



Sad News

Mary Lou Brodhecker – November 22, 2020



Mary Lou Brodhecker, 91, of Lancaster, passed away on Sunday, November 22, 2020 at the Mennonite Home.

Born in Lancaster, she was the daughter of the late Paul and Helen Weigand Brodhecker. A talented ice skater, when Mary Lou was young she toured with the **Ice Capades**. She enjoyed giving ice skating lessons, dancing with the Buffalo Gals, and traveling.

Mary Lou had worked as a secretary for the Lancaster County Courthouse, and was a food demonstrator in local supermarkets.

She was a lifetime member of Redeemer Lutheran Church.

She is survived by many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and great great nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her sisters: Edith Brubaker, Jean Afflebach, and Iris Diller.

Mary Lou's family would like to thank the nursing staff of Swarr Run for the compassionate care shown to her over the years at the Mennonite Home.

Friends will be received on Friday, November 27, 2020 from 9:30-10:30AM at the Charles F. Snyder Funeral Home & Crematory, 441 N. George St., Millersville, with the Funeral Service to follow at 10:30AM. Masks are required for all attending the viewing and services. Interment in Conestoga Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, please make contributions in Mary Lou's memory to Redeemer Lutheran Church, 500 Pearl St., Lancaster, PA 17603. To send a condolence, please visit SnyderFuneralHome.com

Our Alumni in the News

Scottsdale woman remembers role with early Ice Capades

Posted Wednesday, December 9, 2020 10:00 pm
Bill Brown/Special to the Independent

Scottsdale resident Lela Bogardus got an early start in fitness, one that led to a job on ice.

"My parents thought ballet was too fancy, so my sister and I took acrobatic lessons."

If you have ever seen Ms. Bogardus in the Fitness Center at Vi at Silverstone in north Scottsdale, you would realize her parents did her a big favor. She can do many exercises that I can't even think about trying. She is still as limber as a teenager. I've seen her lie face down on a large ball and balance. Not only can I not do that, but if I got down there, I probably would have a difficult time getting up by myself.



Acrobatic lessons were not the only balance and coordination activity Ms. Bogardus participated in. At the age of 12 1/2, she began ice skating. From October through March, the Tulsa Figure Skating Club had the use of the Coliseum in Tulsa. The floor was covered with ice and they would hire a professional skater to assist during the winter months.

"For the first hour, we would skate figures.' Then the rest of the time was split between free skating and ice dancing." Ms. Bogardus said. "I think there was only two times a year that the ice outside was frozen thick enough

to skate on."

Ms. Bogardus and her older sister Jean performed in many of the Ice-Travaganza|| shows. The Tulsa Figure Skating Club would produce a different show each year. When Jean graduated from high school, she joined the **Ice Capades** which was a touring ice show founded in 1940 in Hershey, Pennsylvania, by John Harris, owner of Pittsburgh's Duquesne Gardens arena.

Ms. Bogardus continued in high school for one year, but with her parents' blessing she joined her sister and the **Ice Capades** tour at the age of 16-1/2. However, she didn't give up on her school work and received her high school diploma through correspondence course work.

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

Video of the Month

From the Ice to the Archives – How to Save History



Bob Recker “Red Pop” was part of the Ice Capades family from 1973-1983. He was a truck driver who moved our equipment from city to city. Along the way, he developed a passion to preserve our history and has accumulated a collection of records, documents & memorabilia related to our show. Take a few minutes to view this short video which documents his story and his passion to preserve history. Bob is looking to preserve our Ice Capades history.

Please contact Bob at the contact information is at the end of the video if you know of a possible ‘home’ for this priceless memorabilia.

 [FROM THE ICE TO THE ARCHIVES \(NEW\).mp4](#)

RELIVING FOND MEMORIES



Doug Martin had published two books called ‘Frozen Community’ where he wanted to have skaters tell funny stories about their time on the road. Stories were posted before but worth sharing again. Read on.

Doug remembered thinking about **Terry & Gisela Head**, who have lived in Las Vegas for a number of years. Terry and I shared a dressing room while we were with the show, along with **Freddie Trenkler, Hans Leiter, John LaBreque**, and a few other guys from time to time. I saw Terry & Gisela at the reunion in Las Vegas. We didn’t have as much time as we’d have liked to sit down and share memories of all the fun things that happened on tour that gave us laughs to remember all through the years, but we still enjoyed our visit.

Like Freddie Trenkler, Terry was a seasoned performer, and so was his wife Gisella. Not only could Terry make your laugh with his great comedic performances on the ice, he was equally

funny off the ice. We spoke recently and he reminded me of the class prank we played on Jack Balmer, the manager of the show.

Train trips

We were on a train traveling to the next city we would perform in, and a few of us guys got together to plan our 'what fun and devious thing we could do on that leg of the trip'. We usually weren't fortunate enough to have a dining car on the trains we traveled on, but on this particular trip we not only had a dining car, we also had train staff assigned to our Pullman cars. So one of the guys told the porter on our car that **Jack Balmer** was extremely ill and had to be woken up every four hours in order to take his medicine. So every four hours, all through the night, one of the staff would go by his bunk and do a quick wake up on him, then move on to their next duty.

