obstacle and masquerade races would be held. Twenty-five organizations entered the previous year, featuring 76 skiers. The YWCA team won the women’s Pan-Hellenic gold trophy the prior year, and individual winners would get parkas, skis, binding, and poles.



FROM GENE VAN GUILDER
 STEVE HANNAHAN ASSOCIATES
 SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

SUN VALLEY, IDAHO --- Against the snow of Sun Valley, Idaho, the ski team from the University of Washington lines up before its encounter with the Dartmouth ski sextette, December 31 and January 1.

U.W. Ski team at Sun Valley, December 1937. Photo taken by the Sun Valley Publicity Department.



Dartmouth Ski Team at Sun Valley, December 1937. Steve Bradley, Dick Durrance, Howard Chivers, coach Walter Prager, Johnny Litchfield, Walter Chivers. Picture from The Community Library.

Northwest Ski Tournaments

The “heavily favored” **UW ski team** would defended its Pacific Coast Intercollegiate title in early February 1938, for the second time, at Yosemite, against the University of Nevada, California, Stanford, U.S.C., Fresno State and Sacramento Junior College. The Huskies “ran away with the competition” the prior year. *Seattle Times*, January 30, 1938 (page 17).

Record crowds showed up at all local ski areas over Washington’s Birthday weekend in 1938, surprising local resorts. There were 2,287 skiers at Paradise on Mount Rainier; 546 on the one ski train to Snoqualmie Ski Bowl; 1,300 at Cayuse Pass; and 1,200 at Mount Baker. Ski competitions were held at Mt. Rainier, Mt. Baker, and the Ski Bowl (which held another “no-fall” competition). Over 250 members of the American of the American Institute of Bankers crammed on a special train to the Ski Bowl. At Mt. Rainier, Don Amick of the Washington Ski Club, and Don Fraser tied in the slalom race held on Alta Vista, which was part of the Rainier National Park Company’s racing series. Betty Meacham of the **University of Washington** won the women’s event. **Husky men** skiers took top honors in the Pacific Coast’s intercollegiate skiing championships at Yosemite, California.

The Pacific Northwest Combined Championship were held at Spokane on February 20, 1938, on a “blizzard-swept course” that affected racers who started later. Don Fraser of the Washington Ski Club won the downhill and combined. As a result, he “may now pack his skis, his clothes and his dinner jacket,” as he got his expenses paid to go to the National Downhill and Slalom Championships at Stowe, Vt. in early March by the ski club and the Pacific Northwestern Ski Association. **University of Washington** racers placed well. John Woodward was second in the downhill and combined; Lon Robinson of the **University of Washington**, (“who amazed with a high-speed run”) was second in the combined and third in the downhill; The **U.W.’s** Bob Higman was 9th in the combined, and former **U.W.** racer Ragnar Qvale was 14th. Gretchen Kunigk, “Tacoma’s rosy-cheeked defending Northwest slalom champion,” lost the slalom to Skit Smith Babson of Portland, but won the combined downhill and slalom championship. Skit Babson was second in the combined, Virginia Bowden was third. Skit’s sister, Ellis-Ayr Smith, finished fourth in the combined.

The Mountaineers Patrol Race was held on the last weekend of February on “twenty miles of ice.” A Mountaineer’s three-man team won the strenuous event in 4 hours, 57 minutes and 45 seconds. The **U.W. team** of Tom Hill, Walt Page and Harold Stack was second. Each man had to carry a twelve-pound pack and required equipment and clothing, and no team member could finish more than 30 seconds from the other. *Seattle Times*, February 28, 1938 (page 14).

The Pacific Coast Conference Championships were held at Paradise Valley in early March 1938, and “**the University of Washington five-man team**, with well nigh a perfect score for three types of competitions, ran away” with the tournament.” The Huskies scored 100 points, a perfect score, beating California and Oregon. They won the first three places in cross-country,

and the first five places in the downhill and slalom events. Bob Higman won the two-run downhill race, Lon Robinson was 2nd, Otis Lamson 3rd, Bill Hubbach 4th, and Walter Page 5th.²⁴ Lamson won the slalom, followed by Higman, Robinson, Hubbach and Page. *Seattle Times*, March 6, 1938 (page 21).

The next weekend, a team of local skiers competed against the touring Bavarian University ski team at Paradise Valley. **U.W. skiers** on the team included Otis Lamson, Walt Page and Tom Hill. Ulrich Beutter, who won the National Combined Championship the prior weekend at Stowe, Vt. raced on the Bavarian team. *Seattle Times*, March 11, 1938 (page 29).

Two tournaments were held at Mt. Baker in 1938. A combined downhill and slalom tournament was held in March, and a Four-Way tournament sponsored by the Washington Ski Club, where skiers competed in downhill, slalom, cross-country and jumping events over a two day period, was held in early May. Don Fraser won the April tournament, taking first in the downhill and slalom and winning the combined title “in undisputed fashion.”

Entry into Mt. Baker’s May 1938 two day tournament was 25 cents per day. Hjalmar Hvam, Portland’s lean Norwegian skier, “lived up to advance notices” as he easily won the tournament, finishing first in all four events. The surprise of the tournament was the “remarkable showing of Seattle youngsters” on the Class B jump. Wolf Bauer, Mountaineers, John Woodward, **University of Washington**, Scott Osborn and Tom Hill, Mountaineers, all surprised the crowd by their finishes against the best men of the Northwest and Western Canada. Bauer finished fifth, Woodward sixth, and Osborn and Hill finished seventh and eighth.²⁵

Sun Valley International Open - 1938

The second annual Sun valley International Open was held in March 1938, consisting of a combination National Jumping Championship and the National Downhill and Slalom Championship. It was described by the Sun Valley Ski Club Report for 1938, as the “greatest tournament of all” that was “practically a ‘Who’s Who’ in downhill skiing of the world.” The race was known as the Harriman Cup, since Averell Harriman, the founder of Sun Valley, had a

²⁴ “East - West Intercollegiate Meet,” *Sun Valley Ski Club Report for 1937 - 1938*, page 9; ; “Dartmouth-Washington Ski Meet at Sun Valley, 6-Man Teams in 3-Way Duel on Dec. 31, Jan 1,” & “Lang to Coach Washington in Ski Technique,” *Seattle Times*, November 17, 1937 (page 36); “Dartmouth Ski Team Selected for U.W. Meet,” *Seattle Times*, December 8, 1927 (page 22); “Dartmouth Team Sweeps Meet with U.W.,” *Seattle Times*, January 2, 1938 (page 29); “Don Fraser Will Go to Nationals,” *Seattle Times*, February 21, 1938 (page 15); “Skiers Startle Resorts, Unexpected Outpouring Packs Areas; Amick, Fraser in Slalom Tie; & Husky Skiers Win,” *Seattle Times*, February 23, 1938 (page 16).

²⁵ Spring Skiing Ushered in With Bright Sunshine, Miss Wepsala Wins At Baker; So Does Fraser,” *Seattle Times*, April 11, 1938 (page 14); “Hvam Captures Two Events in Mt. Baker Meet,” *Seattle Times*, May 10, 1936 (page 14); “Hvam Wins 4 Ski Events, and Tourney, Portland Ace Runs Off With Mt. Baker Meet,” *Seattle Times*, May 11, 1936 (page 18).

giant silver bowl made for the winner in 1937. In 1937, only men were allowed to race, but this year, there was a separate race for women. The 1938 race was best known for having been run in foul weather. The Challenger Inn was open in the winter of 1938, providing more economical accommodations than the Lodge. Rooms at the Inn cost \$8 per night, while it cost at least \$24 a night at the Lodge. Later chalets were built in back of the Inn where competitors could stay for \$1 a night.

It was a truly international field. Entrants included Walter Prager, former FIS downhill and Kandahar winner; Birger Ruud, twice Olympic jumping champion; Hannes Schroll, winner of the classic downhill in Italy; and Sigmund Ruud, one of the best downhillers in Europe. Students Ulli Beutter and Fritz Dehmel of Germany and Nils Eie from Norway. America's best downhillers entered, Dick Durrance and Ted Hunter from Dartmouth. The Pacific Northwestern Ski Association was awarded six slots for the race, and sent Don Fraser, Northwest combined champion; Don Amick, Northwest slalom champion; John Woodward, formerly of the **U.W. ski team** skiing for the Penguin Ski Club; Lon Robinson, **U. of Washington**; Hjalmar Hvam of the Cascade Ski Club of Portland; and Ken Syverson, head of the Snoqualmie Ski Bowl ski school.

Dick Durrance lost to Ulli Beutter of Bavaria in the downhill, and to Walter Prager in the slalom, but won the combined title, followed by Prager, Beutter, and Hans Hauser.

Northwest skiers had respectable finishes given the level of competition. In the downhill, Don Fraser was 9th; Hjalmar Hvam 10th; Don Amick, 12th; Scott Osborn, 14th; and Bud Brady, 32nd. In the slalom, Fraser finished 6th, Hvam 11th, and Osborn 16th. Don Fraser "really went to town, as he took seventh in the combined in a field of skiers that was stronger than any that had ever competed here before." Hjalmar Hvam was 9th, and Scott Osborn, 12th in the combined.

The women's field was "a complete representation of the West," dominated by skiers with Seattle area connections. "The fireworks of the day occurred in the women's downhill race, over a shorter course." Grace Lindley won the women's downhill, followed by Virginia Bowden and Gretchen Kunigk (who would marry Don Fraser the following year). Tacoma's Ellis Ayr Smith was sixth, and her sister, Mrs. Skit Smith Babson, did not finish. In the slalom, Grace Lindley was first, Mrs. Tom Mitchell of Australia was second, Skit Smith Babson was third, Gretchen Kunigk was fourth, and **U.W.'s** Virginia Bowden was seventh.²⁶

UW Ski Team's Successful Season

²⁶ Holland, *Sun Valley, an Extraordinary History*, page 292; "Sun Valley Open Lures Ski Greats, Northwest Sextet to Enter Meet," *Seattle Times*, March 8, 1938 (page 19); "Beutter Leads at Sun Valley," *Seattle Times*, March 13, 1938 (page 17); "Durrance Victor at Sun Valley, Dartmouth Skier Wins Twin Event," *Seattle Times*, March 14, 1938 (page 16); Berry, Julie, *Sun Valley's Elite Beginnings*, page 49, 50, 53; Pfeifer, *Gretchen's Gold*, page 28; *Pictorial History of Idaho*, <http://idahooutdoor.net/skihistory2/>; "Sun Valley International Open, & Sun Valley Jumping," "Sun Valley Jumping," *Sun Valley Ski Club Report*, 1937 - 1938, pages 6 -12, 20; "Baldy Mountain - Before and After Sun Valley," *Sun Valley Ski Club Annual, Season 1941*, page 47.

The **U.W. Ski Team** had a successful season in the winter of 1937 - 1938, according to the *Tyee*. After getting beat by the National Champion team from Dartmouth at Sun Valley over the Christmas holidays, The **U.W.** successfully defended its Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Championship at Yosemite Park. "Setting an unbelievable pace, **Washington** skiers remained in complete control of all Pacific Coast ski honors for the fourth consecutive season" under coach Otto Lang. Nevada was second and Stanford was third. At Mt. Spokane, the Huskies "trounced their opponents to retain their Northwest Intercollegiate Championship," winning the first four places in the slalom and downhill and the first three in cross-country." Its third meet was at Mt. Rainier against California and Oregon where "the champions had little trouble winning." Captain Bob Higman and Lonnie Robinson were the individual stars, Ragnar Qvale was its best jumper, and Otis Lamson consistently placed high in the three disciplines. Other members were Bob Barto, Walt Page, Tom Hill, and Bill Hubbach. U.W. Tyee, 1937.

Olav Ulland, the famous Norwegian ski jumper who was the first man to jump over 100 meters, resolved his immigration difficulties and could continue to coach the **Husky Ski Team** in jumping as he has since last year. *Seattle Times*, December 8, 1938 (page 37).

The 1938 Tyee said the "Husky snow-skimmers remained in complete control of of all Pacific Coast intercollegiate ski honors for the fourth consecutive season. Although dropping the first meet to the national champion Dartmouth team at Sun Valley, the Husky snow-skimmers found little difficulty in overcoming opposition offered by the various far Western schools. Under the expert coaching of Otto Lang, famous Austrian ski instructor, the Huskies improved with each meet. After losing to Dartmouth, 300 to 259.04, Washington successfully defended its Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Championship at Yosemite Park. Nevada was second and Stanford third. On the steep slopes of Mt. Spokane, the Huskies soundly trounced their opponents to retain the Northwest Intercollegiate Championship. They won the first four places in the slalom and downhill, and the first three in the cross-country. Washington's third and final successful title defense was in the conference meet at Mt. Rainier." Captain Bob Higman and Lonnie Robinson were the individual stars of the team, Ragnar Qvale was the best jumper, and Otis Lamson consistently placed high in slalom, cross-country and downhill competition.



(TOP ROW):
Coach Otto Lang

(MIDDLE ROW):

Otto Larsson (left), Bob Higman, Coach Otto Lang, Bill Hubbach,
Lennie Robinson and Bob Barto ready to leave for the Yosemite meet,
Lennie Robinson

(BOTTOM ROW):

Before a meet (left to right) Bob Barto, Lennie Robinson,
Bill Hubbach, Bob Higman, Coach Otto Lang, Walt Page, Otto
Larsson and Manager Paul Duncan.
The speed poses at Mt. Rainier

Skiing

Setting an unbearable pace, Washington skiers remained in complete control of all Pacific Coast intercollegiate ski honors for the fourth consecutive season.

Although dropping the first meet to the national champion Dartmouth team at Sun Valley, the Husky snow-skimmers found little difficulty in overcoming opposition offered by the various far Western schools.

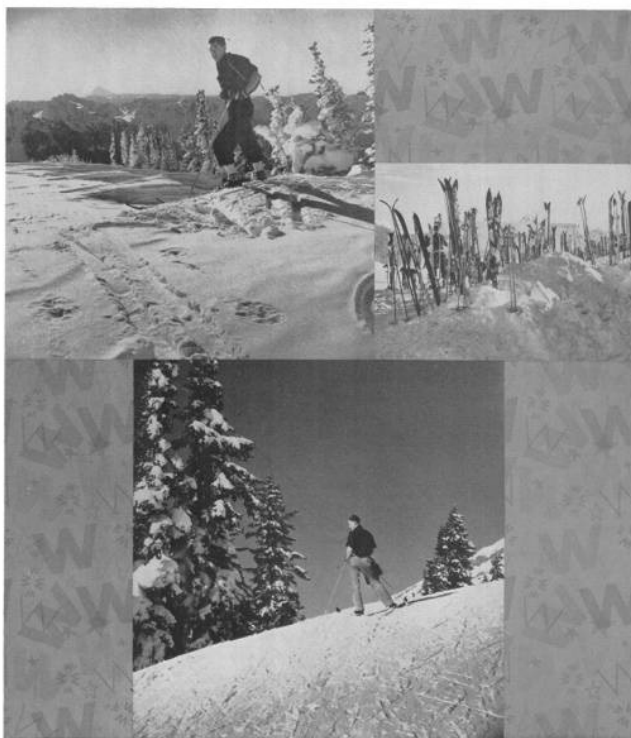
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Washington's third and final successful title defense was in the conference meet at Mt. Rainier. An abbreviated entry list found only California and Oregon as opponents and the champions had little trouble winning.

Captain Bob Higman and Lennie Robinson were the individual stars of the team. Ragnar Qvale, the team's lone sophomore, was the best jumper, and Otto Larsson consistently placed high in slalom, cross-country, and downhill competition.

Other Minor "W" winners were Bob Barto, Walt Page, Tom Hill, and Bill Hubbach.



(UPPER LEFT)
Edward Obata takes time out a thousand feet above Paradise to spot a likely place for a lunch.

(UPPER RIGHT)
Skis at ease.

(BELOW)
On the Panorama trail—not having the heart to look up and see what's to come, Elmore Oistad surveys what he has already conquered.

Data for all pictures on this page:
Exposure 1/100 second at f. 22 with a K 2 filter. S. S. Panchromatic film. Cloudless day in January, bright sun.



**BETTY MEACHAM
All-Around Girl**

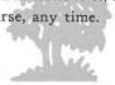
Spends free week-ends winning ski events . . . a former captain of the women's swimming team and a winner in last year's telegraphic swimming meet . . . member of "W" Key, Totem Club, Mortar Board and the A. W. S. Council . . . past president of the Y. W. C. A. . . . former president of Sigma Epsilon Sigma . . . enviable grade average.

U.W. Tyee, 1938

Warding Off Snow White

BY BOB WARD, Tyee Photographer

Underneath, every photographer is a blasphemous man, I think. A varied and scorching vocabulary is the best defense against going mildly insane when flash bulbs fail, film fogs, you forget to pull a slide, developer wears out, etc. Even the boss, Mr. Hubbell, occasionally breaks down, I believe. But we love it, and will tell you so in our own blasphemous way—privately, of course, any time.



U.W. Tyee, 1938

1939 SKI TOURNAMENTS

Annual College Four Event Combined Tournament at Sun Valley

Sun Valley's annual college ski tournament held in late December 1938 and early 1939, fielded 50 racers from **Washington**, Dartmouth, Yale, Washington State, Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Stanford, U.C.L.A., College of Puget Sound, and Idaho. Competitions were held in cross-

country, slalom, downhill and jumping. The fun began two weeks before the tournament, as racers arrived "for training during the holidays" under instructors Friedl Pfeifer, Paul Deschman and Peter Radacher. Christmas eve was celebrated included round-table exchanges of gifts, a Gluhwein party hosted by Kathleen Harriman (daughter of Union Pacific Chairman Averell Harriman) and a tango by Norma Shearer.

The cross-country and slalom contests were held at Baker Creek, north of Sun Valley, due to the lack of snow at the resort. Dartmouth skiers Steve Bradley and Joseph Dunford placed first and second in the "interesting six mile" cross-country course, followed by Otis Lamson from Washington. Washington's Carl Neu won the slalom, beating Dartmouth's Steve Bradley. Washington skiers Bob Barto finished 4th, and Ragnar Qvale 8th in the slalom. Peter Garrett, a Seattleite studying at Yale, won the downhill; Bradley of Dartmouth finished 2nd; Neu 3rd; and Ragnar Qvale 4th. Mary Cates of Stanford won the women's slalom, followed by Yvonne Blossom of Nevada and Kathleen Harriman (Averell's daughter) of Bennington College. Steve Bradley won the combined title, followed by three Washington skiers, Carl Neu, Ragnar Qvale, and Otis Lamson.²⁷

Sun Valley Inter-Collegiate Ski Meet and Four Event Combined

December 30, 1938 to January 1, 1939

Place	No.	Name	School	Total Points
1.	8	Steve Bradley	Dartmouth	398.02
2.	13	Carl Neu	Univ. of Washington	361.16
3.	15	Ragnar Qvale	Univ. of Washington	351.72
4.	16	Otis Lamson	Univ. of Washington	337.15
5.	10	David Quinney	Univ. of Utah	319.58
6.	31	Henry W. Evans	Univ. of Oregon	317.21
7.	5	Dick Kimball	Univ. of Utah	302.90
8.	21	Elton Blazier	Washington State	287.02
9.	9	Felix F. Bertagna	Washington State	234.18

JUMPING RESULTS

Sunday, January 1, 1939

Place	No.	Name	College	Distance—Meters		Score	Points
				1st. Jump	2nd. Jump		
1.	10	David Quinney	Univ. of Utah	38.5	37.5	220.0	100.00
2.	8	Steve Bradley	Dartmouth	37.5	36.5	218.0	99.09
3.	21	Elton Blazier	Wash. State	34.5	36.5	202.3	91.95
4.	11	Martin Arrouge	Univ. of Nevada	35.0	32.5	200.7	91.23
5.	15	Ragnar Qvale	Univ. of Wash.	32.5	34.0	198.2	90.09
6.	50	Reidar Gjølme	Univ. of Wash.	31.5	31.0	190.2	86.45
7.	49	Joe Bradley	Univ. of Wisc.	29.0	33.0	186.2	84.64
8.	13	Carl Neu	Univ. of Wash.	29.5	32.5	185.1	84.14
9.	31	Henry W. Evans	Univ. of Oregon	29.5	31.0	177.2	80.55
10.	6	Otis Lamson	Univ. of Wash.	28.0	27.0	167.4	76.09
11.	5	Dick Kimball	Univ. of Utah	33.5	33.5	161.1	73.23
12.	9	Felix Bertagna	Wash. State	23.0	24.0	113.4	51.55
	*71	Ike Hall		37.0	38.0	209.8	

* Not eligible for Intercollegiate awards.

DOWNHILL RACE RESULTS

Sunday, January 1, 1939

Women's Race

Place	No.	Name	School	Time	Per Cent
1.	61	Yvonne Blossom	Univ. of Nevada	4:27:1	100.00
2.	65	Kathleen Harriman	Bennington College	4:40:3	95.22
3.	63	Mary Cowles	Stanford	5:13:3	85.20
4.	64	Kathryn Beck	Univ. of Utah	6:13:3	71.52
	69	Dorothy Hoyt	N. Y. S. C. T.	2:12:4	—
	*68	Mrs. B. Moore, Jr.		2:45:0	—

* Not eligible for Intercollegiate Awards.

Men's Race

Place	No.	Name	School	Time	Per Cent
1.	7	Peter Garrett	Yale	1:52:2	100.00
2.	8	Steve Bradley	Dartmouth	1:52:3	99.82
3.	13	Carl Neu	Univ. of Washington	1:56:4	96.23
4.	15	Ragnar Qvale	Univ. of Washington	2:02:2	91.83
5.	11	Martin Arrouge	Univ. of Nevada	2:07:4	87.95
6.	32	Phillip Olson	Univ. of Washington	2:08:0	87.81
7.	12	Wolfgang Lert	U. C. L. A.	2:12:4	84.64
8.	1	Dick Mitchell	Univ. of Nevada	2:14:3	83.51
9.	6	Otis Lamson	Univ. of Washington	2:15:1	83.14
10.	3	Joe Dunford	Dartmouth	2:18:1	81.33
11.	20	John C. McKenzie	Univ. of Washington	2:21:4	79.27
12.	31	Henry W. Evans	Univ. of Oregon	2:30:0	74.93
13.	26	Hans Winbauer	Univ. of Idaho	2:41:2	69.64
14.	50	Reidar Gjølme, Jr.	Univ. of Washington	2:54:0	64.60
15.	40	Paul Gillingham	Washington State	3:00:0	62.44
16.	30	Pat Dolan	Univ. of Oregon	3:02:0	61.76
17.	5	Dick Kimball	Univ. of Utah	3:04:2	60.95
18.	9	Felix F. Bertagna	Washington State	3:07:2	59.98
19.	42	Joe Hopkins	Washington State	3:11:0	58.85
20.	34	Robert Kemp	College of Puget Sound	3:12:4	58.30
21.	49	Joe Bradley	Univ. of Wisconsin	3:15:1	57.58
22.	38	Walter L. Wood	Univ. of Oregon	3:15:4	57.41
23.	39	Vill Stegel	Univ. of Utah	3:18:4	56.54
24.	10	David Quinney	Univ. of Utah	3:29:2	53.68
25.	14	Lloyd S. Davis	Stanford	3:32:2	52.92
26.	47	Ralph Lafferty	Univ. of Oregon	3:37:4	51.61
27.	44	Lawrence Fox	Univ. of Utah	3:46:2	49.65
28.	29	Ring Thorgerson	Washington State	3:51:0	48.66
29.	21	Elton Blazier	Washington State	3:59:2	46.95
30.	52	Richard Bradley	Univ. of Wisc. High School	4:16:0	43.91
31.	19	Thomas Wiper	Univ. of Oregon	6:07:2	30.59
32.	45	Samuel Stevens	Univ. of Oregon	8:27:2	22.15
33.	28	David Nottage	Stanford	8:52:0	21.13
D.N.F.	2	Bob Barto	Univ. of Washington	—	—
D.N.F.	24	Walton Wickett	Stanford	—	—
D.N.F.	4	Bob Fletcher	Dartmouth	—	—
D.N.F.	35	Norman Hote	Univ. of Oregon	—	—

* Not eligible for Intercollegiate Awards.

Results of Sun Valley Inter-Collegiate Meet. Sun Valley Ski Club Annual 1939.

²⁷ "Christmas Week College Competitions," *Sun Valley Ski Club Annual - 1939*.

Mt. Baker Tournament

The Mount Baker tournament was held in March 20, 1939, determined which skiers would be eligible to go to Sun Valley, Idaho the following weekend to compete in the National Four-Way Open Championships, the big race of the year. Several “brand new champions” were selected for the trip. Carl Neu of the **University of Washington**, who won the slalom, was third in the downhill, and won the combined title; Paul H. Sceva, Jr. of the **University of Washington**, who won the downhill; Don Fraser, defending Northwest downhill champion, who took second in the downhill; Virginia Bowden of the Washington Ski Club, who won the women’s combined; and “Sigurd Hall, Seattle Ski Club youth, who has improved tremendously in the last year,” who placed second in the slalom. Don Amick, the prior year’s champion, failed to get back from the Yosemite race.

Ten Northwest skiers were selected to compete in Sun Valley based on their results at the Mount Baker tournament: Don Fraser, Don Amick and Paul Gilbreath from the Washington Ski Club; Sigurd Hall from the Seattle Ski Club; Ragnar Qvale from the **University of Washington** ski team; Henry Seidelhuber from the Penguin Ski Club; and Olaf Rodegard of the Cascade Ski Club. The **University of Washington** ski team’s Paul Sceva, Jr. and Seattle Ski Club’s Bert Mortensen would compete in individual events.

Sun Valley National Downhill Four-way Championships - 1939

Sun Valley hosted the major ski meet of the year in late March 1939 - the National Downhill Four-Way Championships, which was the third annual Sun Valley Harriman Cup Invitational Open. It attracted “the foremost skiers of a half dozen nations.” As had been true since the Open series began at Sun Valley in 1937, ski instructors were allowed to compete against the “amateurs” in the tournament, but separate prizes were awarded. Entrants would show their athletic prowess by competing in downhill, slalom, cross-country and jumping. Unreasonably warm weather that reached 100 degrees had the racers “practicing their high-speed turns in bathing suits under a burning sun,” according to the *Seattle Times*. The snow conditions “in the lofty peaks” remained good in spite of the hot spell, however.

The Sun Valley Ski Club Report for 1939, said that skiers from all over the world came to Sun Valley for the race, who would then go to Mt. Hood in Oregon for the United States trials for the F.I.S. International World’s Championships to be held in Europe in 1940, before the Winter Olympic Games.

Toni Matt of the Conway Ski Club won the downhill, Peter Radacher was second, Walter Prager was third, Siegfried Engle was fourth, and Friedl Pfeiffer was fifth. They were all F.I.S. amateurs because they were ski instructors. Dick Durrance, “who had not have time to practice, was out of the running for the first time,” and finished sixth, the highest true amateur. Showing how strong Northwest skiing was, there were 14 Seattle area skiers who finished among the top 44 downhill skiers in the world: Don Fraser, Washington Ski Club (11th); Peter Garrett from

Seattle but skiing for Yale 14th; Paul Gilbreath, Washington Ski Club (21st); Don Amick, Washington Ski Club (23rd); Ragnar Qvale, **U. Washington** (24th); Paul Sceva, Jr., **U. Washington** (25th); Carl Neu, **U. Washington** (30th); Vincent Broze, Seattle Ski Club (34th); Sigurd Hall, Seattle Ski Club (36th); Bert Mortensen, Seattle Ski Club (38th); Henry Seidelhuber, Penguin Ski Club (40th); Matt Broze, Seattle Ski Club (41st); Art Strom, Seattle Ski Club (42nd); and Bunny Baxley, Seattle Ski Club (44th).

The final day included the slalom race and the jumping contest. Friedl Pfeifer, Sun Valley's racing coach, won the slalom, "on a course far less treacherous than the downhill course which brought minor hurts and considerable embarrassment to the topnochers Saturday." Peter Radacher finished second, and Dick Durrance was third, but was the highest finishing true amateur. Northwest skiers in the slalom included Sigurd Hall (9th); Don Amick (12th); Paul Gilbreath (14th); Ragnar Qvale (16th); Don Fraser (21st); Paul Sceva, Jr (26th); Peter Garrett (29th); and Bert Mortensen (30th).

Alf Engen won the jumping event held on Ruud Mountain by leaping 43.5 meters, followed by Gordon Wren of Steamboat Springs. Ragnar Qvale of the **University of Washington** finished highest of the Seattle skiers, taking sixth place with jumps of 33.5 and 35.5 meters. Henry Seidelhuber of the Penguin Ski Club was ninth, Bert Mortensen of the Seattle Ski Club was eleventh, and Sigurd Hall of the Seattle Ski Club was fourteenth.

"Little" Pete Radacher, a Sun Valley ski instructor, won the overall Four-Way Championship at the "strenuous" Sun Valley three-day tournament, and received "recognition as the best all-around skier in America." He also won the Harriman Cup. Walter Prager finished second in the four-way competition. Dick Durrance from Dartmouth won the Amateur Four-Way competition, was third in the Four-Way competition, but yielded his title in the Harriman Cup International Open to Radacher. Ragnar Qvale of the **University of Washington** Ski Team was the highest Northwest finisher in the four-way combined, placing 9th; Sigurd Hall finished 11th; Bert Mortensen finished 13th; and Henry Seidelhuber finished 14th.

1939 National Downhill and Slalom Championships at Mt. Hood

The National Downhill and Slalom Championships were held at Timberline on Mount Hood in early April 1939, which were back in the Northwest for the third time in four years. "The entry list is so crammed with famous skiing names that skiers - and the public- have been kept frantic trying to calculate who has the best chance of winning." The PNSA picked 18 skiers from Seattle Ski Clubs to participate in the race, an "unprecedented" number, some traveling from Sun Valley where they had raced in the National Four-Way Ski Championships, and some from Paradise Valley where they had been training. Washington Ski Club sent Don Fraser, Don Amick, Paul Gilbreath, Bob Higman, Dorothy Hoyt, Virginia Bowden, Shirley McDonald, and Trudy Jahn. The **University of Washington Ski team** sent Paul Sceva, Jr., Bob Barto, Carl Neu, Otis Lamson and Ragnar Qvale. The Penguin Ski Club sent LeRoy Caverly, Henry Seidelhuber, Scott Osborne, and Margaret Schjuehle. Seattle Ski Club sent Sigurd Hall.

More than 125 men and women would compete, constituting “the greatest field of great skiers the West Coast ever saw...Women’s competition will reach the highest plane in history at the tournament.” Dartmouth’s great ski team headed by Dick Durrance would be there. Seattle racers included Don Fraser and Don Amick, and six others from the Washington Ski Club; three from the Penguin Ski Club; six from the **University of Washington**, and one from the Seattle Ski Club.

Freidl Pfeiffer of Sun Valley won the slalom event and Toni Matt of St. Anton, Austria won the downhill event, barely beating Hannes Schroll, “the unpredictable Austrian from California.” However, Dick Durrance won the National Open Downhill and Slalom combined title, by taking second in the slalom and fourth in the downhill. Matt and Schroll were coming to Seattle for the Silver Skis race on Mt. Rainier on April 15. Elizabeth Woolsey of Conn., captain of the American women’s team, won the women’s open and amateur downhill titles. Sigurd Hall of the Seattle Ski Club was the highest Washington skier, finishing 14th in the downhill. Don Fraser of Seattle and Reidar Anderson of Norway missed control gates and were disqualified. **U.W. skier** Carl Neu and Sun Valley’s Freidl Pfeiffer (who won the slalom event) fell in the downhill and wrenched their knees. Grace Carter Lindley of Minneapolis took seventh in the downhill; Dorothy Hoyt of the Washington Ski Club was ninth; and Shirley McDonald of the Washington Ski Club was eleventh.

