

Sad News

This just in – June 21, 2017 - RIP Bob Bennett - Ice engineer extraordinaire and man for all seasons.



I believe Bob was the pioneer of the aluminum ice panel technology along with Bob Ulrich, if I'm not mistaken. Bob was a great collector of scientific mechanical tools, sculpture and porcelain. He had an artistic eye and appreciation for beauty. He was a wonderful photographer and always had the latest equipment. When I was in the Ice Capades he did portrait photography. He had a great thirst for knowledge. I remember going to the Smithsonian with him and he was fascinated with the nautical instruments and knew the history of what we saw. It was like having a docent with me. He liked fast cars and motorcycles. He had a motorcycle with a Lalique hood ornament. He was the first person to make me aware of Boehm porcelain and

Lalique.

Bob carved in wood and leather. Beautiful pieces... notch and groove boxes, letter openers, leather clutches. He was a good craps player. He always reinvested his winning in art. I remember he took his winnings and bought a fabulous Lalique cheetah and an exquisite porcelain Rose by Boehm. Travelled the world making ice in Japan, South Africa and on the beach in California. Really the best portable ice in the world were Bob Bennett's ice surfaces. I've known Bob for 45 years. I will miss you. Loving thoughts from Sarah Kawahara

Our Alumni in the News



Recently in Santa Monica at [Willy Bietak Productions, Inc.](#) with Randy & our amazingly talented friend & longtime choreographer [Sarah Kawahara](#) celebrating her induction into The World Figure Skating Hall Of Fame ~ So well deserved & long overdue! We love you Sarah ❤️

Where Are They Now?

Dave Hauser

What got you started on your show biz career path?

Always enjoyed playing Hockey in High School. When hockey left Washington D.C. I started figure skating in a small rink owned by former Ice Capades personnel. After we lost our team in a plane crash in Europe I decided to audition for the show In Atlantic City.

What did you do while you were with Ice Capades?



I skated line (pictured with the lovely Brita Berntsen) with East in 1961 and West in 1962. Then to staff, Sound, Lighting, Stage Mgr., Asst. Mgr.

I joined East Company at the opening of the Pittsburgh Arena on Sept. 28th 1961 after receiving a Telegram from Leo Loeb. Lots of stories about the building opening. I moved with the production to West Company the following year and started doing extra jobs. Ice crew, tank setup, and started to understudy sound.

Audio Supervisor in 1965 and off to 2 years in the Army from 66 to 68.

Daughter Christine, who also skated with Ice Capades 87-88, was born at White Sands Missile Range while I was in the Army. After rejoining the Show in 1968 I enjoyed various jobs including Audio Supervisor, Lighting Director, Stage Mgr. and Assistant Manager.



I skated the Halleluiah Year. Still laughing about to finale escapees. Does anyone remember being one of them? (see picture) You know who you are!!

The single memory that stands out for me, beyond all of the wonderful Ice Capades people, was attending the 1972 World Championships in Calgary and along with Lucile Miller and Taffy Wood taking the Champions on a 15 city tour across the United States and Canada. What a wonderful experience. Tour of Champions 1972.

Where did you end up after you hung up your skates?

After the Tour of Champions I came in to home office in Hollywood where I worked until 1988 when I left as VP of Operations to join Ticketron as Western Regional VP. 1990 found me working for Dick Palmer at another company owned by John Kluge, Metromedia Technologies as the VP and GM Los Angeles. In 1997 I transferred to another Metromedia company Guest Informant where I was President and CEO until I retired at the end of 2000.

After retirement I started working with my wife in her company, Leadership Strategies International and spent 13 outstanding years volunteering and riding with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Mounted Posse.



Today my wife of 36 wonderful years, Dr. Laura Hauser and I live in Santa Clarita CA. Laura teaches at Fielding University, Santa Barbara CA and Royal Roads University in Victoria BC.

We enjoy working together in our consulting company, Leadership Strategies International. www.leadership-strategies.com.

We have a son Chris, daughter Christine and two really fun grandkids Parker and Riley.

What's Next? Enjoying family and spending time together traveling.

