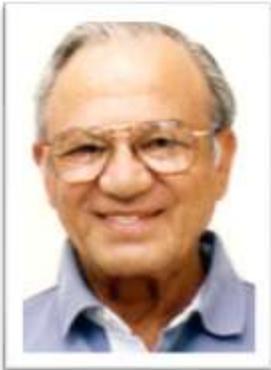




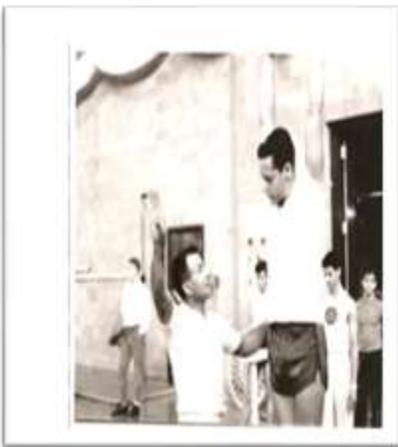
by Bruce Davis, WAS Newsletter Editor

2009 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Vinnie D’Autorio, 2008 WAS legend, woke up from a nap on his living room couch on a Sunday afternoon at the Sarasota Lakewood Ranch residence last fall and looked up at his youngest brother Joseph and said: “Please go to Las Vegas and accept my legend award for me at the World Acrobatic Society Congress next week.” Vinnie died one week prior to the 2008 WAS Congress on September 9th. At age 92 Vinnie had been diagnosed with a form of leukemia that had thrown his red and white blood cell count out of control. He was too weak to get to LV. His Brother Joseph and Sister Nancy did indeed travel to Las Vegas to receive his award. You can go to www.worldacro.com and read his biography and learn more about the 2008 World Acrobatics Legend.



D’Autorio was teammates with **Frank Cumiskey** at the Swiss Turnverein in New Jersey. The tall German and the short Italian from American immigrant families enriched artistic gymnastics in America beyond belief. Frank was the “crass perfectionist stickler” and Vinnie was the “passionate consummate teacher.” Vinnie raced around West Chester County in New York helping all the young high school gymnasts. Not bad for a guy who did not go to college and was in the family jewelry business for many, many years. During my college years, I remember competing against Army (Coach **Tom Maloney** in command) in a dual meet. There were four judges at the corners among which were Cumiskey and D’Autorio waiting to judge my routine. It better be good routine or there would be mental hell to pay if I missed! Frank had a way of putting everything in a clear perspective. On another occasion when Cumiskey was the Meet Referee for the 1969 NCAA Men’s Gymnastics Championship at the University of Washington and I received a judging assignment, he shook hands with me upon my arrival for the judges meeting and stoically informed me that I was third choice as the appointed judge from the Southeastern Association of the National Gymnastics Judges Association (NGJA). He went on to say, “You see, we did not want the AAU guy (Tom Maloney) or the guy with the beard (Jon Culbertson), so that leaves you.” Thanks Frank! Vinnie could also cut to the chase when making a point. He visited my gym at age 88 and



he was down on his knees and spotting one of my seven year old girls on a flip flop when he informed me that I still wasn't teaching the flip flop quite right. I had only had forty years experience teaching a flip flop at that time. Yes, Vinnie and Frank could both keep you on your toes!

Vinnie is the oldest American to compete in Men's gymnastics in an Olympic Games at age 36. He probably would have been on the 1940 and 1944 Olympic teams had the Olympics not been canceled due to WWII. He went on to make the 1948 and 1952 Olympic squads. He was thirty-six in Helsinki. He remembered watching Floyd Patterson shadow boxing standing in a sauna bath. He was issued a sleeping mask and a pair of ear plugs by the US Olympic Committee so he could sleep during his stay in "the land of the midnight sun." Helsinki was an improvement over the 1948 London Games where it rained more than a week and the gymnastics competition had to be rescheduled from outdoors to an indoor venue at the Prince Albert Hall. The American Olympic team had come by ship and the gymnastics team trained on the ship deck. In London, Cumiskey and D'Autorio had to pick out a different side horse for the American team to compete on when their horse was disqualified for being too short on one end.



The 1948 London Olympic Games Men's Gymnastics Team from left to right: Frank Cumiskey, Raymond Sorensen, William Roetzheim, Edward Scrobe, Joesph Scrobe, Louis Bordo, William Bonsall, & Vincent D'Autorio

D'Autorio had a bad back and went to see a chiropractor before the 1948 Olympic Trials. He was a little Italian doctor sitting by a small table with a table cloth hanging down. He had a stock of hard liquor under the table covered by the table cloth. Upon finishing his treatment of Vinnie, the doctor proclaimed: " My fee is three dollars; take this shot of whiskey and smoke this cigar; you only need one treatment so don't come back!"



