

Here's Your Opportunity to Help Continue a Skating Legacy!

By Jan O'Brien Coopman

There is a real need in the figure skating world, **and you may help!** To join in the goal of continuing the SP-Teri figure skating boot legacy, Olympian, PSA Master-Rated Coach, and new owner Bill Fauver is searching for investors to renovate a weather-damaged manufacturing, storage, and shipping facility.

How this came about

Some years ago, I decided to buy a new pair of figure skates because my former Ice Capades boots were clearly worn. At that time, a skating pro shop employee helped me to obtain a new pair of SP-Teri boots from George Spiteri in San Francisco.

Flash forward to 2010. After a big move from Chicago to Texas, I managed to briefly skate for a sweet 15 minutes at the Dallas Galleria: but that was it. Now at year 17 of MS, I sadly decided to sell my barely used newer skates because I felt it time for someone else to enjoy using them—rather than having the skates adorn my closet in a box. One exploration led to another. I discovered that SP-Teri moved, and George Spiteri retired in 2019.

Three years ago, SP-Teri transitioned in location and ownership from South San Francisco to near Nashville, Tennessee with Bill Fauver. The issue is that the new spot was soon afterward destroyed by a tornado—and then, after relocating to McEwen, further damaged by a historic flood (a state record 31" of rain in 24 hours fell there). Rebuilding will take assistance. If you're able to help, Fauver and those in McEwen will be grateful (as will many skaters relying upon SP-Teri boots).



Bill Fauver and George Spiteri

The earlier skating boot story, the legacy

Back in 1948, the late Joseph Spiteri initially transitioned from seasoned shoe cobbler to head figure skate designer for his employer. He then spent 13 years honing his skills in pattern design and boot customization before his employer passed away and the company was sold—Joseph in 1963 then began the SP-Teri company in his own small workshop in California.

In 1972, Joseph's son George Spiteri joined the family business and continued to build the SP-Teri reputation for quality and fit for the next 50 years. Figure skating boots were made in styles for various ages, abilities, and even in some in unusual colors. According to George, "We were making boots for the Santees when they were 10 years old; we didn't know what they would go on to do, we just knew that there were these two brothers out there who needed skates—they were all just kids who needed skates. You don't know when they're young that they're going to go on and become these big names." Others who once wore SP-Teri include:



Charlie Tickner



Dorothy Hamill



Paul Wylie



Nicole Bobek

I myself skated for Ice Capades, simultaneously with both Charlie Tickner and Dorothy Hamill. As time slid on, George retired in 2019 and sold the company to Bill Fauver, who firsthand understands the needs of competitive figure skaters. Importantly, Bill is committed to continuing [the SP-Teri legacy](#), this time with operations that transitioned from California to the Nashville, Tennessee area in McEwen. George still serves as company advisor, while Bill now leads the legacy as president. Even today, the boots are still completely and proudly American made and with products from the USA.

Read more about the [fascinating history of SP-Teri here](#), thanks to Terri Milner Tarquini in the 2019 PS Skaters Magazine.

Tornadoes and a major flood temporarily halted but won't melt the SP-Teri legacy

The horrid forces of nature's tornadoes and a unusual massive flood interrupted plans. But most skaters are rather resilient, and as is said, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Because it is common to take old industrial buildings and re-purpose them for other retail and commercial activities, such as at [The Factory at Franklin](#), Tennessee, the tornado and flood stirred up a similar, sweet new possibility. SP-Teri now sets up shop at [The Little Factory at McEwen](#), owned by Fauver and located about an hour west of Nashville. It includes a variety of other in-demand shops and a roller rink, too. [Skating boots are made for both roller and ice](#).

With the location enduring both tornadoes and a flood, the goal is to transform the unique building into a gathering center that houses restaurants, retail booths, games, an open atrium, and a roller rink—essentially a town gathering spot, a wholesome community-centered facility for retail, manufacturing, and after-school activities ideal for local youth. But with two major weather events, plans for [The Little Factory at McEwen](#) need a financial boost to get off the ground and jump into action with renovations.

How you can help

It takes capital to complete such a project, and investors are needed to accomplish this real estate endeavor. You can help by either investing or passing this information along to interested investors.

Simply put, the commitment could involve a straight loan with interest only, or an equity position and/or naming rights: options may vary, depending upon conditions. For this, we're talking about a financial commitment of a large loan or equity position, either from one person or from a handful of participants, to total the needed capital investment. Whether as a sole investor or as part of a small group, your help with this special project will translate into an involved community and continued legacy of the high quality and unbeatable fit of figure skating boots, plus roller skates, for skaters nationwide.

Help will benefit from tots to adults

Ultimately, this is an investment in people—a renovated building to house gatherings, activities, retail and artisan goods, the sport of roller skating, and figure skating supplies—for a town thirsty for wholesome happenings. **If you are interested in investing, have questions, or know of someone who is able to help, please email Bill** at bfauver@sp-teri.com to explore more specific financial details and possibilities.

Thank you for your consideration.