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## John P. Litchfield

Born: 1917

*John P. Litchfield began skiing at the age of four. Encouraged by his father, one of Maine's pioneers in the sport and a licensed ski jumping judge, he became proficient in ski jumping, cross-country, downhill, slalom and giant slalom.*

Johnny Litchfield, Dartmouth 1939, roommate of Dick Durrance, was a member of Dartmouth's noted 1936-39 ski teams. He was on the American "A" Team and the World Championship teams of 1937. John was selected as member of the U.S. Olympic Jumping Team of 1940 which did not compete because war was breaking out in Europe.

Some highlights of John's career follow:

- 1935 Placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, USEASA Ski Jumping Championships, Rumford, Maine, Class "B"
- 1936 Placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at Berlin, New Hampshire, Winter Carnival, Ski Jumping – Class "A"
- 1937 U.S. Eastern Amateur Ski Association, Jackson, New Hampshire, placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in cross-country, 4<sup>th</sup> in slalom
- 1937 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Rumford, Minnesota, Winter Carnival, placed 1<sup>st</sup> in ski jumping – Class "A"
- 1938 Dartmouth Winter Carnival, Hanover, New Hampshire, placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in ski jumping, 4<sup>th</sup> in nordic combined, with Dartmouth Ski Team placing 1<sup>st</sup> overall
- 1938 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Rumford, Minnesota, Winter Carnival, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in ski jumping – Class "A"
- 1939 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Rumford, Minnesota, Winter Carnival, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in ski jumping – Class "A"
- 1939 Dartmouth College Winter Carnival, Hanover, New Hampshire, placed 1<sup>st</sup> in ski jumping, 7<sup>th</sup> in cross-country, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in nordic combined, with Dartmouth Ski Team placing 1<sup>st</sup> overall
- 1939 At U.S. try-outs for 1940 World Ski Championships (F.I.S.) in Oslo, Norway, held at Lake Placid, New York – placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in nordic combined, thus selected for Group 2, Nordic Combined F.I.S. World Ski Championships and Olympic Winter Games
- 1940-42 Ski Instructor, Sun Valley Ski School, Sun Valley, Idaho
- 1942 U.S. National Downhill and Slalom Championships, Yosemite, California – placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in downhill, 7<sup>th</sup> in slalom, tied for 7<sup>th</sup> in combined
- 1942 Harriman Cup Alpine Ski Races, Sun Valley, ID, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in slalom
- 1942-45 10<sup>th</sup> Mt. Division, World War II
- 1946-48 Co-Director Aspen Ski School
- 1947 Southern Rocky Mt. Ski Association Downhill and Slalom Championships, Aspen, Colorado, placed 1<sup>st</sup> in slalom, 7<sup>th</sup> in downhill, 3<sup>rd</sup> in alpine combined
- 1949-51 Ski Instructor, Head Instructor, then Executive Director of Sun Valley Ski School, Sun Valley, Idaho
- 1951 Sun Valley Diamond Sun Award
- 1951-52 Korean War
- 1951 President of Pacific Northwest Ski Association, a division of the U.S. National Ski Association
- 1953 Executive Director of Sun Valley Ski School
- 1980-86 Rocky Mt. Ski Association Colorado Veterans Masters Series Races
- 1987-95 Recreational Skiing



In 1945-46, Friedl Pfeifer, Percy Rideout and Johnny Litchfield, all 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division veterans, established Aspen's first ski school as co-directors – no contracts, no guarantees. Pay was whatever revenue the ski school generated. Jean Litchfield, Johnny's wife was an associate. Aspen's first chairlift opened unofficially on December 14, 1946, but the official opening occurred on January 11, 1947, with a parade of 10<sup>th</sup> Mt. Division veterans and a ride up to the almost finished Sun Deck. Johnny Litchfield presented a plaque to the Tenth's veterans.

Johnny then purchased Tim Gallagher's small run down saloon, the Red Onion, and converted it into Aspen's prime gathering spot. Johnny eventually moved to Sun Valley and became director of that resort's ski school.

Johnny Litchfield, a prime time player in the early days of Aspen's development as a ski center, was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 2002 and the Colorado Ski Hall of Fame in 2002.