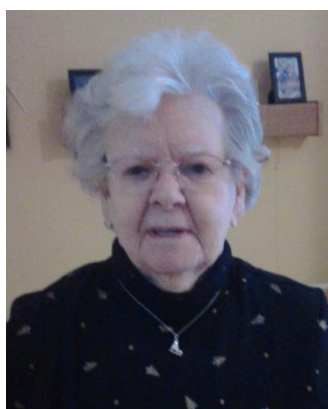


Sad News

LORRAINE KITSON – January 30, 2023



Lorraine Zella (Cormier) Kitson, wife, mother, grandmother, entertainer, and world traveler, passed from this life to eternity on Monday, January 30, 2023, at the age of 94. Her later years were spent at her home on Colburn Avenue in Gardner, Applewood Home for Elders and, finally, Gardner Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, where she went home to be with the Lord.

Alfred and Mary (Duguay) Cormier, Canadian immigrants, welcomed their firstborn, Lorraine, on February 14, 1928, in Gardner, MA.

Followed a year later by Roger "Bijou" and then Leo "Sonny Boy." She attended Gardner High School uneventfully until the arrival of her much-loved youngest brother Leo Cormier. Family history says she enjoyed her role as the doting older sister much more than schoolwork. She also found time to refine her ice-skating skills, building upon pond and rink opportunities from the age of 3.

At the age of 22, she competed in the Silver Skates Derby. The prize was a contract with the **Ice Capades**. **She loved skating as an "Ice Capet." Within the year, she met her future husband, Maxwell Kitson, of the acrobatic act "The Maxwells."** They married in Gardner, then traveled on the Queen Mary to England for an extended honeymoon. Their first daughter, Jacqueline Ann, was born in October 1953 in Hove, England. They continued entertaining and traveling, arriving in Croydon, Australia, two years later, where their second daughter, Marie Elizabeth, was born. They returned to the states in 1960 and settled in Brigantine, New Jersey. Family life was adventurous and varied, traveling to England, Australia, and New Zealand, occasionally returning to Brigantine. Once the girls finished school and married, Max and Lorraine moved to Norfolk Island in the South Pacific.

After a few years, Lorraine decided she wanted to come home. Lorraine and Max parted amicably, Max eventually moving back to Australia, and Lorraine came back to Gardner to take care of her aging family, including her mom and oldest brother, Roger, and her lively pet

Yorkie, Tootsie. For her entertainment, she continued ice skating and took up ballroom dancing and cross-country skiing. She was always active, visiting with her daughters and grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Overall, her options to settle, she chose to stay in Gardner for her later years. Nothing made her happier than knowing she was waking up to another familiar day in Gardner.

Lorraine is preceded in death by her ex-husband, Max Kitson; a brother, Roger Cormier; a daughter, Jacqueline (Jacqui) Thompson; and a grandson, Paul Maxwell Merlino.

Lorraine is survived by a brother, Leo Cormier of Arizona; daughter, Marie Merlino Kiessling and her husband Gene of Pennsylvania; a grandson, Andrew Merlino and his wife Alicia; three great-grandsons A.J., Henry, and James of New Orleans, LA. Funeral Services will be held Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in Annunciation Parish at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, 135 Nichols Street, Gardner, MA. Burial will follow at Notre Dame Cemetery, West Street, Gardner, MA.

Rose Hoover – January 31, 2023



Rose E. Hoover, 91, of Mercer, passed away at her residence on Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023, after a brief illness. Rose was born in Pittsburgh on May 30, 1931, to Matthew and Eva (Stecko) Blistan. On Nov. 11, 1950, she married Charles Graham Hoover III. He preceded her in death on Nov. 9, 2006. Rose loved the Lord and attended a non-denominational church.

In her late teens and early 20s, she was a member of the **Ice Capades**.

She was always very physically fit, enjoyed hiking, rollerblading, tap dancing, ice skating, and enjoyed going to the gym up until three weeks ago. Musicals, band concerts, big band music, football, and old movies were some of her favorite things.

