



Sad News



Remembering JOE MARSHALL.....
a wonderful lifelong friend of Henry Seguin & Skip Peeler
and that of many in the Skating world, thank you Joe for
all the special memories filled with laughter and good
timesMay you rest in peace.

Our Alumni in the News



All of us at Willy Bietak Productions congratulate Sarah Kawahara on her induction into the United States Figure Skating Hall of Fame. —[Sylvia Froescher](#), [Willy Bietak](#), [Cathy Steele Bietak](#) and [Sarah Kawahara](#).

[Click here to view the video at US Nationals announcing Sarah to the Class of 2018.](#)

Our alumni at Nationals witnessed Sarah receiving her well deserved award.



Jim Hurst, Hank with Lisa Navarro, Karen Kresge, Synnove Reilly and Lisa Pierce-Heath.

DOUBLE WHAMMY FOR OUR SARAH BEING HONORED IN SKATE CANADA HALL OF FAME.



How to Turn Margot Robbie Into Tonya Harding

Choreographer Sarah Kawahara helped the skating newbie become an Olympic contender.

If you've seen [I, Tonya](#), you might wonder how on earth figure-skating newbie Margot Robbie transformed into infamous Olympian and world champion Tonya Harding. Not only does Robbie's [Oscar-nominated performance](#) bring a version of Harding to life on screen, but she skates like Harding, too.

Sarah Kawahara is the woman who taught Margot Robbie how to emulate Harding on the ice. We spoke to the choreographer about the grueling training it takes to turn someone into an Olympian, those tiny little costumes, and just how they pulled off that devilish triple axel.

[How did you get into figure skating?](#)

I started when I was six and skated competitively in Canada. I loved it—skating really took my heart. A scout saw me in a national competition and they hired me for the Ice Capades and I became a principal. I was never a skating champion; I was an artistic skater. So I made my name as an artistic skater in the professional world and then became a choreographer for Peggy Fleming and then went on to choreograph for Scott Hamilton, and then the list goes on.



Sarah Kawahara (left) with Karen Magnussen, preparing for the Ice Capades in 1973 (Getty Images)

[How did you make the move into choreography?](#)

I loved performing, but I knew I couldn't perform forever and I needed that kind of creative outlet. I was always working on new routines and creating for other people in the Ice Capades. Peggy Fleming saw me perform and saw that our styles aligned, so she asked me to choreograph a piece for her guest spot in the Ice Capades and that was my big break.

You've worked with Nancy Kerrigan, too. How did it feel for you to see and work on her story on screen with this particular angle?

It was really wild, because I had worked with all the major players except Tonya. Over the years, I've done television specials for all the major players: Nancy Kerrigan, Oksana Baiul, Kristi Yamaguchi. Her manager actually had asked me at one point if I would take Tonya on, but I was working on *Champions on Ice*, a worldwide Olympic tour, and I couldn't take on an extra person. It was shortly after that this event happened, and because of that, there was so many eyes on skating. Everybody was all of a sudden interested in skating and there was a whole golden era that was born, of variety television specials. That's kind of where I made my initial mark as a choreographer.

So, to choreograph Tonya by doing this movie and from her point of view was something I never expected and was really interesting: to recreate and re-enact her movement and her jumping and her spinning and her skating style. I could never have guessed this would happen.

[Click here to read the complete article](#)

Peggy Fleming Celebrates 50 Years of Strength and Grace

By Lynn Rutherford | Dec. 20, 2017

Peggy Fleming competes at the Olympic Winter Games Grenoble 1968 in Grenoble, France.



Peggy Fleming has come full circle, in more ways than one.

Nearly 50 years after she won the only U.S. gold medal at the Olympic Winter Games Grenoble 1968, Fleming makes her home in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where she spent the final three seasons of her competitive career training at the Broadmoor World Arena and met her husband of 48 years, Greg Jenkins.

“We just thought, this is where we need to be at this stage of our lives,” Fleming, 69, said. “Greg went to Colorado College, that’s where we met and fell in love. Life-changing things happened here.”

So the couple sold their home in Los Gatos, California, swapping it for a residence near the Southern Rocky Mountains. It is the latest of several downshifts: around 2012, Greg retired from his dermatology practice. That same year, the couple closed their successful Fleming Jenkins Vineyards and Winery, where they grew Chardonnay grapes and created Victories, a dry rose, to help raise funds for breast cancer research. (Fleming is a breast cancer survivor.)

“We did sell our house in California; we lived there for 40 years and raised our two sons (Andy and Todd) there,” Fleming said. “We just thought, well, they are so far away. (Andy) has three sons of his own, aged 18, 14 and 12, and (Todd) is at UC Davis getting his masters in winemaking, so we’re still kind of in the wine business.”

Now, Peggy and Greg live just 15 minutes away from Andy’s family.

“We could not be happier,” she said, emphasizing every syllable. “It was a huge, very scary decision to uproot ourselves from California and move to Colorado, but it seems perfect. We’ve been there since February and we just love it.”

Retirement doesn’t equate to inactivity for the couple. They’ve rediscovered tennis, a sport they played decades ago, and gotten reacquainted with college friends. She may have stopped doing double axels decades ago, but Fleming is a big proponent of physical fitness.

“(Andy) played tennis growing up and now we all can play together,” she said. “There are courts in our neighborhood and lessons and drills. It’s an active, fun neighborhood, and people participate in all kinds of things, no matter what their age, which is fun.

[Click here to read the rest of the article.](#)

Lynn Rutherford is a sportswriter based out of New York. She is a freelance contributor to TeamUSA.org on behalf of Red Line Editorial, Inc.



