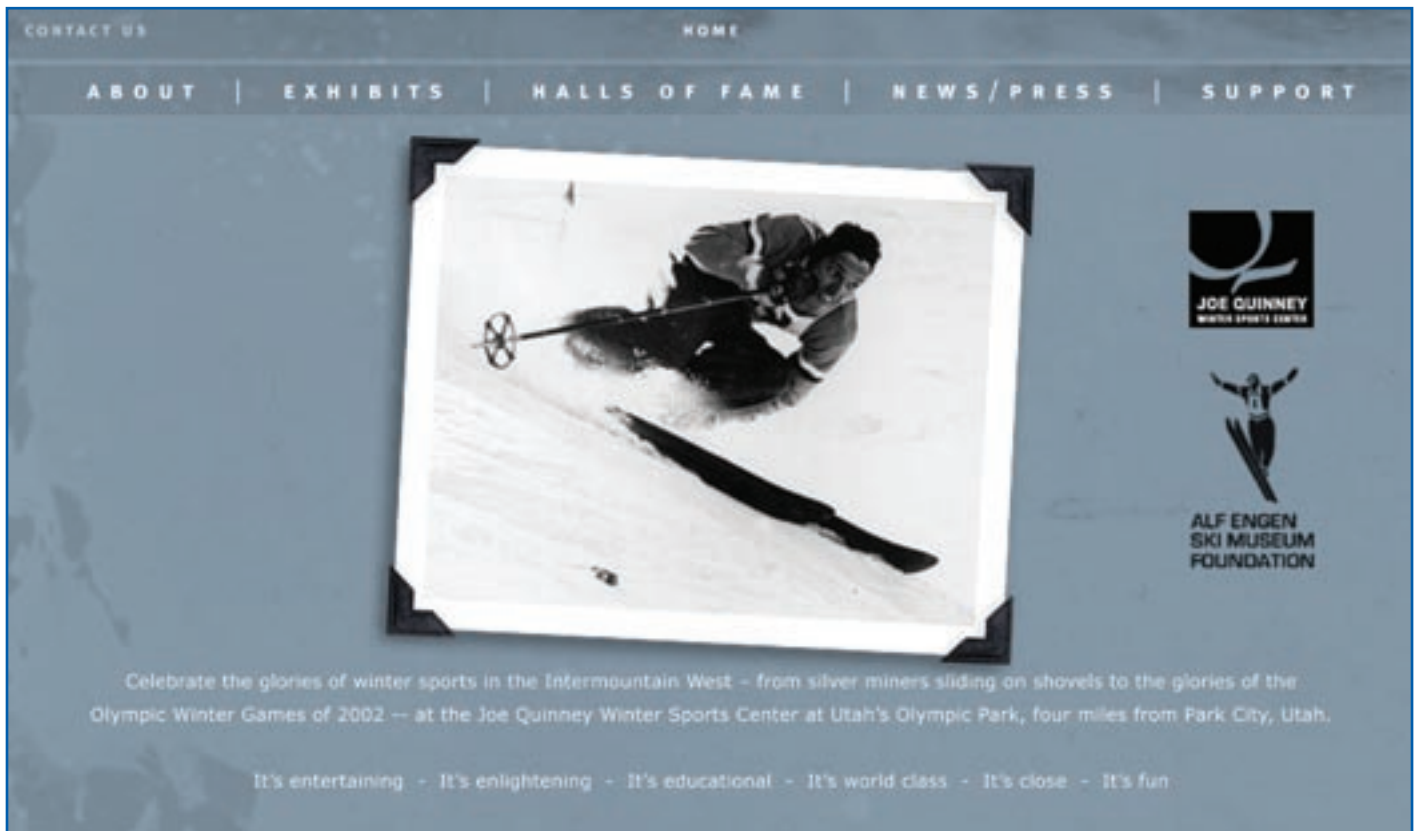


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# **SKI MEISTER**

**THE ALF ENGEN SKI MUSEUM FOUNDATION**

**Summer 2004**

**www.engenmuseum.org**

# Chairman's Letter

by Alan K. Engen



This particular letter, I must admit, is bitter sweet in nature. Bitter in the sense that it will be the last letter I have the opportunity to write as Chairman of the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation, but sweet in the realization that everything is now functionally in place, thus insuring the museum will continue its primary mission to provide a premier showcase for the Intermountain region's rich ski history for many years to come. Specifically, we have an excellent Executive Director (Connie Nelson); an outstanding Board of Trustees, with strong but varied managerial expertise; and a person who will be taking over my role as chairman and president with outstanding business credentials. Scott Ulbrich brings to the helm a long time background in the financial arena, one of which was the Executive Vice President of First Security Bank in Salt Lake City. I personally have supreme confidence in Scott's abilities and have no doubt the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation is being left in good hands.

