

Ice show life is fantasy and hard work

By GEORGE DUNN

Skating in front of thousands of people, traveling to a different city every week, dancing and even climbing mountains is the life for North Farmington High graduate Bonnie Levine.

In July, she started working for the Ice Follies and Holiday on Ice Show, which recently played in Lansing and Kalamazoo.

"I'm having so much fun," the 5-foot-6-inch Michigan State University graduate said. "You meet so many different kinds of people."

At a slim 112 pounds, Levine has a high cheekboned face that seems always ready to break into a smile. "I just wanted to take a year off and travel," she said. "For a year, I would never have passed this up."

"After being in school since 6 years old, this is great. I'm not ready to settle down to a nine-to-five," Miss Levine said as she broke into one of her patented smiles.

Levine said that audiences don't make her nervous. "I like performing in front of people... and getting into the audiences," said Levine, whose wavy, shoulder-length hair is matched by her brown eyes.

One of her favorite acts is the Seaside Street routine in which she takes children from the audience and skates them around the ice.

The 22-year-old Farmington Hills resident started skating at a young age when she and her brother Scott, now an MSU senior, joined the Detroit Skating Club.

She skated at the Novi and Livonia Ice Arenas while she was growing up.

"I've always loved skating. I've always stayed with it," she said.

In 1975, she placed fifth in the Michigan Free Style Invitational. After that, she was a teaching assistant for two years in an MSU gym class. She graduated from MSU in June with honors and a medical-technology degree.

She was interviewed for her follies job in November. Three months later she was hired.

Although her plans are indefinite, she wants to pursue a forensic-science career, possibly in a crime lab, eventually.

She spent two years working at the Michigan State Police crime lab in East Lansing while in college. "I really loved it," she said. "The lab never got boring. There were always different cases."

Since taking her job with the follies, she has traveled to approximately 20 cities. But she doesn't mind the fast pace of working three hours a night, six nights a week and in a different city every seven days.

"It's all what you make it," she said. "I like to make the most out of every city."

While staying in Boulder, Colo. she climbed a 7,000-foot mountain just for the fun of it.

Between shows, she likes shopping, going to restaurants and nightclubs or just relaxing in her hotel room.

After the shows she like to go dancing, but said, "I don't get into disco."

Besides working at the police station and teaching skating during college she was a Spartan Aide for the football and hockey teams for two years and a little sister to Delta Chi Fraternity.

She is the daughter of Marcia Van Crevel, 31035 Carriage Hill Road.



A vision of beauty

North Farmington High School graduate Bonnie Levine has joined one of the fantasy world lives in America by becoming a professional skater with the Ice Follies and Holiday on Ice Show. (Photo by Tony Dugal)

Heritage series ends with peek at old days

Have you ever heard of the Interlaken Hotel on the Pine Lake peninsula?

That's just one of the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society's pictorial highlights at its final heritage series program at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 4800 Orchard Lake Road.

Frances Gadd, society president, says there will be pictures of the

original owners of Apple Island, Wilkins Corners at the Pontiac Trail-Orchard Lake Road intersection, Scotch School, the former military academy now known as St. Mary's College.

The program is open, free to the public. For information on membership or programs write P.O. Box 5024, Orchard Lake 48033. Or call Mrs. Gadd at 682-0959.



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