

The 1960s.....we grow by our dreams...a decade of firsts!

from St. Paul Pioneer Press, April, 1960

500 Experts to view First Skate-O-Rama

"At least 500 expert judges will be in the audience when the first annual Skate-O-Rama show opens April 6 in the Auditorium. They will be delegates from six states attending the annual conference of the Great Lakes Recreation Association in Hotel St. Paul April 4 to 7. Most of the delegates will be city, county and community staff members of recreational and playground units in Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana and Minnesota. The delegates already have tickets for the Skate-O-Rama as the evening program has been designated as one of their conference sessions."

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Skate-O-Rama Delights Fans

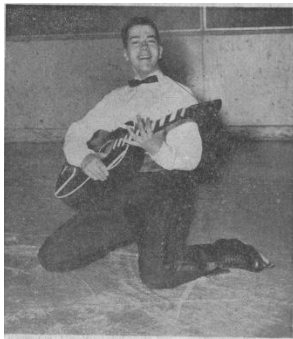
"Bright lights, dazzling costumes, flashing blue blades on white ice and a carnival atmosphere turned the St. Paul Auditorium Wednesday night into a home-grown ice skating extravaganza that might at times have been easily mistaken for Shipstad and Johnson's ice follies.

The costumes may not

have been as lavish, the performances as glittering, nor the lights quite as brilliant as those of the world famous follies, but St. Paul's Skate-O-Rama brought excited applause frequently from a crowd of 2,000 pleased ice show fans.

Variety, enthusiasm and talent seemed to be the ingredients that made the show sponsored by the bureau of public recreation and four St. Paul skating clubs, an unqualified success.

JUST LIKE ELVIS was the way Bobby Mecay, 14-year old virtuoso of the blades, looked Wednesday night in one of his spectacular performances at the first annual "Skate-O-Rama in the Auditorium. Bobby's dazzling performance left little doubt in any spectator's mind why the St. Paul youth was runner-up in the national novice men's figure skating championships in Seattle last January."



During the 1960s, ice arenas were being built throughout the country which impacted the number of skaters coming in from out of town to skate at the St. Paul Auditorium during the summer months. Many rinks were being built in the Twin Cities too, mainly to accommodate hockey, but as the number of rinks increased so did the number of figure skating clubs. As a result, summer ice became available at many locations in the area. Many figure skaters were drawn away from the St. Paul FSC to neighborhood clubs for the convenience they offered. The St. Paul Club added ice at Aldrich and Wakota arenas to accommodate its members and the Club no longer skated exclusively at the Auditorium but did continue to run its Summer Program at that location.

Although the Pops Musical Ice Revues continued until 1969, they were reduced in number from three a week to two. With the advent of home air-conditioning and the arrival of professional baseball and football in Minnesota, the crowds at the concerts dwindled. Nevertheless, the St. Paul FSC continued to choreograph and produce quality shows featuring national level skaters along with developing skaters at the St. Paul FSC.



Barbara Hartwig
Star of 1961 Pops Musical Revue



St. Paul FSC Hosts

1st Annual Summer Competition

The first St. Paul Invitational Summer Figure Skating Competition was held in 1964 under the innovative direction of Matthew Zats. Matthew was not only a long time judge but also a member of the St. Paul FSC beginning as a skater and serving later on the board for 20 years, 11 of those years as president. It was the very first non-qualifying figure skating competition in the Upper Great Lakes area - and one of the first non-qualifying competitions in the country. The competition has been held every year since then.

This was long before copy machines and computers. Scoring was done by hand and copies were made on thermofax machines. Skaters sometimes had to come back later in the day - or the next day - for the posting of their results.

UNITED STATES FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION									
DATE	VENUE	TITLE OF COMPETITION	PLACES	AGE	SEX	LEVEL	CLASS	NAME	SCORE
7/11	St. Paul	1st Annual Summer Competition	1	14-15	M	Novice	Men	Bobby Mecay	10.00
7/11	St. Paul	1st Annual Summer Competition	2	14-15	M	Novice	Men	Greg Scholten	9.50
7/11	St. Paul	1st Annual Summer Competition	3	14-15	M	Novice	Men	Barb Yackel	9.00
7/11	St. Paul	1st Annual Summer Competition	4	14-15	M	Novice	Men	Ted Engelking	8.50
7/11	St. Paul	1st Annual Summer Competition	5	14-15	M	Novice	Men	Dan Baker	8.00
7/11	St. Paul	1st Annual Summer Competition	6	14-15	M	Novice	Men	Joan Orvis	7.50

UNITED STATES FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION									
DATE	VENUE	TITLE OF COMPETITION	PLACES	AGE	SEX	LEVEL	CLASS	NAME	SCORE
7/11	St. Paul	1st Annual Summer Competition	1	14-15	F	Novice	Women	Ruth Ann Williamson	10.00
7/11	St. Paul	1st Annual Summer Competition	2	14-15	F	Novice	Women	Greg Scholten	9.50
7/11	St. Paul	1st Annual Summer Competition	3	14-15	F	Novice	Women	Barb Yackel	9.00
7/11	St. Paul	1st Annual Summer Competition	4	14-15	F	Novice	Women	Ted Engelking	8.50
7/11	St. Paul	1st Annual Summer Competition	5	14-15	F	Novice	Women	Dan Baker	8.00
7/11	St. Paul	1st Annual Summer Competition	6	14-15	F	Novice	Women	Joan Orvis	7.50



Some skaters accept trophies for the 1965 St. Paul Invitational competition - included in the picture are Ruth Ann Williamson, Greg Scholten, Barb Yackel, Ted Engelking, Dan Baker, Joan Orvis

SAINT PAUL AUDITORIUM ARENA - FOURTH STREET ENTRANCE			
1967 SAINT PAUL POP MUSICAL ICE REVUES			
Saturday	July 8th	8 PM	"AMERICA SINGS AND SWINGS"
Sunday	July 9th	3 PM	"AMERICA SINGS AND SWINGS"
Saturday	July 15th	8 PM	"A LOOK AT BROADWAY"
Sunday	July 16th	3 PM	"A LOOK AT BROADWAY"
Saturday	July 22nd	8 PM	"A POPS TOUR OF EXCITING WORLD CAPITALS"
Sunday	July 23rd	3 PM	"A POPS TOUR OF EXCITING WORLD CAPITALS"
Friday	July 28th	8 PM	"CHILDREN'S TOTLAND REVUE"
Saturday	July 29th	8 PM	"HOLIDAY HIT PARADE"
Sunday	July 30th	3 PM	"HOLIDAY HIT PARADE"
Saturday	August 12th	8 PM	"CHILDREN'S TOTLAND REVUE"
Sunday	August 13th	3 PM	"CHILDREN'S TOTLAND REVUE"
Saturday	August 19th	8 PM	"THE TOPS OF THE POPS"
Sunday	August 20th	3 PM	"THE TOPS OF THE POPS"

Main Floor-reserved seats at tables	\$2.00
Balcony - general admission	\$1.00
Children - reserved or general admission	\$1.50

NOTE: Children ten years or under admitted free, if accompanied by an adult.
Sunday matinees only

Tickets on sale
Field-Schlick & Dayton's

For reservations call: 227-8331 (Field-Schlick)
224-7361 (Auditorium)

(Auditorium ticket office open 8:30 PM Saturday, 1:30 PM Sunday)