As I leave this position, I want to say a very sincere thank you to everyone who, over the past 15 years, have given so generously of their time, effort, and financial support, thus enabling a 'world -class' museum facility to be built at Utah Olympic Park. This specifically is intended to give a high praise to a very dedicated Board of Directors and to acknowledge the many donors and foundations who have enthusiastically supported the undertaking. Without this level of support, building a beautiful facility, as is the Joe Quinney Winter Sports Center, could not have occurred. I told the Foundation's Board of Trustees that it has been a remarkable experience for me to witness an idea blossom into such a fine ski museum facility. I have full confidence that if Joe Quinney and Alf Engen were here, they too would say to everyone concerned, "Thank you for a job well done."

Ski Heil!

## SKI MEISTER

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Connie Nelson, *Director of Museum*  
Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation  
2990 Bear Hollow Drive  
P.O. Box 980187  
Park City, Utah 84098  
connie.nelson@olymparks.com  
www.engenmuseum.org

(435) 658-4240 Tel  
(435) 658-4258 Fax

Inquiries, questions, or submissions of press releases and articles of interest for the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation newsletter are welcome. Send correspondence and newsletter submissions to the Foundation office.

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## Cover

Home page of the web site - www.engenmuseum.org produced by Reister-Robb Interactive

# Greetings from the Executive Director

by **Connie Nelson**

Welcome to the 2004 summer edition of the Ski Meister. I am honored to be the new Executive Director of the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation. With numerous changes, these are exciting times here at the Joe Quinney Winter Sports Center.

My job has been an absolute pleasure thanks to the incredible support Alan and the Board have given me. Thank you Alan for all of your dedication, support, perseverance and incredible patience. I have definitely learned a lot from you!

The educational field trips for the 2003/2004 school year are very well received, as always, as witnessed by the more than 1,500 students from 20 school groups who have visited to date. I extend a hearty **THANK YOU** to the dedicated docents who provide the core of the education program.

One of my major responsibilities as the new executive director will be to raise funds to support the Alf Engen Ski Museum and all of our programs.

Toward that end, the museum is offering books for sale with this newsletter and would like to invite you to order a few for your reading pleasure and that of your friends and family. Other fund-raising activities are in the works.

Thank you to all of those who have made donations during the past year. I'm very pleased to report that the list of names on the museum's donor wall is increasing on a regular basis. Let's keep up the pace. We are still actively seeking donations. Our sparkling new web site should be an important tool that will help attract donations and sponsors.

I welcome your questions and comments. Please feel free to phone me on (435) 658-4240 or email: [connie.nelson@olymparks.com](mailto:connie.nelson@olymparks.com).



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## Foundation News

Meet a member of the Board

### Herbert C. Livsey

Herb Livsey is an attorney with Ray Quinney & Nebeker. Herb has been a vital resource for the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation in all areas of the law. He was instrumental in the negotiations to sell the Joe Quinney Winter Sports Center building.

Herb has a B.S. in accounting from the University of Utah and also law degrees from both the University of Utah (J.D.) and New York University (L.L.M.). Herb's 'Practice Areas' include charitable and exempt organizations; estate, trust planning and administration; and, tax planning and tax controversies.

Herb is very active with civic volunteer activities. He is a trustee and member of the advisory committee for the S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney Foundation as well as currently serving as the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Utah Symphony & Opera. He is also a trustee for the Ray Quinney & Nebeker Foundation. Herb is truly a valued member of the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation.



Herbert C. Livsey

### New Board Members

#### Kristi Terzian Cumming

Kristi is a former member of the U.S. Ski Team and a 3 time U.S. National Champion. She attended Rowmark Ski Academy and the University of Utah. She was the Skiing Ambassador for the Park City Mountain Resort where she was responsible for the Women's Ski Programs. Kristi lives in Park City with her husband John and son Shane.

