



THE ACROBAT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



WE ARE GROWING! GROWING! GROWING!

VOL 1 NO. 2nd

JULY, 1996 ISSUE

TUMBLING & TRAMPOLINE

ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS

DIVING

SPORTS ACROBATICS

FREE STYLE SKIING

PROFESSIONAL ACROBATICS



We are pleased to announce that membership in the WORLD ACROBATICS SOCIETY has grown by "leaps and bounds" (pun intended), since our initial founding as an organization only four months ago! At mid-March, 1996, after our first organizational meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, our membership stood at 18 members. We now have over 80 paid memberships in both Life-Time Charter and regular Charter categories. In only four months, our membership has quadrupled! What is particularly gratifying is the fact that new members are coming in every day and some of the most eminent personalities in at least six of the seven acrobatic disciplines have already joined us!

It should be stressed, however, that the WORLD ACROBATICS SOCIETY is not an organization that is solely dedicated to the needs of already established 'acrobatic legends!' Although we are greatly flattered and honored by their membership, we are equally honored

and will be equally responsive to those younger generations of acrobats who are well on their way to become 'living legends' in their own right by the fabulous work they are doing in all areas of acrobatic endeavor. Many of those 'little kids' that we 'old timers' once coached, are now out in the field themselves, coaching and holding down positions of leadership in many areas. We, 'old timers' salute them! Like former President John F. Kennedy once said...."The torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans!" The torch has, indeed, been passed to a new generation of acrobats and they are doing a magnificent job in preserving sacred old traditions and in creating new traditions that time will prove to be both valuable and enduring!

**KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK
YOUNG PEOPLE!**



OLYMPIC GOLD!

**THE WORLD ACROBATICS
SOCIETY**

***EXTENDS ITS SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE***

**1996 UNITED STATES
WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS TEAM
and their
MAGNIFICENT COACHES!**

***YOUR COURAGE AND EXCELLENCE IN ATLANTA
WILL FOREVER BE ENSHRINED IN THE HEARTS
OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE!***



THE ACROBAT



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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & EDITOR



Dear W.A.S. Member:

The front cover of this, our second Newsletter, proudly discusses the way in which our new organization is rapidly growing on a daily basis! Apparently word has gotten out and we are most appreciative of those of you who have been instrumental in bringing us new members.

The "Mission Statement" of the WORLD ACROBATICS SOCIETY was clearly stated in our first Newsletter and is also included in our W.A.S. brochures. It is to this mission that we have pledged and dedicated ourselves.

It should be evident that with the growth and expansion of any new organization, increased responsibilities must also be assumed by those in executive and decision making positions. I believe this goes without saying.

In an effort to upgrade and improve the quality of our Newsletters, we have developed a new format of information that we hope you will approve. This, and future Newsletters will be produced in FULL COLOR! We will continue to provide current information concerning the major acrobatic disciplines, we will accept a limited amount of advertizing to help fund the Newsletter and we will provide at least FOUR profiles of legendary personalities in each issue.

We welcome your comments and/or criticisms at any time. If you have newsworthy items (and pictures), please do not hesitate to send them to us. A "Letters to the Editor" column will become a standard reality in our next newsletter. Send us your comments! We will also except newsworthy 'guest editorials' of 500 words or less for publication. We seek to produce a FIRST CLASS Newsletter! Please help us in any way you can!

Yours in Acrobatics:

Bob Bollinger
Executive Director

LOOK WHO'S COMING TO DINNER!

FUTURE LIVING LEGEND PROFILES

In this issue of our quarterly Newsletter, we are providing profiles of Dr. Sammy Lee, Joe Giallombardo, Danny Millman and Judi Ford Nash, all "Living Legends" in the field of acrobatics! In future issues we will profile the following great personalities:

**JOE SCHABACKER - CHARLIE POND - GEORGE NISSEN
GLENN SUNDBY - BRUCE HARLAN - VICKI MANLO DRAVES
WAYNE MILLER - FRANK CUMISKEY - NEWT LOKEN
GEORGE SZYPULA - FRANK LaDUE - EDSSEL BUCHANAN
ROWLAND WOLFE - HARTLEY PRICE - STEVE ELLIOTT
FRANKIE BARE JR. - ALEXANDRA NICHOLSON - PAUL LUXON
BIL COPP - RON MUNN - JEFF HENNESSEY - TED BLAKE
KURT BÄCHLER - YURI TITOV - ABIE GROSFELD
MURIEL GROSFELD - BARBARA GALLEHER TONRY
JUDI WILLS CLINE - ED DANSER - NEWT LOKEN - DICK KIMBALL
HOBIE BILLINGSLEY - RON O'BRIEN - DICK SMITH
STORMY EATON - GEORGE HERY - IRVIN "SHORTY" BEDARD
CHUCK THOMPSON - NARD CAZZELL - ALFREDO CADONA**

PLUS MANY MANY MORE!

**WATCH FOR PROFILES
of
"LIVING LEGENDS"
in
FUTURE ISSUES!**

TO ALL
W.A.S. MEMBERS
DON'T FORGET!

BIL COPP'S
FLORIDA WORKOUT

DECEMBER 26 - 30, 1996

NAPLES, FLORIDA



FIRST NATIONAL W.A.S. CONGRESS

DECEMBER 27, 1996

**TUMBLING, TRAMPOLINE, DOUBLE MINI, GYMNASTICS, DIVING
LECTURES & SEMINARS**

By

WORLD CLASS ACROBATS FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION WRITE OR CALL

BIL COPP
P.O. BOX 7282 NORTH PORT,
FLA.
PHONE: (941) 426-0631

MAKING IT TO THE TOP!

*If troubles should upset you as you wander on through life,
If misfortunes beset you and fill your years with strife,
Don't fall victim to self pity, or shed a hopeless tear-
Just get down to the 'nitty-gritty' and get yourself in gear!*

*One you've started, keep on going! Don't linger and don't stop!
Be inspired just by knowing that you can make it to the top!
Don't teeter and don't totter, work your fingers to the bone,
Because a constant drop of water will wear away the hardest stone.*

*But, you have to be consistent doing what you have to do,
And you must be persistent if you want to see things through;
So, don't linger by some fountain and hope your troubles will stop,
Because no one climbs a mountain by 'wishing' their way to the top!*

*By
Robert F. Bollinger
July, 1978*



EDITOR'S NOTE

During the author's 30 year coaching career, he had the opportunity to write several inspirational poems for his team members. The poems were a big hit and the author feels that they were instrumental in helping to produce winning competitors. "Making It To The Top" was the first in a series of six inspirational messages. He would like to share them with you.

IS MEN'S GYMNASTICS IN AMERICA DEAD IN THE WATER?



By
DON ROBINSON

**FORMER MEN'S GYMNASTICS COACH
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Let me answer this question with a resounding YES! Unless we approach educators, college presidents, athletic directors and high school athletic associations to make them aware of the value of amateur athletics, especially gymnastics. As with many other endeavors, gymnastics will also fall by the wayside. Many universities have already dropped historically rich sports such as swimming, diving, gymnastics, wrestling, badminton and archery!

Historically, gymnastics dates back to 2600 B.C. in China with the real development occurring during the Greco-Roman periods of history and it has continued to progress through our various educational systems. Gymnastics has been the basic and integral part of all athletics with an emphasis on strength, coordination, agility, endurance and safety. The military academies all still require gymnastics for their cadets; WHY?

Other reasons for sponsoring sports is to give young people opportunities! To help keep them off the streets, in school, and provide them with positive role models for them to achieve happy, healthy and productive futures. Not every athlete is 6'-5" and 250 lbs.

