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GUIDE

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*Gustave Lussi: The Man Who Changed Skating*  
A wcfe production  
Wednesday, November 1 9 p.m.



# wcfe *highpoints of*

## Musings...

Reflections on the making of  
**GUSTAVE LUSSI: THE MAN  
WHO CHANGED SKATING**  
by Joanne Taylor, Executive Producer

On Wednesday, November 1, at 9:00 p.m., WCFE presents its career profile of Lake Placid, NY's Gustave Lussi. This man took on the established sport of figure skating, shook it up and tossed out a new way to skate, a new way to interpret skating and a new way to judge the sport. The following comments are those of the program's producer, Joanne Taylor, whose search for the right material to help define this man's contribution to figure skating took her to Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Connecticut, and of course, Lake Placid.

You can't help but remember some of the things that went wrong.

Our trip west was planned on a tight itinerary: Colorado Springs, Denver, and Tucson, Arizona in four days! The pressure to get what we wanted in that period of time was intensified when we realized we were missing a critical case containing batteries, field monitor and video tapes. We all wished the airline had misplaced our clothes instead! Luckily, I had a premonition, and packed six field tapes in my carry-on luggage in case something like that happened. But we had to drive 150 miles round trip twice to pick up and return batteries that we borrowed from a PBS station in Pueblo, Colorado. Our lost case was delivered to us just before we took off for Denver, so we didn't have to amend our itinerary.



Time became a factor for almost everything we tackled on the project. We didn't know where we'd end up interviewing Dorothy Hamill. She lives in Palm Springs, California, but travels ex-

tensively. We finally arranged to get two hours of her time in her hometown in Connecticut.

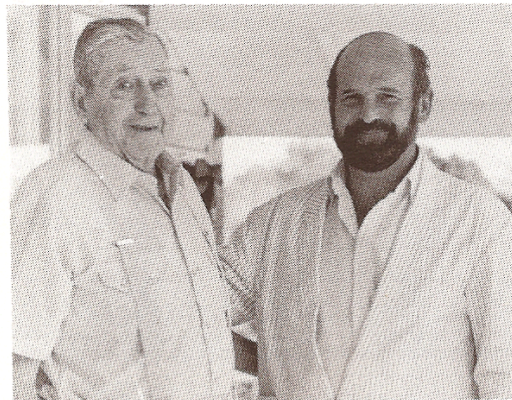
Mr. Lussi underwent extensive back surgery the summer we were to tape his skating lessons, so what was planned as a three day shoot had to be pruned to a three hour shoot. Mr. Lussi was in extreme pain throughout the session, but you'd never know it. He has an amazing ability to key on his students and overcome discomfort and distractions of any kind. He gives his students his all, and his keen eyes never miss any element of the skater's movements.

We took great pains to videotape the program's critical interviews in interesting and pleasing backgrounds. Crew members Jon Chew and Tim Gordon spent 45 minutes lighting Eileen Seigh's backyard patio and video-grapher John Skinner and I totally rearranged a hotel conference suite in Connecticut to present Dorothy Hamill in an appropriate setting.

Jon Chew said that although he did not meet Lussi until after five of his students had been interviewed, he could tell immediately through

those students that the man had an extraordinary effect on them. And the drive, discipline and inspiration that Lussi conveyed to his students are still evident in the ninety-one year old he is today.

It was a privilege to create a career profile in which students pay tribute to a man while he is still alive to enjoy it...all too often, great people are given their accolades when they can no longer hear them.



Gustave Lussi (left) and Dick Button at Lussi's Florida home, one of the locations used for the documentary **GUSTAVE LUSSI: THE MAN WHO CHANGED SKATING**, broadcast Wednesday, Nov. 1, at 9:00 p.m. on wcfe