

Sad News

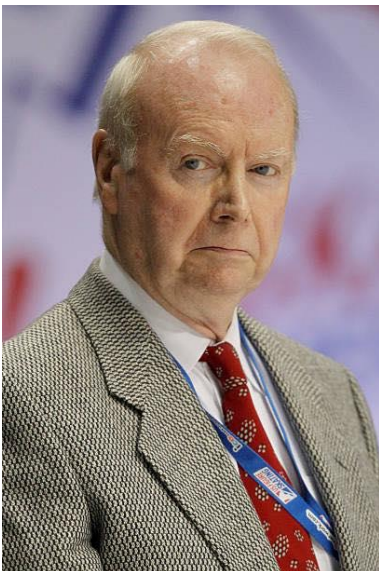
Rika Boyer



I share sad news today of the passing of Rika Boyer at 90 years old. Rika passed away peacefully last night at Nathan Adelson Hospice here in Las Vegas after a long illness. To the end, her only concern was for her beloved husband Lucien. I will cherish each memory of our times touring Europe together. It was simply "The best of Times". As one of the premiere adagio skating acts in the business, they toured worldwide with Holiday on Ice, Ice Capades, the Vienna Ice Revue and many other shows.

A more detailed obituary will follow.

Frank Carroll – June 9, 2024



Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, Frank Carroll's father introduced him to figure skating on an outdoor pond. Early in his youth, an indoor ice rink was built across the street from his home - a love affair with a sport that compiled artistry, athleticism, dance and theater was born.

Frank Carroll was twice a national bronze medalist at the junior level and a New England champion before he turned professional and toured with the Ice Follies. He even had a brief stint in acting, which he remained deeply private about until the end of his days.

The son of a professor, Frank was a strong student and graduated on the Dean's List from the College of the Holy Cross with a B.S. in Sociology. Though he initially intended on attending San Francisco Law School, he was

spurred to enter the coaching realm after his beloved coach, Maribel Vinson Owen, and his dear friends and peers perished on the plane crash of Sabena 548 - taking the lives of the entire United States team heading to the 1961 World Figure Skating Championships.

The excellent student proved to be a master teacher. In 1968, he had his first national medalist. A year later, Frank coached Jimmy Demogines to the novice national title. In 1972, he coached Robert Bradshaw to be the Olympic alternate. Four years later, he had his first Olympian with Linda Fratianne. Linda went on to win the world title in 1977 and 1979 and finished a controversial second at the 1980 Olympic Games.

He soon coached Tiffany Chin to gold at the world junior championships and guided Christopher Bowman for eighteen years. Frank is best known for changing the sport when he teamed up with Michelle Kwan. Early in Kwan's career, Carroll began a collaboration with choreographer Lori Nichol that elevated the art form of figure skating and transformed the long program into a choreographic work of art. Together, Carroll, Kwan and Nichol redefined excellence and were the epitome of class, elegance and grace during the height of figure skating's popularity.

Carroll coached students to countless titles at the national, international and Olympic levels. His pupils include: Michelle Kwan, Linda Fratianne, Christopher Bowman, Evan Lysacek, Denis Ten, Tiffany Chin, Mirai Nagasu, Gracie Gold, Tim Goebel, Karen Kwan, Joanna Ng, Beatrisa Liang, Jonathan Cassar, Robert Bradshaw, Yebin Mok, Angela Nikodinov, Jennifer Kirk, Danielle Kahle, Carolina Kostner, Silvia Fontana, Nicole Bobek, Daisuke Murakami, Carly Gold, Scott Dyer, Doug Mattis, Craig Heath, Jeri Campbell, Ellie Kawamura, Kristiene Gong, Luis Hernandez, Todd Sand and Tessa Hong.

Frank Carroll is a symbol of resilience, discipline, hard work and doing things the right way. Despite losses at the Olympics that broke the heart of the teacher for students Linda Fratianne and Michelle Kwan, Frank Carroll persevered and never gave up. When pupil Evan Lysacek won gold at the 2010 Olympic Games, the skating world erupted - equally as delighted for Frank as they were for Evan.

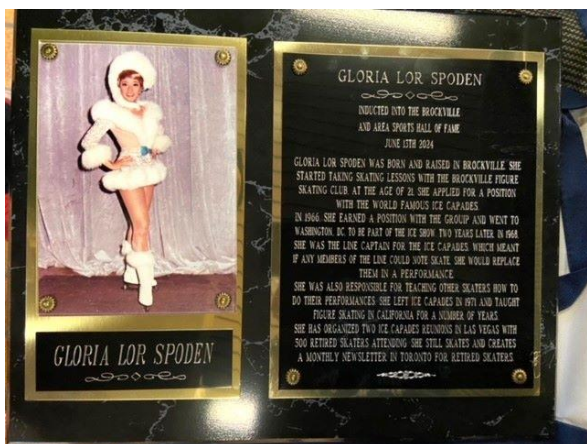
Despite all of accomplishments of his famous students, Frank considered his happiest coaching moment to be guiding Robert Taylor, a tall gangly boy without much talent, who managed to win the novice men's national title against all odds by sheer hard work and discipline.

