

## Albert Milo Dowden

Albert Dowden's love of skiing and his desire to promote winter sports and preserve its heritage were major forces behind his leadership in founding the Pennsylvania Ski and Winter Sports Museum and Hall of Fame. He was its first president.



Al's romance with skiing began at an early age on golf courses and "Bowman's" Hill in Washington Crossing State Park in his native Bucks County. He saw his first rope tow at Buck Hill Falls in the Poconos. At age 18 he made the first of many trips to Stowe, Vermont.

He joined the Army in 1943 and served with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division in 1943 and 1944. After World War II ended he spent several months as a recreational ski instructor at Fort Lewis, Washington.

He resumed his service-interrupted education and graduated from Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1949. Al took a job with Union Pacific as a desk clerk and accountant in the railroad's hotels in Sun Valley. Al studied (and skied) later at the University of Grenoble in France, before beginning a professional career in scientific and technical publishing-and a secondary career in real estate development in the Stroudsburg area.

During his business career Al participated in many civic and community activities, such as United Way, county hospital and library, Rotary Club and his church. He also devoted much time and energy to the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Association. A member for more than 25 years, he served as president of the association's Delaware Valley chapter. He was on the national board of directors for three years and was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, the organization's highest honor.

Over the years Al transmitted his love of skiing to others, encouraging them to ski locally, as well as in the American West, Europe and South America. He personally led groups to Argentine and Chile.

His dedication to winter sports is exemplified in exhibits of the museum in the main lodge of the Camelback Ski Area. Al is largely responsible for collecting the memorabilia and arranging the displays.

When he is not with his wife Nova at their new home in Austin, Texas, Al is often at Camelback working in the museum.

