

Interview with Honoree Class of 1963

Marty Sinn

Ned Denison

Mary Martha Sinn ([Marty Sinn](#)) is an American [open water swimmer](#) who was inducted in the [International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame](#) in 1963 as an [Honour Swimmer](#).

Early swimming days, the move to open water and the open water swimming community in those early days...

Marty started competing at age ten. She reminds us that “back in the day” that there were very limited opportunities for girls to compete.

In her teens, visiting the five other girls teams required drives of up to 200 miles/322 km.

Marty described herself as “pretty good” (not great) at 250 and 500 yards/229m & 475m in college and much better at marathons.

Perhaps her most enjoyable times took place at Summer Camp in Canada – a one-and-a-half day drive away. Training in the cold lake in June remains a vivid memory and when the warm water came in July and August she and friends would grab a canoe and swim/paddle 3 miles/4.8 km into town for an ice cream!

Famous people along the way... Mary recalls Donna de Varona (Olympic gold medal swimmer) who also spent time at the same summer camp.

About the swims... Marty joined Herman on the podium as the Women’s winner in Atlantic City in 1964, second in Toronto and a race in the Suez Canal. Atlantic City proved the highlight of a very short marathon career of about three years. She still remembers getting pulled out of a race in a cold lake in Quebec as the worst swim.



Olympic 10k marathon swim now – but not then... Marty describes herself as a participant and not a sports fan – she rarely watches television sports coverage.

Preparing and eating/drinking during the swims...She swam all summer at the Summer Camp and competed in a couple of marathons before going back to College. Feeding was Coca-Cola and Aspirin!

Today...Marty swam a mile today as she does about five times a week!

Memories...She remembers Herman well from an Atlantic City race and does remember passing him late in the race in Toronto and finishing second to Abdul Latif Abou Heif (IMSHOF Inductee).

How many of our honorees from the 1960s and 1970s are still knocking off 250,000 meters/year? I think she'd take you Herman!