The slalom race in the fifth annual **University of Washington Ski Carnival**, held at Paradise Valley on Mt. Rainier in April 1939, was won by the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, who had won the 1937 carnival. There were 129 male and 15 girl entrants in the race. In the “hare and hounds chase,” half the University skiers had four hours to catch Virginia Bowden and or Bob Higman, two of the best skiers on the **U.W. Ski Team**. Higman eluded capture but Virginia Bowden was caught 10 minutes before the deadline. *Seattle Times*, April 24, 1939 (page 11).

The Tye of 1939 said “an impressive record of five Coast Championships...a championship for every year they have competed in title events...has been hung up by the Husky ski team at the completion of their 1939 season. Since their entry into the Coast competition in 1934, skiers wearing the purple and gold have been adding prestige to Husky aggregations which has resulted in Washington being recognized as the outstanding team of the West.”

SKI TEAM



Carl Neu skins through a gate at the Sno Valley meet

An impressive record of five Coast Conference Championships . . . a championship for every year they have competed in the title meets . . . has been hung up by the Husky varsity ski team at the completion of their 1939 season.

Since their entry into the Coast Conference in 1934, skiers wearing the purple and gold have been adding prestige to Husky aggregations which has resulted in Washington being recognized as the outstanding team of the West.

Allowing for the vast improvement of the other schools represented in the Coast Conference, the 1939 Varsity nevertheless performed well in the Pacific Coast Conference meet at Yosemite last March. Although Nevada's skiers put on the pressure, the Huskies collected enough points to keep abreast of the other teams, which automatically gave them the title inasmuch as the University of Nevada is not in the conference.

Capt. Otis Lamson led the varsity skiers of whom there were five besides himself-- Carl Neu, Ragnar Qvale, Bob Barto, Paul Seeva, Phil Olson.

The season began with Bob Higman as coach replacing Otto Lang, who had too many ski schools to take care of. In their initial meet at the American River ski bowl, the Huskies got off to a bad start, losing to a powerful Washington Ski club team and generally failing to make an impressive showing.

U.W. Tyee, 1939

Phil Olson, Carl Ness, Bob Barto (seating), Otis Lamson and Bob Higson, this year's downhill and slalom coach, pose before leaving for Sun Valley.



However, in the Mountaineers' Patrol race, a gruelling 20-mile cross-country race, the Husky langlauf team of Lamson, Qvale, and Paul Shuffrath were second only to the tireless Seattle Ski club trio.

Up at Holleyburn, B. C., where the next meet of the Huskies—the Northwest Intercollegiate Ski tourney—was held, opposition squads were routed when the flashing Huskies swept down the Grouse Mountain downhill course and through the slalom flags. Husky power was at its height in this meet, with a perfect score in jumping and cross-country racing also. The squad returned with a perfect score of 400 points out of a possible 400.

Huskies faced tougher competition in the Yosemite races, however. Against Nevada, the Huskies showed some of their weaknesses. They relinquished all of the events to the Nevadans except the langlauf victory, which Bob Barto managed to pull through for the Husky squad.

By their win the Nevada skiers won the Pacific Coast Ski union trophy and the Yosemite Winter Sports club trophy. The Huskies had held these previously.

Members of the varsity squad competed individually in many tournaments during the season but did not make any particular outstanding show.

U.W. Tyee, 1939

1940 SKI TOURNAMENTS

The annual Sun Valley Four-Event Intercollegiate Ski Meet and competition for the Bradley Plate was held in Sun Valley over the New Year on December 30, 1939 and January 1, 1940, where skiers from the **University of Washington** competed against Utah, Colorado, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Washington State, Idaho, Dartmouth, Stanford, Bennington, Yale and Scripps. "A tradition had been started in the first races, a keynote that called for a balance of good fun, eager training under the friendly coaching of Sun Valley's experts, and hard fought competition with generous laurels for the victors and plenty of laughs over the humorous incidents." The racers got training from Sun Valley ski instructors before the races, riding the lifts up Baldy every day to practice with Fred Iselin, Sig Engle and Freidl Pfeifer, who "directed a concentrated program of downhill and slalom training."

The cross-country race held at Galena Store on a well-broken seven mile track was won by Joe Dunford, the only Dartmouth entrant. **Washington** dominated the slalom competition held on Baldy Summit, with Carl Neu winning the title, and other Washington skiers placing 4 - 9. **Washington** skiers took the top three places in the downhill, with Reidar Gjolme winning, his younger brother, Harold (Tass) taking second, followed by Otis Lampson. Harold Gjolmie also won the jumping event at the Ruud Mountain jump, and finished fourth in the cross-country, racing "with an expertness that lent weight to reports from the **Washington** skiers of his all-around ability." He won the award given to the tournament's outstanding overall skier. Kathleen Harriman (daughter of Union Pacific Board Chairman Averell Harriman), skiing for Bennington College, won the Mary Cornelia Trophy for the combined winner in the "girls' competition."

"Gjomle Ski Champ, Seattle Youth Takes First," said the *Seattle Times* of January 2, 1940, describing the Sun Valley Intercollegiate Ski Meet.

Onto the Bradley Plate, sweepstakes trophy in the annual Sun Valley intercollegiate ski meet, today went the name of Harold (Tass) Gjolme of Seattle, **University of Washington** student and son of one-time Norwegian ski jumping champion. Gifted with his father's talent, Gjolme soured off the precipitous slope of Ruud Mountain yesterday in two beautiful jumps - one of 33 meters, the others of 33 ½ - to win the final event of the three day tournament program. That, combined with his second place in the downhill race, fourth in cross-country and sixth in the slalom, was enough to assure the Seattle youth a 381.57 point total out of a possible 400 and a hands down victory in the four-event meet...

A few hours before Harold Gjolme took off from Ruud Mountain in the twin leaps which brought ski jumping victory, his brother, Reidar Jr. paced the field over Bald Mountain's mile-long downhill course. It was in the downhill that Harold finished second, 7.2 seconds behind his brother's 3:03.4 time.

"With such an array of individual stars, **Washington** found little difficulty in capturing the team

championship.”

Race Results
SUN VALLEY FOUR EVENT INTERCOLLEGIATE SKI MEET
AND COMPETITION
FOR THE BRADLEY PLATE AND MARY CORNELIA TROPHY

SUN VALLEY, IDAHO
 December 30, 1939 to January 1, 1940

MEN'S SLALOM

1. Carl Neu	Univ. of Washington	1:16:2
2. Dave Quinney	Univ. of Utah	1:18:2
3. Elton Blazier	Washington State	1:20:2
4. Otis Lamson	Univ. of Washington	1:22:0
5. Tom Cushman	Univ. of Washington	1:22:3
6. Harold Gjølme	Univ. of Washington	1:23:0
7. Paul Sceva	Univ. of Washington	1:23:3
8. Bob Barto	Univ. of Washington	1:23:3
9. John Putman	Univ. of Washington	1:27:2
10. Paul Gillingham	Washington State	1:29:0

MEN'S DOWNHILL

1. Reidar Gjølme	Univ. of Washington	3:03:2
2. Harold Gjølme	Univ. of Washington	3:10:3
3. Otis Lamson	Univ. of Washington	3:16:0
4. Dave Quinney	Univ. of Utah	3:18:0
5. Elton Blazier	Washington State	3:24:2
6. Bob Barto	Univ. of Washington	3:26:3
7. Richard Lewis	Univ. of Washington	3:27:0
8. Whit Miller	Dartmouth	3:30:4
9. Steve Jewett	Dartmouth	3:31:0
10. Ring Thorgerson	Washington State	3:31:2

MEN'S JUMPING

1. Harold Gjølme	Univ. of Washington	220:0
2. Dave Quinney	Univ. of Utah	203:0
3. Reuben Silvola	Univ. of Wisconsin	196:9
4. Joe Bradley	Univ. of Wisconsin	195:0
5. Steve Jewett	Dartmouth	192:6
6. Reidar Gjølme	Univ. of Washington	190:9
7. Elton Blazier	Washington State	187:8
8. Carl Neu	Univ. of Washington	187:0
9. Frank Buhler	Univ. of Washington	183:1
10. Whit Miller	Dartmouth	180:7



Carl Neu, Washington State winner of the Slalom event in the Intercollegiate meet



Miss Kathleen Harriman winner of the Mary Cornella Trophy in the Intercollegiate Meet

Joe Dunford of Dartmouth—the Cross-Country Race winner

Mr. W. A. Harriman presents the Bradley Plate to Harold Gjølme (center) while Steve Bradley, first winner of the plate, smiles approval

Sun Valley Ski Club Annual, Season 1940

On the last weekend of January 1940, Sigurd Hall of the Seattle Ski Club hurt his leg (initially reported as a broken leg) in a slalom race at the Tacoma Day Winter Sports tournament at Paradise on Mt. Rainier, but finished the racer to finish 17th. The race was won by the **University of Washington's** Carl Neu, the National Collegiate Slalom champion.²⁸

The Pacific Coast Conference Championships took place in March 1940, a four-way

²⁸ Sun Valley Ski Club Annual, Season 1940, pages 11 - 12; "Gjomle Ski Champ, Seattle Youth Takes First," *Seattle Times*, January 2, 1940 (page 20); "Sarri Wins Jump; Olav Ulland Second, & Sigurd Hall is Hurt in Slalom," *Seattle Times*, January 29, 1940 (page 14).

tournament starting with jumping at Beaver Lake, then shifting to Paradise Valley on Mt. Rainier for cross-country, downhill and slalom races. The **University of Washington**, the defending champions, would compete against Washington State College, California, Oregon, Oregon State and Idaho. "It looks like tough sliding." The **UW** would be represented by Bob Barto, Carl Neu, Harold Gjolme and Paul Sceva. Unfortunately, Gjolme broke his leg practicing jumping at the Beaver Lake hill and was unable to compete. Harold (Toss) Gjolme was a member of both the golf and ski teams while he attended the University of Washington.²⁹

The annual Northwest Intercollegiate meet was held at Timberline on Mount Hood in mid-March 1940. Five **U.W. skiers** entered - Bob Barto, Paul Sceva, Otis Lamson and Carl Neu. Other entries were Washington State, Oregon, Oregon State, Idaho, Reed College, College of Puget Sound, and the University of British Columbia. *Seattle Times*, March 14, 1940.

The ski year of 1940 ended on a tragic note as Sigurd Hall was killed in the Silver Skis Race on Mount Rainier in April, skiing on icy slopes and in foggy weather. Hall was killed when he veered off course a half a mile from the top and hit a rock, in a dense fog, becoming the first death in ski competition in the U.S. Hall was an outstanding four-way competitor, finishing fourth in the 1940 National four-way event at Snoqualmie Pass and Mt. Baker, behind Alf Engen and his brother Sverre Engen.³⁰

Paul Gilbreath of the Washington Ski Club won the Silver Skis race, "but there was no elation over the win. Death took Sigurd Hall, Seattle Ski Club downhill star, during the running." Tony Matt of North Conway, New Hampshire, finished second by two seconds. Nancy Reynolds of Sun Valley, Idaho, won the women's race, beating Shirley McDonald of the Washington Ski Club.³¹

The *New York Times* carried an article about Hall, saying that Sigurd Hall, 25, "was killed instantly on the slopes of Mount Rainier today during the annual Silver Skis tournament. He became lost in a dense fog, fell and struck a rock head first, while traveling at high speed...Hall apparently lost the trail because of the fog and hit a projecting rock. Paul Sceva, Jr. of the **University of Washington** went end over end just before the finish, righted himself to a sitting position and coasted across the line, unconscious. His knee was sprained."³²

²⁹ "Cougars, Bears Threaten U.W. This Week-End," *Seattle Times*, March 19, 1940 (page 21); "Husky Injured in Practice for Today's Jumps," *Seattle Times*, March 2, 1940 (page 18); "jolme Joins Hutchinson," *Seattle Times*, December 18, 1940 (page 39).

³⁰ Galvin, Dave, Sahalie Historical Note #11, "*Silver Skis*" Races on Mt. Rainier.

³¹ *Gilbreath Wins Silver Skis Race*, *Seattle Times*, April 14, 1940 (page 17); Galvin, *The "Silver Skis" Race on Mt. Rainier*, Sahalie Historical Note #11.

³² *Skier is Killed in Race, Seattle Man, Lost in Fog, Strikes Rock on Mount Rainier Slope*, *New York Times*, April 14, 1940.

The F.I.S. National Downhill and Slalom tournament was held in Alta, Utah at the end of March, with “the brilliant cast of” sixty top skiers from 21 clubs, eleven states and five countries entered, headed by Dick Durrance. Despite a sixty-mile-an-hour gale force wind that reduced visibility to nearly zero, Bill Klein, a ski instructor from Lake Tahoe, won the downhill, schussing the course from the start. Dick Durrance failed to see a snowdrift and “went soaring through the air fifty feet for a severe spill,” although he got up and finished the race. Durrance won the slalom but Walter Prager won the combined title.

“A 20-year old **University of Washington** lad, Bill Redlin, who started to ski only two years ago at Mount Rainier, was runner-up with 316 in the two-event battle.” However, a recheck of the downhill scores led to Bill Klein’s disqualification, meaning that Redlin won the downhill, giving him enough points to win the combined honors and make him the U.S. Downhill and Slalom Champion. Redlin was the next Dick Durrance, according to the *Seattle Times* of March 31, 1940.

The 1940 Tye said the **U.W. ski team** became the National Intercollegiate Champions at the Sun Valley meet over Christmas. “They swept aside all competition there as well as in the Northwest Ski Union meet” at Mt. Hood. The Huskies swept the coast for the fifth consecutive time.



Paul Sceva whips his way down the slalom course. Intercollegiate titlist, the Husky ski team. Left to right: Paul Sceva, Carl Neu, Bob Barto, Jack Schneider, and Reider Gjolme.

NATIONAL INTER-COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONS

The Husky ski team is the National Intercollegiate champion as the result of the National Collegiate Ski meet held at Sun Valley during Christmas vacation. They swept aside all opposition there as well as in the Northwest Ski Union meet held at Mt. Hood the early part of spring vacation. Despite opposition from WSC, OSC, and several California schools, the Huskies swept the coast for the fifth consecutive time. Letter winners are Carl Neu, Paul Sceva, Captain Bob Barto, Harold Gjolme, Reider Gjolme, and Jack Schneider.



*Carl Neu,
Slalom Champ*

*Harold Gjolme,
Intercollegiate Ski Champion*

*Reider Gjolme,
Downhill Champ*

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VII. WAR BEGINS TO AFFECT THE COUNTRY AND SKIING

SKI SEASON OF 1941 IS A BUSY ONE AS WAR LOOMS

The winter of 1941 was the last peace-time ski season before World War II started. Enthusiasm for skiing continued to grow, but hints of the conflict to come were seen by the fact that Army ski troops were training at Mount Rainier.

Sun Valley's Inter-collegiate Tournament & Jeffers Cup

The third annual Sun Valley Four-Event Intercollegiate Ski Meet was held from December 29, 1940 to January 1, 1941, featuring **Washington**, Stanford, Washington State, Utah, Colorado, Bennington, Wyoming, Wisconsin, and Gonzaga. The competition was between Washington's Bill Redlin and Carl Neu and Stanford's Bobby Blatt (who was from Seattle and skied for Garfield High School). Blatt had been the No. 1 racer for Garfield High School in Seattle before moving to California. It was won by the **University of Washington** team that "swept the team honors."

The downhill was run on a 1 3/4 mile course on Bald Mountain, starting 200 yards above Roundhouse Station, then down "the newly widened Canyon and Riverside Runs, with a total drop of 2,300 feet." A newcomer, Bill Redlin of the University of **Washington**, set the pace and made the outstanding run, beating the old timers to win the event "with an outstanding run," followed by Bobby Blatt of Stanford, and Carl Neu, captain of the **Washington** team.

The entire meet was a three-sided duel between those three skiers. Neu won the cross-country race, beating his teammate Art Strom, but Redlin won the slalom with Blatt finishing second and Neu third. Blatt finished ahead of the others in the jumping event, winning the Bradley Plate, with Redlin second and Neu third. "Bill Redlin showed an intensity and speed reminiscent of Dick Durrance. We'll be hearing of him again for he's one of America's most promising young skiers." Washington's Jack Schnieder finished 4th in the combined, Bob Behnke was 7th, and Husky skiers finished 10th through 16th.

The **University of Washington 1st team** won the team competition, with the **University of Washington 2nd team** finishing second, and Washington State College third. Seattle's Garfield High School cheered the award of the Bradley Cup individual scoring award to Stanford's Bobby Blatt who was the No. 1 performer for the Bulldog Ski Club a few years ago. The U.W.'s Bill Redlin placed second in the combined.

MEN'S TEAM RESULTS

		DOWNHILL	SLALOM	COMBINED TOTAL
1.	U. of Washington	1st Team 322.0	325.6	647.6
2.	U. of Washington	2nd Team 267.9	297.8	565.7
3.	Washington State	267.4	290.1	557.5
4.	Stanford	269.1	283.4	552.5
5.	U. of Idaho	220.9	247.9	468.8

FOUR EVENT COMBINED

PLACE	NAME	COLLEGE	TOTAL POINTS
1.	Bob Blatt	Stanford	379.0
2.	Bill Redlin	U. of Washington	375.2
3.	Carl Neu	U. of Washington	365.4
4.	Jack Numbers	U. of Idaho	336.8
5.	Jack Schneider	U. of Washington	332.7
6.	David Quinney	U. of Utah	331.3
7.	Felix Bertagna	Washington State	324.8
8.	Bob Behnke	U. of Washington	322.0
9.	Elton Blazier	Washington State	321.6
10.	John Putman	U. of Washington	314.5
11.	Kjell Qvale	U. of Washington	314.1
12.	Reidar Gjølme	U. of Washington	312.6
13.	Frank Buhler	U. of Washington	293.6
14.	Jim Murphy	U. of Washington	284.0
15.	Gordon Perkins	U. of Washington	269.3
16.	Art Strom	U. of Washington	267.4



Carl Neu was high man in the Cross Country (Intercollegiate)

Darryl Zanuck congratulates Janet Quinney on winning the Combined (Intercollegiate)

Bill Redlin took first in the Slalom and Downhill (Intercollegiate)



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Sun Valley Ski Club Annual, Season 1941

University of Washington Ski Team tryouts were scheduled for the first Sunday in January 1941 at Paradise Valley.

The **University of Washington "A" team** won the team title in the Penguin Ski Club's Giant Slalom tournament at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl held on January 12, 1941. The Seattle Ski Club was second, the Penguin Ski Club "A" team third, and the University of Washington B team was fourth. Boyd French from Portland's Cascade Ski Club won the individual title, followed by Matt Broz of the Seattle Ski Club. U.W. skiers finished as follows: Jack Schneider,

4th; John Thompson, 7th; Bob Benke, 11th; John Mulhollan, 18th; John Putman, 21st; Kjell Qvale, 25th; Frank Buhler, 26th; Jim Murphy 31st; John Woodin, 34th. *Seattle Times*, January 13, 1941.

The **University of Washington** sent a team to the Fourth Annual Jeffers Cup Ski Tournament at Sun Valley in late January 1941, to compete in downhill, slalom and jumping competitions against teams from California, Idaho, Utah, Oregon, Colorado, Montana and elsewhere. The teams arrived a week before the race to take advantage of the perfect weather. The **U.W.**'s Bill Redlin ("the Pumpnickel and Cheese Kid") was the only downhill racer to "successfully straight-schuss the Steilhang of the Warm Spring Run on Baldy Mountain" in the downhill race. Redlin was later seen "swimming with Claudette Colbert, the skiing-movie queen at Sun Valley." **Husky Ski Team** Captain Carl Neu tried the schuss but "caressed a tree at the bottom, and finished out [sic] the meet with a lame shoulder." Hugh Bauer wrenched an ankle in the race. Coach Cotton Wilcox was seen taking lessons on the "precipitous" slopes of Dollar Mountain.

Washington placed third in the team scores for men in the combined competition, following California and Idaho. Individual honors in the combined went to Alf Engen of Idaho, followed by Kaare Engen of Idaho and Bill Redlin of **Washington**. Washington's Hugh Bauer finished 7th, Henry Seidelhuber 9th, Art Strom 11th, Carl Neu 15th, and Jack Schneider 22nd. Gretchen Fraser of Colorado won the women's combined in downhill and slalom, followed by Nancy Reynolds of Idaho.³³

Other Ski Tournaments in 1941

Four Seattle skiers went to the National Downhill and Slalom Championships in Aspen, Colorado in March 1941 - Bill Redlin, the "headliner" **University of Washington** racer, and three racers from the Washington Ski Club, Hugh Bauer, Bill Taylor and Shirley McDonald. From Aspen, they would go to the Far West Kandahar event at Yosemite, and then to the National Four-Way Championships at Sun Valley.

The National Downhill and Slalom Championships held in Aspen, Colorado in March 1941, were won by Toni Matt of Austria, who was teaching at North Conway, N.H., with Dick Durrance coming in second. However, "the boy who deserved greater acclaim" was Bill Redlin, the "brilliant **University of Washington** runner," who won the U.S. Amateur Ski Crown for the second year in a row, and finished third behind the two headliners in both downhill and slalom. Redlin scored more points than Alf Engen, the veteran skier from Sun Valley, who was fourth. Gretchen Kunigk Fraser won the women's downhill race with "a brilliant run" finishing 11 seconds ahead of the second place finisher on Roch's run the first racing trail cut on Aspen

³³ "Husky Ski Team Wins Sun Valley Title," *Seattle Times*, January 1 & 3, 1941 (pages 25, 26); "Sun Valley Four-Event Intercollegiate Ski Meet," & "Western Interstate Ski Meet and Competition for the Jeffers Cup," *Sun Valley Ski Club Annual, Season 1941*, pages 18, 22 - 24; "Sitz-Marks & Remarks, Sun Valley Notes," by Chuck Garrett, *Seattle Times*, January 22, 1941 (page 19).

Mountain. Gretchen was third in the slalom, and she won women's combined division, becoming the National Downhill and Slalom Champion. Fraser was from Tacoma but was living in Denver, Colorado, where her husband Don worked for Union Pacific Railroad. "The 22 year old bride had made it all the way to the top spot in the nation."³⁴

The annual Mountaineers Patrol Race was won by the Washington Alpine Club team of Al Wilson, Grant Lovegren and Carleton Greenfield. Second was the 41st Division Army Ski Patrol team from Camp Nisqually on Mount Rainier. The Mountaineers Patrol team was third. All five patrols finished within one hours time of each other. However, the **U.W. Husky** team of Bob Behnke, John Scott and John Woodlin "deserve a cheer for their efforts officially gone haywire. Legs were 'shot' when the patrols reached the Meany Lane run to the finish line, check turns were difficult on the icy going, and most of the tired patrol members staged a sprawling act for the officials at Meany Ski Hut."³⁵

An "Ace field" competed at the third annual National Four-Way Championships at Sun Valley, Idaho and Harriman Cup Race in late March 1941. The "tough" downhill event was held on Bald Mountain. Racers dropped 3,200 feet in two miles from the top of the mountain, down "the precipitous backdrop of the ridge for a half mile...then hit the upmpety-bumpety dangers of the 'rock garden,' and swung left in a wide, step curve to the start of the Canyon Run." Skiers must think they "started one long schuss into Satan's reception hall. It's steep as ____." The chair-lift up Baldy paralleled the downhill course, "which was challenge to the daring and high-speed skills of the nationally famous skimen" there for the race.

Sun Valley ski instructors won the top two places in the downhill, Sigfried Engel won the downhill followed by Freidl Pfeifer. Twenty finishers of the downhill qualified for the slalom race the following day, which included Seattle racers Bill Redlin from the **University of Washington**, Don Amick ("who skied sensationally to finish 14th in the star-studded downhill"), and "young" Johnny Thompson, Bert Mortenson, Hugh Bauer, and Bill Taylor. The cross-country race, held around the base of Dollar Mountain, was won by Olaf Rodegard of Portland, followed by Dave Bradley, and defending champion Alf Engen of Sun Valley

Freidl Pfeifer, "headman in Sun Valley skiing," showed himself once again to be "the superior master of the Slalom," by winning the "snaky" slalom race held on Christmas Bowl on Bald Mountain, beating Chris Schwarzenbach of Stanford University, and Siegfried Engl. Washington Ski Club's Hugh Bauer and Don Amick "did themselves proud" by finishing 13th and 14th in the slalom, since last years winner, Dick Durrance, placed 18th. Alf Engen was leading the Four-Way competition, and was expected to win the event the next day during the

³⁴ *Matt Wins U.S. Downhill; Redlin 3rd; Durrance 2nd in Skiing Test; Kunigk Winner*, Seattle Times, March 9, 1941 (page 19); *Redlin Takes U.S. Amateur Ski Crown, Toni Matt Wins National "Open" Title at Aspen*, Seattle Times, March 10, 1941 (page 17); Pfeifer, *Gretchen's Gold*, page 41.

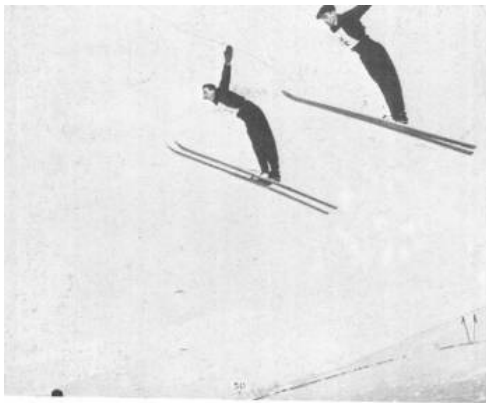
³⁵ *Washington Alpine Patrol Repeats in Langlauf Ski Events*, Seattle Times, March 10, 1941 (page 17).

jumping competition held on Ruud Mountain on its 50 meter jump.³⁶

In April 1941, the *Seattle Times* said **Washington** ski coach Chester (Cotton) Wilcox had cause to be proud of his ski team. The team won the intercollegiate meet in Sun Valley, placed four skiers on Washington's team that competed at the Jeffer's Cup in Sun Valley that finished second to the Idaho team, won the team trophy at the Penguin Giant Slalom at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl in January, and won the cross-country and slalom events at Yosemite before California's unusual weather cancelled the 1941 Pacific Coast Conference Championships, defending its Northwest title. Bill Redlin brought the Huskies top individual honors when he won the U.S. Amateur downhill and slalom title at Aspen. Coach Wilcox said Redlin was "the finest competitor I've ever seen on skis...The former Husky ace was noted on the ski lanes for his daring and recklessness in competition, and his all-around skill and courage won him his share of Far Western ski titles." *Seattle Times*, April 1, 1941 (page 20) & June 7, 1942 (page 5).

The 1941 Tyee said "the Washington Ski Team had the greatest season in the history of Husky Skiing. Spell the name of Bill Redlin and you carve the story of Husky leadership, mention Carl Neu and the team's exploits are emblazoned in glory." The **U.W.** won the Intercollegiate meet at Sun Valley and Redlin won the National Amateur Downhill and Slalom championships at Aspen. The **Huskies** won the Penguin's Giant Slalom at Snoqualmie and the slalom and cross-country at the Pacific Coast Conference meet at Yosemite.

³⁶ *Seattle Skier Takes Bad Spill at Sun Valley, & Sun Valley Ski Star Triumphs Over Ace Field; Sitzmarks: and Remarks*, by Chick Garrett, & *Sun Valley Ski Star Triumphs Over Ace Field*, *Seattle Times*, March 23, 1941 (pages 7 & 9) Pfeifer, *Gretchen's Gold*, page 42.



Jack Schneider and Art Strom in mid-air.



Husky Skiers Jim Murphy, Bill Redlin, Carl Neu, Jack Schneider, Art Strom and Frank Buhler before the battle.

SKIING

Boasting a bumper crop of experts, the Washington **Sk**i Team had the greatest season in the history of Husky Skiing. Spell the name of Bill Redlin and you carve the story of Husky leadership, mention Carl Neu and the team's exploits are emblazoned in glory. Starting the season by capping the Intercollegiate meet at Sun Valley, Redlin won the downhill and Neu sped to a cross-country victory. Later, Redlin won the National Amateur Downhill and Slalom championships at Aspen, Colorado. More feathers in their caps came when the Huskies won at the Penguin Club's Giant Slalom at Snoqualmie and the cross-country and slalom races at Yosemite in the Pacific Coast Conference meet. Blinding snowstorm called the jumping and downhill events off.

Along with Redlin and Neu were Art Strom and Jack Schneider who tied for first place in the Sun Valley jumping. John Putnam, Frank Buhler, Carl Bernke and John Woodin were constant point contributors during the whole season. Jim Murphy, a potential point winner, was hurt early in the season while jumping. Next year will see everyone back. According to Coach Cotton Wilcox, the Huskies will challenge Dartmouth to determine U. S. Collegiate supremacy.

Bill Redlin (left) and Carl Neu as they go through a gate.



U.W. Tyee, 1941

ARMY MOUNTAIN TROOPS TRAIN ON MT. RAINIER BEFORE MOVING TO CAMP HALE - U.W. SKIERS PLAY KEY ROLES

With World War II being fought in Europe in 1941, the U.S. Army was preparing its troops for future combat. U.S. Army Troops trained for mountain warfare on Mount Rainier from 1940 - 1942, taking advantage of the conditions that had attracted local skiers there for years, before moving to Camp Hale, Colorado in 1943. The troops were stationed at Longmire on Mount Rainier. The soldiers attracted the attention of women reporters, who wrote articles for the Society pages. "Now Skiers have a new subject of conversation: the Army...At Paradise last weekend, we saw enough broad shoulders bearing up under the strain of officers stripes to make a Sun Valley ski instructor take a back seat."

In November of 1940, there was a rumor that the Milwaukee Ski Bowl may become the training site for special United States Army ski troops. A plan had been suggested whereby Army men selected would be drilled at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl from Monday to Friday with Ken Syverson Ski School instructors. Adding credence to the rumor was the story that the 3rd Division (Regular Army) and 41st Division (National Guard) were authorized to purchase skis. Army mountaineering news was further confirmed in February 1941, when the **Seattle Times** announced that Lt. John B. Woodward (former star of the **U.W. Ski Team**) and 18 members of the 15th Infantry Ski Patrol "soldier boys" stationed at Longmire on Mt. Rainier were "pitching their tents on the cold, cold snow tonight," as the ski troopers left on a three-day trek keeping at the 5,000 to 6,000 foot level. The following week, they were planning to take a five-day hike, and the week after, a seven day trek was scheduled.

Lt. John Woodward and Captain Paul Lafferty were members of the newly formed unit, which was part of the 15th Infantry. Woodward, "formerly a fine **UW ski racer**," created the first "big excitement" among the skiers as he was appointed as a ski instructor. "Definitely professional-looking are these ski troops in their forest green downhill pants and parkas,. (They do a few quick-change tricks, too, when occasion demands all-white ski toggery)." The soldiers were expected to enter some of the races that year, as their enthusiasm was not dampened by five full days of skiing. In early February 1941, the 15th Infantry Ski Patrol Detachment participated in a three day training mission, followed by a five day jaunt, and then a seven day trip They would keep at the 5,000 and 6,000 foot level the whole time, and pitch their tents "on the cold, cold snow." "But the ski-troopers can take it!" The 18 men were hand-picked from the 56 who applied, and were picked for sturdiness not "Fancy Dan stuff on skis."³⁷

Army troops trained on Mount Rainier during the winter of 1942, working six days a week from dawn to dusk. Their rigorous schedule developed expert skiers from novices, and shaped the techniques of "many crack skiers who the unit numbers as ski instructors."

