

Sad News

Betty Heiss Barnes

March 29, 1921 – June 25, 2021



Betty Jane Barnes, 100, passed away June 25, 2021 at Breckenridge Fairmount Health Center in Willoughby. She was born March 29, 1921 in Cleveland, Ohio to the late Harvey and Mildred Melville Heiss and was a longtime resident of Concord, Ohio. Betty is survived by her sons Courtney Barnes of Painesville, Edwin Loeb of Willoughby and her daughter Lisa (John) Christensen of Grass Valley, CA. She also leaves behind her grandchildren Jordan (Frank) Byers of Chicago, Andrew Barnes of San Francisco, and Chad (Nina) Komniey of San

Diego as well as two great grandchildren, Caden and Mirabella Komniey. She was preceded in death by her husband Jack Barnes, sister Georgia Dyer and nephew Jan Dyer. In 1942 at age 21 she joined the **Ice Capades** and skated professionally until 1953 when she then settled in Euclid Ohio and taught skating at the Orr Municipal Arena for over 20 years. Betty, known as DoDo to her family, celebrated her 100 years around the sun with her entire family and friends at the Steele Mansion on her 100th birthday in March 2021. No service will be held. The family suggested any memorial donations in her name be made to the Lake County Humane Society, 7564 Tyler Blvd., Unit E., Mentor, Ohio 44060 or at www.lakehumane.org Arrangements by Johnson Funeral Home of Painesville. www.johnsonfuneralservices.net

Never Give Up Your Dreams

Ice Capader Didn't Fall at Auditions

A four-year veteran of Ice Capades' Corps de Ballet, Glenda Litz is a bouncy (recently married) spokesman for the show and its stars. But it was a chance remark about bruises that brought about the confession that she was once covered with them.



Leaning across our luncheon table she confided with a mischievous grin. “When I first started with the show, I overheard the choreographer ask someone, “Where did you find that one?” He said I was a hazard to the stagehands (because I did most of my falling backstage.)”

It all started with Glenda was a senior at the University of Missouri and pinned to a Sigma-Chi. Searching for a unique party idea, the enterprising fraternity threw a skating party and it was there that she met a girl who was home on vacation from the Ice Capades.

“It sounded great, and I wanted to do it,” Glenda exclaimed. So she “practiced real hard for the auditions that were coming up.”

She declares that although she was “really a tomboy,” she had never been on skates more than four of five times in her life. By her own admission, she didn’t try too much at the audition. “The others were doing all these jumps and things and falling. I think I got hired because I was the only one who didn’t fall down,” she giggled.

“After I got to Atlantic City, (where the show rehearses its new edition) I used to sneak in an hour or two before everyone else and practice. Did I fall?” she rolled her eyes. “Oh, did I take some falls!”

But, with sheer determination and oodles of moxie, she survived.

Having been reminded of that first year, Glenda shakes her head, fervently declares that she’s glad it’s in the past, and diligently returns to spewing “ice chips” (anecdotes to non-skaters) about the matter at hand.

Ice Capades will be at the New Haven Arena through Sunday [October 5, 1969].

MEMORIES WORTH SEEING AGAIN

Gene Kelly on the Dorothy Hamill TV special



Here are 3 Clips from the Dorothy Hamill TV special (1976) with guest star Gene Kelly. Gene sings a skating version of “Bicycle Made for Two”, does a hockey skit with Jim McKay, and performs “Be a Clown” with Dorothy.

<https://fb.watch/670dfeVJDA/>

Ice Blue Secret Commercial



In 1971, some of our lovely Ice Capets took part in an Ice Blue Secret commercial. This video is a compilation of commercials from the 60’s to the 70’s so have fun taking a trip down memory lane watching those other commercials. Our commercial starts at the 8:48 mark. See if you can recognize some of them.

<https://youtu.be/xXLpTwwTEZU>

Backstage at the Ice Capades

By Arlene Van Breems



Year after year the Ice Capades moves from city to city. Tonight is official opening night in Los Angeles. The skaters will be on ice at the Sports Arena through May 17.

The 80 skaters have moved into hotels, apartments and sometimes their family homes for their stay – it is one of the longest runs they have.

Suitcases are as much a part of their life as the skates they wear. Everything, almost, that cannot walk is on wheels – props, office file cabinets, wardrobes and massive wig

containers.

Not Glamorous

Backstage, the Ice Capades is not a very glamorous place. Faces, heavy with stage makeup, look tired. The icy atmosphere is warmed by cups of coffee and short, sometimes terry cloth bathrobes worn between costumes

Being close-up to the skater, makes their black and blue marks visible. It is easier to fall on the cement backstage than the ice out front. Rubber skate guards, rubberized mats and plywood boards keep them upright most of the time, but not always.

Robert Daily, wardrobe supervisor, sits at his sewing machine on wheels making last-minute adjustments on costumes.

Zippers break, and skaters sometimes need to be sewn into their costumes. Daily has two cupboard full of sewing necessities. "Drawers full of thread, hooks and eyes by the thousands and a big box of feathers – turkey, chicken, pheasant, you name it.'

Wardrobe mistress Miss Lena DeCiantis has large safety pins fastened to the top of her apron. "The skaters' straps on their headpieces might be too long," she said.

Miss DeCiantis keeps one eye on the skaters and another on her staff of dressers, women hired in each city to help with the costumes.

"We must have 550 costumes in all, or is it 450. I'm not sure," said Miss DeCiantis. Each one is lined up according to the act in which it appears and also numbered for the skater who will wear it.

Headpieces affixed to wigs are numbered also. They are heavy, loaded with plastic flowers, feathered plumes, paste jewelry and sometimes bows.

The wig headpieces are the last part of the costume to go on the skater. Heavy and scratchy with almost strangling elastic fasteners, they are uncomfortable to wear.

