



Penny McCoy racing in Sun Valley, Idaho.



Dave McCoy and his racers in the 1960s. "Dave's turns were like Zen. The biggest thrill was to be right behind him, trying to keep up, 'zenning' down the mountain." —Jodi Morning

The kids would be tip to tail going just as fast as they could in a serpentine down the hill. If one fell, it would have killed the whole bunch except that they knew every minute what they were doing. Anyway, this patroller started chasing them and he got down to the bottom ready to read the riot act. And who was leading them? McCoy.

—WALLY MANN

Dave, the Coach

Dave McCoy ran a unique race program. He spent thousands of hours coaching his racers, but instead of charging anything, he gave them room and board and paid for their skiing expenses such as traveling and race entries. All he asked for in return was dedication and good spirit.

It is perhaps in coaching that Dave shows most clearly the qualities that have helped him along in life. Young in appearance, he is also young in spirit, skiing tirelessly with the enthusiasm and joy of a youngster. At the same time he is calm, soft-spoken, patient, he doesn't get mad, he is absolutely fair, and he wouldn't ask any kid to do something that he isn't ready to try himself. He wants his racers to have fun, but he also wants them to work hard. Yet he doesn't have to tell them; for him, they work hard of their own volition.

—WOLFGANG LERT
"The Real McCoy"
Ski, January 1958



Dave coaching Robin Morning, 1967.

I really don't try to change anyone, just refine the things they do themselves. That's why the kids that learned to ski on Mammoth don't all ski alike.

—DAVE MCCOY



Dave McCoy, late 1950s. "Dave was like a Pied Piper and we all got caught up in his enthusiasm." —Dennis Agee



Jimmy Burt, Southern California.

My second season racing at Mammoth, 1957-58, Bob [Bergie] Bergstrom and Joannie Hannah joined us. Bergie was a ski rep and he got us skis. We had quilted team parkas—beige, with two stripes on the arms. That fall, there wasn't any snow. Dave barely opened for Thanksgiving but then had to close. We ran slalom on a 100-yard-long patch of snow below Chair 1. Dave liked it when he saw us walking up and would come around and coach.

—JIMMY BURT



Poncho McCoy. U.S. National, Olympic, and F.I.S. Teams.



Joan Hannah, New Hampshire. U.S. National, Olympic, and F.I.S. Teams, bronze medal in 1962 F.I.S. GS.



Wendy Allen, Southern California. U.S. National, Olympic, and F.I.S. Teams.

In 1960, I sometimes skied with Dave and Gary, but mostly alone—the first one on the slopes and last one off. I wanted to work hard to pay my way since there was no exchange of money with Dave for all he gave me. The next summer, I stayed on and helped by laying tiles, cleaning toilets and rooms, painting the building. I was thankful to be able to do these things. I idolized Dave, his honesty and goodness. He bent over backwards to make people feel good about themselves.

—WENDY ALLEN

McCoy's Race Team Grew and Grew

To be a Mammoth ski racer meant training with friends, competing against and flirting with each other. It meant loading into a station wagon packed with skis on top and suitcases in back, wrestling for a window seat, knitting hats while riding in the car, ordering pancakes in funky roadside restaurants, leaning against each other while sleeping through all night drives to Yosemite, Sun Valley, and Aspen. Being a Mammoth racer meant making new friends from all over the world. It meant walking to the top of the third floor staircase in the Warming Hut to see the display case that housed a set of hand-carved Olympic rings and a list of Mammoth racers who had made an Olympic or F.I.S. Team, knowing that if you worked hard enough, your name might someday be there.



Lorraine Mann, Mammoth.



1966 Women's World Championship (F.I.S.) Team on the way to Chile to compete. From left: Wendy Allen, Suzie Chaffee, Jean Saubert, Cathy Allen, John Hannah, Penny McCoy, coach Bob Beattie.



Penny McCoy accepting the only U.S. medal, a bronze in the slalom. From left: Penny McCoy, Annie Famose, Marielle Goitschel.

1966 World Championships Portillo, Chile

I missed Dad, but it was okay. I was slow on the first run of slalom. Then, walking up the course, Jeannie Saubert told me not to worry, that my skis would just do it, that it's never as hard as it looks. She was so together, so experienced, like a matriarch always helping me.

—PENNY MCCOY



1966 World Championship Team in Portillo, Chile. Top, from left: coach Chuck Ferries, Billy Kidd, Walt Falk, Jimmie Heuga, Don Brooks, Jere Elliot, Poncho McCoy, Bill Marolt, Jim Barrows, coach Bob Beattie. Bottom, from left: Wendy Allen, Joan Hannah, Penny McCoy, Cathy Allen, Jean Saubert, Suzy Chaffee. Poncho McCoy on the men's team and every racer on the women's team had trained at Mammoth.