

#66

## Ole R. Mangseth

Born: 1878 Died: 1952

*Ole R. Mangseth, as a youngster in Norway, spent countless hours on skis developing into a top jumper. Immigrating to the United States as a young man, he became one of the top ski jumpers in the country in the early days of the National Ski Association.*

Ole R. Mangseth was born in Elverum, Norway, on March 2, 1878. He immigrated to the United States when he was a young man, settling in the Midwest.

Ole became one of America's top flight ski jumpers in the early 1900s, the pioneering days of the National Ski Association. Although Ole never did win a National title, this does not detract from his skiing ability, for he was ranked among the top five jumpers in the country for several years.

In 1905, Ole Mangseth represented the Frederick, Wisconsin Ski Club, his first affiliation, and in 1906, the Aurora Ski Club at Red Wing, Minnesota, for three years. He was also a member of the Duluth Club. Settling in Coleraine, Minnesota, in 1909, Ole joined the Coleraine Ski Club. He resided in Coleraine for the remainder of his life.

Ole was a true ski pioneer and accomplished great work in initiation of the Art of Ski Jumping in Coleraine and many of the clubs in Northern Minnesota, where he competed as a young man.

Ole was also an ardent worker in developing young skiers in the Itaska Ski and Outing Club at Coleraine, including his two sons, Ronald and Rolf, past National Boy Ski Jumping Champions, and perhaps his most widely known protégé, Eugene Wilson of Coleraine. A letter of support for Mangseth's nomination the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame by Wilson states:

Ole Mangseth was a close personal friend and one of the finest ski coaches and builders I have had the pleasure of knowing. When I was ten, Ole took an interest in me and other boys my age and spent hours training us to perfect our timing, style, and most importantly our desire to do just a little bit better. His philosophy was to always strive for first place, not second or third – be a winner not only a great champion, but much more than that, be a credit to your club, community, and your country. I truly believe that if it were not for Ole Mangseth and his philosophy and coaching, I would have never made the 1950 F.I.S. Team. I remembered what he instilled in me.

Ole Mangseth set a National distance record of 114 feet in 1907, and he placed in the top four in the National Tournaments of 1905, 1906, 1909, and 1910.



*Ole Mangseth, February 20, 1910*



*Ski Hill Captain in 1919*

Mangseth served the National Ski Association as its treasurer from 1925 through 1928, and he worked in various capacities for the National Ski Association and later the United States Ski Association, for a total of forty-eight consecutive years, a true proclamation of his sincerity and devotion to the sport of skiing in his adopted country.

Ole Mangseth died in Coleraine, Minnesota, on September 24, 1952, at age seventy-four. Ole was inducted into the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1968.