

Doug Dion
The American Ski Hall of Fame
Nominee



The American Ski Jumping Hall of Fame

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Douglas P. (Doug) Dion

Doug was born and raised in Lebanon NH; in a New England valley that has produced many of the best ski jumpers in the country. He grew up in a family of ski jumpers. Author Roger Carroll wrote in his book Lebanon, 1761 – 1994, “Mr. Dion ‘s (National Ski Hall of Fame inductee 1984) contributions to skiing extended well beyond his competitive excellence, for the Dion’s brought renown to Lebanon as the town’s First Family of Skiing. Mr Dion’s sons Roger and Doug, and Nephew Bernie (American Ski Jumpers Hall Of Fame 2016) carried on the tradition”.

The youngest in the family, Doug started skiing at two. By the time he was 4 he was jumping off 20 meter hills (Atch 1); by the time he was 9 he was a regular doing pre-tournament exhibition jumping on most ski jumps in the Northeast, including Lake Placid NY, Berlin NH, Brattleboro VT, Rumford ME and Salisbury CT as well as in Canada. (Atch 2).

In the early 1950’s with the advent of television and programs such as “the Wide World of Sports” interest in skiing grew. Magazines became interested in ski jumping and kids who dared do it. The December 27, 1952 issue of “Collier’s Magazine” was the first national magazine to feature “THE FLYIN’ DIONS Kid Ski Whizzes.” (Atch 3). The following summer the July issue of “People and Places” magazine featured Doug, Roger and Bernard in an article on summer ski jumping on crushed ice (Atch 4). In February 1954, Boy’s Life also featured a 3 page article on “The Skiing Dions”.

In 1956 Doug, Roger and Bernard appeared on Arthur Godfrey’s “Winter Wonderland” special that was nationally televised from Lake Placid New York and performed exhibition jumping. Later that evening in the Olympic arena, all were made part of the show and serenaded by the popular McGuire Sisters, and were honor guards for the King and Queen of the Show who were actor Kirk Douglas and Gold Medal figure skater Tenley Albright.

In 1959 Doug was selected as a member of the United States Eastern Amateur Ski Association (USEASA) Junior National Team but due to financial constraints was unable to attend the tournament held in Yakima, WA. However the following year as a high school senior he was again selected to the Junior National team and placed 3rd in Ishpeming, Michigan.

In 1960 he went to Paul Smith’s Junior College near Lake Placid, NY on a skiing scholarship. Following the Masters Tournament at Lake Placid, Doug was offered a full scholarship to the University of Wyoming (UW). While at UW his team mates included Jon St Andre (ASJHoF 2007), Jon Elliott (ASJHoF 2012) and Jay Martin (ASJHoF 2008). In 1964 UW placed 3rd in the NCAA Championships; the highest place in school history. In the 1964 UW Yearbook Coach Ray Hied gave Doug individual praise for his performances throughout the year (Atch 5) considering the level of competition provided by Scandinavian exchange students. In fact, placing 3rd in a conference collegiate tournament often meant

being the top American i.e. at the 1964 Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Championships in Winter Park, CO Doug Placed 3rd, behind DU's Aarne Valkama and Frithjof Prydz from Utah (Atch 6).

In 1964 Doug was invited to the national team training camp and Olympic tryouts in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Unfortunately, an injury took him out of competition for a spot on the team. In other than collegiate tournaments that year he placed 4th at the Steamboat Springs Winter Carnival behind Frithjof Prydz(U UT), Eric Jansen (DU) and Jon Elliott (UW) (Atch 7); the following week he placed 2nd behind Per Volbo (U WA) in Leavenworth WA (Atch 8); and then placed 2nd behind John Balfance at the North American Ski Jumping Championships in Berlin NH, but ahead of many former and future Olympians, and national caliber American and Canadian jumpers. (Atch 9). He was nearing the peak of his competitive career when it ended.

