

Sad News

Bill Dettman – Aug. 25, 2016



Gordon Sanden posted this notice on Facebook - So sad to inform everyone, [Bill Dettman](#) went home to the Lord shortly after 1 August 25th. I will share more as I know details of services, etc. Unfortunately, no funeral details by press time.

Martin S. "Marty" Burke – Aug. 25, 2016



Of Bethel Park, formerly of Oakland, on Thursday, August 25, 2016, age 90. Marty was the son of the late Martin and Bridget Coyne Burke of Galway, Ireland. He attended school in Oakland, Cathedral Grade School and Central Catholic High School, enlisting in the [Army](#) Infantry (94th Division) in his senior year. He served actively during the waning years of [WWII](#). Upon discharge, he continued his education at Duquesne University, securing his B.S. degree and later his Master's in Education and Guidance from the University of Pittsburgh. While waiting for a teaching position, **he joined the famous Ice Capades and skated for three years throughout Canada and the US.** Beginning his teaching career, Marty taught at Fifth Avenue, St. Bernard's and finally, Baldwin-Whitehall. He also coached numerous sports from basketball and baseball to volleyball. He was also a PIAA official for over 40 years. Upon retirement, Marty stayed very active, skating with the blind, golfing, bowling and skiing into his 80's. He also took part in training our seven Collie dogs. Marty is survived by his wife, Marie (McCriden) Burke; his three children, Christopher T. Burke (Janet), Suzanne M. Brown (Kevin) and Daniel M. Burke (Darci); and his six grandchildren, Andy, Kathleen, Danny, Colleen, Ian and Jaden. Marty had five siblings, Mary Connolly, Cecilia McCabe and the late Ann Harper and Thomas and Joseph Burke.

Friends received at MCCABE BROS., INC. FUNERAL HOME, (www.mccabebrothers.com), 6214 Walnut Street, Shadyside on Saturday, 6-8 p.m. and Sunday, 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held in St. Valentine Church, Bethel Park, on Monday at 11 a.m. Interment to follow in Queen of Heaven Cemetery. – [Click here for more details](#)

Doug Martin - July 26, 2016 – follow up



Douglas James Martin was born on November 15, 1939, in Montreal, Quebec to Mother, Anne Marshall, and father, James Martin. Little brother, David Martin, would follow a few years later. When step-father, George Hiscock, came into their lives, their family was complete.

Doug attended Lester Pearson High School, but like any true Canadian, his youth was spent on the ice, playing hockey. His senior year in high school he was drafted by the Montreal Canadians to play semi-pro hockey in Spokane, WA.

In 1959, Vancouver, B.C, the skates he put on would change. After 6 weeks of figure skating lessons and auditioning for the world-renowned Ice Capades in Hollywood, he was offered a job in the show. He went on to skate on the National Ice Capades tour for the next 10 years as an Adagio or “Pair Skater” first with Elyn Tia and later with Patti Forbes. Doug also skated in various comedic routines with Freddie Trenkler. They performed 10 shows per week, 10 months per year.

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

Our Alumni in the News

Awesome Video



Dianne Palmer Walker came across this beautiful tribute video of her mom Rita Dallas Palmer, lovingly put together by Pattie’s daughter, Melissa Mackie. Thought you’d like to see how much we loved Rita and how she touched our lives while we were part of the Ice Capades family.

[Click here](#) to view this beautiful video tribute.

Where Are They Now?

Tim Wood – World Champion 1969-70



After spending two seasons with East Company (1970-72) where did your career take you from there?

Ice Follies Las Vegas Style (1973) show at Caesars's Palace – 2 times – first with Joey Heatherton and Anthony Newly, 2nd time with Dianna Ross during Lady Sings the Blues while Mohammed Ali was boxing in the Circus Maximus room, our show at night, followed by two seasons with Holiday on Ice America ('74-'75). I then produced and raised all the funds for my own show "America on Ice" sold it to Knotts Berry Farm the summer of 1976 – a Bicentennial Ice Celebration, designed, developed, financed, choreographed and starred in. Then left the entertainment show business and went back to school to acquire a master's degree in Finance, Accounting and Economics.

