THE BLADE

REUNION EDITION NEWS FROM ICE CAPADES ALUMNI November 2026

Sad News

Remembering Roxanne

The Showgirl Who Never Really Left the Ice

Roxanne Maxcy Wassil – Oct. 7, 2026



As many of you now know, my wife **Roxanne passed away peacefully in her sleep on October 7th** after a difficult period with her health. This Friday, October 16th, she would have celebrated her 83rd birthday.

Many people knew Roxanne during different chapters of her life, but I thought I would share a little about the remarkable woman behind the pictures.

Over her 82 years, Roxanne answered to three names: **MAXCY**, when she first stepped into the world of professional skating; **WATSON**, the name so many of her **Ice Capades** friends remember; and **WASSIL**, the name she carried for the final 29 years of her life. Three names, three chapters, but always the same unforgettable Roxanne.

Roxanne was born in Phoenix on October 16, 1943, and attended Central High School. When she was about eight years old, she learned to skate at a local public rink. Around that same time, she attended her first professional ice show.

That little girl decided right then what she wanted to do with her life.

And she did it.

The summer after graduating from high school, Roxanne boarded a train from Phoenix to Nashville. She had successfully auditioned for an ice show and was beginning her professional career as a line girl. Ironically, it was the first train ride of her life. She couldn't possibly have known that trains, buses and airplanes would soon become a normal part of a life spent traveling around the country and the world.

Her career in professional ice shows would span approximately **26 years**.

Roxanne worked with Holiday on Ice and later **Ice Capades**, progressing from **line girl to line captain, Assistant Performance Director and finally Performance Director**. As Performance Director, she wasn't simply watching from the sidelines—she was responsible for staging and putting onto the ice the show the audience ultimately saw.

She worked with some of the biggest names in skating and performed and worked throughout the Ice Capades organization. She eventually became Performance Director for Dorothy Hamill after Dorothy's Olympic success and move into professional skating.

But titles don't really explain Roxanne.

The comments I've received from the people who actually worked with her do.

One former colleague wrote that the entire show admired her and remembered her as an outstanding line captain and beautiful person. Another called her the **"absolute ultimate ice showgirl."** Someone else said that Roxanne taught her the professionalism she carried throughout her own life and career.

Another former skater remembered being only 18 and going on the road for the first time—and how Roxanne took care of the new girls.

Perhaps my favorite comment was only five words:

"She gave me my dream."

Click here for Roxanne's complete obituary

Sabra Brenner – October 2026



From Courtney Lavery – Sabra's daughter

With the heaviest of hearts, I share that my amazing mom, Sabra, has passed away.

She passed away in a way that feels so perfectly her, as there was no place she would rather be than outdoors and surrounded by the beauty of nature with Dave and their beloved dog Bella at her side, whom she loved more than anything in this world.

Dave was the love of her life and brought her a happiness that was truly special. Seeing her so happy and so loved was a gift.

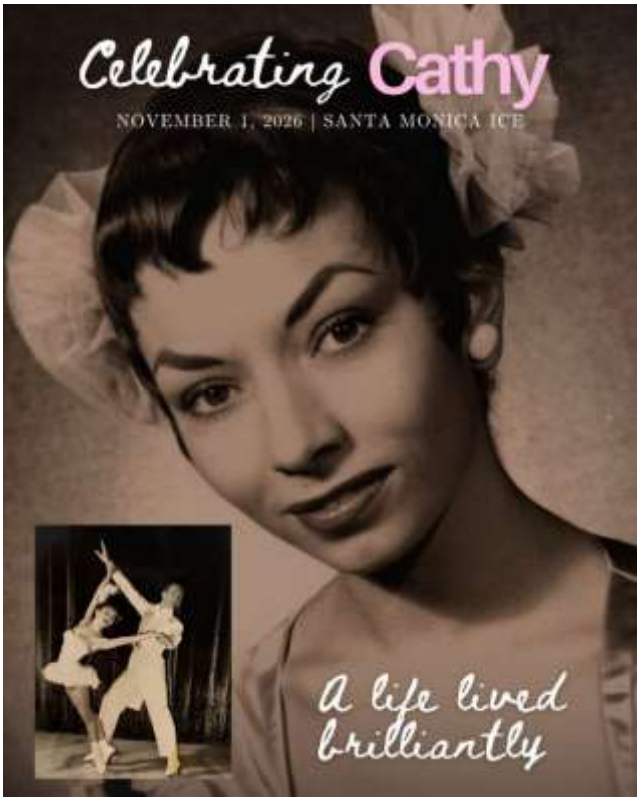
If you knew my mom, you knew her laugh. It was the kind of laugh you could hear from anywhere, and you never had to wonder who it belonged to. It was Sabra. And her smile?! It could light up an entire room. She had a way of making life brighter just by being herself.

