

Competition at first was limited to jumping and cross-country, but annual tournaments soon included slalom and downhill when alpine events became fashionable beginning in 1933. By the time the 1936 Olympic Winter Games were staged in Germany, the Sierra was represented on the United States team by Roy Mikkelsen of Auburn, Clarita Heath (now Mrs. Alex Bright of Boston) and Dr. Joel Hildebrand of the University of California. The latter as manager of the men's team. For the mythical 1940 team, which did not compete due to the outbreak of World War Two, the division representative was Bob Blatt of San Jose.

Skiers of the Sierra gained international fame soon after World War Two. Making it to Switzerland for the Olympics in 1948 were the Blatt brothers, Bob and John, and Miss Dodie Post of Reno. For Norway in 1952, it was Dick Buek of Soda Springs, Miss Post, and Katy Rudolph of Reno. More recent Olympians out of the Far West were Linda Meyers, Starr Walton, Ni Orsi, Jr. and Jimmy Heuga. And there will be more.

The Squaw Valley Winter Olympics were something that just came naturally. From the very beginning the Far West Ski Association had great ski clubs to sponsor great competitions.

Within divisional jurisdiction, and working closely with FWSA officials, are the Far West Intercollegiate Ski Association and the California-Nevada Interscholastic Ski Federation. The National Ski Patrol System has several hundred members within FWSA jurisdiction - its patrols well organized and highly effective.

From a small membership beginning 30 years ago, there has been remarkable growth. At the time of the Olympics in 1960, there were 5,000 members. This has grown to 23,000, with FWSA's Executive Director predicting a 70,000 member organization within five years.

These thousands of organized skiers and supporters of amateur sport are descendants of pioneering sports times.

The FWSA has honored Snow-Shoe Thompson by naming a cross-country race after the famous skiing mail carrier. In 1869 Thomson advocated that the snow-shoe racing championships of 1870 be staged at Cisco, a rail stop later famous as the home grounds of the Auburn Blue Sweaters.

Too, the FWSA has produced many great leaders from Wendell T. Robie through today's president, Stanley Walton. Two of its former presidents, Albert Sigal and Byron Nishkian have risen to the presidency of the USSA. Its skiers have tracked the Sierra in ever increasing numbers following the widely publicized competitions in Squaw Valley.

What Truckee began so many years ago now is known as the Sierra Loop -- the snow fields and ski slopes alongside highways leading into the Sierra from gateways at Auburn and Placerville and circling Lake Tahoe. And there are equally famous ski areas on mountain slopes from south to north of the FWSA's major jurisdiction in California and Nevada. It also encompasses active ski clubs in Arizona - and has a few members in Hawaii.

## INTERMOUNTAIN DIVISION

By Margo Walters

The Intermountain Division was founded in 1939 by Marthinus (Marc) A. Strand.

### Past Presidents

1939-1940	Marthinus (Marc) A. Strand (founder)
1941-1942	Marthinus A. Strand
1943-1944	Marthinus A. Strand
1945-1946-1947	C. Don Reddish
1948	Fred L. Montmorency
1949	Stephen L. McDonald
1950-1951	Harold (Hap) Kimball
1952-1953	J. G. (Pony) Vorse
1954-1955	Guy Wight
1956-1957	Alton C. Melville
1958-1959	Paul Goddard
1960	Howard Hancock (resigned)
1960	Stanley C. Nelson
1961	Robert B. Allen
1962	Jack E. Wilson
1963-1964	Albert (Sunny) Korfanta
1965-1966	Earl D. Walters
1966-1967	Earl D. Walters

### Intermountain National Competitors

#### Junior National Champions

1958	Alan Miller Margo Walters	Second Downhill Third Downhill
1960	Margo Walters	Second Downhill
1963	Karen Korfanta Dale Miller Dale Miller	First Slalom First Giant Slalom First Downhill
1965	Karen Budge Karen Budge Ray Miller	First Downhill Third Giant Slalom Second Giant Slalom
1966	Peggy Goddard Karen Budge Ray Miller	Second Giant Slalom Second Slalom Second Slalom

#### Senior National Champions

1960	Margo Walters Margo Walters Jim Gaddis	Third Slalom Third Giant Slalom Second Downhill
1962	Jim Gaddis	First Giant Slalom Third Slalom

#### Collegiate Champion Combined

1960	Jim Gaddis
1962	Jim Gaddis