

Opton (Fish); Catherine Rodolph (Wyatt Wegeman); Suzanna Harris Rytting; Sandra Tomlinson; Betty Weir; and, Madi Springer-Miller (Kraus), alternate. Andrea Mead Lawrence and Jannette Burr (Bray) were automatically placed on the team; as promising candidates, the National Ski Association had sent them to Austria and Switzerland for a season of foreign competition. Herbert Jochum became the Technical Adviser; Gretchen Fraser was Manager of the Ladies Team.

\$52,000 was raised so that the Ski Committee of the United States Olympic Games Committee was solvent. Team training consisted primarily of a period prior to the Olympics.

Men and women of the Alpine Teams flew from New York to Zurich on January 2, 1952 for five weeks of training in Switzerland and Austria. Upon arrival, they all left for Murren and utilized the facilities of the Swiss Ski Federation's Training Camp. For one week, the women trained with the men and their Technical Adviser, Emile Allais. Allais, a former French racer, had advocated his "parallel method" in the early 1940's and was the ski school director at Squaw Valley at Lake Tahoe, California and in Chile. On January 8, the women and Herbert Jochum, the Trainer, went to Grindewald, Switzerland for the Ladies' International Races. Andrea Mead Lawrence and Jannette Burr (Bray) performed exceptionally well. The Swiss National was won by Jannette. The next training site was at Bedgastain, Austria, in preparation for the International Winter Sports Week. Again, Andrea and Jannette did well, especially in the giant slalom.

Skiers of the 1952 United States Team made the best record of any Americans in international skiing competition. The cause of the excitement was nineteen year old Andrea Mead Lawrence. She seemed to profit from her year of seasoning in Europe; she had developed ability to concentrate and had the desire to reach "the ultimate" through emphasis on self discipline. Andy's impressive victories of two gold medals for winning the Giant Slalom and Slalom was unprecedented. The feat, following four years after Gretchen Fraser's success in the 1948 Olympics, was heralded throughout the world. Since she placed seventeenth in the Downhill, she may have also earned the combined alpine title but no scoring was made. At the Forty-Fourth Annual Convention of the National Ski Association in 1952, a motion was passed to present her with an honorary membership in the National Ski Association.

Other Americans also placed well in the talented field of Olympic skiers. More American names, both men and women, appeared in the upper brackets of the result lists for the alpine events than ever before. Imogene Opton (Fish) was fifth in the slalom and Katy Rodolph (Wyatt Wegeman) was fifth in the Giant Slalom.

Following the Games, many of the teams remained in Europe to ski the circuit.

The 1954 World Ski Championships, as voted on at the 1951 Congress of the International Ski Federation, were held February 27-March 7, in Are, Sweden, under the auspices of the Swedish Ski Association. This was to be the Americans first trip to Europe as a FIS Team. When competitors raced for the United States in the 1950 FIS events at Aspen, Colorado, the group had gathered without the aid of a National budget. At the Forty-Fourth Annual Convention of the National Ski Association of America, held at Estes Park, Colorado, June 5-8, 1952 an International Competitions Committee was formed. The International Competitions Committee was delegated the responsibility to carry out activities related to international competitions and to maintain liaison with the International Ski Federation, the United States Olympic Committee, and the International Olympic Committee. Immediately, a plan

of continuity was put into effect to cover the two years prior to the World Games in 1954 and continue through the Olympic campaign of 1956.

A National budget was established based on a minimum of \$1,200 per competitor. The budget was set at \$25,000; half of the 1952 Olympic Fund. The plan was to send a squad of sixteen to Sweden; this was approved at the National Convention held in New York. Budgets were increasing in line with advancements in program; however, the number of organized skiers was at a peak high of four hundred sixty four clubs throughout the divisions, as of June 1952.

The \$25,000 budget did not include the expenses of the training camps but the plan was assisted by donations of facilities and accommodations. A men's and women's Alpine squad of twenty-seven trained at Stowe, Vermont. Pepi Gabl served as head coach for both teams. The program ran for almost a month.

As in the past, reaching the race site early was considered imperative. The team flew to Sweden, January 20. The cooperation of the division of the National Ski Association in raising funds was subscribed. Janet Macomber, Chairman of the Women's Selection Committee, also contributed her efforts in securing uniforms for the team.

Considering the extensive preparation and hard training, the teams did not produce as expected. It had been predicted that the United States would rank among the top teams at Are. The women's team missed their champion, Andrea Mead Lawrence. Katy Rodolph (Wyatt Wegeman) was fifth in the Combined and Jannette Burr (Bray) won the only medal for the United States, a bronze, in the Giant Slalom. Imogene Opton (Fish) was one of the mainstays; Gladys "Skeeter" Werner was the only addition to the team. Nineteen year old Skeeter, the National Junior Champion in 1950 and 1952, had taken a third in Badgastein. For a relative newcomer in international competitions, she did a commendable job in Sweden; Katy Rodolph (Wyatt Wegeman) was the only American who made a better downhill run than Gladys Werner.

Reports made at the 1954 and 1955 annual meetings of the National Ski Association by the Women's Skiing Committee, of which Janet Macomber was chairman, are indicative of the interest in women's affairs. In her 1954 report, she frequently mentioned the necessity of close cooperation on any phase of skiing between the general ski committee and the selection committees. As she had been on the selection committee for each of the last three international tournaments, she felt that the responsibility should be a charge of the chairman of the Women's Skiing Committee. Also serving on the Selection Committee, composed of six members, for the 1954 FIS Games were four former competitors.

The following resolutions were adopted at the Forty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the National Ski Association, Yosemite Valley, California, May 11-14, 1955:

1. That in each division, and on the National level, the Chairman of Women's Skiing receive all mailings sent to the Downhill-Slalom Committee and the Junior Committee as she has to work closely with both committees and it would facilitate cooperation.
2. That all clubs in every division be encouraged to have a woman appointed to head up girls' activities and to encourage girls to race, and help get them to the races.
3. That all divisions continue to develop Racing Training Programs for their girls.