A very important fact which was driven home by Don Peters (SCATS Gymnastics Academy) in an address to coaches in the gymnastics club industry. He said and I agree! "Men's collegiate gymnastics has served as the main training ground for coaches, both male and female, over the past 30 years." Some things that need to be considered: (1) Where have our coaches come from? (2) Where have the ideas and techniques come from? (3) Who are the safety spotters in our gyms? Without men's gymnastics, the women's programs will also eventually disappear! There are currently 20 coaches in Arizona alone that have come from the Arizona State University men's team.

DON ROBINSON
FORMER
MEN'S GYMNASTIC COACH
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY



Men and women's gymnastic programs need to work hand-in-hand to help each other stay alive and become successful. I hope that each and everyone realizes that men's gymnastics has been and remains the catalyst that makes gymnastics a reality in our country.

In closing I would like to invite everyone to go and see the movie "Mr. Holland's Opus." Let's not let this happen to men's gymnastics! Children are our future! Let's fight together to keep their opportunities alive. You can help by contacting (call or write) the NCAA and your local politicians, colleges and universities. Let them know you care. If you don't, who will?

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

The editor believes that Don Robinson's article on the present status of men's collegiate gymnastics in America should be read and digested by everyone who maintains an ongoing interest in the preservation and progressive evolution of sports in this country. His points are most valid! Although, never a big money-making sport like football and basketball, collegiate men's gymnastics has served a most vital role in contributing to the growth of physical and mental health and that all important personal quality we call 'character!' To drop men's gymnastics (for whatever reason) from collegiate or high school athletic programs is nothing short of criminal in any way one cares to look at it!

As could be expected, MONEY appears to be the biggest problem! In today's ultra-materialistic and hedonistic society, the importance placed on MONEY is more than sinful. Like the NFL and NBA, colleges and universities want a 'piece of the action!' A UNIVERSITY is supposed to be a sacred institution that provides UNIVERSAL utilitarian education and opportunities! When it fails in that regard by dropping men's gymnastics and other minor sports from its program agenda....it ceases to be a UNIVERSITY!

THE U.S.A. TRAMPOLINE & TUMBLING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



PHOENIX ARIZONA
July 3 - 9, 1996

A REAL FOURTH OF JULY BLAST!



They called it "Red Hot and Cool!" in their pre-meet brochures and the 1996 U.S.A. National Trampoline Championships in Phoenix was exactly that! The temperature between July 3-9 hovered between 105 and 115 degrees but it was pleasant and cool inside the Civic Center hall where the actual competition was held!

Those of us "Old Timers" who had not seen a U.S. Trampoline competition for many years were appalled and pleased at the magnificent way in which the meet was organized and conducted. Executive Director Ann Sims and Organization President, Chris Sans and their staff certainly did a fantastic job in conducting a competition that was 'first class' in every respect! The tumbling was absolutely phenomenal with two of Dave Green's Flip City Tumblers working out of Full-In, Full-Outs to Triple Back Somersaults! We were a little dissatisfied with the skill level of Trampoline and Double Mini-Tramp performers but they all did a great job and are bound to improve!

By stating that we were a little dissatisfied at the skill level of Trampoline and Tumbling, we don't mean to imply that the competitors did not do a superior job in presenting their routines. Perhaps, during America's "Golden Age" of Trampolining (during the late 1960s and early 1970s), when great performers like Wayne Miller and Alexandra Nicholson ruled the roost, many of us became spoiled. We were reminded that since American competitors Dan Millman and Judi Wills won the first World Championships in London in 1964, the United States dominated International competition for many years thereafter. Things since then have changed! The Russians, French, Canadians, Australians and South Africans are now the Kings and Queens to beat!

Our Trampoline, Tumbling and Double Mini-tramp competitors will certainly try to do just that at the F.I.T. World Championships scheduled for Vancouver, British Columbia in late August of this year.

Members of the WORLD ACROBATICS SOCIETY were well represented at the competition and were given royal treatment by everyone. W.A.S. members present were: George Nissen, Charlie Pond, Joe Schabacker, Dick Smith, Don Robinson, Ed Danser and Bob Bollinger. It was great to see many of the 'Old Gang' that are still coaching such as Jimmy Younge, Pat Henderson, Vern Dietrich, Larry Gleason, Joan Cunningham, Dave Green, Clark Gangwich, Terri Wight, Joy Umenhofer and Jill Hollembeak! With those people and others coaching, America has a bright future in the sport and W.A.S. wishes them all the best of luck in Vancouver!

COMPETITION RESULTS In the Senior Divisions

MEN'S TUMBLING

Rayshine Harris
Rashaan Sampson
Daniel Aldea

WOMEN'S TUMBLING

Erin Maguire
Kendra Stucki
Amanda Lentz

MEN'S DOUBLE MINI-TRAMP

Brad Davis
Brian Beach
Ryan Weston

WOMEN'S DOUBLE MINI-TRAMP

Jennifer Sans
Kim Sans
Erin Maguire

MEN'S TRAMPOLINE

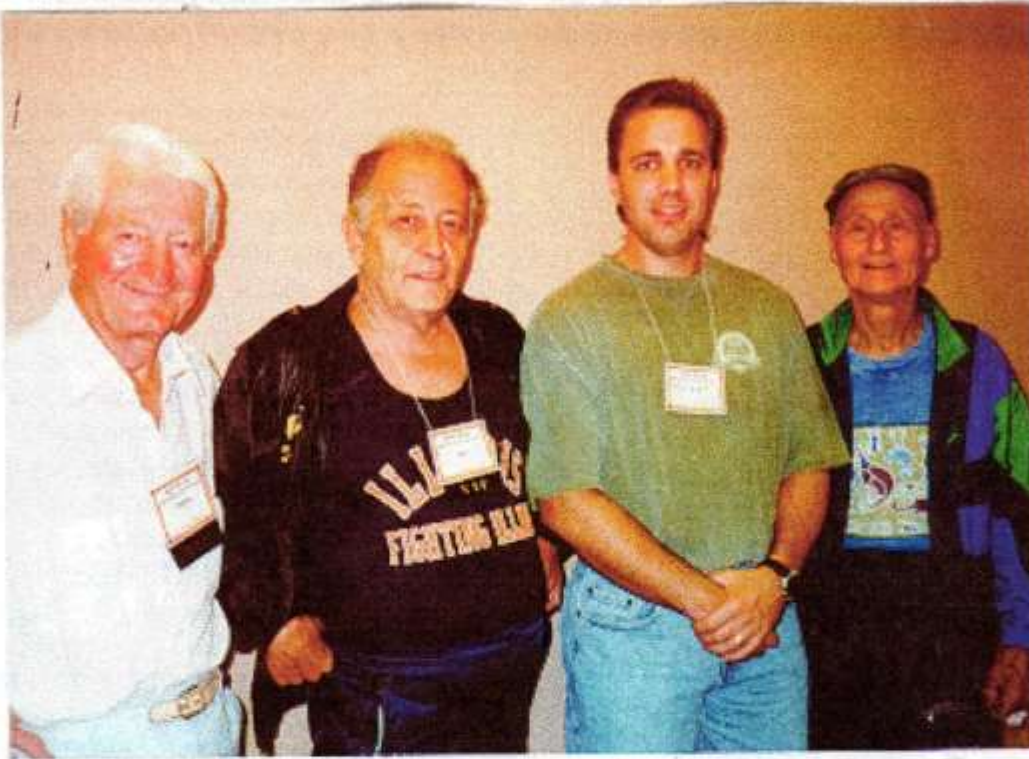
Ryan Weston
David Kennedy
Byron Smith

THE U.S.A. TRAMPOLINE & TUMBLING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

PHOENIX ARIZONA

July 3 - 9, 1996

A REAL FOURTH OF JULY BLAST!



