

SEE ARTICLE ON "WASHINGTON'S MATRIMONIAL MONUMENTS" ON PAGE 71. SEE ALSO
ARTICLE ON NEW YORK CITY POOL-ROOMS ON PAGE 70.

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*Red Wing skier makes
the cover of America's leading magazine*

A Supplement to the

RED WING REPUBLICAN
EAGLE

February 2, 2007

In 1890 Red Wing's Aurora Ski Club dominated ski jumping – America's new and informally organized winter activity. Led by Mikkell Hemmestvedt, the nation's premier ski jumper, Aurora developed the rules for the emerging winter pursuit and set the standard for excellence in the sport. They made Red Wing the nation's skiing capital the – *Birthplace of American Ski Jumping*

Featured inside...

- * A brief history of Red Wing's Aurora Ski Club
- * Red Wing's "Sky Crashers" of the 1890s
- * The Aurora All Americans, the Red Wing-born athletes who dominated the 1911 nationals
- * Red Wing in the U.S. Ski Jumping spotlight: 1928 and 1936 National Tournaments held in the city
- * Ski Jumping's impact on Red Wing: "A Bouncing Governor," "A Woman's Place is Where?" Queen Aurora, Snus Box Trail and more
- * "Friends of American Ski Jumping" and their effort to formally recognize Red Wing's contributions

How Red Wing Became America's Ski Jumping Birthplace

Red Wing department store owner Christian H. Boxrud did not have the look of a sports world revolutionary, and no doubt he did not consider himself one. But in 1886, the walrus-mustached immigrant from Norway assumed leadership of the city's Aurora Ski Club, a fledgling group of Norwegians eager to bring competitive "ski running," Norway's new and popular sport, to Minnesota.

Unknowingly, this small group of Red Wing men touched off a chain of events that produced a sport new to America – ski jumping.

Norwegians and other northern Europeans traditionally saw skiing as a smart, practical way to get around in winter. Naturally, the best skiers raced with each other to test their skills in cross country and down hill runs. In the early 1880s Norwegians set up ski tournaments, including the King's Cup challenge, bringing together the nation's top skiers. Such events soon became popular with the public. Emigrants heading for America at that time carried their interest in the sport with them.

Emigrant Norwegians set up ski teams in the U.S., including Red Wing's Aurora Ski Club – the second to be started in America. Those supporters of skiing staged loosely organized ski jumping exhibitions and tournaments, usually in Midwest usually near Norwegian-Americans communities.

Aurora Ski Club held its first major Red Wing tournament in 1887 during which Mikkel Hemmestvedt, the 1886



Chris H. Boxrud



Mikkel Hemmestvedt



Torjus Hemmestvedt

winner of Norwegian King's Cup and newly arrived from Europe, stole the show. The 24-year-old dazzled the audience and established the first recognized American ski jumping record. He sailed 37 feet on the McSorley Street hill and earned \$35 in gold for his effort.

Hemmestvedt also rated as a master cross country skier, a fact proven when he crushed challengers during distance runs. American audiences, however, preferred ski jumping's excitement, causing the cross country component of U.S. tournaments in the later 1800s to disappear.

Chris Boxrud viewed the talented Mikkel Hemmestvedt as a ski jumping free agent and a potential Aurora recruit. Red Wing's Norwegian community

knew well that Hemmestvedt and his older brother Torjus dominated the best skiers in the "Old Country" and had even earned audiences with royalty.

Boxrud dreamed of using Mikkel's talents as an athlete and coach to make Red Wing the ski jumping capital of the United States. Since the nation's early ski jumpers lived and competed in the Midwest, Red Wing's location made it a possible choice for such an honor. The addition of Mikkel Hemmestvedt, and perhaps his brother Torjus, would give Red Wing's Aurora Ski Club unquestioned status as America's premier ski group.

It took him two years, but Boxrud eventually landed both brothers. He lured Mikkel into the Aurora fold in

1889 by promising him a job at Red Wing Furniture Company, where he could make and sell skis as well as furniture. Torjus accepted the same offer a year later. Mikkel and his wife Bergit, along with Torjus, his wife Tone and their young son Torjus Jr., fit in well with the city's Norwegian community.

If born 100 years later, both Hemmestvedts would have ranked as international superstars in their sport. But even in the 1880s, they achieved fame in both European and American ski circles, and gave Red Wing's Aurora Ski Club national leadership status in the sport.

Aurora and the Hemmestvedts now

BIRTHPLACE ~ continued on page 3

Thank You

Friends of American Ski Jumping wish to thank the city of Red Wing for its warm reception. We have received encouragement and support from the city council and mayor, private organizations, businesses and interested community members. We look forward to establishing a permanent presence in Red Wing.

Special thanks go to the Goodhue County History Center and its staff for generously allowing us access to GCHS photo collections and ski history archives. We also wish to acknowledge personal interest and professional assistance offered to us by Kevin Osborn, general manager of the St. James Hotel.

Tabloid text written by Frederick Johnson.

Friends of American Ski Jumping Leadership Council

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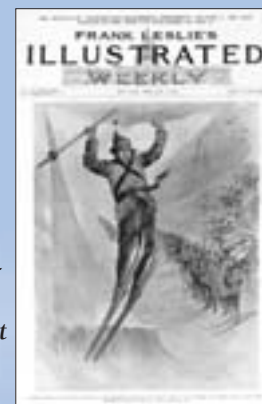
Sky Crashers: A History of the Aurora Ski Club is available at Goodhue County History Center and local bookstores for \$12.95. Frederick Johnson, author.

Historical photographs in this tabloid are from the collections of the Goodhue County History Center.

About the Cover

In 1855 Frank Leslie created the first U.S. newspaper/magazine that successfully brought pictures and news together.

It remained a leading periodical throughout the 19th century. The actual caption reads: "Winter Sports in the West – Flying on Skis – Thorger [Torjus] Hemmestvedt's great jump of 103 feet at Red Wing, Minnesota".



BIRTHPLACE ~ continued from page 2

Red Wing's Aurora Ski Club unquestioned status as America's premier ski group.

Standardizing ski jumping

Aurora and the Hemmestvedts now worked to make their favorite winter activity a sport instead of a recreational pastime. With no governing body, no rules for its competition, and no standards for its ski hills, ski jumpers performed for prize money, prestige and fun. Boxrud saw the need for a set of standards for ski jumping and a governing body to police them.

The Boxrud-led Aurorans developed a six-point ski jumping scoring system, based on both style and jump length, that reflected the sport's Norwegian traditions. The Red Wing club first used the new process in their 1890 tournament. The Hemmestvedt reputation guaranteed acceptance of the new judging criteria. Fifteen years later the National Ski Association – America's first governing body of the sport – adopted, with some modification, the Red Wing scoring system.

Later that year, Chris Boxrud saw his hopes for a national confederation of ski clubs to govern ski jumping partially realized. Boxrud represented Red Wing and Aurora at a December 1890 meeting in St. Paul that created the Central Ski Association, the nation's first ski sport organization. The CSA ruled over clubs in the Midwest with charter members (including Aurora) in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. At this time, the Midwest, with its large community of Scandinavian immigrants, was the only organized center of American skiing.

