

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.

By Chester Fried

Halloween is always a fun event at our local roller rinks. This is very true at the RollerJam U.S.A. rink in NY and South Amboy Arena in NJ. At South Amboy, K.K. - real name Karen - and her sister Kim hand made their own outfits. Send in the clowns!

At Roller Jam, Amy Rae and part-

ners were Ralph Brown, Marty Dumic, Corey Fridinger, and, appearing at his first organ jamboree, Johnnie Sharp.

Johnny was well known in the Great Lakes region during his 35-year reign as one of the most popular rink organists in that region. Until recently, he was somewhat unknown in the east. However, after announcing Johnny as this year's special guest organist for Jamboree 2010, hundreds of skaters went onto Johnny's website and were totally blown away by his unique and "funky" keyboard style. Skaters came to Holiday expecting to "get down" to the sounds of "Living On a Prayer" and "Green Onions," and Johnny delivered. He received a rousing round of applause after each song.

ers were Ralph Brown, Marty Dumic, Corey Fridinger, and, appearing at his first organ jamboree, Johnnie Sharp.

Johnny was well known in the Great Lakes region during his 35-year reign as one of the most popular rink organists in that region. Until recently, he was somewhat unknown in the east. However, after announcing Johnny as this year's special guest organist for Jamboree 2010, hundreds of skaters went onto Johnny's website and were totally blown away by his unique and "funky" keyboard style. Skaters came to Holiday expecting to "get down" to the sounds of "Living On a Prayer" and "Green Onions," and Johnny delivered. He received a rousing round of applause after each song.

Holiday's program accommodated all types of skating tastes. There were beautiful foxtrots for the many couple skates, waltzes, two-steps and two dance sets. But, at the announcement of "All Skate," followed by the first few seconds of the sound of the Seeburg rhythm unit's "Shuffle" rhythm, everyone exploded onto the skating floor doing the East Coast Shuffle or the Great Lakes Flea Hop.

The climax of the evening was a 10-minute shuffle jam with each of the organists taking their turn to deliver one final knock-out punch. By the sounds of the ovation, they were successful! Johnny closed the evening with a beautiful couples skate featuring the songs "Goodnight My Love" and "Lights Out." While the organists definitely outdid themselves, it's important to recognize several individuals without whom this event would not be possible. Many thanks to Ted, Sue and Todd Rendfrey, the operators of Holiday Skating Center. Holiday is the perfect venue for a session of this magnitude. We appreciate their dedication to keeping organ music alive for future generations to enjoy.

For all of you who attended Jamboree 2010, I'm sure you'll remember this session for a long, long time. Thank you for your continuing support of live organ skating music. If you missed it, well, there's always YouTube.

Welcome

The reopening of a roller rink is good news. Let's welcome the Star-Lite rink in Somerset, Penn.,

and Sk8way (www.SmokyMountain-sk8way.com) in Waynesville, N.C., which Robert and JoLynn Bryant opened in November after remodeling an empty, free-standing building.

Skate Reflections changes hands

Larry Cole has sold his Skate Reflections rink in Kissimmee, Fla. The new owners are a family affair. Loretta Meegan-Curren and her husband Tom own and operate the rink with their daughter Kelly. Loretta skated along with her sister Diane at the old America On Wheels Bayonne rink in the late 1950s to early '60s. Her daughter Kelly also skated artistic at South Amboy. Both rinks are in N.J.

