

Chris Perry
Interviewing Coy Hill

ME When And where were you born

Coy I was born in negunee Michigan

ME what year

Coy 1921, April

ME where did you live

Coy in negunee

ME on what road or wherever

Coy Conty road, negunee

ME Okay, how many brothers and sisters were in your family

Coy Ooo, I had six brothers and four sisters

ME ~~was~~ what did your father do for a living

Coy my father was a logger

ME what kinds of jobs did you have at home

Coy whatever my mother gave me to do

ME like

Coy I used to help wash the dishes, haul in wood, ^(pause) what
Ever she wanted me to do

ME Shovel snow and stuff

Coy Shovel, you better believe it, and I loved it

ME "laughing" Did you like to work

Coy no, no, I wanted to play but I had to do my chores first

ME "Laughing" OK

Coy Chores came first

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Coy Hill

Coy I was an athlete, but I still had to do my chores first

me where did you go to school

Coy Negunee

me what school

Coy negunee High school

me Did you have any favorite teachers or subjects

Coy Ooo, I had alot of favorite teachers, there was good teachers and bad teachers

me Can you remember some good ones

Coy Ooo, you better believe it, I don't want to mention there names

me "laughing" OK, what did you do at lunch time

Coy Well if I had time to play, I'd be out there playing I was getting ready for ski-jumping, I loved ski-jumping

me what did you do when you got home from school

Coy I went ski-jumping every night, after I did my chores

me Did you ski-jump in your spare time to

Coy you better believe it and I loved it

me how did you get into ski-jumping

Coy well my cousins were ski-jumping, the most famous family in america

me which were

Coy the Bietila family, And my brothers were all good

me most of your family ski-jumped

Coy O yes

me Did your Dad

Coy No, my Father was a logger

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Me He didn't have time for it

Coy No he was busy trying to make a living for us

Me Did your brothers and sisters ski jump

Coy O, yes

Me Sisters

Coy One sister did too

Me ~~was~~ YA

Coy She was very good

Me What was the first ski hill you jumped

Coy Well, I won my first tournament in Marquette, Michigan in nineteen hundred and forty at Chipmunk Bluff, the first tournament I ever entered, I won it

Me That's good

Me What kind of equipment did you use

Coy Well, I probably had the best equipment in the City of Marquette at the time

Me Like the bindings and boots and stuff

Coy Well the bindings were best, I had back straps that were better than most of them

Me What kind of skis

Coy They were a Northland ski

Me Where were they made

Coy In St. Paul, Minnesota

Me Um, did you have to wax your skis

Coy O sure you always have to wax your skis

Me With what kind of wax

Coy Well, mostly with paraffine wax, but you had to know how to wax them for the cold weather, or the warm weather, if the weather was warm, you waxed with a heavier coat of wax, if the weather was cold you waxed with the space waxing, you left a space between so you eliminate the traction and friction of the ski

me: Where you scared when you first sk jumped

Coy: Sure, the man that says he's not afraid is a liar
Everybody's afraid, there's fear in every man

me: What does it feel like to fly through the air

Coy: Oooo, it's beautiful you can't explain it, the sight of a snow flake used
to tickle my heart, when I was your age, when I was 18, 17, 16 years old
And I saw a snowflake in the fall of the year, ah (pause) to this day I'm getting
old but I can't express the feeling I had I wanted to fly through the air
on a pair of skis, it just was touching

me: Did you ever travel out of the country for ski jumping

Coy: O yes

me: Where did you go

Coy: I skied in Austria, Germany, Switzerland

me: Where they tournaments

Coy: Ski flying on the big hills

me: Did you win a lot of those tournaments

Coy: I didn't win them over there but I skied right with the best in the world

me: I was the American Champion

me: How many times

Coy: Once I won the gold, silver and the bronze, first, second and third in America
the best class

me: Where you ever in the Olympics

Coy: No I never made the Olympic team, I made two Olympic teams but the
structure of the sport kept me out of it

me: What was the furthest you ever jumped

Coy: 328 feet

me: Where was that

Coy: in Austria

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Me was that ski flying or jumping
Coy that was ski flying I was the first man from the mid American states
to go ski flying in Europe