At the first CSA tournament in Ishpeming, Michigan, a blizzard of Red Wing ski jumping talent blew away any question of Aurora's superiority. The 1891 event, touted as America's "first national" ski jumping event, drew America's top jumpers and large crowds. It soon turned into the Mikkel and Torjus show.

The two brothers matched each other jump for jump, while the audience looked on in awe. Torjus scored more points, but the daring Mikkel soared farther, and turned in a remarkable 78-foot jump. A stunned Michigan newspaperman reported Mikkel, "Twice gathered himself...and leaped while in mid-air." He affixed the name "Sky Crasher from Red Wing" to Hemmestvedt.

Red Wing jumpers placed one-two-three at Ishpeming and took home 75 percent of the prize money. The follow-



Red Wing ski jumpers welcomed snowfalls, perhaps more than the Main Street business owners clearing this 1893 blizzard.

ing day Mikkel demonstrated ski technique, holding an audience at a nearby farm "spellbound."

"Red Wing style"

Perhaps more important than their individual triumph, the Aurora ski jumpers created an American ski jumping legend at Ishpeming that lasted well into the next century. Admirers called their technique "Red Wing style." As

former U.S. champion Ole Mangseth recalled in 1930, it "wasn't how far" one went but "Did I have enough Red Wing?"

American ski jumping suffered along with the rest of America during the crushing 1893 economic depression and its aftermath. The CSA folded but Aurora persisted. As nation's first era of ski competition concluded, Red Wing remained a leader in the sport.

The next generation of Red Wing ski jumpers built on the city's traditions in the sport. The Aurora All Americans became a power in the sport and rated with the nation's best ski jumpers until World War I. The city returned to the skiing spotlight in 1928 and again in 1936 as host of the U.S. nationals.

Red Wing's dominant place in American skiing gradually diminished, but its position in the American history of the sport remained secure. Aksel Holter, a founder of the National Ski Association, labeled Aurora, "the old Banner Club of the United States."

A 1947 history of U.S. skiing history illustrated the importance of Red Wing in the first days of U.S. ski jumping with this quote: "Many a (sic) older man...can remember that golden moment of glee as a boy, when he cried out to the gang along the backyard ski slope, 'Watch me do a Red Wing!'"

Thus the sport's practitioners gave the most important endorsement to Red Wing's deserved position as birthplace of ski jumping in the United States. For decades after the city's skiing glory days, American ski jumpers continued to imitate the techniques introduced to the nation by Aurora's legendary ski aces.

They wanted to be Sky Crashers; they wanted to ski Red Wing style.



Aurora's four-man ski team that claimed top honors in the first Central Ski Association tournament held in January 1891 is pictured above. Shown left to right are Paul Honningstad, Mikkel Hemmestvedt, Torjus Hemmestvedt and Bengt Hjermstad. The performance of the four Norwegian-Americans gave rise to the legend of Red Wing Style ski jumping in the American skiing community.

Red Wing's All Americans

Aurora Ski Club's "All Americans" built their national reputation for excellence in the early 1900s on the solid limestone foundations of Barn and Sorin's bluffs.

The All Americans came from several

Red Wing neighborhoods. East End's Green Street gang, led by talented Carl Ek and his brother Theodore, and including Gunder Arntson, Del Gilbertson, and the Peterson brothers, Mandus and "Gassy," skied the slopes of Barn Bluff. The Bush Street boys,

a large contingent of South Enders, used Sorin's slopes and featured Ole Benson, Harris Andersen, Julius Kulstad, Arnie Johnson and the flashy Iverson brothers, Iver, Eric, Fred and Martin. Sand Hill's John "Grin" Johnson skied with either group.

Francis Kempe and George Thompson, friends of these Scandinavian stalwarts, stood out as ethnic oddities. While other Red Wing jumpers came from Scandinavian origins, Kempe was a German-American and Thompson claimed some Irish blood.

Heritage ranked high in American ski jumping circles when these Red Wing boys came of age in the early 1900s. Norwegian-born athletes founded the sport in the United States. Former champions of Norway, Mikkel and Torjus Hemmestvedt, teamed with Aurora skiers to make Red Wing the birthplace of American ski jumping. U.S. National tournaments became a showplace where Norwegian-Americans competed with each other for championship honors.

With America's two greatest ski jumpers, the Hemmestvedt brothers, living among them, it came as no surprise that Red Wing youths took up the sport. As youngsters, these city kids made their own skis using staves from beer or vinegar barrels. Since the staves had bends at each end, they did not have to "steam" them to create needed "tips."

Directly or indirectly, all of Red Wing's young skiers learned the sport from the Hemmestvedts. Mikkel, in particular, built a reputation as a natural teacher and coach

ALL AMERICANS ~ continued on page 6



Francis Kempe



George Thompson



Carl Ek



Top photo: Michigan newspaper reporters took a look at the well dressed 1903 Aurora Ski Club members as they arrived for a tournament and dubbed them the "Skiing Dudes." Pictured left to right, front row: Eric Iverson and John Johnson; second row: Fred Iverson, Olaf Benson, Julius Kulstad, Carl Ek and Alfred Grondahl; third row: Floyd Anderson, Ed Neill, Harris Andersen, Harry Nordholm, and Oscar Arntson.

Right photo: Aurora Ski Club's new generation of skiers stand at the foot of the South Bush Street ski hill in January 1905. Identifications in the photo are not complete, but original caption lists as standing, back row, left to right, Ephrain Olson, Harris Andersen, Art Berlin, Carl Ek, Julius Kulstad, Harry Cook, Olaf Benson, Herman Saupe, Henry Tiedeman, Edward Neill, Peter Thompson, Herman Boxrud, and Wilbur Scott. Seated are Ed Johnson, Roy Rogers, Alfred Grondahl, Fred Iverson and Herman Johnson.



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This is not our crew ... these Norwegian/Americans, all born in America, all belonged to the Aurora Ski Club of Red Wing. would go to ski tourneys and come back with the top prizes time and again. They were known as the All Americans and developed the "Red Wing Style" throughout the country.

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ALL AMERICANS ~ *continued from page 4*

who was most willing to share his knowledge. As they boys grew up, Mikkel even shared his equipment with them. Both Hemmestvedts made and sold skis, usually of white pine or white oak. Carl Ek later became an excellent ski maker in his own right.

After the Hemmestvedt brothers moved from Red Wing, the best of their disciples took over club leadership. Ole Benson, Cark Ek, Harris Andersen and Julius Kulstad helped build the team. In 1903, Michigan organizers invited Aurora to send a delegation to an Ishpeming tournament. They hoped to recreate the magic of 1891 when the Hemmestvedts and their Aurora teammates wowed audiences and opponents alike, while cementing Red Wing's position of leadership in American ski jumping.

Upon arrival in Michigan in 1903, the new-look Red Wing Auroras shocked tournament officials. The young athletes appeared more like male fashion models than skiers, as they gathered on the train platform in stylish suites and coats. Eric Iverson drew stares in his chinchilla overcoat, derby hat, red scarf and necktie and very pointed patent leather shoes. Michigan newspaper reporters called them the "Skiing Dudes."

The Skiing Dudes made a solid impression, but were not at the level of America's best, at least for the moment.

