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Lowell Thomas

Born: 1892 Died: 1981

Through his famous radio broadcasts, many directly from famous ski areas, Lowell Thomas lured many people into trying the sport he so loved.

Beginning in 1930, *Lowell Thomas and the News* went out over the airways five times a week for 45 consecutive years. Ten million faithful listeners tuned in to each broadcast.

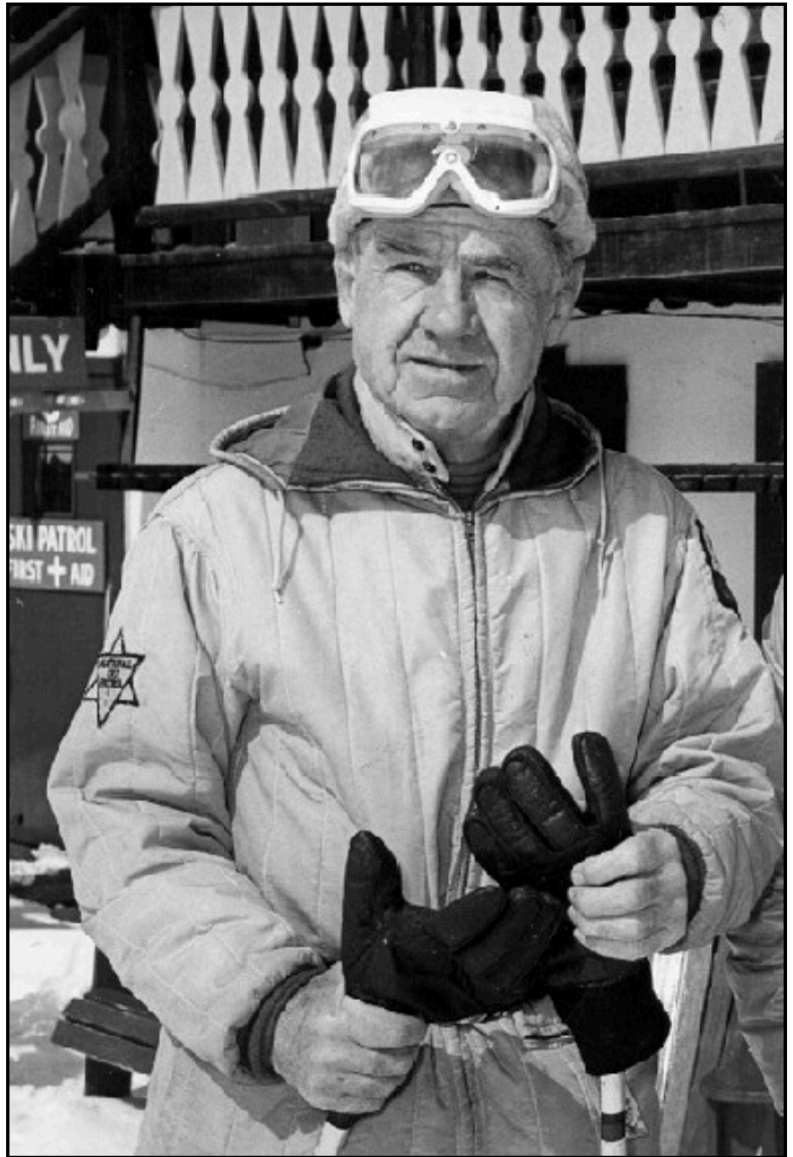
Born April 6, 1892, in Woodington, Ohio, and raised in Cripple Creek, Colorado, Lowell Thomas began a budding career as a journalist after graduating from the University of Denver.

Thomas was a war correspondent in Italy during WWI. In 1917, he was introduced to skiing by the Italian Alpine Troops on Mont Rosa, near the border separating Northern Italy from Austria.

He began skiing for recreation in 1926, "right on these rolling slopes of Quaker Hills," as he recalled, near his home in Pawling, New York.

During the first Winter Olympic Games at Lake Placid, in 1932, Thomas signed up for lessons from Norwegian Erling Strom, who had been hired to teach members of the Lake Placid Club. When Katharine Peckett of Sugar Hill, New Hampshire, brought over the first Austrian ski instructors, Thomas was introduced to the Arlberg technique of swift down-mountain running and high-speed turns. He was soon a ski enthusiast.

From the appearance of the first rope tow set up by Bunny Bertram at Woodstock, Vermont, in 1934, to the opening of Sun Valley in 1937, Thomas was on the scene. As ski areas developed throughout North America, he could be found among the first skiers on the slopes.



No cautious skier, Thomas paid his dues by breaking both legs and his collar bone over the years. In 1972, he was named an honorary member of the National Ski Patrol.

In 1966, America's most famous broadcaster-journalist, adventurer, and recreational skier, was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame. Along with President Gerald Ford, he served as one of the honorary co-chairmen of the Hall of Fame building fund drive.

Thomas died on August 29, 1981. "So long until tomorrow." You are missed, old friend.

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