³⁷ Galvin, *Ski Troops of WW II*, Sahalie Historical Note #15; "Feminine Version, Skier Rita Visits Army Skiers," *Seattle Times*, January 9, 1941 (page 21); "Sitz-Marks and Remarks, Army Ski News," by Chick Garrett, *Seattle Times*, February 4, 1941 (page 17).

Woodward and Lafferty had to decide whether the ski troops would use Swiss or Austrian ski techniques. Both were partial to the Swiss technique that relied on stemming, unweighting and weight transfer to make turns. The Arlberg technique used an exaggerated upper-body rotation that caused a person to swing too much when wearing a heavy pack. Walter Prager and Peter Gabriel were the only two soldiers from Switzerland who knew the Swiss technique. The Austrians would not go along with using the Swiss technique, so the mountain troops were taught a "modified Arlberg," using the leg part of the technique but not the shoulder part, when wearing a pack. Lt. Woodward led his troops on a 15 day hike along the crest of the Cascades from Snoqualmie Pass to Mt. Rainier as a training exercise.

ARMY SKI PATROL BATTLES CASCADES' HAZARDS



Fifteen officers and men of the Army's 3rd Division Ski Patrol were resting today at Fort Lewis after a seven-day trek along the crest of the Cascade Range from Snoqualmie Pass to Chinoak Pass. This photograph shows the men, heads bowed, fighting uphill in a blinding snowstorm during the trip. The patrol was beset by thaws and freezes which made ski travel extremely difficult.—A. E. photo.

Seattle Times, February 24, 1941



U. S. SKI TROOPS IN ACTION



America's newest ski troops underwent their first maneuvers yesterday in Paradise Valley. They were composed of experienced skiers in the 41st Division, stationed at Camp Murray. Upper—Taking a trial spin, with Mount Rainier in the background. Lower—Skiers use sheets as a substitute for camouflage. They made themselves almost invisible. They are shown in firing position.—A. P. wirephoto.

Seattle Times, February 24, 1941

The Army permitted its mountain troops to enter competitions where their skills could be tested against non-military skiers. In late March 1942, five Army skiers from Mount Rainier “stole the show” from college racers at the Pacific Northwest Intercollegiate Championships at Mount Rainier. A short stocky skier from Manchester, New Hampshire, private Charles McLane, was the best performer, beating **University of Washington** skier Karl Neu by four

seconds in the giant slalom. Another Army skier from New Hampshire won the downhill. Army skiers competed in their Army issue ski trooper clothes and white skis.

The Silver Skis race on Mt. Rainier was the last tournament of 1942. Army ski troops, who were described as “dangerous,” entered the race along with the cream of the crop of local racers. There were 54 entries, including seven from the “crack mountain troops.” The course was set by Lt. John Woodward. Seattle Ski Club veteran Matt Broze won the 3.16 mile race from Camp Muir to Edith Creek Basin in “near record time” of four minutes and 57 seconds, beating Walter Prager. Ray Zoberiski, the highest Army skier, placed fourth. “The entire course was visible for the hundreds of spectators who lined the course. The snowfields were fast and icy, but on Panorama and Edith Creek, the snow was smooth and well packed.” Shirley Macdonald of the Sun Valley Ski Club won the women’s race from Camp Muir to McClure Rock by nearly one minute. The 1942 Silver Skis race was the last held during the war, and the race was not run again until 1946.³⁸

In 1942, Woodard was assigned to Camp Hale, Colorado where the Army was setting up a training facility to train a regiment of Mountain Troops. Woodward was asked to select 100 to 200 ski instructors to write manuals on skiing and mountain training, select training areas, and have everything ready when the camp opened. Woodward’s Mountain Training Center (MTC) detachment gathered information from many different sources for the manuals and wrote drafts of manuals that were later used. At Camp Hale, he commanded the first Mountain Training Center detachment, directing the ski instructors for the newly formed 10th Mountain Division, and was responsible for developing standards to train over 600 Army ski instructors. For two years, Woodard, then an Army Captain, commanded the 10th Cavalry Reconnaissance Unit which contained many of the country’s best skiers and mountaineers. In 1945, as a lieutenant colonel, he served as executive officer for the 87th Infantry in Italy. Woodard returned to the Northwest after the war and spent his life in the ski industry. He died in May 2016, at age 101.³⁹

In addition to the ski troops learning their skills on Mount Rainier, the Army also trained paratroopers how to ski and engage in mountain warfare at Alta, Utah, in the winter of 1942. Dick Durrance was the country’s outstanding ski racer of the 1930s, “America’s first skiing superstar,” whose “skills as an Alpine skier...made him a legend.” Durrance was hired to lead the school, and he hired some of the country’s best known skiers to teach the paratroopers. He was well known in the Northwest having raced here a number of times. The Northwest became

³⁸ Galvin, Dave, Sahalie Historical Note #15, *The Ski Troops of WWII; Army Skiers are Expert, Mountain Troops Outrace Colleges in Pacific NW’s Intercollegiate Championships*, by Lt. John Jay, Seattle Times, March 22, 1942 (page 6); *Days of Innocence, a training film for a non-existent unit*, Skiing Heritage, Fall 1995; *The Golden Years of John Jay*, Skiing Heritage, April 2001; *Army Entries in Silver Skis are Dangerous*, Seattle Times, April 5, 1942 (page 5); *Matt Broz Captures Silver Skis Classic*, Seattle Times, April 13, 1942 (page 19); Galvin, *Silver Skis Races*, Sahalie Historical Note # 11.

³⁹ Gilbert, Kirby, *Remembering John Woodard - A Northwest Ski Legend*, The Ancient Skier, Summer 2016.

interested in Durrance's mission because he recruited Bill Redlin, a local ski hero and well-known racer for the **University of Washington**, to teach for him. In January 1942, the *Seattle Times* announced that Seattle's Bill Redlin, "man of the hour in Pacific Northwest downhill and slalom ski racing - and United States amateur champion," would not be competing that season, since he accepted a position working with Dick Durrance for "Uncle Sam at Alta, Utah." The U.S. Army was training paratroopers "in the fine art of skiing" at Alta, under the tutelage of Dick Durrance, "Alta professional and former national downhill and slalom champion."⁴⁰

REDLIN WILL FORSAKE N. W. SKI RANKS AS ARMY TUTOR

MACZEN, HILL TIE IN ALLEY MEET; SPILL 1,480 PINS

By ALEX SHULTS

Eleven years ago, Freda Weber came along from Tacoma to watch her brother-in-law, Louie Vitalech, bowl in the first Ideal Classic, the outstanding singles competition in Northwest bowling. There she met Don (Doc) Maczen of Eatonville, who also did his bowling in the City of Destiny.

Late last night "Doc" dropped \$12.50 prize money in the lap of his Christmas bride, Freda Weber, for he came from nowhere on the last shift of the day to bowl a smashing 1,480 and tie Aino Hill of Aberdeen for first place.

A lot of pins have tumbled before the bowling barance since that first classic 11 years ago. Vitalech bought the Ideal Alloys here and started running the Classic, instead of bowling in it, and Maczen showed up once a year to bowl and to court Freda.

Christmas morning Doc and Freda roasted Vitalech out of bed. "You've gotta be our best-man," they declared. Maczen moved to Seattle six months ago, went to work as a machinist at the Washington Iron Works, and decided to take unto himself a bride.

Hill rolled his 1,480 on the second shift of the day, nosing out Dick Jacobs of Bremerton, who put together a 1,478 on the first shift of the day over the seven-game course across seven alleys.

From then on the second day was a succession of disappointments as bowler after bowler entered and 164 of them showed up and competed—name close, only to fall by the wayside.

BYE-BYE, BILL



Bill Redlin, U. S. downhill and slalom champion, today was back home from Sun Valley, where he and his University of Washington teammates swept to team honors in the national intercollegiate—back in time to verify a report that he will accept a post as ski teacher for Army paratroops at Alta, Utah. He will work under the supervision

Ace To Teach Paratroopers At Alta Resort

By CHUCK GARRETT

Bill Redlin, man of the hour in Pacific Northwest downhill and slalom ski racing—and United States amateur champion in those events—may be lost to P. N. S. A. competition this season.

In fact, Redlin announced this morning, shortly after returning from Sun Valley, Idaho, with University of Washington ski team members, that he had just about made up his mind to accept a position as ski teacher for Uncle Sam at Alta, Utah.

Tomorrow he will head for Alta, where the United States Army plans to start training paratroops the fine art of sitting next week. He will work under the supervision of Dick Durrance, Alta professional and former national downhill and slalom champion, who has contracted with the government to provide instruction.

Hugh Bauer of Seattle, prominent local four-event skier, also is on the list of 10 assistants named by Durrance and left for Alta today.

And word from Sun Valley this morning indicated that such top amateurs as Bobby Blatt of Stanford University, Barney McLean, ace Rocky Mountain Ski Association and University of Utah performer; Gordon Wren, Steamboat Springs, Colo., and Sel Hannah, headline ex-currer, had also decided to serve as Alto instructors.

Walter Frazer, one of the world's top 10 skiers and former Dartmouth College ski coach—who in recent months has figured prominently in Northwest ski news as a member of the special ski troops stationed at Mount Rainier and Fort Lewis—already is stationed at Alta.

He, too, will serve as ski teacher for the daring paratroopers who may (all supposition, of course) soon be landing from the skies and shooting down mountain slopes on "portable" skis.

FREDHEIM WINS JUMPING TITLE; HILL IS SECOND

Sverre Fredheim, best United States ski jumper in the 1936 Olympic Games, who moved to Seattle a year ago for defense work, yesterday proved that he's lost none of his form through the air when he won the Class A title in the Pacific Northwestern Ski Association Zone 1 championships at Seattle's Ski Club's Tverdal Hill, Beaver Lake, Snoqualmie Pass.

The veteran ski flier, who now is working on flying ships at Boeing's, was beaten on combined distance by Ernie Hill, another defense worker moved here from Espenoning, Mich., but his beautiful form on leaps of 131 and 167 feet gave him almost nine points more than Hill in the final reckoning.

Fredheim was awarded a 229.4 points, Hill 221.7. Following the two leaders in third place was veteran Ole Tverdal of Seattle Ski Club.

Class B honors went to Adolph Dahl, Seattle Ski Club, his two fine leaps of 146 and 149 feet giving

German Ski Meets Off

By Associated Press.

BERN, Switzerland, Monday, Jan. 5.—All ski competitions in Germany have been canceled following Adolf Hitler's appeal for skis and ski boots for use on the Eastern Front, advices from Germany said today.

him a comfortable margin over the field, with 214.8 points. Karl Stang, one of the best-looking junior jumpers to develop last season, took second with a 111-point margin over Hank Seidelhuber of

Seattle Times, January 5, 1942

SKI TOURNAMENTS 1942

The annual Four-Event Intercollegiate Ski Meet was held at Sun Valley over the Christmas/New Years holiday of 1941, where "a special flavor pervades the lovely sheltered bowl with its rim of ridges and snowy peaks...At Christmas, Sun Valley turns collegiate - with all

⁴⁰ "Husky Bill Has the Knee Action," *Seattle Times*, February, 1941 (page 15); "Redlin Will Forsake N.W. Ski Ranks As Army Tutor, Ace to Teach Paratroopers at Alta Resort," *Seattle Times*, January 5, 1942 (page 16).

the life and fun and gaiety, the arrogance, the deference, the shy reserve and the boisterous noise that goes naturally with a crowd of boys and girls, away from their books and laboratories - out for a good time - but tempered by the responsibilities and anxieties that come from competition.” That year, Sun Valley had perfect skiing conditions.

As usual, the **University of Washington** ski team showed up with a strong team. For the second year, Bill Redlin of the **University of Washington** and Bill Blatt of Stanford (who was from Seattle) fought it out for individual honors. Blatt “turned the tables” on Redlin this year, winning the mile-and-a-half downhill race, with Redlin taking second. The prior year, Redlin was first and Blatt was second. The **U.W. 1st Team** won first place in the downhill and the slalom combined, followed by the **U.W 2nd Team**, Washington State, Dartmouth, University of Utah, University of Idaho, Stanford, and U.C.L.A.⁴¹

In Sun Valley’s Interstate Race in mid-January 1942, the California men and women “walked off” with the team trophies, which involved downhill, slalom and jumping events for the men. The downhill was run on Warm Springs where the “Steilhang” presented the greatest challenge. The most popular racer was 15-year old Jack Reddish from Salt Lake City, Utah, who weighted 90 pounds. “No praise is too great for this courageous little skier who, despite the tremendous handicap resulting from his lack of poundage, skied right along with the field and more than held his own.” The slalom was held on Christmas Bowl, and consisted of two courses, one above the other, each with its separate timing and gate keepers. Contestants ran the first course, had a short rest, then ran the lower course. This had the advantage of eliminating the need to climb back up the hill between runs. Barney McLean of Colorado won both the downhill and slalom races. Bill Taylor of **Washington** finished second in the slalom. Gretchen Fraser, who won the prior year’s combined, was ineligible to compete this year, although she opened the downhill with “a very fine run.” Roy Mikkelsen from California won the jumping competition. In the men’s combined three event contest, California finished first, followed by Utah, Washington, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Nevada and Oregon.

The Pacific Coast Conference Championships were held on Mt. Rainier the third week of March 1942. The **Huskies** competed against Idaho, Washington State, Oregon, California and Oregon State. **U.W.’s** Carl Neu won the slalom race, and other Husky skiers included Bob Smith, John Woodin, Bob Behnke, and Al Strom. The Huskies retained “the title they have held since the four-way tournament was inaugurated in 1936. All of the collegians were slower than two Army ski troopers who were training on Rainier, Charlie McLane and Olfaf Rodegaard. *Seattle Times*, March 22, 1942 (page 8).

⁴¹ *The Valley Sun*, January 16, 1942; Bradley, H.C., *Sun Valley Four-Event Intercollegiate Ski Meet and Competition for Bradley Plate & Mary Cornelia Trophy*, Sun Valley Ski Club Annual Report for 1942, pages 12 - 18; “U.W. Ski Teams Finish One-Two; Smith a Big Help,” *Seattle Times*, December 30, 1941 (page 14); “Blatt Captures Ski Race,” *New York Times*, December 31, 1941 (page 25).

The 1942 Tye said the Huskies maintained their Pacific Coast skiing supremacy for the sixth consecutive year by defending their PCC title at Mt. Rainier and Snoqualmie on March 20 and 21. After leading the Huskies to a second place in the Sun Valley Intercollegiate meet, the **U.W. star** “sensational Bill Redlin” left school to be an army ski instructor at Alta, Utah.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Bob Behnke, Frank Buhler, John Thompson, Gage Chetwood, and Carl Neu.

SKIING

☛ Maintaining their Pacific Coast skiing supremacy for the sixth straight year, the Husky skiers successfully defended their PCC title at Mt. Rainier and Snoqualmie March 20 and 21. The Huskies dominated every event to outdistance Idaho, WSC, OSC, California, and Oregon. Freshman Bob Smith won the jumping competition and finished second in cross country to pace the champions. Captain Carl Neu speeded home first in the slalom event.

Early in the season Washington lost the services of its ace skier, sensational Bill Redlin, intercollegiate and national amateur downhill and slalom champion. Redlin left school to accept a position as army ski instructor at Alta, Utah. Before he departed, however, he led the Huskies to victory in the Sun Valley Intercollegiate, winning the slalom and placing second in downhill. Washington's second squad finished second.

Other Husky skiers are John Thompson, third place winner in Bradley Plate competition, Gage Chetwood, Don French, Art Strom, Bob Behnke, and Bill Taylor. Smith placed first in the Zone One PNSA cross country contest. Taylor won the Northwest downhill and slalom titles at Mt. Baker.



Bill Redlin

U.W. Tye, 1942

1943

Jack Simpson, a star ski racer from Sun Valley, Idaho, attended the University of Washington in 1942 - 1943, before entering the military. Simpson had won the Sun Valley Ski Club Championships in downhill and slalom in 1941. The *Seattle Times* of September 21, 1942, said "Jack Simpson, Prep Ski Ace, Will Go to U." The "17-year old schoolboy phenom from Ketchum, Idaho" will be a member of the University team. The youthful ski ace, winner of the combined title in the Far Western high-school meet last March, "is one of the few people who has traversed the Diamond Run, tricky Sun Valley ski path, in record time." Husky skiers were "tickled pink" to hear of his enrollment, and "freely predicted new records" when Simpson learns the Northwest ski runs. "He'll take Bill Redlin's place in the downhill and slalom," the **U.W. skier** who had won the National Downhill and Slalom Championship. Alf Engen, Sun Valley ski instructor, had worked with Simpson on cross-country and jumping "and Jack has certainly learned fast." Redlin convinced Simpson to attend Washington when Simpson met him at a ski race at Alta, Utah where Bill was training Army skiers.

On November 22, 1942, the *Seattle Times* said the **U.W. ski team** was training at Stevens Pass." Jack Simpson was expected to be "the No. 1 man on the Husky ski team which will race in the Intercollegiates at Sun Valley over the Christmas and New Year's holidays." Capt. Bob Behnke and Johnny Woodin were planning to brush up on their jumping at Tverdal Hill, Beaver Lake, over Thanksgiving. Gas rationing was set to begin on December 1, 1942, go skiers were hurrying to "get in their last licks" for the duration.

In early December 1942, Sun Valley announced that it would close on December 20 for the duration of the War. Hundreds of persons with reservations for the Christmas holidays were being notified. "Scarcity of help, shortage of food, fuel rationing and rail-traffic conservation were given as reasons." The closure hit the **University of Washington** ski team, which was forced to cancel its planned trip to Sun Valley to compete in an Intercollegiate ski meet over the holidays, and forced 500 Seattle area skiers who had reservations for Sun Valley, to change their plans. The closure meant the end of three big-time ski meets planned there for 1943, and affected 625 Union Pacific employees, a ski-instructor staff of ten men headed by Otto Lang, and 1,000 skiers with reservations for the holiday.⁴²

The 1943 UW Tyee reported on the **Husky's ski team**, whose activities were limited by the war.

⁴² *The Valley Sun*, January 16, 1942; Bradley, H.C., "Sun Valley Four-Event Intercollegiate Ski Meet and Competition for Bradley Plate & Mary Cornelia Trophy," *Sun Valley Ski Club Annual Report, 1942*, pages 12 - 18; "Blatt Captures Ski Race," *New York Times*, December 31, 1941 (page 25); "Racers Take Over Baldy, Fifth Annual Inter-state Ski Meet Starts Today," *Valley Sun*, January 16, 1942; Blakslee, Bob., "Western Interstate Ski Meet and Competition for the Jeffers Cup," *Sun Valley Ski Club Annual Report, 1941*, pages 19, 20; "Sun Valley Closes for War's Duration," & "Sun Valley Closure Hits U.W. Ski Plans", *Seattle Times*, December 8, 1942 (pages 24 & 30).

Plagued heavily by Uncle Sam's wartime needs, the 1943 University of Washington ski edition had little chance to distinguish itself as a worthy defender of the Pacific Coast Championship which it has held the past five years. Transportation difficulties caused the cancellation of the big annual Christmas tournament at Sun Valley, Idaho, and the Pacific Coast classic...Washington retains the Pacific Coast title and possesses, by far, the most outstanding ski record of any school in the conference.

The **U.W. ski team** had one tournament in the winter of 1943, a three-day dual meet with Washington State at Mount Spokane in February. Coach-Captain Bob Behnke, senior veteran, led five returning lettermen, Art Strom, John Thompson, Bob Smith, Gordy Perkins, and Bob Lewis. Husky skiers won the slalom and jumping events and placed heavily in cross-country and downhill races, "scoring a decisive victory over the Cougars." "**Washington** retains the Pacific Coast title and possessed, by far, the most outstanding ski record of any school in the conference." Jack Simpson, "the outstanding junior skier of the United States" from Ketchum, Idaho who learned to ski at Sun Valley, was called into the Army before the meet. "Skiing in Western Washington," *American Ski Annual, 1944*.

1943 SKI TITLISTS



1943 Ski Squad. (Above) Front Row: John Thompson and Bob Smith. Back Row: Bob Lewis and Bob Behnke.

Right: Bob Behnke whisking through the slalom course in a practice run before the Washington State meet.



Plagued heavily by Uncle Sam's wartime needs, the 1943 University of Washington ski edition had little chance to distinguish itself as a worthy defender of the Pacific Coast Championship which it has held the past five years.

Transportation difficulties caused the cancellation of the big annual Christmas tournament at Sun Valley, Idaho, and the Pacific Coast classic.

Five returning lettermen greeted Coach-Captain Bob Behnke, senior veteran, for the only meet of 1943—a three-day dual contest with Washington State snow riders at Mount Spokane in February. Art Strom, John Thompson, Bob Smith, Gordy Perkins, Bob Lewis, and Behnke administered the prowess as Husky bladesmen to win the slalom and jumping events and place heavily in the cross-country and downhill races, scoring a decisive victory over the Congars. Jack Simpson, freshman, who is the outstanding junior skier of the United States, was scheduled to compete for the Huskies but was called to the Army shortly before the meet.

Washington retains the Pacific Coast title and possesses, by far, the most outstanding ski record of any school in the conference.

Besides the above mentioned skiers, Manager Glenn Jones also received a Minor "W" award.

VIII. SKIING RESUMES AFTER WORLD WAR II; HUSKY WINTER SPORTS CLUB BUYS MARTIN SKI BOWL AS CENTER FOR U.W. SKIING

MARTIN AT STAMPEDE PASS HAD LONG BEEN A SKIER'S DESTINATION⁴³

Martin was a railroad stop located at the eastern portal of the Northern Pacific's tunnel under Stampede Pass at the "fun area of deep snow in high places." For many years, Martin attracted Northwest skiers because of the abundance of snow and the quality of nearby slopes. Skiers from east and west of Snoqualmie Pass could take Northern Pacific trains to Martin for a day of skiing "for the long run from Dandy Pass."⁴⁴

The Mountaineers built a lodge west of Snoqualmie Pass in 1914, bringing mountaineering and skiing to the area. In 1928, because its lodge on Snoqualmie Pass had become too crowded, The Mountaineers built Meany Ski Hut at Martin, named after Edmund S. Meany, a University of Washington history professor, mountain climber and long time president of the club. Meany bought approximately 64 acres of property at Martin for \$125, and donated it as a location for a ski hut. Construction of the ski hut started in September 1928, and

took two months of back-breaking labor by weekend volunteers. To build the hut, club members became carpenters, masons, and pack-horses hauling supplies by hand uphill 300 yards from the Northern Pacific Railroad at Martin to the Meany site. In addition to erecting a 20 by 50 two-story frame building large enough for fifty people, they made tables and benches, brought in bed springs, mattresses, and other furniture, and even managed to pull a kitchen range weighing 1,700 pounds up the mountain with block and tackle.

Members were enthusiastic about Martin's favorable terrain and accessibility by train "(no backpacking!)," which offered open areas around the weather station, the power line hill, and the open timber slopes that were "ideally suited for ski touring that dominated the sport."⁴⁵ The round trip train fare was \$1.80. Meany Ski Hut was located five minutes from the Martin railway stop. Skiing the three miles from the Ski Hut to the Cascade Slide on the Sunset Highway just below Lake Kecheelus (11 miles east of the Summit), took about an hour, and was downhill or level all the way. Meany Ski Hut became a major focus of the club's skiing

⁴³ Lundin, John, "Skiing at Martin, the Northern Pacific Stop at Stampede Pass," Essay 10615, <http://www.historylink.org/File/10615>.

⁴⁴ "Ski Bugs Travel To Martin Sunday," *Cle Elum Miner Echo*, Mar 28, 1924.

⁴⁵ Stein, "Meany, Edmund Steven," *Historylink Essay 7885*; Ball, Fred, "The Story of Meany Ski Hut," *Mountaineer Bulletin*, 1956, page 55, Alpenglow.org/ski-history/notes/period/mtneer-b/.

activities thereafter.⁴⁶

The Mountaineers marked many miles of cross-country ski trails throughout Snoqualmie Pass, including a 20 mile trail between its Summit Lodge and Meany Ski Hut which was marked with orange-colored tin shingles high on trees placed so one was always in sight ahead. On March 10, 1929, the club held its first ski tournament at Meany Ski Hut. In the spring of 1930, the Mountaineers held its club slalom and downhill races at Meany Ski Hut at Martin, starting downhill and slalom racing in the Northwest.

Northern Pacific encouraged skiing at its Martin stop at Stampede Pass by providing limited accommodations where skiers could stay overnight. Skiers who traveled to Martin on the Northern Pacific Railroad could stay in bunk cars provided by the railroad, parked on a railroad siding just west of the Stampede Pass tunnel. In 1936, the *Northwest Ski Guide* said, "Snow trains are not confined entirely to Boston and the east. At Stampede the railroad provides more than a dozen cars for accommodation, fitted with spring bunks, heating stoves, and free coal." Light refreshments were available at Martin. according to Jim Fredrickson, a retired Northern Pacific employee, in an interview with the author.

Recognizing the "increasing vogue of the sport of skiing in the Pacific Northwest," in the fall of 1938, Northern Pacific announced it planned to

convert the Martin area into one of the finest ski grounds in America. Quarters will be installed for the accommodations of ski devotees with lunch rooms and other facilities, including a lift 700 to 1,000 feet in length, depending on the route selected. This course seemingly is designed by nature for skiing... Experts have given it an unusually high rating and when the improvements are in, it should prove an important feature among Washington's many sports and scenic attractions. The terrain is so shaped as to give a course of maximum length with a relatively short lift back to the starting point. Experts see in the plans for development a course that will recommend itself to the most proficient skiers as well as to the novices who are just warming up to the sport. The Martin area is well sheltered from sweeping winds and quality of the snow that falls there is the best known for fast skiing.

One building had already been constructed at Martin and would be available the winter of 1939, with room for 30 overnight guests. It was located near The Mountaineer's Meany Ski Hut. There were two large living rooms with fireplaces, and bunks and couches would be installed in women's and men's dormitories. Skiers had to furnish their own bedding. A kitchen was provided where skiers could cook their own meals. When the resort opened, this building would

⁴⁶ "Meany Ski Hut Celebrates 50 years," *Mountaineers Annual 1979*, page 80; "A Treasury of Mountaineer Memories," *Mountaineers Annual 1994*; Ball, "The Story of Meany Ski Hut," *Mountaineer Bulletin*, 1956, page 55; Kellog, "Meany Ski Hut Celebrates Fifty Years," *Mountaineers Bulletin*, 1979, page 80, Alpenglow.org/ski-history/notesperiod/mtneer-b/.

house the staff working at the ski area. A large hotel was planned for the site to be ready for the 1939 - 1940 season, to accommodate 200 to 250 overnight guests. "All the facilities and attractions of a modern sports resort will be found in this development when completed. Martin is only a short train ride from Seattle, and for several years, skiers have taken the train there to enjoy the unusually attractive snow conditions."

Installing a tow at Martin was critical to Northern Pacific's plans for the new resort. Northern Pacific looked into a variety of options from a rope tow to a tram. In November 1938, a "tram expert" representing the aerial tramway firm of Moss & Groshong, was in Seattle "discussing chair-lift plans for Martin" with Northern Pacific representatives. Northern Pacific plans indicate that a Tandberg lift was also being considered.

For the ski season of 1938 - 1939, Northern Pacific provided limited facilities for skiers, and

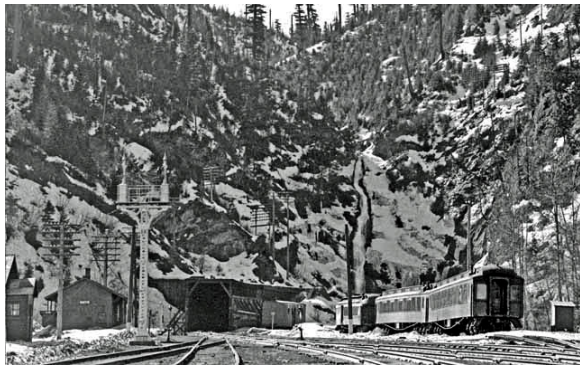
a means of access to the contemplated future skiing area, i.e., the bridge access across the ravine and the road to the lodge site, and shelter for our own engineering force, for expert skiers whose opinions and advice was desired and for selected groups from the general skiing public, whose reactions to the contemplated development was to be observed and cataloged. Practically no attempt was made at clearing hills or trails. The "Double Cabin" erected was not properly finished, lacking particularly water supply, fireplaces, ski waxing facilities and inside painting.

Northern Pacific determined that the cost to build a ski resort at Martin was too great compared to the anticipated profit, so it was never built. However, Northern Pacific operated the small facility at Martin, called the Martin Ski Dome, until World War II. One day trips on weekends offered six hours of skiing, for a \$2 round trip ticket from Seattle. The Martin ski hut was available for overnight stays, and attracted a variety of Northwest skiers. Other Northern Pacific ads for the Martin Ski Dome advertised "Uncrowded Skiing! Now try the real wide-open spaces - plenty of room for long sweeping glides and thrilling cross-country runs. Variety is the spice of skiing - you'll find it at the Martin Ski Dome."⁴⁷

⁴⁷ Lundin, John, *Skiing at Martin, the Northern Pacific Stop at Stampede Pass*, HistoryLink Essay 10615; "N.P. Under Way Now with Hut for Ski Gang," (page 20), & "Two National Competitions, Northwest Lot," *Seattle Times*, November 16, 1938 (page 20); "Martin Ski Work is On," *Tacoma News Tribune*, November 10, 1938, www.alpenglow.org/ski-history/notes/ms/tpl-wa-sports-ski.html; "Tram Expert is Seattle Visitor," *Seattle Times* November 16, 1938 (page 20); Northern Pacific Archives, Minneapolis Minnesota.



Meany Ski lodge, 1929, courtesy of The Mountaineers.



Martin, Stampede Pass tunnel, and bunk cars for skiers. Jim Fredrickson photo, courtesy of the Northern Pacific Historical Association.



Skiers and N.P. train at Martin. Courtesy of Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association.



Martin, caretaker's cabin in foreground and ski hut in background. Courtesy of Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association, Jim Fredrickson collection.

U.W. GETS BACK INTO SKIING AS WW II ENDS

Skiing picked up somewhat in the winter of 1943 - 1944. In February 1944, there was a meet between the **University of Washington** and Washington State College on Mount Spokane. Individual places were divided evenly between the two schools, with **Washington's** Art Strom and Bob Smith winning the jumping and cross country events, and WSU's Gordon and Norman LaVigne winning the downhill and slalom races.⁴⁸

As World War II was ending, the University of Washington rejuvenated its winter sports program for the ski season of 1944 - 1945, through the efforts of enthusiastic student skiers led by Jacqueline Montchalin. She arranged a meeting of students interested in skiing, and "the call was answered with enthusiasm." The Husky Winter Sports Club was organized in 1937 according to the club's website, but was inactive during World War II.⁴⁹

A report of the Husky Winter Sports Club described activities taken during the ski season of 1944 - 1945, to bring skiing back to the campus. "Under the leadership of Jackie Montchalin the HWSC, which had been inactive since the start of the war, was reactivated in November [1944]." Officers of the club were elected, and the officers along with four club members formed the Advisory Council. Gus Erickson [sic] of the men's physical education department became the faculty advisor. "The club's constitution was not adaptable to the changed conditions of war time winter activities," but the ASUW permitted the club to operate under an executive committee while a new constitution was written. The HWSC worked hard to get its members involved in skiing. The most pressing issue was to get its members to ski areas, so the HWSC organized a car pool, which was not very successful but it did get some members skiing.

The HWSC Transportation Plan, dated January 17, 1945, grouped car owners in a pool. The car pool was to meet every Tuesday when the number of cars and the spaces available would be determined. Each car would go every fourth week, and cars would be rotated every week. The section leader would fill the cars with riders from his section, and would make a list of members planning to go skiing and whether they wanted instruction. Members who skied the prior week "will not have priority the following week." Members could get their tickets at the HWSC office on Thursday and Friday.

