



Sad News

Larry Paul Whitney – April 11, 2019



Larry Paul Whitney passed away unexpectedly at his home on April 11, 2019. He was born in Ogden on November 1, 1940, to Clyde Arnold and Virginia Delphia Taylor Whitney. His father died when he was very young, and he was lovingly raised by his mother and stepfather, Alfred O. Allee.

He married Aloha Jean Muench on November 23, 1976, and together they raised a daughter and son.

Larry was very proud of his service in the U.S. Marine Corps. **He also traveled with Ice Capades on the production crew.** He then was a bus driver for Weber School District and projectionist at Peery's Egyptian Theater. He retired from Pioneer Adult Rehabilitation Center in Davis School District. After retirement, he was a crossing guard for Ogden City and a loyal usher for Weber State University. He had a great sense of humor and loved being around people. Golfing, fishing, camping and supporting his children and grandchildren in all of their sports and activities were his favorite pastimes.

As a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church, he assisted with Boy Scouts of America Troop 202.

Larry is survived by his wife; daughter, Jana (Errol) Bottomly; son, Ryan (Annie) Whitney; and four wonderful grandchildren: Paige, Macie, Jackson, and Cameron. He is preceded in death by his parents, stepfather, and sister, Vera Jean Owens.

Memorial services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, April 29, 2019, at Leavitt's Mortuary, 836 36th Street, Ogden UT. Friends may visit with family on Sunday, April 28, 2019, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and Monday, April 29, 2019, from 1:00-1:45 p.m. at the mortuary.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Boy Scouts of America, Trapper Trails Council, www.trappertrails.org/memorial.

Please send condolences to the family at: www.leavittsmortuary.com

[New Reunion Information](#)



[Click on the PDF file on the cover page for updated 2020 Reunion or for access to registration website, \[click here\]\(#\)](#)

Inspiration from our Alumni

After reading Jim Custer's article on 'A Little Tank Ice History)' Ice last month, Jan Coopman was inspired to share it with her colleagues from U of I's Kent Brown, and Willy Bietak Prod, Inc)



She has added some of her own experiences when she was in the show. There is some interesting video from 'Symphony of the Seas' which includes some of Willy's skating production. (See below!) Enjoy.

A lot happened behind the scenes, from the ice surface to costumes, props, sets, management, etc. And then, skaters ourselves had to deal with changes. I'd call the 1981 opening night in Champaign a "jam-up" of skaters typically accustomed to an ice length of 9 markers long (the red dots on the side dashes; each count of eight in every routine followed a grid).

In Champaign, we had a mere 5 or 6 markers (about 80 feet long), necessitating an extra rehearsal the next day, in which we learned to walk, not skate, the show. Easier for the shorter girls in a precision pinwheel—the ones who normally had to really haul on the ends. Or maybe not—I recall my buddy Julie having to jump over the dash a few times as it circled.

According to contacts at both U of I and in the figure skating business, neither the basketball venue nor ice technology itself has since changed drastically. But the Assembly Hall at U of I is now named State Farm Center; most smaller ice venues use one of three forms of tank ice, or portable ice systems (in a tiny nutshell, taken from more info provided by Willy: plastic mats with piping, portable aluminum pipes, or aluminum panel flooring—Willy Bietak Productions, Disney, Holiday on Ice, and the NHL Winter Classic use the latter).

Anyone see the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics opening on ice? Willy (Bietak Productions, Inc.) produced the ice; another former skating champ, Sarah (pictured in the following cruise ship video) choreographed the routine for that and Margot Robbie's skating in the movie, "I, Tonya." In more recent years, if you've seen a skating

show on a Royal Caribbean Lines cruise ship, you've likely seen their ice, a permanent installation with the capability for one to press a button that triggers a floor to cover the entire ice.

Video: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2134260543265004>

It makes many other events in the ship's "Studio B" (ice venue) possible. Whether on tank ice or on a more permanent ice installation, today's skaters are very accomplished, as is the technology. (I don't work for the companies but find the video glimpse of the productions and drone technology to be enlightening and educational. And, while **Ice Capades** is no more, venues still exist for the more accomplished skaters).

