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# SKATING

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THE 1936 OLYMPIC TEAM

*F. H. Fleischmann.*

# The 1936 National Championships and Olympic Tryouts

RICHARD L. HAPGOOD

*The Skating Club of Boston*

Following the custom adopted four years ago, the Championships of the United States in singles and pairs were held early this year to afford the Olympic Figure Skating Committee a more up-to-date ranking of the Olympic contenders than last year's showings would have given. The events were held on December 27, 28 and 29, at the Ice Club, New York City, with free skating by the top ranking skaters in each division at the Madison Square Garden on December 30.

The quality of the skating in this year's events was of the best, and showed definitely the value which the visits from European skaters to this country in recent years have had upon our own group. In school figures, constant practice combined with an intelligent interest in and scrupulous care with details has brought our best skaters up to a high level of excellence. In free skating and pair skating, however, better composition of programs, a careful balance of high lights, and a marked improvement in the character and execution of dance steps were in evidence on every hand.

Last year's champions in all three events retained their titles with comparative ease: Robin Lee in the men's singles; Maribel Vinson in the ladies' singles; and Miss Vinson and George E. B. Hill in the pairs. As the tables will show, the judgment was unanimous in all three cases. Although giving excellent performances, Miss Vinson did not skate quite up to her best in either singles or pairs. She was fighting a severe cold and bronchial trouble all during the events and was obliged to go to bed for a week afterward in order to recover and to recuperate her strength. It is truly remarkable what that girl can do. Beside holding down a very responsible position with the *New York Times*—a position that is mentally and physically exhausting as well I know—and beside devoting a good deal of energy for the benefit of the New York

club, she can still keep her competitive skating up to a high standard. It is hoped that the rest of the ocean voyage and some uninterrupted practice at Davos, where no other worries or responsibilities will distract her, will bring her back to her best form.

In addition to the work of the champions, the showing made by the lower ranking skaters was of very high order. In the men's event, Erle Reiter's skating brought forth most favorable comments from the spectators. Hill edged out Roger Turner, largely because the judges ranked his free skating sufficiently higher. Oliver Haupt of St. Louis, who placed third in last year's junior event, finished fifth with William J. Nagle sixth.

In the ladies' singles, the Weigel sisters—Louise and Estelle—and Audrey Peppe made much improved showings over what they ever have before. Miss Peppe's free skating was especially good, and the judges ranked her very close to Louise Weigel. Polly Blodgett, last year's junior champion, came fifth to beat out Ardelle Kloss and Katherine Durbrow.

Polly Blodgett and Roger Turner, 1934 junior pair champions, gave a fine pair exhibition to finish a strong second to Miss Vinson and Hill. Marjorie Parker and Howard Meredith came third, with Mr. and Mrs. William H. Bruns (Eva Schwerdt) fourth, and Jean Schulte and Oliver Haupt fifth.

The four top ranking skaters in the singles and the three best pairs were selected to skate in the Garden in the big evening show on December 30th. These included Lee, Reiter, Hill and Turner in the men's; Vinson, Louise Weigel, Peppe and Estelle Weigel in the ladies'; and Vinson-Hill, Blodgett-Turner, Parker-Meredith in the pairs.

The Garden show was sponsored by the American Olympic Committee, and was a most colorful windup of the competitions. Members of all the winter sports Olympic teams were present. The Ski team and Bob-Sleigh teams were introduced individually for the beginning of the program. Then came the free skating of the figure skaters, followed by a hockey game between the United States team and the New York Rovers, and between the periods of the hockey game, the speed skaters were introduced and gave exhibitions of their speed.

When these events were over, all the winter sports teams marched on to the ice from one end of the vast auditorium, while at the other



LADIES' CHAMPIONSHIP

		Judges	Badger	Robertson	Cramer	Engel	Rotch	TOTALS
1. <b>Maribel Y. Vinson</b> <i>Skating Club of Boston</i>	School	255.8	234.6	256.6	232.4	247.1	1,226.5	
	Free	174.4	168.3	177.8	169.8	159.1	849.4	
	Total	430.2	402.9	434.4	402.2	406.2	2,075.9	
	Place	1	1	1	1	1	5	
2. <b>Louise Weigel</b> <i>Buffalo Skating Club</i>	School	225.7	229.6	246.0	221.5	235.5	1,158.3	
	Free	145.3	151.4	149.9	159.1	154.5	760.2	
	Total	371.0	381.0	395.9	380.6	390.0	1,918.5	
	Place	3	3	2	2	2	12	
3. <b>Audrey Peppe</b> <i>Skating Club, Inc., N. Y.</i>	School	226.4	218.1	216.3	209.9	227.6	1,098.3	
	Free	157.5	165.2	168.3	160.6	160.6	812.2	
	Total	383.9	383.3	384.6	370.5	388.2	1,910.5	
	Place	2	2	3	3	3	13	
4. <b>Estelle Weigel</b> <i>Buffalo Skating Club</i>	School	224.1	220.1	228.8	220.0	234.0	1,127.0	
	Free	136.1	149.9	126.9	148.4	136.1	697.4	
	Total	360.2	370.0	355.7	368.4	370.1	1,824.4	
	Place	4	4	4	4	5	21	
5. <b>Polly Blodgett</b> <i>Skating Club of Boston</i>	School	209.1	194.2	190.5	202.6	222.7	1,019.1	
	Free	149.9	149.9	130.0	156.0	151.4	737.2	
	Total	359.0	344.1	320.5	358.6	374.1	1,756.3	
	Place	5	5	5	5	4	24	
6. <b>Ardelle Kloss</b> <i>Skating Club, Inc., N. Y.</i>	School	188.0	182.3	170.6	194.7	192.9	928.5	
	Free	136.1	153.0	100.0	154.5	147.7	691.3	
	Total	324.1	335.3	270.6	349.2	340.6	1,619.8	
	Place	6	6	7	6	7	32	
7. <b>Katherine Durbrow</b> <i>Skating Club, Inc., N. Y.</i>	School	204.2	197.5	192.1	198.6	207.0	999.4	
	Free	119.0	130.0	99.4	143.8	142.2	634.4	
	Total	323.2	327.5	291.5	342.4	349.2	1,633.8	
	Place	7	7	6	7	6	33	

end was placed a rostrum behind which members of the American Olympic Committee formed in a group. Microphones were brought out on the ice, and the announcement of the figure skating team, to-