THE FOUR INVENTORS

Four inventors who have contributed to the sport were honored at the competition in Phoenix! They are left to right: Charlie Pond who invented the Twisting Belt, Bob Bollinger who devised the Axial Rotation Difficulty System and the Double Mini-tramp, Steve Swanson who developed the new Tumbling Platform and George Nissen who first patented the Trampoline in the late 1930s.

The World Acrobatics Society

Wishes to extend its thanks and appreciation to

ANN SIMS, CHRIS SANS

AND OTHER MEMBERS OF U.S.A.
TRAMPOLINE & TUMBLING
For Their Gracious Hospitality in Phoenix,
Arizona!

U.S.A. TRAMPOLINE & TUMBLING NATIONALS

CONTINUED



U.S.A. Trampoline & Tumbling Executive Director, ANN SIMS leads the various teams onto the floor during the opening ceremonies of the national competition at the Civic Plaza in Phoenix, Arizona.



Ann Sims poses with Rashaan Sampson and Rashine Harris who both performed Back Triple Somersaults in the Senior Men's Tumbling competition!



WORLD ACROBATIC SOCIETY members were well represented at the National Championships in Phoenix! **FRONT ROW** left to right are: Charlie Pond, Ed Danser and Dick Smith. **BACK ROW** left to right are: Bil Copp, Joe Schabacker, Bob Bollinger and George Nissen.

TRAMPOLINE & TUMBLING NATIONALS

CONTINUED



Bob Bollinger, Chris Sans, Dick Smith and Charlie Pond discuss the different events at the competition.



Dave Green of Flip City is pleased with his No. 2 Tumbler, Rashaan Sampson who did a Back Triple!



Bob Bollinger congratulates **JENNIFER SANS** who won the women's Trampoline competition and her coach, **LARRY GLEASON**. Both Jennifer and Chris are from Minnesota.

FREE STYLE SKIING!

AN EARLY HISTORY

By
BOB BOLLINGER



COACH CHARLIE POND
(Standing) With members of his 1975-76 Freestyle Team

Sometime, during mankind's remote past, a single individual from a cold climate, strapped a pair of long thin boards onto his feet and learned to propel himself across the snow. Cross-Country skiing served as a practical means of transportation. Perhaps, it was not long after when man learned to ski downhill and at one point in time, purely by accident, some skier hit a bump in his path that caused him to involuntarily execute an aerial forward somersault! This, of course, is pure speculation, but it appears to be highly plausible.

EARLY DOCUMENTED HISTORY

The type of skiing known as freestyle or "hot dog" skiing goes back at least to 1915, when a skier named Carl Paulson did a single front flip on skis at the first American Intercollegiate Ski Meet at Hanover, New Hampshire. The modern era of freestyle skiing began in the mid 1950s. Art Furrer, a Swiss, began teaching tricks while working as a ski instructor in the U.S. and he did much to popularize skiing acrobatics through demonstrations, films and articles during the 1960s.

In 1971, ski cinematographer and freestyle innovator Dick Barrymore and the K-2 Ski Company sponsored the world's first hot dog contest in Aspen, Colorado. Barrymore's concept was that the winner should be the skier who made the hottest, fastest, most exciting run down the toughest slopes in the area.

Three days later, in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire, Skiing Magazine and Chevrolet sponsored the first true freestyle event called "The National Championships of Exhibition Skiing", won by Herman Goellner. This contest was divided into three events - moguls, or bump skiing, ballet and aerals. Freestyle contests still continue to use the three events today. One other contest was held that season, The Rocky Mountain Freestyle Skiing Championships in Vail, Colorado with the total purse for the first season at \$20,000. As the activity gained in popularity, many sponsors came to the fore such as Midas, Chevrolet, Skiing Magazine and Colgate Palmolive. Like any other new sport, however, freestyle skiing had its problems and as each year progressed, one wondered if the sport would survive.

FREE STYLE SKIING.

AN EARLY HISTORY

CONTINUED

THE POND ERA

1974-1978

At the beginning of 1974, freestyle skiing was on the threshold of entering a new developmental era. Charlie Pond, for years, had been one of America's most successful men's gymnastics coaches! Considered by many as the nation's top tumbling coach, Charlie's long career at the University of Illinois had garnered both him and his teams many honors from Big-Ten and NCAA Championships to the Olympics.

Upon retirement from the U of I, Charlie started the Utah Academy of Gymnastics in 1973. A group of freestyle skiers living in Salt Lake City approached Charlie one day seeking help in the learning of aerial twisting somersaults on skis. This was a challenge that Charlie could not refuse. As the inventor of a unique "twisting safety belt" for teaching such skills, Charlie went to work with the young skiers, using the trampoline, diving techniques and his twisting belt. With the help of one of his students, Frankie Bare Jr., Charlie began to develop some skilled freestyle skiers who could safely execute multiple twisting somersaults on skis.

With safety for the athlete always foremost in his mind, Charlie developed a progressive system of teaching techniques that included the trampoline, a slanted trampoline, an apparatus to propel students upwards called an 'air pup, a straw skii slope and a ski slope over water. Diving was definitely an important part and parcel of Charlie's training program.

HOT DOGS & HOT MUSTARD!

If the freestyle skiers of the pre-Pond era were known as 'hot dogs', it was Charlie's teaching program that added the 'hot mustard' to their competitive routines. With skills such as double and triple twisting double backs and twisting triple somersaults (many of these performed by Frankie Bare Jr.), it was the Utah Academy of Gymnastics that provided the hot mustard recipe.



FRANK BARE JR.

Pioneer of Multiple-Twisting Multiple Somersaults in Freestyle Skiing!

The Utah Academy of Gymnastics became 'the' place to train for the new circuit that was being formed in the Fall of 1974! This circuit would provide both sponsor money and national T.V.coverage as well. Charlie took a freestyle skiing judges course in 1974 and soon after, was selected as Head Judge and then Superior Judge for the 1975-76 season.

A new association called The U.S. Freestyle Association was formed and Charlie was elected as Executive Director and National Coach. The 1975-76 season included competitions in Austria, Switzerland and Italy. At the close of the 1978 season, the International Olympic Committee recognized the new sport and accepted it into the Olympic agenda! The McCormick Sports Conglomerate soon took over the sport but would not accept Charlie's concept of Safety Certification. As a result, Charlie resigned his positions and retired from active participation in the sport. Perhaps, one of Charlie's greatest achievements was the success enjoyed by his star pupil, Frank Bare Jr. who successfully performed a 'Triple-Twisting Backward Quadruple Somersault!' Wow! What will they think of next?

A "FLAIR" ACROSS AMERICA!

IN SPIRIT AND SUBSTANCE!

