



## Sad News

### **Rosemary Henderson Marks – Jan. 21, 2021**



It is with great sadness that the family of Rosemary (Henderson) Marks announces her passing on January 21, 2021. Although Rosemary struggled with dementia in her later years, she maintained her high level of energy, empathy, and amazing sense of humor until recently, when she passed away from Covid-19.

Rosemary (Henderson) Marks was Canada's Junior Ladies Champion in 1952, then went on to skate for Ice Capades from 1953 to 1957. She initially skated under wing with Donna Atwood, and later took over lead role when Donna retired in 1956. [Click here for complete information](#)

### **Ron Beadle – Jan. 26, 2021**



# Updated Reunion Information

## New Dates – June 14 - 16, 2022



**Announcing - NEW DATES for the Ice Capades Reunion – June 14, 15, 16, 2022**, at the stunning and spacious **OMNI Resort & Spa, Rancho Mirage (Palm Springs), CA.**

Now that it is unlikely California will be allowing large gatherings in Spring, and our Canadian friends are still being asked not to travel... it became evident we needed to push our event - to 2022. Doing this will hopefully allow for more attendees to be vaccinated. We want to be safe, and allow for as many skaters, and extended Capades family, to be able to attend as possible. Hope you'll want to be there too!

Yes, **if already registered**, your event registration will be transferred to June 2022! While it may seem to be a long wait The Ice Capades Reunion 2022 committee is still excited and committed to providing a fun experience, in what could very well be the last chance to gather 'this many' of us in one spot. Please save any requests for cancellations, for extreme personal situations only. Much appreciated.

**If you already have a hotel reservation**, know the OMNI Resort has moved all reservations over to the new date(s). Feel free to call and confirm, to ease your mind. The 2022 OMNI Resort Reservation Website is not up yet. Know they are working on a skeleton crew, but I am told the website will be Live in a few days. Info regarding the new OMNI Resort website will be posted soon. Our hotel rates, will remain the same in 2022.

We are all getting older. (Still glamorous, but older). And after all this Covid-19 craziness it will be so good to see old friends again! So, please make a plan to come join us, and fully enjoy this special, unique reunion!

[Click here for 2022 registration form, which can be printed out](#)

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

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](mailto:IceCapadesReunion@outlook.com)

## News Worth Celebrating



Betty Heiss Barnes skated in Ice Cycles and of course, Ice Capades. She'll be 100 years old on March 29th, 2021.



Her married name is Betty Barnes (my dad and her divorced in late fifties). She was known as Betty Jane Heiss in the programs.

This is an excerpt from an article that appeared in Figure Skating Magazine celebrating Ice Capades 75<sup>th</sup> Reunion in Las Vegas – June 22-24, 2015.

Ice Capades Memories: Lucille & Betty support the war effort

Lucille Miller Creighton & Betty Heiss Barnes joined the Ice Capades in the early 1940's and recall what the show meant to all of the U.S. service men and women during World War II.

“With the war, things changed so radically,” Creighton , who spent 40 years with ice shows, said, “It did for us, too. We always took collections for the soldiers and many times we had private cars but had to give them up (for the war effort). It was quite a time when I think back on those days and how cold it was. We all enjoyed having the opportunity to be helpful for the war and we felt we were.”

Barnes said the Ice Capades show entertained countless troops over the years. She remembered an Army sergeant who taught the women the ‘manual of arms’ each morning in a parking lot.

“Well, our shows got worn out.’ Barnes said. “He did the job and on the opening night of the show, we did that number. He was sitting in the front row and every girl who went by him noticed that he was sitting there with tears running down his face. He was such a hard-boiled sergeant and he could be tough on us, but he was sitting there crying because those were his girls.’

Creighton, who today lives in Mission, Texas, was a line skater and had a bicycle act, too. She recalled falling on her face during a kick line and ended up sliding under a spectator’s chair in the first row.

“He had to get up and pick up the chair so I could get up, and everybody roared,’ she said. “I didn’t get hurt, but it was quite something to see. We had a rehearsal after the show that lasted three hours to teach us that no matter what happens, or who falls, you never laugh, you never laugh.’

Creighton, who also spent many years with Holiday on Ice, wore many hats with the travelling ice show, including being the paymaster. She was responsible to pay all of the show’s bills, including making sure that all the performers received their paychecks.

“They loved me for this,’ she said.

“I have no regrets and I’m happy to have the experiences I did with ice skating. I wouldn’t trade those for anything in this world.’ Creighton added.

Barnes, who resides in Cleveland, looks back fondly on her years with the Ice Capades, which lasted from 1941 in the mid-1950’s. Some of the great performers she worked with included Bobby Specht, Donna Atwood, Red McCarthy, Phil Taylor and the “Old Smoothies’ Orrin Markhus and Irma Thomas.

“I was doing something I loved and it was a great time,’ Barnes, who after the Ice Capades went on to teach skating for 21 years in Euclid City, Ohio, said.



One of Barnes' most vivid memories from the Ice Capades took place on Thanksgiving Day in Buffalo, New York, where Specht and Joe Jackson Jr. took liberties with their number in Scheherazade. Specht was the prince and Jackson the king.

"Bobby was with the king's daughter and he was bringing a jewel box to give to the king'. Barnes said, "He handed the king the jewel box and he opened it up and pulled out a great, big turkey. We roared. The audience thought it was hysterical but we all got fined for it.'

