

Our Alumni in the News

Newberry's extraordinary women

The Newberry News - Jul 27, 2024



By Sterling McGinn

Two Newberry women, the late Frances (Tomkiel) Beaulieu and the late Carmel (Stewart) Mullen, are featured as part of the Extraordinary Women exhibit displayed this spring and summer at the Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center at Northern Michigan University (NMU).

The exhibit opened on Saturday, March 23 during Women's History Month, and will remain open until August 3 and will tour the Upper Peninsula during the fall.

The exhibit features stories of about 60 women from the Upper Peninsula who made significant impacts as public servants, educators, and activists, and in politics and medicine.

A majority of the research creating the exhibit was conducted by students of Dr. Emily Rome's women's history course, which took place at NMU. Nominees were also submitted by individuals and organizations. The final list was determined by a committee of U.P. museum directors and librarians.

Two of Newberry's former residents, Beaulieu and Mullen, were picked for the exhibit.

Frances Beaulieu had the distinction of being the first female trustee elected to the Newberry Village Council and co-owned Beaulieu's Furniture Store.

Beaulieu was born on November 29, 1916, in Grand Marais to Joseph and Pauline (Cavish) Tomkiel. She was a graduate and valedictorian of Burt Township High School in Grand Marais.

On December 31, 1936, she married Charles B. "Bud" Beaulieu.

In addition to her years of service to the Village, she was an active member of St. Gregory's Catholic Church, a longtime member of the Newberry Kiwanis Club, and chairwoman of the Kiwanis Fourth of July Parade committee. In 2007, Beaulieu was awarded the George Hixson award for her years of service and in 1999, was named the Businessperson of the Year by the Newberry Area Chamber of Commerce.

Carmel (Stewart) Mullen grew up in Newberry and later became an **Ice Capades** performer and a pioneer advocate for Special Education.

The 1939 Newberry High School graduate began figuring skating in 1938-39. She learned to skate behind the old elementary school on the rink created by the Civilian Conservation Corps every winter.

After high school, Mullen attended business college in Grand Rapids. While there, her father told her that the **Ice Capades** were holding auditions in Chicago. With World War II beginning, the Ice Capades were losing many of their male skaters and needed to hire female performers.

Mullen was chosen, but put her ice-skating talents on hold to help the war effort. She joined the workforce as a "Rosie the Riveter" where she made machine guns and 30-caliber shells.

When she returned to the **Ice Capades**, Mullen was put in charge of the chorus line and performed comedic numbers. She met her future husband, skating acrobat Kenneth Mullen there, too. The Mullens traveled all over and performed in Madison Square Garden, skated for the Royal Court, and even starred on the Ed Sullivan Show.

Mullen helped start Special Education in Fresno County, California Office of Education and was active in starting Special Olympics.

Some of the other women featured in the display include medical researcher Kathleen Shingler Weston, Anishinaabe poetess Jane Johnston Schoolcraft, labor organizer Annie Clemenc, daredevil wing/walker Sarah Kalishek, and civil rights activist and suffragette Blanche Williams Stubbs.

Who remembers the Fine Parties?



1975 West Company

Some Interesting Articles

As included in the 32nd (1971) Ice Capades Program



Over three million people see Ice Capades each year. In total man hours, it took about 96,000 hours to put together this year's production. In terms of years, this amounts to eleven.

Just like other athletes, the skaters must maintain a specific weight and are 'Weighed-in' once a week.

There are two touring companies appearing in about 60 cities in the United States and Canada.

Our skaters are supplied all costumes and accessories except ice skates.

The girls in the Corps de Ballet all wear wigs in the many different numbers in which they appear.

In about ten cities Ice Capades provides its own ice surface commonly called a "tank". With our latest portable ice making equipment, designed by Ice Capades, it takes only sixteen hours to prepare a suitable ice-skating surface. The older equipment requires three days.

Ice Capades played its first performance in New Orleans, June 16th, 1940.

Close circuit television connects the stage manager, conductor, lighting director, audio supervisor and light control operator. The camera views the skating surface and stage set.

Ice Capades has many firsts in production innovations: the first musical skating pantomime in 1943; the first operetta performed on ice in 1951; and the first use of motion picture film in 1967.

Including Ice Capades performances and practice sessions, a skater covers over 2500 miles a year on ice. The entire group skates enough mileage to circle the earth more than six times.

In each city on the Ice Capades tour, we employ almost 100 area residents as stage hands, musicians, ushers, wardrobe assistants and ticket takers. These employees make up approximately 1/3 of the staff responsible for the presentation of Ice Capades.

The elaborate costumes worn by Ice Capades skaters are often deceptively heavy. The audience would never guess by the graceful performances of the skaters that their headdresses may range in weight from fifteen pounds to as much as twenty-five pounds. Imagine, carrying that around as a hat!

From 30th program – Do you remember

“Five Minutes” shouts the stage manager as the orderly but frenzied backstage reaches its peak.