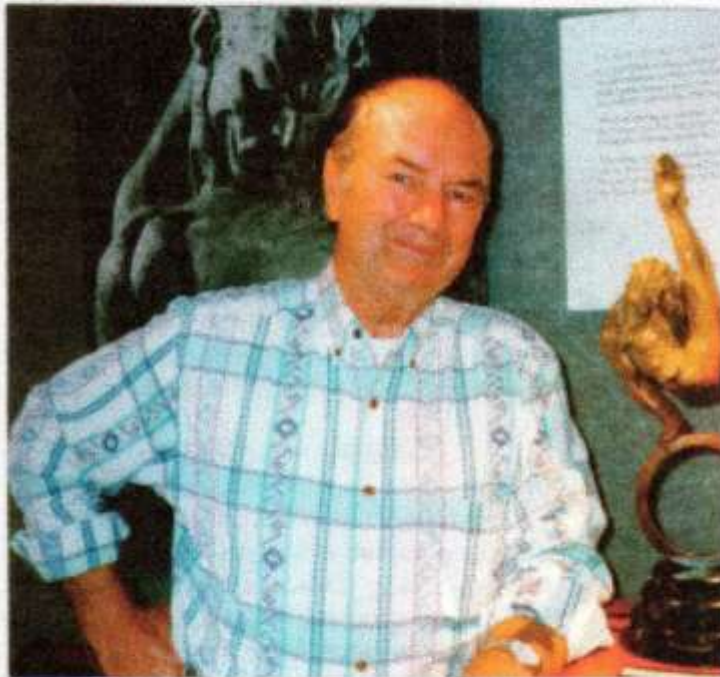
By
DR. JOSEPH SCHABACKER



My wife Jerilyn and I were deeply flattered and honored to receive in the mail, an official invitation to attend the opening ceremonies of the "Flair Across America" bronze statue in Atlanta, Georgia, just prior to the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games. This would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend and be a part of an historical event that would have meaningful significance for all time! Obviously, we eagerly accepted the invitation.

Just prior to our scheduled departure date for Atlanta, we had planned to attend the 1996 U.S.A. Trampoline & Tumbling Junior and Senior Championships at the Civic Plaza in Phoenix, Arizona. We were able to witness most of the competition, but had to leave on Sunday morning, July 7th in order to reach Atlanta in time for the unveiling.

Thus far, this had, indeed, been a busy summer with an earlier trip to Pennsylvania to visit relatives, a trip to California where we visited the Cirque San Jose and a planned tour of Europe scheduled to begin on August 1st. I also had some information and pictures to send to Bob Bollinger for the W.A.S. July Newsletter. It would be a busy busy summer to say the least!



W.A.S. Life-Time Charter Member

Dr. Joseph C. Schabacker

Poses along side a replica statue of
the 22' high bronze sculptor in Atlanta.

The 'Flair Across America' Statue was created by sculptor Richard Macdonald and was designed to serve as a monument to celebrate the 1996 Olympic Games. The inspiration for the statue had its origins with American gymnast, Kurt Thomas who first performed the 'flair' in international competition.

The 22' high Flair Statue celebrates the triumph of the human spirit! The heroic bronze statue epitomizes the credo of the Games that the essence lies not in the victory but in the struggle. The monument was to be permanently installed in Georgia International Plaza, directly in front of the Georgia Dome, where the gymnastics events will be featured. The 'Flair' journeyed by truck from California across the breadth of America stopping at several cities along the way before arriving in Atlanta. The Ceremonies were a magnificent occasion, the memory of which, Jerilyn and I will cherish for the rest of our lives!

PROFESSIONAL ACROBATICS!

HOW DID IT ALL GET STARTED?



No one actually knows when "Professional Acrobatics", as a recognized institution, initially began. Archaeologists have often uncovered interesting pictures of acrobats on the walls of tombs in ancient Egypt and Chinese pottery shards dating back to 5,000 B.C. depict acrobats in different modes of performance. We do know that professional acrobats performed in Ancient Crete and were paid to handspring and somersault over the heads of charging bulls. A dangerous activity to say the least!

MEDIEVAL FAIRS

Professional Acrobatics, as a recognized institution, probably had its origins in the Medieval Fairs of Europe that were commonplace between 1300 and 1800 A.D. Traveling Fairs that went from province to province and kingdom to kingdom always featured tumblers, contortionists, rope walkers, trapeze artists, hand balancing acts, clowns and jugglers. The Medieval Fair throughout England, France, northern Italy, Spain and the Holy Roman Empire (comprising most of today's Germany) was eagerly looked forward to by peasant and Lord alike as it served to delete some of the boredom that was commonplace during that age.

Medieval literature is full of marvelous tales concerning acrobats, their general popularity and in some cases, descriptions of the feats they performed in some detail. Some of these feats and performances are rather strange and bizarre when measured by today's standards. There exists documented evidence of a French monk by the name of Bruno of Avignon who, for a period of 21 years, won an acrobatic competition called: "Le saut, le sifflet, le culbutte capoter et le bumbulum!" (A jump, a whistle, an aerial somersault and the passage of gas!). How this gymnastic type competition was judged is open to question, but whatever the case, by the time Bruno was done competing, he had amassed a fortune in prize money and livestock.

Most people today equate "professional acrobatics" either with the circus or with Hollywood stunt people. The first real circuses appeared in England as early as 1750 (perhaps, even before), but it was not until the legendary P.T. Barnum started his circus in America in the 1830s, that the "circus" became a true home of the professional acrobat. During the later half of the 19th century, the tent circus both in America and in Europe became immensely popular. There were many popular circuses in America. Some of the great shows were Cole Brothers Circus, Pollack Brothers Circus, Forepaugh & Sells, Ringling Brothers and more recently, the Shrine Circus. When Barnum and Bailey combined with Ringling brothers, they became known as "The greatest Show on Earth!" One must also not forget Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show that featured among other things, acrobatic trick riding.

The Circus, as we know it today, was an outgrowth of the medieval fairs and strangely enough, both fairs and circuses have survived to this day and still offer a haven and job opportunity for professional acrobats!

ENGLISH & AMERICAN VAUDVILLE

No discussion of professional acrobatics would be complete without mentioning the turn of the century vaudville stages in England and the United States. Vaudville often featured professional acrobatic performances and for over a 30 year period, some of England and America's greatest acrobats and movie stars got their start on the vaudville stage. Cary Grant, Joe E. Brown and Burt Lancaster are a few of many. Since its first inception, the movie industry has served as a mecca for professional acrobats with the many opportunities it offers for stunt men and women.

The future for professional acrobats, indeed, looks bright. Circuses or "cirques" as they are often called are flourishing as never before. The following pages briefly discuss three of these. Cirque San Jose, All-American Acrobats and the Cirque Du Soleil proudly carry on an age old tradition of acrobatic professionalism at its best!

CIRQUE SAN JOSÉ

PROUDLY PRESENTS

A "BRILLIANT" CAST!

Circus acrobatics is an age old tradition in Cheryl Taylor Hoff's family and when a talented and vivacious young woman like Cheryl Taylor (her professional name) and an equally talented National Sports Acrobatic Team coach like Dan Hoff team up and become partners, something fantastic in the world of acrobatics is bound to happen!

Cheryl and Dan operate both an outstanding Circus and circus acrobatic school in San Jose, California called the "Cirque San Jose" and "Taylor's Acro-Gymnastics & Circus School" where all forms of tumbling, balancing, acrobatics and show biz techniques are taught. The Cirque San Jose was inspired by the great success of the fabulous "Cirque Du Soleil" which features shows all over the world with its main show in Las Vegas, Nevada! On a smaller scale, the Cirque San Jose emulates in many respects, the quality type performances that are the daily venu of the Cirque Du Soleil. With its beginnings as an outgrowth of 'Golden State Acrobatics', the Cirque San Jose holds open auditions for its April thru May and October thru November theatrical productions and combines the work of amateurs and professionals working together, to produce masterful acrobatic presentations!

Dr. Joe Schabacker, Senior Advisor and Life-Time Charter Member of the World Acrobatics Society, visited the Cirque San Jose in June of this year and was most impressed by what he observed. Joe said it was a "Cirque Du Soleil" in miniature which is a great compliment from one of the world's former great acrobats who has seen it all!

The W.A.S. Organization is most proud to have both Dan and Cheryl as Charter Members and we are particularly pleased that Cheryl, along with Nelle Filliger of Las Vegas, Nevada serve as our two Social Chairpersons! Keep up the great work "Cirque San Jose!" We know we can expect great things from you in the future!



