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Charles N. Proctor

Born: 1906 Died: 1996



Charles N. Proctor was born in Columbia, Missouri, in 1906, but learned to ski in Hanover, New Hampshire, after his father, Charles A. Proctor, moved east to teach at Dartmouth College. "Charley" attended Dartmouth and captained the Dartmouth Ski Team in 1927, winning several intercollegiate races, as well as the first Moosilauke Downhill Race.

*Proctor was a member of the 1928 United States Olympic team, competing in the special jumping and Nordic combined events. He worked for the United States Forest Service in the east for a short time, where he authored the book, **The Art of Skiing**, a well accepted publication. He moved to Yosemite National Park in 1928, where he took the position of Director of Ski Operations for the Forest Service, a position he held for twenty years.*

Proctor served the California Ski Association, later to become the Far West Ski Association as secretary from 1943 through 1946, and as vice president for a year. He also was chairman of several committees within the F.W.S.A. and the National Ski Association. Proctor was a member of the Kandahar Ski Club of Great Britain and the Swiss academic Ski Club, giving him international experience and appeal.

Charles N. Proctor, the "skimeister" of Yosemite National Park, has a snow sports career that is hard to equal within the archives of the National Ski Hall of Fame.

After he retired, Charley Proctor could look back on a lifetime of ski-history-making achievements. The son of a Dartmouth College ski-minded professor, Charles A. Proctor (also a Ski Hall of Famer), young Charlie learned to ski in Hanover, New Hampshire, and climaxed a brilliant intercollegiate career as captain of the Dartmouth Ski Team in 1927.

Charley Proctor served the sport of skiing well, both as a competitor and as a sport builder. As a competitor in 1927, he won the Canadian Nordic Combined and the intercollegiate jumping and slalom championships, and he topped the season by winning the first Moosilauke Downhill Race. A further contribution was a co-designer of a ski binding for the Dartmouth Outing Club.

Proctor was a member of the 1928 Olympic Ski Team, placing 14th in jumping and 26th in combined. He also competed in several foreign countries in both Nordic and Alpine events. Subsequently, he authored a book, ***The Art of Skiing***, a popular ski book in its day.

Before coming to California, Proctor was in charge of ski trail design for the United States Forest Service and New Hampshire Forestry Departments, participated in numerous indoor ski shows and coached the Harvard Ski Team. He reached Yosemite National Park in 1938 as director of all ski operations, remaining in the position for 20 years.

He also served as secretary of the California Ski Association from 1943 through 1946. Following the organization's change of name to Far West Ski Association, Proctor served as vice-president in 1957-58, was chairman of the Officials Certification Committee during 1956-58, and held the office of vice president, competition in 1959.

He also served the National Ski Association as a member of the certification committee and was a member of the 1960 Olympic Ski Advisory Committee.

The National Ski Hall of Fame member is also a certified Far West Ski Official of the Yosemite Winter Club, and a life member of Kandahar Ski Club of Great Britain, a certified instructor of the Far West and Eastern Amateur Ski Instructors Association and a lifetime member of the Swiss Academic Ski Club.

Well known the world over, there is little doubt that Charles N. Proctor was a most influential person throughout the skiing world, and his contributions advanced skiing on a world-wide-scale. He helped the early United States Ski team when they entered worldwide competition, particularly on the European Continent, and laid the groundwork for the success of the United States team that followed.

Charles N. Proctor was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1959, followed by the election of his father, Charles A. Proctor, in 1966.⁶

⁶Bill Berry, Historian, United States Ski Association.



Charles Proctor at Mt. Lassen