For the first 25 years of his life, Doug was devoted to skiing. Normally most skiers are recognized at 14-16 years old, Doug started at three years old (Atch 1 - 4). The last attachments reflect his potential. The decision to be made was to attempt to represent the United States as a ski jumper or as Officer in the US Air Force. Viet Nam was raging so he accepted a commission in the USAF. He served for 9 years; several on assignment in Southeast Asia.

Doug's selection to The American Ski Jumping Hall Of Fame would be a great honor to a person who loved the sport and his country. His dedication to Ski Jumping spanned over 25 years and his accomplishments recognized nationally as a preschool, grade school, high school, and collegiate level skier and represented the USEASA for several years as a formidable Class A competitor. It is safe to assume that due to his extensive media coverage for over two decades, he encouraged an untold numbers of kids to try ski jumping recreationally and competitively and possibly earn a scholarship as he had done. In fact, it is probably more than a coincidence that his hometown neighbors David and Bruce Jennings followed Doug from Lebanon, NH to Laramie, WY and the University of Wyoming where they both excelled. Thankfully induction into the ASJHoF is based on more than just competitive results therefore; Doug more than qualifies for the honor of being selected.

Sincerely,

Ty Dion

9 Attachments:

1. 1947 Newspaper Clipping - "Artists of the Hickories"
2. Photo at Salisbury, CT - Doug and Roger at ski jump
3. 1952 Colliers, Magazine article - "The Flyin' Dions"
4. 1953, People and Places, Magazine article - "Summer Ski Jump"
5. 1964 UW Yearbook Article
6. 1964, Newspaper Article - "Denver Clings to Lead in NCAA Meet"
7. 1964, Newspaper Article - "Terry Peak Skiers Place High in Winter Carnival"
8. Article, Leavenworth Ski Jump, WA - "Valbo's 285-Foot Jump Wins"
9. 2 Articles, North American Ski Jumping Championships - "Doug Dion Places 2nd in Jumping Meet"

YOUNG LEBANON ARTISTS OF THE HICKORIES



—Photos by Sherman Perkins

Tiny five-year-old Douglas Dion of Lebanon is perhaps the youngest jumper in the nation. About a month ago, the lad, who has been skiing since he was a year-and-a-half old, took his first leap from the Kimball Union academy jump, a 25-meter hill in Meriden, and has been hitting the take-off ever since just as unconcerned as a veteran jumper. His eight-year-old brother, Roger, (inset) has been working out on the 35-meter Storrs Hill jump and is entered in this event in the Class C competitions at the Lebanon Outing club's 25th annual winter carnival to be held January 31 and February 1.

Lebanon, H Good Skiers

Enthusiastic You Snow Conditions, Instruction Com,

Special to The Union

LEBANON, Jan. 26—What is the Lebanon-Hanover area's formula for mass producing better than average skiers and nationally known champions?

Take a batch of enthusiastic youngsters, add some excellent snow conditions, a bit of expert instruction, sprinkle in some encouragement, and above all—start them out as young as possible.

World Famous

That's what they've been doing up here since the great winter sport was introduced here after World War I, with the results that the area is now world famous for its artists of the hickories.

Now the area has come up with a five-year-old boy who leaps from Kimball Union academy's 25 meter jump at Meriden as unconcerned as a veteran schoolboy or collegiate jumper.

Sensational as this may seem, it is not surprising when one stops to consider the environment of tiny Douglas Dion, who has been skiing since he was a year and a half old.

His eight-year-old brother, Roger, is jumping most every day on the 35-meter Storrs hill at Lebanon, where Class A jumpers annually vie for state and eastern honors. Next Sunday Roger will jump in Class C of the big invitation meet, which will highlight this town's 25th annual Winter Carnival.

But back to little Dougie. Last year at the age of four he went to Cannon Mountain; skied it four times and the Taft slalom trail once. Later in the year he went to Pico and skied all afternoon with his brother Roger and dad; a nationally known jumper who has a whole living-room full of trophies.

