

# Creating a Competitive Pair Program

By Sheila Smith and Ross Smith

1944 Canadian Junior Pair Champions

THE PRIMARY CONSIDERATION in creating a pair is that both skaters should always keep in mind that the Judges mark them as a pair, skating together, not as two singles. Thus every move, be it a jump, spin, or dance step, should be carefully considered before it is incorporated into the program. Nothing should be included where the construction of the program makes it obvious that a particular move is beyond the ability of one of the skaters.

Smoothness is another important point and only those movements which both skaters can execute with the same degree of skill and sureness should be considered for a competitive program. If the boy can do a camel, then by all means work on one together, for they are very effective and their difficulty means high marks. But if he cannot be sure of it, exclude it entirely. If both can do Axels, then let them be included.

We feel that separation figures, no matter how good, are not pair skating and we only parted when it was necessary for a jump. For instance, we do Axels off different feet. In order to include them in the program, we would come down center ice in the conventional side-by-side hold, separate by mohawking away from each other and then stroking back towards each other, jumping the Axels as close together as possible and holding the back edge landing until we joined together face to face. Such a separation figure is necessary, but one that lasts too long or covers too large an area should be avoided, for the Judges have to look from one skater to another, and the sense of unity and pairness is lost. Moves where the partners are slightly separated are very acceptable, such as in tricky and original dance steps.

Skating to the music is much more important in a pair than in a single for the effect produced is twice as good. Change in tempo is also effective and a slow middle part will give contrast to the fast beginning, and will also give you both a chance

to recover the energy needed for the climax.

Finally, a program should be well balanced. There should not be any one specialty that is stressed too much. Pair skating is not an exhibition of strength or weight lifting, and hence a few good lifts are much more effective than when the girl spends half the time up in the air. Jumps side by side, and spins, done together, should each have their spot in the program and smooth dance steps fitted to the music should complete the requirements, so that the Judges will feel they have seen a well-balanced program skillfully executed and will thus mark contents and performance accordingly.

## Spins through PROFESSIONAL CIRCLES

THERE ARE NOT many changes to report in the teaching circles as yet. Megan Taylor will teach at the Arena FSC in St. Louis; she stopped off there on her way to New York early in September and met the members at a banquet given in her honor. Mary Jane Halsted has left the Ice Follies and will teach in Kansas City; Margaret Manahan will be at Buffalo.

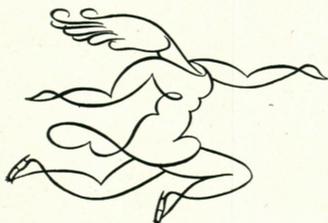
### Personals

THE BIGGEST PIECE of news is that Willy Boeckl has definitely retired and will devote all his time to his tire business—he is President of the Universal Tire Company in Boston. Boeckl was World Champion from 1925 through 1928, when he came to the United States and turned professional to teach at The Skating Club of New York. His knowledge of figure skating and of skating conditions in Europe has been of great benefit to the sport in this

country; The Skating Club of New York gave him a farewell banquet last June in appreciation of all he has done.

Funds have been collected from Joe Carroll's many friends and pupils for a plaque in his memory which will be placed in the Olympic Arena at Lake Placid. Also, two trophies are to be awarded at the Lake Placid Summer Dance Competitions: the Joe Carroll Challenge Trophies for the Junior Dance event and the Joe Carroll Memorial Trophy, which is for a new class open to couples placing 4, 5, 6, and 7 in the Summer Junior and Senior Dance Competitions. These were completed for this summer, see Page 20.

Rudolph and Elsie Angola, who teach at the Chevy Chase Ice Palace in Washington, became United States citizens on D-Day. Madge Austin has returned to England for the winter, but plans to be back at Schumacher for next summer; she has taught for several years there and started the Summer Skating School. Eleanor O'Meara has left Ice Capades and will be at home in Toronto this winter.



### Movies and Shows

Vera Hruba Ralston has been starring in the movies; "Lake Placid Serenade" will be released this autumn and will contain several skating sequences. Belita is touring the country in vaudeville, doing excellent dance routines. Her picture "Lady Let's Dance" had much fine skating: solos by Belita, two pairs with Eugene Mikeler, and comedy by Frick and Frack. Sonja is working on a new movie in technicolor. Murray Galbraith, who is under observation for arthritis in one hand at the Long Beach Hospital, was able to get long enough leave to act as her partner

according to several reports. George von Birgelen of Switzerland has been doing a very popular number as Superman. Dressed in an all red costume, even to his boots—he climaxed this act by jumping over a jeep!

Douglass Duffy staged a series of week-end shows at the open-air Blue Jay rink high in the San Bernardino mountains last summer. He acted as Master of Ceremonies and skated his two famous numbers—the drunk act and the dummy doll act. Many Southern Californian pros appeared in these shows which changed each week. Audrey Peppe Benner spent part of the summer at Sun Valley; this place has been taken over as a Naval Convalescent Home and all the recreational facilities are being used by the men. Peter Killam is stationed there in charge of the skating rink and other entertainment; Audrey and Peter, assisted by local skaters, put on a series of small carnivals during the summer for the men.

