



## **John Steele Collection**

**NUMBER:** 05-489-1

**TITLE:** John Steele collection

**CREATOR:** John Steele, 1909-1996

**DATES:** 1994

**MEDIA:** Papers, scrapbooks

**LOCATION:** Collection House, Kitchen, Left Wall, Section 2, Shelf 1

**ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:** Collection is open for Research and Use. Permission to publish material must be obtained from Tread of Pioneers Museum, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

**PREFERRED CITATION:** Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: The John Steele collection: Tread of Pioneers Museum, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

**ACQUISITION INFORMATION:** The John Steele collection was donated to the Tread of Pioneers Museum from J.Steele.

**PROCESSING INFORMATION:** The processing, arrangement, and description of the collection was completed in 2005 by curator Kelly Bastone.

### **BIOGRAPHY:**

John Steele was born in Minneapolis in 1909. He moved to Steamboat in 1918. When he was nine years old, he put on his first pair of skis. In 1924 he took the title for "amateur boys under 14" in Hot Sulpher Springs. Steele attended Steamboat Springs High School, where he lettered for three years in football, baseball and track. He was also all-conference in basketball and football. After high school, he turned down a scholarship for skiing at Dartmouth to attend Denver University on a football scholarship in 1927. Steele promoted skiing for the National Park Service for two summers. In 1931 he organized a summer jumping tournament in Estes Park which was attended by more than 10,000 people. He also designed a 45-foot jumping scaffold with an outrun lined in soap-covered canvas, off of which he jumped into a lake in August of 1931. His antics caught the attention of "Ripley's Believe It Or Not," where he was featured with Glen Armstrong skiing down Estes Park's Elkhorn Avenue with jumping skis mounted on roller skates. Fox Movie-Tone also filmed Steele jumping over tourists' buses on Trail Ridge Road. By competing in the 1932 games at Lake Placid, Steele became Steamboat's first Olympian. His many accomplishments include 27 silver cups and 20 medals in his 30-year jumping career. Steele founded (and was the first president of) Denver University's Pioneer Ski Club. He was also the organizer and winner of the first National Intercollegiate Ski Tournament at Genesee Mountain in 1929. Steele was the Grand Marshal of the Steamboat Winter Carnival in 1978 and was inducted into the Colorado Ski Hall of Fame in 1983. Steele passed away in 1996.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF COLLECTION:**

The collection is comprised of skiing scrapbooks assembled by John Steele, as well as stories, recollections, and personal histories written by him, some apparently intended for publication.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION:**

The John Steele Collection is organized by document type.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>File Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Manuscript, "Steamboat Springs, Colorado...Ski Town U.S.A.	
	2	Manuscript, "Cabin Fever"	1994
	3	"Skiing Record of John Dwight Steele"	
	4	"Skiing Record" (copy 2)	
	5	Manuscript, "A Day to Remember"	1994
	6	Manuscript fragments	
	7	Correspondence concerning mail carrier positions	1951
	8	Western Amateur Ski Association club information, mtg. Minutes	1934
	9	Blegan's rules and suggestions for prospective Olympians' ski training	1932
	10	Lake Placid Olympic programs, Feb. 4-13 (removed from scrapbook#5)	1932
2		Scrapbook: Estes Park, Olympic items (including cards, telegrams, Placid mementos)	1932
3		Scrapbook: "1 <sup>st</sup> Book" Dillon Classic, D.U., Canton Classic, Olympic Tour	1927-1932
4		Scrapbook: Estes Park, News, ticket stubs, ski club/winter carnival mementos	1932-1980
5		Scrapbook: skiing news clippings, hall of fame clippings	