Once ready, skaters line up in front of mirrors checking faces, wigs and smiles. One quick glance goes to check the seams of the net stockings

In the Wings

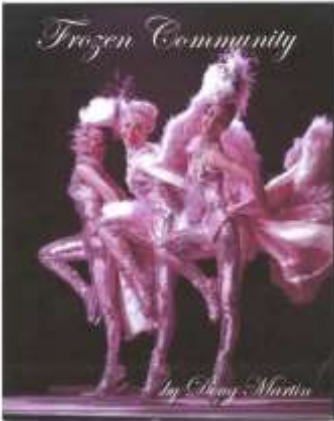
Then they line up in the wings. The featured performers, oftentimes in scantier costumes, pace back and forth and practice turns on the small strip of ice behind the curtain.

"Moving helps to keep warm" said Mitsuko Funakoshi, a featured performer who stars in two acts.

Los Angeles is her home town so her mother is backstage to visit before the show. This is her fifth year in the Ice Capades.

She enjoys the work and will continue for 'as long as it is profitable,' said Miss Funakoshi. But I would like to settle down and become a housewife 'a normal life sounds terrific to me now.'

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.

Marilyn Martell Paige remembers well how making her entrance for Football became very memorable for her. She also learned that being a stooge is hard work. Read on -

One year, one of our sets had slides set up at each end of the stage. Those of us in the chorus were lined up to make our entrance for the precision number, using the slides. The theme for that number was Football, so all of us girls had our pompoms in hand. Someone backstage said, 'Okay, girls, let's sell it. Don't give it away.' When it was my turn, I started down the slide, smiling like crazy. But I forgot about the ice buildup at the bottom of the slide. When I hit it, I fell and landed on my stomach, with my skates in the air, pompoms held high. Rah! I slid all the way to center ice, with the spotlight on me all the way. Needless to say, everyone in the chorus was laughing, and it was a very happy number.

My first year in Ice Capades, I was asked to be a stooge for Johnny LaBrecque and George Bussey. "It'll be a breeze," I was told. "When you hit the dash, just scream and run into the person with the popcorn. Do not go back to your seat, just go backstage." Sounded simple enough, right? So when we hit the dash, I ran as fast as I could and hit poor Reggie Phillips, an Ice Cadet. The popcorn flew in the air, along with Reggie. I was so upset and Reggie was too. We worked together to get it right before the next show. I was ready. When it came time for my part, I ran – much slower – but it wasn't Reggie. It was Jack Balmer and he got me. I bounced off him. I got kidded about it for a long time.

Updated Reunion Information

HOTEL RESERVATIONS UPDATE FROM STEPHANIE... Here's who the **OMNI Resort & Spa** has **reservations for - in 2022!** If you have made a reservation for 2020 or 2021, *but your name is not here*, please call the hotel with your Confirmation Number to be sure your reservation has been changed to 2022. They feel confident all reservations have been moved... but please check if your name is not here, and you know you already made a reservation. Remember to use our Code to get our Special Rate: **061422Capade** Thank you! Sorry for any confusion.

Adams Traci
Alarid Larry J
Baldwin Jean
Beard Margaret

Beckett Mary
Belmonte Ray
Bertz Gretchen
Briley Robin

Bronstein Arlene
Brown Robert D
Bullock Ann
Byron Randall
Chalmers Robi
Christiansen Lomi
Coopman Jan
Crowley Robert
Delio Rebecca
Dellinger Judy
Donahue Joan
Donovan Sara
Estiloz Timothy
Everett Kathleen
Farrell Amy
Fountain, Iii Thomas J
Givens Lynn-Holly
Griffiths Sally
Handy Lindy
Harms Patricia
Harton Juliette
Harvey Elaine
Hill Shirley
Horner Nanette
Howard Cortez
Hyink Karen
James J Eva Marie
Kinder Cliff
Konovalchick John
Laforte C K
Leinberry Beth
Mccladdie Michelle
Mcgrath Stefani
McIlwain Kathy
McShane Elizabeth

Miller Pamela
Milner Traci
Mitchell Sharon
Moody Jane
Morgan Kim
Nakano Jean
O'Gara Barbara
Patterson Valerie
Patterson Julie
Pickard Nancy
Polson Sonia
Ramos Liv Lunde
Reilly Synnove
Ritoch Kristi
Ross Corazon
Sabharwal Kelly
Scott Gayna
Spoden Gloria
Starbuck Jo Jo
Stewart Ronny
Tassone Vickie
Taylor Liz
Taylor Eric
Tepper Lauri
Thibert Heidi
Thompson Jannat
Upton Robin
Vachon Louis
Von Kaufmann Sonya
Wassil Roxanne
Watson Don
Williams Steve
Wilsey Susan
Wilson Kim
Zwicker Cynthia Jill

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.

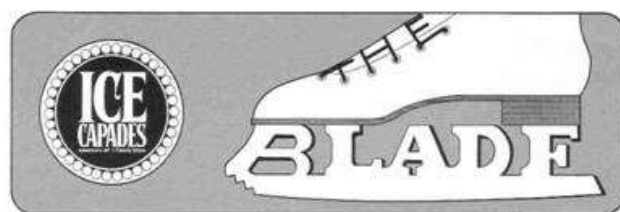
We are all getting older. (Still glamorous, but older). And after all this Covid-19 craziness it will be so good to see old friends again! So, please make a plan to come join us, and fully enjoy this special, unique reunion!

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

Click here to register: [New Hotel Reservation Link](#)

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



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 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



Knoxville Ice Chalet, Knoxville, TN

ProSkater Live Auditions & Performance Camp - **October 2 - 3, 2021:**

<https://proskaters.wufoo.com/forms/r1fkhswb1jo57s1/>



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

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