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Gormley Girl, Gloria Anne Tatton, Advances To World Skating Competition

While attending school at S.S. No. 7 in Markham Township in 1954, a nine year old girl named Gloria Anne Tatton wasn't getting on as well as one might expect. She was sick quite often and missed many days of school because of her illness. Her parents called a doctor and his prescription was about to change Gloria's life. He told her that she wasn't taking enough time to partake in the finer things of life, and recommended that she become interested in sports. What sports, he didn't specify, so she had a wide choice. Her selection-figure skating.

On February 6th, 1965, Gloria Anne Tatton captured third place in the Canadian Figure Skating Championships and gained a position on the Canadian team to skate at the North American Championships and the World competitions. But this didn't happen overnight. It's been 11 years since the doctor paid that visit to the Tatton home, and each year has been spent practising and polishing the art of figure skating.

Gloria had never seen anyone figure skating until the day her mother took her to Stouffville Arena for her first lesson. She put on her skates and gingerly stepped onto the ice surface. Half an hour later, Gloria was skating around the rink. The little picks on the front of the skates gave her considerable trouble going forward, so she did the next best thing, she went backwards. Donna Marie Lehman took Gloria by the hand and led her down the ice to initiate a career that is still climbing.

Gloria was intrigued with skating, and, so the story goes, loved it so much she went to bed with her skates on after returning from the arena.

Started Late
Gloria was only one of about 100,000 skaters in Canada and she had a disadvantage because of starting so late. In figure skating circles, most beginners are on skates at six and some even younger. The odds against her making it to the top were extremely high, but that didn't bother her.

"I didn't aim high," she explained. "Once I got my first lesson, I aimed for my second, rather than think about my third."

She passed all eight tests and had her gold medal secured when she was sixteen years old. Presently a member of the Toronto Granite Club, Gloria skated five years at Niagara Falls summer school, two years at Weston and a year at the Tam O'Shanter. Her coach is Marcus Mickan.

At 17, Gloria ventured to the Ontario Northland studying and trying dance tests in Schumacher. She attended high school in Richmond Hill and when out of school took a course in interior decorating.

In Calgary, where the Canadian Championships were held, Gloria was caught unaware when her name was called for third spot.

"I didn't think I had made it," she said. "I was at the other end of the rink."

When she heard the news. Her mouth open, her eyes sparkling, and a general look of "who, me?" is the best this writer can do after seeing the picture.

Gloria, and her two companions Petra Burka and Valerie Jones, have been friends for years. Petra was first in the competition and Val placed second.

"We're just like the three musketeers," Gloria smiled.

Many Disappointments
Gloria explained that she can't do a double axel, a move-



ment that is very difficult to execute, and in its place, she starts her program with a series of combinations. Her first motion, that of four consecutive jumps, will usually set off the crowd in a round of applause.

"When you know the spectators are behind you, you're more relaxed," she claimed.

As she started her program in Calgary, she appeared very nervous, and who wouldn't be in

front of 5,000 people, but as the crowd warmed up, so did she.

However, before attaining the heights she has now reached, Gloria has undergone much heartbreak. In her tests, it was always one judge who failed her while the rest gave her a passing mark. She now realizes though, that the judge was right, and by improving herself at his request, has bettered her skating. It was at the arena where she became depressed and wanted to quit, until a man by the name of Telf Rennie, entered the picture and told her

time drilling and practising.

Sitting by the window sewing the Canadian decals on Gloria's skating costume, Mrs. Tatton glanced up, mused for a second and said, "there are so many people to thank for Gloria's success. We are very grateful."

Many Costumes
Mrs. Tatton makes all Gloria's costumes. The young skater takes a number of suits with her to competitions because, as she explains it, "you never know when a zipper may go."

She will wear a strawberry red costume to start at the North American. The uniform is accented with silver sparkles that add to its beauty.

Gloria's other sports interests include golf, swimming, and horseback riding. She has always wanted to try skiing.

"That sport fascinates me," she said.

And figure skating probably fascinates the skier.

Gloria is also an avid oil painter, and one of her works is on display in the porch where everyone can see it.

The big question in most people's mind is "does the fame and popularity change a young girl?"

"Everyone asks me that," she smiled, "but I feel exactly the same."

Other people, discovering she is a figure skater, form the opinion that skating is the easy way out.

"People think I'm lazy and that I should be in school," Gloria explained, "however, skating is a full time job and there aren't too many people who would get up at five in the morning and go skate in a cold

Linda Couse, 14, Makes Bid For Canadian Junior Ski Title

Linda Couse left on Sunday by plane for Kimberley, B. C. That, in itself, is enough to thrill any fourteen year old girl who has never been on a plane. But, Linda has an added thrill thrown in. She will compete for a position in the Canadian Ski Championships being held on February 19th and 20th. Placing high in the competitions could also land Linda a spot on Canada's Olympic Team in the very near future.

This is the same Linda Couse, who, only a few short years ago didn't like skiing. The same girl who would stand at the bottom of the hill and look up, rather than stand at the top and ski down. It's the same girl who thought she looked conspicuous in her fur lined ski boots.