The vital, expert ski instruction and encouragement, which helped produce these two future champions, was supplied by their father, Ernie Dion of first American-born Lebanon, the win the Easter Class A jumping crown.

That's back in 1934 at Lake Placid when Ernie was a lad of 16 under the colors of Lebanon skiing school. Since then he has been twice nosed out for the title by two-tenths of a point and has won the state jumping championship no less than five times and competed in the nationals in Colorado.

Had it not been for the war, Ernie would doubtlessly have been chosen to jump in the World Olympics. He placed second at Berlin in the 1936 Olympics.



Dougie Dion

Roger Dion

THE FLYIN' DIONS

Kid Ski Whizzes

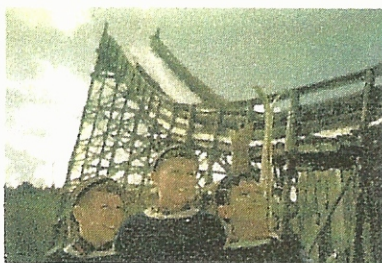
The U.S.'s best hopes for capturing its first Olympic ski jumping laurels are pinned on three skiing prodigies, aged 13, 12 and 10

THROUGHOUT the summer, Storrs Hill, a steep incline up in Lebanon, New Hampshire, is just an ordinary hill. But with the coming of the first snow, it becomes one of the most pampered slopes in the United States. Storrs Hill is the site of Lebanon's ski jump, and the outdoor classroom and training ground for the town's already distinguished young jumpers. During the winter, the hill is groomed and patted and smoothed out with the same care given a championship golf green, and much of the spare time available to folks in Lebanon is spent keeping the hill in shape.

It's a labor of love. Many Lebanonites are convinced that one of Storrs Hill's small-fry graduates will go on to win an Olympic ski jumping championship—thereby becoming the first American to do so, and bringing renown to Lebanon. Most of their hopes are pinned on the three Dion boys, Roger, his brother Douglas (Dougie), and their cousin Bernie. There's an excellent chance that Lebanon won't be disappointed.

Even in Yankee New England, where skiing is so commonplace it's considered just another form of transportation, the exploits of the Dion boys have created a stir. Thirteen-year-old Roger, the oldest, consistently jumps farther than most adults. He closed out the season last year with a 176-foot leap. Most grownups feel they've hit the big time if they make 150 feet. Roger is the ace member of Lebanon's trio of waxed-stave prodigies; but Bernie, twelve, and Dougie, ten, are close behind him.

If the Dion boys fail to break the Scandinavian monopoly on the Olympic jumping title, it won't be



The flyin' Dions (l. to r.) Dougie, 10, Roger, 13, cousin Bernie, 12

for lack of training. Ernest Dion, the father of Roger and Dougie, has made skiing almost a religion in his household. Ernie has competed in national ski competition for the past 20 years. In 1940, he tried out for the Olympic ski squad. Thus, it was natural that after his sons were born he clamped a pair of skis on them almost the moment they could walk. The two boys, and their cousin Bernie, started on the ski trail when they

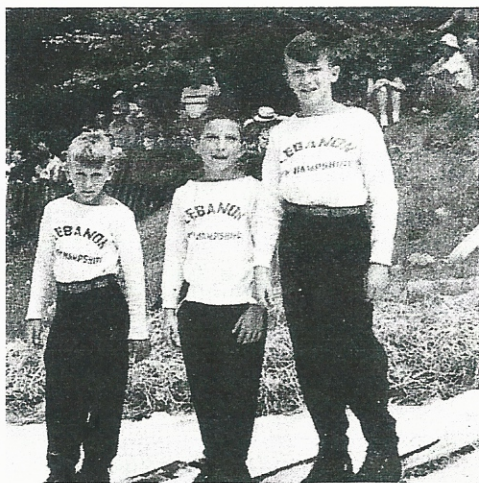
reached eighteen months old. Roger won his first prize at the age of four. Dougie and Bernie were five before they took any honors.

