

WAS - Trampoline Legend

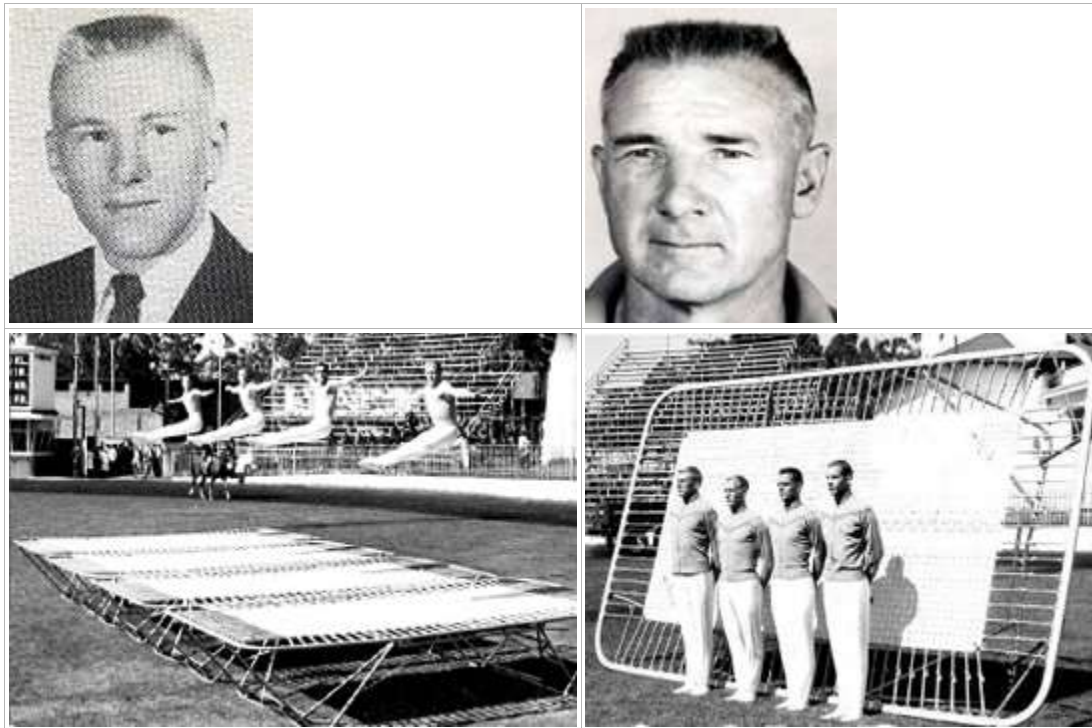
Ron Munn

2001 Honoree



Had Trampoline... Did travel!

A native of Amarillo, Ron Munn began his trampoline career at the age of 12 under the watchful eye of well known coach, Nard Cazzell. He won the 1956 National AAU trampoline title while a 15-year old sophomore at AHS, and once again as a freshman on the University of Michigan gymnastics team in 1959. During these years he was also named a member of the AAU All-American Gymnastics Team, and in 1959 won the Gold Medal in trampoline at the Pan American Games.



In 1960 he was selected to be a member of a USA team that was sent to South Africa to introduce and demonstrate the sport of trampoline throughout that country, and also to participate in the first international competition with Europeans held in Germany. After winning the Gold Medal Ron returned to South Africa and during the next two years began a company producing trampolines, and opening trampoline jump centers along the South African coast. Returning to the United States at the end of 1962 Ron was drafted into the Army and assigned to Special Services where he continued to perform on the trampoline as well as traveling with professional water shows representing the U.S. Army. He was eventually stationed at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York as the trampoline coach for the West Point gymnastics team.

Upon discharge from the Army, Ron began doing promotional work traveling world-wide for the Nissen Corporation which was the world's leading manufacture of gymnastics equipment. For three years he was based out of Toronto as the National Sales Manager for Canada, and finally moved to the Cedar Rapids, Iowa company headquarters as Director of International Sales and Marketing.



During the 70's he was President of the U.S. Trampoline & Tumbling Association and an active member of the United States Sports Acrobatics Association. Ron was recently inducted into both organizations Hall of Fame. His responsibilities with these associations included management duties, as well as traveling and performing with numerous foreign groups such as the Russian and Romanian Gymnastic teams. He was also instrumental in the formation of the World Age Group Games for acrobatic activities, along with support for the introduction of trampoline in the Olympics.

In 1979 the Nissen Corporation purchased the Universal Gym Equipment Company, which allowed Ron to introduce fitness equipment to his international connections. Because of this, the next 20-years revolved around promoting, marketing and selling exercise equipment products throughout the world (102 countries).

Throughout his travels Ron has had numerous exciting and fun filled experiences, but probably a few that stand out include:

Being the first person ever to turn a somersault on top of the Great Pyramid. Egypt.





Performing in Trafalgar Square. London, England.

Doing a handstand on the Great Wall since there was no trampoline available! China.



Playing "Spaceball" with partner Eddie Cole. Madison Square Garden - 1973.

Performing on the "Mike Douglas" show with the "Jackson Five" & John Davidson in 1974.



Meeting President Marcos of the Philippines during Southeastern Asian Games 1975-76.

Meeting with and performing for King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa. Bahrain - 1977.





Performing in President Carter's Inaugural Parade (Ron is in Blue, far left).

Meeting with King of Tonga Nuku'alofa Palace in 1991.



Ron's life has truly had its "Up's and Down's!" Recently he and his wife Dagmar moved to Arizona and enjoy retirement year-round.