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Edward F. Taylor

Born: 1914 Died: 1970

Edward F. Taylor was active in all phases of skiing, with a strong emphasis on safety. He joined a volunteer ski patrol at a Colorado ski area in 1937, progressed through the National Ski Patrol System ranks, and was named N.S.P.S. Director in 1950. Taylor's main interest remained with the N.S.P.S. He wrote the first N.S.P.S. Manual and edited it for many years. He was responsible for the integration the N.S.P.S. into the United States Ski Association. A member of two Olympic Committees in 1948, and in 1950, he was named Director of Alpine events for the F.I.S. World Championships in Aspen.

During World War II, Taylor was a civilian officer with the U.S. Army Air Corps, serving as a research engineer working on Arctic air and ground search and rescue equipment and techniques, as well as survival techniques for fliers downed in the Arctic. He was on General Mark Clark's committee on mountain and winter warfare and was one of the ski leaders to persuade the War Department to organize the Ski Troops.

Edward F. Taylor was born in Colorado in 1914 and lived in the Denver area most of life. Until his untimely death on November 9, 1970, Ed was active in all phases of organized skiing, with emphasis on safety aspects.

As a student at the Colorado School of Mines in 1934, he co-captained that school's ski team and organized the first Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Ski Association.

In 1937, Ed Taylor joined the volunteer ski patrol at Berthoud Pass and became a senior patrolman in 1938. In 1940 he was a National Patrol Leader at Loveland Pass and rose to the National Ski Patrol System division leader in 1941. Later, in the early 1950s, Taylor rose to National Director of the National Ski Patrol System and National Ski Association for two years.

Taylor was a civilian officer with the United States Army as a specialist in search and rescue operations, and search and rescue research. He was also a construction engineer for the Army Air Force Technical Command for the establishment of Camp Echo Lake Buckley Field, Denver, and cooperated with the United States Army Air Force Proving Ground Command at Elgin Airfield, Florida, on Arctic search and rescue techniques. He later served in Fairbanks, Alaska, on ground search techniques, air search and rescue, and designing equipment for rescue operations. Taylor was a member of General Mark Clark's advisory committee on mountain and winter warfare and was one of the ski leaders responsible for persuading the War Department to organize a ski troop training program just prior to World War II.

After the war, Taylor served as executive vice-president of Snowblast Corporation, makers of mobile machinery for snow removal from highways and airports, as well as avalanche control. Ed was a traveling consultant and his influence was felt worldwide. There is probably no snow area in the world that has not consulted him on avalanche control or snow removal problems.

Taylor served on two Winter Olympic committees in 1948, and in 1950 was the director of Alpine events at the F.I.S. World Championships in Aspen, Colorado.

However, the National Ski Patrol was his main interest. The forward in the National Ski Patrol Manual of 1956 states, "A patrolman who stuck to his patrol ideas despite oral and written barrages and personal sacrifices, and in doing so, promoted and wrote the first edition of this manual, expanded the patrol system into Alaska and Europe, and to their mutual benefit, integrated the National Ski Association and the National Ski Patrol System. To a rugged guy, Edward F. Taylor." Ed was the manual's editor for many years, and his influence and dedication to the system made skiing much safer to the benefit of all who ski.

Edward F. Taylor was elected into the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1956.