Daddy Dion puts the boys through intensive training every year, from early fall until the last flake of snow disappears in spring. Now they are almost in a class by themselves. Their ages make them ineligible to compete in most meets, but they manage to get in their licks by putting on exhibitions in which they frequently outjump the adult contestants. They did just that at last year's Dartmouth College ski meet.

On their home grounds at Storrs Hill, the boys often find simple jumping gets dull, so they whistle down the hill in some extremely unorthodox styles. Two of their favorites are the swan dive (arms extended) and the Christopher Columbus (hands shielding the eyes as if looking for the New World).

Of their ability, Andrea Mead Lawrence, winner of two gold medals at the 1952 Olympics—the only U.S. skier ever to do so—says:

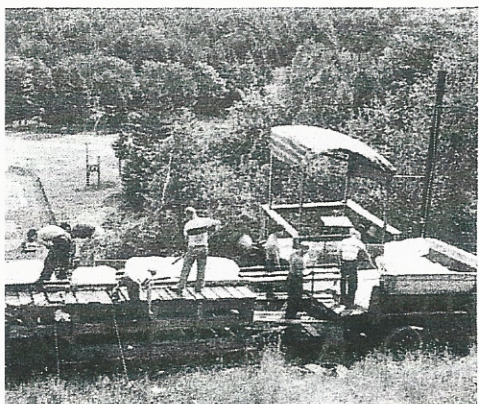
"If they keep on at the rate they're going, the Dion kids are certain to make the Olympic team, once they're big enough to strap on some man-size skis."



The three young Dion boys of Lebanon, N. H. thrilled the crowd with their jumps in 1952, will be back this year.