[Skating Magazine memories from the 75<sup>th</sup> Ice Capades Reunion](#)

## **15 Signs You Grew Up in Ice Capades by Synnove Head Reilly**

1. You can count to 8.
2. Markers are not things you color with.
3. "G-strings" and "boobie pads" are part of your everyday vocabulary.
4. You earn extra money fixing fishnets.
5. You earn extra money stuffing Dorothy's picture in the program (or whichever star was visiting that week).
6. You evaluate a hotel room bathroom to see how good a kitchen it could make.
7. You think every kid trick-or-treats in hotel hallways, knocking on every door that has a trunk outside.
8. '5' and '3' minutes do not refer to the hardness of an egg.
9. Giving interviews is normal.
10. You watch Johnny Carson every night.
11. Phil Romaine stretched you.
12. You were just as afraid of Bob Turk and Shirley Costello as the adults were.
13. Diddo Mr. Eby and Mr. Palmer.
14. You can still pack a suitcase like no one else!
15. Jan Wood made your wedding G-String.

## Video of the Month

Enjoy Atoy Wilson's historical video leading up to when he became a member of the World Famous Ice Capades.



Thanks to the encouragement of Tai Babilonia in suggesting I post something for Black History Month. I finally took the time to dust off some 16mm tape of my competitive skating years circa – 1969 – 1979. Once safely converted on to a digital platform, I was able to take myself down a 'Skaters' memory lane. Oh boy, Geez. I hadn't seen many of these programs in quite some time. It truly brought a smile to my face especially watching a wobbly 8 year old Atoy trying his

determined best to navigate a very large ice surface of the fabled Polar Palace. The chronological highlights of the skating carry deep connections of coaching, instructions, care, time and dedication from two wonderful mentors in my skating life, the extraordinary spirit of Mrs. Mabel Fairbanks and the polished stamp of Mr. Peter Betts. But not far off course from the skating rail was an attentive and supporting person in my formative life, my mom. Thelma Wilson and Dad Atoy Sr. to put it bluntly, LOL kept the cash flowing for those important essentials to a skaters formation – ice time, aka (patch and freestyle sessions) lessons, skates/blades, skating attire, travel, etc. Skaters you know the drill.

Also witnessed is a portion of a historical record of a 1966 Novice title win, becoming the first African American to win a National Title in USFSA history. But more so, these small snippets of a young black skater developing his competitive skills during a unique period of time give credence that a wider door of inclusion for minority skaters was being opened. I have had the honor and privilege of taking a significant part in this beautiful and wonderful sport we call figure skating. I hope anyone who views this will enjoy it as much as I did. Peace....

[Click here to view the video](#)

## 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.

Here is another one of Doug's memories called '**Doug's Close Call**'

While in New York City, which was 1962, I had an unusual incident happen to me. I had never been in New York City before and was

anxious to see some of the sites. I made my way to Radio City Music Hall, and was looking forward to seeing the famous Rockettes perform. As I was waiting in the foyer, I noticed an usherette who was as busy as could be getting people to their seats. We spoke for a few minutes and, naturally, the subject of Ice Capades came up and the fact that I was in the show. She said she'd love to see the show, so I invited her to come on her night off and said I'd leave a ticket for her at the box office. She lived in Brooklyn and her name was Pauline Marinello. I assumed she was Italian with a name like that, I thought to myself, this is like a movie.

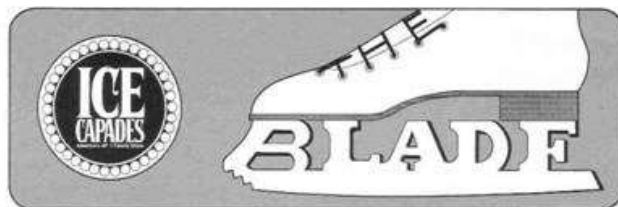
Anyway she called and told me she'd be coming to the show the next evening and would pick up the ticket at the box office. She also said she'd like to see me after the show. I agreed, and we met. Then she told me her mother wanted to meet me, and would I come home with her and have something to eat at their place? I thought to myself, it's late, but I may as well go and have something to eat. Besides, she was good company.

So we took the subway to Brooklyn, and walked from the subway station to where she lived. I had to smile to myself, because the surroundings made me feel like I was in an old gangster movie. WE got to her apartment, which was up a couple flights of stairs, and I was warmly welcomed by her mother, whom I thanked in advance for the meal she'd prepared. She looked at me and asked, "You like it?" I assured her I did, to which she replied, "Pauline made all of this for you.'

It suddenly came to me what was happening. "Mama" was looking for a husband for her daughter. I glanced at Pauline and saw she was very embarrassed by what had just happened. She smiled weakly and gave me an 'I'm sorry' look back. I made it back to the hotel safely as a single man, and will just finish by saying Pauline remained friends throughout the years, but I'll never forget what a close call that was.

While in New York City, a fellow skater and I were given a great publicity opportunity. This is truly one of my favorite memories connected to my time with Ice Capades. Remarkably, this other guy and I were asked to appear on The Dating Game TV show. Members of the cast often received calls while on tour to give newspaper and magazine interviews, or to go on a local radio program to promote the show, but this was national TV – a big deal in those days.

As a testament to our egos, we both thought we had a good chance of winning the date with the bachelorette that day. We gave a heads up to some of our buddies – both male and female – to be sure to watch the episode. We took a cab to the studio where it was being taped, and were ushered to the chairs we'd occupy for the show. Do I need to tell you that both of us got a lesson in humility that day, as neither of us was selected by the bachelorette? I can't tell you the kidding we got backstage that night. Good natured, but still a lesson learned.



The website, [www.icecapadestheblade.com](http://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 **2022 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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