



#107

## John Victorin

Born: 1907 Died: 1969

*John Victorin was the founder and past President of the Swedish Ski Club of New York, one of the oldest ski clubs in the United States Eastern Amateur Ski Association.*

John Victorin was born near Stockholm, Sweden in 1907, and immigrated to the United States in 1927. Victorin was a Nordic athlete, and almost from the day he arrived here, began to win cross-country ski races on the East Coast.

Students of ski history covering the past forty three years will recognize beyond any doubt that John Victorin contributed greatly to the advancement of skiing in North America and was numbered among the sport's most popular and hard-working figures. This was particularly true of the Nordic phase in which he first was a championship competitor and then became a competition judge and a top expert in cross-country skiing.

John Victorin's ski interest spanned the continent, whether it was Bear Mountain Palisades Interstate Park, where as a newly-arrived Swedish ski athlete, he won the New York State Cross-Country Championship on March 6, 1927, or in succeeding winters at Berlin, New Hampshire; Laconia-Gilford, New Hampshire; the Dartmouth Winter Carnival in Hanover, New Hampshire; out in Fox River and Cary, Illinois; Snoqualmie

Pass and Wenatchee in Washington; Steamboat Springs in Colorado, and Eastern Canada's touring trails. Victorin was always present to serve as a tournament official and to advise the competitors, new and experienced, on the proper style for jumping or the technique necessary for a winning cross-country performance. Best known as "Mr. Swix," he was a ski waxing expert and so acclaimed internationally.

John Victorin was a founder and past president of the Swedish Ski Club of New York City, one of the oldest clubs of the United States Eastern Amateur Ski Association. Associates have recalled that John as club president was "a bulwark of strength, cooperation and ever-ready willingness" during the two conventions of the National Ski Association held in New York City, the first during the early 40's and the second in 1954. Too, that much of the nation's cross-country skiing renaissance can be attributed to John Victorin's support of the Ski Touring Council organized in 1962. He converted his Swedish cross-country experience into simple ski touring techniques; he helped coordinate ski touring clinics during which he unraveled the mysteries of waxing and demonstrated the simplicity of touring equipment.

Victorin also sponsored the council's first Ski Touring Bulletin—a small pamphlet that told a story to thousands of past, present and would-be skiers of the delights of snowy woods, and emphasized that ski touring was a family sport. The tremendous growth of ski touring in New York State could not have been accomplished without John Victorin's cooperation in laying out ski trails in the Palisades and Harriman State Parks and the Ward-Poundridge Reservation, and introducing the sport at Bear Mountain.

John Victorin died suddenly in Stockholm on his first trip back to his homeland of Sweden on June 25, 1969. He was buried in his birthplace of Ludvika. Survivors are his lifetime skiing companion, Lillian, and two skiing daughters.

John Victorin will be remembered best as an ever-smiling figure weighed down with the ski waxes and slalom flags which he contributed to the success of many ski tournaments. All who knew him will agree that he gave himself to skiing—it was his life; and the ski sport of the world has been bettered by his all too brief journey through it.

John Victorin was inducted into the National Ski Hall of Fame in 1970.



*John Victorin, E. Newell,  
and Mrs. John Victorin 11/56*