



## Sad News



It is with enormous sadness that we announce the passing of Michael W. Edwards on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at the age of 78 years old. Mike was in West Company 69 – 71.

Michael was born in Melville, SK, on June 12, 1943. He was the only child of William L. Edwards and Ruby J. Edwards Nicholls. Michael went to high school in Edmonton, AB, and later earned his Bachelor of Science in Metallurgical Engineering at University of Alberta, and his Master of Arts in Petroleum Economics at University of Calgary. He worked for many years in the oil and gas industry in Canada, and many countries overseas including the Middle East, Russia, and North Africa.

He finally found peace after a very difficult time. He loved all animals big and small. On his acreage he enjoyed his deer, moose, birds, squirrels, porcupines, foxes, coyotes, and the occasional skunk. They all knew where to get a handout. Nobody went hungry, especially in the winter - they were "his" critters. He cared for at least 24 stray cats in his life. He took them in and gave them a home until all died of old age. He even brought street cats from Tunisia home by plane via Frankfurt: a mother, Tina, and her kitten Tiny; Frank, a blind one; and Boy Boy with only half a tail: This one was found in a box in front of his house in 40 degree weather with his eyes still closed. He survived and became Michael's favourite. He fed him with an eye-dropper. The four immigrated to Canada for a better life. It showed the soft side of him.

Michael was a very special, kind, and humble man. He never bragged about his achievements, but when push came to shove, he stood up for the community of Bearspaw. He made sure that the people had a future and were granted fresh air to breathe. Michael loved to build things. He was good at picnic benches. He invited his brother-in-law Evert from the Netherlands to come and help him build a huge retaining wall. He took a course in cabin building, and built on his own property up north in the middle of bear country with just a radial arm saw and a generator. What a guy...

Oh he loved his Kubota Tractor. He sat on it like a little boy with a new toy. It sure came in handy picking up all of those logs on his acreage.

We will all miss him so very much.

Michael leaves behind his wife of 50 years, Adri, cousins all over Canada, and so many dear friends and caring neighbours and in-laws in the Netherlands. You are no longer who you were  
But always present where we are - Sadly missed, lovingly remembered.

We thank all of the doctors, nurses, and staff who cared for him, especially the ones in Bow Crest Long Term Care.

In living memory of Michael W. Edwards, a tree will be planted in the Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area.  
Published on September 25, 2021

## Charlotte Hoecker – Sept. 21, 2021



Charlotte Tilden Hoecker (Char). Char passed away September 15, 2021. Charlotte was born in Providence RI on March 1, 1929 and resided there until the age of four when her family moved to Evanston Ill.

After high school Charlotte worked in retail in Chicago and was a member of the Chicago Skating Club. Through a connection at the skating club Charlotte was introduced to the manager of the Ice Cycles skating show. Ice Cycles was a joint venture of the Ice Capades and Shipstad and Johnson Ice Follies. Charlotte was invited to skate in the show's chorus for nine months as they traveled around North America.

Charlotte married Raymond (Ray) Hoecker and had four children. Charlotte and Ray's family lived in Evanston, Illinois; Dallas, Texas; Crystal Lake, Illinois; Yarmouth, Maine and finally settled in Wausau WI in 1979. She began teaching skating in her back yard while living in Illinois. Eventually she approached the town of Crystal Lake about opening a skating rink on the lakefront. When Charlotte and Ray moved to Maine, she continued skating at the Riverside Ice Arena and at Bowdoin College's ice rink. She began taking ice dancing and freestyle lessons in her forties. When relocating to Wisconsin, the primary criteria for Charlotte and Ray was a town with a rink, a golf course, ski hill, and nearby airport! Charlotte continued taking ice dancing lessons and passed her bronze and silver dance tests. Char taught skating for nearly thirty years in Wausau, both as a volunteer and as a professional and even made the local news because she continued to teach well into her 80's.

## Hans A. Mueller – August 26, 2021



It is with tremendous sadness that Jewel Steele announces the passing of Hans A. Mueller on August 26, 2021; her life partner of 35 years. Born March 7, 1931, in Zürich, Switzerland, Hans was a butcher by trade, working at the family business. Yet his real passion came from figure skating. Starting off on roller-skates, Hans swiftly transitioned to figure skating, where he became the 1955 Swiss National Champion, competed in the 1955 and 1956 World Champions and then represented Switzerland for the 1956 VII Olympic Winter Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

Following the Olympics, Hans headed to America aboard the Queen Mary. Arriving in New York and making his way to Atlantic City he joined the **Ice Capades**. Together with his skating partner, Darlene Ripepe, in the resoundingly successful act, "Hans and Pepe," he spent the next two decades touring throughout the United States, Canada and Australia. After leaving Ice Capades, in 1976, Hans and Pepe continued the act, touring through Europe with Ice Parade. In the late 1970s, Hans decided to settle down in California, where he began a coaching career at the Skating Edge, formerly known as the



Olympic Ice Arena. There he would spend the next three decades training a virtually endless roster of champion skaters. On June 17, 1983, in celebration of the country he loved so dearly that he chose to make it his permanent home, Hans arguably became the proudest American Citizen.

