

# Skating Around the World

## Austria

Results of the Austrian Championships which took place in Vienna early this winter gave Eva Pawlik and Edi Rada the Singles' crowns; Herta Branowitz & Rudolf Plaschke became the Dance Champions; Herta & Emil Ratzenhofer took the Pairs. Austrian dancing has been praised by several U. S. skaters who visited European countries this year and last. Hayes Alan Jenkins, who recently competed in the Worlds, writes, "We went to Vienna to skate an exhibition and I was very much impressed with the type of dancing they did. It was very pleasing to watch."

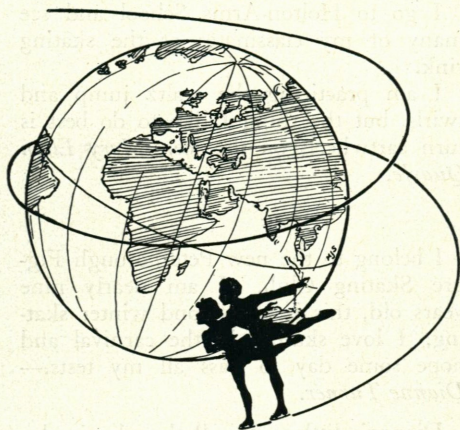
## Czechoslovakia

An interesting letter from Mr. Ladislav Fürst informs us that figure skating in this country has developed rapidly and there are now ten artificial outdoor rinks. Two covered rinks will be completed at the well known watering places, Karlsbad and Marienbad, by the end of 1950.

The center of Czech figure skating is at Prague where the National Championships were held on Jan. 17. Vladislav Cap won the Men's, with Zdenek Fikar and Mauer placing second and third. In the Ladies Aja Vrzanova and Jirina Nekolova were close in the figures, but Aja's dynamic free skating put her well ahead at the finish; Dagmar Lerchova placed third. The Pair title went to Mr. & Mrs. Zach with Burianova & Balun second. Blazena Knittlova & Karel Vosatka, who were entered in the Olympics, could not compete in them or in this Championship because Blazena contracted a heart ailment in Switzerland. She has only recently recovered enough to resume skating, and hopes to enter Pair competition again next winter. Competitions are also held annually in the different sections of Czechoslovakia—Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia.

## Germany

Artificial rinks at Garmisch, Bad Nauheim, Munich, Nuremberg and Mann-



heim have been open in the U. S. Zone of Germany this past winter, with public skating sessions, hockey games and an occasional ice show. Seen skating at Bad Nauheim by Capt. Paul T. Harrington, Quartermaster Liaison Officer with the Air Lift, were Ria Baran & Paul Faulk, German Pair Champions, and Ulli Kuhn, whose Lutz jump appeared to be quite spectacular in height and distance.

The German Championships were held in Garmisch, in conjunction with other winter sport competitions, on Feb. 6 & 7. Helga Dudzinski, 17, from Munich won the Ladies'; second was last year's champion, Irene Braun from Riessersee; and third, Inge Minor, Cologne. The Men's Singles was won for the seventh time by Horst Faber of Riessersee; Ulli Kuhn, Mannheim, again placed second, and Freimuth Stein from Nuremberg, third. Ria Baran & Paul Faulk of Cologne again became the Pair Champions, despite the fact that they had previously been barred from competition until Feb. 20 for participation in unsanctioned events. The ban was lifted for the Championships.

## Great Britain

The Amateur Championships of Britain were held on Dec. 6 & 7, but only for Ladies and Pairs. There was no Men's Championship this year; of the three most



likely competitors, Graham Sharp did not plan to compete but acted as judge. Adrian Pryce-Jones was making a film in Italy, leaving only 13-year-old Michael Carrington who sprained his ankle just before the Championships. Jeannette Altwegg retained the Ladies' crown for another year, while second and third places went to Barbara Wyatt and Bridget Shirley Adams. Previous title-holders John & Jennifer Nicks won the Pair Championship, competing with three other well-matched pairs.

Revision of the International Style tests (excluding the Preliminary) and the introduction of a "Gold Star" free skating test have as their aim a higher standard of British free skating. The Third Class Test now contains a free skating portion which is of one minute duration if both parts of the test, figures and free skating, are taken together, or one and a half minutes if taken separately. Up through the Second Test the compulsory figures and free skating may be taken together or separately as desired. In each test there is a minimum of movements, jumps and spins which must be incorporated. The new "Gold Star" Test which is for free skating only, and is rated higher than the First Class Test, must contain: (at least three of these) Double Lutz, Double Loop, Double Salchow, Double Toe Salchow (flip); Axel Paulsen; One Foot Axel or Inside Axel. One of these jumps must be into a sit spin and/or camel; a cross-foot spin and a combined spin also have to be included. These features must be incorporated with movements, steps and footwork of an extremely advanced nature.

### Holland

To explain about figure skating tests in Holland, G. F. C. Witt, Hon. Secretary of the ISU Council, writes that the Royal Dutch Skating Assn. has in its rulebook no regulations whatsoever for tests in figure skating, for not much value is attached to national tests. Those held in Holland are the ISU tests as laid down in the ISU Regulations. Both in Holland and Belgium skaters practice for these tests which are of international value, and the judging is very strict and severe.