Showing a talent for self-promotion,

the Aurora skiers came up with brainstorm soon after the tournament. Each of them had been born in America—all but one in Red Wing—while their competitors were mostly born in Europe. Capitalizing on their uniqueness, they billed themselves as the "All Americans."

The group evolved into a ski jumping powerhouse, finally maturing into champions during the 1911 national tournament at Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Aurora skiers captured five of the top ten places, and Francis Kempe, the Red Wing skier of German-American parentage, captured the individual national title.

The Skisport, the national journal of American ski jumping, declared the Red Wing team "with its All-American ski bunch...furnished a great surprise by winning the championship with Kempe a German..." The writer did not make clear if Aurora's team triumphs or non-Norwegian Kempe's victory was, to him, the "great surprise."

Harris Andersen, among the Red Wing athletes excelling at the nationals, claimed with unmistakable swagger, "[We] had it on the old European guards from the start because they lacked nerve."

He added loftily, "Red Wing went into the game as if the boys were skiing for a leather medal, and once we had the edge over them [European born] there was not much to it."

Skee? She? Ski?
What's in a name?

Immigrant importers of skiing, the popular Norwegian winter pastime, didn't concern themselves with teaching Americans how to pronounce the name of their favored activity. After all, their new countrymen might not be interested in sliding on snow.

Failure to deal with the "name" issue resulted in confusion for English-speaking Americans. In 1886, Minnesota newspapers struggled to teach readers the correct name for the new winter activity. "It isn't pronounce sky, not yet skee, as you might think," offered the St. Paul Pioneer Press. That paper claimed that when spoken in English, the sport's name should sound like "she."

Stillwater's Messenger confidently replied, "He who would avoid scandalizing the Scandinavians will pronounce it "skee" and avoid "sky."

Eight years later Red Wing's Advanced Sun reported on the continuing controversy, noting, "proper pronunciation of the word ski has not yet been fully disposed of." To settle the matter, the newspaper suggested adopting the style used in Christiania [today's Oslo, Norway]. Norwegians, noted the Sun writer, say "she." The Red Wing reporter, apparently still uncertain if he had it right, added that he liked a name he heard in the city—the "sky act." That phrase, wrote the newsman, caught the true meaning and spirit of the sport.

Red Wing's Ski Jumping Hills

Red Wing ski jumpers showed a talent for converting almost any hill, city street, or neighbor's yard into a test of skiing skill. They willingly leaped into Swede Hill's treacherous Tumble Valley, mastered the bluff-side jump on south Bush Street, and tried untold numbers of neighborhood knolls, mounds, and bumps.

McSorley Street Hill, built by Aurora Ski Club members, gained a large measure of fame in 1887 when Mikkel Hemmestvedt established the first American ski jumping record there. The site today is changed due to housing encroachment, but it is still clear that the jump and landing area on the north-west face of Sorin's Bluff provided a challenge to athletes – all except Hemmestvedt. After the three-hour tournament, the Norwegian ace climbed 50 feet above the ski jump and demonstrated his cross country ski style on the slippery slope.

Red Wing's emergence as home to the nation's top ski jumping team encouraged city leaders and Aurora Ski Club members to make an investment in the sport. They created a ski hill on the southwest section of Sorin's Bluff near 18th Street, a location more accessible to the sport's swelling fan base. This Bush Street slide remained home to Aurora skiers during their early era of dominance.

Spectators could easily access the hill via Bush Street. Once on site, they could walk up the terraced hillside to the jumpers' landing point or simply watch from Bush. Two grandstands holding 250 people were added 1905 for "ladies and their escorts."

Aurora lost its right to use the Bush Street Hill soon after, but quickly found another spot, a rock-filled Sorin slope off Wilkinson Street. The aptly named

Tumble Valley ranks with the worst American ski jumping venues ever created. Despite heroic efforts to clear a proper landing area, jumpers veering much off course faced a rocky touch down. The course was also far from fan-friendly.

Eventually Charlson Hill became Red Wing's most famous hill. Ironically, the new slide on Walter Charlson's Burnside Township farm was in an area not yet annexed to its larger neighbor. Ski jumping's 1928 and 1936 U.S. national tournaments were both held at Charlson.

Following World War II, Aurora Ski Club returned to action by building a jump on the R.E. Burns farm, just south of Red Wing Country Club. Grazing of farm animals and woodcutting left the hillside above today's Foursome Street denuded of large obstacles. Aurora vets saw it as a perfect location and built a scaffold. By the late 1940s, they were hosting regional ski jumping meets there.

A windstorm blew down the Burns's scaffold. Aurora then teamed with Red Wing's Indianhead Motorcycle Club to buy land abutting the Athletic Field and planned for the future. Unfortunately, a new ski jumping scaffold was never built on the site.

Kid-made ski jumps, usually built of snow, could be found around Red Wing well into the 1940s. Jumps behind St. John's Hospital, near Foot Tannery, on lower Central Avenue, in a Fairgrounds neighborhood backyard, and on Barn Bluff's Green Street slopes were among the more popular.

West End kids even used city streets for their ski tracks. They careened down Washington and Jefferson Streets yielding, only grudgingly, to traffic. But then, the West Enders always embraced their well-earned reputation for daring.



Aurora skiers stand at the bottom of the South Bush Street ski hill, c. 1904.

It's Great to Be An Elk!

Harris F. Andersen was an Elk and Then Some!

Harris F. Andersen (1880-1940) was born in Montevideo and came to Red Wing with his parents when he was two months old. So nearly a life-long resident of Red Wing, the newspaper account at his passing said

"Harris F. Andersen, Friend of Thousands Passes Away...."

during his unusually active life in this city rightly won the title of "Red Wing's ambassador of Good Will" and one of it's most popular citizens ... the community has lost a citizen and friend. All feel a keen sense of personal loss in his death."



His many accomplishments in the Elks Lodge at Red Wing included...

- Active member of the Elks Lodge 845
- Organizer of the Elks Drum Corps during World War I
- Helped to form the Elks Band which was recognized throughout the state
- Served as Exalted Ruler of the Elks in 1925-26
- Served as the District Deputy, of the Elks Grand Lodge in 1935
- Was serving on the Elks Lodge Trustees at the time of his death

Some other highlights of Harris' life in his favorite sport... ski jumping

- A member of the "All American" Ski Jumping team from the Aurora Ski Club
- Took Fourth place in the Nationals at Chippewa Falls and later beat the first place winner
- The President of the National Ski Association in 1927
- Lead the movement to get the National Ski Jumping tourney to Red Wing in 1928 and again in 1936
- Organized the marketing effort "Follow the Snus Box Trail" to promote the National Tourney. 25,000 people attended the two-day event.
- Organized the Pee Wee Ski Jumping tournaments in his neighborhood and later held City Wide Ski Jumping tourneys for kids

He also ... was in many hometown talent plays as the lead role, a great humorist, and after dinner speaker, and a natural fundraiser. Harris promoted the steps up Barn's Bluff with the Kiwanis Club, promoted and instigated the Bob Sled/Toboggan run down College Hill in 1922, played baseball for the Red Wing Pickets, Club Champion at the Red Wing Golf Club, an ardent fisherman, hunter, and sportsman, he loved the outdoors, but most of all he loved Red Wing.