### Center Theatre

THE NEW SHOW at the Center Theatre in New York, "Hats Off To Ice," opened early in July and has played to packed houses ever since. The show is composed mainly of large production numbers which are very effective, and many skaters have a chance to star in these large group numbers. Carol Lynne skates a fine solo and is featured singly and in pairs in several impressive groups; the Brandts do a very original mirror number and a cowgirl pair in the midwestern group; Lucille Page offers a good jive act; Rudi Richards has some fine bits, especially as "The Boogie Bachelor" assisted by two pairs of girls, and Claire Wilkins; the Caleys do two snappy pairs; Peggy Whight and Bob Ballard have an artistic adagio act (later Ballard went into the Army and Fred Griffith took his place); Trenkler is tops in comedy as usual and has two fine numbers; "Shore Leave" (Geffe Stevens, Joe Shillen, Jimmy Sisk) and "Nautical Nonsense" (Gretle and Bob Uksila) are other good comedy acts. Jean Sturgeon skates and acts well in two amusing numbers, "Little Red Riding Hood" and "The Skating Rileys." Jimmy Caesar offers speed

skating and jumping; also takes part in some of the groups. This show has more characters in the groups, which are stories well acted out, rather than simply massed skaters on ice. The scenic and costume effects are most lavish.

### Ice Capades 1945 Schedule

THE ICE CAPEDES will be in Pittsburgh, Oct. 30 to Nov. 18; Buffalo, Nov. 20 to 26; Toronto, Nov. 27 to Dec. 2; Montreal, Dec. 4 to 10; Ottawa, Dec. 12 to 13; Quebec, Dec. 15 to 17; Boston, Dec. 25 to Jan. 10; Providence, Jan. 11 to 23; New Haven, Jan. 24 to 31; Hershey, Feb. 2 to 10; Washington, Feb. 11 to 20; St. Paul, Feb. 23 to 28; Chicago, Mar. 2 to 14; St. Louis, Mar. 16 to 21; Kansas City, Mar. 23 to Apr. 1; Dallas, Apr. 3 to 10; Ft. Worth, Apr. 11 to 15; Los Angeles, Apr. 25 to June 3.

### Ice Follies 1945 Schedule

THE ICE FOLLIES will be in Los Angeles until Oct. 29; Chicago, Nov. 3 to 19; New York, Nov. 21 to Dec. 3; New Haven, Dec. 4 to 10; Hershey, Dec. 12 to 20; Philadelphia, Dec. 25 to Jan. 20; Cleveland, Jan. 22 to 29; Buffalo, Jan. 30 to Feb. 4; Toronto, Feb. 5 to 10; Montreal, Feb. 12 to 18; Boston, Feb. 20 to Mar. 4; Providence, Mar. 5 to 11; Pittsburgh, Mar. 13 to 19; Minneapolis, Mar. 22 to Apr. 10; Seattle, May 10 to 27; Portland, May 29 to June 10; San Francisco, June 13 to Aug. 31.

## Thanks

TO THE FOLLOWING CLUBS which, by September 27, had sent in their first subscription lists:

Anchorage FSC  
 Arena FSC of Cleveland  
 Arena FSC of St. Louis  
 Eugene FSC  
 Hempfield SC (Greenville, Pa.)  
 Hershey FSC  
 Hiawatha SC (Sault Ste. Marie)  
 Mercury FSC of Los Angeles  
 Modern Tempo IDC (Oakland, Cal.)  
 Rochester FSC  
 Rye FSC  
 Saskatoon FSC  
 Spokane FSC  
 St. Lidwina Club (Oakland, Cal.)  
 Thunder Bay FSC (Fort William)  
 Tulsa FSC  
 Twin City D & FSC (Elizabeth, N.J.)  
 Windsor FSC  
 Winnipeg WC

WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL to the following clubs which have arranged to include a subscription to SKATING in their club dues this winter:

Dallas FSC  
 Hamilton SC  
 Pittsburgh FSC  
 St. Louis SC

## USFSA Tests Passed

FOLLOWING are all Tests passed and recorded with this Committee since June 1, 1944 and up to September 1, 1944. Dance Tests will be listed only when the complete Test has been passed. Professionals are indicated by (\*). All errors should be reported first to the Chairman of the Local Test Committee and then to the Chairman of the USFSA.

EDWARD E. DENNISTON, *Chairman USFSA Test Committee*  
 (Gladwyne, Penna.)

**ALL YEAR FIGURE SKATING CLUB:** Virginia Marshall—1; Kurt Trostorff—1; Lillian Trostorff—1; Shirley Young—1. **Bronze Dance**—Robert Roth.

**ANN ARBOR SKATING CLUB:** Marilyn Jacobs—2 (Pikes Peak FSC).

**ANCHORAGE SKATING CLUB:** Eugenia Hufiesen—1 (SC of Lake Placid).

**ARCTIC BLADES FIGURE SKATING CLUB:** William Blocker—4; Jean Fisk—1; Bobby Harris—1; Eleanor Levorsen—3; Spencer Marsh—2; Glen Seaburg—2; Jewell Thomas—2, 3; Joan Zamboni—3. **Bronze Dance:** Clark Davison, Mrs. Margaret Davison, Bill Deans, Holly Knill, Virginia Moran, Shirley Rumble, Dr. V. D. Sedgewick, Glory Sims, Betty Vrooman, Fred Wadle.