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

		Judges	Badger	Robertson	Liberman	Engel	Rotch	TOTALS
1. <b>Robin Lee</b> <i>Skating Club, Inc., N. Y.</i>	School		251.0	236.6	254.3	227.8	246.3	1,216.0
	Free		172.8	171.3	179.0	172.8	168.3	864.2
	Total		423.8	407.9	433.3	400.6	414.6	2,080.2
	Place		1	1	1	1	1	5
2. <b>Erle Reiter</b> <i>Figure Skating Club of Minneapolis</i>	School		245.3	224.9	246.2	221.6	235.0	1,173.0
	Free		171.3	159.1	165.2	174.4	166.7	836.7
	Total		416.6	384.0	411.4	396.0	401.7	2,009.7
	Place		2	3	2	2	2	11
3. <b>George E. B. Hill</b> <i>Skating Club of Boston</i>	School		227.2	226.4	239.2	207.7	225.4	1,125.9
	Free		159.1	154.5	151.7	163.7	159.1	788.1
	Total		386.3	380.9	390.9	371.4	384.5	1,914.0
	Place		3	4	3	4	3	17
4. <b>Roger F. Turner</b> <i>Skating Club of Boston</i>	School		238.1	243.4	244.2	219.9	230.0	1,175.6
	Free		145.3	160.6	145.3	160.6	153.0	764.8
	Total		383.4	404.0	389.5	380.5	383.0	1,940.4
	Place		4	2	4	3	4	17
5. <b>Oliver Haupt, Jr.</b> <i>St. Louis Skating Club</i>	School		190.5	196.7	200.2	171.5	202.3	961.2
	Free		162.1	166.7	154.5	171.3	156.0	810.6
	Total		352.6	363.4	354.7	342.8	358.3	1,771.8
	Place		5	5	5	5	5	25
6. <b>William J. Nagle</b> <i>Manhattan Figure Skating Club</i>	School		202.2	204.8	191.1	178.9	194.2	971.2
	Free		123.9	151.4	136.1	140.7	130.0	682.1
	Total		326.1	356.2	327.2	319.6	324.2	1,653.3
	Place		6	6	6	6	6	30

gether with addresses by Olympic officials, was broadcast over a nationwide network. This took place at eleven o'clock exactly.

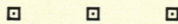
The announcer introduced Mr. Gustavus T. Kirby, Treasurer of the American Olympic Committee, and he in turn introduced Mr. Charles M. Rotch, President of the United States Figure Skating Association, who announced the members of the team and the ranking of

the contenders in the national championships. Following these announcements, Mr. Avery Brundage, President of the American Olympic Committee, gave an address on the history and traditions of the Olympic Games.

The team members then advanced across the ice toward the rostrum. The flag-bearers took places in front of the Olympic Committee group, and George E. B. Hill stepped up on the platform and delivered the Olympic oath on behalf of all the athletes present. It was a most impressive ceremony.

One should not close an account of this nature without paying especial tribute and extending heartfelt thanks to those who through their hard work and kind hospitality made the events possible and enjoyable. The Olympic Figure Skating Committee appointed a subcommittee consisting of Bedell Harned, Sherwin Badger and Joel Liberman, to handle the details of arranging the events. Mrs. Sherwin Badger was the chairman of the New York club's committee in charge. The skaters and officials were entertained at luncheon on Sunday at Sherry's by Mr. and Mrs. David T. Layman; Mr. Layman is president of the New York club. Following the events on Monday night, the whole group repaired to the Waldorf-Astoria for a supper party and dance.

Joseph K. Savage officiated as referee of the events, and the judges included Mrs. Theresa Weld Blanchard, Mrs. Lillian Cramer, Sherwin C. Badger, Carl Engel, Joel B. Liberman, Heaton R. Robertson, and Charles M. Rotch.



## Next Issue

As two of the editors are now in Europe, we cannot set a definite date for the appearance of our next issue. It will probably be mailed early in March and will be followed late that month by an issue featuring The Olympics and The World Championships.

PAIR CHAMPIONSHIP

	Judges	Rotch	Blanchard	Liberman	Engel	Cramer	TOTALS
1. <b>Maribel Y. Vinson</b> <b>George E. B. Hill</b> <i>Skating Club of Boston</i>	Pro.	5.7	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.5	28.2
	Per.	5.5	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.6	27.9
	Total Place	11.2 1	11.1 1	11.5 1	11.2 1	11.1 1	56.1 5
2. <b>Polly Blodgett</b> <b>Roger F. Turner</b> <i>Skating Club of Boston</i>	Pro.	5.2	5.3	5.5	5.1	5.3	26.4
	Per.	5.0	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.3	26.1
	Total Place	10.2 2	10.5 2	10.9 2	10.3 3	10.6 2	52.5 11
3. <b>Marjorie Parker</b> <b>Howard Meredith</b> <i>Skating Club, Inc., N. Y.</i>	Pro.	5.0	4.8	5.5	4.9	5.2	25.4
	Per.	4.9	4.8	5.3	5.0	5.0	25.0
	Total Place	9.9 3	9.6 3	10.8 3	9.9 5	10.2 3	50.4 17
4. <b>Mr. and Mrs. William H. Bruns, Jr.</b> <i>Individual Members U.S.F.S.A.</i>	Pro.	4.8	4.8	5.3	5.2	5.0	25.1
	Per.	4.4	4.3	5.3	5.2	5.0	24.2
	Total Place	9.2 5	9.1 4	10.6 5	10.4 2	10.0 4	49.3 20
5. <b>Jeanne Schulte</b> <b>Oliver Haupt, Jr.</b> <i>St. Louis Skating Club</i>	Pro.	4.8	4.3	5.3	4.9	4.5	23.8
	Per.	4.8	4.3	5.4	5.1	4.8	24.4
	Total Place	9.6 4	8.6 5	10.7 4	10.0 4	9.3 5	48.2 22

## Doings, Funny and Otherwise, at the Olympic Try-Outs

BILLY BEE

The wise judges, old and young, on their knees, looking just as intelligently as possible, at the tracings. No sir, you can't fool those birds. Besides, you're entitled to your opinion and so are they! That's what makes so much argument. And again, that's what makes horse racing—a difference of opinion!

The charming Sunday luncheon at Sherry's by Mr. and Mrs. Layman for the contestants and visitors, with a swell speech, we hear, by Bedell Harned.

By far the best-dressed man at the Sunday morning free skating, Billy Bird, correctly arrayed, as he explained, for a smart afternoon funeral which could not be postponed. The top hat was attached by Joe Savage for a judge's announcement, and finally returned.

Great fun at the Waldorf supper-dance after the Garden show Monday night. Mike Covert and his sturdy band of musicians at one end of the ballroom, a busy bar at the other, and much dancing in between. A very riotous "Paul Jones" and a dandy three-legged race by our busy and efficient chairman, Mrs. Sherwin Badger, and Geddy Hill, ending in a lovely sliding spill. All in the spirit of good, clean fun! Pop Vinson getting a great kick out of it all.