ABOVE: Joe Schabacker chats with members of the cast. BELOW: Russian Sports-Acro Champion, Ivan Skolski with his niece, Kristina

THE "ALL-AMERICAN ACROBATS!"

By

CHERYL SIEGERSMA

**EDITOR OF "GRASSROOTS GYMNASTICS"
MAGAZINE**

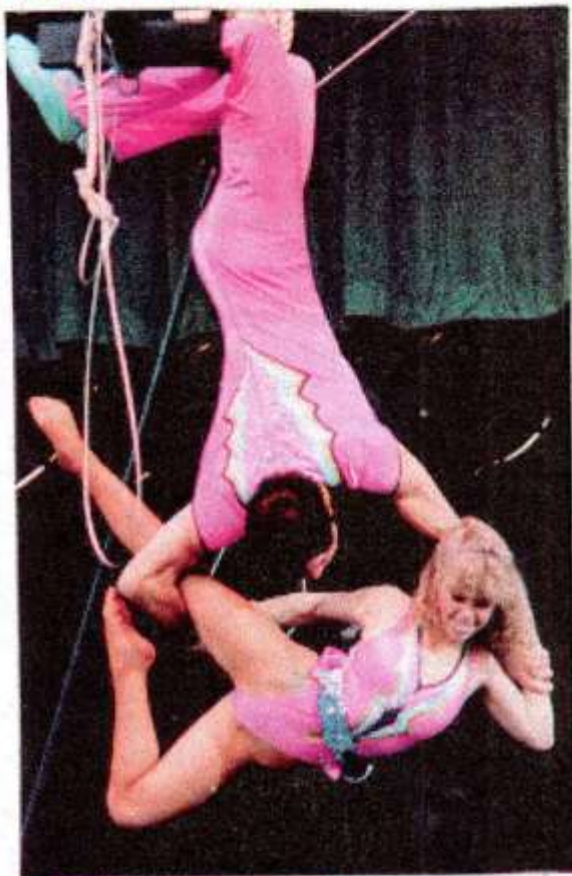
YUCAIPA, CALIFORNIA



When the circus came to town in the 1930s, it never left! The Redlands, California Y.M.C.A. is home to the Great All-American Youth Circus and "great" aptly describes the accomplishments of this unique program. One of the few youth circuses in the United States, the YMCA circus has shown that it can compete with the big guys. With an annual production in May which runs for 8 shows, and several smaller shows throughout the year, this circus is seen by hundreds of local visitors. It all began with the first "Great Y Circus" in 1939 under the leadership of Roy Coble.

This years May performance at the Prospect Park outdoor theater was a tremendous success and much of its credit goes to Mike McCary, the Circus Director and Karen Price Castle (Castoldi), the newly appointed Entertainment Director for a theme park in Redlands. Karen has a long history of accomplishment in the acrobatic arts. As a former Muscle Beach gymnast, hand-balancer and Hollywood stunt woman, Karen has an impressive list of credits in the acrobatic province. Some of these include "Fall Guy" with Lee Majors, "Scarecrow and Mrs. King", "Magnum P.I.", "Big Top Pee Wee", "Dragnet 87" and several movies with Chuck Norris and Arnold Schwarzenager! She was also a personal double for Jane Fonda in her last two films!

With such an impressive background, Karen Price Castle eagerly looks forward to working with the All-American Acrobats program with the creative freedom she craves. The fact that she now has a permanent site for 'Castle Productions' which she and her husband Dan own, will enable her to 'reach for the stars' in a manner in which she has never been able to do before! Good luck to Karen and Danny! We're most happy and honored that you have joined W.A.S.!



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

PROUDLY PRESENTS

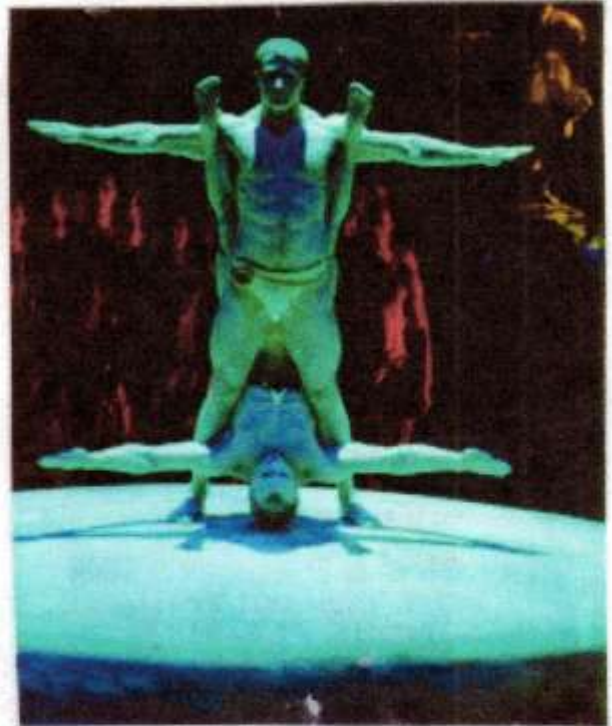
CHRIS and BOGDEN

ALWAYS ON BALANCE!



When you first get off your plane at the Las Vegas International airport and visit the baggage claim area, you'll see a large 15' x 8' glass sign that reads: "Mystere-Cirque Du Soleil." You decide to see the show and three days in advance, you pay \$59.00 for a ticket! Will it be worth it? On the night of the show you settle down in your seat in the large auditorium at the Treasure Island Hotel on the "Strip."

Ten minutes before the show is scheduled to begin, a genius at comedy, who looks very much like Albert Einstein, waddles down the aisle tearing up peoples tickets and throwing popcorn all over! It's quite funny! Then in a blare of music and a kaleidoscope of light, the show begins. A 225 lb. "baby" wanders out on the stage with a big 4' rubber ball. He giggles! He gurgles and cries "Ma! Ma!" Then he throws the ball into the audience! He is also quite funny! Other exciting acts soon follow with an aerial balancing number and the unbelievable "Chinese Poles!"



BOGDAN ZAJAK & CHRIS SUSJEK
Perform their act at the "Cirque du Soleil"

Colorfully costumed gamins and dwarfs tumble across the stage executing cartwheel sides, flip-flops and aerial walkovers! Suddenly, the music slows, the lights dim and a spotlight centers on a blue dome rising out of the bowels of the earth! A light blue mist surrounds the dome. Two incredible hand-balancers, Bogdan Zajak and Christopher Susjek begin their act in slow motion to the tempo of the music. The audience sits transfixed and spellbound as the two iridescent acrobats perform unbelievable feats of balancing. Chris performs a one hand handstand atop Bogdan's head, then lowers to a one arm planche! It's all in slow motion requiring superior strength and balance! There are no misses or near misses! It's perfect! At the conclusion of the act, the two disappear, again in a cloud of mist back into the underworld! The audience goes crazy! The applaues is deafening!

The rest of the show is equally awesome with fantastic trampoline and tumbling, teeter-board and a colossal cradle-casting high bar act over a net! Was the show worth \$59.00? Did you get your money's worth? You bet you did!



JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACROBATS!

[illegible]

Are you a Tumbler, Diver, Trampolinist, Gymnast, Hand Balancer or other type of acrobat who's looking for a job in the professional world? If so, you might wish to take note of the following:

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FOR DETAILS SEE PAGE 25
WHAT'S COMING UP!

