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Steve Bradley

Born: 1916 Died: 2002

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

Steve came from a skiing family of seven boys and became involved with skiing when he was old enough to walk.

Born in Madison, Wisconsin, on November 12, 1916, to Dr. & Mrs. H.C. Bradley, Stephen Joseph Bradley became one of Colorado's and America's foremost ski sport pioneers.

As a competitive athlete, Steve was a four-way specialist at Dartmouth – slalom, downhill, jumping, and langlauf. In 1937-38, he was chosen to go to Australia and New

Zealand with the American Ski Team. Among Bradley's skiing credits were:

- 1937 4th place – Jumping and Combined-Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Union Championship Meet in St. Marquette, Quebec on February 25, 26, and 27
- 1938 2nd Place – Eastern Combined Championship – Class "A" in Sun Valley, Idaho

The Hanoverians made a clean sweep of all events. They took the first five places in the opening cross-country race, won by Howard Chivers; annexed four of the five positions in the slalom, which Steve Bradley won, and carried off the first four of five places in the downhill. The Green Boys also swept the jump which did not figure in the scoring.

Bradley received his B.A. from Dartmouth in 1939. In 1941, he was inducted into the army and assigned to work with military photography in motion pictures. This was followed by officer's training.

Steve later enrolled in the University of Colorado and received his Master of Fine Arts in 1950. During that time, he was an unpaid ski coach for the university. His art studies included painting skiers on highball glasses. In addition, he was actively involved in the F.I.S. Championships held in Aspen.

In 1950, Bradley's involvement with skiing expanded from an athletic involvement to that of a true ski sport pioneer, particularly for the State of Colorado. He went to work for the Winter Park Recreational Association as executive director and remained in that position until 1977 when he became vice-president of planning & development for Winter Park.

During his tenure at Winter Park, Steve's guidance and innovation brought the Winter Park Ski Area from a four-rope tow, three T-bar ski area to a thirteen chairlift area, consisting of 770 ski-able acres and a capability to service 15,750 skiers per hour. Steve was instrumental in bringing on stream the popular Mary Jane Ski Area, as well as planning its well-developed trails and base facilities.

In 1955, a new two-story warming house, designed by Bradley, was built at the base of Winter Park. In a series of odd angles, it utilized the principle of a camera lens, to give the building maximum exposure to the low sweep of the winter sun, at the same time compressing to a minimum the cold, sunless, wind-exposed north wall. It was the first integrated design of any size on any ski area utilizing the principles of solar heating. This was before anyone even recognized passive solar heat, and certainly no one was designing for it. Steve was also jointly responsible with Bob Carlson for the architectural design of Snoasis, Winter Park's midway warming house, another design-first for space utilization and movement. The scramble design at Snoasis became a model for food service design.

Perhaps the most important contribution to Winter Park, Colorado and the entire ski industry was Bradley's contribution to slope maintenance. In 1952, he invented the Bradley-Parker, a slope-grooming device that revolutionized the ski industry.

Mr. Bradley was recognized as one of the foremost authorities in slope grooming and Winter Park. Steve was unquestionably the Father of Slope Maintenance throughout the country.

Other contributions to the ski industry include his being President of the National Ski Areas Association. He was a key organizer of Colorado Ski Country, USA, the moving force behind Colorado's fantastic success in attracting skiers to the State from around the world and served as its secretary. He helped form the Colorado Passenger Tramway Safety Board, created to inspect ski lifts in the State and establish stringent safety standards for all uphill ski conveyances and served as both chairman and secretary of that organization. He was the chairman of NSAA's Labor Relations Committee and responsible for NSAA's first wage and salary survey; and was chairman of NSAA's Slope Maintenance Committee. He was a recipient of the Halstead Award which is presented annually to an individual who has contributed the most to skiing.

Stephen J. Bradley was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1980.