On January 1, 1945, the HWSC leased the Sahalie Ski Club hill near Snoqualmie Summit, set up a ski lift and operated the hill for skiing for two and one half months. Sahalie's Ski Lodge,

⁴⁸ "Skiing in Western Washington," 1944, *American Ski Annual*, http://hyak.net/lost/skiing_1944.html.

⁴⁹ "Husky Winter Sports Club Booms Skiing for Campus Athletes," *Seattle Times*, February 2, 1946 (page 41).

which burned down on April 16, 1943, was not rebuilt until 1947.⁵⁰

On January 15, 1945, the Associated Students of the University of Washington (ASUW) leased the Martin Ski Dome and 137 acres of land from Northern Pacific for a two year term for \$25 a year. The *UW Daily* of February 1, 1945 said the HWSC got another feather in its cap when it arranged to purchase the Northern Pacific ski lodge at Martin. Gus Eriksen of the men's P.E. Department and faculty advisor to the ski club "was the real motivating power of the deal." He was the "main negotiator" who brought the possibility of the area to the school after investigating it over Christmas. Negotiations for the purchase were nearly complete, and included the ski lodge, that could house 26 but it could accommodate 50 with improvements, and 137 acres. The land extended to an elevation of 3,700 feet and land adjacent to the lodge had been cleared by the railroad for skiing. Nearby hills were timbered and filled with trails. A committee would be set up to govern book the lodge, and formulate regulations to govern the area, consisting of representatives of the Men's and Women's Physical Education Department, Office of Student Affairs and the ASUW.

On February 7, 1945, the ASUW completed the purchase of the Martin Ski Dome from Northern Pacific, including the Ski Dome Lodge and Caretakers Cabin, furnishings and water system, together with the 137 acres of land it had leased the prior month. The purchase price was \$1,250. Later, the HWSC leased the Rustic Inn "several miles further on the Sunset Highway" for the use of its members. The Husky Winter Sports Club improved the Martin lodge, installed rope tows on the hill, and offered lessons to get students involved in skiing. From the ski season of 1944 - 1945 to 1948 - 1949, the Husky Winter Sports Club and the Washington ski team used Martin as their home base. The ski hut burned down in 1949, and U. W. ski activities moved to Stevens Pass.

Documents provided by the Northern Pacific Historical Association include the sales document between Northern Pacific and the ASUW signed on February 7, 1945 for the Martin Ski Lodge and a nearby caretaker's cabin and 137 acres of land.

Those certain buildings known as the Northern Pacific Ski Dome Lodge and the Caretakers Cabin, including the furnishing, equipment and supplies connected therewith; also water supply system, including intake and pipe line, all located upon the following tracts of land in Kittitas County, State of Washington, to wit:

Those parts of the S ½ NE 1/4, SE 1/4 NW ½, E ½ E ½ SE1/4, N ½ SE 1/4, and SW 1/4 SE ½, lying south of the 300 ft. right of way for the Bonneville Power Transmission Line and north of the 400 ft. right of way for the Northern Pacific Railway, in section 37, Township 21 North, Range 12 East, W. M., containing 137 acres, more or less.

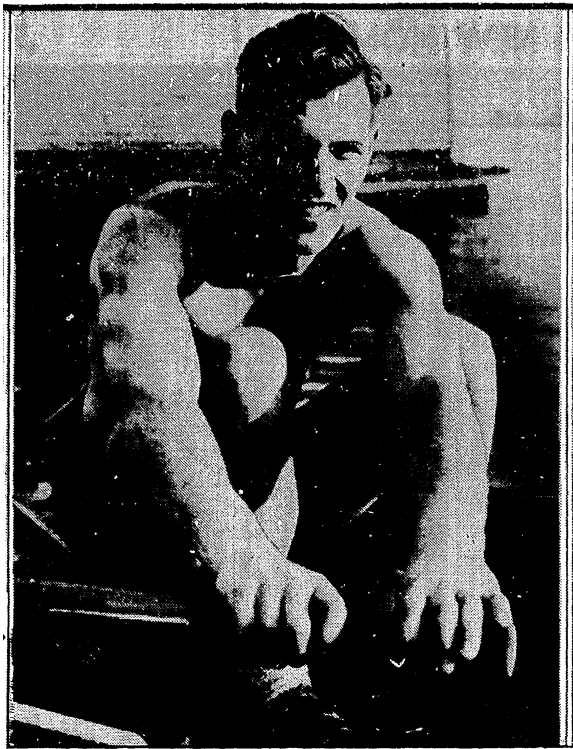
⁵⁰ University of Washington Special Collections, *Report of the Advisory Council on the 1944 - 1945 Activities of the Husky Winter Sports Club*, accession Number 96-002, box number 8, Husky Winter Sports file.

Consideration \$1,250

Note - By lease (T & M 2191) dated January 15, 1945 the Northern Pacific Railway Company leased to the Associated Students of the University of Washington tract of land described above for a two year period at an annual rental of \$25.00.

Northern Pacific had spent \$8,235 building the lodge and cabin, but determined its salvage value in December 1944, was \$1,250, after determining it “would cost considerable to take it down, and the material would not be of much use to us anywhere. The lodge could accommodate 26 but could house 50 with improvements.”⁵¹

Husky Stroke



Here's Gus Eriksen, who stroked the Husky jayvee crew to victories in 1937 and 1938, and who is just about a cinch to man the stroke oar in the Washington varsity shell during the 1939 campaign. Gus set the pace for wins over the California jayvees both years, and got the shell home in front of the pack both times at Poughkeepsie.

Seattle Times, January 29, 1939

Gosta (Gus) Eriksen was the UW Ski coach and the head of the HWSC. He had been stroke of the U.W. crew, taking the second varsity boat to the National Championships in 1937, 1938 and 1939, an assistant U.W. crew coach in 1945, and ran the ski tow at Paradise Valley on Mount Rainier. Gus and his wife were “so sold on the popular Pacific Northwest winter sport” that they gave their three girls names that started with the initials S - K - I, Signe, Kristina and Ingrid.⁵²



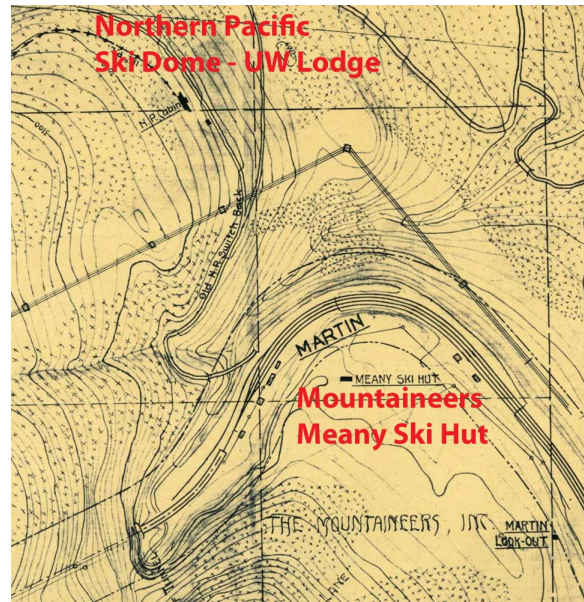
Mrs. Gus Eriksen & daughter Signe. Picture from Eriksen family.

⁵¹ Northern Pacific Archives, Minneapolis Minnesota, Box 134.K.4.10 (F), file #10159, Right of Way Change Memorandum, & note of December 8, 1944 to Mr. J. H. Poore.

⁵² “Skiing is Greatest Sport, Says Gosta Eriksen Family,” *Seattle Times*, September 30, 1945 (page 8).



Gus Eriksen working on ski hill at Martin. Picture from Eriksen family.



Map of Martin and ski lodges from Northern Pacific Railroad.

In a 1946 update, Gus Erickson reported the purchase of the Martin Ski Dome and the formation of the Husky Winter Sports Club.

The Associated Students of the University of Washington have recently purchased 60 acres of ski slopes and a lodge from the Northern Pacific Railroad. The site is at Martin, Washington, near the spot where the Mountaineers also have a lodge. Martin is located on the eastern side of the Cascade Range, about 3 hours from Seattle by train. It is also accessible by car by the Snoqualmie Pass highway, but it is necessary to ski in a little over two miles.

Members of the student body who desire to use the facilities have formed an organization to be known as the Husky Winter Sports Club. There is at present a cleared area about 200 yards wide and 600 yards long and they plan further clearing. They have purchased two rope tow lifts for use on the slopes.

The plans for this season are uncertain due to the demands being made on railroad travel. However the club has a nice site, the terrain has a nice contour and with future development it will undoubtedly furnish the student body with a fine ski club.

The HWSC operated the Martin Ski facility after it was acquired by the ASUW, and members took the Northern Pacific Railroad from Seattle to the Martin stop at the east end of the Stampede Pass to ski there. The club improved skiing by purchasing a portable ski tow (which cost \$347.01), and installing it for its members' use.

Recognizing the need for a University winter recreation area, in December [1944] the HWSC initiated the movement that resulted in the purchase of the Martin Ski Lodge by the ASUW. The club operated the club, under regulations set up by the ASUW, from the middle of February [1945] until the first week in April. Skiing facilities at Martin were enhanced by the operation of a portable ski tow purchased by the club this year.

No club members were injured at the HWSC operated facilities that year, due to the "fine work of the ski patrol," and the fact "that members were not skiing under the crowded conditions of public ski areas." HWSC members could take ski lessons from two F. I. S. ski instructors from the Max Gervitch Ski School at Martin and on the Sahalie Ski Hill. Ski tows cost \$.50 a day, "about 1,000% lower than the cost on a public area."

In January 1945, the HWSC joined the Pacific Northwest Ski Association, and its men's and women's ski teams entered in the PNSA downhill and slalom championships at Meany Hill [the Mountaineer facility at Martin] and meets at Stevens Pass. On March 18, 1945, the HWSC slalom championships were held at Martin, and on March 31 and April 1, the club hosted the University of British Columbia at Martin, with UBC winning the event. The club held social events in Seattle which included a mixer on campus, an ice skating party, and the presentation of the Austrian ski film, The Ski Chase.

The HWSC started the year with \$25 in its treasury, and ended the year with \$217.13, even after purchasing a portable ski tow for \$347.01. The operation of the Martin ski area was financed through HWSC funds to reduce the cost of skiing for its members.

The prospects for the club at the start of the season were highly speculative. There was no indication what facilities could be offered the members or what the membership would be. For the coming season we have a better conception of our problems and opportunities. Automobile transportation restrictions will be decreased. We are assured of the Sahalie Hill facilities. The PNSA promised more races.

The HWSC is now negotiating with the ASUW for permission to operate the Martin Ski Area for the 1945 - 1946 ski season. If this permission is granted, the Advisory Council is of the opinion that tremendous progress can be made in teaching the students of the University of Washington the value of skiing as a competitive and recreational activity.

The 1945 Tyee, the University of Washington student yearly publication, said “another big move toward reviving Washington winter sports to a pre-war basis was the purchase of the Martin ski lodge by the Associated Students of Washington...A lift was purchased and set up at Martin by the HWSC and the club also offered skiing lessons to newcomers to the hickory sticks.” The winter of 1945 was a “boom year” for Husky Winter Sports. A ski meet was held at Martin with the University of British Columbia on April 1, 1945, “besides a lot of just-for-fun skiing.”

The **Husky Winter Sports Club** Report for the ski season of 1944-1945, said members took the Northern Pacific Railroad from Seattle to the Martin stop. The club improved skiing by purchasing a portable ski tow for \$347.01 and installing it for members' use. Over the next few years, the HWSC improved the Martin lodge, installed rope tows, and offered ski lessons, saying Martin should “become one of the finest private resorts in the country.” From the winters of 1945 to 1949, when the lodge burned down, the HWSC and the **U.W. ski team** used Martin as their home base. The **U. W. ski team** trained and held intercollegiate competitions there, HWSC members spent weekends there and Ski Carnivals were held every winter. The HWSC calculated lodging, meals, lift tickets and instructions to “fit a college budget.”⁵³

During the ski season of 1944-1945, the HWSC also leased the Rustic Inn, located where the road to Martin left the Sunset Highway, and the Sahalie Ski Club hill (Sahalie's lodge had burned down in 1943). In January 1945, the HWSC joined the Pacific Northwest Ski Association, and its men's and women's ski teams entered the PNSA downhill and slalom championships at Meany Hill, the Mountaineer facility at Martin, and meets at Stevens Pass. The 1945 edition of the Tyee said "another big move toward reviving Washington winter sports to a

⁵³ Northern Pacific Archives, Minneapolis Minnesota, Box 134.K.4.10 (F), file #10159, Right of Way Change Memorandum, & note of December 8, 1944 to Mr. J. H. Poore; Lundin, John, *Skiing at Martin, the Northern Pacific Stop at Stampede Pass*, HistoryLink Essay 10615; University of Washington Tyee, 1946, page 238.

pre-war basis was the purchase of the Martin ski lodge by the Associated Students of Washington."



ABOVE: Northern exposure of the University's Martin lodge.

HUSKY WINTER SPORTS

PUSHED by the organization of the Husky Winter Sports club this fall, sports of the snow and ice variety had a boom year on the University of Washington campus.

Another big move toward reviving Washington winter sports to a pre-war basis was the purchase of the Martin ski lodge by the ASUW.

A ski meet between the University of British Columbia and the HWSC was held April 1 at the school's new area, besides a lot of just-for-fun skiing. A lift was purchased and set up at Martin by the HWSC and the club also offered skiing lessons to newcomers to the hickory slats.



ABOVE: University skiers just before the P.N.S.A. race at Martin.



ABOVE: Another shot of the Martin lodge, looking at the front from the east.



LEFT: Shirley Williamson, one of the University's finest women skiers, looks over the Martin area.

University of Washington Tye, 1945.

John Hansen, a long time Northwest skier and past president of Ancient Skiers, was enrolled at the U.W. in 1944, and was vice-president of the Husky Winter Sports Club in 1945 - 1946. He the author that the club's lodge had been built by the Northern Pacific on the opposite side of the tracks from The Mountaineer's Meany Ski Hut. The top floor of the lodge was divided in half, with a wall separating the sleeping areas for men and women. The first thing the HWSC did was to tear down the wall, eliminating the barrier between the men's and women's areas. The lodge had railroad type coal burning stoves for heating, and a big fireplace. Outhouses were up the hill. Students installed a rope tow using war surplus materials, hanging pulleys for the tow on trees along the ski hill. All of the work was done by the students who had many skills, many of which were learned during the war. The only rope that could be found was made of sisal, which was hard to work with, and students had to learn to do a long splice to keep it operating. Coleman lanterns were hung along the hill for night skiing. The University arranged for the Washington Highway Department to clear the road from Highway 10 (later Interstate 90) to a 1/4 mile walk of the lodge. Half of the students drove and half took the train. Many taking the train drove to the East Auburn stop, since the train fare was cheaper from there than from Seattle.⁵⁴

The Husky Winter Sports Club was active at its Martin ski lodge in the fall of 1945. The HWSC had plans to install two 1,500 foot ski lifts at its Martin lodge to carry skiers to the top of the hill south of the lodge where the old pole line cut through, that would be operated by one central engine. "The lifts will be completed in time for the winter ski season," according to the school. The lodge was expanded, but it would only be able to accommodate 60 skiers after additional bunks were installed, and housing would be the club's toughest problem. The club had 900 members the prior winter, and even with the war still on, 1,000 students "skied informally and laid post-war plans."

In November 1945, the HWSC had a membership drive, and Gus Eriksen expected 2,000 students to sign up for the HWSC, twice the previous year's total. The HWSC had been accepted as a PNSA member and would compete in PNSA tournaments as well as Intercollegiate races. The UW ski team would compete against Washington State at Mount Spokane, and planned to hold a competition with the University of British Columbia in March 1946. A number of prominent skiers were returning to the University from military service who would be on the ski team, and team training would start in November 1945. Coach Eriksen had a "real workout" planned for his racers, a giant slalom race starting at the top of Stampede Pass and ending behind the Husky Winter Sports Club Lodge. Its annual winter carnival would be held in February, 1946. An intercollegiate meet had been lined up with Washington State College on Mount Spokane, which had been developed by the Spokane Ski Club "and the terrain on that East Side mountain is tops for racing." Several returning veterans were expected to bolster the Husky's chances in the meets. Don Randall was president of the HWSC. Dick Durrance would speak at an upcoming HWSC event, a showing of the movie Slalom. Durrance, the famed downhill and

⁵⁴ Interview with author, winter 2013.

slalom racer, would make his last appearance before heading for his new ski job in Denver.⁵⁵

Ski Season of 1945 - 1946

In January 1946, the **U.W. Ski Team** took a day off from race training to instruct a record crowd of U.W. students “in some of the fundamentals of skiing.” The following weekend, Coach Eriksen planned a giant slalom competition for his 20 man squad at Martin. Based on those results, and the results from the prior week’s slalom competition at Stevens Pass, the Husky squad would be selected that would race at the February 7 Pacific Northwestern Ski Association meet at Mount Hood. Jack Simpson, “the young skier who took the Sun Valley ski-racing crowd by storm five years ago,” was stationed at Fort Lawton in Seattle with the Army, turned out with the **U.W. ski team** at Stevens Pass and had the fastest time of the day. He expected to get out of the Army in April, return to Sun Valley for the late skiing, and reenter the U.W. the following fall. *Seattle Times*, January 20, & 21, 1946.

In January 1946, the **HWSC** made plans to hold its first peacetime carnival, the first in five years. “A war-time casualty, the University of Washington winter ski carnival will be revived this year” on the Husky ski slopes at Martin on February 8 - 10, and would feature obstacle races, couples races, intramural ski races and the crowning of a queen. The **U.W. ski team** had been working out for two weeks under four coaches: Olav Ulland, Don Amick, Paul Gilbreath, and Johnny Woodward. Time trials in downhill would be held at Martin. The same weekend, it was announced that Leavenworth’s “world-famed” ski-jumping tournament would be revived and held on February 10, 1946, by the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club. The University ski team practiced at Martin in the winter of 1946, and taught skiing to students. On the third week of January, the ski team took a day off of their practice at Martin, and “instructed a record number of University students and their friends in some of the fundamentals of skiing.”⁵⁶

The **Husky ski team** held a giant slalom race at Martin the following weekend, competing for slots to represent the U. W. in the Pacific Northwestern Ski Association meet sponsored by the Cascade Sports Club at Mount Hood later in the year. Coach Gus Eriksen had a “real workout” planned for his racers - he would send 12 - 15 skiers through a giant slalom race starting at the top of Stampede Pass and ending behind the Husky Winter Sports Club Lodge. The coach would pick six men to represent the school at Mount Hood. Cliff Schmidke, “the former Mountain Division infantryman with wings of Mercury on his skis, roared wide-open

⁵⁵ “Work Due Soon at 2 Ski Lifts at Martin,” *Seattle Times*, October 11, 1945 (page 30); “2,000 Students Likely to Join U. W. Ski Turnout,” *Seattle Times*, November 11, 1945 (page 24).

⁵⁶ “Leavenworth Ski-Jump to be Revived,” *Seattle Times*, January 13, 1946 (page 27); “Husky Skiers Plan Carnival,” *Seattle Times*, January 15, 1946 (page 30); “Huskies Plan Slalom Test,” *Seattle Times*, January 21, 1946 (page 16).

down a giant slalom course at Martin to cop top honors.”⁵⁷ Schmidke had been declared ineligible by the PNSA until March 4 would probably go the Mount Hood tournament and ski unattached.

The University skiers have one big hill to ski over and plenty of side trails available to test their running legs. A 1,500 foot tow packs the skiers nearly up to the top of Stampede Pass, and the skiers were making good use of the rope tow.

Only trouble with the Martin ski area is the road in, which is a one-lane track cut from the highway to within one-half mile of the Husky Chalet. First cars in Martin yesterday didn't get out until well after dark. However, Coach Eriksen says the Husky winter Sports Club planed to purchase a “snowcat” next year, and haul students from the road to the Chalet by sled.⁵⁸

The *Seattle Times* of February 3, 1946, published an article about the boom in skiing after the war ended, and the newly revived the **Husky Winter Sports Club**.

Booming ski club in the University of Washington campus is the newly revived Husky Winter Sports Club. The club was begun in 1934, but went out of existence with the war. According to genial Gus Eriksen, university ski coach and club advisor, credit for reopening the organization goes to co-ed Jacqueline Montchalin. Last year she arranged a meeting of all students interested in skiing. The call was answered with enthusiasm and Eriksen estimates the membership to be 1,000.

That year, the club was also leasing another facility, the Rustic Inn, which was on the highway where the road took off to Martin.

The University has more than 80 acres on Stampede Pass at Martin to call its own. The ski lodge is at Martin, and Rustic Inn, several miles further on the Sunset Highway, has also been leased by the club...Members of the club are looking forward to having the lodge remodeled, and next summer hope to construct a rope tow with a 3,300-foot lift with 800-foot elevation, the longest in the country.

The HWSC calculated lodging, meals, lift tickets and instructions to “fit a college budget.” Ken Syverson, formerly of the Seattle Times ski school at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl that had been shut down during the war, taught classes to HWSC members, and the best skiers in the club were amateur instructors. The annual winter carnival would be held in February, and the intercollegiate meet was set for March 16 and 17, 1946. Next summer, the members were

⁵⁷ “Huskies Plan Slalom Test,” *Seattle Times*, January 21, 1946 (page 16); “Talbot Trophy Race May Drew Nation’s Best,” *Seattle Times*, January 27, 1946 (page 23).

⁵⁸ *Schmidke Sizzles Over Slalom Course*, *Seattle Times*, January 28, 1946 (page 14).

planning on building a rope tow with a 3,300 foot lift and an 800-foot elevation, which would be the longest in the country. Don Randell was president of the “ever growing club,” and John Hansen (who is the present president of the Ancient Skiers Association) was VP of the HWSC in 1945 - 1946.⁵⁹

The HWSC carnival was held in February, 1946. “Varsity skiers ran off intramural races and served as ‘traffic cops’ for beginning barrel-stave enthusiasts, picking up many a collegian out of the snow.” Next week, the team will “get down to serious business” wit a practice meet set against the University of British Columbia at Mount Baker. Coach Eriksen had not yet selected his team for the meet.⁶⁰



—By Clark Willey.
● In store for ski enthusiasts attending the 1946 Winter Ski Carnival at Martin this weekend are snow-spangled slopes such as this. Beginning with tomorrow night's Shuffle, the Carnival will move up the mountains to the ski area for Saturday and Sunday.

U.W. Daily February 1946

⁵⁹ *Club Booms Skiing for Campus Athletes*, Seattle Times, February 3, 1946 (page 41).

⁶⁰ *High-School, Junior X-Country, Jumping Due Next Sunday*, Seattle Times, February 10, 1946 (page 24).

The *Seattle Times* of February 24, 1946, had a picture of Betty Philpoff in ski togs, saying she was one of many collegians who were spending their spring vacation at the Husky Ski Club Lodge at Martin. The article was titled, *Where Could you Duplicate it?*

Skiing at one of the finest snow areas in the Northwest, cozy dormitory lodging, three appetizing nourishing “squares” daily, lessons and ski tows - all for \$2.25 a day. Yes, \$22.50 for ten day’s spring vacation is the low fee the Husky Winter Sports Club is charging University skiers at the Husky Ski Lodge at Martin, near Snoqualmie. According to a member, expenses at any other ski resort would easily hit the \$6 mark per day. Lodging alone would amount to \$3 or \$4; meals at least \$2; ski tow, \$1 to \$1.50. That would bring the score to a minimum of \$6 - and still wouldn’t include lessons.

To top it all - the transportation problem is nonexistent. Martin is accessible either by train or automobile. Round-trips on the train burn a \$3.62 hole in the pocket. A share-the-ride comes to \$1, sometimes nothing at all, if the driver is generous. And a great many of them are. Any student may ski at Martin: but to stay overnight entails membership in the club.⁶¹

In the winter of 1946, Ken Syverson, formerly head of the *Seattle Times* ski school at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl, taught classes to HWSC members, and the best skiers in the club served as amateur instructors. In February 1946, the HWSC held the first Sports Carnival in five years, featuring obstacle races, couples races, intramural ski races, and the crowning of a queen. The UW ski team practiced at Martin and taught skiing to students. The *Seattle Times* of February 24, 1946, discussed the low cost of spending spring vacation at Martin:

Skiing at one of the finest snow areas in the Northwest, cozy dormitory lodging, three appetizing nourishing 'squares' daily, lessons and ski tows — all for \$2.25 a day. Yes, \$22.50 for ten day's spring vacation is the low fee the Husky Winter Sports Club is charging University skiers at the Husky Ski Lodge at Martin, near Snoqualmie. According to a member, expenses at any other ski resort would easily hit the \$6 mark per day.

In late February 1946, the head of the National Ski Association said that far West skiing rated so high in [NSA] circles that Sun Valley was being considered to host the Olympic Games tryouts next winter. He also said they were looking at schools like the **University of Washington** for skiers for the Olympic Games, “for its skiers now in college who will provide most of the team we’ll take to Switzerland in 1948.” He also declared that Stevens Pass Ski Area was “potentially one of the finest in the West.”⁶²

⁶¹ *U.W. Students Struggle Through Final Exams and Then Begin Spring Break*, *Seattle Times*, February 24, 1946 (page 41).

⁶² “Collegians Seen as ‘48 Ski Hopes,” *Seattle Times*, February 27, 1946 (page 21).

Karl Stingle of the Penguin Ski Club won the Mount Baker Downhill and Slalom Tournament the second week of March 1946, which involved “fifty-eight of the best skiers in the Far West.” The win made the “former Mountain Division Infantryman” the favorite to take the upcoming downhill at Stevens Pass. **University of Washington** racers did well, placing three of the top ten finishers in the combined - Dave Faires, Duncan Read, and Bob Brambach.

During the third weekend of March 1946, the **University of Washington** hosted the University of British Columbia, Washington State College, the University of Idaho, Denver, Oregon, Oregon State, and Nevada University at a tournament held at Martin. Slalom races were held at Martin, the downhill competition at Meany Lodge at Snoqualmie where the race would be run over Meany ridge, and the jumpers would participate the Seattle Ski Club’s Beaver Lake tournament at Snoqualmie Summit Sunday afternoon. A large perpetual trophy donated by the Husky Winter Sports Club would go to the winning team, and medals for the first three places in the races would be awarded. After the tournament, the skiers would adjourn to the Rustic Inn where a banquet would be held. The *Seattle Times* of March 10, 1946, said “Seattle fans will get a double treat next week-end if they’ve got stout hearts and climbers.” The Husky ski team “received a shot in the arm” by the return of a number of veterans: Duncan Reid, former Harvard skier; Bill Dunaway, Mountain Division; Bob Braubach, prewar Husky skier; Gordon Butterfield and Don Macdonald. The Husky ace, Cliff Schmidtke, was doubtful for the event due to an infection he picked up fighting in Italy during the war. Other Husky skiers included Arne Madsen, Randy Cooper, Ken Tourtelot, Jim Jacobsen, Wayne Swift and Dave Fairies.

Dave Faires “the **Husky downhill smoothie**” won the downhill and placed second in the slalom. The **Huskies** “rolled over five college opponents at Martin over the week-end to cop the first postwar running of the Husky invitational meet.” The University of Washington was first, followed by the University of British Columbia, Washington State College, Idaho, and C.P.S.⁶³

The Combined Downhill and Slalom Tournament at Stevens Pass was held the last week of March 1946. Paul Gilbreath, the “satin-smooth Washington Ski Club runner,” nosed out Jackie Simpson, the “slam-bang skier from Sun Valley,” and the “crack field” to win combined honors. Karl Stingle placed second in the combined, and Don Amick who missed the downhill, had the fastest times in the slalom.⁶⁴

In the winter of 1946, Simpson, “the young skier who took the Sun Valley ski-racing crowd by storm five years ago,” was stationed at Fort Lawton in Seattle with the Army. He expected to get out of the Army in April, return to Sun Valley for the late skiing, and reenter the

⁶³ “Ulland, Froland Skiers to Beat in Sunday Jump,” *Seattle Times*, March 15, 1946 (page 23); “Tom Mobraaten Tops Ski Field,” *Seattle Times*, March 18, 1946 (page 15).

⁶⁴ “Ski Race Will be Down to Tenth of Seconds,” *Seattle Times*, March 9, 1946 (page 7); “Stingle Scores Again at Baker,” *Seattle Times*, March 11, 1946 (page 15); “Tom Mobraaten Tops Ski Field,” *Seattle Times*, March 18, 1946 (page 15); “Gilbreath Captures Combined Ski Title,” *Seattle Times*, March 25, 1946 (page 14).

U.W. the following fall. Simpson competed at the Alta Ski Cup Invitational Ski tournament in April 1946, along with "title-holding snow-burners from the United States, Canada and Chile." *Seattle Times*, January 20, & April 14, 1946.

The 1946 Tyee called it a "boom year" for Husky winter sports, with a ski meet at Martin with the University of British Columbia on April 1, 1946, "besides a lot of just-for-fun skiing."

On November 24, 1946, the Junior Chamber of Commerce announced it would revive its Spring Ski Carnival at Paradise Valley on Mount Rainier for April 1947, to include "four-way competition for star runners, comedy and obstacles races and the traditional selection of a ski queen." The event was possible because the Mount Rainier National Park Company reopened Paradise Valley facilities. There was snow in the mountains that weekend, and tows would be running at Stevens at the big hill and on the practice hills. Four tows would run at Snoqualmie Pass, including the 1,300 foot tow on Government Hill. Tow tows would be running at Chinook, three at Mount Baker, and two at Paradise. The **University of Washington** tow at Martin would not operate until the following weekend.⁶⁵

The Pacific Northwestern Ski Association announced a busy tournament schedule for the 1947 season consisting of 23 events, "the greatest number in the history of the fast-growing winter sport." Three new college ski teams joined the organization, Oregon State College, University of Portland, and Reed College. The **University of Washington** Ski Team had "40 crack Pacific Northwest skiers" turning out at Martin, and hoped for a repeat of its prior years championship. Coach Gus Erickson would be aided by Bert Mortensen and Gus Campbell in cross-country, Paul Gilbreath and Don Amick, in downhill and slalom, and Olav Ulland in jumping. Husky star Bob Bramback was not returning as he was serving on Freidl Pfeiffer's Sun Valley ski school. Norwegian exchange student Kjell Stordalen was expected to be "the top flyer" on its jumping team. The Husky Winter Sports Club was raising money to buy a Sno Cat to haul skiers from the Snoqualmie Pass highway two miles to its Martin ski grounds.

