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## Thor C. Groswold

Born: 1895 Died: ?

*Thor Groswold was a competitive four-event skier, and official on the club, regional, and national levels, and a pioneer ski manufacturer whose well-designed products tracked snow all over North America.*

A long record of active participation in skiing world affairs makes Thor Groswold a classic example of a sport builder at the divisional, national and international levels. Norway born in Kongsberg on October 28, 1895, Groswold skied competitively in his homeland before coming to the United States in 1923 to establish himself permanently in Colorado and become a leading light in the Denver-Rocky Mountain Ski Club.

Groswold, first, was a championship skier in both the nordic and alpine phases; secondly, a top-ranked club, divisional, and national association official; and thirdly, a pioneer ski manufacturer whose well-designed products tracked snow country all over North America.

Thor Groswold's competitive record was outstanding: 1924, first in the Interstate Ski Jumping; 1925 and 1926, first places in Colorado Ski Association jumping tourneys; 1927, President of the Denver Ski Club and third place rider in Class "B" Division of the National Championships staged at Inspiration Point; 1928, winner of the U.S. Western Ski Association's Class "A" jumping championship, delegate to and competitor in the National Ski Association's combined convention and annual tourney at Red Wing, Minnesota; 1933, winner of the first divisional alpine championships ever staged in the United States, sweeping the downhill, slalom and combined titles of the United States Western Amateur Ski Association (this was a few weeks after the NSA approved alpine competitions for sanctioning; previously there had been alpine events staged by the affiliated Intercollegiate Winter Sports Union).

Thor founded the Groswold Ski Company in 1934 while simultaneously continuing his competitive career and stepping up his participation as a ski association official. He became a top ski jumping competition judge, a founder of the Zipfelberger Ski Club as he also had been for the Arlberg Ski Club. He was a mover in the creation of the Berthound Pass and Winter Park ski areas, a co-founder of the Arapahoe Basin area, and all the while watching skisport growth attributable in part to downhill skis he had designed in collaboration with Coach Otto Schniebs of Dartmouth College.

During World War II, Thor was a "father confessor and a true friend to many of the Mountain Troopers of the 10<sup>th</sup> Division." As Colorado's Larry Jump states, "His continuous involvement in junior skiing, jumping particularly; his role as a founder of ski clubs, his experiments with ski equipment from poles to bindings to skis and edges, the love of skiing he inculcated in his sons, the countless hours spent training officials, the many jumping competitions he judged, the various people he helped; these are but a few of the reasons he deserves fitting recognition as one of America's great friends of skiing."

As a ski manufacturer, Thor Groswold, provided equipment for Olympic competitors and other ski athletes. Although commercially involved in skiing, his basic philosophy through the years was always "You put back into skiing more than you take out." He is truly a great member of the NSA and the USSA.

Thor C. Groswold was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1970.