The popular Jimmy Madden and charming Grace, wreathed in smiles, and well they might be, following their selection as members of the Olympic Team. Everybody was pleased.

The Olympic Oath taken by Geddy Hill for the assembled skiers, bobsledders, hockey players, speed and figure skaters, flanked by our handsome Alderman Newbold Morris and Ray Harvey wearing impressive badges—a grand sight—with 15,000 cash customers looking on and supplying applause aplenty.

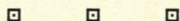
Willi Böckl and Gus Lussi wreathed in perpetual smiles because of their pupils' splendid showing.

The free-skating Sunday morning resembled a wrestling match; nearly everybody took a fall and the champs and ex-champs in particular. The tumbles by Robin and Erle were just about as complete as a tumble could be, but they didn't phase these young men for a second. Up they jumped and off they went to finish varied and difficult programs in great fashion.

Sherwin Badger remonstrating in the Skating Club balcony with Harry Cross of the *Herald Tribune* for saying he and Bea Loughran were great skaters "of another day." Sherwin claimed it intimated they did their best in the Stone Age. Heigh-ho and lack-a-day! Before

we know it, Robin will be much too old for competition! As they say at Harvard, "tempus fugit"!

All the agreeable out-of-towners from Boston, Buffalo, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Chicago and Minneapolis, etc., watching the schools with critical interest, cheering the free skating and acting as though they enjoyed the incidental entertainment. Nice folks, all of them and very easy to entertain.



## Olympic Figure Skating Team Chosen

At a meeting of the 1936 Olympic Games Figure Skating Committee, nine athletes, a manager, assistant manager and chaperone, were chosen to represent the United States at the IV Olympic Winter Games at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, February 6 to 16, 1936. The meeting was held in New York, December 30th, and those present included Messrs. Badger, Hapgood, Harned, Liberman, Savage and Rotch.

The team chosen is as follows:

Men's Singles—George E. B. Hill (Skating Club of Boston), Robin Lee (The Skating Club, Inc., New York), James L. Madden (Skating Club of Boston), and Erle Reiter (Twin City Figure Skating Club).

Ladies' Singles—Audrey Peppe (The Skating Club, Inc., New York), Maribel Y. Vinson (Skating Club of Boston), Estelle Weigel (Buffalo Skating Club), and Louise Weigel (Buffalo Skating Club).

Pairs—Grace E. Madden and James L. Madden (Skating Club of Boston), and Maribel Y. Vinson and George E. B. Hill (Skating Club of Boston).

Manager, William W. Weigel (Buffalo Skating Club); Assistant Manager, Mrs. Theresa Weld Blanchard (Skating Club of Boston); Chaperon, Mrs. William W. Weigel (Buffalo Skating Club).

The Maddens were prevented from competing in the tryouts because of an injured leg sustained by James Madden a short time before the event. They applied for consideration by the Committee, however, because of their past record, and they were appointed members



*F. H. Fleischmann.*

**MR. CHARLES M. ROTCH, U. S. OLYMPIC JUDGE**

of the team, in the events above named, on this basis after a doctor's report had been obtained that indicated the injury would be sufficiently improved by the time of the Games to warrant a good performance.

The first contingent of the team sailed on the S. S. Washington on January 15th; this included Robin Lee, Erle Reiter, George Hill and Maribel Vinson with Mrs. Blanchard, the assistant manager. This group will report at Garmisch and then proceed to Switzerland, probably Davos, for a period of intensive training and practice before the Games.

The second group, including Audrey Peppe, Louise and Estelle Weigel, Mr. and Mrs. Weigel, left on the S. S. Bremen on January 25th; and the Maddens sailed on the S. S. Europa on February 1st.

Mr. Charles M. Rotch, President of the U. S. F. S. A., has been selected as the United States judge at the Olympic Games. He also sailed on the S. S. Bremen on January 25th.

RICHARD L. HAPGOOD, *Chairman*,  
1936 Olympic Games Figure Skating Committee

## Canadian Olympic Team

As announced after the fall meeting of the Figure Skating Department of the Amateur Skating Association of Canada, the Olympic Team will consist of Mrs. Constance Wilson Samuel and Montgomery Wilson, Toronto, in singles, and Miss Louise Bertram and Stewart Reburn, Toronto, and Miss Audrey Garland and Frazer Sweatman, Winnipeg, in pairs. Mrs. Samuel and Mr. Wilson sailed from New York January 9 on the Hansa. They plan to go to Berlin to watch the European Championships, then to Garmisch for the Olympic Games, next to Paris to take part in the Championships of the World, and probably to the British Championships in London before returning home. Miss Bertram and Mr. Reburn sailed on the S. S. Washington from New York January 15; they also hope to compete in the World and British Championships. Miss Garland and Mr. Sweatman will sail on January 17 from St. John with the Canadian Olympic Hockey Team.



Maribel Y. Vinson

*"Here at last are true skating pictures, alive with action, with the personality of the skater."*

*Maribel Vinson*

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by Dr. Manfred Curry

*With a preface by Miss Maribel Y. Vinson*

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# Maribel Yerxa Vinson

FREDERICK GOODRIDGE  
*The Skating Club of Boston*

“A little girl named Maribel who wears a red jersey with ducks embroidered on the collar and cuffs has been picked by experts to be a champion fancy skater. Maribel intends to be a brain specialist . . . she had her first real skates when she was four . . . she dislikes dolls . . . but loves the out-of-doors . . . powder and rouge are sins . . . long skirts are horrid . . . knickers are not the thing for skating.”

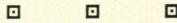
Thus the first interview given to the press by Maribel when she was about eleven years old. The present National Champion was born in Winchester, Massachusetts, on October 12, 1911. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Vinson, are two avid skating enthusiasts, the former having been a champion in his own right in the American style of skating.

A regular little tom-boy when she was small, Maribel could always do anything as well as the boys could. She could run as fast, skate as fast, and play baseball just as well as they could. I shall never forget a fourteen-step competition which I won with her when she was eight years old. About half as big as the others in the competition, she could run circles around any one of them. When she was ten Maribel won the Children's competition at the Boston Club, and at about the same time, began taking lessons from Willie Frick. In 1924, a little over twelve years old, she won the National Junior Championship from a field of thirteen competitors. From then on, her record is well known. She has won the Ladies' Singles Championship eight times, and the Pair Championship five times—twice with Thornton Coolidge, and three times with George E. B. Hill.