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Skiing Catches on in Goodhue County

While Red Wing's Aurora Ski Club quickly emerged as the early leader in the "American ski sport," neighboring Goodhue County towns eagerly adopted it.

Zumbrot's Viking Ski Club ranked among Minnesota's earliest teams and even took part in the St. Paul Winter Carnival's first ski jumping exhibition. Actually, all the Vikings did was march in the festival's first parade in 1886. Poor snow conditions forced a cancellation in ski competition and none of the athletes were allowed to jump.

Despite the St. Paul disappointment, the ski delirium continued in 1880s Zumbrot. Severe sprains temporarily benched three enthusiastic Vikings, Fred Stecher, Grant Price, and Frank Halbert. The local newspaper reported, "If Zumbrot ski fever holds on very long, it will be necessary to build a hospital to take care of its many victims."

Warnings failed to deter Stella Barteau. The Zumbrot woman fractured her leg "while trying to use her husband's skis."

County ski activity made news in Red Wing newspapers. Goodhue's Frank Gordon fell and broke his shoulder while skiing. Cannon Falls Constable T.

G. Andersen, a Norwegian-American skilled man on snow, used skis to serve legal papers and to keep in good shape.

Belle Creek's Irish community proved it could adapt to Minnesota's rugged winters through skiing. Red Wing's Daily Republican praised Walter Doyle, a well-known Irish immigrant, for sending "his Irish boys around on Norwegian skis" to open snow-blocked roads.

Wanamingo, in the heart of Goodhue County's Norwegian community, also produced fine skiers, and became particularly strong in the 1920s. Local ski jumpers built a scaffold on Hennem Hill in 1927 and, later, another on Lund Hill. Elief Deraas became a world-class jumper and was joined by at least a dozen other locals on Wanamingo's team.

Halvor Bjorngaard emerged as a national ski jumping star while living in Wanamingo. Bjorngaard moved to the village in 1924 where he lived with his aunt and uncle, Mette and Gustav Hastad. Halvor surprised American ski experts in 1925. Bjorngaard, then a little-known athlete skiing with Red Wing's Aurora Ski Club, out-jumped the entire field during the U.S. Nationals at Canton, South Dakota.



Harris Andersen prepares to land a jump. From 1904 to 1914, Andersen was a top ski jump competitor with Aurora's "All Americans."

Red Wing's Teenaged Ski Hero

Red Wing 14-year-old Oscar Arntson labored in the shadow of the famed Norwegian Mikkel Hemmestvedt during the early days of American ski jumping. Before Hemmestvedt, a great champion of Norway, moved to Red Wing, the talented Arntson ranked as the city's top jumper, besting even the local adults.

The teenaged Arntson clearly impressed all who saw him jump, including Twin City newspaper writers. His age meant Arntson first competed against "second class" skiers – namely the younger, inexperienced jumpers. The stylish Red Wing athlete showed ability enough to compete with veterans.

Arntson began creating a reputation for excellence during an 1887 tournament in St. Paul. He placed first in the second class field, impressing a St. Paul Pioneer Press writer on scene. The reporter predicted the young athlete would be "...an extraordinary man in the sport."

Young Oscar emerged as top person in his class at Midwest tournaments impressing spectators with his cool demeanor and skill. On his home ski hill in Red Wing, Arntson scored higher in style and distance than the adult talent on the first edition of the Aurora Ski Club.

Oscar moved up to First Class in 1888 and immediately proved he belong with the best. His best performance came during the season finale in Minneapolis when he out-jumped everyone in the field except Mikkel Hemmestvedt. "He did himself proud, and at every successful plunge he made, was cheered to the echo by the crowd," noted the St. Paul Pioneer Press. Arntson so impressed a Minneapolis physician on the scene that the doctor handed him a ten dollar bill as "an extra premium for his performance."

The high point of Oscar Arntson's ski jumping career occurred during a now storied battle to for Aurora's club championship in March 1891. He faced Mikkel and Torjus Hemmestvedt, both now teammates, in a head-to-head match-up. The trio and the rest of the Aurora club overcame gusting March winds during a long, tense afternoon of ski jumping. At first, Torjus soared past his rivals in distance but could not manage to stand upon landing. After two jumps Arntson led Mikkel in distance by one foot; Oscar recorded 84 and 85-foot leaps while Mikkel trailed with 83 and 85 foot efforts.

The compact, muscular Mikkel, spurred by Arntson's challenge, then out-jumped the hill, touching down after a 102-foot ride on landing area's flats, before falling. The 102-foot jump established a new world's record. Arntson made an impressive reply by sailing 93 feet. Torjus Hemmestvedt actually finished with the greater total distance with jumps of 88, 101, and 98 feet, but fell each time.

After applying the Red Wing scoring system, which considered the style, distance and falls of each jumper, judges declared Mikkel Hemmestvedt the winner with Arntson firmly holding second. Red Wing's Advance Sun promptly and proudly proclaimed Aurora's ascendancy over the world's top ski jumping clubs, and added a challenge: "...what club, either here in this country, or Norway" would dare face the Red Wing jumpers.

Oscar Arntson, still just 19, found himself ranked with America's best as the sun went down on Bush Street Hill on that raw March afternoon. He continued competing for several more years, but with only average results, before retiring while still in his twenties.



Oscar Arntson

A Woman's Place is Where?

With the exception of those times when they prepared and served food, Red Wing women typically found themselves in the far background of the local ski jumping world.

It's not that they didn't enjoy the new activity. Local women and their teenaged daughters attended dances, socials, ski parades and ski jumping competition. But few took part in the sport.

Women took a supporting role in Red Wing's first formal ski related function, the January 1887 visit of 250 representatives of St. Paul's Winter Carnival. Newspapers reported Red Wing "ladies decorated

with St. George crosses" served refreshments and later took part in a dance at the Music Hall.

Aurora Ski Club members issued formal thanks in the Advance Sun to the Red Wing women who helped with food and decorations after the important 1887 ski jumping tournament in the city. The names of married women appeared with a "Mrs." and the first initial of their husband's name. Teenagers retained their own full names.

Following the hugely successful 1890 Red Wing ski jumping tournament, "an audience of 2,500 was on hand," the "ladies" of Aurora prepared a "simply per-

fect' banquet of Norwegian and Swedish food.

It is a certainty that some Red Wing women skied and likely some tried some ski jumping. But only one instance of them taking part in the sport is currently known. A brief 1903 Red Wing newspaper item provides the proof.

Seventeen local women organized a ski club in February 1903 that they named "Nora." Team members chose uniforms of navy blue trimmed in white and planned to practice "while the snow lasts." This tidbit is the last reference to Nora.

Do you know what these pictures have in common?



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We salute the effort of the local group in preserving the history of the wonderful sport of ski jumping.



Red Wing Music Hall building had a bank and offices on the first two floors. The third floor hall, with its capacity of 600, was site of the 1886 ski party.

A Bouncing Governor

“Bouncing,” the traditional blanket toss of a “volunteer” or “victim” – it didn’t matter to the tossers – became part of American skiing tradition early on. Red Wing’s citizens happily embraced the concept during an 1886 promotional visit by organizers of the first St. Paul Winter Carnival.