What is your fondest Ice Capades memory?

My fondest memory was the great fun we had on the road with some really great skating stars, Tommy & Glenda Litz, Hans Leiter, Wolfgang Danne & Margot Glockshuber (I was in Olympics with them)

Where do you live and what are you doing now?



I live in Camarillo, California just outside and north of Los Angeles, just south of Santa Barbara in Ventura County, CA. I live with my wife, Kathleen (aka Taffy or Kate) whom I married before I went into the show in 1970.... We just had our 46th wedding anniversary. We have 3 little dogs (no kids except in the extended family) and we live on a small farm we call "MillWood Farms and proposed spa... haven't built that yet, smile" Taf's maiden name was Miller, hence the name.

When I left the ice show business, I went back to school and went into the finance world; ended up doing 7 years of international finance with an office in Geneva, Switzerland... lot's of corporate finance and then large project real estate finance. Currently working on the development of an Olympics sports, arts and academic real estate project in my home town.

If you would like to get in touch with Tim - Timwood@TheSportsResort.com

Jan O'Brien Coopman



A Barrington, IL (NW Chicago) native, I began skating when in junior high and later auditioned for Ice Capades under the coaching of the late National and World competitor Fran Dorsey in Northbrook. At home, I vividly recall poring over a show program and wanting to join. Actually, I was determined! Hard work, practicing various stops, and “emoting” on the ice to music led to my Chicago Stadium audition, watched by Richard Dwyer.

A special first job, indeed

In 1980, after my first year at a local college and less than a week after my parents moved from Barrington to Omaha, I left for Ice Capades West Co. in Atlantic City to rehearse for the line. Initially excited but homesick, I then loved it during the first traveling city of

Dallas (also where I first discovered a laundromat!)

During East Co. rehearsals, we tall girls had so much fun that costumes were altered to add us to “American Pie.” Also recall that Scot’s off-ice dance classes killed my abs – couldn’t wait to get back on the ice! NYC was memorable, enjoying 42nd Street and Dream Girls on Broadway... and eye-opening when seeing many homeless women sleeping in a Penn Station restroom following our show at Madison Square Garden.

Everyone has a story – unpacking my new journeys

After year two, I returned to college and completed my B.B.A. at the University of Iowa. Ice Capades gave this business major courage to audition and be accepted among dance majors to perform in two Gene Kelly tribute shows when he was a visiting lecturer (more joy than calculus). Gene revealed having a nasty cold during his most famous Singin’ in the Rain scene – the show must go on, you know.



Six years ago for his job, my husband, two sons (now ages 22 and 20 ½), and I moved from our boys’ lifelong Wheaton, IL (where I was mostly an at-home mom) to the Dallas area – and to my last, yet somewhat daunting, post-skating retirement stint at the Dallas Galleria rink. In 2016, Rob and I celebrated our 25th Anniversary. I’m now into year eleven of MS that derailed my beloved skating (no meds but plenty of anecdotes).

Passion then transformed into content writing and swimming. Always motivated by music and with prior practice in the pool, I enjoyed participating during the Diamond Jubilee street dance. Not with my usual legs and form or up front, but *there* (huge in very hot LV) – and most grateful for the various help of caring friends.

My road to perspective

I have forgiven those who had teased by saying that I came (albeit less than one week) from “where the corn grows.” Interestingly, Omaha is now part of “Silicon Prairie” – a LinkedIn rep there recently asked me to write a blog – [bio photo taken by dear friend Margaret Trenkler Ramponi](#) at the Griffith Observatory; includes a reference to Richard Dwyer.

Back in Ice Capades, I always felt that giving one’s all was important, even if for an audience of one (thankfully more attended). Life itself involves hard work of all sorts; I place high value on faith, hope, perseverance, and making some type of positive impact in my journey, however large or seemingly small.