Along with Jewel, Hans is survived by many friends and family who love and adore him, including his nieces: Monika Canova, Corina Canova, Karin Kuhn and Barbara Müller.

Thank you to Caring House for the wonderful care and dignity they provided to Hans in his final days. Having their support made a world of difference during this difficult time. To make a donation in Hans' memory, please visit [yourcaringhouse.org/donate](http://yourcaringhouse.org/donate).

Click here to leave a memory on the Tribute Wall

<https://www.greenhillsmortuary.com/obituaries/Hans-Mueller/#!/TributeWall>

## Did you ever wonder.....

### **Frequently asked questions while on tour (1966-71)**

“Are all the boys gay?” - Just the cute ones

“Is Tommy Litz gay?” - I wish

“Do you hate having to change skates with every costume?” - No

“Do you get to keep your costumes?” - No

“How do you skate in the dark?” - The same way you skate in the light.

“Do you have to pay for the hotel?” - Do you have to pay rent?

“What’s the difference between ‘Ice Capades’ and ‘Ice “Follies’?” - Obviously you’ve never seen “Ice Follies.”

“What’s your favorite city?” - Insert name of hometown

## **A Few More Ice Capades References**

Thanks Edwin Loeb for these tidbits

Did you know there was a reference to Ice Capades in a song by Rock n Roll Hall of Fame Band, The Ramones? In their debut album in 1976, in the song ‘Judy is a Punk’, Judy and a girlfriend “ran off and joined Ice Capades”.

I got to be good friends with Johnny Ramone in the late 90’s and early 2000’s before his death. We laughed one night at dinner when I informed him that my family had been in the show as well as my time with them.

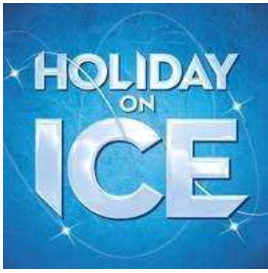
That song was in the movie, The Royal Tenenbaums.

Mad Magazine did a parody on the show where all the ice had melted and the skaters tried to skate on the exposed pipes and they all suffered broken ankles.

Ice Capades, as Americana as it comes!!!!

## Video of the Month

Holiday on Ice – Life travelling in an ice show  
Narrated by Debbie Williams



We are one big family, no matter what show you were associated with and life on the road was the same for all of us. Rob Williams created this documentary for the HOI reunion in LV in 2000 and thought you would enjoy a trip down memory lane. We think you can associate your own time on the road. Well done Rob and thank you for the memories.

[Click here to view the video](#)

## Picture of the Month



There's something about those showgirl legs. You would recognize them anywhere. Lisa Marocco DiBlasi is still looking hot and enjoying herself at the 75<sup>th</sup> Ice Capades Reunion at Treasure Island in Las Vegas.

## 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. Here's a good one -

Lori Elliott and Kathy Naranjo and the famous British band, The Who.

We were playing Cincinnati, in 1975, when we learned The Who, a well-known British rock group, was playing at the Riverfront Coliseum – the same venue we were opening the following night. My roommates and I were huge fans of The Who. We had to go see that band! Problem was, we didn't have tickets and the show was sold out. So Kathy Naranjo and I came up with a crackpot scheme to get in to see the show. We took a cab to the coliseum, found a security guard, flashed our Ice Capades IDs, and said we needed to do some advance work for our show. To our amazement, he bought our story and let

us in. It was a couple of hours before The Who was set to perform, so we did our best to keep a low profile. We chatted with some of the band's crew, and learned they were staying in the same hotel we were.

As we got closer to show time, the place came alive. Coliseum personnel started arriving and thousands of crazy fans were waiting to get in. Our plan was to find a door to let our other two roommates in once the show began. But then a different security guard noticed us, and he didn't buy our story. He marched us to the general manager's office, and we just knew we were in big trouble. But the manager turned out to be a great guy, and instead of throwing us out on our butts, he gave us tickets in a private box! The show totally rocked, and we had so much fun.

