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## MOUNTAIN RESCUER OME DAIBER DIES

Ome DAIBER, "Mister Mountain Rescue" and inventor of climbing and hiking products, died Sunday in Kirkland's Evergreen Vista Nursing Home after a long illness and complications from diabetes.

He was 81.

In 1948 Mr. Daiber, Dr. Otto Trott of Seattle and Wolf Bauer founded the Mountain Rescue Council. Trott said the council was started after Bauer showed them a film of a mountain rescue in Austria, adding "At that time, by comparison, we were a century behind, had nothing to compare with it."

"DAIBER was the organizer of the big rescues," Trott said, "was really the man who got to respond, made the telephone calls to spread the word rescue people were needed. He refined the mountain rescue system, and continued to do this even after 1985, when he was bedridden after both legs were amputated."

Nobody ever counted the people DAIBER rescued from the mountains.

Born in Seattle, Mr. Daiber went to West Seattle High School and developed his interest in mountaineering through Scouting. By age 21 he was a scoutmaster, recalled Ludie Christofero, former executive of the Chief Seattle Council and national director of outdoor programs for the National Boy Scout Council.

"He more than anybody else is responsible for the safety factors drilled into kids who went into the mountains and hills," Christofero said. "A few years back when we revived mountain hiking in this area, Ome was the chief adviser and developed the program and safety features."

During a 1936 rescue attempt, a boulder crushed Daiber's foot. The accident meant he was classified 4-F during World War II, so he served as an adviser to the military on cold weather clothing and tactics.

A building contractor by profession, he opened the Hike Shack in 1931 in downtown Seattle and it specialized in outdoor equipment. Five years later, he formed Ome DAIBER Inc., which developed such equipment.

In his career, Mr. Daiber ran a Boy Scout supply outlet in the Bon Marche, and did mapping and surveying for National Geographic, the U.S. Geological Survey and Phillips Petroleum in the Yukon Territory and Alaska's North Slope.

He received numerous awards for helping mankind, the last a 1985 Jefferson Award for exemplary service. He gave mountain safety lectures all over the United States but limited his climbing activities to the West Coast, Canada, the Tetons and Alaska.

Mr. Daiber's first wife, Elizabeth Jacobsen DAIBER, died in 1938 in a Lake Union float plane wreck. Two years later, he married Matie Johnson of Spokane.

Survivors include his wife, Matie DAIBER of Bothell, daughters Joanne DAIBER Warsinske of Kirkland and Gretchen DAIBER of Seattle, and three grandchildren.