Carroll will be remembered for his wit, wisdom, intelligence and love of the sport. He coached three world champions, six Olympic medalists, six U.S. senior champions and had the honor of coaching at 10 Olympic Games.

Frank is predeceased by his mother, Agnes, father, Thomas, and sister, Rosemary. He passed away peacefully in the morning hours of Sunday, June 9, surrounded by friends and loves one. Frank Carroll made figure skating better.

Our Alumni in the News

Ice Capades lightning has struck twice at the Brockville (Ontario) and Area Sports Hall of Fame with 2 of our alumni being honored for their contribution in sports over the years.



Gloria Lor Spoden was inducted on June 13, 2024.

This is what the plaque read – Gloria Lor Spoden was born and raised in Brockville. She started taking skating lessons with the Brockville Figure Skating Club. At the age of 21, she applied for a position with the world-famous Ice Capades. In 1966 she earned a position with the group and went to Washington DC to be part of the ice show. Two years later in 1968 she was the Line Captain for the

Ice Capades which meant if any members of the line could not skate, she would replace them in a performance. She was also responsible for teaching other skaters how to do their performances. She left Ice Capades in 1971 and taught figure skating in California for a number of years. She has organized two Ice Capades reunion in Las Vegas with 500 retired skaters attending. She still skates and creates a monthly newsletter in Toronto for retired skaters.



Susie Geneau (Sue Pyke) was inducted on June 13, 2014.

This is what the plaque read - Sue Pyke has enjoyed a love for figure skating since a very young age with the Brockville Figure Skating Club. After a decorated amateur career, she began a two-year professional stint with the world-famous Ice Capades in 1965 at the age of 18. In the early 1970's she began her coaching career at the Athens Figure Skating Club. She went on to coach in Spencerville, Prescott and Brockville. With an energy and

enthusiasm, teaching and working with young skaters in the community for 25 years. Along with being a mother of three, she committed herself to helping hundreds of the area's young skaters enjoy and improve in the sport she loved.

Video of the Month

If you haven't seen Crystal yet here's your chance.

60-MINUTE SPECIAL #7 | Cirque du Soleil | Crystal, Axel
https://youtu.be/Sf-N_OroVbs?si=IULjoFVzPJRHBX-a

May 15, 2020



Enjoy some of the best live show moments of Crystal and Axel, the very first on ice productions from Cirque du Soleil, and discover a new kind of performance as Cirque du Soleil meets the ice to defy all expectations. Watch world-class ice skaters and acrobats claim their new frozen playground with speed and fluidity as they challenge the laws of gravity with never-before-seen

acrobatics.

Playing to a harsh judge – Starbuck & Shelley

By George Hanson



Old troupers in the entertainment world are familiar with the technique of playing to an audience. Not so, JoJo Starbuck and Ken Shelley.

Their main concern in life – until now—has been playing to judges. There's a difference...a big one.

“When we were skating competitively, says JoJo, “we skated “to” the judges. The audience was almost secondary and, also, it was an aware audience which knew skating. So, it was appreciative. “When we first began this “Travelling with Ice Capades), we wondered why we weren't getting any reaction. Competitively, judges look at technique, the disciplines.

“Here in a lot of cities, people don't understand skating so you have to adjust basically, nothing has changed from when we competed... there's only so much you can do. But we've made it flashier so that the uneducated audience has something it recognizes and understands.”

Once they learned that lesson it wasn't too difficult. They adjusted, added their touch of 'flash,' and it has been smooth skating ever since. One official of the Capades which opens its seven-day run at the Forum Tuesday, grinned: “The poor kids. They played in Atlanta and, as you know, that's new territory. Few people in the house knew how well they were skating but they (the audience) just sat ...not a murmur.

“JoJo and Ken didn’t know what to make of it. It must have passed through their minds that they were flops. But then it hit them, or perhaps someone told them, to think in terms of reaching out to all those people and it all turned around.”

While the Starbuck-Shelley tandem is a rookie combination in the world of show business, it is far from that in skating.

Both now 20, they began as a pair at the age of 10 and have worked together ever since – a trail carrying them through U.S., North America, World and Olympic competitions.

For sheer action, 1972 has been a classic. They competed in their national championships and trials, travelled to Sapporo for the winter Olympics, came back and went to the world meet in Calgary and did the big tour with the stars of the world.

Then it was off to see the Ice Capades, sign contracts and spend a summer finding out what makes the world of show biz tick.

“It was quite fascinating,” explained Miss Starbuck. “Once we signed, they got us together with the musical conductor, a composer and a costume man. We skated and they watched to see what we could and would do and then, literally, built the music around us.

