

## Doug McLaren

Doug McLaren was born in 1923. After high school he also joined the Tenth Mountain Division. He was stationed at Camp Hale and then Texas's Camp Swift. In 1944 Doug saw combat on Italy's Riva Ridge. He captured a troop of German soldiers single-handedly, earning him the Bronze Star for heroic service. After the war he worked for the Strategic Air Command, teaching air crews ground survival, climbing and ironically how to poach wildlife to avoid starving. During 1947 & 48 Doug attended Western State College in Gunnison and from 1949 – 51 he attended Colorado A & M in Fort Collins, studying forest recreation. He was on the Western State College Ski Team. He first worked in Rocky Mountain as a "junior" fire guard and winter snow plow operator from 1948 - 1950. In 1952 Doug began his career as a permanent ranger in Grand Teton National Park and remained there until his retirement 35 years later. He worked in search and rescue and became a leader in American mountain rescue. He headed the Jenny Lake mountain rescue team for 15 years. Doug designed the still used climbing registration system and then went on to co-author the first mountain rescue book, *Mountain Search and Rescue Operations*. Doug was active in the National Ski Patrol for 30 years and named National Ski Patroller of the Year in 1987, the same year he retired after serving 40 years with the Park Service. Following retirement he reported to work at the Maintenance Shop in Moose as a volunteer and provided valuable service through 2003. Doug died on May 2, 2004.