#### Bradley A. Olch

Brad brings to the board a wealth of local Park City knowledge. Brad was the mayor of Park City, Utah for 12 years (1990-2002), including the 2002 Olympic Winter Game time period. Brad currently is the President/CEO of the Park City Foundation, a foundation he started eight months ago to target non-profits in the Park City area. Brad has a background in business and real estate and we welcome all he has to offer.

# Donors 2004

## Benefactors

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Fuegi, Hans & Sally	Professional Ski Instructors of America	Yerman, Bob
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## Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation Sells Quinney Center Building

On May 10, 2004, the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation entered into an agreement to sell the Joe Quinney Winter Sports Center building to the Olympic Parks of Utah (OlyParks), effective the last day of April, 2004.

According to Alan Engen, chairman and president of the Engen Foundation, "This has not come without a lengthy period of discussions with the management of Olympic Parks of Utah over a period of one year. The board of trustees are all in agreement that this action was in the best interest of not only the Engen Museum Foundation, but Utah Olympic Park as well." Engen continued by saying, "The sale does not in any way diminish the importance, or mission, of the Alf Engen Ski Museum. The museum will continue to maintain its prime location on the first floor of the Quinney Center building and focus prime attention to showcasing the rich history of skiing in the Intermountain region. Over the past two years, the museum has gained a very favorable



photo by Connie Nelson

*Alan Engen, Chairman/President AESMF and John Bennion, President/CEO Olympic Parks of Utah signing the legal papers associated with the sale of the Quinney Center to Utah Olympic Parks of Utah.*

reputation as a world class facility and the goal of this entire effort has been to take appropriate steps which will enhance our abilities to maintain that image."

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## INTERMOUNTAIN SKI HALL OF FAME

### 2004 Intermountain Ski Hall of Fame

***Save this date:***

**Thursday, September 23, 2004 (5:30 pm)**

The 2004 Intermountain Ski Hall of Fame banquet will be held at the Quinney Center at Utah Olympic Park on Thursday, September 23, 2004 beginning at 5:30 pm.

The cost per person will be \$60, which includes food and drink for the evening.

The 2004 class of inductees include:

William Lash - Utah  
Suzy Harris Rytting - Utah  
Edward L. Scott (deceased) - Idaho

William A. Spencer - Utah  
Pepi Stiegler - Wyoming  
George H. Watson (deceased) - Utah

# Quinney Center Events

## Rasmussen Painting Unveiling January 23, 2004



*Tony Rasmussen (artist) with art donor and cousin JaLynn Rasmussen Prince*



*Rasmussen painting*

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by JaLynn Prince

Yes, in my backyard. Literally the world focused on my childhood backyard during the 2002 Olympics. My family home is at the base of the mountain where the Olympic Park is located. As a child my family would collect chokecherries on the hillside and occasionally watch a moose feed her young.

While growing up, I was told stories of my family's involvement in another location not far from my berry-picking hill, the sight of the first ski jump in the area, Ecker Hill. It was a place that my grandparents help build. No one could have anticipated the connection between 'my childhood mountain' and my family's involvement in the area's first major ski jump. Who could have known that the world would focus for a while on my neighborhood? I knew it could be an interesting story and that my personal connection to the area was a story I wanted to have told.

Being heavily involved in the arts, it seemed appropriate to ask for the assistance of a talented artist that was well known in Utah and whose paintings fill one of the terminals at the Salt Lake Airport. He has been recognized for his paintings of the landscapes of Utah and he happened to be my first cousin and shared much of the same history. His name is Anton Rasmussen, or Tony as the family has always called him. Tony willingly joined in and brought his incredible insight and artistry to the project.

Tony and I spent hours talking about the stories we knew - how our grandparents owned a place called The Wellcome Inn, which happened to be located near an ideal sight where the ski club decided to build a world-class ski jumping hill. Our grandfather and our fathers, Jim and Larry, along

with their brother Frank, worked on grading and preparing a hillside that would feature the skills of some of the finest skiers in the world, including the gifted jumper Alf Engen, where he would set new world records. My grandparent's eatery, the Wellcome Inn became the unofficial headquarters where the teams of skiers would gather before and after the competitions. There they would find food and conversation along with camaraderie. For many of the Scandinavians it was a way of connecting with others from the community who had ventured to the Rocky Mountains from their community. The three Rasmussen brothers not only helped in sculpting the hill, but they too jumped from the scoop shaped platforms, which launched them well above the crowds. My father was also involved in cross-country skiing. As family lore has it, he set a few records himself, though I have found no 'official' records.