In November 1946, the *Seattle Times* announced that the **University of Washington** tow at Martin would begin operations the following weekend. Two tows were already operating at Chinook, three at Mount Baker, and two at Paradise. In early December 1946, **Husky ski-team** aspirants competed in time trials at Martin, including cross-country racers. Coach Gus Eriksen would work with 40 skiers on downhill and slalom techniques before going to the Milwaukee Ski Bowl for jumping practice with Olav Ulland. A three day workout was planned for December 20, to select a six-man team to represent the university in the Intercollegiate races in Sun Valley held on December 28 - 31, 1946. Coach Gus Erickson announced that he would handle the university's intramural skiing program at Martin, in conjunction with the ski carnival in February 1947. The Junior Chamber of Commerce Spring Ski Carnival at Paradise Valley, which had been a wartime casualty, was planned to resume the following spring with "all the trimmings of prewar days - four-way competition for star runners, comedy and obstacle races and the

⁶⁵ "Ski Carnival to be Revived," *Seattle Times*, November 24, 1946 (page 39).

traditional selection of a ski queen.⁶⁶

Also in November 1946, an article in the *Seattle Times* announced that a new ski area would open on the side of Mount Margaret, opposite the lodge at Lake Keechelus, six miles east of Snoqualmie Summit. It would be called the Eastern Slope Ski Resort, and would “relieve some of the pressure on congested mountain passes, such as Stevens and Snoqualmie.” Cliff Schmidke and Bill Dunaway, two **University of Washington** racers and veterans of Italian warfare with the famed 10th Mountain Division, would operate the new area. There would be skiing at Naches Pass that season, and Paradise Valley would also operate with an open road to Paradise, ski tows and cafeteria service. Overnight accommodations would be available at Longmire.⁶⁷

On December 1, 1946, the *Seattle Times* announced that the U. W. skiers were “in for the busiest season in Husky ski history, beginning with the Arnold Lunn Trophy Downhill Race at Mount Hood today, and not ending until the Golden Rose Tournament at Hood next June.” Twenty **U.W. skiers** were competing at the Lunn race at Timberline, where Coach Eriksen would use the race results to select a six-man team to race at the first post-war intercollegiates at Sun Valley from December 28 - 31, 1946. The next week, 40 ski-team aspirants would compete in a cross-country race at Martin, “the Huskies’ home ski grounds at Stampede Pass.” On December 15, there would be jumping trials on the Cass B hill at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl, and downhill and slalom trials at Martin. Three days before Christmas, the Huskies would hold four-way trials at Martin and the Ski Bowl, where Eriksen would choose his team for the Intercollegiates.

There’s good news for members of the Husky Winter Sports Club, too, for the big tow will be ready to start operation at Martin next week-end. Under Eriksen’s direction, the tow has been lengthened to 3,000 feet, which gives some 2,500 Washington skiers two big hills on which to ski around their lodge.

Eriksen announced yesterday that two surplus Army “weasels” are on their way here from Indiana. The “weasels” will be used to haul skiers to Martin from Rustic Lodge on the Snoqualmie Pass highway. The road won’t be kept open from the highway to the foot of the hill this year, so skiers will be towed in on the hickory staves.⁶⁸

A.S.U.W. financial documents included the Martin Ski Lodge in its budget in 1945 - 1946, and 1946 - 1947. Expenses included a caretaker’s salary (\$320 in 1945 - 1946 and \$420 in

⁶⁶ “Ski Tournaments Open Dec. 1; 23 Meets Slated for N.W.,” *Seattle Times*, October 28, 1946 (page 15); “Ski Stars Report for Husky Team, Many Tourneys on Washington Schedule,” *Seattle Times*, November 10, 1946 (page 39); “Penguin Meet Heads Set; 5-Man Teams to Compete,” *Seattle Times*, December 8, 1946 (page 53).

⁶⁷ “New Skiing Area Planned in Cascades,” *Seattle Times*, November 3, 1946 (page 38).

⁶⁸ “20 Washington Runners Vie at Mt. Hood Today,” *Seattle Times*, December 1, 1946 (page 41).

1946 - 1947), supplies, rental, insurance and miscellaneous for a total actual expenditure of \$2,406.76 in 1945 - 1946, and a budgeted expenditure of \$5,070 for 1946 - 1947. The 1946 - 1947 budget included a \$4,000 un-itemized amount, possibly to pay for improvements to the lodge and hill. Actual revenue for 1945 - 1946, was \$843 (lodging fees \$286, ski lift \$500.25, and misc. \$37.25). Revenue budgeted for the 1946 - 1947, included lodging \$350, and ski lift \$500.⁶⁹

Ski Season of 1946 - 1947

The HWSC held its annual Ski Carnival between February 14 - 16, 1947, in conjunction with the Northwest Intercollegiate races at Stampede Pass. The Huskies competed against racers from Washington State, College of Puget Sound, Whitman, University of British Columbia, Idaho, and Oregon in downhill, slalom, cross-country at Martin, and jumping at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl. There were also intramural, obstacle and couples races, and a ski queen was selected who had to "know how to ski to qualify for her crown." The 3,000 foot lift built by the University of Washington skiers at Martin began operation for the first time.⁷⁰

In early March 1947, **Washington** Coach Gus Eriksen mailed invitations to nine Pacific Coast Conference schools for the Intercollegiate ski meet at Martin to be held March 22 - 24, 1947. The college jumping competition would precede the Olympic Games jumping event on Saturday at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl, with cross-country races scheduled at Martin for March 23, and the downhill and slalom the following day. Sun Valley was holding tryouts for the slalom and downhill events for the 1948 Olympics, and the 50 top men skiers, along with the top 20 women skiers would be there. Skiers eligible to try out would not be known until after the national championships were finished at Ogden and Alta Utah. Five Seattle skiers were in the running, Paul Gilbreath and Don Amick of the Washington Ski Club, Rees Stevenson and Cliff Schmidike of the **University of Washington**, and Jack Nagel, Penguin Ski Club. Gretchen Kunigk Fraser was the Pacific Northwest's top threat in the women's field, who previously skied for the Tacoma Ski Club.⁷¹

The 1947 *Tyee* described the hard work that had been done at the Martin ski lodge over the prior year.

The ski year of 1946 - 47 will be remembered in Husky Winter Sports Club history as one of new additions, improvements and general "hard work." A new tow to the top of the

⁶⁹ University of Washington Special Collections, Administrative Expense, Insurance, Employment Office, Rentals & Concessions, ASUW financial document, accession no. 82-110, box No. 2, Final Budget 1946 - 1947.

⁷⁰ "Jumping Stars Vie Sunday at Milwaukee Bowl," *Seattle Times*, February 9, 1947 (page 18); "Short Notes," *Seattle Times*, February 20, 1947 (page 20).

⁷¹ "Sun Valley Will Draw Ski Stars," *Seattle Times*, March 2, 1947 (page 21).

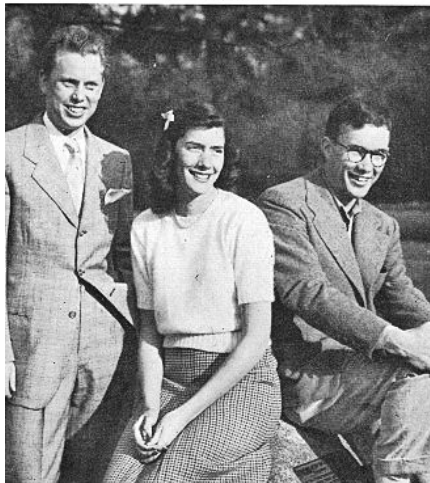
power line was the largest undertaking. The purchase of weasles and improvements to the lodge facilities also furnished many headaches and work parties.

The club's Ski Carnival was held in February 1947, and the Husky Winter Sports Club hosted the Pacific Northwest Conference meet and the girl's ski team from the University of British Columbia. The Carnival involved a ski shuffle mixer on campus, followed by a weekend of activities at Martin. Hot-shot skiers practiced all Saturday for the Sunday races, and "not-so-hot skiers made tracks and prat-falls down the steep slopes of the area." A queen was crowned on Saturday night by the light of flares, and a Schotische contest was held. A giant slalom race was held on Sunday "down the steeply pitched Husky Hill on ice," with 23 teams competing.



HUSKY WINTER SPORTS CLUB

OFFICERS: Bud Nordstrom, treasurer; Nancy Sloyden, secretary;
Bob Parker, president



University of Washington Tyee, 1947.



Evening in front of the fire at the lodge.



Five HWSC big shots on the snow weasel.

THE SKI YEAR OF 1946-47 will be remembered in Husky Winter Sports Club history as one of new additions, improvements and general "hard work."

A new tow to the top of the power line was the largest undertaking. The purchase of weasels and improvements of lodge facilities also furnished many headaches and work parties.

Highlighting the year's activities were the Ski Carnival held in February, Christmas vacation skiing with powder snow and sunshine prevailing, and playing host to the Pacific Northwest Conference meet and later to the girls' ski teams from the University of British Columbia.

Through the continual responsibilities of the committees the functions of the club were carried out. Committee heads for the year were: John Gonnason, lodge; Bob Fallis, tow; Alan Taylor, hill; Johnny Newland and Dan Pulsifer, publicity; Jackie Hilscher, social; Sybil Levin, office staff; Harry Dorst, work parties; Betty Nelson, physical education representative.

Doing more than their share of work each week-end while others skied were Mark Barricklow, Gordon Syliaason, Jack Pederson and Gus Eriksen, club adviser, who shouldered many of the responsibilities.

Leading a membership drive at the beginning of the year was Lloyd Harmon who was later replaced by Bob Parker.



Always a popular time of day.



Redecorating before the skiing season.



Couples' Race



The Royal Chariot



Obstacle Course



Oops, slipped!

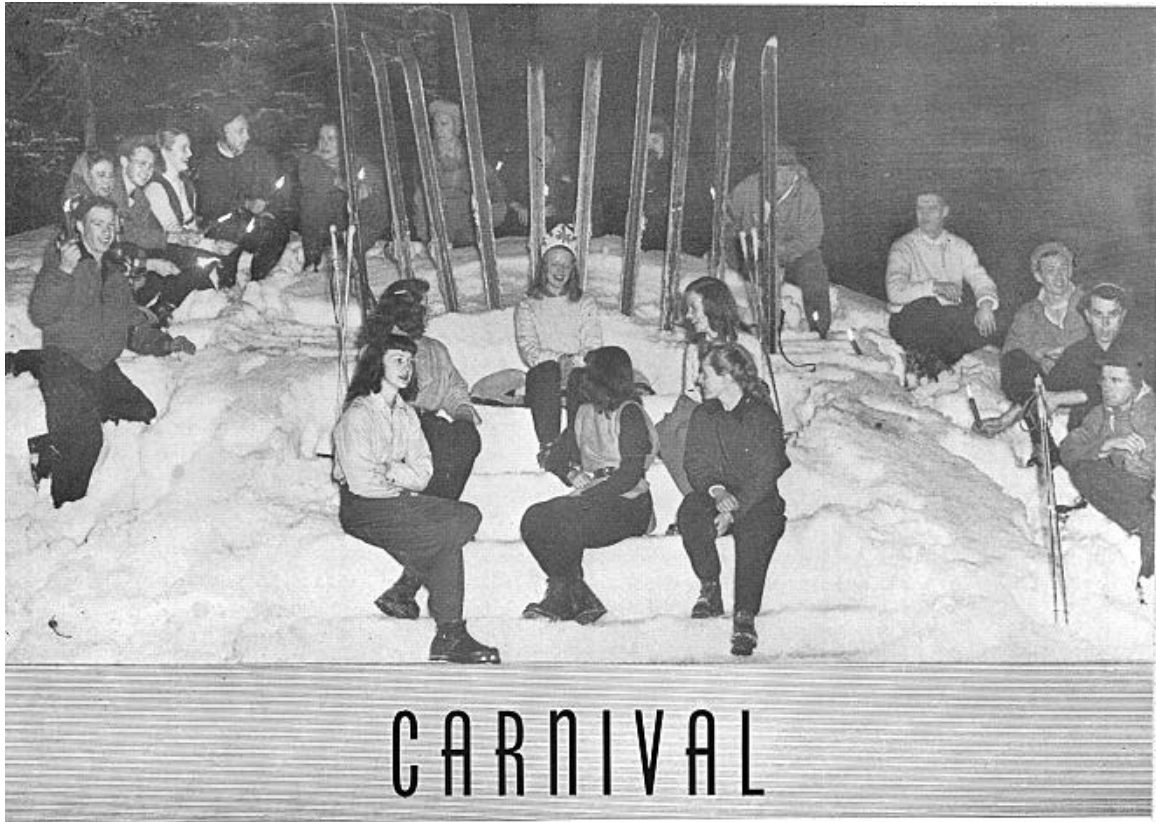


THE SKI CARNIVAL, which began Friday night, February 14, with a ski shuffle mixer in the women's gymnasium, went to the mountains . . . to the Husky chalet at Martin, Washington . . . on Saturday morning. All day Saturday hot-shot skiers practiced high-speed skiing in preparation for Sunday's races and not-so-hot-shot skiers made tracks and prat-falls down the steep slopes of the area.

Saturday night, by the light of flares, lovely Nanette Garhart was mushed on a dog-sled to a snow throne where she was crowned queen by Bob St. Louis, captain of the ski team. After the coronation, a Schottische contest was held at Rustic Inn. Jeanette Burr and Bob Kuss twirled their way to victory.

Sunday's giant slalom race was run down the steeply-pitched Husky Hill on ice. Twenty-three teams entered and the Little Davids . . . Bob Kuss, Dick Whiting, Jim Whiting, J. Ursic and Daryl Bates . . . were the winners among the men's teams. Randy Cooper of SAE had the best individual time.

The women's intramural championship was won by Delta Gamma team: Ilene Madsen, Nancy McFadden and Pat FitzSimmons. Jeanette Burr had the best individual time, followed by Marilyn Dupar. Jim Whiting took first in the obstacle race.



Jeanette Burr



Marilyn Dupar



University of Washington Tyee, 1947.

For the ski season of 1947 - 1948, the **Husky Winter Sports Club** upgraded and improved the lodge and ski hill at Martin. The *Husky Winter Sportsman*, "the Official Mouthpiece of the HWSC," published on November 6, 1947, described the many improvements that had been made and the club's plans for the winter.⁷²

Weekend work parties were putting finishing touches on the Martin Ski Lodge and ski tows to make the facility ready for the upcoming ski season. Club members and anyone interested in staying at the Lodge on weekends or attending its parties were invited to share the work - transportation was provided but "bring your own sleeping bag."

The prior weekend's work party filled the lodge with "happy eager people" who brought in supplies, installed the gas lines for the lodge's dual power plant, and got the last of the winter's firewood inside. Members had built a tow house for the main tow, rolled gas drums into position for the tow motors, and put the last tow pole into place. The ski tow was lengthened and a more powerful motor was installed that would run at 750 feet a minute and handle six or more people at once. Installation of the ski tows caused trouble because Martin's hills were convex, which mean the tows rub on the snow and dig holes. Members would have to keep filling holes during the ski season. Five kilowatt floodlights were installed on the main ski slope and night skiing would be one of the coming year's features. "You can read a newspaper at the bottom of the hill." A new microphone system had been installed "capable of broadcasting both music and voice over a large part of the Martin ski area," and would "provide skiers with professional yodeling and sweet music" the coming winter. A work party chairman said "man, you can hear that thing for three miles."

The lodge could sleep 120 guests that winter, compared to 42 the prior year. Mattresses and pillows were provided but guests had to furnish sleeping bags. New plumbing facilities were installed that would provide ample hot water for new shower rooms, the kitchen and wash rooms. The prior year, water was heated on the stove. "Ah! Civilization!" Food would be purchased in Seattle wholesale, and meals would be served at the lodge on weekends. Dairy products would be purchased in Cle Elum. Navy trays and tables were being used in the dining room.

The **HWSC** sponsored "skier-photographer" John Jay who would show his movie featuring the Norwegian, Swiss and French ski teams in the Olympic tryouts at Sun Valley. The U. W. ski team was holding pre-season conditioning programs for 65 to 70 men, including 10 returning lettermen, under coach Buster Campbell. Two registered nurses would be in charge of Martin's new first aid room. Both were experienced ski patrol members who worked at Snoqualmie the prior year. Access to Martin would be easier that winter, as a new road to within 1/4 of a mile to Martin would be open so members could reach the lodge by car giving members the option of taking the Northern Pacific train to Martin, or driving there. Members were offered comprehensive insurance so if they were hurt on a skiing trip, they could get paid for it.

⁷² University of Washington Special Collections, Accession Number 96-002, box number 8, Husky Winter Sports file.

A dual competition was held at Martin in January 1948, with the **Husky** freshmen beating the Seattle College freshmen - sophomores in downhill and slalom competition. The *Seattle Times* said Husky Winter Sports Club's annual carnival would take place at its "ski home" at Martin in late February 1948, with the highlight being a torchlight parade to crown the U. W. ski queen on a throne of ice. There would also be obstacle races, yodeling, schottische and polka contests during the three day event.⁷³

The *Husky Winter Sportsman*, the Official Mouthpiece of HWSC, published on February 20, 1948, described the club's upcoming winter carnival. Five queen candidates had been selected from a group of 40 pretty skiers - which girl was selected as queen would be announced a few minutes before the torchlight parade on Saturday night. Candidates would be graded on four points: appearance, poise, personality and skiing ability. "The Queen of the Carnival must be able to ski." No one knows who she except for the ski team, "and they won't tell." The club was having a big party at the Women's Century Club, the "Ski Shuffle," to begin the weekend, where crossed skis on the chandeliers would overlook the throngs of skiers. A schottische contest would be the height of the evening. The winner of the weekend's giant slalom race would get a pair of skis from the University Book store. There weekend would also include a costume race, an obstacle race, and a cookie race. The previous weekend saw a number of problems at the HWSC's ski areas, as a result of the weather that affected the ski tournament held at Martin. At the Rustic Inn, the stove blew up and plastered a tin can on the ceiling and soot everywhere, the lights went out, and the water froze. Two inches of snow per hour fell, and the wind blew from 50 to 70 m.p.h., "funny everybody didn't go home." The **U.W. ski team** won the tournament, beating Washington State, Idaho and Gonzaga. **U.W. skier** Bob St. Louis placed first in jumping and slalom.⁷⁴

The annual Stampede Pass giant slalom race was held by the Mountaineers in April 1948, at Martin. A skier from Sun Valley, Mitt Scarlatos, won, beating local skiers. Gretchen Norling of the Mountaineers won the women's race.⁷⁵

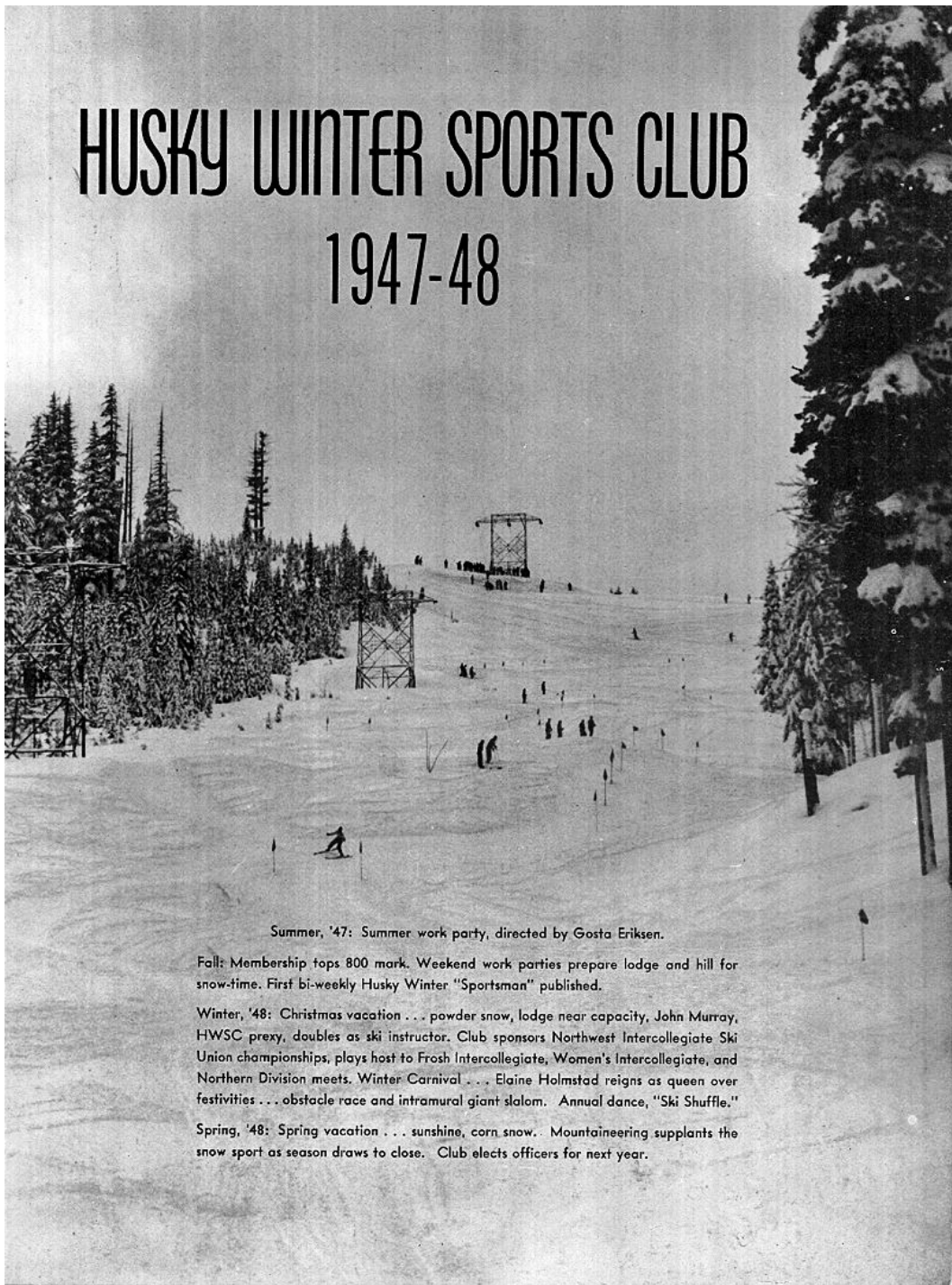
The 1948 *Tyee* gave the highlights of the year at Martin - summer work party, membership tops 800 mark, and weekend work parties prepare lodge and hill for snow-time. First bi-weekly Husky Winter Sportsman published. "Membership tops 800 mark." Christmas vacation - powder snow, lodge near capacity. Club sponsors Northwest Intercollegiate Ski Union championships, hosts freshman intercollegiates, women's intercollegiates and Northern Division meets. Winter carnival, annual dance, ski shuffle. Spring '48, spring vacation, sunshine, corn

⁷³ "Stordalen Wins Fjeld Ski Jumping Event, Horning Scores Double," *Seattle Times*, January 19, 1948 (page 16); "Husky Ski Club Set for Winter Fete," *Seattle Times*, February 19, 1948 (page 3).

⁷⁴ University of Washington Special Collections, Accession Number 96-002, box number 8, Husky Winter Sports file.

⁷⁵ "Sun Valley Ace Scores in Slalom," *Seattle Times*, April 12, 1948 (page 17).

snow. Mountaineering supplants the snow sport as season draws to close.



Summer, '47: Summer work party, directed by Gosta Eriksen.

Fall: Membership tops 800 mark. Weekend work parties prepare lodge and hill for snow-time. First bi-weekly Husky Winter "Sportsman" published.

Winter, '48: Christmas vacation . . . powder snow, lodge near capacity, John Murray, HWSC prexy, doubles as ski instructor. Club sponsors Northwest Intercollegiate Ski Union championships, plays host to Frosh Intercollegiate, Women's Intercollegiate, and Northern Division meets. Winter Carnival . . . Elaine Holmstad reigns as queen over festivities . . . obstacle race and intramural giant slalom. Annual dance, "Ski Shuffle."

Spring, '48: Spring vacation . . . sunshine, corn snow. Mountaineering supplants the snow sport as season draws to close. Club elects officers for next year.

University of Washington Tyee, 1948



University of Washington Tye, 1948

IX. UW SKIER DAVID FAIRES & TACOMA SKIER GRETCHEN KUNIGK FRASER SELECTED FOR 1948 U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM, WHO WINS TWO MEDALS

1947 - Sun Valley Reopens and Holds its Annual Tournaments

Sun Valley's Fifth Annual Intercollegiate Tournament over the Christmas holidays was the resort's first event as it opened in December 1946, after being closed for four years and used as a naval convalescent hospital. 140 men and women from 25 schools were there for the four-event competition, including the **University of Washington** ski team, to perform in front of "the cream of the Hollywood film colony, plus a score or more persons representing Europe's and Park Avenues' best drawing rooms along with a smattering of American industrialists." Many Washington residents were among the holiday crowds at Sun Valley as well.

Washington skiers took most of the first ten places in the downhill race, although Bill Beesley from the University of Utah edged out Dave ("Rabbit") Ferries for first place. Mary Alice Piel from Washington State won the women's downhill. Crosby Perry-Smith of Western State College won the cross-country event, with **U.W. racers** finishing fifth, sixth, seventh, ninth and tenth. "A galaxy of Hollywood stars" watched the jumping competition on Ruud Mountain.

Karl Stingl from the Penguin Ski Club led the Washington State team to compete at the President's Cup/Western Interstate races at Sun Valley in late January 1947, where skiers from Washington, Oregon, California and Idaho competed for the first postwar revival "of the famed event." Others on the Washington team included Wilmer Hampton, Wenatchee, Hank Seidelhuber, Penguins, Art Strom Seattle, Gretchen Fraser, Vancouver, Elsie Seidelhuber, Penguins, and Betty Amick, Washington. Women skiers competed in downhill and slalom. Colorado won the team title, with Utah second, Idaho third and Washington fourth. Gretchen Fraser was second in the women's combined, losing to Dodie Post from Reno but skiing for Idaho. Karl Stingle won 10th in the combined, with teammate Hank Seidelhuber finishing 12th.⁷⁶

The Milwaukee Ski Bowl Reopens to Great Excitement

In the spring of 1946, the National Ski Patrol wrote the *Seattle Times* urging it to reopen its ski school as soon as possible because of the large number of injuries to skiers the prior season, with the *Times* saying "Increasing Accidents Demanded That Times Reopen Skiing Classes."

⁷⁶ "Spring Carnival to be Revived, Gala Event Slated for Paradise Next April," *Seattle Times*, November 24, 1946 (page 39); "Penguin Meet Heads Set: 5- Man Teams to Compete," *Seattle Times*, December 8, 1946 (page 53); "6 Intramural Sports Listed at University," *Seattle Times*, December 22, 1946 (page 31); "Faires, Husky Runner, Edges in Idaho Race," *Seattle Times*, December 29, 1946 (page 25); "Jumping Ends College Meet at Sun Valley," *Seattle Times*, December 31, 1946 (page 15); "Noted Pain on Way to Leavenworth for Big Meet, State Team Selected for Sun Valley Meet," *Seattle Times*, January 22, 1947 (page 22); "Colorado Leads at Sun Valley," *Seattle Times*, January 26, 1947 (page 27); "Stingl Tenth in Interstate," *Seattle Times*, January 27, 1947 (page 18).

In December 1946, the *Seattle Times* announced that for the winter of 1946 - 1947, free Seattle Times ski lessons would be offered “for the first time in five long years, when a jam-packed ski train rolls out of Union Station for the enlarged and improved Milwaukee Road Ski Bowl.” The Seattle Times free ski lessons were open not just to high school students, but also to college students for the first time. Eligible to enroll were students at all eight Seattle high schools, parochial and private schools of prep ratings, **University of Washington**, Seattle College, and other colleges. Ski Schoolers would learn controlled skiing from Ken Syverson,

so last season’s sprained-shoulder and fracture-ankle list will be pretty much a thing of the past. The pupils will learn correct snowplow, stem-turn and racing technique from many instructors who are veterans of previous Times schools and others who served with the far-famed Tenth Mountain Division in Kiska and Italy. At the end of eight weeks some of the young skiers will be hard to distinguish from the instructors as they burn down the big hill from Rocky Point at the Ski Bowl.⁷⁷

Selection of the Us Alpine Olympic Team

The Pacific Northwestern Ski Association Amateur Downhill and Slalom Championships were held on February 8 & 9, 1947, at Stevens Pass, where skiers competed for a chance to enter the Olympic downhill and slalom tryouts in Sun Valley, Idaho, in March. The Sun Valley Ski Club led by Alf Engen “the Sun Valley Open ace,” sent a ten-man team to compete at Stevens Pass, which included two former Washingtonians, Karl Stingl who formerly skied for the Penguin Ski Club, and Dave Faires who previously skied for the **University of Washington**. Gretchen Kunigk Fraser, from Tacoma but living in Sun Valley, would fight it out with Dodie Post, the “sensational Reno skier” who recently beat Gretchen. Both were “surefire Olympic Games prospects.”⁷⁸

Dave Faires (“the Rabbit”), who dropped out of the **U.W.** that winter to race for the Sun Valley Ski Club, won the combined PNSA downhill and slalom title at Stevens Pass, barely edging out Jack Nagel. “But the Rabbit really had to clip off the seconds in the slalom race, placing second, to edge the sensational young Penguin Ski Clubber, Karl Nagel, for first place in the combined.” Nagel took first in the slalom and fourth in the downhill, while Faires took second in both events. “Nagel’s slalom races were nearly perfect, as he defeated the class of Northwest racers,” and he was the only racer to beat 50 seconds over the course that Ken Syverson laid out from the top of big Chief to the bottom of the big tow. Leon Goodman was third in the combined and Dan Goodman was fourth. Gretchen Kunigk Fraser, “whose downhill

⁷⁷ “Courses Free to Any Seattle High-School or College Students, & Increasing Accidents Demanded That Times Reopen Skiing Classes,” *Seattle Times*, November 24, 1946 (page 35).; “Bells Clang for Ski Schoolers!,” *Seattle Times*, December 22, 1946 (page 31); “Ken Syverson Demonstrated Controlled Skiing,” *Seattle Times*, December 22, 1946 (page 71).

⁷⁸ “Stevens Ski Meet to Test Olympic Games Hopefuls, Racing Stars Vie Next Week; Leavenworth Has Jumps Today,” *Seattle Times*, February 2, 1947 (page 20).

running was matchless,” won the women’s combined title, after finishing third in the slalom behind her teammates Rebecca Fraser and Mary Alice Peel, “the Washington State College runner.” Rebecca Fraser was second in the combined, and Peel third. Both days of the racing were run in near-perfect conditions before the largest ski audience since before the war.⁷⁹

On March 3 & 4, 1947, the National Championship Downhill and Slalom races at Ogden, Utah brought “top-flight skimen and skiwomen” from all over the U.S. The first 50 men finishers and the first 20 women finishers would be eligible to compete in the Olympic tryouts at Sun Valley later in March. The Pacific Northwestern Ski Association sent 16 skiers to compete, including four Seattle ski stars - Jack Nagel, Rees Stevenson, Don Amick and Paul Gilbreath. Other PNSA racers included Dave Faires (former member of the **U.W. ski team**), Karl Stingl, Don and Leon Goodman and Gene Gills of Sun Valley, and Bill Bowes of Portland. The woman’s team included Gretchen Kunigk Fraser, Rebecca Fraser, Alma Hansen and Dodie Post of Sun Valley, Mary Alice Peal of Washington State College, and Ann Volkmann of Portland. Karl Molitor from Switzerland took the national combined championship, making a clean sweep of the events. Alf Engen of Sun Valley was second in the combined, followed by another Swiss skier, Paul Valear, Dick Movitz of Salt Lake City, and John Linchfield of Aspen. Rhoda Wurtele of Montreal won the women’s combined title. Alma Hansen of Sun Valley placed 9th.⁸⁰

The racers moved from Utah to Sun Valley, Idaho for two separate events, after which the U.S. Olympic alpine team would be announced. The Olympic tryouts were held on March 8 & 9, 1947, followed by the Harriman Cup the next weekend, with both events consisting of downhill and slalom races, with a combined title awarded to the highest finisher in both events.

