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Rolf Monsen

Born: 1899 Died: 1987

Rolf Monsen was an outstanding cross-country skier and jumper before he immigrated to the United States in 1921. Rolf became a United States citizen in 1927, and went on to represent his --adopted" country on three Olympic teams. Monsen was an active Nordic competitor across North America from 1922 through 1937, and upon his retirement from competition, became a respected ski jumping judge in the United States, Canada, and Europe.



*Grinden Papers
Rolf Monsen, Lake Placid Club, Essex County, NY
(Circa 1930s)*

Rolf

Monsen was born in Oslo, Norway, on January 8, 1899. He immigrated to the United States in 1921 and became an American citizen in 1927. He was a member of the Sugar Bowl Ski Club, an affiliate of the Far West Ski Association.

Rolf was exposed to skiing almost before he could stand, as were most Norwegian youngsters, and he became an outstanding jumper and cross-country skier.

Monsen was a member of three United States Olympic Teams in 1928, 1932, and 1936. His record speaks for itself. In 1928, in St. Moritz, Switzerland, he placed sixth in the Special Jumping – the best performance by an American. In 1932, at Lake Placid, New York, Rolf came in ninth in the Nordic Combined - the best ever by an American. Although an injury prevented his competing in the 1936 Olympic Games, in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, he was given the honor of carrying the flag in the opening ceremonies.

Rolf competed across North America between 1922 and 1937, at which time he retired as an athlete. In 1938, he acquired a national and international certificate to judge ski jumping competitions in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

In 1940, Rolf Monsen was hired by the United States War Department to help train the 10th Mountain's ski troops for mountain warfare during World War II.

After the war, Monsen settled in California, where he remained an active skier until his death.

For his contributions as an athlete and skisport builder, Rolf Monsen was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1964.