Needless to say, we had a very grumpy manager the next morning. We'd all sneak a peek at him when we knew we wouldn't be seen, doing our best to hold in the laughter. But every now and then we'd put distance between ourselves and Jack, just so we could share a laugh with another member. Oh well, just another day in the big show.

Speaking of trains, one thing everyone in the cast was conscious of was what time our next train left the station. Very few cast members, Principals or Chorus, traveled apart from the transportation that was provided by Ice Capades. If the trip was going to be an especially long, rough one, lasting say, more than three days, a few of the Principals who could afford it would be given permission to fly ahead to the next city. That was a privilege only they were granted and one they were quite willing to use, as it would give them a day or two of real rest before the next show.

But for the average Chorus member, those train rides were a chance to relax, read, party or did whatever they wished to do. It was amazing to see what some of them cooked up to make the trip seem shorter. One of the favorite activities was playing poker, and a number of games were set up in each of the cars we occupied. Sometimes, the women were invited to play, but not often. It was a guy thing, I guess.

One of the things I remember about those long train trips was that, on the last night of a journey, some of the cast would put their luggage at the front of the door we were scheduled to depart through, and go to bed thinking that as we pulled into the station the next morning, they'd be first in line to get their luggage, step off the train, and be on their way. Problem was, some of us guys, myself included, would wait until they'd go to bed, then we'd quietly move their luggage toward the back of the line, and put ours up front where theirs should have been. Next morning, by the time they realized that their hopes for a quick departure had been dashed, we had already snatched up our luggage, grabbed a taxi, and were the first ones to arrive and check in at the hotel. Of course, we wisely made ourselves scarce for the next couple of hours, but it was a brilliant plan, don't you think?

An average Ice Capades group equaled one hundred or more persons, consisting of performers, musicians, stage hands and office personnel. That's a lot of people living, working and traveling together, and there was the real potential of problems cropping up now and then. Fortunately, there were many more laughs than frowns. Most of the time, if we'd see anyone screw up in a performance or backstage, or even on the train trips, it tended to provide comic relief rather than trouble. It also helped to override any negative thoughts a cast member might have on the road, whether it be family concerns or some other problem.

New Reunion Information

New Dates – June 8, 9, 10, 2021



RESERVE YOUR TABLE FOR THE BANQUET and a chance to win a SUITE UPGRADE FOR THE EVENT

Are your friends registered yet? We are offering a chance to Reserve a Table for the Gala, between now and January 31, 2021.

Simply designate a Table Host, and that person will then let me know the other 7 “registered” people (total of 8 for your table).

These 8 people will then be *eligible to win a 1 Bedroom Suite Upgrade at the OMNI Resort and Spa* for your Reunion stay.

Deadline for this Suite Upgrade Giveaway drawing has been extended to - January 31, 2021.

Also, For those not participating in this promotion, know that there will be a

"limited number" of table sign-ups available in Registration Area at Check-In!

Click here to register: <https://www.eventinterface.com/en/ice-capades-2020-reunion/>

The OMNI LAS PALMAS RESORT & SPA is now taking reservations, and can be made by [clicking here](#) or by clicking the link on our Reunion Registration Web page, or from the link on our Facebook Reunion event page, or by **phoning (888) 444-6664. REMEMBER: You must use Our Code to get the Discounted Rate: 061420CAPADES .**

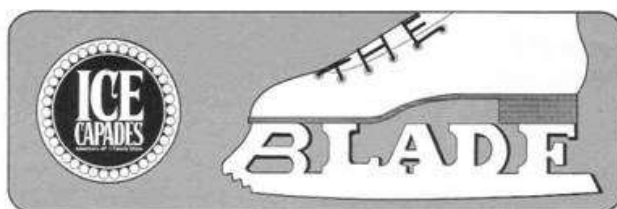
Questions: -- Stephanie Perom, Event Producer, (310) 962-5908 -Cell, IceCapadesReunion@outlook.com

[Click here for all 80th Anniversary Reunion Registration & Information](#)

[Click here to make revised Omni hotel reservations](#)

Discounted Rate: 061420Capades

[Click here to see who's coming](#)



The website, www.icecapadestheblade.com has been revamped and more information has been added. It's still a work in progress. If you have something to add, please send them.

Look here **for 2021 Ice Capades Reunion** information, including the list of **who's coming**

Cast, Precision & Production Pictures – Relive some memories.

Past reunion Pictures – Check them out for some you may have missed.

Rosters – Looking for someone or remembering who you skated with in the show?

Video links – have been collecting skating 'You Tube' links from the early years.

Program Covers – we had the most beautiful covers

Past Issues of The Blade – just in case you missed an issue

Past Reunion Pictures – relive the times you attended the reunions

In Memorium – remembering those who have left us too soon

Check it out!

[Upcoming Events](#)



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

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