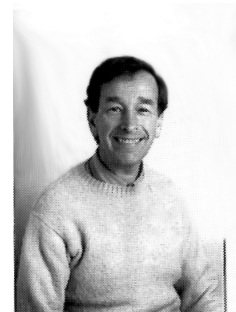


# ROLLING along

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.*

## Who skates?

Well, at Dominic Cangelosi's Moonlight Rollerway in Glendale, Calif., it's the Hollywood elite.

Recently, Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie and their children rented the rink for a fun filled evening of roller skating with their friends. They do this on an almost regular basis. When Brad was married to Jennifer Aniston they, too, skated at the Rollerway.

Not to be outdone by the Pitt Family, Justin Bieber and friends attended a skating session there. Plus, Michael Jackson's children also skated a regular public session. And, Coors Beer's latest commercial filmed there.

Miley Cyrus and friends had a ball roller skating at the Brentwood Skate Center in Tennessee. In Los Angeles, Kelly Osbourne and Kim Kardashian, dressed in modern-day roller girl ensembles, skated at an '80s-themed Throwback Roller Girls party.

Singer Shakira went roller skating in Barcelona, Spain. She was working on her new tune called "Loca" with British rapper Dizzee Rascal. This was an outdoors skate.

Last but not least, Cheryl Burke from "Dancing With The Stars" roller skated in New York City's Thompson Square Park. A host of skaters performed tricks as part of a new product launch.

So you see, roller skating is a hot, trendy sport that even the stars love. Keep on rolling!

## New England rinks make the news

The New York Times featured an article about the New York and New Jersey roller rinks that are left in the Metropolitan New York City area. Roller Jam was featured with the headline: "A Bit of the Disco Era has Rolled Back Into Town."

Other rinks featured were South Amboy RollerMagic, United Skates of America Branch Brook, Florham Park rink, and Hot Skates. These rinks informed the Times readers that they are doing very well. Business is good as each owner or manager informed the Times reporter.

It was just three years ago that some of New York area's renowned rinks closed for good - The Roxy, The Skate Key and Empire, to name a few.

## Dangerous skates seized in the U.K.

British officials seized 50 pairs of motorized roller skates that can hit 20 mph in just 20 seconds. The Brits say the Chinese "gasoline skating shoes," which are controlled by a hand-held throttle, reach dangerous clips and expose young speedsters to falls and sudden stops that pitch them forward. Officials are also concerned that the plastic gas tank in the right skate poses a fire risk. "These things are absolutely frightening and would have been every parent's nightmare," said one official. The confiscated skates probably would have been sold on the street or the internet.

## Skating book project resumes

Book author and roller skater Jim Turner has reported that he will be working on the Historical Dance Diagram Project that came to a halt when Clayton Smith died. We look forward to hearing about this project.

## Farewell to two skating greats

Mary Gaudy has passed-on, and roller skating has lost a good friend. Mary played the organ at many contests and meets in the New York area through the 1970s. She was the organist at the famous Empire Rollerdrome, the Park Circle rink, The Fordham Roller Palace. Mary's Fox-Trots and Tangos were perfect! Mary's son, Joe Gaudy, became a National Champion with his wife Marie.

Bob Dalton, a skating professional at Reflections in Kissimmee, Fla., died suddenly while driving home from the rink a few days before the rink's annual Extravaganza. Bob skated in the 1960s at The Rink in Springfield, Mass. His pro was Peter Gullo. The entire Extravaganza was dedicated to Bob's memory.

## 2011 Skate Reflections Extravaganza Celebrates 10 Years

This February, Skate Reflections celebrated its 10th Annual Adult Skate Extravaganza. This event is the place to be if you love to dance or shuffle skate to organ keyboard music. Skaters came from all over the country.

Located in Kissimmee, Fla., the four-day event featured house organ-

ist Nick Viscuso, Steve Daniels, Corey Fridinger, who plays at rinks in Penn., plus the legendary Bill Clark. They really made the rink rock with their must-get-out-on-the-floor music.

Larry Cole, longtime owner of Skate Reflections, started this event 10 years ago. This year the rink is under new ownership with Loretta Meegan Curran, her husband Tom and daughter Kelly at the helm. They have made many changes in the short time they have been there: A new light show on the back wall of the rink, a resurfaced maple floor, and a new spot for the house organ in front of a window looking out over the floor.

The new owners are not new to skating. Loretta and her sister Diane skated at the old America On Wheels Boulevard Arena in New Jersey in the late 1950s

was perhaps the first time the dance was taught in a class format since the rink closed.

The rest of the session went on until 3 p.m., offering All Skates, Couples, Step-Up Couples, Dance steps and Denver Shuffle All Skates. A special exhibition was performed by Jessica Gaudy and her new partner Eric Hadley. They are a World Class dance team coached by Jessica's mom and dad Joe and Marie Gaudy. They own Galaxy Skateway in Melbourne, Fla., along with partner Douglas Schloemer.

Another wonderful exhibition was given by Kelly Currans' daughter Gabbie and Amy Young.

The highlight was the contests. The Dance Contest skated the Denver Shuffle. Ten teams entered. The winners were:



*Denver Shuffle dance contest winners (left to right) Gloria Nellis and Bill Johnson, 1st place, Ann Love Vasofski and Joseph Chester, 2nd place, Sheila Procida and David Ripp, 3rd place.*

early '60s.

They were competitive skaters. Loretta and Tom's daughter skated at the South Amboy rink in the 1980s. Her coach was Andy Devito.

On Sunday, Monday and Wednesday events were held at Reflections. On Tuesday the group went over to the Moyer family's Semoran Skateway in nearby Casselberry, Fla., for a morning lesson with teacher Tony Berger and a skating session afterward. Nick, Corey and Steve each took turns on the organ.

Wednesday was the Grand Finale. It started off with Gary Shatzer teaching the 9a.m. to 10 a.m. class the Mineola Swing. Gary is an expert on this dance! Mineola was a famous rink that was on New York's Long Island that opened in the early 1930s and closed in 1960. This

First place - Gloria Nellis and Bill Johnson; second place - Ann Love Vasofski and Joseph Chester; third place - Sheila Procida and David Ripp.

There also were Couples Shuffle and Solo Shuffle contests.

At the end of the event the four organists, who produced all of the music for these sessions, received special Crown Awards medals from yours truly. Nick, Corey, Steve and Bill Clark were the heart and soul of this very special event..

Big thank yous also go out to Larry Cole who was the announcer and set up the schedule, Yvonne

Simmons for her putting the tickets together with Loretta and collecting advance payments for the Extravaganza, and the Curran Family - Loretta, Tom and Kelly - for hosting this event.