The partying 250-person trainload from the capital city planned a few surprises for their Red Wing hosts; among them, the capture of the city’s most famous celebrity, the current Minnesota Governor Lucius Hubbard. The popular governor, a former newspaper editor in Red Wing and later a wealthy grain miller and trader, seemed a perfect target for the St. Paul revelers.

But Lucius Hubbard did not become

a Civil War hero by being easily ambushed. Hubbard did not show up for the celebration at Red Wing’s Main Street Music Hall. Undeterred, the St. Paulites grabbed Arthur Pierce, a future Red Wing mayor, and rolled him onto their blanket. To cries of “Up, Up,” the rowdy visitors lobbed Pierce upward to “test the hardness of the ceiling with his toes.”

After releasing their first victim, the St. Paul delegation surrounded sturdy Frank Sterrett, a Red Wing grain dealer, and gave him a blanket ride. Some believed Sterrett to heavy a load but the visitors got him airborne anyway. Other locals received the same “honor.”

There is no evidence that St. Paul’s Winter Carnival crowd ever caught up with Governor Hubbard in St. Paul, Red Wing or anywhere else.



Part of Red Wing’s Main Street is shown in summer. The parade welcoming the delegation from the new St. Paul Winter Carnival organization headed down Main in January 1866 to a party at the Music Hall, shown in the far right of the photograph.

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This coupon must be presented at the time of purchase in order to redeem the discount. Valid only at the Red Wing Shoe Store in Red Wing, MN through February 28, 2007. One coupon per customer purchase. Not valid with other coupons or offers.





This is the site of the National Ski Jumping Tourney in 1928 held in Red Wing, Minnesota, on the Charlson Farm on Spring Creek Road.

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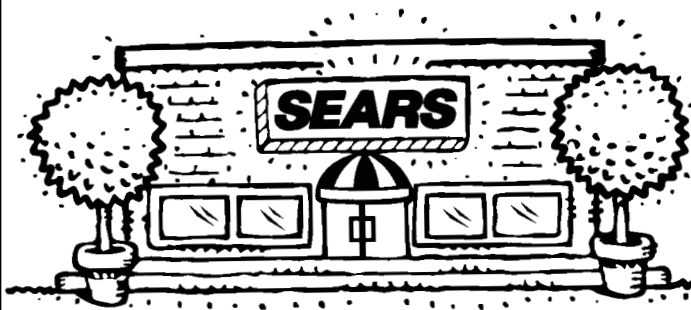
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Profiles in Red Wing Ski History

Christian H. Boxrud: Most Red Wing people knew Chris Boxrud more for his part ownership of the popular Boxrud & Hjemstad store. But to the U.S. ski jumping community, he was the man behind the powerful Aurora Ski Club. His organizational and promotion skills put Aurora in the forefront of ski jumping. He helped create the Central Ski Association, the first confederation of American ski clubs in 1890, and became CSA vice-president.



Chris H. Boxrud



Torjus and Mikkel Hemmestvedt

Torjus and Mikkel Hemmestvedt: No other American ski jumping community, during the early 1890s, could match the one-two punch of Red Wing's Hemmestvedts. In tournaments the only question seemed to be, which

Hemmestvedt would win the overall individual championship and which would claim the longest jump. As athletes and as teacher-coaches, this brother act, more than any other factor, made Red Wing the first center of American ski jumping.

Olaf Benson: When Carl Tellefsen, later known as "father of the American ski sport" tried to found the first national organization in 1905, he naturally sought input from Olaf Benson of Red Wing's Aurora Ski Club. Benson was one of the few active jumpers invited. Aksel Holter, a charter member of the U.S. Ski Hall of Fame, wrote, "there is no skier in the country deserving of more credit for this enthusiasm (for ski jumping) than Olaf."



Olaf Benson

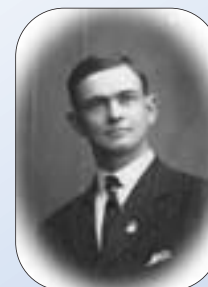
Carl Ek: Among the best American ski jumpers of his era, Ek could do it all on a ski hill—including make his own skis. His consistency, along with the ability to "land" long jumps, made him a formidable competitor. Ek was still

jumping in the top division when Red Wing hosted the U.S. Nationals in 1928. He returned for more when the nationals came back to Red Wing in 1936. In his first concession to age, Ek jumped in the "Old Timers" class.



Carl Ek

Harris Andersen: Harris Andersen spent a lifetime promoting and protecting Red Wing ski jumping. Andersen built a national reputation as a "world class" jumper and member of Aurora's All Americans in the early 1900s. He moved on to become president of the National Ski Association in 1928 and the person behind securing the U.S. Nationals for Red Wing that year. He also personally organized a "Little League" for ski jumpers in Red Wing and helped develop another generation of Aurora skiers.



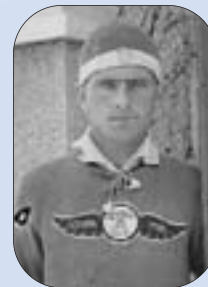
Harris Andersen

Francis Kempe: Kempe might not even have been the greatest ski jumper of Red Wing's famed All Americans in 1911, but he was the only one to win a national championship. Kempe, a German-American born in Red Wing, defeated the top Norwegian-American jumpers.



Francis Kempe

Halvor Bjorngaard: Aurora's last world class ski jumper, Bjorngaard drew rave reviews for both the distance and style of his jumps. A newcomer to America, Bjorngaard recorded the longest flight of the day during the 1925 U.S. Nationals. He later helped design Aurora's new Charlson Hill, but failed to win a championship when the Nationals came to Red Wing in 1928. Tragically, Bjorngaard died in a Utah motorcycle accident in June 1931.



Halvor Bjorngaard



The posters said, "Follow the Snus Box Trail to Red Wing for the National Ski Tournament."

Snus Box Trail an Advertising Gimmick

Harris Andersen and Bill Ward came up with an ingenious and inexpensive advertising gimmick to promote both Red Wing and the 1928 National Ski Jumping Tournament the city was hosting. Noting the great popularity of "snuff" with Scandinavian immigrants – they called the tobacco product "snus" – Ward and Andersen decided to use empty snuff boxes as a symbol for the ski tournament.

They convinced the makers of Copenhagen snuff to donate their distinctive red containers to Red Wing tourney leaders. Local promoters then tacked up the "snus boxes" on poles, trees, and fences in a wide swath across the area.

They got the Red Wing Shoe Company salesmen to deliver them to utility poles and snow banks all throughout the midwest.

"Follow the Snus Box Trail" became the watchwords for the 1928 U.S. Nationals. The system worked so well that when Red Wing hosted the 1936 tournament, organizers built another snus box trail.



Halvor Bjorngaard, left, and Babe Lillethun represented Aurora in the 1928 nationals in Red Wing.

Halvor Bjorngaard "Most Graceful Skier in the U.S."

Halvor Bjorngaard burst upon the United States ski jumping scene with a flash that blind-sided his opponents. Skiing for Red Wing's Aurora team and in America less than a year, Bjorngaard placed first among Class B entrees in the 1925 U.S. Nationals at Canton, South Dakota. What shocked everyone on hand was the fact he out-jumped all of America's best jumpers in Class A.