The Sun Valley Olympic team tryouts were held on March 8 and 9, 1947, where the 62 top ranking Americans competed for places on the U.S. Olympic alpine team. Salt Lake City’s Jack Redish won the men’s downhill, beating the course record set by Dick Durrance in 1942, and Gretchen Kunigk Fraser won the women’s downhill. Bobby Blatt of Stanford was second, Don Amick of Washington Ski Club was third, followed by Leon Goodman of Sun Valley, also representing the PNSA. Jack Nagel of the Penguin Ski Club was 8th, and Karl Stingl racing for Sun Valley, was 10th. 14 year old Andrea Mead of Pico Peak, Vt. was second in the woman’s downhill, followed by Paula Kann of N.H. and Rebecca Fraser. Bob Blatt of Palo Alto, Calif. won the combined title after finishing second in the slalom and fourth in the downhill, followed by Jack Reddish of Salt Lake City, and George Macomber of West Newton, Mass.

After the slalom race and the combined titles were awarded, four male Northwest skiers were in the running for selection to the U.S. downhill and slalom ski team by finishing in the top

⁷⁹ “Faires Shades Nagel for Combined Title,” *Seattle Times*, February 2, 1947 (page 15).

⁸⁰ “16 Northwest Skiers In National Tourney,” *Seattle Times*, February 23, 1947 (page 35); “Molitor Wins Combined Ski Championship,” *Seattle Times*, March 4, 1947 (page 19); “Penalty Lifted, Molitor Awarded Slalom Crown,” *Seattle Times*, March 9, 1947 (page 34).

20 in the combined - Don Amick, Jack Nagel, Dave Faires, and Paul Gilbreath. Amick, the veteran Washington Ski Club star, who had won the Pacific Northwest championships for 10 years, placed highest of all the Northwest men, winding up 6th in the combined after turning in brilliant downhill and slalom races on Baldy Mountain. Nagel, Faires and Gilbreath “ran beautifully” in the downhill, but placed far down in the slalom. Karl Stingle, who previously skied for the Penguin Ski Club, was also in the running. 14-year old Andrea Mead of Rutland Vt., a high-school freshman, was “by far the outstanding entrant in the trials,” winning first in the slalom and second in the downhill, and finishing second in the combined after Gretchen Fraser of Vancouver Washington.⁸¹

20 men and 10 women “who sparkled in the Olympic trials...over the weekend” were invited to race in Sun Valley’s Harriman Cup races, after which 12 men and eight women would be selected to the 1948 Olympic team. Four Seattle Stars were included - Don Amick, Jack Nagel, Dave Faires, and Paul Gilbreath. Other skiers with Northwest connections participating in the Harriman Cup included Leon Goodman of Sun Valley, Gene Gilles of Portland, Karl Stingle of Sun Valley, Gretchen Fraser of Vancouver Wn., and Mary Alice Peel of Wallace, Idaho. The two Swiss skiers who swept the American speed skiing championship in Utah were the favorites to win the event, Karl Molitor and Olivia Ausoni Villars.⁸²

Switzerland’s Edy Rominger won the downhill portion of the Harriman Cup on Sun Valley’s Warm Springs course in record time, beating Toni Matt of North Conway, N.H. by a second. “The course was fast and treacherous. Melting snow due to a warm sun ran into shady areas to form ice which tripped up many skiers racing down the slope and preventing them from finishing the run.” Karl Stingle, Seattle runner, finished 18th. France’s Georgette Thiolliere won the women’s downhill. Ruth Marie Stewart of Hanover, NH was second, Gretchen Fraser was third, and Andrea Mead finished fourth.

The selection of the U.S. Olympic team would follow the slalom race to be held on Ruud Mountain. Northwest skiers competing for the U.S. Olympic team included Jack Nagel “who has been a favorite with Washingtonians since he started skiing at Stevens Pass when he was 9 years old;” Rees Stevenson, member of the **U.W. Ski Club**; Don Amick, “two-time winner of the Pacific Northwest slalom championship”; Paul Galbreath of the Washington Ski Club; David Faires, **ex-U.W. racer** who won the amateur race at Stevens Pass; Karl Stingle, “former resident and member of the Penguin Ski Club;” and Mary Alice Peel, student at Washington State College.⁸³

⁸¹ “Reddish, Mrs. Fraser Score at Sun Valley, Marks Go in Olympic Ski Tests,” *Seattle Times*, March 9, 1947 (page 34); “4 Seattle Stars in Harriman,” *Seattle Times*, March 10, 1947 (page 16).

⁸² “4 Seattle Stars in Harriman,” *Seattle Times*, March 10, 1947 (page 16).

⁸³ “Rominger, Swiss Skier, Wins Downhill Race at Sun Valley,” *Seattle Times*, March 16, 1947 (page 42); “Seattleites Ski and Play at Sun Valley,” *Seattle Times*, March 16, 1947 (page 54).

The U.S. ski team for the 1948 Olympic games was announced in Sun Valley on March 18, 1947, with the *Seattle Times* saying, “11 Western Stars in U.S. Line-up,” as 11 out of the 19 downhill and slalom berths went to Western ski stars. Two Washington skiers made the team, Tacoma’s Gretchen Kunigk Fraser (who was married to Don Fraser, a member of the 1936 U.S. Olympic team) and Dave Faires, who was an alternate on the men’s team.

The men’s downhill and slalom team consisted entirely of Westerners, except for Colin Stewart of Hannover, N.H. Three Salt Lake skiers made the team, George Macomber, Jack Reddish and Dick Movits. Other berths went to Robert Blatt, Palo Alto, Calif. (from Seattle); Steve Knowlton, Aspen, Colo; Barney McLean of Denver; and Gordon Wren of Winter Park, Colo. A separate combined team was named, who would be qualified to participate in more than two events, and included Ralph Townsend, Durham, N.H.; Don Johnsen, Salt Lake City; and Corey Engen, Ogden Utah (brother of Alf Engen, the coach of the American team). Wendall Broomhall of Rumford, Me, would represent the U.S. in cross-country. Five alternates were chosen, including Dave Faires of Seattle and **ex-U.W. racer**, the only Northwest man to make the squad. Other alternates included Gene Gills, Sun Valley; John Blatt, Palo Alto, Calif. (brother of Robert); William Distin, Stowe, Vt; and Dev Jennings, Aspen, Colo.

Although Don Amick was not initially named to the Olympic team, in October 1947, Amick, “the veteran Washington Ski Club speedster,” was named to the U.S. Olympic downhill and slalom team. Darrock Crookes, a member of the Winter Games Committee who was on the 1936 U.S. Olympic team, said that Amick earned his spot on the squad.

Tacoma native Gretchen Kunigk Fraser (then living in Vancouver, Washington) was the “unexpected heroine” of the games, winning a gold medal in the Special Slalom, and a silver in the Alpine Combined, narrowly losing in the combined to Trude Beiser of Austria by 37/100 of a point. In his last report from the 1948 Olympics, Otto Lang said “Gretchen Fraser is the Toast of American Skiers...It was a turning point in American skiing - an historic achievement, considering the field of international competitors.” Gretchen said that the results of the Special Slalom were “a tremendous satisfaction as all four of us placed in the first 11. I found myself in a veritable whirl of excitement and the thrill of becoming an Olympic champion was almost overpowering.” Otto Lang said “little Gretchen is toast of American skiers and cheered by them whenever they gather in St. Moritz tonight.”

Lang said the U.S. men failed to live up to the country’s hopes and did not win a medal. “Technically American racers were virtually equal to their opponents, but they lack in experience and cunning of frequent big-time competitions and also need to master the art of ‘waxing.’”⁸⁴

⁸⁴ “11 Western Ski Stars in U.S. Line-Up, & Jumping Trials Become ‘Little Olympics. Canadian Aces Enter,” *Seattle Times*, March 18, 1947 (page 18); “Don Amick on Olympic Ski Squad,” *Seattle Times*, October 12, 1947 (page 40); “Northwestern Body Sets 32 Tournaments,” *Seattle Times*, October 13, 1947 (page 27); Lang, Otto, *A Bird of Passage*, pages 269 - 273; “Gretchen Fraser Second in Skiing, U.S. Star Misses Title by Fraction,” *Seattle Times*, February 4, 1948 (page 22); Fraser, Gretchen, “Operation St. Moritz,” *Sun Valley Ski Club Annual for 1948*,

X. NORWEGIAN SKI JUMPERS ATTEND U.W., MAKING HUSKY SKI TEAM A NATIONAL POWER

1947 U.S. OLYMPIC JUMPING TEAM SELECTED AT MILWAUKEE SKI BOWL

On March 22 and 23, 1947, the Milwaukee Ski Bowl hosted the final tryouts for the jumping events of the 1948 Olympic Games at St. Moritz, Switzerland. "Skiing's last fling will be its best, as never before has a jumping event comparable to the one that will compete in the Olympic Games tournament today at the Snow Bowl." The event was sponsored by the Seattle Ski Club. Jumpers from Norway and Sweden would perform in an exhibition jumping event, and the U.S. Olympic team would be selected.

The tournament brought in competitors from all around the world. The Seattle Ski Club promised that "one of the best jumping fields ever assembled in the history of Northwest skiing" would compete on the "giant Olympian hill."

Arnold Kongsgarrd, "the spring-legged Norwegian flyer who left a German concentration camp a short two winters ago, boomed 294 feet in an exhibition jump," exceeding the late Torger Tokle's American record by six feet. However, the jump was not official since it was not made during a competition. Joe Perrault from Ispeming, Michigan finished first in the competition. Six jumpers were selected to the U.S. Olympic team after the event, the first five finishers, plus Art Devlin who injured his knee at the Leavenworth tournament but who earned his berth "with flossy jumping" in other events. The others selected included Sverre Fredheim, Gordon Wren, and Ralph and Walter Bietila. Four of the six "flyers" were from the Middle West, with Wren from Colorado the lone Westerner. Perrault and Ralph Bietila were from Ispeming, Michigan; Walter Bietila was from Iron Mountain, Michigan; Devlin was from Lake Placid, New York; and Fredheim was from St. Paul, Minn. The downhill, slalom, cross-country and classic-combined teams had been selected the prior week at Sun Valley. After the competition, the jumpers left for Sun Valley for two weeks of intensive training.⁸⁵

Gustav Raaum was one of the Norwegian Ski Team that came to the Milwaukee Bowl in 1947, to perform in a jumping exhibition. In 1946, Raaum won the junior Hollenkolmen tournament for athletes under 20, and was selected to tour the U.S. with a group of Norwegian ski jumpers. One of the famous Ruud brothers, Asborn, won the over 20 Hollenkolmen tournament the same year. Raaum stayed to attend the **University of Washington**, encouraged by Olav Ulland, Finn Lepsoe, H.B. Frele and Don Amick. The rest of the team returned to Norway. "Gustav Raaum, Norse Jumper, to Enter U.W.," said the *Seattle Times* of April 7,

pages 31 - 34.

⁸⁵ "6,000 Expected to See Jumps," *Seattle Times*, March 22, 1947 (page 6); "Strolling Around Town," *Seattle Times*, March 23, 1947 (page 46); "Kongsgaard Leaps 290 Ft.," *Seattle Times*, March 23, 1947 (page 21); "Joe Perrault First in Olympic Jump Test, Committee Names Six for 1948 Games Squad," *Seattle Times*, March 24, 1947 (page 16).

1947, saying he won “the famed Holmenkollen junior event last year.” Raaum led the **U.W. jumping team** for several years, and became a mainstay of ski jumping in the Northwest for many years. Raaum worked in the ski industry for much of his life, was inducted into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame in 1980, the Northwest Ski Hall of Fame in 1990, and assisted in starting the Washington Ski and Snowboard Museum.

Raaum encouraged two other Norwegian jumpers to attend the **U.W.**, Gunnar Sunde and Jan Kaier, and this was the beginning of the recruitment of Norwegian jumpers and cross country skiers by many schools. According to Raaum, a number of Norwegian skiers competed for the **U.W ski team.**, including Einar Bekken, Karl Blom, Kristian Guttormsen, Jack Hasse, Tor Heyerdahl, Jan Kaier, Ole Lie, Asbjorn Lundteigen, Christian Mohn, Thor Mjoen, Ole Tom Nord, Knut Olbert, Per Peterson, Edwin Ronnestad, Helge Ronnestad, Kjell Stordalen, Gunnar Sunde, Per Valbo, Per Wegge, and Torbjorn Yggeseth.

Gus led the **U.W. ski jumping team** for several years, winning many honors including the NCAA Ski Jumping Championship and became an All-American. Norwegian ski jumper Olav Ulland, who moved to the Northwest in late 1936 to teach jumping at the Seattle Ski Club, and later opened Osborn & Ulland Sporting Goods Store, became “almost like a father” to Gus.⁸⁶



Gustav Raaum, 1940, photo from Nordic Museum.

⁸⁶ Raaum, *Scandinavian's Influence in the History of Ski Jumping in the Northwest*; Interview of Gustav Raaum, Nordic Museum.

SKI SEASON OF 1948

Other Norwegian jumpers who attended the **University of Washington** in 1948, included Arne Ulland, “the sensational visiting Norwegian jumping star,” and Kjell Stordalen, “another top-flight rider.” Arne Ulland was another of Olav’s brothers who had placed second in the junior Holmenkollen event, which was regarded as the “world series” of Norway. Both lost to Arthur Tokle, brother of famed jumper Torger, in a meet in Salt Lake in February 1948. Tokle represented the Norway Ski Club of New York, his brother’s old club. Gustav Raaum of the **UW** finished second, and Arne Ulland, skiing for the Seattle Ski Club, finished third. Reider Ulland finished sixth.⁸⁷

National Intercollegiate Tournament at Sun Valley

On December 18, 1947, coach Buster Campbell held the **U.W. ski teams** final workout at Martin and Beaver Lake before he selected a six-man team to race at Sun Valley over the Christmas holidays to compete in giant slalom, cross-country, and jumping. Bert Mortenson, the veteran Seattle Ski Club runner, would coach cross country skills. The prior week, Campbell had “one of the most intensive preseason conditioning programs in Washington skiing history” at the Pavilion and gymnasium in the fall. *Seattle Times*, December 14, 1947 (page 45).

The National Intercollegiate meet at Sun Valley, Idaho was held over the Christmas holidays in December 1947, “which are always an exceptionally gay and colorful interlude at Sun Valley.” The tournament had been going on since 1938, interrupted by the war years. Eleven colleges sent “the most brilliant field of collegiate skiers ever to have gathered at the Valley,” consisting of nine men’s teams and five women’s teams. Except for the jumping event which was held on Ruud Mountain, the races took place at “scenic Galena Ski Area only a few miles northwest of the Village,” although it is actually over 20 miles north of Sun Valley. The downhill was a mile-long course with a vertical drop of 1,200 feet, a “genuine test of racing ability,” which required the racers to climb to the start. The slalom took place adjacent to Galena Summit, and was open and long with 25 gates. The cross-country race was a five mile course that led up the draw past the “weather-beaten Galena Store.” Dartmouth and the University of Washington were the pre-tournament favorites.

“Huskies Second at Sun Valley” said the *Seattle Times* of January 1, 1948, and “Middlebury Ski Victor,” said the *New York Times* of January 1, 1948, as the Vermont school swept three of the top six places in ski jumping, winning the team championship, and Dartmouth produced the individual winner. Middlebury was followed by the **University of Washington**, Dartmouth, Utah, British Columbia, Colorado, Portland and Washington State. The **U.W.’s** Robert St. Louis took second in the men’s downhill, and was third in the Four Event Combined. Washington State’s Mary Alice Peel won the women’s slalom, and **U.W.’s** Jannette Jannette

⁸⁷ “Ulland Faces Test at Milwaukee Bowl,” *Seattle Times*, February 6, 1948 (page 27); “Tokle Whips Raaum, Ulland in Utah Meet,” *Seattle Times*, February 24, 1948 (page 29).

(who would be on the 1952 U.S. Olympic Alpine team) was sixth. The women's combined was won by Sally Neidlinger of the University of Colorado, who tied for first in the slalom and was second in the downhill. **U.W.'s** Gustav Raaum, an exchange student from Norway, "set the pace" and won the jumping competition, and his talent was recognized the commentators. "It was immediately evident that this lad was something of a jumper. He possessed superior style and his jumps of 126 and 129 feet cinched first place," according to an article in the *Sun Valley Ski Club Annual, 1948*.⁸⁸

Early Season Tournaments

A jumping tournament was held in January 1948, at Beaver Lake. "Heading the list of snowflyers who'll compete are Gustav Raaum, the **University of Washington** exchange student who won the Sun Valley Intercollegiate jumping crown," his teammate Kjell Stordalen and others. Gustav Raaum "who learned to ski jump on the mountains of Norway," outclassed a strong Class A field to win the first tournament of 1948. He turned in "near perfect jumps" of 155 and 162 feet, to beat his **Husky** teammate Kjell Stordalen. *Seattle Times*, January 1 & 12, 1948 (pages 31, 17).

The first Pacific Northwestern Ski Association sanctioned tournament of the year, hosted by the Tacoma Ski Club, was held at Beaver Lake on Snoqualmie Pass in early January 1948. "Some of the best flyers in the area will be soaring for distance in the meet...with such Seattle experts as Gustav Raaum, the highflying exchange student, and Kjell Stordalen, Reidar Ulland, Gunner Droge, Buser Campbell and Olav Ulland expected to compete....The Class B events should provide fireworks...The Seniors will jump too..." **U.W.'s** Gustav Raaum "who learned to ski jump on the mountains of Norway," outclassed a strong Class A field to win the first tournament of 1948. He turned in "near perfect jumps" of 155 and 162 feet, to beat his **Husky** teammate Kjell Stordalen. Art Granstrom, "the smooth-landing Everett veteran," placed third. Reidar Ulland was fourth and Olav Ulland was fifth. Seattle Ski Club's "up-and-coming young flyer won an impressive victory in the Class B event." Ole Tverdal, "who never seems to age," won the Senior event.⁸⁹

February 1948, was a busy year for the **U.W. ski team** that competed at a number of separate events.

The PNSA Classic-Combined Championships held at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl in early February 1948, was a showdown of Norwegians who would compete in an open jumping event held at the same time. The "sensational visiting Norwegian jumping star," Arne Ulland, who

⁸⁸ Crookes, Darroch, *The Intercollegiates*, Sun Valley Ski Club Annual for 1948, pages 23 - 30 .

⁸⁹ "Beaver Lake Jump Event Will Draw Top Attention," *Seattle Times*, January 4, 1948 (page 31). "Skybusters to Open Jump Season Sunday," *Seattle Times*, January 9, 1948 (page 27); "Norse Jumper First in Beaver Lake Event," *Seattle Times*, January 12, 1948 (page 17).

enrolled at the **University of Washington**, would compete against fellow **U.W.** Norwegian students, Gustav Raaum and Kjell Stordalen. The open jumping contest was cancelled due to weather conditions. “We’ll jump exhibitions, but it’s suicide to hold a tournament in weather like this.” The combined meet was won by Seattle Ski Club jumper Gunar Drage after jumping in one of the heaviest snow storms to blanket the Cascades in years “making jumping nearly impossible...The jumpers couldn’t see from the time they hit the take-off until well after they landed because of the heavy snow and flat light. Too, the landing slope, dip and outun was soft, and a corps of foot-trampers couldn’t keep up with the rapidly falling snow.” Drage barely beat Buster Campbell, the University of Washington ski coach for the combined title. Bob St. Louis, “the up-and-coming University flyer” won the Class B combined title. 1,000 spectators braved the weather to watch the tournament. *Seattle Times*, February 6, 8 & ,9, 1948 (pages 17, 27, 18).

The Northwest Intercollegiate Ski Union Championship was held at Martin on February 12, 1948, attracting “top-flight collegiate snowburners from throughout the Far West” to compete in cross-country, downhill, slalom and jumping (held on Tverdall Hill at Beaver Lake). Teams came from Utah, Eastern Washington College of Education, University of British Columbia, Montana State, Idaho, Washington State, Gonzaga and Washington. The **U.W. team** consisted of Bob St. Louis, Rees Stevenson, Bill Talbot, Ross Williams, Gustav Raaum, and Bill Dunaway. John Woodward, “former Husky ski star” set courses. *Seattle Times*, February 12, 1948 (page 22).

The 16th Annual Pacific Northwest Ski Association Jumping Championships were held on Mt. Hood on February 14, 1948. The **U.W.** sent Arne Ulland, Gustav Raaum, Kjell Stordlaen Reider Ulland, and Bob St. Louis to compete. However, a heavy snow storm caused cancellation of the event, although jumping was moved to the Class B jump. Arne Ulland “the Norwegian ski artist who never has lost in a United States event” had the longest jump. *Seattle Times*, February 13 & 16, 1948 (pages 26, 18).

The Northwest Intercollegiate Ski Union Championships were rescheduled for February 15, 1948, at Beaver Lake on Snoqualmie Pass. **Husky flyers** finished one-two in the jumping event. Bob St. Louis, “the **U.W.’s four-way star**” won the jumping event with Bob Stevenson second. St. Louis was second in the downhill, tenth in cross-country and 13th in the slalom, winning the combined title. Washington won the team title, with the University of British Columbia second. *Seattle Times*, February 16, 1948 (page 19).

Gustav Raaum competed in the Intermountain and Utah Open Ski Jumping tournament at Salt Lake on February 23, 1948. Arthur Tokle of the Norway Ski Club of New York (brother of the late Torger Tokle) won the event against ten of the nation’s best Class A jumpers. **U.W.’s** Gus Raaum placed second. Other Northwest competitors were Gunnar Drage and Reidar Ulland of the Seattle Ski Club. *Seattle Times*, February 24, 1948 (page 20).

The Pacific Northwestern Ski Association’s classic-combined championship was held at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl the first weekend of February 1948. It would answer the “latest ski puzzler: How does Arne Ulland, the sensational visiting Norwegian jumping star, compare with

last year's touring Norse team, such as Arnold Kongsgaard, Ragnar Baklid, and Gustav Raaum."

In spite of this puzzle, the event was won by Gunnar Drage the "high-flying Seattle Ski Club skybuster...but the Norse really had to work for his title," because of one of the heaviest snow storms in the last five years that added two feet of new snow to the Cascades "making jumping nearly impossible." Buster Campbell, the **U.W. ski coach**, turned in two steady jumps to "come within a whisker of beating Drage for the combined crown." Drage took third in the cross-country race and Campbell second, but the Norseman took the crown with longer jumps. Bob St. Louis, "the up-and-coming University flier," won the Class B combined event. The open tournament was cancelled because of the snow. "The flyers couldn't see from the time they hit the take-off until well after they landed because of the heavy snow and flat light." Gunvold Haugen of the Fjeld Ski Club was third in the combined. His brother Sven won the cross-country event but did not compete in the jumping.⁹⁰

National Jumping Championships Held at Milwaukee Ski Bowl

In early March 1948, the Milwaukee Ski Bowl was the site of the National Jumping Championships. The winner received the Torger Tokle Memorial Trophy, which was the "most coveted ski trophy in the nation," given by the Norway Ski Club of New York to the National Ski Association. It was 39 inches high, carved in sterling silver, and valued at \$1,200. The event included "three flyers" who jumped for the U.S. in the 1948 Olympics in St. Moritz, Switzerland - Ralph and Walter Bietila and Joe Perrault.

"One of the worst snow storms of the winter swept in from the northeast," causing the postponement of the national ski-jumping tournament until the following day, to the disappointment of 3,000 "winter-sports fans who arrived by train and car to view the annual classic." Some of the nation's top flight riders performed exhibition jumps to entertain the spectators, "but jumping was almost impossible in the face of driving snow." Arne Ulland, "the star visiting from Norway, stretched for 244 feet...just about perfect in view of the storm."

On Monday, **U.W. student** Arne Ulland, "a visiting Norwegian flyer, who makes ski jumping look so easy, topped one of the best fields of American skiing," to win the National Championships with jumps of 280 and 281 feet in "near perfect form," just missing Torger Tokle's hill record.

Officials and the few spectators who braved showers to watch the championships sensed Ulland was hitting for distance when he sped down the inrun the second time. The Norse flyer literally flew off the hill's take-off, booming into space with a tremendous leg kick. Ulland landed easily just eight feet short of Torger Tokle's hill mark of 288 feet and roared down the inrun with near perfect form. Judges gave him top score on form.

⁹⁰ "Ulland Faces Test at Milwaukee Bowl," *Seattle Times*, February 6, 1948 (page 27); "Drage, Campbell Go One-Two in Classic," *Seattle Times*, February 9, 1948 (page 18).

Walter Bietila took second, and Joe Perrault, “who captured the fancy of Seattle ski fans in the Olympic Games trials last March, racked up two 250 foot leaps” and was third. Gustav Raaum, “the Norse exchange student at the University of Washington,” finished sixth.⁹¹

Other Jumping Tournaments in 1948

At the annual Pacific Northwestern Association Class A, B and Senior championships at Multorpor Hill, Mt. Hood, “Arne Ulland, Norwegian ski artist who never has lost in a United States event, had his record clear despite a heavy snow that forced cancellation” of the event. Jumping was moved to the Class B hill, where Ulland’s exhibition jump of 148 feet set a new record for the hill. Gustav Raaum trailed Ulland, but his form gave him preference over Kjel Stordalen and Reider Ulland. All were Norwegian exchange students at the **University of Washington**. Harold Hansen of the Seattle Ski Club won the Class B competition.⁹²

The Northwest Intercollegiate Ski Union Championship was held in mid-February 1938, with downhill and slalom events at Martin on Stampede Pass, and the jumping events at Beaver Lake on Snoqualmie Summit. The **University of Washington** won the event, beating the University of British Columbia, Washington State College, University of Idaho, Gonzaga University, Montana State College, and Eastern Washington. Bob St. Louis, “the U.W.’s four-way star,” won the jumping event at Beaver Lake, “to beat out the best college skybusters in the Far West.” He also won the combined individual honors.⁹³

At the Utah Open jumping tournament at Salt Lake City in late February 1948, Arthur Tokle, “Norwegian-born skier representing the Norway Ski Club of New York,” and Torger’s brother, bested 10 of the nation’s best Class A jumpers with leaps of 131 and 148 feet at Ecker Hill in Parley’s canyon. The Class B take-off was used since strong winds made use of the Class-A take-off impossible. Seattle based jumpers performed well in the tournament. Gustav Raaum of the University of Washington was second, and Arne Ulland, **U.W. exchange student** competing for the Seattle Ski Club was third. Harold Hansen of the Seattle Ski Club won the Class B event. Others who placed in the Class A event included Odd Harshelm, Norwegian Ski Association, Gunnar Drage, Seattle Ski Club, Ragnar Ulland, Seattle Ski Club, and Fritz Pederson, Seattle Ski Club.⁹⁴

⁹¹ “Ski Jumpers Go After Tokle Trophy Tomorrow,” *Seattle Times*, March 10, 1948 (page 6); “Snowstorm Postpones National Ski Jumps,” *Seattle Times*, March 8, 1948 (page 20); “Ulland Cracks Top Field to Take Class A Ski Title, Norway Jumper Hits 280 Feet,” *Seattle Times*, March 9, 1948 (page 18).

⁹² “Ulland Keeps Record Clear,” *Seattle Times*, February 16, 1948 (page 18).

⁹³ “St. Louis Paces U.W. Ski Team to N.W. Intercollegiate Title,” *Seattle Times*, February 16, 1948 (page 19).

⁹⁴ “Ulland Keeps Record Clear,” *Seattle Times*, February 16, 1948 (page 18).

The **U.W.’s** Gustav Raaum won the California Ski Association’s Divisional Championships on the White Hill ski area on the eastern shore of Lake Tahoe in early March 1948. Raaum made two jumps of 129 feet. Arne Ulland of Norway placed second in the jumping, fourth in the cross-country, and won the combined event title.⁹⁵

The **University of Washington** ski team won the Northern Division Pacific Coast Conference meet in the first weekend of March 1948, “thanks to a strong showing in...the jumping event.” Paced by Gustav Raaum, the **UW** skiers won the first four places in the jumping competition. Raaum had the longest jump of the day, 159 feet on the Class B hill. The jumping competition was held in spite of a major snow storm that caused the postponement of the National ski jumping championships the same weekend. Idaho was second in the meet, followed by Washington State and Oregon State who tied for third.⁹⁶

In December 1948, Gustav Raaum, “one of the top skybusters in the Pacific Northwest,” was picked by Coach Buster Campbell for the **UW ski team** for the upcoming season. Ole Lie, another Norse exchange student, who planned to enter the UW winter quarter, was also selected,. “Lie’s presence will strengthen Campbell’s team considerably, since the young visitor was one of the top Class B cloudbusters in Norway just last winter,” according to the Seattle Times.

Raaum jumped in an exhibition at Sun Valley over the Christmas holidays of 1948, where a classic picture was taken of Raaum going off the jump on Ruud Mountain with Olav Ulland, Alf Engen, and Kjell Stordlallen. A copy of this picture is displayed at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle, and in the Nordic Center in Sun Valley.⁹⁷

In late December 1948, a new ski jump at Sprout Springs near Tollgate, Oregon was opened with exhibition jumps by Gustav Raaum, Art Granstrom, Ole Lie, Frits Pedersen, and Wilmer Hampton. Raaum placed second at a the International Invitational tournament in Trail, B.C. in early January 1949, behind Georg Thrane, a Norwegian exchange student at Washington State College. Ole Lie was third.

SKI SEASON OF 1949

Sun Valley opened its winter season on December 18, 1948, “and was ready for the yearly influx of Hollywood’s ‘names’ and ski enthusiasts from all over the Western Hemisphere.” The resort was booked through the Christmas holidays, most of January, all of February, and the first

⁹⁵ “Raaum Victor in Ski Meet,” *Seattle Times*, March 1, 1948 (page 16).

⁹⁶ “Husky Skiers Win N.D. Title,” *Seattle Times*, March 8, 1948 (page 20).

⁹⁷ “Campbell Picks Husky Ski Squads,” *Seattle Times*, December 23, 1948 (page 14).

two weeks of March.⁹⁸

Jumping Competition Is Intense Between Norwegian Exchange Students

The year 1949 was an exciting one for local ski jumping, with Norwegian exchange students attending Northwest schools competing all winter with local jumpers and Norwegians living elsewhere in the U.S. Georg Thrane, a Norwegian student at Washington State College, Sverre Kongsgarrd attending the University of Idaho, and the U.W.'s Gusav Raaum and Kjell Stordalen competed against Petter Hugsted who had won an Olympic gold in 1948 for Norway, Arthur Tokle (Torger's brother), Sverre Engen (Alf's brother) from Salt Lake, Arthur Tokle (Torger's brother) from New York, and local Norwegian skiers such as Seattle's Olav Ulland, Vancouver B.C.'s Tom Mobraaten, and others. Record snowfalls in the Northwest in 1949 affected that winter's ski events.

Mount Baker Tournament

The U.W.'s Gustav Raaum won the Mount Baker tournament in early January with jumps of 163 and 174 feet. The *Seattle Times* said this "put him on the spot as the flyer to beat at the upcoming tournament at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl." The "Norse skybusters" who entered the tournament included Raaum; Svere Kongsgaard, an exchange student at the University of Idaho; Petter Hugsted, the Olympic games champion; and Georg Thrane, Washington State College, who was one of the top jumpers in Scandinavia the prior winter.⁹⁹

Milwaukee Ski Bowl Tournament - New American Record Set

The Milwaukee Road had improved its Ski Bowl for the 1949 season. Special railroad crews worked overtime for two months at the Ski Bowl in the late summer of 1948, to brush and grade the new areas for beginning, intermediate and advanced skiers, and many new skiable acres were added to its runs. Milwaukee Road planned to "face-lift" the Bowl each summer "until enough area is cleared to assure beginning, intermediate, advanced and racing flyers of runs of their choice."¹⁰⁰

In January 1949, the Milwaukee Ski Bowl was the site for the Pacific Northwestern Ski Association's jumping tournament. The Milwaukee Road offered special trains to the event costing \$2.67 for adults and \$1.39 for children, including admission to the tournament.

⁹⁸ "Sun Valley Opens Season," *Seattle Times*, December 19, 1948 (page 31).