Skiing gradually grew on Linda. She saw someone come with a pair of fur lined boots, and this even helped. She did not feel quite as centered out. At the age of nine, she began her skiing career on the slopes near Caledon and Collingwood.

Parents' Help
She started out exactly the same as most other skiers do. She had old wooden skis, with a simplified harness; a pair of bamboo poles, and, the fur lined boots. Most important, though, she had a mother and father, and with them, skiing is a way of life.

Mrs. Couse played the lead role in teaching Linda the basic fundamentals of skiing when she was only five. Linda was well-prepared when her present coach, Hans Welland, took over.

In her early days of skiing, Linda took spills just like everyone else, only one spill cost her half a season of the sport. It was at Snow Valley where she was coming down a hill, slowly and cautiously, when she applied a snowplow position to decrease her speed. Her balance slightly off, Linda fell forward and broke her leg. However, anything like a broken leg isn't going to stop an enthusiastic skier...and it didn't stop Linda.

Linda has skied at the majority of Ontario resorts, and has tested her skills in Vermont.

"The hills are bigger and the runs are longer," she said.

Good Solid Base
Her favorite skiing conditions are good solid bases on the hill with very little or no powder snow. She has become accustomed to skiing on an icy surface, because Georgian Peaks' hills are often glassy.

In competition, she likes all the events but prefers the downhill and the giant slalom.

She explained that in the downhill, she uses longer skis than in the slalom to attain more speed.

"The crouch is also very important in the downhill run, and the proper wax on your skis is a must."

To anyone competing in a National Championship, a feeling of 'butterflies' might occur, but with Linda she has only one thought.

"I get out of the gate as fast as I can and get to the bottom," she said.

The skier gets to feel out the hill before they actually go into competition. This gives them a chance to find the easiest and fastest route to the bottom. They get to know the hill and know just what they can do on it.

More concentration is required in the slalom. Slalom skiing is a downhill run with complications. A competitor must weave in and out of gates or poles as fast as he can.

"Rhythm and aggressiveness are important here," Linda claimed. "You don't lose points for hitting a post, as a matter of fact, it's a good sign that your course is tight if you do knock the odd one over. You stand to be disqualified though, if one or both of your skis pass on the wrong side of the post."

In slalom, a skier must remember that the tighter he is to the post, the faster his time will be. Anyone swaying from the posts will be delayed, and probably lose badly.

Skis All Summer
However, the snow in Canada does not fly all year, and during the summer lull, Linda must keep herself in shape. How does she do that? Simple, she skis. A summer ski school is held in Oregon which she attends periodically. When she's not there she is still skiing, only this time on water.

Linda also likes tennis and horseback riding. This summer she has expressed a desire to be a camp counsellor.

To Linda, skiing is the greatest sport there is and she knows why she likes it.

"There's a lot of challenge," she explained, "and, there is always something to accomplish."

Free Text Books For Grades 11 and 12

Provincial grants to help school boards provide free text books for high school students will be extended to cover Grades 11 and 12 this year, Education Minister William Davis announced recently.

"Although the grant may in some areas cover the total cost of textbooks, it is expected that most school boards will supplement the amount to allow for individual needs in their municipal areas."

Long Range Project
"Too many skaters are dreamers," claimed the youngster. "They expect too much and aim too high. Oh, I agree that a skater should set her sights ahead, but too far can be disastrous. You should take each year at a time."

"It's a long range project," added Mr. Tatton, "and a tough one."

Gloria is one of three children in the Tatton family. She has an older brother, Eddie, 21, and a younger sister, Dawn, 15. The family resides near Gormley.

Gloria, who passed all her tests on promises, will get a poodle for attaining a position on the Canadian Skating team. Her mother explained that the added gift gives Gloria more incentive to try just a little harder.

Gloria Anne Tatton, after 11 years and more than 20,000 hours of skating, has emerged from 100,000 skaters into the public eye, and at the rate she is going, will stay there for a good many years to come.

palities," he said.

Last year, grants of \$12 a pupil were provided for Grades 9 and 10. This year the grant for these first two high school grades will be \$6 a pupil.

The new grants for Grades 11 and 12 will be \$20 per pupil this year and \$10 next year.

Higher grants in the first year of the program are designed to help the school boards build up their supplies of texts, Mr. Davis explained.

He also announced an increase in the grants for elementary schools library books, from \$1 to \$2 a pupil. The grants will be limited to each board's total expenditure for library books in 1964.

GLEN MAJOR

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Jones, Newmarket visited on Sunday with Mr. Edgar Fies.

Mr. and Mrs. Alec Hingston and family, Toronto spent the weekend with Mr. J. A. Hingston.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Faulkner visited Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Reitter at Cobocok one day last week.

Greetings to Mr. J. A. Hingston who will be celebrating his 50th birthday on Sunday, Feb. 28th.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Jones called on Mr. Ross Walls, Brooklin one evening last week.



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