Rose grew up in Pittsburgh, and she and Chuck raised their children in Hopewell Township. After retirement, she spent her time in West Palm Beach, Lake Latonka in Pennsylvania, and in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Surviving are three children, Diane R. (David) Neilson in Cincinnati, Charles Graham Hoover IV in Oklahoma City, Okla., and Robert Minor Hoover in Mercer; two sisters, Ethel Moschak in Pittsburgh and Olga Paulovkin in Leesburg, Va.; and one brother, Gerry Blistan in Pittsburgh. Rose will be dearly missed by her eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband; a daughter-in-law, Sherry Ward; sisters, Natalie Gardner and Mildred Zornan Sweeney; and brother, Matthew Blistan.

Carmel Joyce Mullen – Feb. 16, 2023

Carmel Joyce Mullen



Fresno, California - Carmel Joyce Mullen was a remarkable woman who loved the Lord. During World War II, she served as a "Rosie the Riveter". She traveled around the world skating with the **Ice Capades** performing in places like Madison Square Garden, the Hollywood Palace and the Royal Court of England. She was on shows such as The Ed Sullivan Show and The Phil Donahue Show. She helped start Special Education in Fresno County Office of Education and helped start the Special Olympics serving for over 45 years. Survived by daughter, Deby & son-in-law Steve Hergenrader. Grandson and wife, Jared & Lisa. Grandson's Tyler, Peter, Aaron. Great grandchildren, Hannah, Hudson, Halle, Ty, Ari, Alex & Lilli. Celebration of Life will be held on March 6th, 2023 at Northwest Church. 5415 N. West Ave, Fresno, CA. 93711. 11:30 a.m. Remembrances can be sent to Break the Barriers or Hinds Hospice. Published by Fresno Bee on Mar. 5, 2023.

Alumni in the News

Visit 'Grace' on tour

IDI
Ice Dance International

GRACE

A THEATRICAL ICE SHOW EXPERIENCE
HOSTED BY TAI AND RANDY IN LOS ANGELES, CA

FEATURING
2 TIME UNITED STATES CHAMPION
ALISSA **CZISNY**

US OPEN CHAMPIONS
KSENIYA **PONOMARYOVA**
COLLIN BRUBAKER

CARLY DONOWICK, ADAM KAPLAN,
JOE JOHNSON, JEAN-SIMON LÉGARÉ
KARINA MANTA, LARA SHELTON
NEILL SHELTON

CHOREOGRAPHY BY
BENOÎT RICHAUD
CINDY STUART
ROHENE WARD
DOUGLAS WEBSTER

SCAN ME

THE RINKS-LAKEWOOD ICE
3975 PIXIE AVE, LAKEWOOD, CA
MARCH 19TH, 2:30PM
TICKETS \$50 VIP \$30 ADULT \$15 YOUTH
WWW.ICEDANCEINTERNATIONAL.ORG

[Click here for tickets in Palm Springs –March 18th – hosted by Dorothy Hamill](#)

Just added! IDI's Los Angeles Premiere. Hosted by ai & Randy on March 19, 2023.

Directed by [Douglas Webster](#)

“The best thing since Ice Capades.”-Randy Gardner

Not to be missed!

[Click here for tickets in LA – Mar. 19th .](#)