The talented Bjorngaard followed in the tracks of Aurora's first great ski jumping champions, the Hemmestvedt brothers, by first honing his skills in Norway. Like his predecessors, Bjorngaard joined the prominent Red Wing team and quickly excelled.

His victory at Canton was only the beginning for Bjorngaard. The Norwegian-American, who lived with relatives in Wanamingo but competed for Aurora, was soon showered with silver cups and skiing medals and silver cups. Since prize money could no longer be awarded, tournament sponsors relied upon silver items, usually dinnerware, to reward winners. Bjorngaard put his dazzling supply of silver on display at Wanamingo's

Farmers State Bank.

Ski jumping experts acknowledged the talented Bjorngaard as the "most graceful skier in the United States." Naturally, fans in the Red Wing area had great hopes for him when the U.S. national tournament came to that city in 1928. Bjorngaard helped design the Charlson Hill slide upon which he would compete. In a rare off day, however, he jumped poorly during the meet and lost to the great Lars Haugen.

Halvor Bjorngaard decided to leave Minnesota for the burgeoning Rocky Mountain ski communities. Thanks to the Winter Olympics of 1924, ski jumping's popularity in America had skyrocketed. In 1931, he and other champions battled at Ogden Utah's, new Ecker Hill in attempts to set a world distance record. Bjorngaard placed second to Alf Engen's unofficial new world record of 247 feet.

In mid-June 1931, Bjorngaard made a 10 p.m. trip on his motorcycle to visit a friend. The ski jumping ace died in a head-on collision with an auto. Bjorngaard's body was returned to Wanamingo, and he was buried at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery.

We take a great deal of pride in our ancestry

Norwegian born, the Hemmestvedt Brothers were instrumental in starting the Aurora Ski Club in Red Wing, MN. Many other clubs were to follow.



*From the book "Sky Crashers"
by Frederick Johnson*

Aurora's four-man ski team claimed top honors in the first Central Ski Association Tournament held in January 1891.

Pictured are (from left): Paul Honnigstad, Mikkel Hemmestvedt, Torjus Hemmestvedt and Berngt Hjermstad. The performance of these four Norwegian-Americans gave rise to the legend, in America ski circles, of "Red Wing Style" ski jumping.

We salute the efforts of the Friends of American Ski Jumping to preserve the history of ski jumping by making

Red Wing: the Birthplace of Ski Jumping in the U.S. and the future home of the American Ski Jumping Hall of Fame.



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Red Wing Hosts Two National Ski Tournaments

Red Wing sent three competitors to the 1927 U.S. national ski jumping tournament in Denver, but only two, Halvor Bjorngaard and Clarence "Babe" Lillethun, were scheduled to jump. The third, Harris Andersen, had bigger things on his mind.

Andersen, a "can-do" promoter of ski sports and all things Red Wing, planned on securing hosting rights for the 1928 nationals for his hometown.

Those who knew Harris Andersen fully expected him to pull off the deal. A top Red Wing athlete as a youth, Andersen ranked among the best semi-pro baseball players in the state and was a scratch golfer. The popular barber also became one of America's best jumpers while a member of the city's Aurora Ski Club "All Americans".

Andersen's reputation in American ski jumping earned him the highest position in the sport—president-elect of the National Ski Association (NSA) for 1928. Thus, the eager Andersen brought more to the Denver gathering than hope; he carried cash guarantees from Red Wing's Chamber of Commerce that promised funds to stage and promote a national tournament. Impressed, NSA officials accepted Red Wing's offer.

Red Wing tournament organizers immediately started the complex preparations. They found 1,600 rooms in the area for skiers and spectators and placed cots in the YMCA and Armory for possible overflow. They even lined up railroad sleeper cars as back-up bedrooms.

Organizers promoted the tournament



Ski fans gathered for the two-day 1928 national tournament.

nationally using NSA connections and set up a Snux Box Trail (see related story) to guide visitors to Charlson Hill ski jump, site of the competition.

Red Wing city officials and civic leaders pitched in, deciding to make the national event part of a local winter carnival. They built a 1,000-block ice castle in John Rich Park, selected carnival roy-

alty, and decorated downtown with flags, evergreens and huge wings on light poles. Banners and lighted trees festooned city streets. Nickie Johnson's orchestra led Queen Aurora, Viola Hofschute, and a 31-person promotion team to Minneapolis where they were interviewed on WCCO radio.

Harris Andersen opened the national tournament on February 3, 1928. Public events began with a morning cross country ski run followed by a boys' dog derby. Charlson Hill jumping started with Class C and D, collegiate, and "Old Timers" competing.

Events continued into the evening. Queen Aurora was officially crowned at the ice palace. A parade followed, featuring four bands, drill teams and citizens in winter sports costume. Hazen Wacouta, descendant

of the prominent early Red Wing Mdewakanton leader Wacouta, drew considerable interest as he rode on a white horse at the front of the parade.

Hemmestvedt returns

Torjus Hemmestvedt, the great champion who helped boost Red Wing into the forefront of American ski jumping in the 1890s, returned to the city as an honored guest.

Sunday's tournament drew a huge crowd and slowed Main Street traffic to a tortoise-like crawl. Main Street also doubled as a U.S. highway at the time, and was the only road leading west toward the ski hill. Narrow, rutted Spring Creek Road brought spectators the final miles to Charlson Hill. Red Wing's National Guard Company B directed traffic and helped keep order.

The tournament proved hugely popular. Crowd estimates for the two-day ski jumping affair reached 25,000, an over-generous guess perhaps, but still indicative of great interest. And those figures did not include persons participating in Red Wing events linked to the tournament.

TOURNAMENTS ~ continued on page 17



Torjus Hemmestvedt, one of Aurora's Sky Crashers and champion from the 1890s era, returned to Red Wing to view the 1928 tournament. He is shown kneeling in the front row, sixth from the left, along with a group of tourney organizers and club officials. The men are in front of the ice palace built as part of the celebration.



The national ski jumping championships returned to Red Wing in 1936. Some of the civic leaders behind the tournament are shown here. Club president Charles "Babe" Lillethun is in the front row, second from left.

TOURNAMENTS ~ continued from page 16

Red Wing became America's ski jumping capital again in 1936 at a time when significant changes were affecting the sport. Popularity of the Winter Olympics quickly blossomed after its introduction in 1924, and really took off in the U.S. following the 1932 winter games at Lake Placid, New York. Becoming the American national champion continued to be a goal, but athletes now saw Olympic medals won in world competition as the ultimate prize.

Challenges ahead

Another hurdle to be cleared faced those staging Red Wing's 1936 U.S. ski jumping nationals. The Winter Olympics in Germany's Bavaria was set to open just three days after the American meet in Red Wing. The best U.S. performers would be overseas, not in Red Wing.

Selling tickets to the 1936 tournament to Americans still mired in the Great Depression would also be challenge. Still, Red Wing civic leaders, again assisted by Harris Andersen's energy and talent, decided to move forward.

To the surprise of many, Red Wing managed to recapture some of the magic from its 1928 national meet. The success apparently sprang from the efforts of determined, talented organizers who found a receptive audience in those looking for a break from the tough times.

Red Wing work crews decorated the city with pine boughs and hung neon gas stars downtown. Charlson Hill's scaffold was improved and promised the possibility of 200-foot-leaps. Two popular personages returned: Hazen Wacouta, billed as "Chief Red Wing,"

and the new Queen Aurora, Lucille Westberg in the role.

