



DOROTHY GRAVES

Grew up in Greenfield, MA and broke into the male-dominated sport in the late 1930's. She started skiing at age seven after a bout with scarlet fever. Her father ordered her on a pair of skis to strengthen her weakened legs. She preferred ski-jumping over everything else and learned by imitation, practice, trial and error; never having a lesson! Since there were no women to compete with, she competed against the men.

First major tournaments were the Nationals in Brattleboro, VT, and Laconia, NH. She jumped 140' & 160' at Laconia in a blinding snowstorm at age fourteen and moved up to class "B". The bus driver at Laconia taking the jumpers up refused to let her on board, not believing she could be a jumper. When the men refused to get on the bus unless she could also ride, the driver then let her on.

During the next two years, she skied professionally giving exhibitions at the Philadelphia Arena, Madison Square Garden, the NY World's Fair, and throughout the East.

1942 Placed fourth at Lake Placid, NY with jumps of 202' & 194'

1943 Enlisted in the US Marine Corps for the next two years

1946 Placed second in Class "B" at Brattleboro, VT

1947 Elevated to Class "A" as the first female jumper to achieve this ranking

1950 Retired from ski jumping after having a child in 1949