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## Harold A. Grinden

Born: 1903 Died: 1966



*Harold Grinden was a ski jumper in his youth, but with his keen sense of organization, drifted into the political end of skiing as a young man. He was totally committed to the sport of skiing. Not one to seek recognition or honor, he served just for the satisfaction of doing a task he loved to do well. That is just the type of man he was.*

Harold Grinden was born in Duluth, Minnesota, in 1903. He was a ski jumper in his youth, but with his keen sense of organization, drifted into the political end of skiing as a young man. He was active in organized skiing for many years.

Grinden became active in the sport in 1924. He served the Duluth Ski Club as president and chairman six times, a number of years as club secretary and a long term as member of the local club board of directors. He served six terms as president of the Central U. S. Ski Association and two years as vice president. He became active in the CUSSA in 1928 when first elected to office in the central body. He served the national association as president for two terms and six years as secretary. He was secretary of both the 1932 and 1936 Olympic Games Ski Committee and a former member of the National Ski Patrol. In 1934, he became the chairman of the NSA Ski Hall of Fame Committee. Grinden was elected lifetime historian of the National Ski Association of America in 1935.



In 1952, Grinden was honored by the Central U. S. Ski Association when the group awarded him their divisional medal for outstanding service. In 1954, he was awarded the Julius Blegen award by the NSA for his contributions to the sport.

Grinden had a long service record as a ski official and was recognized for years as a four events judge in the sport. He was a former president, secretary, and treasurer of the CUSSA Ski Officials group. The "Flash Card System" used in open scoring of ski jumping competitions was created by him. He had more than 30 years of service as a volunteer ski jumping competitions announcer and was recognized nationally as an authority on the sport in general. He also had a long record of service in the development of junior skiing on a local, divisional and national level.

Grinden was one of the men who dreamed of a Hall of Fame to honor America's ski greats, and was the Chairman of the National Ski Association's Hall of Fame Committee from 1934 until he saw his dream realized in 1954. Grinden was also a respected ski jumping judge, judging Olympic events as well as many events within the Central Division.

In 1958, Harold Grinden was elected to the U. S. National Ski Hall of Fame. Grinden was cited for his more than 30 years of devoted service to the sport of skiing on a local, divisional, and national basis according to Burton H. Boyum, Ishpeming, Michigan, Curator of the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame.