As my mother always said, "*Life is short, eat desert first.*"

Here's Dave's email address. He'd love to hear from you. -

dhauser@socal.rr.com

A Show Kid's Recollection of being part of the IC Family

What it's like to travel with Ice Capades

by Dianne Palmer Walker, daughter of Dick and Rita Dallas Palmer



Growing up on the road was a natural way of life for me. To me it was normal. I thought every kid grew up with a hundred aunts and uncles, lived on trains and in hotel rooms, and spent hours backstage or at rehearsals, and took trips to museums and baseball parks on a regular basis. My nanny, Gladys Anderson, was a baseball fanatic, and if the city we were in had a ballpark, we were there. I was always on vacation! Before I was even in grade school, Gladys made sure I could read, that I knew all the states and their capitals, and every province in Canada.

I'd often go to the studio with Dad and watch them build the sets for the production numbers, and see the beautiful costumes as they were being created. I had a great time playing upstairs where they

stored the old costumes. I loved the dusty old smell, and the pretty sequins. I knew from an early age that I'd never be able to skate with the show, as Dad said he wouldn't allow it for one reason or another. But it was fun to play pretend when I was young.

I left the road fulltime when I started school. I started school late every year, usually after opening night in Atlantic City, and I'd get to leave school early at the end of the year. A kid's dream! Because Mom and Dad spent a lot of time at 6121, the studio in Hollywood, I got to see a lot of them. I was always sad when they went on the road, leaving me behind.

I spent every summer in Atlantic City, or Duluth, or Bakersfield, and when I turned 16, I found ways to earn money so I could buy a car. Leo Loeb had a daughter named Lisa, and she and I became fast friends. We knew every inch of Atlantic City, good and bad. That's when Dad decided to keep us a little closer to home. Dad hired Lisa and me to work in the box office, at minimum wage, taking telephone ticket orders. I could just see the car I was going to buy with all that hard earned money. Toward the end of the run, Leo was told to cut costs in the box office, and Lisa and I were fired. There went my dreams of a car. Dad had no idea that Leo was going to fire us, and he told him to find something else for us to do. Did you know the bottom of a costume crate gets really dirty? Yep, we spent the rest of the summer cleaning out crates. Not very glamorous, but I was getting a paycheck, so I didn't complain. During high school and college I worked in the publicity department at the studio. My younger sister, Pattie, worked there too when she was older.

The biggest thrill for me was when the Convention Hall security guard snuck Lisa and me up to the music hall to watch the Beach Boys rehearse. Dennis Wilson was the only one there, plying on the piano. After assuring him that we were not really fanatic fans, inviting them to the show that night with a promise to take them backstage to see the girls, he asked us to listen to something he was working on. It turned out to be the Beach Boys' hit song, Good Vibrations. I almost died the first time I heard it on the radio!

My dad's favorite response to many of my requests was, 'when you're as old as the girls in the show...' I was 17, in my first year of college, and all my friends were renting a cabin at Big Bear Lake for the weekend, without chaperones. When I asked Dad if I could go, I got the same answer, only this time I had ammunition: Thank you, Liz Taylor, for joining Ice Capades when you were only 16! I was now *older* than one girl in the show. I had the best weekend ever at Big Bear!

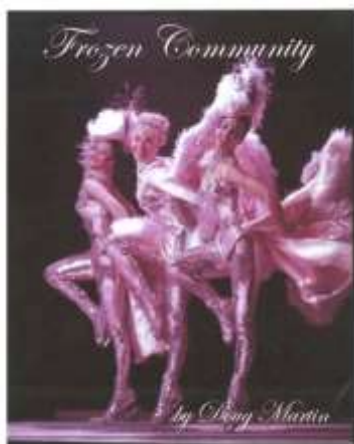
I was always told by my parents that I would never be able to skate with Ice Capades. They thought it would be too difficult to have the boss's daughter in the show, and I never questioned it. That was how it was going to be, period. That didn't stop me! I had friends in the show, and there were a few nights when they snuck me into a number as a tree or block or something, anything that didn't show my face... and now my lips are sealed. I continued skating and taking lessons at the chalets until I got married and moved to a small town in Oklahoma, where the closest rink was 90 miles away. So my skating was sporadic after that. It's been about 15 years since I've had skates on, but the bug is always there.

My own children were able to experience a few privileges. They loved the Smurfs, and I took them to see the show. They were excited to go backstage and see everything up close. The guard stopped us, and although I had my pass, he refused us entry. It seems that Dad had made a rule that kids were not allowed backstage during intermission because the skaters had on the costumes without the Smurf heads. My 5-year-old said, 'Please call my grandpa, he'll let us,' and a very matter-of-factly said, "And I know all about the Smurfs, I saw them being built." When the guard asked my son who his grandfather was, Bob Gallagher, who was listening to the conversation, said, "The man that made the rule." We went backstage.

