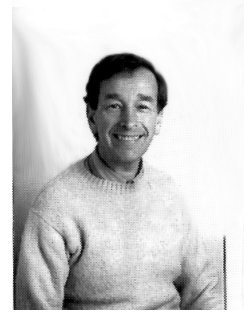


ROLLING *By Chester Fried* along



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.

'Queen of Roller Skating' passes away

Roller Skating's sweetheart has passed on. Gloria Nord was 87 years old, but to her many fans over the years she will always be forever young. I spoke with her at least four times a year. She lived in Mission Viejo, Calif.

From 1942 until 1956 the Roller Vanities was the top roller skating show in the nation. Its star - Gloria Nord - was discovered in 1939 at the Hollywood Roller Bowl. Harold Steinman, a New York promoter, hired her for his new show Skating Vanities, which opened at the Coliseum in Baltimore, Md., on January 7, 1942.

If you want to see her and the cast skating their number, you can rent the CD or DVD "Pin Up Girl," which was made in 1944. Betty Grable was the star of that movie.

If you visit the National Museum of Roller Skating you can see some of Gloria's skating outfits and pictures. Doug Breniser, who still lives in Las Vegas, was one of her partners in the Vanities. Mickey Meehan was another partner of Gloria's in the show. The show traveled all over the U.S.A. and Europe. The last year of the show was in 1956, with a trip to South America.

After that, Gloria turned to Ice Skating productions, and skated at London's Wembley Arena. While there she gave a command performance before Queen Elizabeth II. Gloria retired in the early 1960s.

She was married twice and had no children. Gloria is survived by two nieces and nephews. She recalled her life with the show: "I was always prepared and things sort of happened for me. I was excited, yet I got nervous or jumpy. For me Vanities was a magical life."

Gloria, you were the Queen of Roller Skating. May you skate with the angels in heaven forever.



Gloria Nord resided in Mission Viejo, Calif.

New rinks opening across the U.S.

Roller rinks are opening or in the planning stage from coast to coast. A large, outdoor rink is planned in San Francisco. Back in New Jersey, Velocity 17 opened in Maywood. It features go-carts and a disco-themed roller rink. It's right on the main highway Rt. 17, just south of Paramus, N.J. It's a top shopping area with many high end stores. The wood floor is small, but the admission price is very high - \$18.50 for adults and \$14.50

for ages 6-10. What happened to the teens!

The central New Jersey town of Freehold plans a roller rink to be constructed in a now empty strip mall that once housed a home improvement store.

Further south in Washington D.C. The United Skates of America opened the Temple Hill Skating Center. It's right on the border of Maryland. The address is Marlow Heights, Md. The property is in two states. It was originally called the Crystal Palace. The name was change to D-Light Roller Rink. Now after renovations to the building and it's large wood floor, it's open for business. Best of Luck!

There are rinks in New Jersey that border two cities or townships. I skate at Holiday Rink in Delanco, N.J. The front of the rink is in Delanco, and the rest is in Edgewater Park. The Montvale Rink, which closed two years ago, was in Montvale, N.J. and Woodcliff Lake. That means if a skater fell and a rescue squad had to be called, they would have to call the squad covering that part of the property!

Dollar nights bring skaters during slow times

Want o pick up your attendance at your rink during the mid-week? Try the Cheap Skate night. South Amboy and Jackson rinks in New Jersey have a \$1

admission price for their Wednesday night session from 6-9 p.m.

The United Skates of America Rink in Woodbridge, N.J., has their Wednesday night session from 6- 9 p.m. with a \$.99 price.

Both rinks have between 100 and 200 skaters attending weekly. Skaters still pay the \$4 rental fees, if needed. It's a winning idea in these slow economic times. The rinks also do well with their snack bars and video games. It really brings in new people for the bargain prices.

I attend these sessions, and I can say one-hundred percent that these sessions are a winning idea for these times. New faces are entering our rinks all the time. And they come back again and again. A two-hour movie costs \$10. Look what our rinks are offering: three plus hours of roller skating for a buck!

RSA Convention and Trade Show coming up

Don't forget to attend the 73rd. Annual Roller Skating Association International Convention and Trade Show, April 25-29, 2010. It's back to the Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas, NV. If you're in the roller skating business it's a must attend event. Meet your fellow operators, and perhaps your idols such as multi-rink operator Michael Feiger. Two years ago at a South Carolina trade show he shook hands with Marvin Facher, of Short Hills, N.J. Marvin Facher owned the America On Wheels chain of 12 rinks during the 1940's thru 1986. Marvin was also President of the R.S.R.O.A. in the 1970s.

Moonlight Rollerway keeps hosting Hollywood

Dominic Cangelosi's Moonlight

Rollerway, Glendale, Calif., was the scene of five recent events. The first was "Big Bang Theory," a New WCBS TV Series, which filmed a roller skating scene from the show in Dominic's rink. Then, Twentieth Century Fox rented Dominic's rink for four days to film a TV show called "Glee."

The third is a band called "Gossip," who is videotaping their new song "Love Long Distance."

Number four, Fiat Motors is having a casting call for roller skaters at



Michael Feiger (Left), Marvin Facher (Right)

Dominic's rink for a scene to be included in their new commercial which will be videotaped in Brazil.

And last, "The Green Channel," a cable and satellite TV channel hosted by Ed Bagley Jr., is filming a portion of a show on the environment at Moonlight Rollerway. Ed also had his Birthday Party at Moonlight Rollerway and skates frequently at the rink.