\$

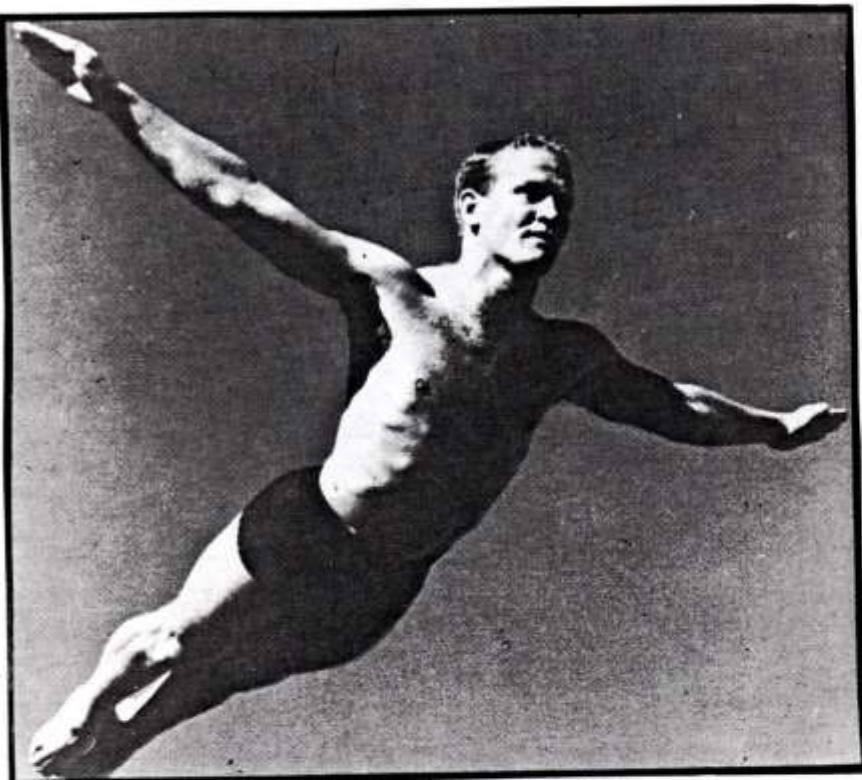


CURRENT DIVING NEWS

U.S.A. 1996 OLYMPIC TEAM TRIALS INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



By
HOBIE BILLINGSLEY



**BRUCE HARLAN of OHIO STATE WON THE 1948
MEN'S 3 METER SPRINGBOARD CROWN!**

I will never forget the post war Olympic Diving team trials in the early summer of 1948. The competition was held in Detroit, Michigan and three of our divers, Sammy Lee, Vicki Draves and Bruce Harlan went to London, England and came home with gold medals. Since that time and until only recently, American divers (both men and women), have dominated the sport internationally.

The list of American divers that have won gold medals since then, in Olympic competition, is long and endless. It ranges from the original three mentioned, to what may be termed The "Greg Louganis Era" of modern times. Perhaps, one reason for America's dominance of the sport for the past 45 years is the fact that after World War II, most all of Europe and certainly, China were in ruins while the United States, for the most part, was left politically and economically intact. It would take time for the rest of the world to stabilize its economies, its political institutions and its power in international sports like platform and springboard diving.



DICK KIMBALL

Italy was the first post-war nation to produce an Olympic diving champion with Klaus Dibiasi in the mid 1970s! Since then, the former Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China have come to the fore by producing superior competitors in all of the diving events. Even during the "Louganis Era", Greg had a hard time holding on to the Olympic Gold with formidable threats from both the Soviet Union and China.

The Olympic Team Diving Trials in Indianapolis, Indiana last month, were indeed, hard fought in both men and women's divisions. All the great American diving coaches (past and present) such as Dick Smith, Dick Kimball, Ron O'Brien, and Sammy Lee, to name only a few, were there to provide assistance and encouragement to our American divers in their forthcoming battle in Atlanta. Most all of them will also be at the Centennial Olympic competition.

Russia and particularly, China will again be formidable opponents as they have been in the past! Our American men and women divers want only to do their very best and continue a legendary 45 year tradition in Olympic Diving! They comprise a strong team and assuredly, they will put forth a magnificent effort! Will they be able to do it? Only time will tell. We wish them our very best!



DIVING LEGENDS!

DR. SAMMY LEE



1948 OLYMPIC MEN'S PLATFORM CHAMPION!

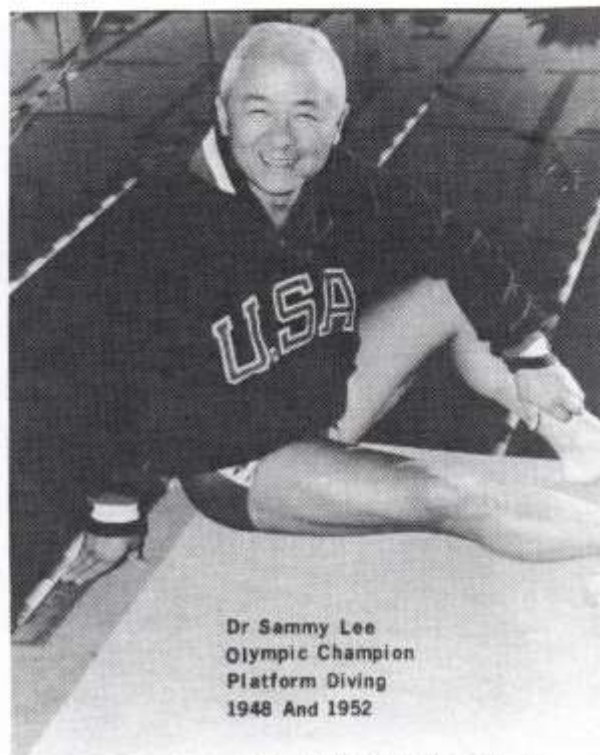


SAMMY LEE

In his early 20s, wins the 1948 Olympic Men's 10 Meter Platform Crown!

Imbued with a strong family tradition for pursuing "excellence", a young Korean American from Fresno, California stepped onto both the 10 meter platform and the 3 meter springboard at the 1948 Olympic Games in London, England. His pursuit for excellence was rewarded with a gold medal in men's Platform Diving and a bronze medal on the springboard. In 1952 at the Helsinki Olympiad, Sammy Lee again won the gold medal in Men's Platform diving becoming the first male diver ever to win back-to-back gold medals!

During the past 45 years, Dr. Sammy Lee has continued to pursue "excellence" and has, perhaps, been honored by more than any other athlete in our nation's history! The honors bestowed upon Sammy by both athletic organizations and U.S. Presidents are far too numerous to be listed in a short article such as this one.



Dr Sammy Lee
Olympic Champion
Platform Diving
1948 And 1952

A recent photo of Dr. SAMMY LEE finds him still smiling and in great shape!

As the 1960 U.S. Olympic Men's Diving coach, Sammy produced a gold medalist in Bob Webster on the 10 meter platform and a silver medalist with Greg Louganis at the 1976 Olympiad in Montreal! He also served as Olympic torch runner and flag bearer at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. Sammy served on the President's Council for Youth Physical Fitness under Presidents Eisenhower, Nixon, Ford, Carter and Bush! He was the personal representative for Presidents Eisenhower, Nixon and Reagan for the 1956 Melbourne, 1972 Munich and the 1988 Seoul Olympics! In 1953, he received the James E. Sullivan Award and was inducted into the Swimming Hall of Fame!

Recognized world-wide as a motivational speaker, Dr. Lee's honorariums are donated to his "WhoSam Award", given annually to a coach and diver who does not smoke or drink. His personal philosophy- "To be 100% fit is to exercise not only your mind and body but to be blind to the color of each other's skin and deaf to each other's accent!" Sammy's life has been dedicated to that principal and we salute him!



GYMNASTIC LEGENDS!

"JUMPING JOE GIALLOMBARDO"

TUMBLER SUPREME!



