

#151
Clarence "Coy" Hill

Born: 1927



Clarence "Coy" Hill has a long and distinguished record of outstanding ski jumping accomplishments on the national and international ski scene. He began jumping at the age of 4 and continued to the age of 46.

As a ski jumping athlete, Coy has a long and distinguished record of outstanding accomplishments that are local, national, and international in scope. Before the age of ten, Coy began his competitive career at local hills in Ishpeming, MI, and was consistently the long jumper in most tournaments, as well as an outstanding stylist of that period. As the years progressed and Coy worked his way up through the junior ranks to become a member of the senior club at Ishpeming, he developed into one of this country's outstanding ski jumpers, competing in many tournaments throughout the Central Division and other areas of the U.S., East and West. Some of his most notable victories and accomplishments follow:

- U.S. National Class "A" Champion, 1952, Salisbury, Connecticut, new hill record, 203 feet
- 2nd and 3rd in Class "A" National Championships several times
- Central U.S. Ski Association Champion, 1953, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin
- South Rocky Mountain Ski Association Champion, 1956, Steamboat Springs, Colorado
- Overall champion of 2-week competition at Los Angeles County Fair, September, 1952, at Pomona, California; winner of champion's trophy each week and had the longest jump of the competition which included two exhibitions per day – against seven U.S. Olympic jumpers and Olympic alternates
- Wisconsin Open Champion, 1955, Westby, Wisconsin
- Michigan Open Champion, 1956, Ishpeming, Michigan
- Alternate on 1956 Olympic Jumping Team
- National Veterans' Champion, 1964, Ishpeming, Michigan, and Co-National Veterans' Champion, 1970, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Coy also competed internationally and made a significant mark overseas as well. His outstanding performances in Europe include being a member of a 3-man team to Austria, 1953, guests of Austrian Ski Association; placed 13th (9th and 16th) in 2-day meet at Kulm's Ski Flying Hill, where he jumped 325 feet; placed 8th at Seefeld, Austria, where he had the two longest jumps; and placed 5th at Obersdorf, Germany, where he had the 2nd longest jumps.

As a ski athlete, Coy Hill is a worthwhile example of what the ski jumping sport is all about. He has lifetime memberships in the Central Coaches Association, the United States Ski Association for coaching, and the Ishpeming Ski Club.

As a skisport builder, Coy is also a prime example of unswerving dedication and devotion. His tireless physical efforts, year after year, on his own, "Suicide Hill," as well as his willingness to lend his physical talents and his ski jumping and ski-hill-building expertise are a source of motivation and inspiration to all members of the ski-jumping world that have had the privilege of knowing Coy and working with him. It is his vast knowledge of the jumping sport that has earned him this great respect. His intense interest in the progress and development of young jumpers is probably one of the greatest satisfactions in his everyday life.

Clarence "Coy" Hill was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1974.