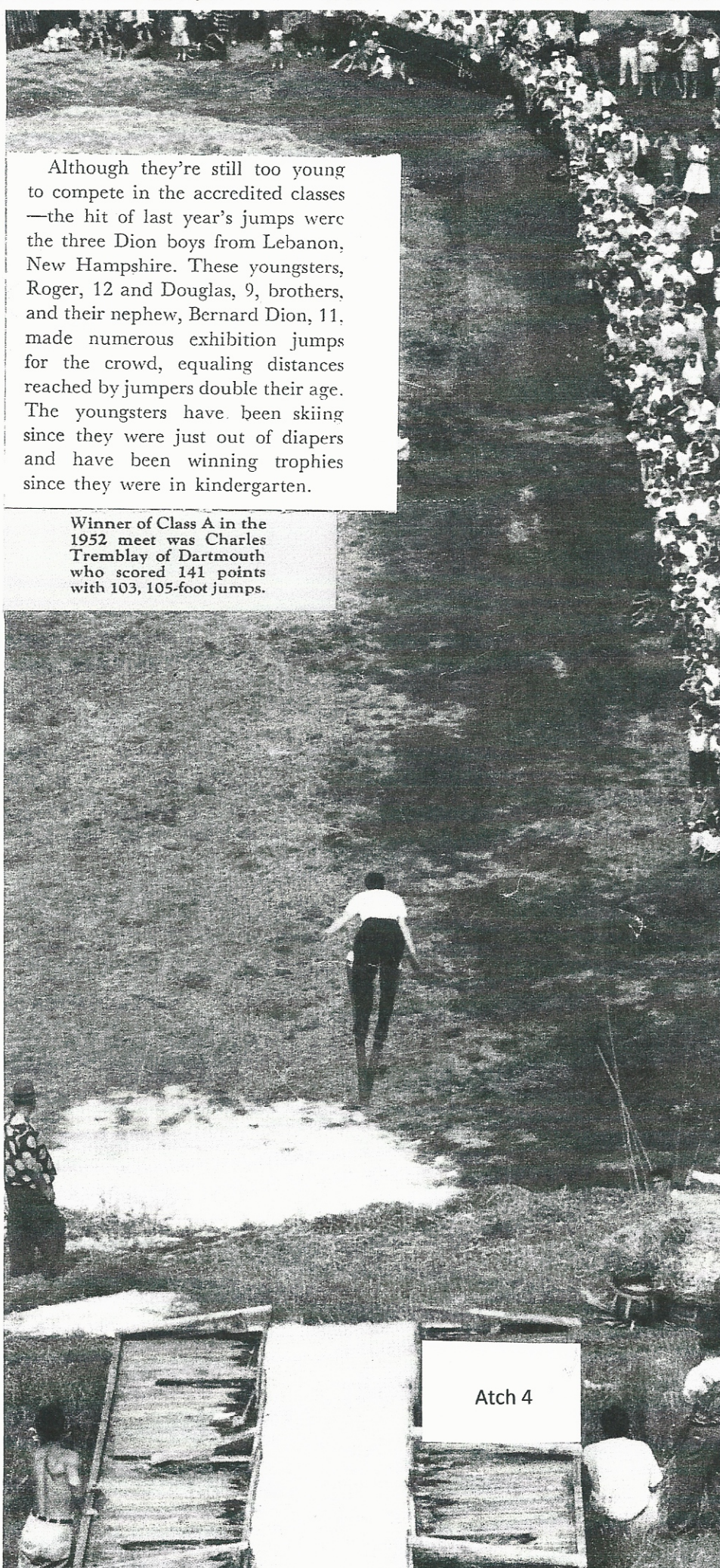


Contestants help get hill ready by packing down ice with skis. Jumps of 100 feet are not uncommon.



Starting early the day of the meet, workmen spread more than 70 tons of crushed ice on the hill slope.

All Photos By Dick Hanley



Although they're still too young to compete in the accredited classes—the hit of last year's jumps were the three Dion boys from Lebanon, New Hampshire. These youngsters, Roger, 12 and Douglas, 9, brothers, and their nephew, Bernard Dion, 11, made numerous exhibition jumps for the crowd, equaling distances reached by jumpers double their age. The youngsters have been skiing since they were just out of diapers and have been winning trophies since they were in kindergarten.

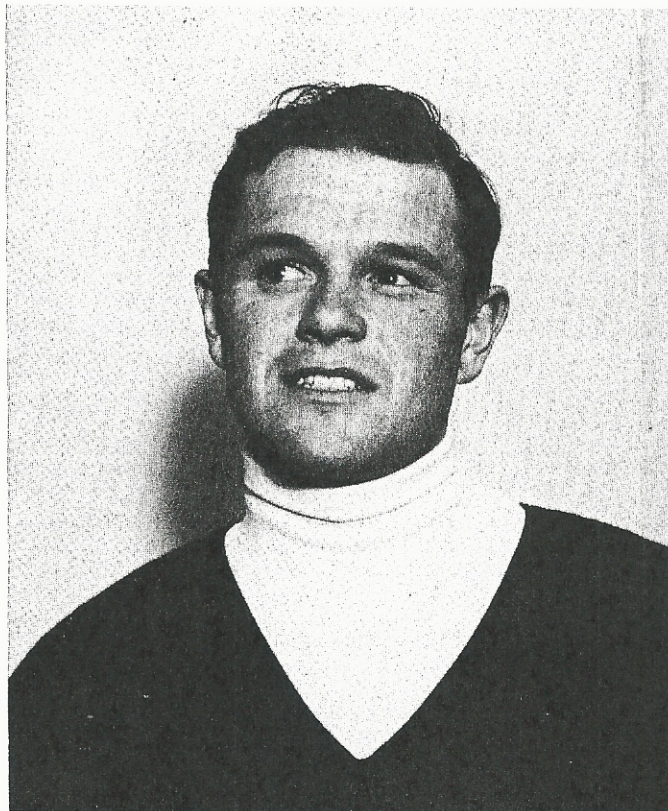
Winner of Class A in the 1952 meet was Charles Tremblay of Dartmouth who scored 141 points with 103, 105-foot jumps.