Pictures of the Month

Spotted in and around US Nationals recently



Richard Ewell, Lisa Navarro, Ken Shook

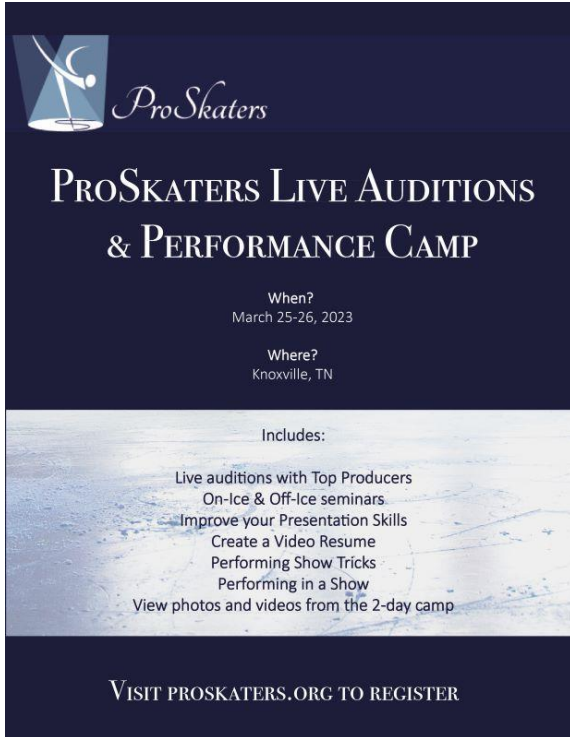


Doug Martyn, Scott Henderson, Ray Belmonte



Ken Shook, Richard Dwyer

Upcoming Events



The poster features the ProSkaters logo at the top left, which includes a stylized figure of a skater. The main title is 'PROSKATERS LIVE AUDITIONS & PERFORMANCE CAMP'. Below the title, it lists the dates 'When? March 25-26, 2023' and the location 'Where? Knoxville, TN'. A section titled 'Includes:' lists activities: 'Live auditions with Top Producers', 'On-Ice & Off-Ice seminars', 'Improve your Presentation Skills', 'Create a Video Resume', 'Performing Show Tricks', 'Performing in a Show', and 'View photos and videos from the 2-day camp'. At the bottom, it says 'VISIT PROSKATERS.ORG TO REGISTER'.

ProSkaters has an upcoming Performance Camp & Live Show Auditions at the Knoxville Ice Chalet in Knoxville, TN on March 25 & 26, 2023. This is a one-of-a-kind Camp and opportunity for skaters to learn how to become successful show skaters as well as the opportunity to audition for a Professional Ice Show.

For more information, please click on the links below.

ProSkaters website: <https://proskaters.org/>

Below is the direct link to sign-up:

<https://proskaters.org/events/2021-knoxville-proskater-camp-live-auditions-2-314-764/>

Facebook Post: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=proskaters>



The poster has a dark background with colorful geometric shapes. It features the 'Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas' sign. The text reads: 'REGISTER NOW', 'CELEBRATE ICE SHOW REUNION', 'MAY 1, 2 & 3, 2023', and 'HOIFamilyreunion@gmail.com'.

All Skater's Reunion – May 1 – 3, 2023

MARCH REUNION UPDATE

Hello and **HAPPY MARCH!**

Thanks to all of you who reached out and reserved tables, you're all set!

Many of you have called or emailed to inquire about which **shows are live on Tuesday night**. You may recall, that most shows are "dark" on Mondays and

Tuesdays. The choices for the **big spectaculars** on Monday, Tuesday are limited, but they're listed below.

Click on the name of the show and you'll be linked to the show information and ticket purchase website.

- [Mystère at Treasure Island Hotel](#)
- [O! at Bellagio Hotel](#)
- [Michael Jackson One](#) (Monday)
- [KA! at MGM Grand Hotel](#)
- [David Copperfield at MGM Grand Hotel](#)

Not interested in any of these shows? No worries, [Vegas.com](https://www.vegas.com/) has a vast list of entertainment that may suit your fancy! <https://www.vegas.com/>

Please note that **Regular Registration** is open through April 1st, 2023, with room rate shown below guaranteed **through April 1st**.

Reminder, if by March 1st we have 200 + registered and paid, we will move the Opening Night Cocktail Reception back to *The Theater* with the upgraded live entertainment, should the *The Theater* remain available.

So, what WILL the Opening Night Reception and the Final Night Dinner look like?