His parents were poor Italian immigrants who had come to America after a devastating earthquake in 1908/had claimed 30,000 lives in their small hometown near Messina, Sicily! Joseph Giallombardo was born in 1917 on Mayfair Road in Cleveland, Ohio's "Little Italy" section and the early years of his life were filled with both tragedy and trauma! At age 7, his mother died and Joe's father, being unemployed at the time, was forced to put Joe and his brothers in a Catholic orphanage for many years. Perhaps it was a rough childhood, a natural born instinct, or a combination of both that would fill young Joe with a resolve and determination to succeed in life by conquering adversity.

Small and quick with an agile frame, Joe's first love was football, but although he possessed the speed, agility and strength, at 5'5" tall, Joe soon learned that football was not his sport. At an early age he acquired an interest in tumbling and gymnastics and enrolled in the Cleveland Turner's Gymnastics Club. While there, he not only improved his gymnastic skills but learned to tumble with great speed and dexterity. As a teenager, he won the Ohio State Tumbling Championships three years in a row! By saving his money, Joe was able to enroll in the University of Illinois in 1935 and become a member of its gymnastics team.

It was at Illinois that the young Ohio athlete acquired the nickname "Jumpin Joe Giallombardo!" He won three National All-Around Gymnastic titles and was a winner in seven individual events, a record which held for over 40 years! He and George Nissen first met at the Ringling-Brothers Circus winter quarters in Bloomington, Illinois and became life-long friends. After George quit competing in the late 1930s, Joe went on to win several National Tumbling titles and is reputed to be the first American tumbler to bound three full-twisting back somersaults in one routine! During World War II, Joe served in the U.S. Navy and was instrumental in helping to write the Navy's training guide for gymnastics in the U.S. Navy's pre-flight training program.



JOE GIALLOMBARDO

After the War, Joe returned to school and earned a Master's Degree in Physical Education. He accepted a teaching and coaching position at New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois which was then rated as the No. 1 secondary school in America for both academics and sports. While there, as Boy's Gymnastics Coach, he taught outstanding young athletes that would later become Olympians. Among these were Ray Hadley and John Culbertson. Joe also entertained audiences with his professional Trampoline act. He also became an outstanding juggler.

Up until only two years ago, Jumpin Joe was still active in coaching gymnastics at a private school in the Chicago area. Now retired, at 79 years of age, Joe and his wife Edith live in Wheeling, Illinois. Jumpin Joe is also a talented singer with a typically beautiful Italian voice. He sings with a Barber Shop Quartet that has won many national honors! "Jumpin Joe Giallombardo" has "jumped" into the hearts of all that know him and we in the W.A.S. organization proudly salute him!

TRAMPOLINE & TUMBLING

DAN MILLMAN

The "Peaceful Warrior!"

OUR FIRST WORLD CHAMPION!



WORLD CHAMPION DAN MILLMAN

Still practices on his back yard Trampoline!

It was mid-March and the violets were already blooming in London's Hyde Park, just across the street from the Albert-Victoria Memorial and the Royal Albert Hall in Kensington! Ted Blake, the Meet Director from Brentwood-Essex had done a magnificent job in setting up the first World Invitational Trampoline & Tumbling meet that would officially be known as the First World Championships! The meet, sponsored by the Nissen Trampoline Co. in the U.S. and the Nissen subsidiary in Brentwood-Essex had gone to great lengths to make this a memorable event in the sport's history. In every respect, it was!

Along with the United States and England, several European nations and even South Africa, sent skilled competitors to the meet. Music by London's famed 'Cold Stream Guards' served as part of the Opening Ceremonies. A 'knock-out' system pitting competitor against competitor was used as an elimination for the finals competition. The skill level by those competing was excellent even by today's standards!

Judi Wills (now Judi Wills Cline) was the first World Champion ever in the Women's Division with Nancy Kay Smith of Sycamore, Illinois close behind. The Men's competition was equally excellent and when the final results were in, it was Danny Millman from California, the first Men's World Champion in the sport of Trampoline!

Danny was born in Los Angeles, California in 1947, the son of Herman and Vivian Millman. His athletic training began at the early age of nine when he found himself the only boy in a modern dance class where his mother played the piano as an accompanist. At age 10, he began the study of Judo, one of the numerous martial arts he would study; eventually, he would win his black belt in the art of Aikido.

He soon began the study of gymnastics and at age 17, he won the United States Gymnastics Federation Trampoline Championships and also competed for John Marshall High School in Los Angeles. It was as a student at the U.C. in Berkley that he won the First World Trampoline Championships in London. He also became a three-time All-American and N.C.A.A. champion. In his junior year, Dan won four gold medals at the Maccabiah Games in Israel. In late 1967 he suffered a shattered right femur in a motorcycle accident but surprised the word by recovering in time to become Co-Captain of the NCAA Championship Team in 1968, as well as Nissen Award Nominee, Senior Athlete of the Year and Gimbel-Student Athlete of the year!

In 1968, Dan was appointed Director of Gymnastics at Stanford University. There, he coached U.S. Olympian Steve Hug and brought Stanford University into national prominence. In 1972, he joined the faculty at Oberlin College. Several years later, after traveling around the world, he returned home to pursue a brilliant career as a writer and lecturer. Dan has authored 8 best selling books, including *"The Inner Athlete"* and *"Way of the Peaceful Warrior!"* His work has inspired millions in 16 languages world wide! We are proud that Danny Millman is a Life-Time Member of W.A.S. We proudly salute him as one of our own!

BEAUTY WITH A "BOUNCE!"



JUDI FORD NASH MISS AMERICA of 1969!



JUDI ANN FORD

At age 17 in Sarasota, Florida

A cute little 14 year old blonde from Belvidere, Illinois wandered into the Rockford Y.W.C.A.'s Trampoline Town U.S.A. classes one day and registered for classes. She was a natural and by age 17, she had won two National Junior Championships and had been selected to represent the United States in Vienna, Austria in a 1967 Trampoline Exhibition. She was on her way!

After spending a year as a P.E. major at Southwestern Louisiana State University, she switched to the University of Illinois and continued her studies. Keeping up with her trampoline skills, she easily won the "Miss Boone County Fair Queen" title and went on later that year to win the "Miss Illinois Crown!" Her talent, of course, was the Trampoline.

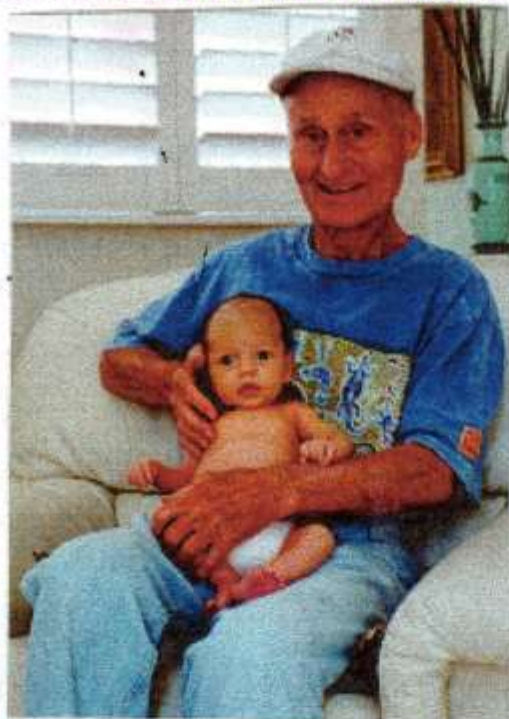


THE SAME JUDI FORD

In Atlantic City as Miss America of 1969

In September of that year (1969) Judi entered the "Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City. She did very well in both the Bathing Suit and Evening Gown competition and also did well with her personal interviews. As one of the 10 finalists, she was ready for the final Saturday night competition.