### Hungary

The prominent skaters of Hungary have had to seek ice and instruction in other countries, because the artificial rink at Budapest, which only reopened in November 1945, provides ice for about three months only. Andrea Kekessy and Ede Kiraly, European and World Pair Champions, trained in England, while Marie Saary, Marianne and Laszlo Nagy were in Vienna. The Hungarian Championships were held in Budapest late in January, and a letter from 12-year-old Margaret Moldovanyi tells us that she placed second in the Juniors; at the present she is also the youngest skater in Hungary to have passed the Second Test.

### Japan

Fritzi Burger Nishikawa, runner-up to Sonja Henie in the 1932 Olympics, who is now living in Japan, has thoughtfully sent us news of figure skating in that country. Her husband, Shinkiohi Nishikawa, is Chairman of the Figure Skating Section of the National Skating Union of Japan, whose President is Prince Takeda. Japan held its first post-war competition last winter—the champions, Mrs. Niwa and Mr. Arisaka. This year's Championships, to be held at Lake Suwa, were preceded by the Interdistrict Sports Meeting at which each district nominated three skaters. Etsuko Inada, who competed in the 1936 Olympics and is now Mrs. Ibaraki and has a baby son, won the Ladies' title in this Sports Meeting. Arisaka, who is from Hokkaido, won the Men's competition. Just before the Championships the weather became very warm, so they had to be cancelled.

It is a great disappointment to the Japanese figure skaters not to have an artificial rink. The Occupation Forces have a rink in Tokyo, but the Japanese are not allowed to skate there. However, after staging a successful carnival outdoors on Dec. 6, they did receive permission to repeat it at this rink. The performance was attended by 9000 persons, and both Japanese and other spectators praised it highly. The profits were given to war orphans.

Reporting on the other skaters who



competed in the 1936 Olympics, Fritzi writes that Toshikazy Katayama is married and has two children. He does not compete now, but does skate occasionally and did a pair with Fritzi in the carnival. Kazuyoshi Oimatsu has rather poor health and no longer skates, but judged at Lake Suwa; Obitani, Watanabe and Hasegawa have given up skating completely. Having seen a film of the 1948 Olympics Fritzi writes that she was flabbergasted by the double jumps, but was interested in comparing the present skaters with those of her day. She reports that both Etsuko Ibaraki and Arisaka hope to compete in the next Olympics.

### Mexico

Reports on figure skating "south of the border" have come to us from Joseph R. Maxwell of Philadelphia and F. Ritter Shumway of New York. Mr. Maxwell writes, "I have attended two skating sessions and was invited to skate with El Club de Patinadores Sobre Hielo tonight. Unfortunately their rink is L-shaped, about 30 feet wide and 60 feet long for both segments of the L. The spectators always seem to exceed the skaters by substantial numbers. They come for amusement and the novelty of ice, as well as the

unexpected antics and falls of their friends, always followed by loud crescendos of laughter and applause. The rink is well situated as the place was a former night club, but the ceiling is low making jumping hazardous. In order to keep the skating mothers and fathers warm, gas radiators have been installed around the rink with the result that boys are kept busy pushing the water off the ice—to say nothing of the poor skaters who are of necessity dripping too because of the excessive heat."

Both Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Shumway mentioned the interest in figure skating and enthusiasm shown by the Mexicans. The manager of the rink, Wayne Sidwell, and his wife act as instructors. A dress shop and refreshment bar are operated in connection with the rink. The feminine ice fashions are reported to be a little more conservative than U. S. styles.

The rink is open from 9 A.M. to 11 P.M. every day. An ample supply of skate boys compete loudly for the chance to help customers with their skates for a fee of 20 centavos (3c). Mr. Maxwell writes that the rink owner, Miguel Simon, has extended a cordial invitation for members of U. S. clubs to visit and skate with El Club de Patinadores Sobre Hielo.

## San Francisco Ice Dance Meet

*Something new in competitions—an invitational all-dance meet organized for the benefit of competitive dancers and as an attraction and education to the public—was sponsored by the Associated Ice Skating Clubs of San Francisco. (For results see Page 36.) Some of the unusual features are described below to enable clubs in other areas to hold similar competitions. Further details may be obtained from David C. Dorward, Chairman of the sponsoring body, 64 Pine St., San Francisco 11, Calif.—Ed.*

WHAT was probably the first full-scale evening performance devoted entirely to ice dancing took place in Winterland in San Francisco, on February 23, 1949. Tickets were distributed to the various clubs for sale and over 1000 spectators turned out for the evening's events.

For several years the skating clubs in the San Francisco area have combined to hold an inter-club dance competition,

which has been very successful. However, this year the Associated Ice Skating Clubs of San Francisco redesigned the event with three aims in mind: to foster the development of ice skating in general and ice dancing in particular among all classes of skaters by giving the skaters more incentive to improve their dancing and more experience in appearing before the public; to engender cooperation between the clubs