Maribel has been a member of the Olympic Teams of 1928, 1932 and 1936. She is the present North American Pair Champion with Hill,

and was ranked third in the Olympics at Lake Placid, and second in the World's at London in 1928.

Maribel was taught for the first few years by her mother, but went to the Girl's Latin School in Boston when she was about eleven, graduating with honors in 1928 at the age of sixteen. She then entered Radcliffe College where she majored in the romance languages. A leave of absence long enough to allow her to compete in the Worlds at Berlin in 1931 cost her one year of college work and she was graduated in 1933 with honors at the age of twenty-one. For the past year and a half she has been working for the *New York Times* as a reporter, and, according to the *Literary Digest*, those connected with the *Times* are just as fond of her as we skaters are, and wish her just as much luck as we do in the competitions which she is about to enter.



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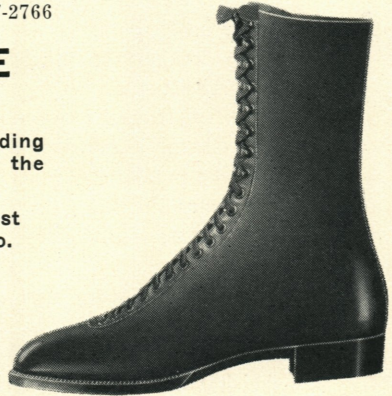
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# Robin Huntingdon Lee

MRS. ARTHUR F. PREUSCH  
*St. Paul Figure Skating Club*

Robin Huntingdon Lee was born December 2, 1919. He was named from the character in the story of Robin Hood and not from Cock Robin as one might assume from seeing his skating exhibitions in which he appears like a bird flying through the air. Mr. Lee always having loved the character portrayed as Robin Hood and having admired the great forcefulness of the man in the story book, decided his boy should be another Robin Hood. Little did he realize at the time that he alone would be called upon to mould a good strong character, for at the age of six Robin lost his mother.

From that time on father and son have been inseparable pals. Mr. Lee arranged his work so that he could spend most of his day hours with his boy, and during the years to follow he taught Robin not only skating but swimming, diving, and golf. He has won innumerable prizes at all these sports.

At eight years of age, Robin could skate most of the school figures and showed great possibilities of becoming a true figure skater. At the age of eleven, Robin had won the St. Paul Junior Golf Tournament, the Minnesota State Figure Skating Championship and had placed third in the National Juniors. The following year (1932) he won the National Junior Championship. In 1933 he placed third in the National Seniors and won the Midwestern title. In 1934 he placed second in the National Seniors and won the Mid-Atlantic Championship, and passed his Gold Medal Test. In 1935 he won the Senior title and has taken it again this season.

Perhaps I should tell the story of how Robin one hot July day many years ago, decided to run away from home. He went to the attic, took his two pairs of skates and sneaked away. At twelve o'clock he was back and when the housekeeper asked him why he had returned he said, "It's time for lunch. Don't you know?"

And now at sixteen Robin is on his way to The Olympics and Worlds in Europe. The competition is going to be very keen but we all hope Robin wins a good place in these championships.

## Schedule for 1935-36

- February 6-16 Fourth Olympic Winter Games.  
Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.
- February 21-22 World's Championship for Ladies, Paris, France.
- February 21-22 United States Championships for Juniors, Novices, Fours and  
Dance. Boston, Massachusetts.
- February 22 Carnival, Lake Placid, N. Y.
- February 27-28 Canadian Championships.  
The Granite Club, Toronto.
- February 28-29 World's Championships for Men and Pairs, Paris France.
- March 6-7 Carnival, Hershey Figure Skating Club.
- March 11, 12, 13 Carnival, Toronto Skating Club.
- March 20-21 Carnival, The Buffalo Skating Club.
- March 20-21 Carnival, The Skating Club of Boston.
- March 25-29 Carnival, Figure Skating Club of Minneapolis.
- March 27-28 Carnival, London, Ontario.

## 1936 Novice and Junior Championships

The 1936 National Championships for Novice and Junior Singles, Junior Pairs, Dance, and Fours will be held in Boston, February 21 and 22, 1936, under the auspices of The Skating Club of Boston. Detailed notices are being sent to all Clubs.

Junior School Figures will be drawn by lot. Novice School Figures will be as follows:

<i>Men's Novice</i>		<i>Ladies' Novice</i>	
No. 5 a or b	ROIF Serpentine	No. 4	RIB Circle Eight
No. 8 a or b	ROF, LIB Three	No. 9 a or b	RIF, LOB Three
No. 15	RIF Loop	No. 14	ROF Loop
No. 11	RIF Double Three	No. 28 a or b	ROIF Change Double Three
Free Skating 2½ Minutes		Free Skating 2 Minutes	

Choice of (a) or (b) foot to be drawn by lot and announced fifteen minutes before the competition. See "Rules and Regulations for Competitions", January 1934 Edition.

The address of The Skating Club of Boston is Room 319, 236 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts.

## Figure Skaters Who Sailed for Olympics Yesterday

ARTHUR J. DALEY

*Reprinted from The New York Times of January 16, 1936*

Four more members of the American Olympic Winter sports team sailed for Europe today, but two of them came perilously close to missing the boat. Robin Lee and Erle Reiter, winner and runner-up for the men's national figure skating championship were aboard the United States liner Washington bright and early.

Visitors thronged the passageways and crowded around the state-rooms of the skaters. Then some one suddenly asked: "Where in the world is Maribel?" The Maribel in question was Miss Maribel Y. Vinson, eight times women's titleholder. No one had even seen her and at this juncture stewards went around notifying one and all that the ship was ready to sail.

Herbert Maybaum, general passenger agent of the line, took it upon himself to hasten down to the ticket office and make inquiries there. He was told that Miss Vinson had not checked in. Then ten minutes before the ship was due to depart, the missing Miss Vinson came sprinting down the pier with porters strung out behind her, carrying bags and luggage of every description.

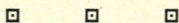
Not until she was safely aboard was it discovered that Geddy Hill, her partner in the winning of the national pairs crown, also was among the missing. The three skaters and Mrs. Theresa Weld Blanchard, assistant manager of the team, had just reconciled themselves to departing without him when there was great commotion around the gangplank that had not been hauled back onto the pier. It was Hill. He shouted for the stevedores to hold everything and clambered aboard two seconds before the runway was yanked out from under his feet.

Thus in this expeditious fashion was another part of the Olympic team dispatched abroad. It will go direct to Davos, Switzerland, for some quiet training and acclimatizing. On February 1st it will report at

Garmisch-Partenkirchen, five days before the start of the fourth Olympic Winter Games.