WTCN radio signed on to broadcast the 1936 national meet, a first for the annual ski event. Publicity director Joe Kernan spread the word about the Red Wing gathering and drummed up radio support from the Twin Cities and surrounding communities.

Some new events combined with favorites from 1928 to draw large audiences. Among those attractions: A professional hockey game between the Canadian Reds and White Bear Lake at the Isaak Walton League, a performance by Chicago's 25-member International Skating Show, and an advertised "Midget Show." The little people set up a mechanical fair that was so popular it was held over for another day.

The "across Red Wing" cross country race returned in 1936. The athletes made two circuits over a six-mile course, starting on the frozen Mississippi at Levee Park, then to Colvill Park, across 7th Street and up Sorin's Bluff. They came down Sorin's near the old Aurora Ski jump site overlooking 17th and 18th Streets, continued to College Hill, the golf course, Foot Tannery, Spring Creek Road and back to the Levee.

The ski jumping tournament itself drew well with an estimated 15,000 with fans paying 50 cents for Saturday's action and a dollar for Sunday's championship round. Nonetheless the weekend did not prove a financial success. The 1936 meet left Aurora Ski Club with a debt that took years to settle.

Despite two more decades of struggle to save Aurora, America's most prominent early ski club, never fully recovered.



1928 Ski Jump Poster



1928 Ice Castle



Charlson Hill Ski Jump 1928

Own a Plot of History

Charlson Crest

Red Wing's newest housing addition, Charlson Crest, sits on a piece of land that is rich in history.

Charlson Crest, formerly Charlson Hill,

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Red Wing's Place in Ski Jumping History

Frances Densmore, Red Wing's nationally acclaimed Indian ethnologist of the early 20th century, also knew a thing or two about ski jumping.

Densmore, like many other city residents, took great interest in the new winter sport that had become so important in Red Wing. One hundred years ago, she wrote an article for *The American Thresherman*—a magazine long defunct for obvious reasons—entitled “Skis and Ski Running.”

In the piece, she made an important point about the American character. Densmore defended U.S.-born skiers against charges, from “old country” critics, meaning Norway. Europeans complained that athletes here only concentrated on setting new ski jumping distance records and showed little concern about their style along the way. Densmore understood that the result-focused Americans believed jumping the greatest distance proved who the real winner was. She explained, “We cannot help it—our national characteristics crop out in our games...”

Norwegian native and later American ski expert Aksel Holter made the same point. “The American people are eager for results, they are not content with good form alone. [Their] nature...demands first place in all athletic events.”

Densmore, a social scientist with a practiced view on human activity, and Holter, the man with perhaps greatest depth of knowledge regarding American ski jumping's first two decades, agreed

about American character. Holter, as first secretary of the National Ski Association, liberally sprinkled praise on Aurora in his writings about the sport. Both Densmore and Holter had personal knowledge of Red Wing's Aurora Ski Club and its champions, first exponents of this brand of “American

over small jumps. Norway's champions brought those two activities together with them to America and Red Wing.

Mikkel Hemmestvedt set the first recognized ski jumping distance record at Red Wing's McSorley Hill in 1887, but did not stop there. After the meet, he demonstrated cross country tech-

niques. Their form, typically excellent, helped them stretch out their flights, but they always worked to establish distance records. The ski jumping technique of Aurora's Norwegian-bred jumpers became known in America as “Red Wing style” for years to come.

The Hemmestvedts passed that tradition down to the next generation of Red Wing ski champions, the Aurora Ski Club All Americans. In 1911, those Red Wing youths were first to triumph in the U.S. ski jumping nationals over transplants from across the Atlantic. In the proud words of Auroran Harris Andersen, “Red Wing went into the game as if the boys were skiing for a leather medal, and once we had the edge over them (European born) there was not much to it.”

Historians of American ski jumping still debate about which ski club and community deserves the honor of being called the first in the nation to be organized. There can be no question, however, which was the most influential in establishing ski jumping as a popular American winter sport.

Red Wing's Aurora Ski Club fielded the most dominant team of performers and developed and published the first standards for their sport. Aurora members led the way in customizing the sport to American audiences and thus broadened its appeal. Their “Red Wing style” technique, carried with them from Norway, became the national criterion against which their fellow competitors judged themselves.



A small crowd gathers at the foot of the South Bush Street hill to watch ski jumpers perform. In the distance, onlookers and a few horses can be seen on Bush Street.

ski jumping.”

In the late 1880s, when Norway's competitive minded skiers finally had the time and inclination to put their skills against others, they combined cross country skiing with downhill runs

nique on the rugged southwest face of Sorin's Bluff, greatly impressing spectators.

Both Mikkel and his brother Torjus, although born in Norway, harbored the American hunger to out-distance their





Aurora Ski Club veterans gathered in Red Wing for this 2002 photograph. Tom Borgen is in front, at the rear left to right, Bob Bremer, Charles Carlson, Jack Landeck, Karl Brunner, Jerry Borgen, George "Red" Reinhart, and Delano Eckstrom (wearing his Aurora sweater).

The Last Aurorans

The onset of World War II temporarily ended Aurora Ski Club activities, but at the war's conclusion eager Red Wing jumpers headed back to the slopes. In 1947 they built a new scaffold on the Burns' farm, overlooking the city's golf course, and hosted very successful interstate ski jumping tournaments there.

But by 1950, Aurora's sixty-third year of skiing, club coffers were nearly empty. Changes in the ski sport, particularly the increasing popularity of downhill and cross country skiing, reduced interest in ski jumping. Some Red Wing skiers continued to compete, but no more tournaments were held in the city.

The last crop of Aurora Ski Club members continue to support the sport today and are active in preserving its history in Red Wing, "the birthplace of American ski jumping."



Spectators watch a ski jumper soar down Burns Hill during the February 1, 1948 Aurora tournament.

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Red Wing's Queen Aurora Sold Tickets for Title

Although Red Wing's Aurora Ski Club never wanted for ski jumping talent, it certainly lacked any sense of glamour. Luckily, team leaders solved this vexing problem just in time for the 1928 U.S. National Ski Championship in Red Wing:

They would crown a Queen Aurora to reign over a week of festivities during the first week in February.

But in a disappointment to some, beauty took a backseat to practicality in determining the queen. Those backing the eight official candidates sold tickets to the tournament in the name of their favorite. The top dollar getter among the young women would be declared the winner.

In the end, those supporting Viola Hofschute sold \$635 worth of tickets with backers of Phyllis Andersen and Ramona Landeck placing their candidates second and third.

The attractive Miss Hofschute proved a happy choice for Red Wing in general and one Aurora Ski Club member in particular. Clarence "Babe" Lillethun, Aurora's president, later married Hofschute.



