

Historical Question—April 2012

Historical Question:

Which Cottonwood Heights resident was instrumental in starting the figure skating movement in the state of Utah?

Historical Answer:

Ida Shimizu Tateoka. Ida was born in Weston (Preston), Idaho, hence the name Ida. Her family was living in Lewiston, Utah at the time, but moved to Los Angeles, California when she was four years old. There, inspired by Sonja Henie, she gained a strong interest in competitive figure skating.

Ida returned to Utah in March 1942 at the onset of World War II and settled in Springville, Utah for two years before moving to Butlerville, Utah in March of 1944. She continued her skating at Hygeia Iceland in Sugar House and helped organize the first skating club in Utah, the Utah Figure Skating Club, in 1949-50. She was a board member for 38 years and president for six years.

She also served in many positions for the United States Figure Skating Association. She became the first figure skating judge in Utah in 1953 and a national judge in 1963. Ida subsequently became an international judge and eventually a world judge. As a world judge she judged the men's competition in the Sarajevo Olympics in 1984 when Scott Hamilton won the gold medal.

Some of the other top skaters she has judged are: Peggy Fleming, Dorothy Hamill, Kristi Yamaguchi, Holly Cook, Michelle Kwan, Katarina Witt, Tara Lipinski, Sara Hughes, Torvill and Dean and many more. She also helped bring two U.S. Figure Skating Championships and the 2002 Winter Olympics to Salt Lake City.

Ida still lives in Cottonwood Heights.