OPENING RECEPTION: We will gather in the Napa Room, with Food Station Buffets, Two Drink Tickets per person, background entertainment, highboys and rounds to provide ample seating.

GALA DINNER: We will gather in the Grand Ballroom for a Deluxe Buffett Dinner, Two Drink Tickets per person, Dessert Station, DJ Entertainment, Dance Floor, and tables of ten, linens and centerpieces.

Those of you that have registered, but not paid as yet, please send your registration fee in ASAP.

REMEMBER! This Reunion is open to everyone who worked in any capacity in any of the Ice Shows around the World! We're one big family, and this is a family reunion of sorts.

The price per person to attend the three-day event is \$345.00 per person and \$195.00 per person to attend a single event.

[Click here to see who's coming and Reunion info.](#)

For folks who want information about the 2023 Las Vegas Ice Show Reunion, DATES: May 1-3 of 2023 (Monday-Wednesday) or are not receiving the newsletter updates, please email us at HOIFamilyreunion@gmail.com, and we'll put you on the newsletter distribution list.

Online Link to register: <https://www.formpl.us/form/6524508642738176>

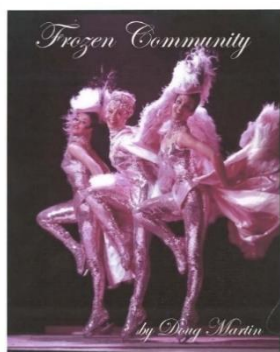
[Click here for details & updates](#)

ICE CAPADES REUNION RECAP



[Click here for Reunion pictures](#)

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.

Carolyn Hartling had some great memories to share with us. Read on.

We were in Detroit and somehow ended up with a few rare nights off. I was invited to go out with some of the cast to celebrate, and was thrilled, as they were the 'older' gang. I had just turned eighteen. I was sitting at the bar with the guy who was the show's accountant at that time, trying to be sophisticated and choking on a cigarette. I said to him, 'Would you like a fag?' because that's what we called them in Canada, and he said 'Oh, honey, would I.' He asked me if I knew what the word 'gay' meant. I told him, "Of course, Drink, laugh, and have a good time." He laughed so hard at my reply he fell off the stool, and I ran back to the hotel. Aww, the good ole days.

Another event Carolyn recalls as a newcomer to the show had to do with the 'Bus rules.'

I thought a particular woman we worked with was Linda Blair from *The Exorcist*, she turned so purple yelling at me one night. She said 'How dare you, new girl, for sitting down when I worked so hard tonight and need my rest.' Ha, guess the bar stool they were heading for wasn't restful enough.

In Raleigh, North Carolina, we stayed in a god-awful hotel with rats as big they used them as bellhops. Seems the hotel where we were originally booked had been sold out with a teacher's convention. Guess we didn't look school-marmish enough. Ha. So we were stuck with "Bates Motel." Drunks used our trunks at night to peak through the louvers, and that was just our folks. Ha! Horrible, horrible.

On to Honolulu, where we stayed at the Ilikai, a brand new, not yet-finished luxury hotel, for twelve bucks a night. I shared accommodations with my two roomies. It was my first time in that beautiful state, and what a welcome change from Raleigh.

One of my roomies kept a couple of pet turtles on the road and crazy as it sounds, they were loved. One night I heard a scream and went running into the room to find that one of the turtles had taken a dive over the balcony from the twenty-sixth floor. Oops. Thinking, we can't even make turtle soup out of this, we rushed downstairs to look for that poor ninja turtle. Well, lo and behold, there it was, alive. It was caught in a bush that had broken its fall, and all was well.

That is until Calgary, where we arrived in the dead of winter. The temperature hovered around -25' one morning. On our way to the train station, which was close enough to walk to from the hotel, I again heard a scream. Ninja had been left by the window in our hotel room. Yep, he was one frozen critter for sure.

How about a memory about a certain prima donna.

