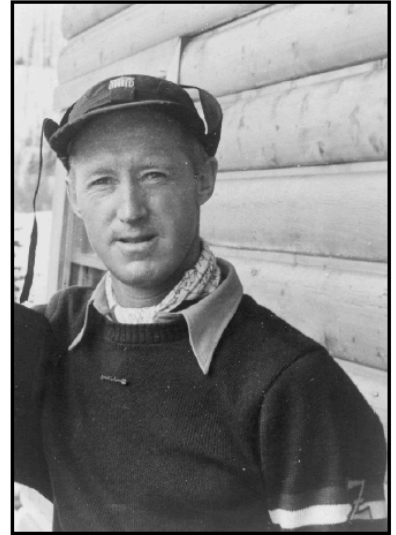


#2

Arthur J. "Red" Barth

Born: 1902 Died: 1956

Arthur J. "Red" Barth of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was one of the founders of the Central U.S. Ski Officials "Judges" Association formed in 1935. He served as its first secretary. Art was editor of the Central Ski Sport, the oldest ski periodical in the country. He was an international ski jumping judge, served as chairman of the National Jumping Committee, as president of the National Ski Association in 1949, and was the first American Olympic Ski Jumping Judge in Europe.



Arthur Barth, Skier and Friend

To pay tribute to Arthur Barth is to commemorate the history of modern skiing.

Widely traveled because of his various appointments, "Red" had no trouble finding a friend to share his skiing interest. In Colorado, Switzerland, Norway, and Michigan – with Olympic competitors, ski jumpers, mountain troopers, ski club members – he was enthusiastic about anything connected with skiing.

Born July 7, 1902, in Chicago, he later moved to Racine, Wisconsin, where he sparked the initial meeting of the Racine Ski Club in the Barth home.

After moving again to Milwaukee, local ski events in the 1920s saw Art handling meets at the old slide in Gordon Park.

As early as 1934, he was selected as a member of the American Olympic Committee to choose the team for the 1936 Olympics.

Then, in 1938, "Secretary of the Interior Ickes appointed Art to serve on a national committee to formulate policies and practices for recreational areas throughout the United States, serving without salary or travel allowance."

Actually, he has been active in skiing since the founding of the Central U.S. Ski Association, which he helped to organize. After serving as president and secretary of the CUSSA, he went on to serve the National Ski Association in the same capacities. He was president when the first World Ski Championships in the United States took place at Aspen and Lake Placid. Because of his many worthy accomplishments, he was made an honorary director of the NSA until his death at the age of 53.

He was also the founder of the "Ski Sport," for over 22 years the official CUSSA newspaper, claimed to be the oldest ski publication in America.

Employed as foreman in the bottling house at Pabst Brewing Company, he was never too busy to serve the local Milwaukee Ski Club in various official capacities. In fact, any individual or group felt free to consult Art for assistance, as did the Mountain Troops, for whom he recruited men in World War II.

The Julius P. Blegen Trophy for outstanding contributions to skiing, the NSPS* Trophy of 1955, the CUSSA gold medallion – the honors held by Arthur Barth read like a "Skier's Who's Who." Certainly, his wife, Agnes, and son, Joseph, were in part responsible for his international success. How many time consuming tasks did they undertake in the spirit of promoting the skiing sport?

Although he loved skiing in general, jumping was his forte. Here it was that he achieved his greatest honor as the first American judge to officiate at the Winter Olympics at St. Moritz in 1948.

Always studying, improving, encouraging the jumpers, he served in turn on committees for the NSA and FIS**. In 1954, with the aid of Chuck Warren, he selected the FIS jumping team.

He became one of the foremost authorities on ski jumping in America, judging at many international events.

Rewarding it must have been, when as the first president of the National Ski Museum Corporation (1950), he realized that for which he had been working since 1944. On February 19, 1954, Arthur dedicated a "shrine to the skiing world," the National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum to "those who have gone on and those who are with us."

Though time fades memory, it can not erase the work of our friend, for his enthusiasm touched every phase of skiing, even through his months of illness. Wherever we have organized skiing, there will be Arthur Barth.¹

Arthur J. "Red" Barth was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1956, the second person to be so honored.

* NSPS (National Ski Patrol System)

** FIS (FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE SKI/International Ski Federation)

¹ Joyce P. Fitzgerald, Personal friend of Arthur Barth.