Hill arrived too late to have his picture snapped with the rest of the team, but Miss Vinson just made it. It was not until she was asked to have her photo taken in her Olympic uniform that a guilty look came over her face. She borrowed a coat and hat from Mrs. Blanchard and whispered hasty instructions to her mother.

Then the truth came out. Miss Vinson had forgotten her uniform.



## Sanctions for Carnivals

There has been a ruling to the effect that all sanctions for carnivals shall be given by the Amateur Status Committee. Requests for carnival sanctions should, therefore, be made to the member of the Amateur Status Committee for each district.

Any club holding carnivals for a profit is required to pay a sanction fee of \$10.00 and in addition to donate to the United States Figure Skating Association, a sum not exceeding 10 per cent of the net profit of the carnival accruing to such clubs.

These sanction fees and percentage are also required where sanctions are given to any non-member organization holding a carnival for profit.

All member clubs holding carnivals must send to the officers of the United States Figure Skating Association, for the information and guidance of the Association, a complete record of the gross receipts, expenditures and the net income arising from such carnival.

Skaters requiring sanctions for public performances should have their applications made to the Amateur Status member by the secretary of the Club of which the skater is a member, and not by those promoting the affair. Where a sanction is desired by an individual member of the Association the application should be made to the Amateur Status member directly by the individual.

# Olympics, 1928 and 1932

THERESA WELD BLANCHARD

The United States was splendidly represented in 1928 at St. Moritz by Miss Loughran, Miss Vinson, Mrs. Blanchard, Mr. Niles, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Badger. Two judges also were present, Mr. Henry W. Howe, then President of the U. S. F. S. A., and Mr. Joel B. Liberman of New York.

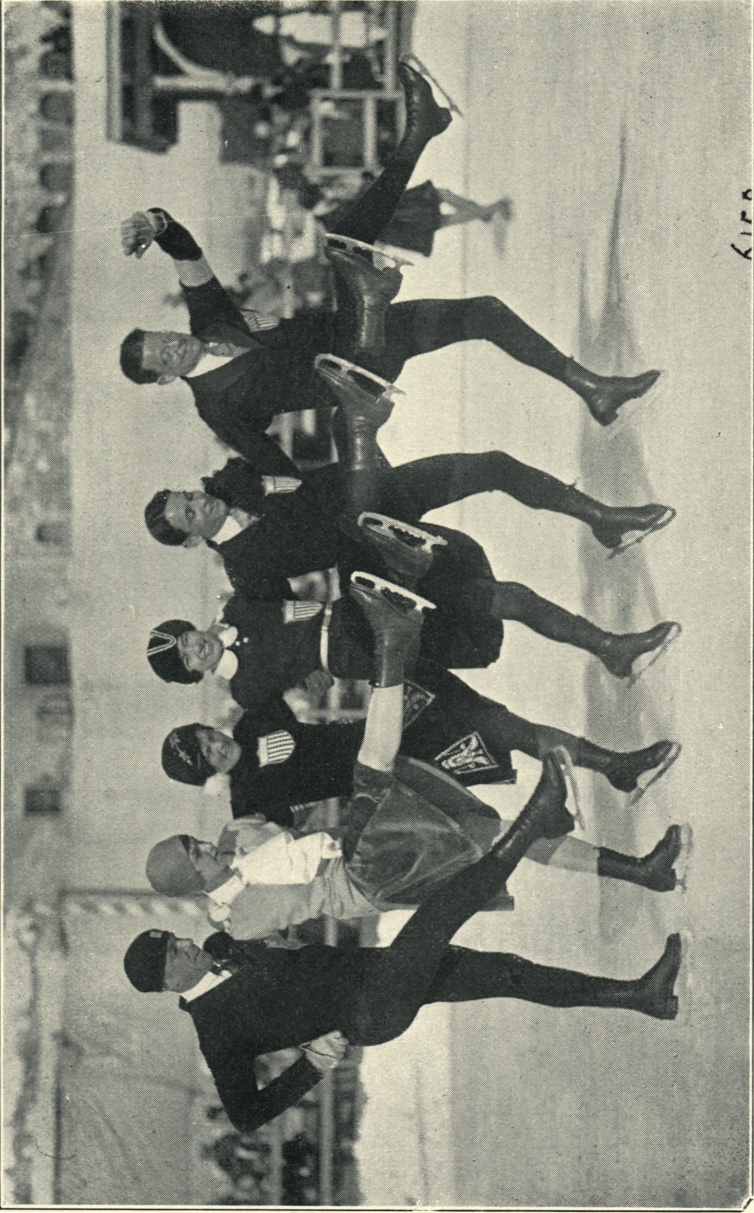
St. Moritz is the most heavenly place to skate; it is unbelievably beautiful; during the day it is very hot, often around sixty, but when the sun sinks the thermometer falls rapidly until it is well below freezing at night. You skate in shirt sleeves and eat picnic lunches beside the rink, but the ice stays hard due to the low temperatures at night.

As I said in my previous article, we had the usual "Olympic thaw." I awoke one morning to hear dripping outside. I told myself a pipe had burst, for it couldn't be rain! However, soon I heard cries in the street and small boys went by passing out sheets of paper on which was written in three languages, "The program of today has been postponed. The Olympic Games will continue as soon as weather conditions will permit." I have one of these notices in my scrap-book. It was really quite exciting, for Mr. Niles was an official as well as a competitor and I went around with him talking to Olympic authorities to see what could be done. All sorts of things were suggested, such as transferring the skating to an indoor rink in Berlin or London; but before any decision was reached the thaw was over and The Games were on again.

It's no use trying to describe the 1928 Games. If I had thought the 1924 Games were impressive and exciting, the 1928 ones were doubly so.\* There were twenty ladies in the singles; I started the first figure and therefore did not skate until last on the second. It was over three hours between my first two figures! This is obviously most unfair to the judges and competitors; judges can't possibly make comparisons and the competitors get all worn out standing around. It took

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\* See No. 16 of "Skating," which gives an excellent description by Mr. Liberman of all the skating with many pictures and the tables of marks.



1928 OLYMPIC TEAM AT SAINT MORITZ  
Turner, Miss Vinson, Miss Loughran, Mrs. Blanchard, Badger, and Niles.



two days to skate the school figures, although we kept at it from nine to three, and we were all much sorrier for the judges than for ourselves. The men's event wasn't quite so bad as there were only sixteen in that.

