



E.O. “BUCK” ERICKSON

“Buck” was the publicity director for the Pine Mountain Ski Jumping Tournament, Iron Mountain, MI, since its inaugural competition in 1939. This ski slide was recognized for years as the highest artificial ski scaffold in the world. He became known as “Mr. Pine Mountain” and is credited with putting this event on the international ski jumping map.

For 36 years, Buck tirelessly promoted this tournament classic and is responsible for bringing the first foreign ski jumping competitors to the United States. In Buck’s world, local, national, and foreign ski jumpers were celebrities. He wrote one colorful story after another, focusing the attention of the American public on the elite status of the athletes who competed in this unique arena.

Buck was known as “a newspaperman’s newspaperman” and in that capacity encouraged media from across the country to cover and publicize the tournaments and jumpers at Pine Mountain. As a result of his efforts, for years the Pine Mountain Ski Jumping Classic attracted the largest media coverage of any competition in the United States. Many members of the media lauded Buck for “his years of dedication to advancing ski jumping in North America.”

In 1974, Buck was elected to the National Ski Hall of Fame in Ishpeming, MI, in honor of “his tremendous contribution to the growth of the ski sport.” He also received numerous national and international citations and awards for his commitment to championing ski jumping.