Tony was able to take these stories and others and put them on canvas in a style very different from what he has usually painted. In a refreshing, historical narrative, he tells a story of the lives, peoples and circumstances that came together to bring skiing to this area initially and laid the foundation for the Olympics. I applaud Tony's artistry, insight, and caring during the process to make this painting.

It seemed only appropriate to present to the ski museum an actual size rendition of this painting, so the story that is both a personal one and a story of the history of skiing in the Park City area can be communicated to future generations. It was thrilling to investigate my family's history and to engage the skills of a very fine artist cousin, and friend, Tony Rasmussen.

# Quinney Center Events

## Jack Walker and Vern Nichols Appreciation Day

Thursday April 29, 2004

### Two Utah Ski Pioneers Honored

Alta Ski Area and the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation co-sponsored a special luncheon on April 29, 2004 to honor two local ski pioneers, Jack Walker and Vern Nichol. Lifetime friends, these two ski buddies had for health reasons, not been able to visit the finished museum at Utah Olympic Park. The event was scheduled to allow them to renew old friendships and to renew their lifetime of competition via a friendly run on the museum Olympic downhill interactive. While it is not possible to outline all of their many contributions to winter sport in the Intermountain region over the past seven decades, for those who are interested, they are both featured in the book, *First Tracks - A Century of Skiing in Utah*, by Alan K. Engen and Dr. Gregory Thompson (2001).



photo by Bulent Bulut

Vern Nicol and Jack Walker

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photo by Bulent Bulut



photo by Bulent Bulut



photo by Bulent Bulut



photo by Bulent Bulut

# Quinney Center Events

## Tenth Mountain Division Association

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photo by Bulent Bulut

*Utah Chapter of the Tenth Mountain Division Association*



photo by Bulent Bulut

*Frank Mjaatvelt and Sandy Eldredge (new president)*



photo by Bulent Bulut

*Jim Powell skiing on the virtual ski theatre*



photo by Bulent Bulut

*Alan Engen greeting the Tenth Mountain Division Association*



photo by Bulent Bulut

*Alan Engen starting the museum tour*



# Quinney Center Events

## Tenth Mountain Division Association

by Bob Woody

Members of the Utah chapter of the Tenth Mountain Division Association toured the Alf Engen Ski Museum on Saturday, May 29, 2004. Following the tour, the group held a meeting on the third floor in the Quinney Conference Room. The Association elected Sandra Eldredge president.

Ms. Eldredge succeeds Jack Wright who died unexpectedly in March. Ms. Eldredge has been serving as president of the chapter's descendent association. She is the daughter of Tenth veteran H. Newcomb Eldredge, Newport N.H., long active in affairs of the national association and the International Federation of Mountain Soldiers. Sandy is the first female president of a Tenth Mountain Association chapter.

Jack Wright was a contractor and a weekend patroller for the Park City Resort for 25 years. In his patrol years, Jack had introduced ski patrol training to many of the fledgling Intermountain Areas. Jack, twice wounded and a bronze medal winner in the Italian campaign, founded the chapter when few had any idea of whom and how many former Tenthers might be in Utah. Jack organized the first festive gathering in 1988 and enough folks turn up to fill a platoon-sized roster.

In their time Jack and fellow chapter member Frank Chuk, a wartime medic and only recently semi-retired to Oregon, pressed furiously, but alas futilely, to get a Tenth Association convention in Utah. However, with the same persistence and energy Jack and Frank were able to get a memorial placed in the Park City Resort basin in honor of Utah's eleven KIAs. A name of a recently discovered KIA will be added.

Both also worked arduously and successfully to get a Tenth color guard at the 2001 World Cup races at Snow Basin as a prelude to the Olympic Games in Utah. The Games were a pay-off time for the Tenth whose contributions in war (the Italian campaign) and peace (the post-war burgeoning 'ski industry') were recognized and heralded by many national media during the Games.