Before you see the enchanting beautiful girls and handsome smiling boys swirl onto the ice a thousand and one events take place behind the lighted curtains. An hour before curtain time the skaters, musicians, stage hands, wardrobe personnel and electricians begin to arrive in two's and three's. For some 400 performances during a ten month season the skaters repeat similar actions – applying make-up, lacing skate boots, doing warm-up exercises and making fives and six costume changes per show. The skaters perform on an average of nine to ten shows a week, plus rehearsal and publicity appearances. It is a busy life.

There is still some time to relax – to have a snack, a cup of coffee and to check the mail and the bulletin board for the latest changes. Also many skaters pursue hobbies and explore local scenic places. A travelling show means packing and unpacking, and what about the different climates experienced on the tour? North, South, East and West, this company of 110 people traverses the United States and Canada. Two complete Ice Capades companies tour simultaneously visiting 65 different cities each year.

How can we forget the dreaded weigh-ins?

Skaters on thin ice with weight trouble

By Barbara Ettore

Chicago Today – Mar 2, 1970



CHICAGO TODAY photo by Carl Hagar
BALLET CAPTAIN Gloria Lor checks the scales for Jan Ward during the weekly weigh-ins for the Ice Capade girls. Cherrie Moritz is next in line.

Could it be that those Ice Capades girls with the matching Patty-Maxine and La Verne wigs, cotton candy costumes, and sweet, sweet smiles have weight problems too?

Well, only one girl in the last 4 years has been fired from her job as a line skater for being underweight.

True, featured skater Cherrie Moritz, 21, lost 24 pounds in 24 days to earn her spot in one of the production numbers. The leggy redhead lost the weight via shots given her by a doctor to break down fatty tissue. "I dieted during the months' vacation we have between shows," she said. "I

was restricted to 8 ounces of boiled meat twice a day."

Admittedly, that is more extreme than your run-of-the-mill grapefruit and cottage cheese regimen, but the Ice Capades staff is adamant on having its 40 girls and 20 guys look ultra-sleek on the ice.

"Your ideal weight depends on how you look on the ice," said Ballet Captain Gloria Lor, 24. She is in charge of the weekly Saturday weigh-ins for the girls, just before the first show. "More than 5 pounds difference from this weight is considered too much," she said. Gloria explained that more than 30 measurements are taken for each skater, and the costumes are custom-made for her. More than 500 costumes, valued at \$500,000, are worn by the entire company.

Gloria said warnings are issued to girls after every weigh-in. Generally, there are about 3 girls on notice each week. "The soloists are warned separately. You see, the costumes just don't fit if even a slight weight shift occurs," she said.

Barbara Wilson, 20, said the skating schedule is 'such a shock to one's system. Your day is turned around. Most people are used to a 9 to 5 day. But for us dinner is at 1 or 2 in the morning, breakfast at 3 pm. We usually have one or two meals a day."

If a girl has gained weight, the first things that go are sweets, bread, liquor and starches. When she eats out (skaters must pay their own room and board from their salaries), she confines herself to meals and salads. In fact, this diet is standard for all of them. The steak-salad routine is the easiest to stick to when you're eating restaurant food. Occasionally, skaters are booked in hotels with kitchen facilities. During their show run in the Chicago Stadium thru March 8, the skaters and staff have been booked in the Croyden Hotel, which has cooking privileges.

Occasionally Cliff MacGraham, line captain and production assistant, will gather the skaters together for an exercise session. However, they are on their own most of the time. Featured skaters must rehearse at least an hour a day, and a full group rehearsal is held once a week.

At least one skater would like to see weigh-ins every 2 weeks. "The first week the weight loss never shows," said Faye Strutt, 22.

"But if you have one fat girl or one skinny girl in that line, that's all the audience looks at," quipped Barbara.

Ice Capades 2025 Reunion New Cruise Update Ahoy there Mateys!

For those attending –



I am charging a \$45.00 party gift fee, payable to me in cash or check at registration at the hotel. It is for the bags, the surprise party gifts that go in them and the pizzas and salads at the pool party. I have paid for some out of my own pocket. J

SAVE THE DATE!

Johnna "J" Bates is HOSTING and COORDINATING.

APRIL 10th Cocktail Party - on land, at close/local hotel.

APRIL 11th CRUISE LEAVES - Boarding generally begins at Noon, so plan to get to ship early, to get settled in your room. We'll be getting the party started early, while also starting to reconnect with friends!

MORE DETAILS TO COME... as the Event starts to come together!

**Payments for the Ice Capades -Escapades Cruise
are due by January 10, 2025.**

We'll have a good time 🎵

**There is still time to join us! Contact Sheri at scruises@aol.com
(Payment information will need to be sent to her at the email above)**

Have you made your reservation yet?
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/>

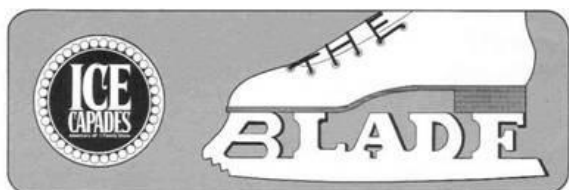
THIS EVENT IS BEING CREATED AND COORDINATED BY Johnna "J" Bates...

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



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