## Jannette Burr Johnson Born: 1929 Died: 1995

Jannette Johnson began skiing in 1945, and proved her competitive ability immediately. She had incredible balance and no fear of any hill.

Jannette Burr Johnson, although she lived in the shadow of Mount Rainer and Mount Baker, did not begin to ski until the 1945-46 ski season when she was seventeen years old. She was exposed to the sport several times as a child, but for some unknown reason did not remain interested.

However, once Johnson decided to compete, she was a hard-driven performer with absolutely incredible balance. She had that "killer instinct" that is found only in the very best skiers, and never skied at anything but the top speed – despite the handicap of being nearly

unable to see without glasses.

As a downhiller, Johnson was considered to be as good as Andrea Mead Lawrence and Katy Rodolph. After the 1950 F.I.S. competition, Jannette was one of the women selected for special coaching. The National Ski Association recognized that Jannette had the technique and temperament demanded of a racer, but that she needed to race against the European women. She raced in Austria and Switzerland and was automatically placed on the 1952 Olympic squad.

A physical education graduate of the University of Washington, this Seattle native's distinguished racing career included the National Downhill Championships of 1948 and 1950, the North America Downhill Championship of 1950 and a third place bronze medal for giant slalom during the 1954 F.I.S. World Championships. Other highlights of Jannette's career include winning the Pacific Northwest Ski Association Combined, the Daffodil Cup, the Heather Cup, the Golden Poles, Northwest Intercollegiate, the Penguin Giant Slalom in 1948, the Sir Arnold Lunn Race, Sun Valley, Ski Club Championships and the Heather Cup in 1949, seventh place in downhill and giant slalom during the F.I.S. Championships and the Silver Belt in 1950, five first places in Europe during 1951, the Golden Rose Race win of 1952, and third place in the National Open Combined in 1953.

As a climax to a fine record (1950 and 1954 F.I.S. Teams, 1952 Olympic Team, and alternate 1956 Olympic Team) and as a member of the 1954 F.I.S. Team, Johnson placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and won a bronze medal in the giant slalom. This was the only medal won by the United States in the competition. During the next two years, Jannette's numerical standing among the candidates continued to be high and the technical committee of the National Ski Association recommended that Jannette be an alternate on the 1956 Olympic Team.

Jannette Burr Johnson was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1970.



