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## Gordon Wren

Born: 1919 Died: 2000

*Gordon Wren was one of America's best all-round skiers. He was a member of three U.S. Olympic Teams. Wren was a moving force in junior programs in the Steamboat Springs, Denver, and Georgetown, Colorado, area.*

Gordon Wren was born and raised in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. He qualified for four events in the Winter Olympics. As a member of the 1948 Olympic Team, he won a fifth place medal in the special jumping event. During the same season, he set jumping hill records in Switzerland at Arosa, St. Moritz, and Davos. He was the first jumper to break the 300-foot mark in America.

In 1950, Wren was a member of the F.I.S. Jumping Team. That year, he was National Nordic Combined Champion and won a second place in the National Giant Slalom competition.

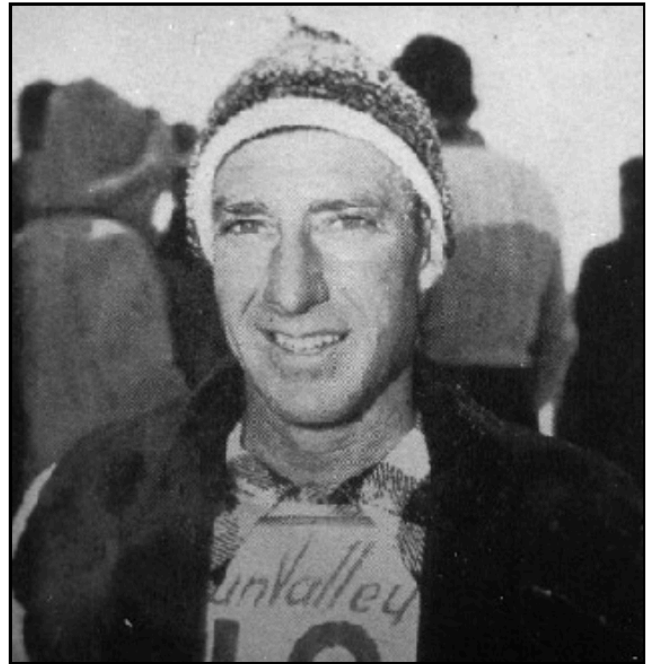
Gordon was a moving force in junior ski programs in Denver, Georgetown, and Steamboat Springs in Colorado, and at Reno, Nevada. In 1959, he was presented with the Russell Wilder Award by the National Ski Association for furthering junior skiing in America.

In 1948, in addition to competing as a jumper at St. Moritz, Gordy was named for (but did not compete in) the downhill and slalom events.

From 1950 through 1954, Gordon Wren was the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club's instructor. He accepted the post of recreational director in Reno, Nevada, in 1955, where he handled some 1,400 youngsters. He was in charge of the world's largest ski training program. Returning to Colorado in 1959, he headed the Loveland Basin ski program, with headquarters in Georgetown, Colorado.

His record as a competitor is brimming over with top places in a host of championship competitions in all of the four events of skiing, with a tremendous record in jumping, downhill, slalom, and combined. The name of Gordon Wren appears in the championships columns of the National Ski Association, United States Western Ski Association, Rocky Mountain Ski Association, Intermountain Ski Association, Southern Rocky Mountain Ski Association, Olympic tryouts, Pacific Northwest Ski Association and a host of other local and area ski competitions.

Wren competed on the 1948 American Olympic Ski Team and was 11 times Division Champion. He was the top placing man in American Olympic Ski Jumping. He tied the American record of 197 feet and was the first American to jump over 300 feet. He holds the record for the ski hill at Arosa, Switzerland, and set an unofficial mark on the jumping hill at St. Moritz. He was the United States Nordic Champion in 1950 and received the Ashby Award for service to junior skiing, the Halstead Trophy for service to Colorado skiing in 1949, and honorable mention in



1949 for the American Ski Trophy Award. He had been in competition for 26 years.

Wren coached such skiers as Marvin Crawford, Skeeter Werner, Gary Knowles, Norris Durham, Bud Werner, and Don Hilbert. He also coached juniors who won 20 divisional championships and eight national titles.

Gordon Wren was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1958.