“Then it was the costume man, working out how to best present us in what we were doing and then it was working with a choreographer. It was all so new and fascinating. We worked all summer so that by the time we got to Atlantic City (training camp for the show) we pretty much knew what we were doing. It was simply a matter of polishing it at that point.”

Says Ken” “It (the skating) looks more exciting but, as we said before, there are only so many things you can do on skates. After that, it’s simply a matter of adding a bit of flash for the audiences who don’t understand.”

Through the new world is an exciting one, they are still two realistic young stars fresh from a world which devoured most of their teenage lives. JoJo puts it into perspective: “Right now we don’t miss it (the old life) but I know we’ll feel differently when competition comes around and we watch it on television.” It won’t be the competition as much as the friends we made. We met people all over the world, even those behind the Iron Curtain and we made friends.

“That’s when we realize, even now, how fortunate we are. The ones behind the Curtain, when they finish competition, will just stay back there. They’ll be through. With us, we have this life. We can keep skating, make money, have fun. Then, they just fade away. It makes us realize how lucky we are to live here ...freedom or democracy or whatever you want to call it.”

The subject shifted to the recent referendum in Colorado which denied the U.S. a Winter Olympics...providing an American city doesn’t emerge an optional choice. Said Ken “It’s an

unfortunate thing and I don't know what they'll do now. We think the Winter Games are great, naturally. We know the athletes look forward to them...we certainly did.

"Right now, to me, it doesn't look as though they'll (the Games) go on and it's sad."

They're too new in the business to look too far ahead. At 20, not too many people do.

As JoJo puts it "We've got a three-year contract and that's what we live with now. It's all new and exciting so, who knows? Maybe when the contract ends, we'll feel differently or maybe we'll want to go on "I know we'd both like, someday, to finish our educations."

Skating dropped both out in the junior years of university. Shelley is a history major and Miss Starbuck a theatre arts major. 'Maybe,' says JoJo, "I'll still end up in show business, in another way."

They've been together for a decade and their accomplishments are many. However, the highlights are: winners of the U.S. Airs crown three years running, 1970-71-72; a bronze in the world 1971 and a repeat bronze this year.

The world of amateur skating knows them intimately. By the time this show season ends, so will a whole new world. And anyone who's seen them is certain that the paying world of show biz will embrace the talented, fresh-faced duo as warmly as did the amateur world.

Ice Capades 2025 Reunion Cruise Update

Have you made your reservation yet?

Our Ice Capades -Escapades Cruise gathering is getting closer. If you still want to sign up please contact Sheri at scruises@aol.com

We can look forward to catching up with old friends and making new ones!

It's getting closer.



You can reach J at dabatej@bellsouth.net

[Attendee's list as of May 22, 2024](#)

[Click here](#)

'Escapades 2025 Cruise'.... We'll have a good time! 🎵🎵'



Please click below to join the [Escapades 2025 Cruise – events page](#) and get all updates relating to the cruise.

<https://facebook.com/events/s/ice-capades-escapades-cruise-a/746073810575573/>

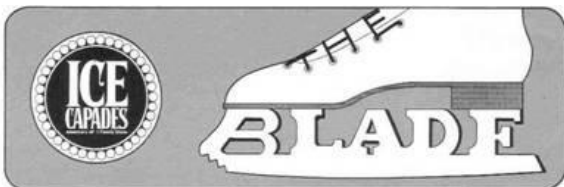
THIS EVENT IS BEING CREATED AND COORDINATED BY Johnna "J" Bates...

NOTE: **PASSPORTS ARE REQUIRED!**

[Pictures from Past Reunions](#)

[All Skater's Reunion – May 1-3, 2023 Las Vegas](#)

[Ice Capades 2022 Reunion pictures](#)



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!

Upcoming Events

2024 The Experience Adult Skate Camp Palm Springs

the experience!

adult skate camp

Palm Springs 2024
SEPTEMBER 17 - SEPTEMBER 20
Berger Foundation Iceplex

ON AND OFF-ICE SESSIONS

Daily off-ice warm up classes in studio

On-ice classes include:

- Randy's Three's Company
- Liz's Jumps, Spins, and Storytelling on Ice
- Jeremy's Movement with Music
- Elin's IceFlow

Small on-ice groups focusing on:

- Turns & Steps
- Jumps
- Choreographic Movement
- Spins

Private lessons available separately on request

THE EXPERIENCE IS WHAT MAKES THE JOURNEY REMEMBERED

Enjoy quality time with our coaches and fellow campers at:

- Champagne Welcome
- Catered Lunch & Learns
- Beautiful Dinner and unique Palm Springs outing

\$1950

For more details and registration

<https://www.theexperienceadultskatecamp.com>

SCAN ME

RANDY GARDNER

ELIZABETH MANLEY

GRACIE GOLD

JEREMY ABBOTT

ELIN SCHRAN

[Click here for more information](https://www.theexperienceadultskatecamp.com)

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