⁹⁹ "Six City Skiers Open New Jump," *Seattle Times*, January 1, 1949 (page 13); "Raaum on Spot after Ski-Jumping Victory," *Seattle Times*, January 17, 1949 (page 17); "Husky Skiers Repeat," *Seattle Times*, January 10, 1949 (page 13); "Another Norse Enters Ski Jump," *Seattle Times*, January 26, 1949 (page 19).

¹⁰⁰ "Ski Paradise," *Seattle Times*, January 2, 1949 (page 30); "Snow Train," *Seattle Times*, January 5, 1949 (page 23); "Snow Train," *Seattle Times*, February 9, 1949 (page 25).

Admission tickets from the highway cost \$1.40 for adults and \$.75 for children.

Sverre Kongsgaard, “the high-flying Norwegian ski ace enrolled at the University of Idaho,” soared to a North American distance record of 290 feet on the Ski Bowl’s Olympic Hill, beating Torger Tokle’s 288 foot record set there in 1941, and 289 set feet at Iron Mountain, Michigan. Sverre was a cousin of Arnhold Kongsgarrd who set a new mark at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl two years before of 291 feet, although it did not count since was not in competition. The *Seattle Times* said, “Kongsgarrd Clan Finally Leaps to Ski-Jump Record.” However, the tournament was won on form points by Georg Thrane, a Norwegian exchange student at Washington State College, despite a lack of practice that season. Kongsgaard finished third in the competition. Petter Hugsted of Norway, the 1948 Olympic jumping champion “was great...but try as he might, he couldn’t match Thrane,” and he placed second. Arthur Tokle (Torger’s brother) finished fourth, and The U.W.’s Gustav Raaum finished sixth. The jumps made by Olav Ulland, the “daddy’ of the tournament, weren’t enough to make him dangerous.” Tormod Forland of Washington State beat his brother Lars for the Class B crown.

Thrane spent “three seconds with the angels,” according to the *Seattle Times*. Thrane was a sensation in Norway in 1947, where he won “just about every meet in sight.” The victory meant a great deal to Thrane, since he was removed from the 1948 Olympic games at the last minute and replaced by Hugsted, who won the gold medal. Thrane got his revenge by beating Hugsted at the Ski Bowl. Thrane won with “a surprising technique...he simply took the most direct line from take-off to landing.” He had built-up heels on his ski boots so rather than springing off the take-off, he “simply bends into the breeze.” Kongsgaard flew “over crown of the hill for what seemed minutes until his grooved runners smacked the snow near the bottom of the landing.” Thrane “mastered the art of floating for great distances...He seems motionless in the air until his skis slapped in the snow in a perfect telemark landing.”¹⁰¹

Other Tournaments in 1949

The 1949 Leavenworth tournament in early February 1949, was also won by Georg Thrane, “the Norse ski-jumping stylist who makes soaring off towering mountains look easy.” He “looked even better than he did” at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl tournament, soaring 240 and 260 feet and displaying almost perfect form. Arthur Tokle finished second, Art Devlin, “the American-born ace,” finished third, Sverre Kongsgaard fourth, and U.W.’s Gustav Raaum fifth. Harold Hansen of Seattle won the Class B tournament. Heavy snows caused the cancellation of the Washington Ski Club’s tournament at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl that weekend.¹⁰²

¹⁰¹ “Milwaukee Crews Clear Large Areas,” *Seattle Times*, December 20, 1948 (page 18); “Another Norse Enters Ski Jump,” *Seattle Times*, January 26, 1949 (page 19); “Olympians Leap Today at Big Ski Bowl Event,” *Seattle Times*, January 29, 1949 (page 32); “Three Seconds With Angels - Ski Jumpers Soar into Space, & Kongsgaard Clan Finally Leaps to Ski-Jump Record,” *Seattle Times*, January 31, 1949, (page 15); “The Cloudbusters are Back,” *The Milwaukee Magazine*, March 1949 (page 4).

¹⁰² “Thrane Tops Ski Jumpers for 2nd Win,” *Seattle Times*, February 7, 1949 (page 18).

The Spokane Ski Club sponsored a jumping tournament on its new run in mid-February 1949, featuring Class A, B and Senior events where the best of the Northwest's talent was expected to compete, including Georg Thrane, "the Kongsberg flier." The *Seattle Times* said that Petter Hugsted, the Olympic games champion who competed at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl, had his eyes on the national championship at Salt Lake on February 22. However, western Washington skiers had to skip the tournament because the Cascade passes were closed by heavy snowfall.¹⁰³

The National Ski Jumping Championship Tournament at Salt Lake the third week of February 1949, was called "the tourney of champions," featuring "the elite of the skiing world's aristocracy - American, Norwegian and Olympic champions" competed. Arthur Tokle, who had won the Brattleboro, Vt. Tournament the prior weekend was there, along with Gordon Wren of Steamboat Springs, Colo., who had made the longest jump in the 1948 Olympic competition, Petter Hugsted, who had won the St. Paul, Mn. tournament the prior week, and Norwegian students from the Northwest. Petter Hugsted, Norwegian and Olympic champion, representing the Norge Ski Club of Chicago, won the tournament "in an amazing demonstration of poise," in front of a record 7,500 spectators. Huggsted nosed out Art Devlin of Lake Placid, N.Y., who led all American entrants. Norwegian exchange students Georg Thrane of Washington State and Sverre Kongsgaard of the University of Idaho, were the next two finishers. Arthur Tokle was fifth, and U.W.'s Gustav Raaum was eighth, followed by Alf Engen of Salt Lake. Alf and his brother Corey Engen were the only two professionals to enter the tournament.¹⁰⁴

The Third Northwest Ski Jumping Tournament sponsored by the Cascade Ski Club at Multorpor Hill, Mt. Hood, was won by Georg Thrane of Washington State in late February 1949, beating U.W.'s Gustav Raaum. Olav Ulland, "showing his best form of the season," was third. Senior Class honors went to Helge Sather of Spokane, followed by Nick Nylund of Seattle.¹⁰⁵

"High-flying Seattle ski jumpers" competed at the Canadian invitational meet the third week of March 1949, including Fritz Pederson, Olav Ulland, and the U.W.'s Gustav Raaum and Kjell Storaalen in Class A, and Harold Hansen in Class B. The UW jumping team selected to compete in the Northern Division Pacific Conference Championships at Emida, Idaho, included Gustav Raaum, where he would compete with Georg Thrane of Washington State, and Sverre Kongsgaard of Idaho.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰³ "Jumpers at Leavenworth Tops Heavy Ski Schedule," *Seattle Times*, February 6, 1949 (page 37); "Top Ski Jumpers to Test New Run at Mt. Spokane," *Seattle Times*, February 11, 1949 (page 23).

¹⁰⁴ "National Ski Jumping Meet Has Tourney of Champions Aspects," *Seattle Times*, February 22, 1949 (page 19); "Huggs"ed Adds U.S. Ski Title to Collection," *Seattle Times*, February 23, 1949 (page 22).

¹⁰⁵ "Third Northwest Ski-Jump Title," *Seattle Times*, February 28, 1949 (page 17).

¹⁰⁶ "Downhill Skiers Race Today, Third Stevens Standard Draws 100 Speedsters," *Seattle Times*, March 20, 1949 (page 62).

XI. HWSC MARTIN LODGE BURNS DOWN IN SPRING 1949, & MILWAUKEE SKI BOWL BURNS DOWN IN DEC. 1949 ENDING TWO SKIING ERAS

The winter of 1949 brought record cold temperatures and snowfall, making life at Martin difficult. The Northern Pacific struggled to keep its rail line open over the mountains. Heavy snowfall at Martin led to the postponement of the Northwest Intercollegiate Ski Union Championships scheduled for the last weekend of February 1949. Unfortunately, word of the change in schedule did not reach all the competitors, and teams from Washington State and Montana showed up. UW Coach Buster Campbell hastily arranged a three-way meet, with jumping at Beaver Lake on Snoqualmie Summit and a cross-country race and slalom at Martin.

The HWSC carnival held in February 1949 included a costume race, an obstacle race, and a cookie race. Candidates for ski queen were graded on four points: appearance, poise, personality, and skiing ability. In April, the annual Stampede Pass giant slalom race was held at the Mountaineers Meany Ski Hut at Martin. Mitt Scarlatos from Sun Valley won, beating local skiers. Gretchen Norling of the Mountaineers won the women's race.

In 1949, evening hours at the Husky ski lodge at Martin were enlivened by four exchange students performing Scandinavian songs and dances. Club members, weary after a full day of skiing, spent many pleasant evenings before the lodge fireplace being entertained by them. For the more energetic, there was night skiing, "a modern version of moonlight buggy riding," and folk-dancing in the lodge, "especially when someone brings along an accordion," according to the *Seattle Times*, January 4, 1949.

The **Husky Winter Sports Club's** lodge at Martin burned down after the ski season of 1949. No mention of the fire could be found in the *Seattle Times*, and there is no mention of the fire in the 1950 **Tyee**. Beginning in 1950, the club's activities took place on Stevens Pass. The ASUW continued to keep the Martin Ski Lodge on its books as an asset at least through June 30, 1957, which was the last year examined..¹⁰⁷

Beginning in 1950, the activities of the **U.W. ski team** took place east of Stevens Pass. The *American Ski Annual and Skiing Journal* of January 1950, said that the University of Washington, headed by Buster Campbell, cleared a 160 acre tract just east of Stevens Pass for a ski area. The HWSC's carnival was held in February 1950, at the summit of Stevens Pass.¹⁰⁸

Jim Fredrickson was an employee of the Northern Pacific Railroad worked at Martin from 1943 to 1949, starting during World War II. In a communication with the author,

¹⁰⁷ Lundin, John, "Skiing at Martin, the Northern Pacific Stop at Stampede Pass," Essay 10615

¹⁰⁸ McNeil Fred H., *Skiing Activities in the Pacific Northwest*, American Ski Annual and Skiing Journal, January 1950 (page 26), *Alpenglow Ski History - American Ski Annual and Skiing Journal* January 1950; *Norma Staley Named Queen of Carnival*, *Seattle Times*, February 16, 1950 (page 17).

Fredrickson said that the Northern Pacific leased the lodge to the ASUW after the war. The lodge burned down in 1949, and was never rebuilt. The lodge was on Forest Service land.

Jim Fredrickson took his troop of boy scouts to Martin in the 1950s, for outdoor adventures, traveling there on a Northern Pacific train. The following is a picture that he took at Martin during one of those trips which shows his boy scout troop in front of the foundation of the destroyed lodge.



Jim Fredrickson's Boy Scout troop & lodge foundation, 1950s. Courtesy of Northern Pacific Historical Assoc., Fredrickson collection

The Milwaukee Road spent \$25-30,000 improving the Ski Bowl for the ski season of 1949 - 1950. On August 28, 1949, the *Seattle Times* published pictures of giant bulldozers working on the ski hill. Stumps were removed with 15 sticks of dynamite (although larger ones required a double dose), and small stumps were scooped out by bulldozers. The *Seattle Times* again offered its free ski school at the Milwaukee Bowl for the winter of 1950, and for the second year, the lessons were open to college students.

University of Washington and Seattle Pacific students learned the fundamentals of controlled skiing in special classes last season and the sessions were so popular the Ski School will repeat them. The eighth annual Ski School will open at Milwaukee Road Ski Bowl, with free ski instructions available for Seattle and King County high school students and university skiers.

The president of the **Husky Winter Sports Club** said that a “flock of our skiers” would be taking the lessons in controlled skiing. Ski schoolers would learn the All-American system developed by Ken Syverson for use in the deep, heavy snows of the high Cascades. Fares on the ski trains were \$1.39 for students and \$1.77 for adults.¹⁰⁹

All of the improvements to the Milwaukee Ski Bowl hill in the summer and fall of 1949, came to naught. On December 2, 1949, tragedy struck as the Milwaukee Ski Bowl Lodge caught fire and burned to the ground, in a \$180,000 fire. The *Seattle Times* said, “Fire Razes Ski Bowl Lodge; Loss \$180,000; Two Story Structure Burns Fast.” The *Milwaukee Magazine* of May 1950, reported that the fire at the Ski Bowl was the railroad’s largest fire loss of the year, causing a total loss of \$190,000. The fire not only burned the lodge and show shed, but also burned a Diesel switch engine (\$23,000), seven older-type passenger cars (\$15,800), and \$10,000 of freight cars.¹¹⁰

The ski area was kept operating in the winter of 1950, using railroad cars on sidings. However, in the spring, the Milwaukee Road decided not to reopen the Milwaukee Ski Bowl. The uncertainty of operations because of weather conditions which necessitated cancellation of ski trains had caused physical strain on their supervisory personnel. Because of the Korean War, the volume of rail traffic to Pacific ports had increased greatly, and more equipment and rail personnel would be diverted to the war effort in the future. The Milwaukee Road offered to work with any responsible organization that wished to take over the operations at the Ski Bowl. The *Seattle Times* offered financial aid to the Milwaukee Road to help it rebuild the ski lodge to ensure continuation of its Ski School, but was forced to cancel its ski school when a rebuilding program could not be worked out. The *Times* Ski School had operated from 1939 through 1942, and from 1947 through 1949, and taught over 20,000 students the fundamentals of controlled skiing. PTA and school officials expressed regret that the ski lessons had come to an end.¹¹¹

No organization stepped forward to operate the Ski Bowl, the area adjacent to where the jumps were located was sold, and the area remained unused until 1959, when the Hyak Ski Area was opened nearby.¹¹²

The Milwaukee Railroad eventually faced difficult financial conditions and got out of

¹⁰⁹ “Instruction Will Begin January 7,” *Seattle Times*, December 11, 1949 (page 45); “30 Instructors To Teach Under Ken Syverson,” *Seattle Times*, November 13, 1949 (page 36); “Snow Train,” *Seattle Times*, January 5, 1949 (page 23).

¹¹⁰ “Madison Division Receives Fire Prevention Award,” *The Milwaukee Magazine*, May 1950 (page 11).

¹¹¹ “Milwaukee Bowl Suspends Times Free Ski School Off, & Railroad Finds Reconstruction Not Justifiable,” *Seattle Times*, September 13, 1950 (page 37); “Times Regrets Abandoning Ski School,” *Seattle Times*, September 14 1950 (page 22).

¹¹² Prater, *Snoqualmie Pass, From Indian Trail to Interstate*, page 133.

passenger service, along with all other U.S. railroads. The last Milwaukee Road passenger train passed through the Snoqualmie Tunnel in 1961, and the company filed for bankruptcy in 1977. The last Milwaukee Road freight train used the Snoqualmie Pass line in 1980. Subsequently, the Milwaukee Road right-of-way, including the Snoqualmie Tunnel, was acquired by the State of Washington for a trail, and is now open to foot traffic, bicycles and horses as the "John Wayne Pioneer Trail," part of Iron Horse State Park.¹¹³

Ski Tournaments in 1950

The 1950 Leavenworth tournament held in mid-February would make up for lost time, "with ski action a-plenty." The event featured "top Norwegian Jumping stars" Birger Ruud, Norway's all time ski-jumping great, and Torbjorn Falkanger, the 1949 Holmenkollen and Norse championship winner, who flew in for the event. Their chief rival was Fritz Tschannen, a Swiss who held the world's record for distance of 393.8 feet set in Yugoslavia in 1948. They were expected compete with local jumpers to break the hill record set by the late Torgle Torkle of 273 feet in 1941.

To the surprise of the sports writers, and himself, the 1950 Leavenworth tournament was won by Torbjorn Falkanger, a 22-year old Norwegian youngster, who set a new hill record of 274 feet in a light snowfall in front of 3,500 spectators. "Record Leap is Surprise to Falkanger," said the *Seattle Times*. His second jump was 263 feet. Falkanger was not even mentioned in the earlier articles as one of those who would compete for the title, although he was a champion in Norway, and recently won fifth place at the world championship at Lake Placid, N.Y.. "It was a great thrill to watch 39-year old Birger Ruud soar out 250 feet and 242 feet," to take second place. Fritz Tschannen placed third. Sverre Kongsgaard from the University of Idaho was fourth, **U.W. skiers** Gunnar Sunde and Gustav Raaum were fifth and sixth, Reidar Ulland eighth, Kjell Stordalen ninth, and **U.W.'s** Jan Kiner tenth. Olav Ulland finished in the 12th position.¹¹⁴

In a college meet held at Leavenworth the same weekend, the **University of Washington** beat Washington State College, with Gustav Raaum winning the jumping event. Raaum placed second at a tournament at the Esmeralda Open Class A ski-jumping meet on Mt. Spokane later in February, losing to Kristian Moen of Norway. Moen had finished fourth in the recent world-championships at Lake Placid, N.Y. Art Tokle was third, and two jumpers from Yugoslavia placed fourth and fifth. Sverre Kongsgarrd from the University of Idaho had the longest jump of the day, 239 feet, but fell on landing and was disqualified. Fritz Tschannen, the Swiss who held

¹¹³ www.hyak.net: *The Summit at Snoqualmie - Wikipedia; The Railroads*, Sahalie Historical Note No. 12, by Dave Galvin; www.hyak.net/history.htm.

¹¹⁴ "Top Norwegian Jumping Stars Arrive for Leavenworth Meet," *Seattle Times*, February 9, 1950 (page 26); "With the Greatest of Ease, Torbjorn Flakanger Flies Through the Air to Break Tokle Record, & Record Leap is Surprise to Flakanger," *Seattle Times*, February 13, 1950 (page 19).

the world's distance record, finished in 13th place.¹¹⁵

The Seattle Ski Club's International Open Jumping Championships at the Milwaukee Ski Bowl held in early March 1950, attracted an "outstanding field of Class A, B, and Senior skybusters," including experts such as brothers Reidar and Olav Ulland, and **U.W. jumpers** Gustav Raaum, Gunnar Sunde, Kjell Stordalen and others, who "will match distances off towering Olympian Hill, famed Ski Bowl jumping slope." Norwegians still dominated the sport of ski jumping.¹¹⁶

The tournament was won by Gustav Raaum, "the stocky Norse exchange student at the **University of Washington**," *Raaum Cops Seattle Ski Club's Jumping Title in Blizzard at Bowl*. Raaum had jumps of 255 and 266 feet "off towering Olympic Hill despite a raging blizzard which slowed the inrun and cut jumpers' visibility to virtually zero." Gunnar Sunde, "another **University of Washington** skybuster," came in second, and Kjell Stordalen of the Seattle Ski Club was third.¹¹⁷

The National College Ski Tournament held in Dillon, Colo. the first week in April 1950, was won by Dartmouth, who beat Denver and the **University of Washington**, and seven other schools. **Washington** won the jumping competitions, "as two of its Norwegian students, Gustav Raaum and Gunnar Sunde, captured first and second places."¹¹⁸

¹¹⁵ "Huskies Win," *Seattle Times*, February 13, 1950 (page 19); "Raaum Second in Esmeralda," *Seattle Times*, February 18, 1950 (page 42).

¹¹⁶ "Times Ski Schoolers Have Busy Day at Ski Bowl," & "Jumps at Ski Bowl Top Today's Ski Program," *Seattle Times*, March 5, 1950 (pages 59 & 60).

¹¹⁷ "Raaum Cops Seattle Ski Club's Jumping Title in Blizzard at Bowl," *Seattle Times*, March 6, 1950 (page 23).

¹¹⁸ "Raaum and Sunde Pace U.W. Skiers to Third," *Seattle Times*, April 3, 1950 (page 19).

XII. U.W. SKI JUMPING TEAM CONTINUES TO COMPETE AFTER 1950 WITH NORWEGIAN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Although the loss of the Milwaukee Ski Bowl and its Olympic caliber jumps represented the end of an era for ski jumping, the sport continued in Washington at Leavenworth, Spokane, Snoqualmie Pass, and elsewhere.

Major ski jumping tournaments continued at Leavenworth sponsored by the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club. Hermod Bakke and Magnus Bakke, who immigrated from Norway in the early 1930s, worked for decades with the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club, competing, coaching, helping to build ski jumping facilities, and organizing meets. Norwegian exchange students continued to come to a number of Northwest schools, ensuring a competitive environment for ski jumping. As before, Norwegian-Americans and Norwegian exchange students in local schools dominated the ski jumping competition, and some of the best jumpers from elsewhere came to the Northwest to compete. Northwest colleges continued to include ski jumping as part of their ski team events, and high schools had jumping programs as part of their competition.

1951

Per Peterson, a Norwegian exchange student at the **University of Washington**, won the Seattle Ski Club's 1951 tournament at Beaver Lake on Snoqualmie Pass, beating his **UW teammates**, Christian Moen and Gunnar Sunde. More than 1,500 fans watched the event in spite of freezing weather and a chill wind. Torbjorn Falkanger pulled out of the event because he was behind in his studies. Gustav Raaum had the longest jump of the day of 164 feet, but placed fourth. He was the prior years **UW ski captain**, but was jumping for the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club that year.

At the Leavenworth tournament of 1951, Arnfinn Bergmann, "one of the outstanding Norwegian ski jumpers of all time," was the featured performer. Bergmann was the only jumper to beat Falkanger in Norway in 1949, had placed third in the 1950 World Championships at Lake Placid, N.Y., beating Torbjorn Falkanger (who won the 1950 Leavenworth tournament, and was an exchange student at Washington State College). Chris Mohn (exchange student at the **University of Washington**) also competed at Leavenworth.

However, Falkanger won his second straight Leavenworth tournament, leading Washington State College to victory in the Northwest Intercollegiate Ski Association classic-combined championships. Chris Moen of the **UW** was second, and Arnfinn Bergmann came in third. Gunnar Sunde from the **UW** was fourth, and Sverre Kongsgarrd was fifth.

1952

The Leavenworth tournament of 1952, featured college jumping stars, mostly Norwegian exchange students at local schools. Washington State College jumpers Svein Huse and Neils

Hegvold placed first and second. Ted Nelson, the “fast improving Idaho flyer,” was third. Hermod Bakke of Leavenworth won the Senior Class crown.

“Although the meet lacked the big-name stars which usually appear, about 4,000 fans left the Leavenworth winter-sports area convinced that Huse and Hegvold will be heard from in international competition in the years ahead.”

14-year old Ragnar Ulland of Seattle finished third in the B-1 event. Ragnar moved to Seattle in 1951 from Norway to live with his father Reidar Ulland (Olav’s brother), who immigrated in the late 1940s. Ragnar would become a major factor in Northwest ski jumping, winning the Leavenworth tournament in 1955, and making the 1956 US Olympic jumping team coached by his uncle Olav.¹¹⁹

1953

A new hill record was set at the 1953 Leavenworth tournament by Arne Hoel, “Norse ski jumper from Portland,” who jumped 284 feet, beating the record set by Torbjorn Falkanger of Norway in 1950, by 10 feet. His jump looked easy. Hans Bjornstad, the 1950 World Champion, was second. Kjell Knarvik, Norse exchange student at the University of Idaho, was third. Art Grandstrom won the Senior class, and 15-year old Ragnar Ulland of Leavenworth finished first in the B-1 event.¹²⁰

1954

The big news of the 1954 Leavenworth tournament was the emergence of Ragner Ulland, Reidar’s 16-year old son and Olav’s nephew. The Ulland family had been mainstays of ski jumping in the Northwest since Olav arrived in 1937, followed by his brother Sigurd in the late 1930s, and his brother Reidar in the late 1940s.

Ragnar Ulland, 16-year old jumper from Seattle, showed more than 3,000 ski fans at the annual Leavenworth Winter Sports Club meet yesterday why he is regarded as the most promising young snowflyer in the Pacific Northwest. Young Ulland turned in nearly flawless jumps on the 75-meter Leavenworth hill, soaring 231 and 241 feet in his two efforts. The boy hit the snow-packed take-off like a steel spring uncoiling. His expert jumping form won the prolonged applause from the fans gathered at the dip of the hill and along the outrun.

In spite of his “top-flight jumping, Ragnar was beaten by Olav Stavik, a Norwegian

¹¹⁹ “Huse, Hegvold of Washington State Top Leavenworth Ski-Jump Meet,” *Seattle Times*, February 11, 1952 (page 19).

¹²⁰ “Hoel Beats World Champ in Setting Leavenworth Record,” *Seattle Times*, February 9, 1953 (page 21).

exchange student at the University of Idaho. Reidar Ullevaalseter, another Norwegian exchange student at Idaho, placed third, and Asbjorn Lundtergren of Seattle was fourth. Peder Pytte, a Norse student at Wenatchee Junior College, placed fifth. Kjell Bakke, **University of Washington** skier from Leavenworth, won the Class B-1 event on the smaller of the two Leavenworth slides. Hermod Bakke of Leavenworth won the senior event.

1954 - Kongsberger Ski Club Forms

In 1954, Olav Ulland, Gustav Raaum and a number of other Norwegian American ski-jumpers left the Seattle Ski Club to form the Kongsberger Ski Club, and built a ski jump and a small warming hut 11 miles east of Snoqualmie Pass at Cabin Creek that became a center of jumping training and competitions for several decades. The name came from Kongsberg, the town in Norway which for years had produced the country's best ski jumpers. The first meeting was held at Olav Ulland's house in Magnolia, and 17 participated. Dues were set at \$3 per year. Founders included Asgeir Bjerke, Ken Christensen, Jan Kiaer, Gustav Raaum, John Ring, Leif Torkelsen, Ole Tverdal, Kjell Ulland, Olav Ulland, Ragnar Ulland, and Reidar Ulland. Starting in 1955, the club held jumping competitions and provided ski jumping instruction at various ski schools. Kongsberg members played important roles in subsequent winter Olympic Games. Olav Ulland was the coach of the 1956 U.S. Olympic team. Kongsbergers played a significant role in the Winter Olympics held in Squaw Valley, California in February 1960. Olav Ulland headed the list of officials, who serve would as chief of ski-jumping, assisted by Gustav Raaum. Earle Little of Leavenworth was secretary of jumping. Others assisting in the jumping competition included Jan Kaier, Ole Lie, Reidar Ulland, Jim Brennen, Sr., Ole Tverdal, Rolf Helle and Ragnar Ulland.¹²¹

1955 - Ragnar Ulland Makes 1956 Olympic Team

In 1955, Ragnar Ulland, Olav's 17 year old nephew who was a student at Roosevelt High School in Seattle, won the junior Leavenworth tournament, becoming the national junior class ski-jumping champion, with jumps of 252 and 256 feet. He had a jump of 296 feet in practice that did not count in the competition, but stood as the unofficial hill record. His father, Reidar Ulland, missed winning the veteran's event when he fell after jumping 215 feet.

After winning the junior jumping event on Saturday, Ragnar competed in the National Class A Championships on Sunday against some of the best jumpers in the country, and stunned the crowd by winning the open event with a "tremendous flight of 284 feet made in a swirl of falling snow...Ulland's 284-footer, made with tremendous spring from the towering take-off platform in Leavenworth with a perfect telemark landing, tied the hill record set by Arne Hoel of Norway in 1953. The youngster's jump was all the more impressive because of adverse weather conditions which plagued the jumpers all day. Falling snow cut their visibility and resulted in jumps far short of the efforts turned in last week in practice."

¹²¹ "Games Officials Include Several Washingtonians," *Seattle Times*, February 14, 1960 (page 41).

Two of the judges, Allan Granstrom and Peter Hostmark, said “Ragnar Ulland is the best ski-jumper in the United States today off his performance in Leavenworth...You can’t keep him off the 1956 Olympic Games team.” Ragnar’s performance took place in front of two of the men responsible for selecting the 1956 Olympic team, Gustav Raaum of Seattle and Guttorm Paulsen of Chicago, and the *Seattle Times* said *Olympic Berth Looms for Ulland*. Other competitors at the tournament included Art Devlin of Lake Placid, N.Y., member of two US Olympic teams; Roy Sherwood of Southbury, Conn., the defending champion; Art Tokle (Torger’s brother) from Chicago; and Ansten Samuelstuen, “the spring-legged Norse flyer” from Steamboat Springs, Colo. who held the U.S. distance mark of 316 feet.¹²²



Ragnar Ulland, Leavenworth, 1955. Courtesy MOHAI

In late February 1955, the **Seattle Times** announced that Ragnar Ulland had been selected to the six-man U.S. Jumping team for the 1956 Olympic games in Cortina, Italy, saying *Ulland Youngest Ever on U.S. Ski Team*. Ragnar was not only the youngest on the squad, but “is heralded by officials as the best this country ever has mustered to try to dent the monopoly of the Scandinavians.” Teen-agers “broke the hold of the veterans” by winning three of the six berths on the U.S. team. Ulland, at age 17, was the youngest, but Rudy Maik, 19, from Ispeming, Mich., and Dick Rahol, 19, from Iron Mountain, Mich., also made the team. The other U.S. team members included Roy Sherwood, 22, from Salisbury, Conn., and Bill Olson, 25, University of Denver, who had been on the 1952 Olympic team. Art Devlin, 32, from Lake Placid, N.Y., was

¹²² “Ragnar Ulland Wins Junior Ski-Jump Title,” *Seattle Times*, February 6, 1955 (page 45); “Olympic Berth Looms for Ulland,” *Seattle Times*, February 7, 1955 (page 19); “Helgestad Set to Defend Leavenworth Jump Title,” *Seattle Times*, February 10, 1957 (page 112)..

the veteran of the team, and would compete in his third Olympic games.¹²³

An article in the *Seattle Times* in November 1955, discussed the prowess of the *Ski-Jumping Ulland Family*, and Ragnar's chances as a member of the US Olympic team.

The name of Ulland, a proud name indeed in Norwegian and American skiing, finally may appear in Olympic Winter Games records after a quest of 25 years. Of all the seven Ulland brothers, known throughout Norway and the United States for their ski-jumping skill, only one, Olav, now a Seattle sporting goods dealer, ever earned a berth on an Olympic Games team. But misfortune cost Olav Ulland his chance to compete in the 1932 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, N.Y.: a leg injury put him out of the competition. Now, 24 years later, another Ulland, 18-year-old Ragnar, may represent the family in international competition. Ragnar is the son of Reidar Ulland, one of the seven brothers.

Ragnar, Roosevelt High School senior, is one of six American jumpers who will compete for the four team positions available for the 1956 Winter Games...Ski-jump experts who have seen the stocky Seattle boy soar from the towering jumping hills in the Cascade Mountains the past few seasons have no doubt in their minds that Ragnar will one of those team spots.

Olav had been named earlier in the fall as coach of the U.S. jumping team "on the basis of his years of work in the Pacific Northwest to develop ski-jumping, his competitive record and his ability to coach the snow-flyers." Olav and Ragnar were heading to a training camp in December at Lake Placid, N.Y. to join other nominees in the ski-jumping event. Ragnar would be the youngest contestant to represent the U.S. in the Olympic ski-jumping event.

The Ulland family came from Kongsberg, Norway, where they learned to ski-jump soon after they learned to walk, and they "gained recognition in Norway as among the best flyers in the land." The brothers were Thore, then 48; Sigurd, 46; Olav, 44; Reidar, 42; Hallvard, 40; Arne, 35; and Ole, who died in Norway after the second world war. Five Ullands lived in the U.S.: Reidar, Olav and Sigurd, and their two sisters, Mrs. Asgeir Bjerke of Seattle and Mrs. Thorleif Thowson of Chicago. Three brothers were living in Norway, Hallvard, Thore and Arne, and a sister Anne Ulland, together with their mother, Mrs. Anne Ulland.

The Times said that Arne and Olav made the best records of the family. Arne, then manager of a Kongsberg ski factory, was American champion in 1948, and placed second the junior Holmenkollen event, regarded in Norway as the "World Series" of ski-jumping. Olav set a world distance mark of 339 feet in 1935 in Italy, where he was the first to break the 100 meter distance mark. His record stood for three years. For some reason, the paper did not include Sigurd Ulland in its list of the family members who had the best records. Sigmund was U.S. National champion in the late 1930s, and won the 1938 and 1939 Leavenworth tournaments

¹²³ "Ulland Youngest Ever on U.S. Ski Team," *Seattle Times*, February 28, 1955 (page 20).

