

Roy MacKay

Ski Jumping

The booming mining community of Sandon in 1913 was the birthplace of Roy MacKay. His first pair of skis were made from barrel staves but by the time he was making 70 ft. jumps he had a pair of Northlands. Roy was taught by Norwegian miner, Strand Mikkelson, a former champion. Roy won his first jumping tournaments while still in Sandon in 1926 in the D class with a 70 ft. jump and won a class C first at Revelstoke. The following year he won took first in the C class in Sandon with a 168 foot jump plus took a first in the longest standing jump in Revelstoke. In 1927 Roy moved to Nelson and continued high school. In 1930 he reconnected with his boyhood jumping pal Danny McKay. Together they formed the Nelson High School Ski Club and built a club house and jump at the site of the present gravel pit in Fairview. Here they staged jumping exhibitions for hundreds of fans. Albert Wallach, collected donations which financed their travel to tournaments. From 1927 until 1937 Roy picked up honours throughout the Pacific Northwest, competing in tournaments in Rossland, Revelstoke, Vancouver, Spokane, Kimberley, Mt. Hood, and Kellog, Idaho.

The Nelson Ski Club skiers staged a *rain or shine* exhibition in 1931 at the Fairview jump site Roy made a abrupt halt in the slush and injured his back. After this he wore a motorcycle brace while jumping. As a result the club moved the ski hut and jump site to the Rosemont golf links. Here Roy set up a rope tow using a motor from an old truck. Roy moved to Class A jumping with a first in 1932 in Nelson. In '34 and '35 Roy placed second at Kimberley and Nelson. The following year, he came first in both Rossland and Kimberley. At Kimberley he picked up the Grand Challenge Cup. In 1937 he was considered for the Olympics following a jump of 186 feet in Kimberley in the Western Canadian Championship.

The war was on. Roy was full time at Greyhound and bothered by his back injury. He made his last jump in 1939 with a second in Rossland.

But he put his mechanical genius to work again when the ski club acquired the use of the Silver King ski hill in 1956-57 (opposite Ymir Road). He and Ray Johnson built a small T- Bar. Ed Stiles arrived on the scene and constructed the second T-Bar.

Danny McKay

1912 - 1990

Skiing and ski-Jumping

Danny McKay was born in Sandon, B.C. Danny co- founded the Nelson Ski Club in addition to being an all season athlete. He started skiing and ski jumping in Sandon in 1927 under the trained eye of a Norwegian miner, Strand Mikkelson, a former champion. Danny competed during those early years in tournaments in Revelstoke, Nakusp and Sandon before moving to Nelson in 1930.

On his arrival in Nelson, he rekindled his friendship with Roy MacKay also from Sandon and together they founded the Nelson High School Ski Club and built a ski jump for Sunday exhibitions at the site of the present gravel pit in Fairview.

By 1934 they had a club house and Danny was on the circuit with Roy MacKay, Art Grodski, younger brother Bill and Trig Anderson, picking up honours throughout the

Pacific Northwest.

In 1935 Danny won the B.C. Jumping Championship, B Class, at Hollyburn Mountain, near Vancouver. At that time Danny was being considered for the Olympics. At a Rosslund tournament the Nelson team was without a slalom competitor, so without ever having been on a course, Danny entered and came third and soon after he built himself a slalom course near the cemetery above the CPR tracks. In 1938 Danny brought home the Kootenay Zone Slalom and Downhill Championship from Kimberley and the Walton Cup.

Unstable weather conditions and an accident to Roy MacKay at the Fairview site caused the club to move to the golf links in Rosemont. In the 1956 the club moved the rope tow out to Ymir Road and set up a slalom course. Later that year they acquired the Silver King ski hill across the highway. The Silver King ski hill with two T-bars opened in 1958 and closed in 1974. Following high school Danny worked as a proofreader with the Nelson Daily News, then at Emory's Men's Wear until his retirement.

Peter Engstad

Nordic skiing and ski Jumping

Trained by his father, Kare Engstad(see below) who had represented Canada at Lake Placid in 1932 Olympics, Peter began training when he was six years old. He won cups and trophies at Burns Lake, where he was living then and gradually placed in such events as the Western Canadian Championships at Kimberley in 1958, the 4way Inter-High School meet at Kimberley in 1960 the Western Canadian Championships in Vernon in 1961 and the Dominion Junior Championships at Jasper.

Peter Engstad was a student at L.V.R. when he entered the B.C. Junior Championships at Revelstoke in 1962 and came home with the B.C. Champion in cross country racing and ski jumping.

Kare Engstad

Nordic skiing

1932—Kaare Engstad—Canadian Team, Lake Placid Olympics, NY, USA, Canadian Senior Nationals, 2 silver medals

Image:

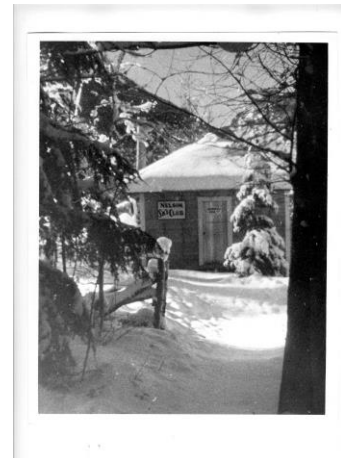
Danny McKay Ski Jumping at Ymir Road
Circa 1930's
Collection of Touchstones Nelson



Ski Jumping at Ymir Road
Circa 1930's
Collection of Touchstones Nelson



Nelson Ski Club
Date Unknown
Collection of Touchstones Nelson



Kare Engstad
Circa 1930's
Collection of Touchstones Nelson



Peter Engstad
Circa 1960
Collection of Touchstones Nelson