Much has likely happened in many of our lives behind the scenes since our high school days, as well. Hope to see you in Barrington when the reunion curtain goes up in October!

Pictures of the Month

105 REVOLUTIONS PER MINUTE!

She starts off slowly enough, but once Donna Atwood comes up on the toe of that left skate and throws herself into her famous one-foot scratch spin, it takes the fastest of camels to "stop" her roll! This is her favorite routine! Her favorite smoking routine—"A cool, flavorful Camel," she says.

CAMELS ARE FIRST WITH ME TOO! THE FLAVOR IS PERFECT AND THEY SUIT MY THROAT TO A 'T'

FROM BALLET TO BROADWAY! This former student of the ballet made the big jump—on ice—with split jumps and spins that leave you breathless.

"THE HOTTEST" feet on ice! Donna Atwood can really make those skates talk. When Donna herself talks... about cigarettes, for example... it's to say, "Camels for me. I can't always get them as easily as I did, but when I do get them it's a red-letter day. For Camels are still Camels—I appreciate them more than ever."

Yes, your dealer may be temporarily short of Camels, but when you do get them you're still getting *Camels*... costlier, tastier, properly aged, and expertly blended to a high standard of quality. That's why Camels are worth asking for again—and again!

RIGHT, DONNA ATWOOD! Camels are the favorite, too, with smokers in the Army, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard, according to actual sales records.

THE "T-ZONE"—T for taste and T for throat—is the proving ground for any cigarette. Only your taste can decide which cigarette tastes best to you... how it affects your throat. When you get Camels, smoke them critically. See if they don't suit your "T-Zone" to a "T."

Camels
T. F. BARNHARTT TOBACCO COMPANY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

100% TOBACCO
NO ADDITIVES
CIGARETTES

Donna Atwood - 1944 – Times have sure changed.



Easter Bunny at Ice Capades at Maple Leaf Gardens circa 1955

This week's Throwback Thursday photo celebrates Easter with this snapshot taken in 1955 by an Alexandra Studio photographer, featuring Maple Leaf Gardens' Ice Capades performer Sandy Culbertson with the Easter Bunny.

Remembering the 2015 Ice Capades Reunion



[Click here to relive some memories & pictures](#)

Comments from April Blade

Loved the Blade....as always! – *Jim Hurst*

I absolutely adored the Belita interview. She was not someone I knew, as an artist; but she came across as: attractive, diplomatic, intelligent; and a wonderful, musical, mover. No wonder she was a Star. Thank you for introducing me to her. I am really amazed at the old ice shows' talent for finding and building personalities, creating Stars; it's something that modern skating is deeply lacking and suffering from. Athletic tricks are great; but Skating needs a little glamour, sex appeal, individuality... to be what it really is best at.
- *Mark Beck*

You are a jewel – love hearing about folks by way of the Blade. You spoil us all. Wishing you a great summer and a Blessed Easter. Can't wait till 2020 to see you here at Palm Desert!! – *Jennifer Custer*

Kudos to Gloria Spoden for her incredible dedication and creativity in providing us with The Blade each month— I myself have so enjoyed reading it and appreciate her insightful information. The Blade article on tank ice even inspired me to make a related post on my upcoming fall 40th Barrington High School, Illinois reunion Facebook page because of performing on tank ice at the University of Illinois in Champaign. Credits also to Jim Custer for his article excerpts, Willy Bietak for his helpful tank ice information and cruise ship link, and other skaters in the link: Sarah Kawahara and Sylvia Froescher. Thank you greatly, - *Jan Coopman*

Upcoming Events

Royal Ballroom Cruise January 20, 2020



Royal Caribbean Mariner of the Seas
4 Nights \$429.00 and up
Taking reservations now
Call or travel agent Shelly Fogelman (248-203-0022) and reserve your favorite cabin today

[Click here for more information.](#)



<http://www.icetheatre.org/>

If you know if someone who would like to receive The Blade, please send me their email address or if you would like to be removed from receiving The Blade, please type 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

Email me directly at gspoden@rogers.com