Looking back, I can remember hundreds of things that were wonderful about growing up in Ice Capades. The only regret I have is that my children will never experience the opportunities that I had. Skating lessons backstage from Nate Wally, Aja Zanova telling me to "raise your leg, DiDi." Jim Custer had me on a trampoline. One day they put me in the flying rigging and I flew! I learned that the Spanish Web was painful but exciting, being twirled around on one arm. Little things meant a lot, like learning to put on makeup for the first time, only you had 20 "aunts" teaching you how to do it in the dressing room. Falling asleep with the gentle roll of the train, the noise, the sound of going through a tunnel....

I think the best thing about being a kid traveling with the show was the family feeling it had for me. The fact that so many people have stayed connected all these years is proof. I had experiences that most people never have. I was able to travel throughout the US, Canada and Europe, and was exposed to different cultures from a young age. It was a great time, and everyone connected with Ice Capades was excited to be part of it. It was glamorous. It was Show Business!

More Trips Down Memory Lane



Doug Martin published a book called 'Frozen Community' that contained a collection of stories and memories while he was on tour with Ice Capades for 11 years. Here are a few more stories that we can giggle about today.

Liz Taylor recollects a close call and a technical costume malfunction – Read on.

When I was with Continental (by the mid-1970s, there were three different touring companies under the Ice Capades umbrella: East, West and Continental). I was on my way to the airport, via bus, to meet a chartered flight. There were

two buses going out to the plane. The first bus went around to the front of the plane to let everyone off near the steps, while the driver of the bus I was on decided to take a shortcut to the steps. He was driving fast—too fast, in fact, to stop. I was sitting in the front of the bus on a seat that faced to the side, and all of a sudden I saw the red light on the wing of the plane come out of nowhere. I, along with the other passengers, ducked just in time as the bus driver smashed into the wing. I made my way down the aisle in order to crawl out of the back door of the bus...just as the driver decided to back up, with glass flying everywhere. Fortunately, no one was hurt. I believe Ken Shook may have a photo of the aftermath of the crash. Gee, maybe there was something to be said about traveling by train after all.

Has this ever happened to you?

In one of the numbers, I wore a largely plumed headpiece that was quite heavy, as you can imagine. Somehow I managed to get it hooked onto the contour, which I only realized as the contour lifted for the second half of the show. The headpiece was attached solely by a chin strap, so I hung on for dear life, but that turned out to be a mistake, because as I relentlessly kept hold of the chin strap, my skates left the ice and I kept rising higher and higher into the air. I looked back at the stagehand controlling the contour, and knew he was well aware of my predicament by the cheeky grin on his face. The post-intermission overture was nearly finished, and I was sure he was going to leave me suspended for everyone to see when the lights came on. But thankfully, the cheeky so and so lowered the contour. However the weight of my suspension caused the wires of my feathered headpiece to become completely stuck into the fabric of the contour. I'm told that in front of the curtain there was frantic waving and flailing of the contour as stagehands fought to free me in order to get on with their next scene changes. *Now, am I the only one with such costume dramas?*

Comments from June Blade

Once again fabulous job – Gloria Dale-Johnson

Wish I could do a sit spin like that now!!! Always enjoy The Blade, you are so special to keep us all together and informed on the latest news, thanks, hope all is well, Take Care, Richard Dwyer

I have known Bob since I was a kid at the Polar Palace in LA. I took a few Dance lessons from him to improve my presentation skills. He made up a solo for me for my first solo job with the McCusker group that went to Reno. "Ice-Arama 1960"(generations ago!) – Paul Sibley

Upcoming Events



Skater's Reunion 2017 Prague

September 7 – 10, 2017

It is open to all skaters and crew from all different ice shows and ice circuses worldwide.
More information will be sent shortly, Questions: praguereunion2017@gmail.com

Website Update

The reunion website – www.icecapadesreunion2015.com is still there. Even though the reunion is over, the plan is to continue to use this site for alumni updates so please keep checking back from time to time as news will be added periodically. Don't forget, there are also show rosters for your reference, updated obits, reunion pictures and upcoming events.

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