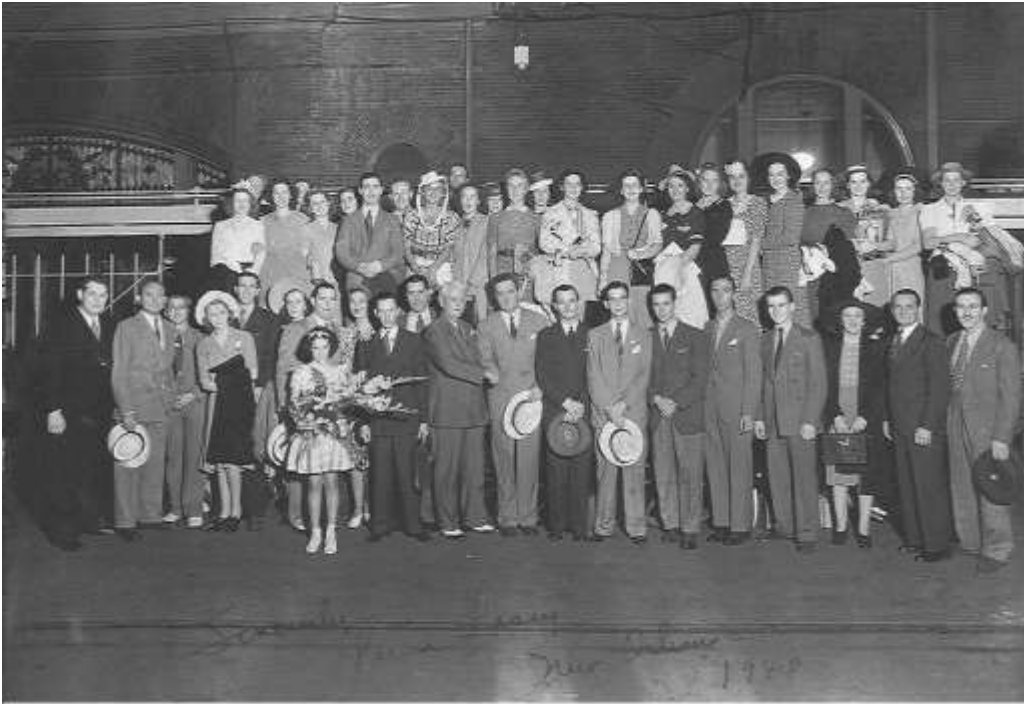
After the concert we wanted to get back to our hotel as quickly as possible, but we had no money for a cab. It was raining like crazy, and I had on this rabbit fur coat that was so popular at the time. It got soaked and I looked like a drowned rabbit, while Kathy, with her mascara running down her face, looked like a poor imitation of Alice Cooper. We asked some people in the parking lot if they'd give us a ride to our hotel and they agreed, but a few miles down the road we hopped out because they were so stoned we just knew they'd get us all killed.

So there we were, in the middle of nowhere in the pouring rain, and it's pitch black. When a pickup came by we stuck our thumbs out, hoping for a ride. The driver pulled over to let us in, and we were on our way. But the guy turned out to be a total nut job. We were so scared. I elbowed Kathy in the ribcage, and on the count of three we bolted from the cab of that truck! So there we stood in the pouring rain again, and when the next car came along we stuck our thumbs out again. A station wagon pulled over, and the guy driving was an employee of our hotel!

Once back in our nice, warm room, we changed our clothes, dried our hair, and waited for the band to arrive. We never saw or met Rodger Daltry, Pete Townshend or the rest of The Who that night, but we did see some of the guys from the crew we'd met that afternoon, and exchanged tour shirts and addresses. Kathy and I still talk about that night, feeling like Cinderella at the ball, then midnight struck and our night pretty much sent in the ditch. Kathy and I had been friends before we joined Ice Capades, skating together as kids, and we went on to do other ice shows after Ice Capades. Our travels were always memorable, and even though we now live in different states, I look forward to more crazy times with her.

# Memories

## Cast Pictures



**Opening Night Very First Performance of Ice Capades June 16, 1940  
New Orleans LA**

Foreground: JoAnn McGowan - Presenting Flowers  
 First Row L to R: Unidentified, J. George Lipsius-Dir. Phila. Arena, Jerry Mayhall-Music Director, Martha Dietl-Line Skater, George Bryan-Vocalist, Gerry Treacy-Line Skater, Unidentified, Peter A. Tyrrell-Ice Capades President, Bertram Wolf-Dir.Phila. Arena, Unidentified Local dignitary, Prieur Leary-Local Promoter, Larry Jackson-Jackson & Lynam, Pierre Beniot-Pierre & Denise, Bernie Lynam-Jackson & Lynam, Bob Dench-Dench & Stewart, Buster Grace-4 Bruises, Vida Uksila-Skating Dir., Geoffre Stevens-4 Bruises.  
 Upper Row L to R: Unidentified, Robin Lee-Male Principle, Unidentified, Unidentified, Jo-Ann Bartholdi-Line Skater, Carol Brown-Line Skater, Sid Spaldig-4 Bruises, Unidentified, Vera Hurba-Female Principle (Vera Ralston), Cliff Thael, Rona Thael-Cliff & Rona Thael, Bernice Loughborough?, Rosemarie Stewart-Dench & Stewart, Arline Smith-Line Skater, Edna Benjamine-Line Skater, Denise Beniot-Pierre & Denise, Patsy Vorhis-Line Skater, Peggy Smith-Line Skater, Morice Sherwood-Line Skater, Margaret Barry-Line Skater, Ragna Ray-Line Skater, Mickie Wendell-Line Skater, Mary Viterille, Unidentified.

1940



1941





## **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!

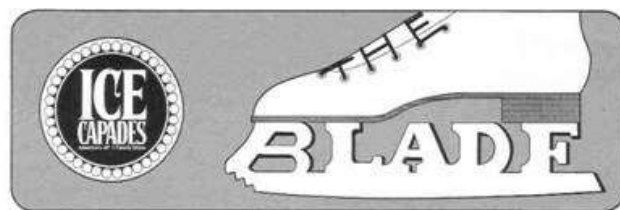
[Click here for 2022 registration form, which can be printed out](#)

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

**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.

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

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT WHO'S COMING TO OUR REUNION...](#)



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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