

The USEASA was the first of the divisions to employ a fulltime executive director, making the bold move in 1954. Since that time, its staff has enlarged to include a dozen steady employees with part-time help being added at peak periods.

The organization itself, with headquarters at Littleton, New Hampshire, by spring of 1967 boasted some 380 member clubs and around 31,000 individual members.



Hall of Fame Building
Ishpeming, Michigan

SUMMARY OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL SKI HALL OF FAME

By BURTON H. BOYUM

The idea of a National Ski Hall of Fame and Ski Museum is an old one in American Ski History. Visitors to Sweden and Norway told in glowing terms of the success of their two structures: The Skidmuseet in Stockholm built first in Stockholm in 1912 by the Skidframjandet, and the Skimuseet at the Holmenkollen at Oslo in 1923 by the Foreningen Til Ski-Idrettens Fremme. Both buildings have been improved and expanded over the years.

Mr. Harold Grinden of Duluth first proposed the idea of a distinct structure while he was President of the National Ski Association -- now the United States Ski Association. Nothing concrete was done until the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the National Ski Association in Ishpeming, Michigan, in February of 1944. The four great leaders during those years were Arthur J. Barth, Harold Grinden, Roger Langley and John Hostvedt. They were all present and revived the idea with the suggestion that the building be located in Ishpeming, the birthplace of the NSA. Nothing could be done during the war years.

The idea smouldered in Ishpeming and was revived at the time of the National Jumping Championships in Ishpeming in February, 1947. The Ishpeming Ski Club appointed a special study group that year. Their enthusiasm was contagious. They brought their ideas to the Central Convention in Duluth and their plan was adopted. A more detailed presentation was made to the National Convention in Chicago in November, 1948. A National Committee of Barth, Grinden, Langley, Hostvedt, and Burton H. Boyum of Ishpeming, Michigan, Chairman, was appointed. This committee worked over the next months until May, 1950, the time of the Sun Valley National Convention. On May 4, 1950, the National Convention both approved the plans and authorized the formation of the National Ski Museum Corporation. This was needed for tax purposes for donations.

During the period of 1950 to 1953, the greater part of the financial drive was conducted by the local committee from Ishpeming. Leaders were: George Annala, Arnold Cohodas, Randolph Dulany, Waldemar Elson, James Flaa, Waino Mantyla, William Peterson, Wayne Williams, and Burton Boyum. The 1953 National Convention in New York City authorized the start of construction. Mr. William R. Atkins was in charge of construction. The building measures 34 by 52 feet, two full floors, fire resistant, complete with display areas, office, and toilets. The building and two lots are appraised at over \$50,000. The building was dedicated at the time of the 50th Anniversary, February 21, 1954, with a remarkable turnout of National and International Officers and celebrities present. The National Convention was held at Ishpeming in May, 1954. At that time the Corporation was dissolved. Mr. Harold Grinden took over as National Chairman, a post he held until his untimely death in January, 1966. Mr. Burton H. Boyum became Curator, a post he held until December, 1964, when he was transferred to Canada. He was succeeded by Mr. George Quaal who had been Associate Curator since 1963, and Mr. Quaal held the post until his death in August, 1966. Mr. John Pontti is the current Curator.

The Ishpeming City Council made a non-interest bearing loan to the NSA(USA) in 1954 that cleaned up outstanding construction expenses. This loan of \$5,000 was repaid in full on May 6, 1964.