

Hugh Hill



Growing up the son of a coal miner in Gillespie, Illinois, Hugh Hill always dreamed of being a reporter. But he had other things to do first. He graduated from high school in 1942, and joined the Army Air Corps. It was flying “The Hump” of the Himalayas in the China-Burma theater that his dream started to become real: Hill operated the radio on a C-46. When he came home from the war, Hill took his GI Bill benefits to the University of Missouri’s School of Journalism. Always in a hurry, Hugh graduated in three years.

His first three broadcasting jobs were all in radio: first with WEXI in St. Charles; then three years later with WJOB in Hammond, Indiana. In 1953, Hill arrived in Chicago to join WBBM Radio. CBS’s fledgling television station borrowed his reporting services from time to time until TV became his career. Ten years later, Hill went to work for WLS/Channel 7. Over the course of his career, he’s covered every Illinois Governor since Scranton, every U. S. President from Eisenhower to Clinton, and four decades of Mayors— from Richard J. Daley to Richard M. Daley.

Along with collecting more than his share of exclusive interviews and scoops, Hill has received some of the highest accolades of his profession. He’s won two Chicago Emmy Awards, an Illinois/UPI Broadcasting Award for Spot News Reporting, and the Sigma Delta Chi Award. In 1979, Hugh was inducted in the Chicago Journalism Hall of Fame. In 1982, The Associated Press named Hill Best Reporter in Illinois. Hugh Hill’s contributions to broadcasting demonstrate how much can be accomplished when living your dream.