A year later the two lobbied and prodded the state of Utah into designating a seven-mile stretch of state highway linking interstate 80 with the renown Utah resorts of The Canyons, Park City and Deer Valley, as a Tenth Mountain Memorial Highway.

The Tenth was founded in 1941 as the nation's top military weighed the early successes of Finnish Ski troops in turning back Soviet invaders in the Finnish-Russo winter war of 1939-40.

December, 1944 the division containing three regiments, 85th, the 87th and 86th were readied to be shipped to Italy to be thrown into the campaign bogged down by winter mud and snow in the Apennines north of Florence.



Bob Woody

photo by Bulent Bulut

In January its ski patrols were moving out in reconnaissance and prisoner gathering operations. Then in a brilliantly executed night climb of a steep escarpment called Riva Ridge, elements of the 86th surprised and cleared the ridge of German observation and artillery overlooking the Mount Belvedere which had blocked the allies advance north in Italy.

On the following night the division mounted a night attack with ammunition pocketed and only bayonets to surprise and capture defenders. A storm of firing, flares and artillery meant surprise had ended by early morning. Nevertheless, the massif and succeeding ridges were taken one by one to the north over the next weeks, opening the way to allies to burst onto the fertile flat plains of the Po Valley.

The Tenth raced north, crossed the Po River, lanced through confused, shattered and disintegrating German units into the foothills of the Alps. On May 2, the German Armies in Italy surrendered to the American 5th and Britain 8th Armies who had begun the campaign with the invasion of Sicily nearly two years earlier.

In its relatively short but intense time in battle the Tenth suffered nearly 1,000 dead and 5,000 wounded.

The unique contribution of the Tenth was little recognized in its time. However with the passage of the decades it was belatedly noted that the burgeoning post-war ski industry, resort development, teaching, equipment manufacturers, was loaded with Tenth veterans whose passion for snow and mountains had now metamorphosed into ski industry leadership.

The Tenth was decommissioned after the war and nearly forgotten. However, a new light Tenth Mountain Division was formed in the 1980's at Fort Drum, New York. Capable of many missions, the new Tenth has seen services from Somalia to Haiti, to the Balkans to Afghanistan.

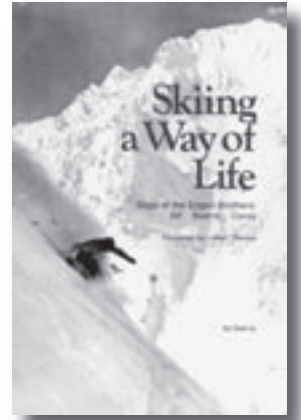
## Books Donated to the Alf Engen Ski Museum

Special thanks and acknowledgement are given to Scott and Marcie Engen for their generous gift to the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation of 350 copies of Sverre Engen's highly regarded book, *Skiing a Way of Life*, published in 1976. The books are part of the late Sverre Engen's estate and all are in mint condition, first edition copies. According to Scott, "Marcie and I have carefully considered various options on the best way to distribute these books in keeping with my father's wishes. I think he would be pleased with our decision. These are the last copies of the first edition books."

For any history buffs who wanted a first hand account of the early "barnstormer ski jumping days" of the 1930's, or those who just would like an easy read of the life of the three famous Engen brothers, this book is a very special treat. Sverre tells it all, in his own words, from their humble beginnings in Steinberg, Norway, on the banks

of the Drammenselva River, to becoming legends in the sport of skiing in America, a span of almost 90 years.

There have been many inquiries over the past few years if any of these books still remained in print. Up until this time, the answer has been 'No!' However, with this donation, the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation is pleased to offer these books with this newsletter. Only 350 copies are available on a 'first come, first serve' basis and when they are gone, the offer will be terminated. Order one now!!!



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## In Memoriam

### Art Devlin - an National Ski Legend Dies

Art Devlin, former U.S. Olympic ski jumper and sports broadcaster, passed away on Thursday, April 22, 2004 of cancer. He was 81.

In the 1940's, Devlin, along with his friends, the late Alf Engen and Torger Tokle, were performing triple jumps and setting records throughout the United States. He jumped many times on Ecker Hill, placing second in the 1949 National Ski Jumping Championships held at that location. Devlin also qualified for a number of Olympic teams from 1948 through 1956 and competed in the 1952 Winter Olympics at Oslo,

Norway in 1952 and Cortina, Italy four years later.

