

Alf Engen papers, 1915-1972

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Engen, Alf
Title	Alf Engen papers
Dates	1915-1972 (inclusive) 1915 1972
Quantity	16.5 linear feet
Collection Number	ACCN 1006
Summary	The Alf Engen papers (1915-1972) contain photocopied news clippings and mementos gathered by Alf Engen's mother concerning Engen's international Nordic and Alpine skiing careers. Alf Engen was a United States, Olympic, and world champion ski jumper who served as a consultant to the U.S. Army ski forces during World War II. He founded the Alf Engen Ski School at Alta, Utah. Click here to view digitized items from the collection.
Repository	University of Utah Libraries, Special Collections. Special Collections, J. Willard Marriott Library University of Utah 295 South 1500 East Salt Lake City, UT 84112-0860 Telephone: 801-581-8863 special@library.utah.edu
Access Restrictions	Twenty-four hour advanced notice encouraged. Materials must be used on-site. Access to parts of this collection may be restricted under provisions of state or federal law.
Languages	English

Historical Note

Engen was born in Mjondallen, Norway, the oldest of three boys. Their father died when Engen was nine years old. The boys learned to ski jump as youngsters, and became well known for their Nordic ability in their homeland. In 1929, at age twenty, Engen immigrated to the United States with his younger brother, Sverre. They settled in Chicago, where the two brothers joined the American-Norwegian Athletic Club to meet fellow Norwegians. Engen and several members of the club traveled to Westby, Wisconsin, to participate in a ski jumping meet. With his first jump in the Westby Nordic event, Engen broke the world's distance ski jump record, and was asked to join a group of professional jumpers that toured the North American Nordic circuit. In 1931, he settled permanently in Salt Lake City. His youngest brother, Kaare, and their mother, Martha, immigrated to the United States in 1933 and the three Engen brothers traveled the United States as professional jumpers, breaking Nordic records and gaining recognition wherever they went.

In 1937, Engen married Evelyn Pack, of Centerville, Utah, regained his amateur standing, and ranked among the top Nordic skiers in the world. During this time he worked for the United States Forest Service as a winter sports advisor, planning and developing ski areas in Utah, Nevada, Idaho, and

Wyoming. In 1938, Engen was invited to represent the Sun Valley Ski Club in Nordic jumping. While living in Idaho, he performed in several movies and newsreels, and taught himself how to Alpine ski. In 1940 Engen finished first in the National Four-way (jumping, cross country, slalom and downhill) held in Seattle, Washington. He was an international figure in the ski world, having won some five hundred trophies and medals in events around the world. His first son, Alan was born in 1940 (and became an outstanding skier during the 1960s, see box 4, folders 15-20). During World War II, Engen served in the Quartermasters Corp of the United States Army at Ogden, Utah. He worked as a consultant in snow and avalanche conditions and a technician in winter warfare clothing and equipment.

After the war Engen established the Alf Engen Ski School at Alta, Utah, and became director of the Deseret News and Telegram Free Ski School. In 1948, Engen and Walter Prager were co-coaches for the United States Olympic ski team. Jon, Engen's second son, was born in 1951. Engen was inducted into the United States Ski Hall of Fame in Ishpeming, Michigan, in 1956. He continued as head of the Alf Engen Ski School in Alta until his retirement in 1989. The Deseret Ski School continued as a yearly tradition, with Engen as its director until the late 1970s.

Content Description

The Alf Engen papers (1915-1972) contain photocopied news clippings and mementos gathered by Alf Engen's mother concerning Engen's international Nordic and Alpine skiing careers. Some correspondence and certificates are also included. There are nine scrapbooks in the collection that cover his athletic career in his native Norway, as a champion soccer player and ski jumper, and as a United States, Olympic, and world champion ski jumper. The material within each scrapbook is organized chronologically, though several of the books overlap the same time period and are similar in content. [Some items from the collection have been digitized and are available online.](#)

Use of the Collection

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Preferred Citation

Collection Name, Collection Number, Box Number, Folder Number. Special Collections, J. Willard Marriott Library, The University of Utah.

Administrative Information

Related Materials

The Manuscripts Division also holds the Corey (Kaare) Engen (ACCN 1401) and Alan Engen (ACCN 1601) papers.

Separated Materials

Alf Engen papers, 1915-1972
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv43640>

Audio-visual items were transferred to the Multimedia Division of Special Collections (A0391). One map folder containing maps and a poster is located in the Manuscripts Division map case.

Acquisition Information

Boxes 1-5 were donated by Alf Engen in 1988 (12.5 linear feet).

Folder 27 of box 5 was donated by Darrell Barnes on an unknown date.

Alan K. Engen donated boxes 6-9 in 2005 (3.25 linear feet).

Processing Note

Processed by Jane Chesley in 1997.

Processed by Lisa DeMille in 2004.

Processed by Samuel Passey in 2005.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Scrapbook, Correspondence, and Certificates

Container(s)		Description	Dates
Box	Folder		
1	1-14	Scrapbook A	1915-1938
1	15-20	Scrapbook B	1931-1972
2	1-13	Scrapbook C	1931-1941
2	14-26	Scrapbook D	1937-1951
3		Scrapbook E	1934-1951
	Folder		
4	1-8	Scrapbook F	1933-1949
4	9-14	Scrapbook G	1941-1949
4	15-20	Scrapbook H Contains news clippings and records of Alan Engen's ski career in Alpine and Nordic skiing.	1942-1966

Container(s)	Description	Dates	
5	1-26	Scrapbook I	1933-1934
5	27	Correspondence and Certificates	1915-1947
6		Ski Jumping Scrapbook	1927-1930
7		Ski Jumping Scrapbook	1930-1939
8		Ski Jumping Scrapbook Includes 1 bar of Alf Engen Gold ski wax in original box.	1940-1949
	Folder		
9	1	"I.O.G.T." Diploma	1925
9	2	Alf Engen's Alta Ski School School Host Badge	
9	3	Articles about Ski Jumping	1940s
9	4	"Why Cross-country?" Article by Alf Engen	
9	5	National Ski Association of America Newsletter	1939-1941
9	6	Southern California Jumping Frog Chamionship Certificate	1964
9	7	Colorado Governor's Cup Invitational	1986
9	8	Proposed Winter Carnival Information	1962
9	9	Incoming Correspondence Incoming Correspondence arranged by date. Includes in this folder are letters from Ed Vendell; Intermountain Ski Association; Earl E. Garrity; Wolfgang Lert; S. J. Quinney; Frank Brickley; Hannes Marker; multiple letters from the North American Ski Instructors' Congress; Eugene A. Rose; Hunter Harris Jr.; Betty Braun; Anthony A. Angarano; Burton H. Boyum; W. Val Oveson; Jack R. Baldwin; Marianne Cone; Murray A. Bywater; Al & Val Pokorny and Trey & Logon Oxford; Norma Hovik Hesse; and Doug Pfeiffer.	1946-1996

Container(s)	Description	Dates
9 10	Letter from Alf Engen to the Board of Directors of the Alf Engen Ski Museum Foundation suggesting a site for the museum	1996
10	1-13 Correspondence	1948-1965
11	1-2 Correspondence	1976
11	3 World Progress	1933
11	4 Notes and Receipts	
11	5 Clippings	

Names and Subjects

Personal Names :

Engen, Corey
Engen, Sverre

Geographical Names :

Alta (Utah)--History--Sources
Ecker Hill (Utah)--History--Sources

Form or Genre Terms :

Scrapbooks

Finding aid prepared by Jane Chesley, Taylor Ouimette and Betsey Welland
1997 (last modified: 2014 and 2019)



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