My two newer skating books display many fond memories of performing, traveling, costumes, skiing, and people such as Nixon backstage, but the best and most enduring memories involve lifelong friends – you know who you are! If you would like to contact Jan: jancoopman@ameritech.net

Commercial Memories revisited again

Tai & Randy's Nestle Crunch Commercial



US TV commercial from 1988 for Nestle Crunch. Features champion figure skating team Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner being very charitable to a girl whose candy bar keeps ruining their performance.

The good old days when we had our amazing manager [Michael A. Rosenberg](#) ~ We had a blast filming this in Toronto ~ Costumes by [Jef Billings](#)

[Click here](#) to view this cute commercial

1960s-1970s Commercials: Friskies to Ice Blue Secret



This is an Ice Blue Secret Commercial that the East Company Ice Capets did in 1970. Click on the link below and go to **8:48** to the beginning of the commercial. What fun we had!

<https://youtu.be/xXLpTwwTEZU>

Dorothy Hamill 1976 Clairol Short & Sassy Conditioner Commercial



[Click here](#) to view this cute commercial.

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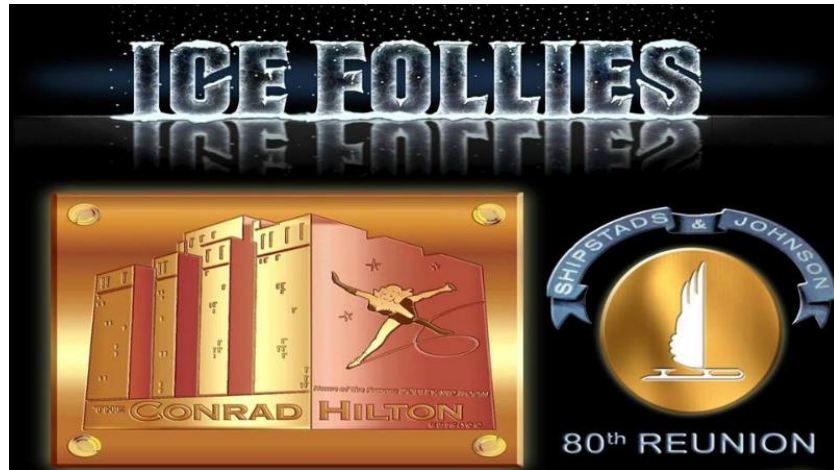
Comments from August Blade

Thank you for news which you send out by "Blade". I would not have known of passing of Doug Martin otherwise! I was the same tour with Doug and appreciated for his kindness towards me who had difficulty explaining things because of my poor English skills. He will be greatly missed. Tokiko Lepik

Just a quick note to say that I SO APPRECIATE ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK keeping The Blade operating with so many WONDERFUL ARTICLES. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL YOU DO. Sincerely, **Newman Stare**

As usual, great job. Loved the articles!! Wow, what a fun edition – you really are remarkable. Hugs, **Jennifer Custer**

Upcoming Events



Chicago – Sept. 29 – Oct. 2, 2016

[Click here](#) for more information

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Ice Dance International

Oct. 7, 2016



On **Friday night, October 7th, Ice Dance International (IDI)**, a beautiful new skating company, will perform at the Codey (South Mountain) Arena in West Orange, NJ. I'm honored to be co-chair of this event along with Olympian Linda Carbonetto Villella. The performance at the Codey Arena will

be the debut of this stunning company in the tri-state area, and part of their inaugural six city tour.

This company of ten international skating champions was founded and is choreographed by Edward Villella, one of the most celebrated ballet danseur's in history (NYC Ballet and Kennedy Center Honoree), and Douglas Webster, one of skating's most accomplished choreographers for elite competitors, live arena shows and television specials. The company brings the artistic sensibilities of ballet to the athleticism of Olympic figure skating.

I'm so excited to share this breathtaking skating company with you and would love for you to experience this wonderful event in our own neighborhood! I hope you'll support *Ice Dance International* by bringing your friends and family! You can learn more about the company and buy tickets online at icedanceinternational.org

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World Figure Championship & Figure Festival

Welcoming the World to join us on the ice in **TORONTO!**

Mark your calendar!



[Click here](#) for details

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 and upcoming events. (The website is temporarily down but will be back up soon.)