In 1960, he became a TV sportscaster of CBS. Two years later he joined ABC's Wide World of Sports and was a sports commentator there for the next 21 years.

Devlin grew up in Lake Placid, New York. In later years, he was the Vice President of the 1980 Lake Placid Olympic Organizing Committee

During World War II, Devlin flew 50 combat missions and received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple Heart.



photo by Connie Nelson

## Randy Montgomery Memorial Plaque has been placed in our Olympic Plaza.

*Special Note:* Randy was the first Executive Director of the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation.

## Casper Oimoen and Alf Engen - A Parallel of Life Experiences

By Alan K. Engen

During the 1930's, there were many outstanding ski jumpers who performed daring feats before thousands of spectators. Casper Oimoen was one of those individuals who distinguished himself by being a member of the U.S. Ski Jumping Teams in both 1932 and 1936 and several times U.S. National Amateur Ski Jumping Champion.

The famous Engen brothers, Alf, Sverre, and Corey all jumped many times with Casper during the 1930's "barnstormer" years at Ecker Hill, Sun Valley, Idaho, and Anaconda, Montana. Each one of them, individually and collectively, expressed high praise throughout their lives for this ski jumping champion. To them, Casper was regarded as one of their "champions", both in spirit and deed.

There are some interesting parallels between Casper Oimoen and Alf Engen that deserve mention. Casper was born in Norway in 1906 and immigrated to the U.S. at age 17 in 1923. Alf, likewise, was born in Norway in 1909 and came to America in 1929 at the age of 20. Both were fine young athletes in the sport of ski jumping before coming to the United States. Upon arrival in their new land, both began their careers, not as skiers, but as bricklayers.

Both Casper and Alf had highly distinguished competitive skiing careers. Casper was the U.S. National Amateur Ski Jumping Champion in 1930, 1931, and 1934. Alf, in addition to being five times the U.S. National Professional Ski Jumping Champion, was also U.S. National Amateur Ski Jumping Champion in 1937 (title later awarded to Sigmund Ruud), 1940, and 1946. Both were members of U.S. Olympic Ski Teams. Oimoen competing as an athlete and Engen as a coach (1948). Casper was enshrined in the National Ski Hall of Fame in Ishpeming, Michigan in 1963. Alf, likewise, was enshrined in 1959.

Casper passed away at age 89 on July 28, 1995 in Portland, Oregon. Alf passed away almost exactly two years later (July 20, 1997) at age 88 in Murray, Utah.

Both Casper and Alf have beautiful life-size bronze statues of them. The Casper Oimoen statue is located at Scandinavian Heritage Park in Minot, North Dakota and was dedicated in 1979. Alf's

statue is located at Utah Olympic Park, near Park City, Utah and was dedicated in 2002.

The history of skiing in the United States are full of stories about outstanding individuals who exhibited extraordinary athletic ability and were revered as examples of excellence to all those who knew them. Casper Oimoen was indeed such a person.



Casper Oimoen, Circa 1930's

photo from Alan Engen Ski History Collection

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Three skiing legends performing a triple jump. (l-r) Casper Oimoen, Corey Engen, Alf Engen

photo from Alan Engen Ski History Collection



Five early ski jumping champions (l-r) Einar Fredbo, Casper Oimoen, Alf Engen, Corey "Kaare" Engen, Sverre Engen

photo from Alan Engen Ski History Collection

**Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation**  
**www.engenmuseum.org**  
**2990 Bear Hollow Drive**  
**P.O. Box 980187**  
**Park City, Utah 84098**

## **Books for Sale**

### **Great Reads – Great Prices**

- **Skiing – A Way of Life Saga of the Engen Brothers: Alf, Sverre, Corey** by Sverre  
Very limited number available/collector's item  
\$40 (plus \$3.50 shipping) \$43.50
  
- **First Tracks – a Century of Skiing in Utah** by Alan K. Engen and Greg C. Thompson  
Retail - \$40    Sale Price (includes shipping) \$30.00
  
- **For the Love of Skiing – a Visual History** by Alan K. Engen  
Retail - \$30    Sale Price (includes shipping) \$20.00
  
- **The Fire Within – the Official Commemorative Book of the Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Winter Games**  
Retail \$50    Sale Price (includes shipping) \$30.00