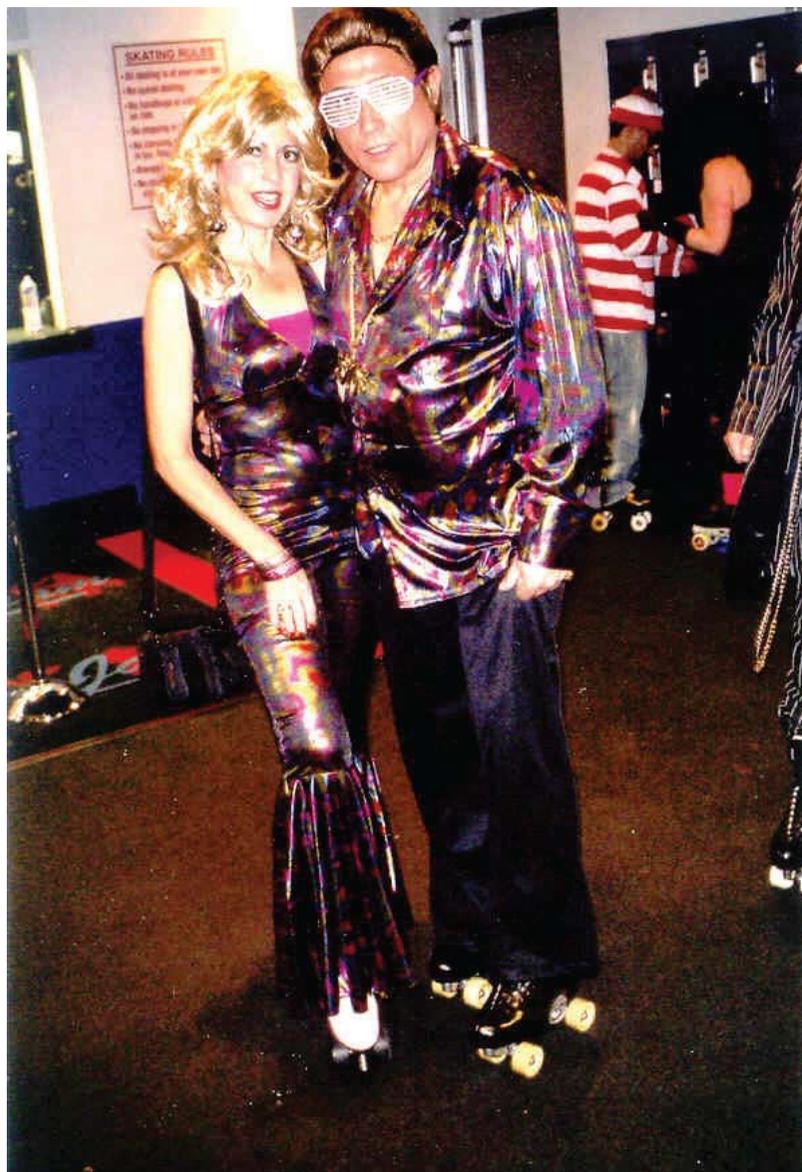
Skate Reflections is the site of the yearly Adult Skate Extravaganza, this year taking place Feb.6th through 9th. Top organists come here to play their music to fellow skaters who arrive from as far as the West Coast. I attend this great event every year. The event includes three days of dance and shuffle skating, plus a morning session at nearby Semoran Skateway in Casselberry, owned by the Moyer family.

Larry Cole will attend this event that he started 10 years ago. If you are in the Florida area in February try to attend. You can contact Loretta by email at Skatereflections@gmail.com or Yvonne at skatereflections@aol.com.

International roller skating news

Roller Derby is becoming very popular in Britain, after being virtually unknown just a few years ago. The Rockin' Rollers train at a school gym in London. They now have more than 24 established teams, with many additional skaters joining this fast paced sport. There is a waiting list for skaters to join.

In Varanasi, India, a local girl named Soni Chaurasia skated non-stop for 24 hours at an auditorium of Arya Mahila PG College in Chetgsnj in order to get her skating act enrolled in the Limca Book of Records.



A couple catches Disco Fever at Roller Jam's Halloween bash.

ner enjoy showing off their outfits as does this Disco dressed couple.

Play the organ, they will come

They came from Pennsylvania. They came from New Jersey. They

boree 2010, held on Sunday, October 10, 2010, promised an awesome session of favorite organ skating music, and it delivered 110 percent. For four hours, the rink echoed to the sounds of "Happy Organ," "Billie Jean," "House of the Rising Sun" and more. The play-