

ROLLING

along

By Chester Fried



Long-time roller skating enthusiast Chester Fried is the vice president and a founder of the The National Museum of Roller Skating. We count on him at the Rinksider to help keep readers current.



Dawn Cunko, (right, behind wheelchair) gives her gold medal and a hug to Kathy Tini, who tore her hamstring right before her Veterans Solo Dance.

Good sportsmanship

Pennsylvania native, Kathy Tini, was all prepared to skate her two skating events at the 2013 U.S. National Skating Championships held in Albuquerque, N.M. Kathy was to skate Veterans Solo Dance and, with her partner Rick Smith, Novice "A" Team Dance. But that was not to happen. While heading to the pit to prepare for the official practice she hit something on the concrete floor that instantly stopped her wheels from moving. She fell and tore her hamstring. She was taken by ambulance to the hospital and was treated and released. However, there would be no more skating for Kathy for at least three months, if not longer.

Not skating broke Kathy's heart, but then something no one could have predicted occurred! As Kathy was sitting on the sidelines in her wheelchair, Dawn Cunko came up from behind and placed her gold medal around Kathy's neck and said in her ear that Kathy deserved the gold medal for what she had been through. Dawn, from California, had just won the gold for Premier A Silver Solo Dance! She also told Kathy that she was to hang the medal in a prominent place so that she could focus on the gold for next year when Kathy was expected to skate and earn her own medal. At that time she could return Dawn's medal - insuring that Kathy would not give up! Needless to say, everyone was in tears. What an incred-

ible act of kindness and good sportsmanship. Kathy was so overwhelmed by the love and support she got not only from Dawn but from all the skaters at Nationals. What a wonderful expression of friendship and sportsmanship.

World On Wheels closes

The famous World On Wheels Roller Rink in Los Angeles, Calif., which opened over 30 years ago, closed a few months ago. This inner city rink had many loyal fans over the years.

The Scooby Brothers, a trio who skated in the 1979 film "Roller Boogie" with Linda Blair, performed at World On Wheels opening night. And they continued skating there until it closed. The nearest open rink is Dominic Cangelosi's Moonlight Rollerway in Glendale, Calif. World On Wheels closed because of a bankruptcy proceeding and change in ownership. Now patrons will have to travel to Dominic's rink to continue skating indoors.

Dominic's rink is doing very well, however. A movie was just filmed there. It will be called "The Toy Soldier." In addition, there was a Mitsubishi car commercial shot in the rink. Dominic just drove from California to Lincoln, Neb., with his nephew to donate one of his Hammond Organs to the National Museum of Roller Skating. He used this organ for many years at his rink and at National Roller Championships. It's worth a few thousand dollars. Domi-

nic has it restored and reconditioned to mint condition. If you attend next year's National Championship, stop by the Museum and hear it play. Museum curator James Vannurden will show you how to press the correct buttons for the organ to play.

Three rinks opening across the nation

I wrote about the California rink closing above, but it's my pleasure to write about two new rinks opening. One is in Murrieta, Calif. The new Epic Rollertainment was formerly a furniture store, which was demolished to build the new rink. According to owner-operator Shauna Grammatico, the new roller rink boasts a wood skating surface measuring 11,000 square feet. The building is a 28,000 square foot facility. They will have an entertainment zone, game arcade, cafe and themed party rooms as well. Shauna worked at roller rinks as a young adult growing up in Phoenix, Ariz. Her husband Joe and their two children will be a big part of her dream to own a roller rink. (For more details, see the full article on Epic Rollertainment in this issue of The RINKSIDER on page 13.)

Another is in Charlestown, Ind. The Charlestown rink will be a 75 by 150 foot concrete roller skating rink. They plan to also offer ice skating using synthetic ice sheets. The facility, which is built up around an existing skateboard park, also has a miniature golf course. The property also includes two large, wooden buildings for utility items, a concession area and picnic area. It's a true family activities park.

The old Babb's rink in Suffield, Ct., is being restored after being closed for many years. A group of volunteer workers are helping put the rink in working order.

John Durnye turns 88

I recently attended John Durnye's 88th birthday celebration at South Amboy, N. J., Roller Magic Arena Skate Center. John operates the rink, along with his daughter Jean, plus his son Michael operates the rink John owns in Waterbury, Conn. John also has a rink in Depew, N.Y., operated by Joe Enthor, and a rink in Jackson, N.J. At one time

during the '70s John operated eight skating rinks.

John started skating at the old Perth Amboy, N.J. Rink in the late 1930s. How he loved to skate. At that time everyone skated to organ music and John had one of the best professionals teaching skating - the famous Eddie O'Neil.

John is a WWII veteran. After the war, he came back to roller skating, met his wife-to-be, Mary, at the rink, married and had two daughters, Ronnie



Here's a 1940's cartoon I found. We all need someone to repair our skates from time to time. Has this ever happened to you?

and Jean, and a son Michael. In 1958 he built his South Amboy Roller Magic Skating Center. John and his rink are still going strong. John still comes down to his rink, but he has slowed down a little. So now, his rink is in good hands with his daughter, Jean!

Learning to skate the Rawson way

Those who were at this year's RSA Trade Show have all seen, and many have ordered, those shopping cart-like walkers. It's a great help to younger or older skaters to use for stability while skating. Well, it's not anything new. Back in the early 1940s, Perry B. Rawson was one of the first to come out with the same idea. He called them the Rawson Baby Walker and the Rawson Rollygig. He used them in teaching lessons. He even had a small rink in his Asbury Park, N.J., home. Skating teachers and skaters all learned how to skate the Rawson way. He was a very famous pioneer in the skating world.