My mom lived an amazing, full life, and she loved with her whole heart. Her family and friends meant everything to her, and she had a way of making the people she loved feel just how much they mattered.

My sister and I, Dave, along with the rest of our family were so incredibly blessed to have her in our lives - to love her, to be loved by her, and to share in the joy of being part of her world. While our hearts are broken, we are so grateful for the life she lived, the love she gave, and the countless memories we will carry with us forever.

Mom, you were one of a kind. We will miss your laugh, your smile, your big heart, and the happiness you brought into our lives more than words can ever say. I hope you are surrounded by all the beauty you loved so much. We love you forever. ❤️





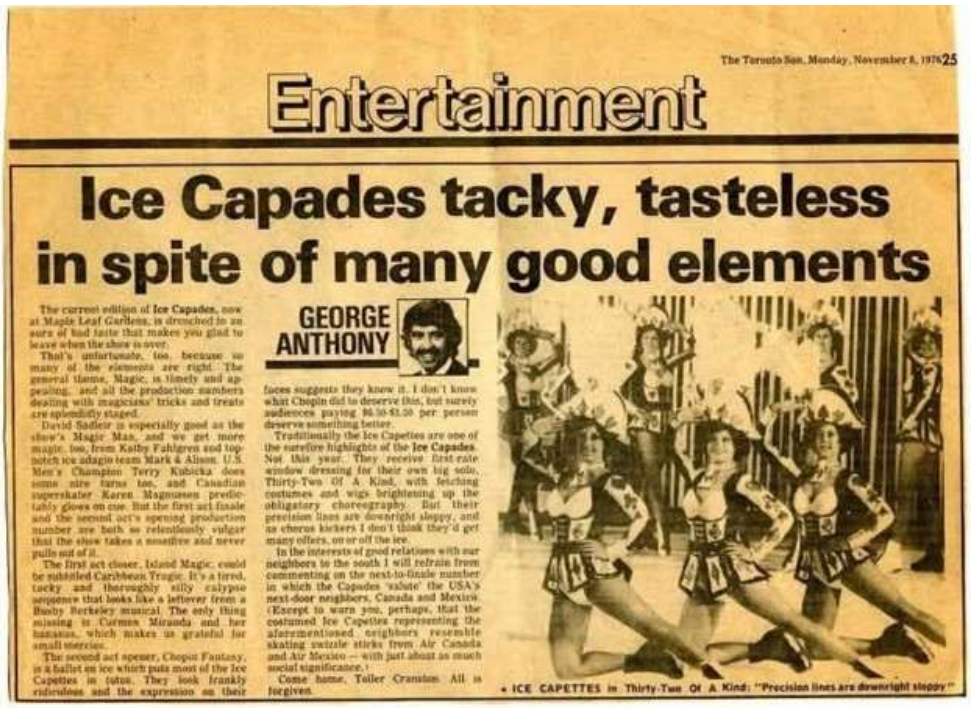
Join Willy and friends on Sunday, November 1 to celebrate the life of Cathy Steele Bietak: wife, adagio skater, choreographer and an inspiration to us all.

□ Downtown Santa Monica Ice Rink, Arizona Ave & 5th St (1324 5th St)
□ 5:00–8:00 PM

Bring your skates, a warm jacket and a warm heart.

RSVP to Toni at antoinette@bietakproductions.com

Toronto Review – Nov. 8, 1976



The Toronto Sun, Monday, November 8, 1976 25

Entertainment

Ice Capades tacky, tasteless in spite of many good elements

GEORGE ANTHONY

The current edition of **Ice Capades**, now at Maple Leaf Gardens, is drenched in an aura of bad taste that makes you glad to leave when the show is over.

That's unfortunate, too, because so many of the elements are right. The general theme, Magic, is timely and appealing, and all the production numbers dealing with magicians' tricks and treats are splendidly staged.

David Sadleir is especially good as the show's Magic Man, and we get more magic, too, from Kathy Fahlgren and top-notch ice adagio team Mark & Alison. U.S. Men's Champion Terry Kubicka does some nice turns too, and Canadian superskater Karen Magnussen predictably glows on cue. But the first act finale and the second act's opening production number are both so relentlessly vulgar that the show takes a nosedive and never pulls out of it.

The first act closer, Island Magic, could be subtitled Caribbean Tragic. It's a tired, tacky and thoroughly silly calypso sequence that looks like a leftover from a Busby Berkeley musical. The only thing missing is Carmen Miranda and her bananas, which makes us grateful for small mercies.

The second act opener, Chopin Fantasy, is a ballet on ice which puts most of the Ice Capettes in tutus. They look frankly ridiculous and the expression on their faces suggests they know it. I don't know what Chopin did to deserve this, but surely audiences paying $6.50-$3.50 per person deserve something better.

