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David Lawrence

Born: 1930 Died: 2003

David Lawrence, an American born and raised in France, lived near the great ski areas in Europe. This proximity gave him the experience and confidence he needed to become a fierce competitor.

David Lawrence was an American who was born and raised in France. His father worked for the Loews Corporation, setting up a chain of movie theaters throughout Europe. David's French tutor, Robert Martin, instilled in him competitive values. Martin was a world class athlete himself, a diver on the French Olympic team. A competitive nature, along with extraordinary athletic prowess, made David Lawrence an excellent skier and a fine ski technician. The close proximity and opportunity to ski the finest areas in

Europe gave Dave the experience and confidence he needed.

Lawrence entered competition in the United States where, in 1949, he became the first National Ski Association National Giant Slalom Champion by winning the race at Slide Mountain, Nevada. Here he met Andrea Mead. During the 1950 season, their paths crossed again, when they both competed in the sugar Slalom at Stowe, Vermont; Dave won the men's division, and Andrea, the women's.

In 1951, David skied the European circuit, as did Andrea. After the ski season, the two were married in Davos, Switzerland. The Lawrences returned to the United States and settled down on a ranch in Middle Pass, Colorado, near Denver. They both continued to ski, but David's interest seemed to gravitate toward coaching his wife when he realized her great potential. David placed well in the Olympic tryouts in 1951 and represented the United States at the 1952 Winter Olympics in Oslo, Norway. Also a team member, Andrea won two gold medals in the competition. David coached the national team in 1955 and again in 1957. In 1960, he coached the United States Women's Olympic Team of which Andrea was manager.

In 1957, in a dispute over water rights, David and Andrea Lawrence lost their ranch. Shaken at being wrenched from their first home, the couple and their growing family moved to Switzerland for a short period.

After his return from Switzerland, David began working for a New York-based internal company; he lived in Rutland, Vermont, for a short time, before moving to California, where his company had opened an office. David and Andrea separated and then divorced in 1965, with the five Lawrence children staying with their mother.

David Lawrence later moved to Mexico. He was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1966.

