



OUR MISSION

Celebrate Colorado snow sports by telling stories that inspire others to seek adventure.

MUSEUMS MATTER!

We rely heavily on the generosity of individual and corporate support to keep the museum free of charge and accessible to all.

Support the Colorado Snowsports Museum by becoming an annual member or make a one-time tribute gift to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion.

Please visit www.snowsportsmuseum.org for more information or call 970-476-1876.

CONTACT US

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100 Years of Ski Fashion and
Function featuring:

The Ski Couture of

ANN BONFOEY TAYLOR

Vail's Original Grand Dame

Generously underwritten by the Family
of Ann & Vernon Taylor Jr.



The Ski Couture of Vail's Original Grand Dame:

ANN BONFOEY TAYLOR

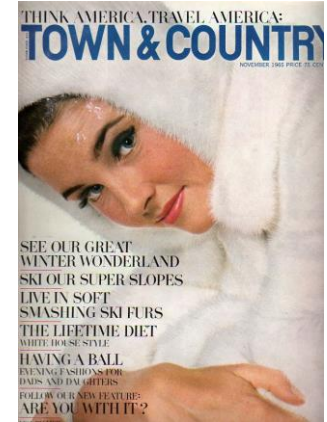


The Colorado Snowsports Museum was a 2018 National Endowment for the Humanities grant recipient. As a result of this funding, the Museum was able to rehouse its entire clothing and accessory collection, leading to the rediscovery of the Ann Bonfoey Taylor items currently on display. This exhibit pays tribute to Vail's original grand dame and fashion icon.

Fashion is one of the best expressions of art because it is art lived on a daily basis. Ann never intended for her clothes to be put on display in museums. Her collection was important to her and tailored for the activities she enjoyed daily. Through her remarkable collection, we are able to learn more about Ann's life and her many accomplishments. Her story is an inspiration and is celebrated in this display.

To Her Legacy...

In 1967, Ann was selected as one of Harper's Bazaar's One Hundred Great Beauties of the World. She was featured in publications like Harper's, Town and Country and Vogue from the 1930s to the 1970s and posed for well-known photographers like Slim Aarons, Louise Dahl-Wolfe, Toni Frissell, Bob Richardson, and Edward Steichen. From the postwar era through the 1970s, Ann assembled a couture wardrobe by the most talented designers, including Balenciaga, Fortuny, James Galanos, Madame Gres, and Charles James.



Ann and Vernon skied and entertained in their chalet in Vail until her ninth decade and moved back to Denver in 2005. She passed away in 2007. Ann Taylor carried herself like royalty because, in Vail, that's precisely what she was.

Ann Bonfoey Taylor was inducted into the Colorado Snowsports Hall of Fame in 2009. We invite you to discover more about Ann on the Museum's interactive Hall of Fame touchscreen monitor. In addition, the Museum Gift Shop also carries copies of the Phoenix Art Museum's Fashion Independent—The Original Style of Ann Bonfoey Taylor.



To Entertaining...

As one of the founders of Vail in 1963, Vernon and Ann built one of the first ski chalets in the new town. Ann used her iconic style and her connections in New York and abroad to put Vail on the map. The Taylors quickly became known for their entertaining and hospitality. Ann was renowned for her attention to detail and proper etiquette.



When remembering Ann, Sheika Gramshammer explains: *“She brought high society, the blue book from New York and Europe, to Vail; and for them she opened up the mountain and hired instructors to go skiing with them. She really showed off Vail very well. People would go back to Europe, and they’d be talking about the new Vail.”*

Ann Bonfoey Taylor lived an extraordinary life...

Ann Bonfoey Taylor was born in 1910 in Ardmore, Pennsylvania to a wealthy family that owned Putnam Dyes, a pharmaceutical and dye manufacturing company. From an early age, Ann was extraordinary. When she was six years old her father introduced her to flying in an open cockpit bi-plane and, when she was 12, he hired an instructor to teach her to fly.



At 18, Ann moved to Vermont, took up skiing, and acquired the nickname “nose dive Annie”. After graduating from a prestigious boarding school in upstate New York, where she embraced athletics and excelled in

everything from tennis to dressage, Ann Bonfoey married Princeton undergraduate James Cooke. Ever the sportswoman, Ann enjoyed fox and coyote hunting, horse jumping, and shooting.

From Skiing...

In 1940, Ann was named as an alternate to the U.S. Olympic Ski Team but, due to the onset of World War II, the Games were ultimately cancelled. Ann and James divorced shortly thereafter.



To Flying...

"I had to survive, I had no choice" – Ann Bonfoey Taylor



In order to support herself and her children, Ann turned to her skill of flying. In 1941 she enrolled as an aviation major at the University of Vermont and quickly earned her wings as a commercial flight instructor--one of just twenty-five women so qualified in the country at the time. During World War II, she became a flight instructor for Army and Navy pilots.

To Fashion...

Following the war, Ann launched her own clothing label—Ann Cooke—a line of distinctive homemade skiwear and innovations that included the first fanny pack. She sold distribution rights to Lord & Taylor, which featured her clothing in window displays on Fifth Avenue in New York City and in twenty other stores.



To the Grand Dame of Vail...

In 1947, she married Vernon "Moose" Taylor, the love of her life. To be closer to the mountains, the new couple relocated to Denver in 1951. No longer designing clothes herself, Ann became a collector, amassing 4,500 pieces from many of the world's greatest fashion houses. She also had a more elaborate set of costumes for skiing, which she accessorized with military influence and any other cultural or regional accoutrement that caught her fancy.