Half way through the talent competition, Bert Parks, the Master of Ceremonies introduced Miss Illinois. A hush filled the auditorium as she gracefully tumbled across the stage and mounted the trampoline. Her routine was flawless and breathtaking! She received a standing ovation! Fantastic! The results of the competition were not hard to predict. Bert Parks announced the 2nd and 3rd Place runner ups! Then he announced....."And the winner and new "Miss America" is Judith Ann Ford of Belvidere, Illinois! "There she goes.....Miss America!" Wow! What a night that was!



It took 83 years, but gymnastics pioneer, **GEORGE NISSEN** finally became a grandfather and great grandfather all in one month! Pictured above is George with baby **JAKE**, Dian Ramirez's first child! **RON MUNN**'s daughter also had a little girl by the name of **CELESTE NICOLE**. How about that?

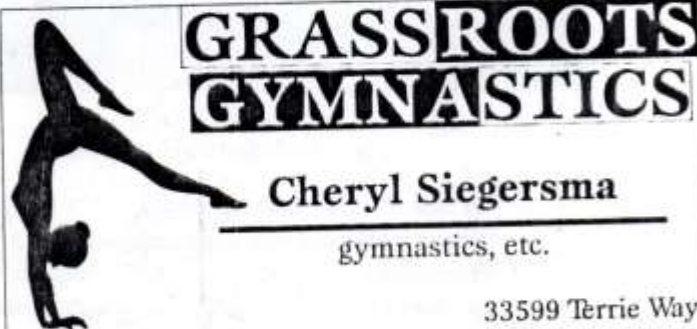


A profile of this "Legendary Great" will appear in the **OCTOBER** issue of our Newsletter! It's none other than **NEWT LOKEN**, the master of soft shoes and somersaults!

Editor's Corner

by Cheryl Siegersma

While pulling everything together for this first issue of **GRASSROOTS GYMNASTICS**, I received exciting information regarding a new organization called the International Acrobatic Network. Bob Ballinger is the brains behind this venture. The reason this news excites me is that it will be the first attempt, that I know of, to combine ALL of the acrobatic world, rather than just the international competitive elite. A "meeting of the minds" was scheduled in Las Vegas in March, and I hope to provide our readers with the results of the meeting in an upcoming issue. Stay tuned!



GRASSROOTS GYMNASTICS

Cheryl Siegersma

gymnastics, etc.

Director, gymnastics etc.
Editor, Grassroots Gymnastics

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GRASSROOTS GYMNASTICS is a monthly publication (12 issues per year) by KrisLaur Productions, 33599 Terrie Way, Yucaipa, CA 92399. Subscription rates are \$18.00 per year, or \$3.00 per single issue. All correspondence should be addressed to: **GRASSROOTS GYMNASTICS**, 33599 Terrie Way, Yucaipa, CA 92399. All

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UPCOMING EVENTS

IN THE WORLD OF ACROBATICS!

1996 - 1997



1996 INTERNATIONAL ACAPULCO CLIFF DIVING COMPETITION INFORMATION FOR MEN AND WOMEN

EVENT DESCRIPTION

This contest is open to all active and inactive qualified high divers. The competitions are scheduled November 13 through November 18, 1996 in Acapulco, Mexico. Sam Hernandez, the only American to win the Acapulco Cliff Diving championship twice in the 20th century, has come full circle with the competition he revolutionized. The new Executive Producer and Promoter of the **International Acapulco Cliff Diving Championship Competitions** for 1996, 1997, 1998 said, "I am now presenting a new format that will take the competition to the next level of suspense and excitement by going international and inviting world class divers and teams from around the world, including a women's category which will be a first in the history of the competition, and by adding another degree of difficulty to the challenge--synchronized diving."

In addition to the competition format there will be a VIP Reception, an Opening and Awards Closing Ceremony, the induction of the new signature trophy, and merchandise bearing the Official Logo of the Competitions. Network television and international cable will air to viewing audiences all over the world.

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CONGRATULATIONS!



HOBIE BILLINGSLEY

OUR W.A.S. PRESIDENT

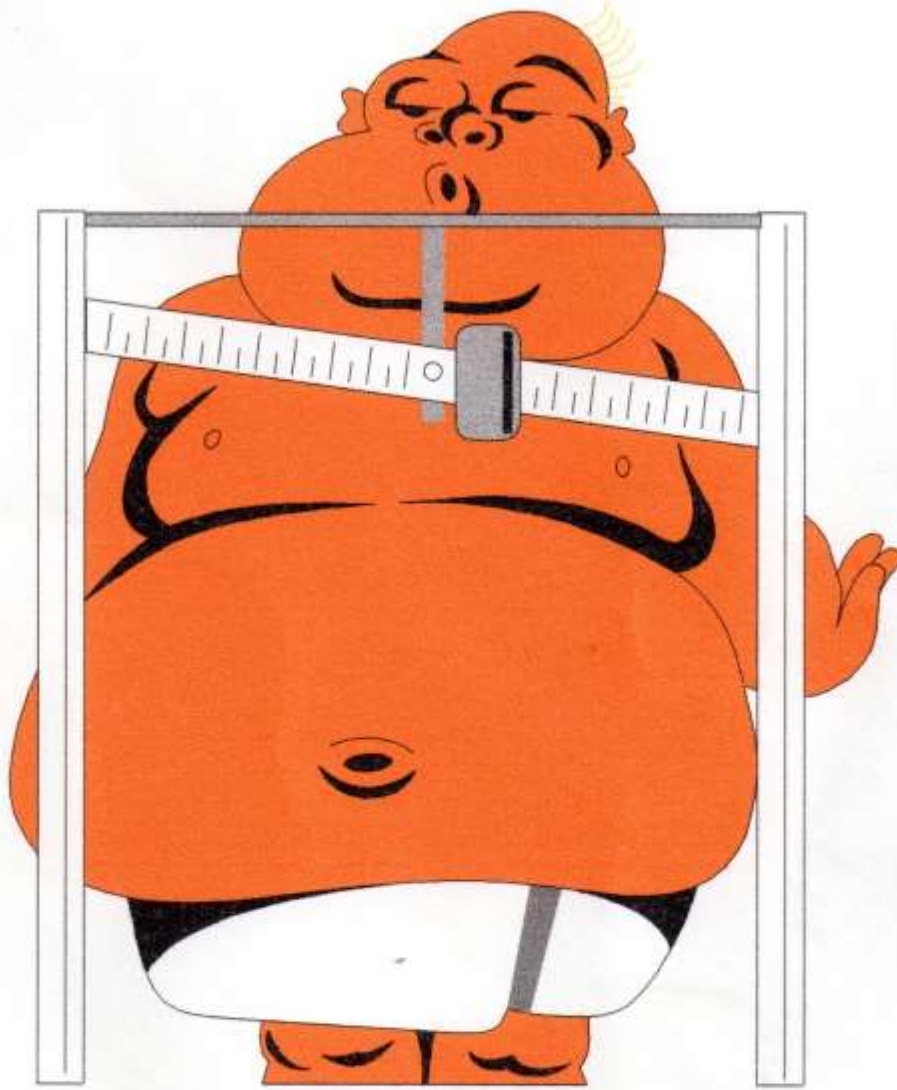
FOR BEING SELECTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA. WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!



DON'T FORGET

TO VIEW MANY TUMBLERS AND SPORTS ACROBATS
FROM THE U.S.A., RUSSIA, BULGARIA, POLAND AND OTHER
COUNTRIES ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 4TH FOR THE
CLOSING CEREMONIES OF THE 1996 OLYMPIC GAMES!
STAY TUNED!

***HE'S LOVELY!
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**BATHTUBS AREN'T BIG
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