Small town skaters have big-time show

By Ivy Reeve Markham-Vaughan editor

UNIONVILLE - It didn't happen here; it probably doesn't happen anywhere now.

Some years ago, however, a skating carnival could be a community's annual showcase for "schlock".

Hit-or-miss spotlights illuminated peeling paint on the barrier boards, popcorn in the bleachers, almost everything but the performers.

Loudspeakers wheezed out pretentious pop tangos and schmaltzy waltzes.

And the performers, poor things, usually were little girls wearing tattered cheesecloth tutus, fuchsia litpstick, lopsided loops of tinsel and heaven-help-me expressions.

They wobbled and toppled while the pro stole the show.

Something else But Unionville's carnivals are something else. Spectators don't come to see sweet, scared toddlers land on their backsides.

They come to see a show, a great show. And that's exactly what

they get. live music, top-notch stuff Hans Ahlgren.

filmy, wafting fabric, it in Japan and Hawaii. cheesecloth.

sequins.

Serious

soloists.

"Our pre-schoolers don't fall anymore," says a carnival organizer. "They're utterly serious about the show.'

Canada's Junior Men's champion Vern Taylor will be a guest performer at this year's carnival. Taylor is the first skater since Donald Jackson to successfully

land a triple lutz in Canadian competitions. Other guest performers are Judy Jeffcott and Keith Swindlehurst, 1976 runners-up in the dance category, Central Ontario Section, and Eastern Divisionals champions, and Heather Kemkaren, Senior Ladies champion of the Central Section and Eastern Divisionals.

This year's presentation, entitled Ice

shades.

Fantasia '76



Spectacular carnival costumes

Costumes of satin and velvet, lavishly trimmed with embroidery, are featured in a routine based on Ukrainian dances. Per-

Fantasia '76, is being Unionville shows. This year, there'll be produced and directed by

played by Kaleidoscope. Ahlgren, a master teers make sure the show When it comes to choreographer, skated keeps its reputation for costumes, the Unionville with Holiday on Ice in big-time glamor and Ice Fantasia '76 is a club doesn't compromise. Europe, and has been expertness. If a routine calls for choreographer for shows

producer, Dorene Trunk, Trunk. If glitter is wanted, the does a lot of travelling.

club won't settle for When she spends an much as \$1,000 on theatre, it's not just for shows. entertainment.

Producers, skaters,

behind-the-scenes volun-

good as any Ice Capades razzle-dazzle rock will be chiffon, not The show's executive or Follies line," says Mrs. number, comedy

Christmas tree castoffs; evening at a Las Vegas more difficult than those anniversary sequence instead, it will spend as nightclub or a Broadway seen in professional and an adaptation of

She's carefully have been working for folk tale. As for the skaters, analyzing themes, many months to ensure Starring in Coppelia they're perfectionists all costumes, props, and Unionville's 25th annual will be Unionville's - from the three-year- thinking about what carnival will be flawless. olds in chorus lines to the might be right - or what Music, lighting, championship-calibre has worked - for makeup, costumes,

formers include (left to right), Marty Spargaren, Sandra Kett, Paul Douglas and Christine Hammond.

variety show. "A Unionville line is as The program includes a

routines, a Ukrainian "Some of the steps we'll dance, presentation, an be using are considerably elegant and nostalgic 25th Coppelia, a 19th century to \$3. About 300 volunteers ballet based on a Swiss

receive painstaking at- award-winning skaters

Karen Newton and Glen "Our volunteers are the Laframboise. cream of the crop," Mrs. Karen and Glen have

won honors in European events and were second runners-up in the Canadian Senior Pairs competition.

There will be five performances: April 23 at 8:30 p.m.; April 24 at 4:30 and 8:30 p.m., and April 25 at 2 and 6 p.m. Price range from \$1.75

Tickets are available at Crosby Memorial Arena; for reservations call 293-9592, 297-1233 or 633-9575.



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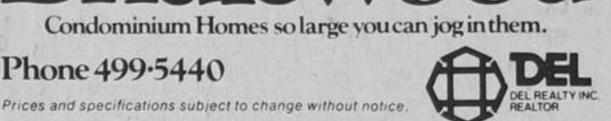
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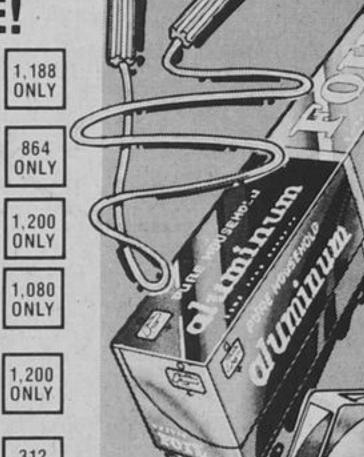
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