Traditionally the Ice Capettes are one of the surefire highlights of the **Ice Capades**. Not this year. They receive first-rate window dressing for their own big solo, Thirty-Two Of A Kind, with leiching costumes and wigs brightening up the obligatory choreography. But their precision lines are downright sloppy, and as chorus kickers I don't think they'd get many offers, on or off the ice.

In the interests of good relations with our neighbors to the south I will refrain from commenting on the next-to-finale number in which the Capades 'salute' the USA's next-door neighbors, Canada and Mexico. (Except to warn you, perhaps, that the costumed Ice Capettes representing the aforementioned neighbors resemble skating swizzle sticks from Air Canada and Air Mexico — with just about as much social significance.)

Come home, Toller Cranston. All is forgiven.

• ICE CAPETTES in Thirty-Two Of A Kind: "Precision lines are downright sloppy."

Reliving Fond memories



Doug Martin had published two books called 'Frozen Community' where he wanted to have skaters tell funny stories about their time on the road. Stories were posted before but worth sharing again.

Here is another one of Doug's own favorite memories –

Here's a great memory from Pinky when she skated adagio with Doug.



The year was 1964 and we were in Atlantic City. The show was "Masquerade," "Circus," "Cole Porter,' "Annapolettes,' "Viva Italia,' and the beloved 'Hallelujah Finale,' which was our exit march. We were waiting backstage at the top of a stairway, which was part of the set. We were to make our entrance by descending the stairs through billowing clouds of fog. We'd get to the bottom, the rush backstage and hurry up the steps again to make another entrance, so it looked like a million girls coming down those steps doing what we called the "Hallelujah hand pump" – down with the hands covered in snow which gloves, up with the hands way over our heads, and all the time the spot lights were ballyhooing all over the place. The short

girls were back by the set, we were down on our left knee with our right toe pick planted firmly in the ice in showgirl fashion, and the fog keeps rolling and rolling and rolling. The stagehands were rocking it that night, because as we descended the stairs and moved towards the front, we'd drag the fog with us and it would dissipate too quickly. Soooo, "More Fog, George! Peanuts leaned over to me just before the big "Ta Da!" as we were doing the Hallelujah hand pump, and said, "If we can't see the audience, you know they can't see us." So we crawled backstage on our hands and knees, grabbed our skate guards, and flew into the dressing room. We were out of costume and into street clothes in a flash, and trucking out of the dressing room while everyone else was just coming off the ice. Who knows where we were going in such a big fat hurry. Probably darting off for a good seat at the "Church" the nickname given to a popular bar in Atlantic Cit. Oh, I didn't say that, did I?

That went on for a couple of nights, until one evening, while crawling off the ice, we crawled right up onto a pair of shoes, and one of those shoes was tap, tap, tapping. We both looked up to see who it was, and oh, my stars, it was none other than Shirley Costello, the head program director. Oh, oh, we were aught like two mice in a trap. She didn't say a word, she just raised her arm and pointed back to the set. Ever see a crawdad scurry? That's exactly what we did, a backwards crawl, onto the ice, into the fog, to finish the number. No question, we got the Morse Code message her show was tapping out. "Get back out there and don't ever do that again!

Someone had to have told her. There's no way she saw us scooting off the ice through all that fog. We couldn't even see our own stark which gloves in the air above our head. Dang it, we had a good thing going there for awhile. Ha, ha, ha.

Atlantic City's White House Subs

Just Got Named the Most Iconic Sandwich Shop in NJ



New Jersey has no shortage of established sandwich shops—from bustling Jewish delis dishing out hot pastrami on rye, to Italian-American staples frying mountains of crispy chicken cutlets—but one Atlantic City shop was just named the most iconic in the state in a new national ranking.

Business Insider set out to identify the most iconic sandwich joints in all 50 states. Their search brought them down the Shore to an 80-year-old institution: White House Subs.

White House Subs has been serving Atlantic City's favorite sandwiches since 1946, when Anthony Basile opened the shop alongside his Aunt Basilia and Uncle Fritz Sacco.

What started as a simple family operation dedicated to expert sandwiches became one of the most celebrated sub shops in the country. They do everything from cheesesteaks to meatball subs, but none more iconic than

the classic Italian, which comes piled high with ham, salami, provolone, thin-sliced onion, tomato, shredded lettuce, oil, and vinegar. Most regulars add hot peppers, too.

Business Insider notes that White House Subs is not just excellent for New Jersey, but is “widely considered one of America’s greatest sub shops,” noting that the institution has served the likes of Frank Sinatra and the Beatles over the years.

Atlantic City has had many ups and downs over the decades. White House Subs has been here for all of them.

https://thedigestonline.com/.../white-house-subs.../...

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The website, ww.icecapadestheblade.com has been revamped and more information has been added. If you have something to add, please send them.

Look here **for 2025 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!

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