Me Is that some kind of record

Coy No its not a record, but its an honor to have

Me has ski-jumping changed at all

Coy Yes its the Aerodynamics like airplanes

Me whats different about it no

Coy Well, your ski equipment is better your skis And better you have an air suit
And a crash helmet

Me Did you wear an air suit and a crash helmet when you ski-jumped

Coy we didnt have them

Me Did you ever get hurt

Coy Oyes, broke my Ankle, had two Brain Concussions

Me And you still involved in skiing

Coy Oyes very much so

Me what do you do for skiers now

Coy I am a central ski coach, I am technical delegate in America
And in Authority ~~at~~ ^{at} ski jumps in America

Me Do you groom hills And stuff

Coy I groom the hills, I build them, I can redesign them

Me ~~who~~ ^{who} Do you work with

Coy I work with the U.S.S.A Ski Association to keep skiing alive in
America

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me Have you met alot of famous people doing that

Coy Yes very well, today I spent the day with a world champion
Ski Flyer All Day, working on our hill, for a training camp
here

me What was his name

Coy Walter Steiner from Switzerland

me how did you qualify to be in the National Ski hall of Fame

Coy well, through different categories through my record in ski jumping
And also, as being a builder of the sport

me Did you ^{ever} jump suicide hill.

Coy I rebuilt the hill, I built the hill, I also won four tournaments on the hill

me how old is that hill

Coy that hill is 61 years old its one year older than ~~I~~ I Am

me And it was redesigned

Coy redesigned many times

me When was the ~~last~~ last time it was redesigned, because I think my Dad helped you
with it

Coy Your Dad And I, worked on the Intermediate hill redesigning that
And your Uncles And your Dad helped redesigning the big hill that
was in 1972

me how do you ~~rebuild~~ ^{rebuilt} A hill

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Coy Well, we redesigned the whole thing, we had to tear down the old structure down, ^{pause} And we put all new steel up

Mr what About the Landing

Coy The landing, you had to recurve all that

Mr Is it important how it's designed

Coy Oooo, it very important

Mr in what ways

Coy in every way, its aerodynamics, like airplanes, one time you flew with a double airplane or a triple airplane now you got your aerodynamics, like in ski-jumping when I was a hotshot jump 250 feet now they do the same thing and jump 300 feet at suicide right now, with the same speed, because of the better equipment

Mr how fast do you get going

Coy 55 miles per hour

Mr kind of fast is there anything else you'd like to say about ski-jumping

Coy its a wonderful sport

Mr how many national championships have you won

Coy Well I was the national champion in 1952 and I was the Silver Medal winner in 1954 and the Bronze medal winner in 1955, I won the gold silver and the Bronze in four different years and I could of won it in all four of them, it was that close that was Class A in the Veterans class ~~and~~ I was 19, I was the veterans class winner in 1964 and 1970

Mr Do you still ski-jump once in a while now

Coy No I don't I haven't ski jumped in 14 years, but I still think about it every day Once you fly through the air you never ~~do~~ forget the feeling

Mr kind of in your blood

Coy Its in your life if you did it like I did ^{pause} to Be a winner in any sport you chose you've got to love it I walk down the street I saw a snowflake would winter time No way I could express it in words I had to fly through the Air on a pair of skis I loved it

Mr kind of hooked on it

Coy I loved it I was a showoff born showoff call it what you want you never said it in words I loved to perform I loved to fly through the air just loved it I give my life to it 60 years old and I'm ^{still} working I've Done over a 1000 dollars worth of it

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Coy (continued from p. 7) labor there in the last three weeks I don't want nothing just because the people I met and the wonderful time I had I loved it fly through the air on a pair of skis was just fantastic

me Did you do any other types of skiing like cross country and down hill

Coy O yes a little bit of cross country a little bit of down hill but I was not an ace, an ace is cross country, jumper combined I was a special jumper I was something special very elite

me what do you do now for a living

Coy I'm an Ironworker

me You still work on the Hill alot right

Coy O yes

Neighbor ^{Laughing} He likes high places

Coy ^{Laughing} Yea

Neighbor that's why he's an iron worker

me are you married

Coy yes

me Do you have any children

Coy Yea one boy

me Okay thats about it thanks alot

Coy Your very welcome