

On Feb. 21, 1904, after the sport of ski jumping had been dormant for about a decade, officials of various ski clubs organized a national body and determined that the contests, scheduled for the next day (Feb. 22), at Ishpeming, Mich., should be conducted as the "National Ski Tournament." Thus, the National Ski Association was founded, with 17 charter members, all from the middle west.

The name of the organization was changed, in mid-century, to the United States Ski Association, with headquarters at Colorado Springs.

The growth of the organization was healthy going into 1932. There were clubs in most of the states where there was considerable snow and in 1932 a number of interclub and regional championship tournaments were conducted.

The third Winter Olympics, at Lake Placid, New York in 1932 were attended by many who never before had seen ski exhibitions. The sport caught their fancy. Many returned home determined to take up some form of skiing the following winter - 1932-1933 - and, as a result, thousands of people who previously had been in the habit of going to the south in the winter, shifted to the northern areas to give skiing a try.

The Federation Internationale de Ski (F.I.S.), the first world-wide ruling body for the sport was founded in 1910. Through the groups' direction came competitive competition on a universal scale in downhill, slalom, jumping and cross-country events.

In 1924, the first Winter Olympic Games were held at Chamonix, France, under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee. Since then the Winter Games have been a regular part of the schedule of the quadrennial competition. Few sports have gained so greatly in favor in so short a time.

Back in the 1920's, the ski enthusiasts numbered no more than 3,500 or 4,000. There were about 75 clubs devoted to the sport, but most were located in the northern part of the Mid West, in upper New England, northern sections of New York State and northern California.

The Winter Olympics at Lake Placid brought about the first big-time staging of skiing in the United States.

The international popularity of the sport is shown by the fact that when the Winter Olympic Games were staged at Garmisch-Partenkirchen in the German Alps in February, 1936, with ski contests featuring the programs, the attendance was 155,000 for the entire show, lasting several days.

An even more emphatic testimonial to the attraction of ski contestants was written during the winter of 1936-37, when a show at Soldier Field, Chicago drew 57,000 admissions.

Prior to World War II, indoor ski exhibitions were staged, too, and they lured large crowds.

Today skiing is big business, both from a sport and a recreational standpoint. From the rugged White Mountains of New Hampshire to the lofty peaks of the Sierra Nevadas in California, the country's snowbelt is dotted with resorts, lavish and informal, that make it a multimillion dollar industry.

The United States Ski Association has supervised the expanding army of United States skiers. It has influenced the erection of ski runs in places where none ever was contemplated. The Association is a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee and the International Ski Federation (F.I.S.). It works very closely

with the National Ski Patrol System, Professional Ski Instructors of America, National Ski Areas Association, U.S. Ski Writers Association, Ski Industries America, and U.S. Forest Service.

The eight regional divisions of the United States Ski Association are:

United States Eastern Amateur Ski Association, 20 Main Street, Littleton, N.H., with jurisdiction over New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Alaska Division, P.O. Box 3-3923, Anchorage, Alaska, with jurisdiction over the state of Alaska.

Central Division, 205 East Front Street, Traverse City, Michigan, with jurisdiction over Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota east of the Missouri River, Missouri except the counties of Jackson and Clay, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Northern Division, 4115 Fifth Avenue South, Great Falls, Montana, with jurisdiction over the State of Montana, Yellowstone National Park, and in Northern Wyoming the counties of Park, Hot Springs, Bighorn, Washakie, Sheridan, Johnson, Campbell, Crook, Weston, Natrona and Converse.

Rocky Mountain Division, 214 Equitable Building, Denver, Colorado, with jurisdiction over the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, the counties of Niobrara, Carbon, Albany, Platte, Goshen and Laramie in Southern Wyoming, South Dakota west of the Missouri River, and the counties of Jackson and Clay in the State of Missouri.

Intermountain Division, P.O. Box 2203, 3584 S.W. Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah, with jurisdiction over the State of Utah, and over the Counties of Teton, Sublette, Lincoln, Sweetwater and Uinta in Wyoming; and over the following counties in southeastern Idaho: Bannock, Bear Lake, Bonneville, Blaine, Butte, Camas, Caribou, Cassia, Clark, Custer, Franklin, Fremont, Gooding, Jefferson, Jerome, Lemhi, Lincoln, Madison, Mindoka, Oneida, Power, Teton, Twin Falls, and the counties of Elko, Eureka and White Pine in Nevada.

Far West Ski Association, 812 Howard Street, San Francisco, California, with jurisdiction over the States of California, Arizona and Hawaii, and the State of Nevada with the exception of the counties of Elko, Eureka and White Pine.

Pacific Northwest Division, Box 434, Yakima, Washington, with jurisdiction over the States of Washington, Oregon and over the following counties in the State of Idaho: Ada, Adams, Benewah, Boise, Bonner, Boudry, Canyon, Clearwater, Elmore, Gem, Idaho, Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce, Owyhee, Payette, Shoshone, Valley and Washington.

The growth of the USSA since 1961, when it began basing its representation on individual members rather than clubs, is as follows: 1961 - 40,608; 1962 - 37,277; 1963 - 47,762; 1964 - 54,528; 1965 - 64,129; 1966 - 73,592; 1967 - 100,018.