I was rather lucky in free skating; I was the first skater as I had drawn first place in school figures. We began at nine; when we arrived at the rink to warm up there were quite a few very bad patches on the ice, so little red flags were placed as warnings on these spots, one end being much worse than the other. That presented a problem, for you are "to properly cover the given ice surface"; yet I hated to skate down on the poor end. Competitive skating never is entirely learning a program and doing it the best you can; unexpected things arise and you have to make quick decisions. In Chamounix they gave us a square rink at the last moment and I didn't fill it. I heard from several judges later that I was marked down for not doing so, although the Olympic regulations state an oblong rink and I had skated an oblong program. Some of the others had been quick enough to stretch their spirals and dances into a larger circle and fill the square. Well, this time I did the best I could to fill the space and dodge the annoying red flags! I think I succeeded fairly well, but it's no fun in an important competition to have to dodge flags that mean bad spots of uncertain size, and to revise your program as you go along so as to bring the best places onto the good ice. But, as I said, I was lucky, for as the morning progressed the lovely St. Moritz sun grew warmer and warmer, more and more flags were put out and the ice became slow and treacherous.

The pair skating took place one afternoon during a mild snow storm. I remember only two things about it. Mr. Niles and I had brought a thermos of tea to the stadium and I gave him a cup of it which he drank hastily just before we were to skate. To my horror on pouring out my cup I discovered that the thermos was broken and glass was floating around in the tea! I rushed for Mr. Badger, who being a doctor's son would, I felt sure, know what to do. He said that probably Mr. Niles hadn't gotten much glass, to forget it and skate my best. All through the pair I was wondering if my partner was going to drop dead, but he never felt any ill-effects. Melitta Brunner and Ludwig Wrede of Austria made a most spectacular, although, some of us felt, a slightly illegal opening. They started way down the ice surface behind the ropes marking off the rink and he lifted her high in the air as they reached the boundary and glided in on a very spectac-

ular spiral. Carry lifts were just coming in then and this one made a big impression on me.

During The Games our party (Mr. and Mrs. Niles, Rosalie Knapp of New York, and my sister, Dorothy) stayed at a tiny hotel where the Swiss hockey team also was living. We went to the various rinks attached to the big hotels to practice each day and thus met almost all the skaters before The Games. We saw a lot of the Brunets and also got to know some of the Austrian team very well. Böckl, whom we had met in Chamounix, Fritzi Burger, a perfect darling and most popular with all the skaters, and Schafer, just starting on his wonderful career. Canada was represented by a great collection of youngsters, Cecil and "Jim" Smith, Connie and Bud Wilson, and Jack Eastwood—everyone was much interested in them.

After The Games we went to Vienna and skated at the artificial outdoor rink of the Wiener Eislauf Verein, which we were so curious to see. Here Hilde Holovsky was pointed out to us as a coming star, and so she proved in her all too short lifetime. We also had the pleasure of lunching with Herma Szabo, who had retired from competition, and seeing all her trophies; but that unfortunately must wait for another story. We then went on to Berlin for the Men's Championships of the World and then to England for the Pair Championships of the World. We had had to choose between a hurried trip combining sightseeing, parties and many skating rinks, or going direct to the competition and really training. After our efforts to do well in the Olympics we chose the fun and let our skating come second, and, although I hate to admit where we came out as a result, I do think it was worth it. I have been to four Olympic Winter Games and seen one ski jumping competition, about six hockey games, two speed skating races and absolutely no bob competitions, just because when I wasn't practising or competing I was resting. You can be sure I am going to see everything at Garmisch!

#### PAIRS

Miss Joly and Mr. Brunet, France  
Miss Scholz and Mr. Kaiser, Austria  
Miss Brunner and Mr. Wrede, Austria  
Miss Loughran and Mr. Badger, United States  
Mr. and Mrs. Jakobsson, Finland  
Miss Leberghe and Mr. Van Zeebroeck, Belgium  
(7 more entries)

SECOND OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES, ST. MORITZ, SWITZERLAND

LADIES' SINGLES

Sonja Henie, Norway  
Fritzi Burger, Austria  
Beatrix Loughran, United States  
Maribel Y. Vinson, United States  
Cecil Eustace Smith, Canada  
Constance Wilson, Canada  
(14 more entries)

MEN'S SINGLES

Gillis Grafstrom, Sweden  
Willi Böckl, Austria  
Robert Van Zeebroeck, Belgium  
Karl Schafer, Austria  
J. Sliva, Czecho-Slovakia  
Marcus Nikkanen, Finland  
(10 more entries)

As everyone knows the 1932 Olympics were held at Lake Placid and were a tremendous success. Here also we had the usual "Olympic Thaw" and ghastly lack of snow.

Fortunately there was no worry about the skating as it was all indoors at the Olympic Arena. There was a surprising number of entries considering the distance people had to come, and the standard was extremely high. The Badger-Loughran pair, and Schafer's and Bud Wilson's singles were the outstanding exhibitions. Probably the Japanese men created the most interest; they had learned all their skating from books, had never seen better skaters than themselves until they reached Placid; and the rate at which they improved was remarkable.\*

All our teams were quartered in Stevens Annex and we had a very interesting three weeks. We got to know the members of the other U. S. teams very well and learned a lot about other winter sports, including the finer points of bobbing, which I fear will not come in very handy for most of us. We were very proud of Shea and Jaffe in speed skating, delighted when Billy Fiske's bob team won, and heart-broken and exhausted from cheering after the final hockey game with Canada.

The Olympics and the friends made there are a great bond; naturally there are always disagreements and unhappiness after the results are announced, but this is true in every sport where the result is based mainly on the opinion of judges. But the friendships made during competition are very real. I was delighted to find that Mr. Bryn whom I had not seen since 1920, was the Norwegian judge; Mr. Jakobsson served for Finland. Grafstrom was still competing and met his first defeat at the hands of Schafer; the Brunets were back again and still supreme; Fritzi was as popular as ever and I have already

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\*See "Skating," No. 32, for complete story.



MISS LOUGHRAN AND MR. BADGER

mentioned Schafer's wonderful skating; Sonja was there, with "Pop" and Mrs. Henie, the height of perfection in skating and attire as always; it was my first sight of Vivi and her marvelous dancing; also the first time I saw those remarkable little English girls, Megan Taylor and Cecilia Colledge; the two Hungarian pairs were intensely interesting and interested in everything; Nikkanen of Finland and Baier of Germany, such nice young men, were very popular, not to mention the Canadians and our own skaters.

And now it is Olympic year again, and when you read these lines the team will be in Garmisch greeting many of those mentioned in these articles and forming new friendships with skaters of all nations. I am sorry everyone can't be there to get the thrill that such events arouse and to realize that all the hard work put into skating does bring a very real reward at last. I know everyone will be thinking of the Team and that the Team will do their best for the sake of all the figure skaters at home.

