

October 20-24

Spectacular New Ice

Capades Coming To Town

Special To The Post

Together as pros in the spectacular new Ice Capades, opening October 20 through 24 at the Charlotte Coliseum for seven performances. Johnny Johns and Melissa Militano boast a past that includes three careers - his, hers, and theirs.

Before teaming as amateurs, Melissa skated with her brother Mark in their home town of Dix Hills, New York. It was with Mark that she won the 1973 Senior Pair Nationals.

That same year, Johnny, from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and his then partner trailed his future teammate by coming in third in pairs.

"But, they managed to cap first place in dance," reminds Melissa with a proud look at Johnny.

It was following the Nationals that Melissa's brother decided to retire, and she and Johnny "got together."

By 1975 Johnny and Melissa completed two undefeated years as National Pair Champions. In World competitions they placed eighth in 1974 and sixth in 1975.

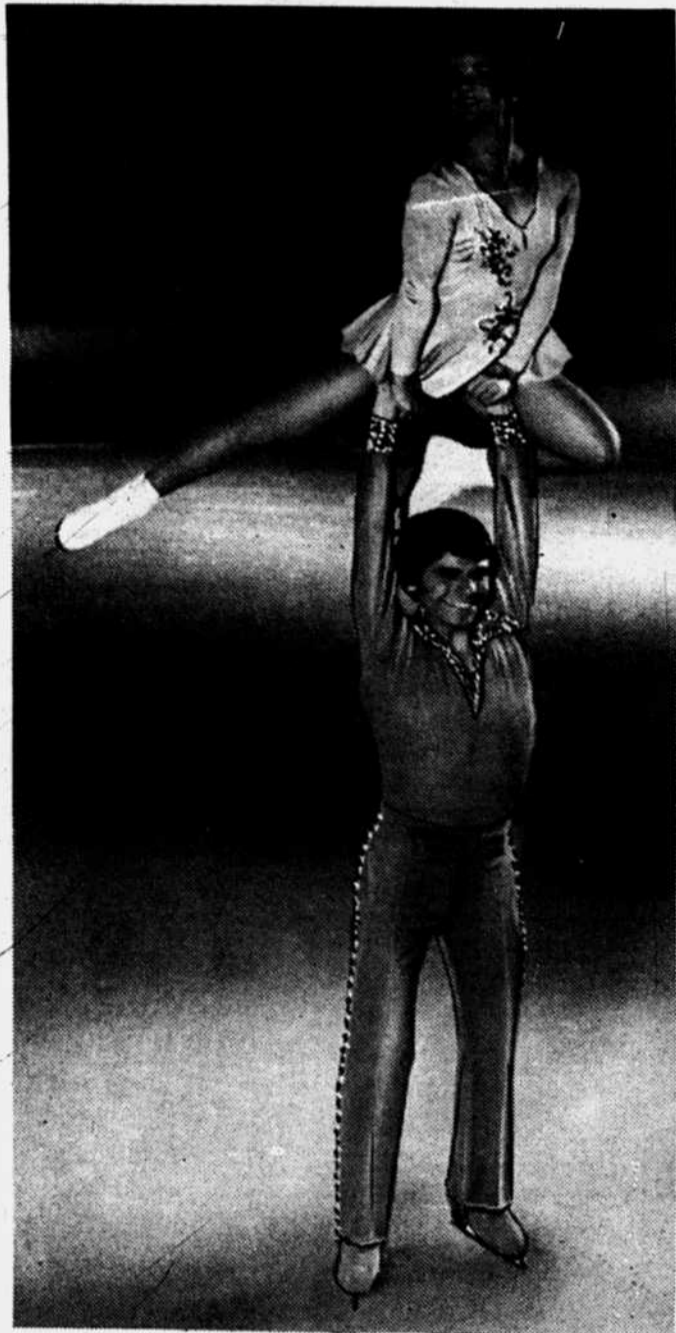
Aware that it is most unusual for a pair of skaters to achieve such phenomenal success in their first years as a team, Johnny credits their good fortune to individual experience in competitive skating.

"Competitions were nothing new to either of us. It was simply a matter of developing unison and style."

Most skating partners claim they would never date each other. But Johnny and Melissa disagree, having dated a year before they teamed.

"It works pretty well," Melissa says. "Of course, sometimes we do get 'picky' with each other on ice."

"But that's good," ventures Johnny. "We respect each other's criticism, so it helps our act. There are problems, however. When you're together all day, you have a tendency to talk shop on a date. I guess I'm more guilty



MILITANOR AND JOHNS
Ice Capade performers

of that then Melissa."

"He's not kidding," Melissa charges in a confidential aside. "I have to keep reminding him to hang up his skates when he leaves the ice."

Temperamentally, they are a challenge to each other. Melissa laughs at Johnny's superstition and chides him for the "lucky" pair of socks he always carries and his theory that taking a bath before a competition is a lucky sign. She insists she has no superstitions of her own.

When not skating, both young people enjoy tennis.

Rickie Boger

New York Critics Hail

Charlotte Singer, Writer

By Melvetta Jenkins
Post Staff Writer

Rickie Boger, a native of Charlotte, is presently being introduced in this area as a promising singer and song writer.

Rickie, one of seven children, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cluste Byars, of Charlotte.

Because of the family's economic conditions, Rickie received no musical instrument training during her formative years. Singing in church and school choirs was the extent of her vocal preparedness.

Her musical career was launched at the Irwin Avenue Junior High School where she and her two sisters, Ancala and Doyle, formed a group named the "Locketts". They became very popular in Charlotte and other cities around the state where they appeared at nightclubs, conventions, talent shows, college campuses, and Ft. Bragg, where they sang for 1,000 servicemen. The group tried unsuccessfully to secure a recording contract.

After the closing of Second Ward High School, the "Locketts" stopped performing as a group.

Now, after three years of college and studying music, Rickie has had her first album "Slow Down, Baby", released by MUSE Records, with Howard Johnson producing and arranging.

Rickie's most recent appearances in New York include the Inn Place, The Village Gate, and The Yellow Brick Road. At the Village Gate, she not only sang to a night club audience, but was broadcast live to over four million people via Station WRVR in New York.

She has received reviews in the "New Yorker", the "Wall Street Journal", "Billboard", and "Record". Her music is being heard presently on stations coast-to-coast.

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