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John Elvrum
 Born: 1907

John Elvrum was born in Norway and immigrated to the United States as a competitive ski jumper. His ski jumping feats, along with other competitors of his era, helped publicize skisport at a time when recreational skiing was growing and area developments were being fostered. This resulted in Elvrum's successful development of the Snow Valley Ski Area near Running Springs, California..

Norway-born, John Elvrum won international ski fame by riding hickories to distance records in the United States and Western Canada. While a resident of Portland, Oregon, Elvrum in 1931 won the first jumping championship of the Pacific Northwest Ski Association. He then won international fame by establishing an American distance record of 240 feet at Big Pines, California, in 1934.

Elvrum had followed Sierra Club and Snow Valley Ski Club members in Southern California's Rim-of-the-World snow sports country in 1939. He organized ski teaching among children of the Lake Arrowhead Elementary School District, one of the first attempts to make skiing a part of the public school

physical education program in Southern California. This ski effort was so successful that parents in the other regions began sending their children to school at Arrowhead. In 1941, Elvrum was issued the Federal Forest Service use permit for the Snow Valley Ski Area, and he expanded the area from a single rope-tow to a major winter sports area after World War II.

John Elvrum was elected to the U.S. National ski Hall of Fame in 1968.



*Don Burkert Photo
 John Elvrum, Cascade Ski Club, March 22, 1931, on Cascade Hill.*



John Elvrum, March 22, 1931, on Cascade Hill.

No wild waving of arm by this lad on his hop. He is as steady as a soldier on parade. Elvrum did 184 feet on this jump.