



*Cal Conniff, President  
National Ski Areas Association  
March 1989*

#277

## Calvert "Cal" Conniff

Born: 1930

Information taken from a nomination letter to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame written by Kathe Dillmann, NSAA, in 1990.

*Cal Conniff has been involved in countless projects for the betterment of the sport of skiing and the industry. Many of these have been in the areas of ski safety, risk management, skier education, ski lift standards, public lands issues, the Gold Pass program that has raised several million dollars for the U.S. Ski Team, and much, much, more.*

Cal Conniff grew up in Vermont and began skiing when he was six years old. His early skiing days were at Woodstock, Vermont, on Gilbert's Hill, site of the first rope tow in America.

Cal, a skier in high school, was captain of his high school ski team and competed extensively in sanctioned events throughout the northeast. At American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts, he was captain of the ski team and won the coveted "Ski Meister" title in the New England Intercollegiate Ski Conference. Conniff was president of the college ski club and taught the members how to ski afternoons after classes. Cal organized and sponsored John Jay and Warren Miller ski movies to raise money for the ski team and club trips.

His college days were interrupted when he served a three year hitch in the army during the Korean War. He drew an assignment at Garmisch, Germany, and worked as a National Ski Patrolman for two

seasons. While in Germany, he won the four-way combined championships for the Armed Forces in Europe.

Cal came back to American International College, graduating in 1958, with a BA in economics. He then went to work as a local TV personality, where he produced and hosted a TV show in prime time known as SKIERS CORNER. He interviewed well-known skiing personalities, showed films covering regional and national races, gave ski pointers about the sport, and the latest ski reports for New England.

After three years in the TV business, he moved into ski area management as vice-president and general manager of Mt. Tom in Holyoke, Massachusetts. He spent 14 years at Mt. Tom, during which time he operated one of the largest snowmaking systems in the country and introduced tens of thousands of students to the sport through physical education learn-to-ski programs.

Cal became interested in ski industry affairs and left Mt. Tom in 1973 to accept the position as president and executive director of the National Ski Areas Association. For the next 17 years, he took the N.S.A.A. from a fledging organization to a highly respected organization with members in 38 states. Cal retired from the N.S.A.A. in 1990, ending 33 years in the ski industry.

Conniff is married and the father of three active adult skiers. He and his wife, Barbara, reside in Long Meadow, Massachusetts.

Calvin "Cal" Conniff was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1990.