

## Harry J. Drennan



A Snowman of vibrant personality and knowledge, Harry J. Drennan came to Buck Hill Falls in 1918 from Hempstead, Long Island, New York to become Buck Hill's winter sports director. Before skiing became the popular winter sport, Harry Drennan started on a venture in 1928 which was to be one great importance to Buck Hill as a winter vacationland. It happened by chance when a guest asked to leave a litter of Husky puppies at the hotel until he could arrange transportation for them to Alaska. The guest did not contact the management again so Harry began to train these five pups and eventually drive them as a dogsled team.

During the next decade, the dogs increased to as many as 40 and became the pride of Buck Hills. Drennan drove his team and won the first dog sled race to be run in Central Park, New York. An era ended in Buck Hill when these beautiful Huskies join the Army in 1942.

With avid interest and participation, Drennan also saw the progress and popularity of skiing growth through the years. Buck Hill Falls was now one of the oldest winter sports resorts in the United States. Winter sports for enjoyed on the slopes during the winter of 1913-1914, by those who wanted skating, tobogganing, sledding and occasional skiing.

In the early 1920s, skis were long it has leather toe straps. You skied down the hill, took them off and carried them back up on your shoulders. Main highways were not cleared and people were carried to and from the Inn on sleigh buses carrying 22 people. In 1925 a number of pairs of skis were added with leather bindings and were put into rental use at a charge of \$.35. In the '30s skis had a spring type bindings and the charge increased to \$.50 and \$.75. In the early 1940s skiing grew and the demand for skis had grown. Three hundred pairs were added along with one hundred pairs of ski boots. The charge for a complete rental was now \$1.50.

In the mid 1930s, the first rope tow in PA was installed with no charge for its use. Later the price increased to \$.50 cents and later to \$2.50.

In order to guarantee the snow, the first snowmaker was installed in 1959. The rope tow continued until the first Poma Lift was installed in 1959 and the second in 1963. It gave Buck Hill an uphill capacity of 2000 skiers on 12 slopes for skiing and 300 for sledding.

Buck Hill was one of the first areas to include snowmobiling as a family sport and also the first to establish snowmobile racing in the Poconos.

Harry Drennan was recognized throughout the eastern resorts as the Dean of Winter Sports Directors. His colleagues in Pennsylvania elected him President of their Area Operators Association and he was in constant demand as an adviser to the state on matters of winter sports and winter promotions.