



Photo courtesy of NEW ENGLAND SKI MUSEUM COLLECTION

The first giant slalom race in the United States was in Tuckerman's Ravine on April 4, 1937. Dick Durrance changed the course at the last minute to the right gully due to recent avalanche activity as seen in the two paths that appear at center.

Rich History

N.H. the birthplace of American skiing – an unbroken lineage of Olympians

"Snow helps strip away the things that don't matter. It leaves us thinking of little else but the greatness of nature, the place of our souls within it, and the dazzling whiteness that lies ahead." – Charlie English

The Opening Ceremonies for the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics in South Korea will take place Friday evening – and the drama begins! The Winter Olympics are far more exciting, because of the speed and danger of winter sports and also because the Winter Games are staged on the cliffs and palisades of the most beautiful mountainsides on earth.

Many people may not realize that New Hampshire is the birthplace and cradle of American skiing and boasts a long connection to the Winter Olympics. Every aspect of American skiing was invented and cultivated here in the Granite State – in Berlin, Sugar Hill and Hanover, home of Dartmouth College – where my father grew up immersed in skiing at a time when it was just coming of age.

Dartmouth can boast a long, unbroken lineage of Olympi-



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ans since John Carleton, '22, competed in cross-country in the first Winter Games in Chamonix, France, in 1924 – as "downhill" skiing had not yet been invented.

I grew up with magical stories about the invention of the sport through my dad who ate, slept and breathed skiing as he lived next door to, worshipped and skied with the two American-born Dartmouth Olympians who competed in the 1936 Winter Olympics in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany – Warren Chivers, '38 and Richard "Dick" Durrance, '39.



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The Richard Taft Racing Trail at Cannon Mountain – the first downhill skill trail in the country cut specifically for skiing. The first ski trails were treacherously narrow. The Taft became a favorite because of its width and pitch.

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