

Skating On Ice

Rejean Tremblay (most people call him "Ray") is a handsome young French Canadian who is in love with life and most particularly in love with his job as manager of Southfield's fabulous Sports Arena.

His eyes light up at the mention of last year's Ice-O-Rama show in April which was the culmination of Southfield's extensive ice and figure skating program. "I've seen a lot of ice shows," says Ray, who has been speaking English for only a few years, "but I've never seen one with such spirit as this one."

Participating in the show were nearly 100 people, most of whom were students in the skating classes sponsored by the city's recreation program. Complete with skits, special lighting and costumes designed by Jim Cope, Southfield's figure skating instructor and a former Ice Capades performer, the show included skaters of all ages.

A FAVORITE with audiences were the four-year-olds who performed as wooden soldiers complete with costumes of red jackets and black stripes sewn for them by their mothers. The oldest performer was a woman of more than 70 who had just completed with the first class.

The three sellout performances

delighted the audiences, although the calibre of skating was not always at a professional level. Tremblay recalls that the skater who portrayed Snoopy spent a lot of time "on his derriere," thus scoring a hit with spectators and adding a special light-hearted touch.

This season's ice show will be held in April of 1973 and will run for five performances to accommodate the large numbers of people expected.

The cast will be made up of members of Southfield's skating classes which are now being formed. To register, visit the Sports Arena in Southfield's Civic Center and sign up for the November, January or February sessions. Classes are 45 minutes long and are held once a week for five weeks.

What should parents do to insure their children of a good skating experience? Tremblay, native of Cicoutimi, a small town about 130 miles northwest of Quebec City, doesn't remember "when I first put skates on my feet," although he thinks he was probably around a year and a half.

A former hockey professional and coach in Southfield's Hockey Club, Tremblay feels that "the smaller you are, the better you can learn."

THE KIND OF skates a child

wears are all important. Many parents feel that second-hand skates will suffice for a kid; sometimes they put him into a pair that are two sizes too big for him with the idea that "he'll eventually grow into them."

Such attitudes are a real no-no, according to Tremblay, who says that a bad pair of skates can actually ruin a kid's experience in skating. The skates must fit snugly and give good support to young, unformed ankles. A good pair of skates for a seven-year-old may cost about \$15 and may take a few weeks to get used to.

"The first pair of skates for a child are the most important ones in his life," states Tremblay.

Parents should also allow their kids independence in their skating endeavors. He doesn't like to see parents still lacing up the skates of their 10 and 12-year-olds. It takes away from the self-reliance and self-sufficiency they'll need on the ice, especially in the game of hockey.

SOUTHFIELD'S Sports Arena includes a large ice rink, an outdoor swimming pool, and locker rooms as well as a huge bricked area with a central fireplace that is a combination lobby and meeting room. It's a good place to curl up with a cup of cocoa



and relax with friends after a game or a vigorous work out on the ice.

More is yet to come for Southfield is planning still another ice rink in its Civic Center on Evergreen Road between 10 and 11 Mile Road.

These facilities plus many more have made Southfield a finalist in the national gold medal award contest for excellence in the field of park and recreation management. Is it any wonder?

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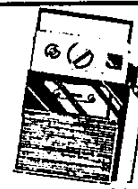
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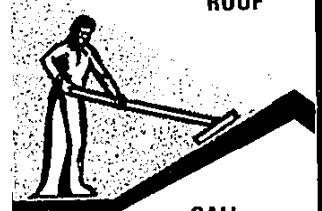
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