



#125

## Magnus Bakke

Born: 1899    Died: ?

*Born in Lyngdahl, Norway, in 1899, Magnus Bakke was trained in cross-country, jumping, and biathlon in his native country. Magnus immigrated to the United States in 1929. He served the National Ski Association and the Pacific Northwest Ski Association as an international Nordic official certified in both cross-country and jumping, was an international jumping judge and biathlon referee, judging many international events.*

Magnus Bakke was born in Lyngdahl, Norway in 1899, and is three years older than his equally famous brother, Hermod. Magnus was trained in cross-country and ski jumping, as well as Biathlon as a youngster, which played a major role in his life in the United States.

Magnus immigrated to the United States in 1932, first settling in North Dakota. In 1930, Magnus moved on to Seattle in Wenatchee, Washington for two years, finally establishing himself in Leavenworth permanently in 1932. Magnus worked for the United States Forest Service, beginning in 1932 as a laborer on construction and maintenance of Forest Service Roads and Trails. He was superintendent on all road maintenance and construction in the Wenatchee National Forest when he retired in 1965.

While living in Leavenworth, he and Hermod were instrumental in building and promoting the internationally famous Leavenworth 90-meter jumping hill, now named "Bakke Hill" in honor of Magnus and Hermod Bakke. Magnus not only donated his engineering skills and labor to construction of the hill, but spent years of coaching the youngsters in the Leavenworth Ski Club.

Magnus coached jumping and cross-country teams for 39 years, and was certified as a cross-country official and jumping judge in 1938. He judged many national and international meets in the United States and Canada including the cross-country start and finish, biathlon, and as a ski jump measurer at the 1960 Olympics at Squaw Valley.

When Magnus retired, he was employed as the trail and slope engineer for the Mission Ridge Ski Area in Wenatchee. He designed and built 18-meter and 30-meter jumping hills at Mission Ridge and conducted junior jumping programs on these hills.

Magnus Bakke, a most influential man in Pacific Northwest skiing for so many years, continued to build on his fine skiing record by remaining very active in the skiing programs in the Leavenworth area, as well as keeping active in the affairs of the Pacific Northwest Ski Association and the United States Ski Association.

Magnus Bakke was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame, along with his brother Hermod, in 1972.