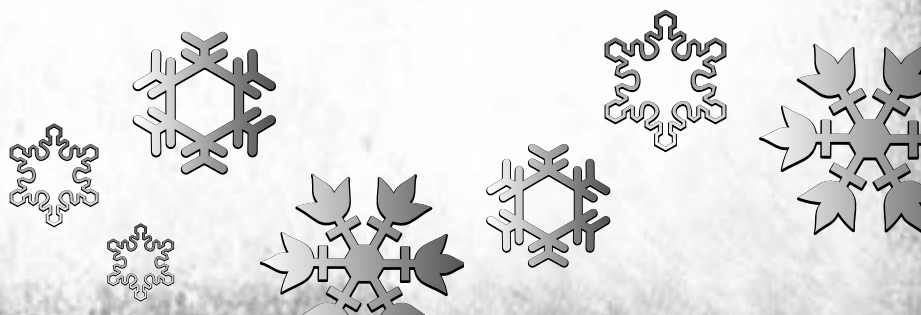
Queen Aurora Viola Hofschute helped preside over the 1928 NSA championship in Red Wing.

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A band from the State Training School in Red Wing leads skiers and spectators along Bush Street to the Aurora ski jumping hill. The photo is dated 1906.

Ski Parades “Drummed Up” Business

American promoters of the 1890s understood the “power of the parade.” Appearances of traveling circuses, theatrical groups, and conventioners almost always guaranteed a parade through city streets to gather attention. The bands that often led such parades literally “drummed up” business.

Red Wing’s Aurora Ski Club used a ski parade to bring prospective ticket buyers to their first tournament in February 1887. The city’s cornet band opened that initial procession at 1 P.M., marching from Main Street to Broadway, to Third, on to Bush, back to Main, and then on Plum Street. The marchers cut over to Bush Street and then moved south to the ski hill.

That parade, and most that followed, usually featured the ski jumpers, their small entourages, and friends, fans and family. Red Wing’s 1887 march included a sleigh carrying nine St. Paul women in town for the skiing.

In later years, Aurora often relied upon the State Training School Band for music. That group made frequent appearances in Red Wing parades.

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Carl Olaf Hallstrom outside the first greenhouse in 1886.

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An American Ski Jumping Hall of Fame

The story of Red Wing's remarkable ski jumping history has dimmed through the years, but has been revived by a group of veteran American competitors—Friends of American Ski Jumping. Members of the group are largely from the Midwest but increasing in number nationally.

Animated by their concerns over ski jumping's diminishing place in American winter sports, these men and women have taken action on two fronts. Several members work to train or support future generations of American ski jumpers. Other "Friends" are retired from competition and now focusing upon providing recognition of past, present, and future athletes. And all wish to preserve the history of American ski jumping. To that end, they agreed to declare Red Wing, Minnesota, as the "Birthplace of American Ski Jumping."

Friends of American Ski Jumping also concurred on the need to establish a hall of fame devoted to preservation of the sport's heritage while providing recognition of the men and women who have played significant roles in ski jumping's history.

Fully aware of the financial and logistic difficulties in developing and sustaining any sports Hall of Fame, the ski group developed a flexible plan to create a modest presence in Red Wing. They have an agreement to establish a small museum and display in the city's historic St. James Hotel. That well-known hostelry seemed a natural since it played an important role in the 1928 and 1936 national ski jumping tournaments held in Red Wing.

Although dedicated to preserving history, the group decided to develop a strong presence in national and international ski jumping circles through use of technology, specifically the internet. The Friends organization set up www.americanskijumping.com as its internet home and have historic profiles on the nation's most visited American ski jumping site on the net, SkiJumpingUSA. They plan to fill an on-line museum with artifacts and information about the sport freely accessible to those wishing to take a virtual stroll through ski history.



Red Wing, Minnesota ... the Birthplace of
Ski Jumping in the United States and the National
Home of the Hall of Fame of Ski Jumping

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Aurora Ski Club members from Red Wing introduced, in the 1880's, what became known in the U.S. as "Red Wing Style" ski techniques, actually Telemark form. The term Red Wing style continued in use in America well into the twentieth century, and

WHEREAS, Aurora, in Red Wing on February 8, 1887, ski competition was named, by the National Ski Association as America's "first ski tournament," and

WHEREAS, Aurora formulated, printed and distributed, for an 1890 tournament, the first list of rules for an American ski competition, a standardization, concept later adopted by the National Ski Association, and

WHEREAS, Aurora hosted two NSA National Ski Jumping Tournaments (1928, 1936) on Spring Creek Road in Red Wing. This might be likened to the Super Bowl of Ski Jumping. Harris Andersen was president of the Aurora Club, President of the National Ski Association, and former team champion with the "All Americans." Harris was instrumental in getting the two National Tournaments to Red Wing and helped many Red Wing youngsters to enjoy the sport of ski jumping, and

WHEREAS, the "Friends of American Ski Jumping", a group of former ski jumpers from Cloquet, Coleraine, Duluth, Eau Clair, Westby, St. Paul, Minneapolis and including the ex jumpers from Red Wing's Aurora all believe that Red Wing, Minnesota deserves and ought to be so designated. Their stated mission is to preserve and enhance the rich history of ski jumping in the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Donna Dummer, hereby proclaim May 22, 2006 as:

Red Wing Ski Jumping History Day

Donna Dummer

Donna Dummer, Mayor





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RED WING

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known as
Red Wing,
Minnesota's best
shopping.*

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shops sure to
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Coming in June 2007 to the
St. James Hotel
Just follow the Snus Box Trail to the
**American
Ski Jumping
Hall of Fame**



*Red Wing's Sky Crashers in 1891, L to R,
Paul Honningstad, Mikkell Hemmestvedt,
Torgus Hemmestvedt, and Bengt Hjermsstad.*

See the Diorama of

- Charlson Hill in 1928 (replica)
- Aurora Artifacts & Memorabilia
- Historic Ski Jumping Photos
- Movies of Ski Jumping
- History of Aurora Ski Club

*Experience the
charm of historic
Red Wing with the
classic elegance
of the
St. James Hotel.
The
St. James Hotel
is the perfect
getaway for any
reason in any
season.*

**So many places to play,
One extraordinary
place to stay.**



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Ladies Clothing



Our mission is to preserve the history of the wonderful sport of ski jumping

The Red Wing Bunch



Ski jumpers gather at the jump at a tourney in the early 1900's on Bush Street/Sorin's Bluff.

Follow the Snus Box Trail



Harris Andersen and Bill Ward came up with "Follow the Snus Box Trail to Red Wing" to promote the 1928 National Ski Jumping Tournament.

The Ice Castle at John Rich Park



An Ice Castle was built in John Rich Park to promote the National Tourney in Red Wing in 1928.

The All Americans



Meet the 1903 Aurora Ski Club ... L-R, front row: Eric Iverson and John Johnson; second row: Fred Iverson, Olaf Benson, Julius Kulstad, Carl Ek and Alfred Grondahl; and third row Floyd Anderson, Ed Neill, Harris Andersen, Harry Nordholm, and Oscar Arntson.

The All Americans from the Aurora Ski Club... All born in America, all but one of Norwegian heritage. From 1908 to 1912, they won or placed high in every major local and national ski jumping tournament.

Because history proves it ...

we have declared that Red Wing, Minnesota is the

Birthplace of Ski Jumping in the nation

And the future home of the ...

American Ski Jumping Hall of Fame

Check out our web site which will be a virtual HOF at

www.americanskijumping.com

**Hall of Fame display to open
at the St. James Hotel in Red Wing**

**Friends of
American Ski Jumping**