We aren't talking about the mob here, but in New York State we utilized union workers for backstage hands and for dressers, all of whom seemed to belong to the Kelly clan, of which one was on the staff of *Ice Capades*. They were great workers, but let me tell you, you didn't mess with this group of relatives. Well, one of the Principal skaters, who was a major prima donna with a wee bit of a temper, to say the least, was making a habit of slapping the dressers if they weren't fast enough for her liking. I reiterate, that's something you just don't do with that group.

So the chorus line was dressing the set when we heard someone yelling in the audience. We were all pretty sure that whoever it was, was yelling at this Principal, who was on the ice at the time. We didn't know whether to duck or stay and watch the drama. Being the professionals we were, we stayed the course. Ha. Thinking the same thing we were thinking, two stagehands ran out on the ice, slipping and sliding all over the place, to get that gal out of there, and off they went. It was unbelievable. But I don't think she ever slapped anyone after that scare.

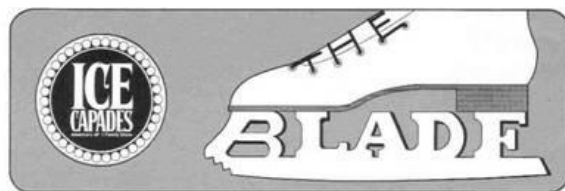
Then there was the time that Metromedia bought the show and big shots were sitting in the front row, center, in Champaign, IL, for opening night. It was without a doubt the smallest ice surface we performed on. I was lead show girl, and wore a beautiful, bright pink gown and a

wig/hat that weighed at least fifty pounds. As I swizzled up the ice – as only I could swizzle – the crazy gown caught the tip of my blade, and down I went. The bloody wig went flying through the air and landed on the lap of John Kluge, the president of Metromedia. And there I was with my hair in pin curls, with a bright green shower cap covering the pins. Oh my gosh. Poor Mr K. was in such fits of laughter. I thought for sure he was having a heart attack – and that I would be fired the moment he caught his breath. Thankfully, he had a great sense of humor and it all worked out just fine.'

'Who of us in the show could forget our Christmases in Spokane, Washington, and those formal dinners complete with Santa Clause? Well, we had a guy from Germany named Sepp Sholmeister, and he decided he wanted an authentic Christmas tree – you know, O Tannenbaum – complete with lighted candles. Once his mind was set on it, nothing would dissuade him, so light the candles he did. Needless to say, the tree went up in flames, along with his hotel room. He and his girlfriend, a former roommate of mine, were frantically trying to put out the fire and stop the smoke from escaping beneath the door of their room by stuffing towels along the lower opening. Alarms were going off all over the place and people were evacuating the building. But Sepp and his girlfriend wouldn't come out of their room. They tried to convince everyone the smoke was from cooking holiday sausage. But Jack Balmer, the show manager, knew better, and fined Sepp a ton of money.'

We all had to be dressed to the nines at all times, even when disembarking the train at, say, 4:00 am, with snow to our waist. Try that in heels! Still, being in Ice Capades was a wonderful experience. I love reflecting back on those days.

Let's keep Doug's legacy going. I'm sure there are more 'interesting' stories out there from your time in the show. If you would like to share, please send them to me.



The website, www.icecapadestheblade.com has been revamped and more information has been added. If you have something to add, please send them.

Look here for **2022 Ice Capades Reunion** information, including reunion pictures

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!

USFA is Looking for Skaters



US Figure Skating for the Centennial Year is reaching out to find and connect former and current members who skated any time in USFS history to reconnect. Please consider registering!!! Share with those skating friends you stay in touch with!!

I can imagine some fun reconnecting events!!!

[Click here for more information](#)

Upcoming Events



CELEBRATING THE JOY
OF DANCING ON ICE

Ice Theatre of New York, Inc[®]

presents

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

If you know if someone who would like to receive The Blade, please send me their email address or if you would like to be removed from receiving The Blade, please type 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

Email me directly at gspoden@rogers.com