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## Brooks Dodge

Born: 1929

Information submitted by Doug Pfeiffer in a nomination letter to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame

*It would seem natural that Brooks Dodge would ski. He grew up in the Pinkham Notch section of New Hampshire where his father was manager of the Appalachian Mountain Hut System. He got his first skis at the age of two soon after he had learned to walk.*

During childhood, skiing and mountain climbing were natural pursuits for Brooks Dodge, since the family lived eleven miles from the nearest town. A patient mother took both him and

his sister skiing each day after school and attempted to teach them as much as possible.

Remarkably enough, there were few formal ski lessons in Dodge's entire career and these were taken as a young child at the Hannes Schneider Ski School just behind the village store in Jackson, New Hampshire. He credits Johnny Reid as being the first person to help him with his racing. Dodge's very first race was at the age of seven on the Sherburn Trail that ran from Tuckerman Ravine to Pinkham's Notch.

However, it was the coaching at Dartmouth that brought out the latent talent and coordination in Dodge. By graduation time in 1953, he was a skier of international caliber. His record attests to this fact:

National Teams	1950	F.I.S. Team at Aspen, Colorado
	1952	Olympic Team at Oslo, Norway
	1954	F.I.S. Team at Åre, Sweden
	1956	Olympic Team at Cortina, Italy

A capsule review of a few of his race results against international competition show Brooks to be in the top echelon of world skiing. Consider:

1952	Olympics at Oslo, 6 <sup>th</sup> in the Giant Slalom
1954	F.I.S. at Are, Sweden, 6 <sup>th</sup> in Combined
1956	Olympics at Cortina, 4 <sup>th</sup> in Slalom
1956	Weisseband, St. Moritz, 1 <sup>st</sup> in Slalom, 1 <sup>st</sup> Combined
1956	Lenzerheide, Switzerland, 1 <sup>st</sup> in Slalom

It should be obvious beyond doubt that Brooks Dodge was not only able to ski the European terrain, but could also do it with the best of the Europeans.

Although Dodge stopped skiing the international circuit in 1956, his interest in the sport still remained keen. Along with three others, he planned and developed Wildcat Mountain in New Hampshire.

Dodge organized and conducted charter flights to Europe from 1960 to 1972 and was one of the pioneers in organizing flights to the Bugaboos starting as early as 1965 and running through to 1973.

Although it had been many years since those halcyon days of the 1956 Olympics, Dodge raced in the senior veterans' class and raced well. In 1976 he won the slalom and giant slalom at the National Vets Championships held at Crystal Mountain against all classes. His wife was a non-skier when they married but raced with him.

Lastly, consider this: Since Dodge ran that first race from Tuckerman to Pinkham's Notch at the age of seven, he competed in a grand total of 423 races, of which he won 107. Quite a skier that man Dodge.

Brooks Dodge was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1978.