Atch 4

Wyoming's Ski Team

1964

This season the University of Wyoming's Ski Team participated in six ski meets including both regionals and the nationals. They began their season December 14, and 15 at Aspen. This meet was sponsored by Denver University and the Pokes came in third. On January 4 and 5 the ski team went to Steamboat Springs, Colorado and this time they took fourth place. Their third meet was in Gunnison, Colorado and the host was Western State; again they took fourth. The last meet before regionals was held at Winterpark, Colorado. Colorado University was the sponsor and for the third consecutive time the Cowboys came in fourth. Regionals began March 7, and coming up strong the Pokes took a third place which qualified them for the NCAA meet. DU took second place with Western State taking honors. An eight man team went to the NCAA meet held in Hanover, New Hampshire near Dartmouth College. These eight were: Larry Yeager, Larry Jeffries, Dennis Carruth, Jim Henderson, Doug Dion, Jim Guest, John Elliott, and Coach Ray Heid.



Coach Ray Heid

Outstanding performance this year was Jim Guest, a senior from Jackson, Wyoming, who also is the team captain. Jim took top individual honors at both the CU meet and at Regionals. Close behind Jim's performance came Doug Dion, also a senior. At a special meet held at Berlin, New Hampshire for the North American Jumping Championships, Doug placed second only to a member of the U.S. Olympic team.

The Cowboys' trip to the East to be in the NCAA meet proved to be very successful as they wound up with third place, the highest place a Wyoming Ski team has ever received. Participating in each event were: Jumping; Dion, Guest, and Elliott; cross country: Elliott, Guest, and Carruth; and downhill; Yeager, Jeffries, and Carruth.

Cowboys take third place at the NCAA meet



Front row, left to right: Jon Elliott, Steve Reid, Jim Henderson, Dennis Carruth, Doug Dion, Larry Jeffries. Back row: Asst. Coach Ole Skinner, Mike Kirol, Bob Jonas, Tim Armstrong, Jim Guest, Rex Schrogam, Larry Yager.

Denver Clings To Lead in NCAA Meet

WINTER PARK, Colo. (UPI) — Aarne Valkama of Denver edged Frithjof Prydz of Utah for the jumping title in the Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Ski Association championships Saturday to keep Denver firmly in the lead in the combined standings.

Valkama chalked up 220.2 points in the best two of his three jumps, compared to Prydz's 218.5. The Utah skier had the longest jump of the day, however, a 156-foot flight. Valkama's longest jump was 153 feet.

Prydz was pressed hard by Wyoming's Doug Dion, who scored 218.1 for third place.

With three of four events completed in the NCAA qualifying meet, defending NCAA champion Denver led with 284.40 points. Western State Colo. was second with 278.56, Colorado had 268.42, Wyoming 268.31, Utah 257.33, Air Force 233.46 and Colorado School of Mines 167.40.

SLALOM TODAY

Terry Peak Skiers Place High In Winter Carnival Sunday

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colo. (UPI)—Frithjof Prydz of the University of Utah scored a triple victory in the jumping events of the 51st annual Steamboat Springs winter carnival Sunday.

Prydz, a Norwegian, had jumps of 265 and 282 feet for 224.5 points in the senior competition. He won the Merrill Trophy for distance with 272 and 253 feet, and the C. R. Heid Memorial Trophy for form.

Eric Jansen of Denver University was second in the senior competition, and Jon Elliott and Doug Dion, both of Wyoming University, were third and fourth respectively.

The winter carnival events Sunday also included slalom and cross country for junior competitors.

Results:

Senior jumping: 1. Frithjof Prydz, Utah University, 265 and 282 ft., 224.5 points. 2. Eric Jansen, Denver U., 262, 258, 215.75. 3. Jon Elliott, Wyoming U., 253, 248, 199.5. 4. Doug Dion, Wyo., 251, 231, 199.3. 5. Olvind Skauerrud, Denver, 250, 232, 197.2.