(where he set a new national record that was surpassed by Alf Engen's jump the same day), and won many other tournaments.

Ragnar went to the Olympic Games held in Cortina Italy as a member of the 1956 U.S. Olympic team, coached by his uncle Olav Ulland. He was the youngest member of the U.S. team, and Art Devlin, who was participating in his third Olympic games, was the oldest. Olav had high hopes for his jumpers, saying that

the Europeans have a king-sized surprise in store when his lads climb the big hill in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy....This team is different from other American squads. These boys are in condition and, more important, they can jump. No one is going to outjump them. It's simply a matter of them getting off a good jump; good form and good landing all in one.

However, Ragnar was hurt in practice and did not compete in the ski-jumping event. The *Seattle Times* said "Ulland, 5 Others Hurt in Olympic Practices." "The injury plagued 1956 Winter Olympics chalked up six more accidents today, raising the hospital list to more than 30...Ragnar Ulland, 18, ski jumper from Seattle, took the worst tumble today during practice. He suffered a minor brain concussion and bad bruises." Finland's ski-jumpers won gold and bronze medals in the 1956 Olympics, German jumpers won third and fourth, a Swede won fifth, and the first Norwegian finished eleventh. U.S. jumpers finished 21st (Art Devlin), 36th (Roy Sherwood), 43rd (Willis Olson), and 51st (Dick Rahoi). Seattle's Jannette Burr was on the U.S. Alpine team in 1956.

Ragnar Ulland continued to compete in ski jumping after his Olympic experience. In January 1958, Ragnar failed to make a six-man team coached by Olav Ulland that competed in the FIS world championships in Finland, finishing 17th in the competition. In March 1958, Ragnar set a new hill record of 224 feet at Multorpor Hill on Mount Hood in Oregon to win the Western Open Jumping Meet. The old record was 212 feet. Ragnar's father Reidar Ulland won the senior division.

1956 Leavenworth Tournament

Leavenworth's silver-anniversary (25th) ski-jumping tournament was held in February 1956, in conjunction with Wenatchee Junior College Intercollegiate tourney. Collegiate athletes jumped with the junior and Class B competitors. Einer Helgestad of the Blue Mountain Ski Club, who won the Kongsbergers Ski Club's tournament the prior week, was a pre-tournament favorite, jumping 270 feet in practice. No special trains were run that year for the event. Cross-country races would also be held at Mount Squilchuck as part of the competition.

Leavenworth Winter Sports Club officials discussed the memorable jumping events that occurred over its 25 year history.

Sigurd Hansen won the first meet, jumping 65 feet on a small hill. New hills were built on the present site in 1930, and the slides there have been enlarged and improved many time since. The late Torger Tokle set a hill record in 1941, when he soared 273 feet. That mark stood for nine years, with Torbjorn Flakanger, the great Norse rider, jumping 274 feet in 1950. Arne Hoel of Norway boosted that mark ten feet in 1953, and that 284-foot record still stands. However, Ragnar Ulland of Seattle flew 296 feet on a practice jump last year, proof that greater distances than the 284-foot mark can be registered on the Leavenworth Class A slide.

Forty ski-jumpers entered the meet according to Magnus Bakke, tournament chairman, which was judged by Peter Hostmark and Gustav Gaaum.

Most of the competitors will be college flyers, including many Norwegian exchange students attending the University of Idaho, Washington State College, Denver University and Wenatchee Junior College. The Idaho contingent will include Helge Gagnum, Erik Berggren, Per Windju and Reidar Ullevaslseter, while Tor Brobstock will jump for Washington State. The Wenatchee school will be represented by Thorstein Gjestrud and Knute Istad. Len Johnson, an alternate on the '56 Olympic Games team, and Peder Pytte will ski for Denver...

Paced by two Norwegian exchange students, Erik Berggren and Reidar Ullevaalseter, the University of Idaho edged the **University of Washington** in the tournament, based on the cross-country and ski jumping events. Einar Helgestad of the Blue Mountain Ski Club of Walla Walla won the Class A jumping event. Thorstein Gjestrud of Wenatchee Junior College was second.¹²⁴

1957

More than 60 jumpers participated in the 26th annual Leavenworth tournament in 1957, led by "Norse Flyer" Ansten Samuelstuen, who had set the American ski-jumping distance record of 316 feet in 1951, at Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Samuelstuen won the Leavenworth Class A event, followed by Per Windju of the University of Idaho, Tore Asberg of Washington State College, Harold Hauge of Seattle and Ragnar Ulland. Oddvar Ronnestad of Wenatchee Junior College broke the B-hill record by 10 feet with a jump of 159 feet.

Ragnar Ulland won the 1957 Kongsberger Ski Club tournament by one foot, beating Reidar Ullevaalseter of Leavenworth, a former University of Idaho rider. Kjell Ulland won the

¹²⁴ "Ski Roundup: Leavenworth Meet Draws Top Jumpers," *Seattle Times*, February 12, 1956 (page 40); "Leavenworth Meet to Draw 40 Ski-Jumpers," *Seattle Times*, February 16, 1956 (page 27); "Vandals Edge Huskies in 4-Way; Jumping Soars at Leavenworth," *Seattle Times*, February 20, 1956 (page 25).

Class B-1 event, and Reidar Ulland (Ragnar's father) won the Veterans Division.¹²⁵

1958

The 1958 Leavenworth tournament attracted "an impressive entry list from the Pacific Northwest, Western Canada and Norway," for the Pacific Northwestern Ski Association (PNSA) title event of the year. Three outstanding Norwegian jumpers were featured.

Headlining the list of riders will be three stars from Norway who flew to the United States especially for the Leavenworth tourney and a later jump meet at Kimberly, B.C. - Odd Westgaard, Arfinn Karlstad, who has won top international meets, and Arne Larsen, the Norwegian junior champion...Heading a sizable Seattle delegation to the tournament will be Ragnar Ulland, a member of the 1956 Olympic Winter Games team.

The Norwegians took first and second in the tournament that was held in fog and rain, which limited the event to 2,000 spectators who "braved the disappointing weather." Odd Westgaard finished first displaying "nearly perfect jumping form to win the meet handily," and Arnfinn Karlstad finished second.

Ragnar Ulland "pushed the visitors to all-out efforts with his best jumping display since he clinched an Olympic Winter Games team berth in 1955." He made the longest jump of the day, 283 feet, one foot short of the hill record shared by Ulland and Arne Hoel of Norway. His landing was a bit shaky because of the great distance and sticky snow, but he finished third on form points. Long time Jumping Judge Peter Hostmark said "this jumping...is the kind you dream about."¹²⁶

1959

In the fall of 1958, the list of Norwegian ski-jumpers competing in the Pacific Northwest grew as Torbjorn Yggeseth enrolled as an exchange student at Wenatchee Junior College. Yggeseth was "the No. 1 rider in Norway last season," winning the Class A Norwegian title. He joined the Norwegian Air Force after high school where he flew Saberjets, retired at age 25, and came to the U.S. to study aeronautical engineering. In December 1958, Yggeseth did a 302 feet practice jump at Leavenworth, exceeding the hill mark by 18 feet, although it did not count as a record since it was not done in competition but the jump showed fans what they can expect from him later. In January 1959, Yggeseth made another practice jump of 290 feet on the

¹²⁵ "Samuelstuen in Leavenworth Jump," *Seattle Times*, February 14, 1957 (page 26); "Samuelstuen's Leap of 275, 274 Feet Win," *Seattle Times*, February 18, 1957 (page 19); "Ragnar Ulland Wins Jumping Meet - by 1 Foot," *Seattle Times*, February 4, 1957 (page 20).

¹²⁶ "Jumpers Vie at Leavenworth Today," *Seattle Times*, February 8, 1958 (page 30); "Westgaard Triumphs in Leavenworth Jumping," *Seattle Times*, February 10, 1958 (page 24).

Leavenworth hill, exceeding the hill record by six feet, although again, it did not count as an official record.

In February 1959, the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club hosted the National Championship Ski-Jumping Tournament and Olympic Tryouts, and a new U.S. jumping star emerged. The Leavenworth Winter Sports Club had rebuilt its Class A hill for the event “to provide the spectators with an even more exciting view of the ski-jumpers.” The dip on the main hill was dug out and widened to accommodate Class B jumpers on the same slide. They will use a different take-of and a shorter run.

Gene Kotlarek, an 18 year old from Duluth Minn., “demonstrated convincingly that he is ready for international competition by winning a special round of flights for qualification for the 1960 Olympic games.” He jumped 278, 281 and 296 feet, “far outjumping the Class A flyers who had journeyed to Leavenworth from throughout the continent to settle the championships.” Because of his youth, Kotlarek competed in the junior-class events but was eligible for the Olympic Games. Kotlarek jumped 299 feet on Saturday, setting a new national junior record in front of 6,000 spectators.

Kotlarek’s tremendous spring from the take-off, his satin-smooth flights and his steady landings reminded fans of some great Norwegian skiers who have tested the Leavenworth hill in past years - Birger Ruud, Aren Hoel and Torbjorn Flakanger...The United States has developed a ski-jumper who can hold his own against the best that Norway, Finland and Russia can offer in the 1960 Olympic Winter Games at Squaw Valley, Calif.¹²⁷

1960 Leavenworth Tournament was an Olympic Prelude

The 1960 Leavenworth tournament was special because it was held just before the 1960 Olympics at Squaw Valley, California. Leavenworth’s “Big Hill” had been lengthened to 90 meters, the top distance for an accredited hill, and the slope was in first-rate condition, primed for record attempts. Olav Ulland, chief of jumping at the 1960 Olympic games, convinced the U.S. jumping team and some foreign teams to travel from Squaw Valley to participate at Leavenworth, including the Austrian team. Great Northern planned to run a special ski train to the tournament for 800 people, and added a second train when tickets sold out. Shuttle busses would take passengers from the railroad station to the ski hill.

The tournament was heralded as a “star-spattered Olympic preview,” with expectations that a new record would be set during the competition. The Leavenworth record of 299 feet had

¹²⁷ “Ulland Tops Ski-Jumpers & 220-Foot Jump Wins,” *Seattle Times*, February 2, 1959 (page 28); “Yggeseth, Norway’s Top Skier, Enters Northwest Meets,” *Seattle Times*, December 7, 1958 (page 41); “Norse Skier Leaps 302 Feet in Workout,” *Seattle Times*, December 20, 1958 (page 15); “Jump Practice,” *Seattle Times*, January 26, 1959 (page 13); “Leavenworth Winners Boost Olympic Hopes,” *Seattle Times*, February 23, 1959 (page 25).

been topped in practice by the 300 foot jump made by Edmonds' young Jim Brennan (originally from Leavenworth), who had won the national championships a few weeks before. Hopes were high that a jumpers would exceed the North American record of 316 feet set by Ansten Samuelstuen of Colorado Springs in 1951, (who was at Leavenworth to compete), "and equaled recently by Brennan," who was a co-favorite to win the competition. Members of the U.S. jumping team included Gene Kotlarek, age 20, a co-favorite to win the tournament, Bob Wedin, No. 2 jumper on the team who jumped 299 feet in practice, Jon St. Andre, and Willie Erickson. The five-man Austrian team of Wilhelm Egger, Walter Hebersatter, Otto Leodalter, Alvin Prank and Walter Steinegger were part of the 33 Class A jumpers entered.

Also entered were Art Tokle (Torger's brother), Willie Erickson, and Rudy Maki, all former national champions, Jack Bietila, a U.S. Olympic alternate, and two Canadian-Norwegians. Ragnar Ulland, former Pacific Northwest champion entered, but Torbjorn Yggeseth, "Norway's Top Skier" (he won the Norwegian Class A title in 1956) and a **University of Washington** exchange student and ski team member, was in Squaw Valley practicing for the Olympics, getting a refresher course from the Norwegian coach since he would represent Norway in the games.

Gene Kotlarek, 19 years old from Duluth, Minn. "acknowledged as the most promising ski-jumper in a nation that neither makes its soaring skiers famous nor produces many good ones," won the 1960 Leavenworth tournament with his jump being 311 feet. This jump set a new Leavenworth hill record, but fell short of the North American record by five feet, and nine feet short of the world record. His U.S. teammate, Bob Wedin from Iron Mountain, Michigan, was second, on a fog-shrouded hill covered with wet snow that was described as "eerie." Art Tokle of Bear Mountain, N.Y., finished third, and Ragnar Ulland placed fourth, jumping further than Tokle but losing to him on points. Jim Brennan, national champion from Leavenworth and Edmonds, finished eighth. Reidar Ulland, "defending champion from Seattle, won the uncontested veteran's class championship."¹²⁸

1960 Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley

Seattleites played a significant role in the Winter Olympics held in Squaw Valley, California in February 1960. "Squaw Valley will be sprinkled liberally with officials from the state of Washington when the Winter Olympics open here next Thursday," announced the Seattle Times. Olav Ulland headed the list of officials, who serve would as chief of ski-jumping, assisted by Gustav Raaum. Earle Little of Leavenworth was secretary of jumping. Others assisting in the jumping competition included Jan Kaier, Ole Lie, Reidar Ulland, Jim Brennan,

¹²⁸ "Ski-Jump Records Due to Fall at Leavenworth," *Seattle Times*, February 12, 1960 (page 16); "Youngsters in Spotlight at Leavenworth Tournament," *Seattle Times*, February 14, 1960 (page 41); "Special Ski Train Set for Leavenworth," *Seattle Times*, February 7, 1960 (page 59); "Kotlarek Sets Record at 311 Feet, Leavenworth Champ Heads for Olympics," *Seattle Times*, February 15, 1960 (page 14).

Sr., Ole Tverdal, Rolf Helle and Ragnar Ulland.¹²⁹

Ski jumping was the “grand finale” of the Squaw Valley Olympics. “It is the glamour spectacle of the frigid frolics. More kibitzers will throng Squaw Valley to watch it than any other event in the 11-day Games...Like Icarus of the myth, we all want to fly. The jumper nearly makes it. Each strives to soar farther in perfection than the other. Yet jumpers themselves scoff at mere distance as the measure of a skier’s performance.” Although the official world record was 320 feet set in 1949 by Sepp Weiler in Austria, and the unofficial record was 456 feet set by the “flying Finn” Tauno Lairo in Germany in 1951, “jumpers shrug at the figures.” Gus Raaum explained why, saying the 456 foot jump “was not ski-jumping...that was ski flying - really another sport.”

“Ski hills are engineered purposely to keep a jumper from going too far,” said Raaum, 32, a fugitive from the engineered hills of Norway who became a Seattle accountant. He is here as assistant chief of jumping for the Olympics...”Weiller’s jump was from an accredited hill, like the 80-meter hill here. The Finn’s jump was from a hill with all controls and safety precautions waived. Nobody ever will do much better than 320 feet off an 80-meter or 90-meter hill, because the laws of physics won’t let him.”

An 80-meter hill indicates the distance from the jumper’s take-off to a “critical point” near the foot of the hill’s downward slope, which controls how far a skier may leap with “reasonable assurance that he won’t break his fool neck.” Before a tournament, forerunners test the hill. If they consistently jump more than 8 percent beyond the critical point, officials shorten the length of the inrun (the slide) by directing the competitors to start from a lower level. This cuts the speed at take-off. Raaum helped to plot Squaw Valley’s 80-meter jumping hill, and said the jumps should be “very good” as the critical point was nearer to 90-meters so jumpers should be able to go for good distance.¹³⁰

Torbjorn Yggeseth was interviewed at Squaw Valley by Georg Meyers, Sports Editor of the *Seattle Times*. Yggeseth was a 28 year old Norwegian student at the **University of Washington** studying aeronautical engineering. Torbjorn said ski jumping in Norway is like football in the U.S. He learned to jump at age 6 on a mound of snow his father made, first jumped competitively at age 11, and “sailed” 432 feet at Flying Week at Oberstorg, Germany, where the hill was engineered for jumps of 125 meters, in what he called snow-flying. Olympic hills are groomed for 80 to 90 meters. Many Americans’ idea of the dangers of ski jumping was formed by the long running “agony of defeat” film clip from ABC’s Wide World of Sports that showed the skier from Yugoslavia falling at the end of the incline and tumbling off the end of the structure. Torbjorn described the sport from the perspective of a jumper. He scoffed at the idea

¹²⁹ “Games Officials Include Several Washingtonians,” *Seattle Times*, February 14, 1960 (page 41).

¹³⁰ “The Sporting Thing, Skiers Scorn Records, Gus Raaum Tells Why, Games Officials Include Several Washingtonians,” *Seattle Times*, February 17, 1960 (page 26).

of fear while flying the length of a football field over frozen terrain. “It’s not really as dangerous as downhill skiing...You’re only going about 60 miles an hour at top speed. As you follow the curve of the hill, you’re never more than 20 feet high. And there are no trees to wrap yourself around. You land at 40 miles an hour. Some skiers land so gently they don’t even leave a mark in the snow.” He felt his two years at the **UW** had set back his ski-jumping since skiing was so far away, compared to Norway.¹³¹

The ski jumping competition was held on February 28, 1960, featuring 45 competitors from 15 nations. Helmut Recknagel of Germany won gold with a best jump of 307 feet, Niilo Halonen of Finland won silver, and Otto Leodolter of Austria won bronze. **U.W. skier** Torbjorn Yggeseth was the highest Norwegian, finishing fifth. Ansten Samuelstuen was the highest U.S. competitor, finishing seventh. Other U.S. jumpers included Jon St Andre who finished 28th, Butch Wedin who finished 32nd, and Gene Kotlarek who finished 42nd.

28,000 watched the jumping competition on the last day of the 1960 Games, bringing the 11 day total to 240,000 spectators, below the hoped for 350,000. It was expected that the planners would have to dip into the \$1 million “snowy day fund,” part of the \$8,990,000 state appropriation for the Games. The federal government contributed \$4.5 million, and \$2 million was received from private sources.¹³²

The *Seattle Times* focused on Torbjorn Yggeseth, the *UW student* who jumped for Norway, saying “**Husky Jumper** Misses Medal by 3.3 Points,” using the complex mathematics of ski-jumping. He was “distressed” by his fifth place finish, and left to compete in Europe for two months before re-entering the UW. Officials shortened the take-off run by 10 feet after the winner, Helmut Recknagel, sailed 306 feet, regarded as too far for safety for the hill. Recknagel’s victory was a blow to the Scandinavians who popularized the “folded wings” style in flight. Jimmy Brennan of Edmonds, who had won the national championships earlier in February with a jump that equaled the North American record, had not made the US team since his jump was made after the team had been selected. He “laid the track” by jumping before the competition, and “his jumps appeared to compare with most of the day’s best.”¹³³

Leavenworth Tournaments in the 1960s

The 30th annual Leavenworth tournament held in 1961 was a close contest full of “sheer drama - opiate of the thrill-hungry fans of ski-jumping.” The **U.W.’s** Yggeseth won but had to

¹³¹ “The Sporting Thing, Off Suicide Hill, Tor Shows no Fear, *Seattle Times*,” *Seattle Times*, February 28, 1960 (page 35).

¹³² “Ski Jumping at the 1960 Winter Olympics,” en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ski_jumping_at_the_1960_Winter-Olympics.

¹³³ “Husky Jumper Misses Medal by 3.3 Points,” *Seattle Times*, January 20, 1960 (page 49).

“share the honors” with young Jimmy Brennan from Leavenworth, the home-town favorite, and Aarne Volkama from Finland. Yggeseth long jump of 305 feet edged Brennan for first place. The “flying Finn shot high and long off the ramp..far beyond the bounds of safety,” covering 323 feet, seven more than the American distance record. However, he fell so the jump did not count as a record. Volkama, an exchange student in Michigan, had recently jumped 454 feet in Europe but “over-reached” at Leavenworth soaring a little more than a football field and “almost broke his neck.” He almost reached the hill’s flat before he fell down - if he had reached it, he could have been seriously hurt. Norway’s Oyvind Floystad was third and Ragnar Ulland was fourth. Gene Kotlarek “the ace of the 1960 U.S. Jumping team’ finished eighth, and another member of the team, Jon St. Andre, finished 13th.¹³⁴

In February 1961, Yggeseth won his fifth jumping title in a row when he won the Konigsberger ski-jumping tournament at Snoqualmie, setting a new hill record of 185 feet. Ragnar Ulland of the Konigsberger Ski Club, member of the 1956 U.S. Olympic jumping team and the prior holder of the hill record, was second.¹³⁵

U.W. jumper Torbjorn Yggeseth won his second consecutive Leavenworth tournament, its 31st held in January 1962. He shared the “honors and plaudits” with fellow **U.W. ski team member** Tom Nord, who received the “oohs and aahs of 5,500 sun-drenched spectators.” Nord’s first jump of 316 was only 12 inches short of the new, two-week old American record, but he fell on the outrun. Chris Selbeck of Denver University, a “22 year old Norwegian by way of Canada” also broke the “300-foot barrier,” finishing second in the tournament, just ahead of Erik Jansen, his D.U. teammate. The Seattle Times carried a picture of Ragnar Ulland jumping at the meet, although he placed 10th on jumps of 230 and 235 feet.¹³⁶

In 1963, the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club planned to host one segment of the Olympic ski-jumping team tryouts for the 1964 Olympic Games at Innsbruck, Austria, in conjunction with its annual tournament. However, for the first time in 32 years, the jumping events on the “famed hill” were cancelled because of lack of snow, in a winter “unprecedented in Leavenworth history.” The tournament, originally scheduled for late January, was postponed until February in the hopes that snow would arrive. It was finally cancelled on February 14, because of “no snow,” with president Ralph Steele saying “we wouldn’t try to put on a tournament unless we can put on a good one.”¹³⁷

¹³⁴ “Yggeseth Barely Beats Brennan,” *Seattle Times*, January 30, 1961 (page 12).

¹³⁵ ‘Husky Skier Wins 5th Jumping Title in a Row,’ *Seattle Times*, February 20, 1961 (page 27).

¹³⁶ “Yggeseth “Reaches for Form and Grabs Ski-jump Title,” *Seattle Times*, January 29, 1962 (page 13).

¹³⁷ “Jump Scheduled,” *Seattle Times*, January 6, 1963 (page 93); “Stizmarks,” *Seattle Times*, January 17, 1963 (page 17); “Leavenworth Meet Postponed - No Snow,” *Seattle Times*, January 21, 1965 (page 19); “Leavenworth Jumps Cancelled,” *Seattle Times*, February 14, 1963 (page 30).

The 1964 Leavenworth tournament started with a disappointment as ‘two top-notch leapers’ withdrew from the event. Frithjof Prydz, a Norwegian exchange student at the University of Utah, and Arne Volkama, a Finn attending the University of Denver cancelled their appearance at the last minute. In 1962, Volkama had jumped 323 feet at Leavenworth, but fell, so the hill record held by Gene Kotlarek still stood. Prydz tied for fifth place on Norway’s Olympic team, but was left off the team “by the flip of a coin.” Gus Raaum was irritated by their last minute withdrawal, saying they “don’t seem to realize what Leavenworth has done for North European skiers.” Great Northern operated a special ski train to the tournament, leaving Seattle at 7:15 am with stops at Edmonds, Everett and Monroe, charging \$4.50 for a round trip. Parking for 2,000 cars was available at the foot of the hill, and admission was \$1.50 for adults and 75 cents for juniors. The 1964 tournament was won by Per Valbo, “a **University of Washington import from Norway**,” succeeding Tor Yggeseeth, the victor two years before who had returned to Norway. Doug Dion of the University of Wyoming was second, and Karl Blom from the **UW** was third. The tournament was watched by 4,000 spectators.¹³⁸

Leavenworth Jumping Tournaments Continue to Attract the Country’s Best Jumpers in the 1960s & early 1970s

The Leavenworth Winter Sports Club hosted National Ski Jumping Championships in 1959, 1967, 1974 and 1978. Three American distance records were set at Leavenworth in five years, in 1965, 1969, and 1970. However, U.W. jumpers were not part of the competitive mix.

Interest in Ski Jumping Declines - Leavenworth Tournaments End

Interest in ski jumping in North America began to flag in the 1960s, and fell off significantly in the 1970s, affecting the areas that had a long tradition of hosting ski-jumping tournaments.

Ski jumping had been a major event at Mount Revelstoke, British Columbia since 1890, and from 1915 on, the Revelstoke Ski Club held annual carnivals featuring cross-country and jumping competitions. The most famous skier to come out of Revelstoke was Nels Nelsen, who held a number of Canadian jumping records. International jumping stars such as Sigmund and Birger Ruud, Alf Engen and many others competed there, in front of thousands of spectators. “However, throughout the 1960s, interest in ski jumping, resulting in lower attendance.” Its hill required a lot of volunteer work to maintain and run, and it became increasingly difficult to recruit new ski jumpers in the 1960s. The last tournament held there was in 1974, and “the venue has since fallen into disrepair.”¹³⁹

¹³⁸ “2 Stars to Skip Meet at Leavenworth,” *Seattle Times*, February 13, 1964 (page 33); “King of Hill” Title at Stake in Leavenworth Meet Sunday,” *Seattle Times*, February 14, 1964 (page 18); “Another Husky Reigns as “King of the Hill,” *Seattle Times*, February 17, 1964 (page 19).

¹³⁹ “Nels Nelsen Hill,” en.wikipedia.org/Wike/Nels_Nelsen_Hill.

The Kongsberger Ski Club also faced the decline of interest in ski jumping. The last ski jumping context at the Kongsberger Ski Club was held in 1974, and “with the elimination of ski jumping in our part of the country, our focus is now only on cross country skiing.” In 1974, the Kongsberger Ski Club celebrated its 20th anniversary. The club had 74 members at the time, but Olav Ulland said “[i]nterest in ski jumping has faded and the scaffold had fallen down and the original dream of the founders did not materialize. Due to the change of times we were probably trying to do something that could not be accomplished.” The state highway department built part of I-90 across the flat area of the club’s property, and would not allow members to park on the overpass, an area which they had previously used. The organization became a cross-country facility which continued into the 1990s. A 50 year anniversary celebration for the Kongsberger Ski Club was held in 2004, at the Sons of Norway Hall in Ballard. Fifty members attended, including seven founders including Ralph Federspiel, Jan Kiaer, Gustav Raaum, Phil Sharpe, Leif Thorkildsen, Kjell Ulland and Ragnar Ulland.¹⁴⁰

Declining interest in ski jumping in the United States generally, coupled with money problems for the sport, led to the end of national ski jumping tournaments at Leavenworth. Those problems first emerged in 1975. The Leavenworth Winter Sports Club cancelled its 1975 Leavenworth Jumping Classic because of conflicts with international and national tournaments caused a lack of competitors. The *Seattle Times* said, “Sad Day for Leavenworth.” Only five American and two Canadian Class A jumpers had entered the tournament.

We’re terribly disappointed, but we’d rather call it off than not do it right. The Leavenworth tournament, a highlight of the Pacific Northwest ski season since the 1930s, twice has been cancelled because of a lack of snow, but never before because of a shortage of jumpers.

Six U.S. national team members, including Leavenworth’s Ron Steele, were in Europe competing. There was an “age-old problem of getting Mid-west and Eastern jumpers to come out for one meet.” Skiing colleges in the Rocky Mountains had big meets scheduled the next three weeks. The U.S. Ski Team’s money problems, leading to a reduction of its budget by \$65,000, had hit the Nordic program the hardest. U.S. Ski Association officials said “[I]et the people know we’re not hurting, we’re almost dead.” American Nordic officials had been long concerned that there were only four 90-meter jumps in the nation. “Now they scrub one of them...From a design standpoint, Leavenworth has the best hill in the United States. It comes closest to meeting the new international design specifications. This is very disappointing. I’d hate to see ski jumping die at Leavenworth. This certainly is not going to help keep it going.”

In January 1976, Leavenworth was again scheduled host the North American Ski Jumping Championships, but the event was cancelled because of lack of snow. The winter of 1976 was a year of extreme low snow throughout the west, and most ski areas were adversely

¹⁴⁰ www.kongsbergers.org; Raaum, *Scandinavian's Influence in the History of Ski Jumping in the Northwest*; Anson, *Jumping Through Time*, page 196.

affected.¹⁴¹ In 1977, the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club announced “there will be no ski jumping on Leavenworth’s 90-meter Bakke hill again this winter,” as the tournament scheduled for January 30 was cancelled. “The traditional Leavenworth events - it dates back to 1929 - now has been called off three straight years because of a lack of snow, unavailability of competitors or both.”

1978 was the swan song of Leavenworth ski-jumping tournaments, but they ended by hosting a National Championship event again, although it took place in the fog, mist and rain. John Bassette, 18, of Hartford, Vt. won the National Junior A Championships on Saturday, and outshined his more experienced rivals to win the Bavarian Ski Jumping Classic on Sunday, when juniors and seniors jumped together. Bassett out-jumped Mike Deveka, 30, the national champion, who fell and ended up tied for eighth place. Reed Zuehlke, 17, from Eau Claire, Wisc. finished second in both events. Kip Sundgaard, of St. Paul, Minn., who jumped 313 feet in practice, finished third. Bassette said “I’ve never jumped in the rain before, but I’m having a great time. I like this state.”

In 1979, the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club had to announce, “no ski-jumping tournament is scheduled at Leavenworth this year.” The club “has found it harder and harder to attract a quality field. Club members were especially upset last year, when the United States Ski Team sent four of its top jumpers home to rest the week of the Leavenworth jump.”

Though the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club was still going strong, tournaments declined in the 1970s with the construction of newer and larger ski jumps throughout the country in places such as Steamboat Springs, Colorado and Iron Mountain Springs in Michigan. The ski club tried to resurrect interest with the planned construction of two new ski jumping hills from 1986 to 1988, but unfortunately, this did not repeat the popularity of the old days.

National jumping championships at Leavenworth could not be held after 1978, due to the lack of top caliber jumpers, and lack of money to do the needed improvements to the hill. “Bakke Hill, lacking the funds to be re-contoured to meet the revised USSA requirements, shut down after hosting the US Nationals in the 1978 season...Leavenworth’s closing marked the end of United States’ West Coast major jumping competitions.”¹⁴²

¹⁴¹ “A sad day for ski-jumping,” *Seattle Times*, January 23, 1975 (page 56); “Oops, Mr. President, no more stizmarks, please,” *Seattle Times*, January 1, 1976 (page 35).

¹⁴² “A sad day for ski-jumping,” *Seattle Times*, January 23, 1975 (page 56); “Oops, Mr. President, no more stizmarks, please,” *Seattle Times*, January 1, 1976 (page 35); “Ski Jumping Cancelled,” *Seattle Times*, January 13, 1977 (page 67); “Bassette wins ski-jumping title despite fog, mist, rain,” *Seattle Times*, February 6, 1978 (page 24); “Crystal ski-racing coach a bear on conditioning, Traverses,” *Seattle Times*, January 18, 1979 (page 93); *Images of America, Leavenworth*, page 247.

In 1982, the *New York Times* published an article about the decline of interest in ski jumping, entitled “Ski Jumping Faces a Long Decline.”

But in the United States, ski jumpers, shed in their distinctive skin-tight synthetic finery, appear to be heading for the endangered species of sports, going the way of gladiators and jousting knights. While the popularity of cross-country skiing has soared in the last decade, interest in other Nordic skiing sport, jumping, has nosedived, and now its struggling to hold its own...Last year, the National Collegiate Athletic Association dropped ski jumping as a national championship sport and as a sport that counted toward team standings in the national championships.



Leavenworth's Bakke Hill in disrepair.

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