

Denise Eby – December 30, 2012



Denise Eby, 89, lost her courageous battle with esophageal cancer on December 30, 2012. She was born on December 18, 1923 in Quebec City and was one of six children born to Pauline and Ralph Benoit. Her father was a prominent statesman in the Government of the Province of Quebec where he was at one time the Secretary to Premier Taschereau.

Denise took up figure skating as a young girl and, together with her brother Pierre, joined Ice Capades as a featured pair appearing in the initial performance of this new company in New Orleans on June 16th, 1940. When Pierre became a member of the Canadian army in 1941, sister Francine became Denise's partner and the Benoit Sisters continued on as featured performers in Ice Capades until 1950. Following Denise's performing years she began a new career as Publicist for Ice Capades. It was a career that she excelled in and

for several decades she would advance the show in major United States and Canadian cities. Moving to Montreal, she found time in between Ice Capades tours to work as the Ice Show Specialist for the Montreal Forum and performed similar work for the Olympia Arena in Detroit.

In 1966 Denise married George Eby, who at that time was the President of Ice Capades. They enjoyed life in their home in Studio City, Calif., where they lived for almost 30 years. In 1991 they moved to Palm Desert where they had often vacationed in the past. They chose to live in Marrakesh Country Club and it was a happy decision for them.

After George passed away in 1993, Denise devoted more time to working with the Assistance League, the annual Tennis Tournament and to volunteering for other charity events. She especially enjoyed her work as co-chairman of the School Bell project as well as helping organize special charity events, and fun bus trips to points of interest. In reward for her generous charity work she often received accolades and recognition. Her charm, enthusiasm and incredible energy, together with the slight French accent that she never lost, endeared her to everyone she came in contact with.

She was surrounded by many loving friends. While Denise became a US citizen, her siblings all major achievers, remained in Quebec with the exception of her brother Jean Benoit, an artist noted for his sculptures, who lived in Paris for many years before his passing. Denise is survived by her loving sisters, Francine and Simone, brothers Pierre and Raymond, and many nieces and nephews. There are no plans for a service at this time. In memory of Denise donations may be made to your favorite charity.