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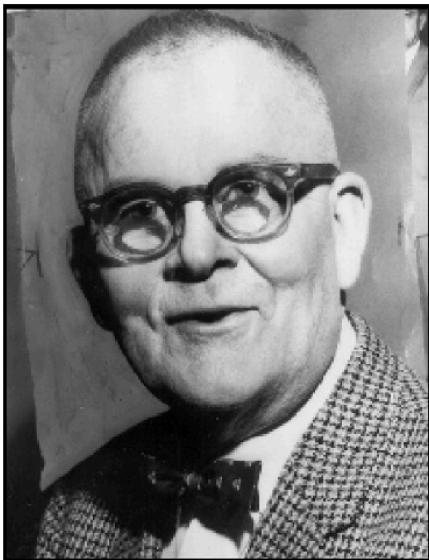
Fred Hutchison McNeil

Born: 1893 Died: 1958

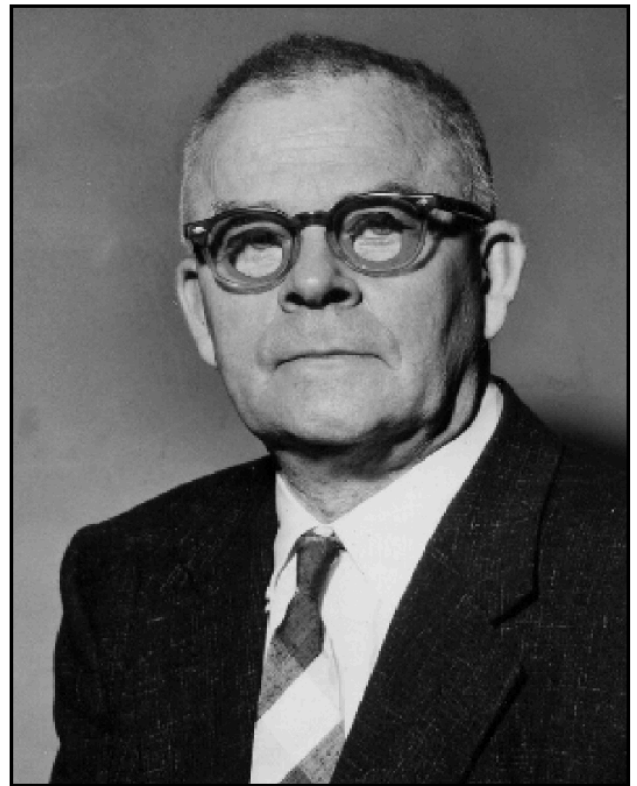
Fred McNeil lived most of his life in Portland, Oregon, in the Pacific Northwest, an area he truly loved. He was a newspaperman and winter sports enthusiast, becoming the first president of the Pacific Northwest Ski Association. Fred also served as vice-president of the National Ski Association for five years during the realm of Roger Langley. McNeil was able to further the development of recreation in the Northwest by serving as chairman of the powerful Public Lands Committee. Fred McNeil was the "spark plug" that opened the Northwest for recreational purposes.

Fred H. McNeil was born in Decatur, Illinois, on March 21, 1893, but he spent most of his life in the Pacific Northwest in Portland, Oregon. Fred was a mountain man at heart, although he was virtually chained to his news desk for the *Oregon Journal* in Portland. Fred wrote with words, much as an artist would put them on canvas, except he fully realized, and stressed, that these majestic peaks were much more than a piece of scenery. He wrote of their economic worth in tourism and recreation, and mainly just for being there. He loved them dearly.

It was no accident that Fred McNeil was the guiding hand when the skiers, first the jumpers, and then the garden variety alpine recreational skiers arrived. McNeil insisted the hardy few who braved clumsily built jumping hills, as well as those adventurous, but non-jumping entourage which gathered around them, knew these mountains were much more than beautiful scenery. He vehemently insisted so in print often, and lived long enough to see this vision of economic worth come true.



Fred McNeil labored hard in the development of skiing in the Pacific Northwest, as well as serving the National Ski Association as an advisor for legislative matters affecting skiing and its use of lands under the control of the United States Forest Service and the National Parks Service. He was instrumental in the development and public use of the mountains of the Pacific Northwest for the purpose of recreation and competitive skiing.



Downhill and slalom races were virtually unheard of when McNeil spearheaded an organization, the Pacific Northwest Ski Association, became a reality. Fred served as the president of the Pacific Northwest Ski Association for the first five years of its existence, watching it grow from the overseeing body of a handful of jumping tournaments, through the National Open and Amateur Championships of 1939 held on Mount Hood, to ultimately a powerful division of the present United States Ski Association.

McNeil was an early president of the Cascade Ski Club at Mount Hood, and later served as vice-president of the National Ski Association during the realm of Roger Langley. His main role was chairman of the Public Lands Committee, where he could further expand his fervent desire to see the mountains he loved so dearly, used more and more for recreational purposes.

Fred McNeil was a crusty-surfaced individual, sometimes intimidating, with a pillow-soft interior. Those who knew him best, respected him and honored his final request, that his ashes be scattered over his beloved Mount Hood's 6000 foot level on the west side, in his memory. This was where his heart was.

It was fitting that Fred H. McNeil was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in Ishpeming, Michigan, in early 1958, before his faltering eyes closed forever later that year. Fred McNeil, through his actions and writings, was the instrument that opened the door for skiers in America's great Northwest, the country he loved so dearly to the end.