Class B-1, senior jumping: 1. Jim Barrows, Colorado U., 205, 204, 186.2. 2. Art Cunningham, CU, 245, 226, 185.8. 3. Rex Scorgham, Wyo., 202, 190, 187.5. 4. Lasse Ottersen, Denver, 197, 177, 175.0. 5. Jim Mattson, Western State, 194, 180, 170.6.

Class B-2, senior jumping—1. Johannes Sollid, Colo., 141, 149, 106.5. 2. Jay Lewis, Denver, 131, 135, 179.2. 3. Jim Guest, Wyo., 141, 155.3, 170.7. 4. Spider Sabich, Colo., 121, 141, 147.1.

Junior cross country, Class 1 — 1. Bob Griffith, Durango, 25:50. 2. Aln Small, Durango 26:27. 3. Clark Matis, Durango, 26:36. 4. Greg Fryback, Durango, 26:36.

Junior cross - country Class 1 — 1. Paul Canatsey, Durango, 27:30. 2. Barney Yeager, Durango, 27:41. 3. Ted Thompson, unavailable, 28:29. 4. Bill Clay, Durango, 28:56.

Junior cross-country, Class 3 — 1. John Worde, Aspen, 12:23. 2. J.D. Browning, Durango, 13:18. 3. John MacIntyre, Aspen, 13:19. 4. Gordi Wren, Loveland Basin, 13:23.

(Continued on Page 8)

Valbo's 285-Foot Jump Wins

New C Hill Record Set

The weatherman was considerate Sunday for the 32nd annual ski jumping tournament by delaying the rainfall until evening. Instead the 4000 spectators were treated to a couple of hours of warm sunshine, followed by a cool breeze which developed for the A jumping competition.

The A hill was softened by the warming temperature. This, with a downward breeze which affected the air pressure, led to shorter jumps than had been experienced in practice.

Even at that, Per Valbo's winning jumps of 274 and 285 feet are

mighty respectable and thrilled the crowd. The hill record is only 26 feet further.

A new C hill record was set by Jim Steele in Sunday's competition when he jumped 153 feet on his third attempt. His first two jumps were 146 and 152. All classes of competition except A class were held on the C hill.

An American, Doug Dion from New Hampshire, barely nosed out University of Washington's Karl Blom for second place in class A.

Following are the complete results of Sunday afternoon's jumping events:

CLASS A

	1st	2nd	3rd	Pts
Per Valbo, U. of Washington	274	285	267	229.7
Doug Dion, Wyoming U.	263	249	278	219.5
Karl Blom, U. of Washington	272	269	261	219.3
Blorn Loken, U. of Utah	261	250	252	205.8
Oivind Skauerud, Denver U.	252	245	263	201.2
Jan Stenerud, Montana State	262	245	261	201.2
Rolf Prydz, U. of Idaho	246	240	261	198.3
Jim Hodgen, Leavenworth	212	208	230	168.1
Ragnar Ulland, Kongsbergers	215	208	200	160.3
Mark Ottey, Leavenworth	211	211	209	154.4
Clarence Ostella, Leavenworth	192	211	200	152.8
Wil Salmi, Kongsbergers	209	207	211	151.9
Arne Frilling, U. of Idaho	176	172	173	135.3
Dave Johansen, Vancouver, B.C.	186	185	185	125.2
Wade DeTillian, Leavenworth	202	189	189	112.9
Ivar Fredricksen, Vancouver, B.C.	200			

VETERANS CLASS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Pts
Wilmer Hampton, Wenatchee	119	131	139	216.0
Fritz Pederson, Kongsbergers	117	122	130	198.2
John Berg, Kongsbergers	108	120	105	181.9
Jim Skoog, Kongsbergers	106	119	113	172.0
Bob Neidner, Desert Ski Club	119	116	131	161.6
Dick Skoog, Kongsbergers	105	113	116	158.1

B CLASS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Pts
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Balfanz Wins Berlin

Olympic Star Leaps 201, 211, 224 Feet; Doug Dion Runnerup

By LEE COULOMBE

BERLIN—John Balfanz, former U. S. Olympic representative at Innsbruck and pre-meet favorite, took the North American Jumping Championship held here yesterday at the Berlin 80-meter ski jump. Balfanz amassed a total of 230.5 points.

