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Marthinus A. (Mark) Strand

Born: 1887 Died: 1965

Marthinus A. (Mark) Strand was a ski jumper in his youth and competed for several years. In 1916, Strand organized the Utah Ski Club, a jumping club that was one of the pioneer clubs in the state.

Martinus A. Strand was born in Dramen, Norway. His early education was in the field of gun-making and electrical engineering. After immigrating to the United States in 1910, he was employed by major United States corporations for fourteen years, after which he organized his own company, the Strand Electric Company.

During these years, he maintained a deep interest in ski jumping, having been involved in competition beginning as a young child. In 1916, he organized the Utah Ski Club, a ski jumping group, probably among the first of the ski clubs in the United States. He was president for many terms. His other activities at that time included president of the North American

Athletic Association, president of the Utah Soccer League, manager of the Viking Soccer Club, president of the Norwegian Athletic Club, president of the Male Chorus Norge, as well as many others.

In the meantime, he continued jumping competition, more in the spirit of recreational aspects of the sport rather than a search for titles.

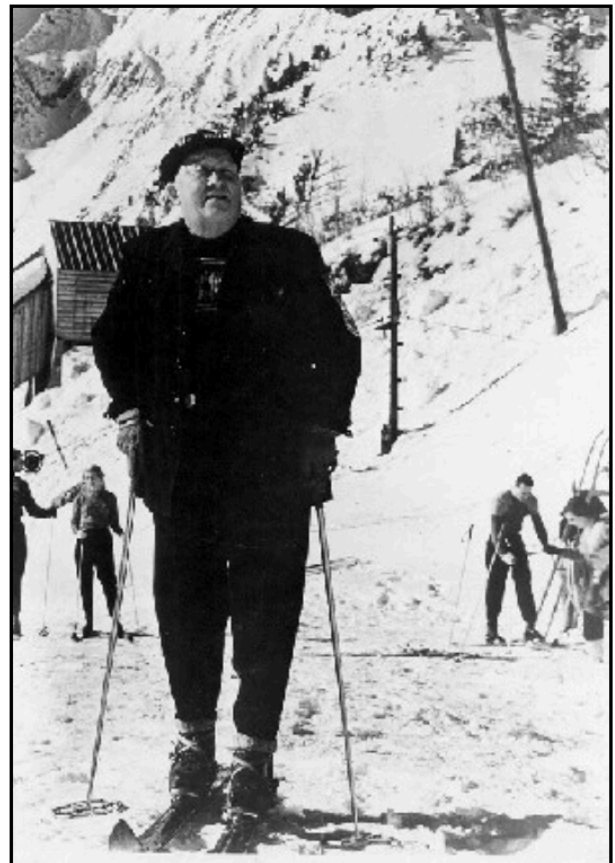
When the Western Amateur Ski Association was organized, he served as its president for four terms. In the intervening years, as skiing developed, he helped organize the Rocky Mountain Amateur Ski Association and served as president for several years of both organizations.

The National Ski Association also called for his services, and he was elected vice-president and director for several years and was finally elected an honorary director for life.

When the management of his company was assumed by his sons, he directed all of his time to skiing and civil and public affairs. During and after World War II, he chaired the Utah Norwegian War Relief Committee until it disbanded in 1946. Also, in the war years, he was a member of the Utah Defense committee and was given the post of Civilian Ski and Mountain Patrols by Utah's governor. Other continuing activities included advisory functions to the Secretary of the Interior and to review potentially suitable ski development sites in National Parks and National Forests in the intermountain country.

Because he was highly qualified in that field, he was appointed as a registered ski jumping judge for thirty-five years and acted in that capacity in countless ski jumping competitions during that period. His interest in all phases of skiing continued unabated to the very end of his seventy-eight years of fruitful activity to the sport of skiing and the citizens of Utah, his adopted land.

Martinus A. Strand was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1958.



Marthinus A. (Mark) Strand, 69 years old, 1956.