THIRD OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES, LAKE PLACID, NEW YORK

PAIRS

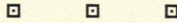
Mr. and Mrs. Brunet, France  
Miss Loughran and Mr. Badger, United States  
Miss Rotter and Mr. Szollas, Hungary  
Miss Organista and Mr. Szalay, Hungary  
Mrs. Samuel and Mr. Wilson, Canada  
Miss Claudet and Mr. Bangs, Canada  
(1 more entry)

LADIES' SINGLES

Sonja Henie, Norway  
Fritzi Burger, Austria  
Maribel Y. Vinson, United States  
Constance Wilson Samuel, Canada  
Vivi-Ann Hulten, Sweden  
Yvonne de Ligne, Belgium  
(9 more entries)

MEN'S SINGLES

Karl Schafer, Austria  
Gillis Grafstrom, Sweden  
Montgomery Wilson, Canada  
Marcus Nikkanen, Finland  
Ernst Baier, Germany  
Roger F. Turner, United States  
(6 more entries)



## Acoustics and Tempos

MICHAEL COVERT

*(Mr. Covert has been in charge of the orchestra at The Skating Club, Inc., New York, for several years and has led the orchestra for their carnivals in Madison Square Garden as well as supplying the orchestra for all the Lake Placid Operettas. He has made quite a study of skating music and its problems, and we are greatly obliged to him for this most helpful article. The set of ten double-faced ten-inch records made especially for dancing, may be ordered from him at 551 Fifth Avenue, New York. Price twenty dollars a set.)*

It is gratifying to know that the phonograph records I made for dancing have been so well received. The reports in general have been very satisfactory. I have had a few reports that results were not up to expectations, and I am happy to have the opportunity through "Skating" to make a few suggestions which may enable the various clubs to get better results from their mechanical reproducing machines.

In the last issue of "Skating," Miss Maribel Vinson, Chairman of the National Dance Committee, spoke very highly of these records as being good in time and accent. We endeavored to carry this timing and punch throughout each number, with a view to giving lift and support without the let-downs and weak spots so often found in records. What I call weak spots are due to unrhythmical tonal effects,

which, although they may be kind to the ear, leave the skaters straining to catch a bit of rhythm.

Listen to these or other records on any good phonograph in a room with an ordinary amount of carpeting, drapery, etc. If they sound right, from a rhythmical standpoint, but later in your rink are not as concise as you would like them to be, then the fault lies in the acoustical characteristics of your rink. I will suggest a few points that should help overcome these faults.

No matter how good any record is, it cannot overcome the bad acoustics prevalent in most indoor rinks. In nearly all rinks the bare surfaces and walls reflect the sound waves which bounce about in the form of echoes until we get not a definite beat, but a confusing reverberation. Most of us can remember how we used to delight in hearing our own Tarzan-like whoops when, as kids, we stuck our heads in the empty family rain barrel, yelled, and got roars far exceeding our ordinary piping treble.

Acoustical echoes are the greatest foe of mechanical recordings, and as we use records to such a large extent for our skating, I believe it well worth while to try to improve the acoustics as far as possible. First, a rink should be "sound-proofed," which, as in the case of Madison Square Garden in New York, meant spending thousands upon thousands of dollars to roof over the top and as much of the sides as possible with a cotton-like absorbent matting. This absorbent matting instead of bouncing a sound wave off and sending it to meet its many brother waves, all to end in a confusing roar, takes it to its soft heart and absorbs it. Study if you can your local radio studios. I am sure that the radio engineer in charge will be glad to explain these fundamental principles to you.

For a constructive and reasonable plan I suggest that, instead of going into an expensive sound-proofing contract, that you dress up your walls and ceiling with sound-absorbing materials, such as bunting, evergreens, etc., which will also help decorate and beautify your rink. If after that is done there is still too much echo, try directional speakers. Music that comes directly at you is bound to be more concise, even though it may echo a bit after you hear it. For that reason a speaker or speakers that focus the music directly at the skater should be more efficient than those that tend to diffuse the music in all directions. Acoustics in different rinks present different problems, of course, due to differences in construction, size and shape of the rink; so after first getting as many softened surfaces as possible, experiment with the position of the speaker.

Miss Vinson, with her boundless enthusiasm, was most kind in assisting in the making of our records. I was very happy to assist her in setting official tempos for the various dances. In reviewing her article in the last issue of "Skating" I think that these tempos in plain figures may be confusing to some of the readers, so I would like to clarify them.

The Waltz (metronome at 66 beats per minute): As it is a fast Viennese swing, one musical bar to each beat or 66 bars per minute.

The Fourteen-Step (metronome at 116 beats per minute): Usually  $2/4$  or  $6/8$  time marches played to march time, two beats to a bar, or 58 bars per minute.

Fox Trot (metronome 166 beats per minute): Fox Trot music can all be classified into two types—the slow-swing and the fast-swing Fox Trot. The fast-swing Fox Trot if played to the tempo at which it is meant to be played, is a good deal similar to the old time One Step and has a regular martial swing. If this should be used for a pair skating Fox Trot it would be like the march, two beats to a bar or 58 bars per minute. (For example: "Cheek to Cheek" or "Top Hat.") Incidentally, every pair in the National Competitions this year used this type for competitive pair skating. In my experience with skaters, and after much experimentation with the Fox Trot as a dance, I have found the slow-swing, lilting Fox Trot the best, using four beats to a bar and 29 bars per minute; in all, 116 beats per minute. (For example: "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes.")

The Tango (metronome 120 beats per minute): Naturally a slow, languorous rhythm of which there are two types; the old style French Tango with a Habanera rhythm, taken from "Habanera" in the opera "Carmen"; and the new style Argentine Tango with a straight four beat per bar rhythm with the accent on the first beat. We have found the old style French Tango much the best for a skating Tango, as it has a more supporting lilt throughout (4 beats to a bar and 30 bars per minute, 120 beats in all).

Summing it all up, we find that with the exception of the Waltz, which, because of its fast swinging rhythm requires but one beat to a bar, all others are given so that we beat every beat in the bar which, in my opinion, keeps the orchestra on its toes and makes for the least possible variance in rhythm throughout the dance.

In closing, I wish to thank all those who have helped me in making these records and who have purchased sets. I am happy to say that the venture has been successful financially, and I hope next year to make new and improved records to add further to the enjoyment of figure skating.

# A New Dance

R. J. WILKIE

(Reprinted from *The Skating Times*, London, England.)

In designing this dance, two main objects were kept in view, firstly, that there should be a strongly marked rhythm, and that all movements should be perfectly in time with the music, and secondly, that the partners' free legs should match as far as possible, both on forward and backward edges.