Bill Bakke, a youngster from Wisconsin, took the Junior Class A title while Jimmy Speck of Dartmouth, won the Class B event with a total of 208.8. Bakke totaled 219.5.

Pete Langlois, 23-year-old Lebanon resident, who took honors Saturday managed only a seventh place with 195.3.

Balfanz jumped distances of 201, 211 and 224 feet. The latter distance was the longest jump of the day and far outmeasured any other.

Coming in second in the Class A event was Doug Dion, a student at the University of Wyoming. A Lebanon native, he garnered a total of 219.4. His distances were 202, 199 and 203.

Jacques Charland of Trois Rivières, Quebec, one of the most colorful of the jumpers, leaped distances of 187, 198 and 216. He totaled 215.6.

High school senior Bruce Jennings of Lebanon placed second in the Junior A with 217.2 while Jan Ulmer of Brattleboro, Vt., came in second in Class B with 199.1.

A crowd of more than 15,000 was on hand for the two-day events.

Results:

CLASS A

1. John Balfanz, Minneapolis, 230.5; 2. Doug Dion, Wyoming, 219.4; 3. Jacques Charland, Quebec, 215.6; 4. Jon Elliot, Wyoming, 207.8; 5. Ralph Sims, Massachusetts, 207.3; 6. Lief Bringslimark, Telemark, N.Y., 197.7; 7. Langlois, Bear Mountain, N. Y., 195.3; 8. Duke Schnieder, Bear Mountain, N. Y., 190.2; 9. Upham, Colorado, 188.7; 10. Robert

Rasmanmen, Nansen, 189.0; 11. Roy Sherwood, 182.2.

JUNIOR A

1. Bill Bakke, Wisconsin, 219.5; 2. Bruce Jennings, Lebanon, 217.2; 3. Peter Roberts, Hanover, 216.0; 4. Mike Mick-erig, Maine, 205.1; 5. Dave Norris, Hanover, 183.4; 6. Greg Cunningham, Chilsom Ski Club, 180.0; 7. Dave Jennings, Lebanon, 175.6; 8. Bob Powers, Brattleboro, 170.2; 9. Larry Gillis, Chilsom, 167.6; 10. Lance Costello, Nansen, 160.6.

CLASS B

1. Jim Speck, Dartmouth, 208.8; 2. Jan Ulmer, Brattleboro, 199.1; 3. Bill Purcell, Lebanon, 191.9; 4. Fred Henry, Dartmouth, 187.1; 5. Frank Barber, Dartmouth, 184.5; 6. Bob Roderick, Syracuse, N. Y., 181.7; 7. Bruce Folk, Bear Mountain, 179.8; 8. Eddie Ole son, St. Lawrence, 175.1; 9. Larry Hodgman, Nansen, 172.2; 10. Bruce Haskel, 164.9.

Ski Jumping

THE VALLEY NEWS SPORTS

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1964

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Doug Dion Places 2nd In Jumping Meet

BERLIN, N.H. (UPI) — John Balfanz of Minneapolis, fresh from the winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria, put together 80-meter jumps of 201, 211 and 224 feet Sunday to win the North American Ski jumping championships here. Balfanz compiled 230.5 points to win the Class A event.

Doug Dion, University of Wyoming and Lebanon made three jumps of 202, 199 and 203 feet for a

219.4 point total to take second place and Jacques Charlant of Trois Rivières, Que., was third with jumps of 187, 198 and 216 feet.

Placing seventh was Pete Langlois of Bear Mountain, N.Y., whose trial jump of 232 feet on Saturday set a new hill record.

Jim Speck of the Dartmouth Outing Club took Class B honors and Bill Bakke of Madison, Wis., won the Junior competition.