Fleming is honored with a Caesars Tribute II award at the press conference for The Caesars Tribute II: A Salute to the Ladies of the Ice on Dec. 2, 2011 in Atlantic City, N.J.

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Where are they now?



You may not recognize our 'Diane' (Schatz) from East Company's 28th Edition, today. She is currently in the news as having been Tonya Harding's longtime coach, and is now known as Diane Rawlinson. Below is an article that first appeared after the infamous incident in **1994** which resulted in the making of the movie *I, Tonya*.

Harding, Longtime Coach Different As A Team Can Possibly Be

January 25, 1994 | By Phil Hersh, Tribune Olympic Sports Writer.

They are the most unlikely pair, the coach and her skater who has been in the headlines the past three weeks.

Diane Rawlinson, 47, the coach, the former Ice Capades soloist, the former model, the wine collector, the wife of a prominent Oregon attorney, carries herself with an understated elegance. She always looks as if she has just stepped out of a Ralph Lauren catalogue.

Tonya Harding, 23, her skater, the two-time U.S. champion, the former drag racer, the former deer hunter, the ex-wife of an allegedly abusive ex-warehouseman, carries herself with the air of someone who has tired of being told to polish her rough edges. On the ice, she seems to be auditioning for a 10-worst-dressed list.

"We are very different," Rawlinson said. "She and I don't always perceive things the same way."

The bond between them goes back 20 years, since Harding's mother brought Tonya to skate at the Jantzen Beach, Ore., rink where Rawlinson was coaching. Through what seems like thin and thin, the bond has stretched, even broken a couple times, but it has always been patched up.

"What is important to me in coaching is making a difference in my skaters' lives, and I think I have done that with Tonya," Rawlinson said Monday in a telephone interview.

[Click here to read the rest of the article](#)

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More Trips Down Memory Lane

Doug Martin gave us some untold stories from our time on the road. How about sending in some new ones to share? Send them directly to gspoden@rogers.com

Anita Jackson & Tommy Litz

I have so many memories of Ice Capades, but one that stands out to me was when I was skating 'Picnic' with Tommy Litz as the principal skater. I was doing my turns toward centre front ice and my toe-pick got caught in my knee-length skirt and ripped the fabric all the way around the garment. I came off the ice with this trail of fabric flowing behind me. Needless to say, Nick Sherlock wasn't too pleased with me, but he managed to fix it up as good as new.

In 1967 or 68, we had to leave Raleigh, NC, early because a curfew was imposed due to race riots. No one could go out after dark, which meant we had no audience for the show. I have a photograph taken in front of the

Raleigh Library with a soldier on patrol in the background. We were pretty uneasy about performing in Los Angeles and New York because of the continued racial upheaval in Watts and Harlem.

Then there was a memorable ride in Philadelphia. As we were approaching the relatively new Spectrum Arena, we saw pieces of debris flying through the air, only to learn that parts of the roof were due to a wind storm. We did our regular check in, but all performances of the show were ultimately cancelled because of the weather.

Francine Plummer remembers these stories

We were skating in Oklahoma City. The number was "New York, New York". Per Larson played the role of a photographer, and six tall girls were 'models'. We were in leopard costumes, with high brown leather boots and tall leopard hats. As Per skated to each model, she would strike a pose with her black hat box extended in front of her, and with full spotlight on her, she would give her famous Ice Capades smile. When he came to me, I felt so elegant in my role...until my foot went out from under me, and BAM, down I went. My hat went flying across the ice, exposing my hair which was tucked under a pink pucker net. Lovely. The spot light never left me, but followed me as I gathered up my belongings. Per kept 'taking pictures' while the audience laughed and laughed. I think they thought the number was going to turn into a comedy. I wish!

Another time we were in Shreveport, Louisiana, during Halloween. After our annual Halloween party, some of us decided to check out the city. I guess you could say we were feeling 'happy', when, suddenly, a guy in our group decided to climb up the flagpole in front of one of the government buildings. That stunt got us in trouble for bad behavior and being rowdy. We didn't get fined, but we sure came close.

We were in Victoria, B.C. at the Empress Hotel. What a great place to stay! Some of us were wandering around the hotel and noticed there were sections blocked off on the upper floors, with No Trespassing signs posted. Well, the allure was too great, and one night after the show a few of us decided to see what was hidden away behind the doors. Ghosts? We just knew it had to be haunted...wouldn't you? We found a way in and started our investigation. Every corner we went around we started spooking ourselves, certain we were going to run into a ghost. Unfortunately, the only thing we ran into was Security, who quickly and firmly 'escorted' us out of the area.

Comments from January Blade

Thanks again for your continued hard work and diligence in keeping "The BLADE" alive for us to enjoy! You always manage to include special little "gems" like the vintage TV clip of the classic show, "To Tell the Truth" featuring a very shy, demure 17 year old, Peggy Fleming! Even though she was the reigning World Champion, she still blushed every time a question was asked of her! And the biographical piece on legendary Bobby Specht was insightful and riveting!

But the piece I enjoyed the most, was the "Legends of Australian Ice" special feature on Sharon Kay Burley (Sullivan) who I had the pleasure of touring with in Ice Capades. We became VERY close friends on the road and even the occasional roommate from time to time! I had lost track of her, over the years and your article on her, was a wonderful trip down "Memory Lane" for me!

Please keep up the great job with future issues of "The BLADE"! I'm sure that all Ice Capades alumni, really appreciate your regularly publishing it, because I know that I certainly do! - **Stephan Klován**

Absolutely marvelous stories about some of the pranks on tour. The Peggy Fleming video was fun, and entertaining too. You make a lot of readers happy. - **Sherry Cook**

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