As it is impossible for an adequate conception of a dance to be gained by merely naming the edges, I have set down all details necessary for a correct performance, including the relative positions of the partners and the duration of each step (the numerals in the diagram refer to the beats of music occupied by each edge).

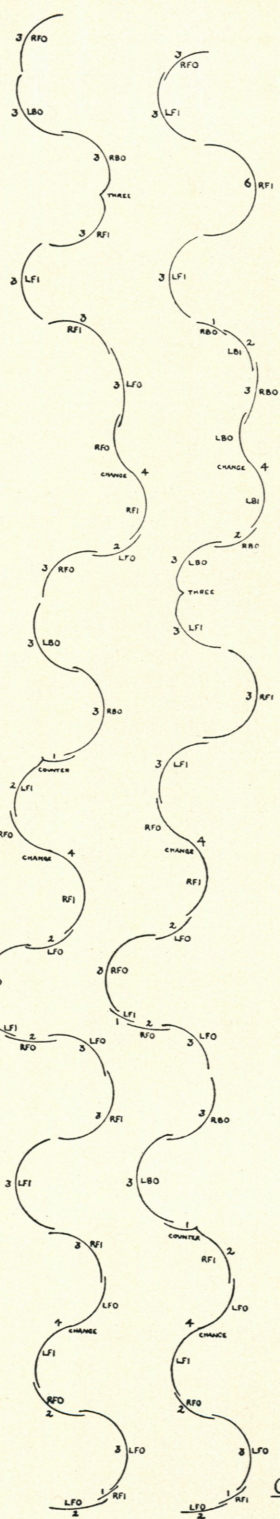
At the commencement of the dance, both partners are travelling forward together, the hold being that of the Tango promenade. This position is maintained up to the 6th step, when the man turns a counter and is then skating backwards facing the lady. On the 9th step the original position is reverted to, and held until the 15th step, when the lady turns a counter. She then travels backwards facing the man until the 18th step, when she arrives to her partner's side after his inside forward three. From the 18th to the 22nd steps the man is travelling backward and the lady forward, keeping him on her left, and on the 23rd step the original position is regained. On the 24th step the lady faces the man after her inside forward three, and on the 26th, and last, step, the partners are once more skating forward in the original position.

Note—(a) On steps Nos. 5 and 14, the free leg is swung from front to back as the change of edge is made.

(b) At the change of edge in the 19th step, the man's free leg is kept behind, and the lady's in front.

Music: Viennese Waltz, 54-56 bars per minute.





MAN'S STEPS

1. Lfo
2. Rfi (crossed behind)
3. Lfo
4. Rfo (crossed in front)
5. Lfi change to Lfo
6. Rfi (crossed behind) and counter
7. Lbo
8. Rbo (crossed behind)
9. Lfo
10. Rfo (crossed in front)
11. Lfi (crossed behind)
12. Rfo
13. Lfo (crossed in front)
14. Rfi change to Rfo
15. Lfi (crossed behind)
16. Rfi (crossed in front)
17. Lfi followed by 3 and Lbo
18. Rbo (crossed behind)
19. Lbi change to Lbo
20. Rbo (crossed behind)
21. Lbi (crossed in front)
22. Rbo (at side of left)
23. Lfi
24. Rfi
25. Lfi
26. Rfo

} Chassé  
 } Chassé

LADY'S STEPS

1. Lfo
2. Rfi (crossed behind)
3. Lfo
4. Rfo (crossed in front)
5. Lfi change to Lfo
6. Rfi (crossed behind)
7. Lfi (crossed in front)
8. Rfi
9. Lfo
10. Rfo (crossed in front)
11. Lfi (crossed behind)
12. Rfo
13. Lfo (crossed in front)
14. Rfi change to Rfo
15. Lfi (crossed behind) and counter
16. Rbo
17. Lbo (crossed behind)
18. Rfo
19. Lfo (crossed in front)
20. Rfi change to Rfo
21. Lfo (crossed in front)
22. Rfi (crossed behind)
23. Lfi
24. Rfi followed by 3 and Rbo
25. Lbo (crossed behind)
26. Rfo

} Chassé  
 } Chassé

LADY'S STEPS

GENTLEMAN'S STEPS

## Rockers and Counters

VANCOUVER, SEATTLE, PORTLAND. The Toronto Skating Club Four, Miss Veronica (Biddy) Clarke, Miss Louise Bertram, Mr. Hubert Sprott and Mr. Ralph McCreath, chaperoned by Mrs. John Machado, skated in three carnivals on the Pacific Coast in early December. Mr. McCreath wrote a letter on the trip from which the following is taken:

"The Club gave us a grand send-off at the station; Walter Arian arriving at the last moment with a bouquet for the chaperone. The fact that it contained lettuce, carrots, cauliflowers and onions detracted little from its beauty. As the train pulled out Bet Machado tossed it back and poor Marge Leslie received it in the eye!

"In Vancouver we were treated royally by the Rotarians under whose auspices we were skating. We got quite a shock when we found that the carnival program had us down for two numbers of our four! As you know we have only one program, so we had to make up some semblance of another routine. Louise and Hubert did their pair, we skated two fours, and Biddy and I each did our singles. There were two evening performances and a matinee. In addition to one excellent group put on by the Vancouver Skating Club, which the Simpson sisters of Banff, Erie Wait of Calgary, and Evelyn Chandler had prominent places on the program and gave splendid exhibitions. On Friday night the Rotary Club, our wonderful hosts, gave a reception for the skaters, which was most enjoyable.

"Saturday morning we had a delightful four hour drive to Seattle. The Seattle Carnival was put on by the Shriners and was a sell-out. We were agreeably surprised by the enthusiastic reception given our skating; everyone had encores. The next morning we took the train for Portland where we skated Monday night. In all three cities figure skating is making wonderful progress.

"We have just received word that we are to stop off a day in Chicago, as guests of Mr. Harry Radix, who entertained us so royally at their carnival last spring.

KANSAS CITY ICE CLUB. It is with pleasure that Kansas City announces the premier opening of its new figure skating club with Dr. Nelse Ockerblad as president and Mr. Edouardo Hellmund as secretary. The Club is very enthusiastic over procuring the able services of William Swallender, who has recently turned professional.  
M. B. M.

THE SKATING CLUB, INC. (New York)—Roy P. Hunt, national waltzing champion with Nettie Prantel on several occasions, is teaching at the Lake Placid Club and at the Olympic Arena. Several weeks ago he decided to turn professional. His many old friends at the Skating Club of New York and elsewhere will be glad to know he is just as busy as a bird dog.

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