The 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games Men's Gymnastics Team from left to right: Jack Beckner, Walter Plattmann, William Roetzheim, Charley Simms, Edward Scrobe, Don Holder Robert Stout, Vincent D'Autorio & Coach Tom Maloney (p.2)

Glenn Marlin Sundby: November 4th, 1921--March 18th 2009 World Acrobatics Legend 2000



Glenn Sundby, publisher of the International Gymnast magazine and founder of the International Gymnastic Hall of Fame died on March 18th 2009 at age 87. You can read a number of articles about Glenn on the www.worldacro.com website and in the 2009 May issue of *International Gymnast Magazine*. I worked for Glenn in 1981-82 when I took a one year leave of absence from my college teaching position. The purpose of this article is to tell you some things about Glenn that may not have been said in other articles that have reflected on Glenn and his career. Glenn did more to promote artistic gymnastics in the United States and other countries than any other individual in history with the possible exception of **George Nissen**. Often times Sundby and Nissen worked in concert to promote not only

artistic gymnastics but also acrosports (Gymnastics Acrobatics) and trampoline. It is also appropriate that Glenn's story is told in photographs rather than words because that is where Glenn was coming from!

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Our first publication "Acrobat" April 1949 (center) flanked by a few of the other "Acrobat" issues. Note the early interest in Women's gymnastics. (Xerox copies of our first "Acrobat" editions are available to those interested at \$2.00 each or a full set (7) for \$10.00).



My professional years with the "Wayne-Marlin Trio." At left—practicing a new trick. Above—at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas and performing at the Roxy Theatre in New York in 1950.



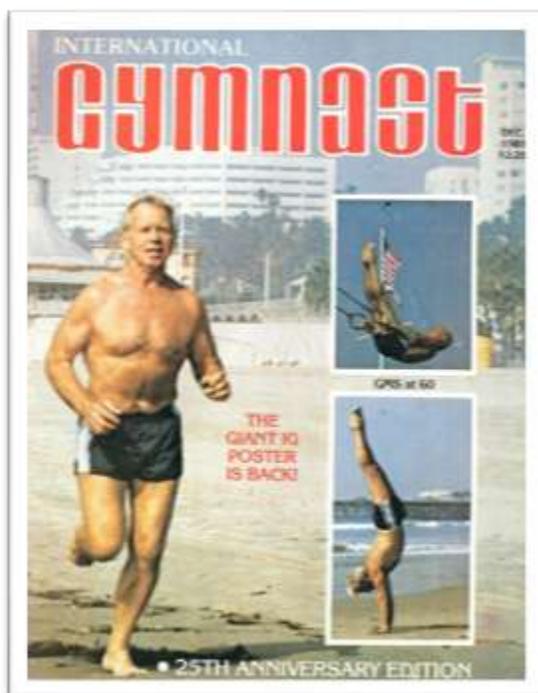
Above: My "one-finger stand", looking the clarinet (with my sister looking on), while on four with "Spike" Jones (who is also pictured at upper left holding me and my partners in balance).
 At left: My "Believe it or Not" (Ripley), walk down the 898 steps inside the Washington Monument in 1949.
 Far left: As a high school gymnast in May 1939 and as an Editor/Publisher (Acrobat?) forty years later, May 1979.

The Wayne Marlin Trio





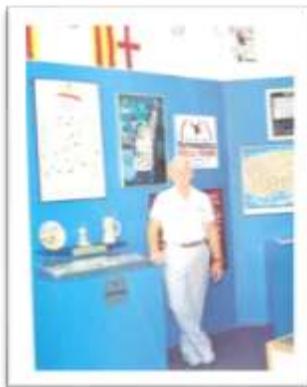
The following words and projects are closely associated with GMS: *ACROBAT*, Jim Nast, *The Modern Gymnast*, *The Gymnast*, *The International Gymnast*, *Mademoiselle Gymnast*, *World Gymnastics*, *AcroSports*, *The Spirit*, Piggy back rider & a nine page poster print out, *Muscle Beach*, *The Magic of Gymnastics*, *The Washington Monument*, Ripley's *Believe It or Not*, *Spike Jones and the Mad Insanties*, *The Wayne Marlin Trio*, the *Santa Monica Gymfest*, *Born Again Christian*, *USGF*, *Muriel Grossfeld*, *Cathy Rigby*, *Olga Korbut*, *Mary Lou Retton*, *Hawaii*, a picture is better than an article, an illustration is better than an article, just keep it going, the *International Gymnastics Hall of Fame*, *Have a Happy Handstand!*



IG cover December 1981 & GMS at age 60



Favorite IG poster 1977 Egypt Tour



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