



Michael Omar Dunn

October 14, 1934 - April 19, 2020

A wonderful story about Omar from August 2013..

Omar Dunn started coaching artistic skating in Fresno before being offered a coaching job at Skateland by then-owner Jim Huber. Shortly after, he was offered a managing job.

That was in 1959, and since then, Omar Dunn has been working at the skating rink in south Bakersfield.

By 1974, Omar and wife Dolores were the proud owners of Skateland. Daughters Natalie Fries, 56, and Leslie Dunn-Meyers, 48, say they started working "as soon as we could follow directions," beginning with small jobs as coat check girls, cleaners and penny counters and rollers. Before long, the daughters began working the snack bar, managing public sessions and coaching private lessons.

Working at Skateland proved to be beneficial for both daughters as Natalie and Leslie are both artistic roller skating champions."They are on their skates several days a week and can still carry a tray full of sodas on skates," Omar Dunn, 78, said.

Both daughters said they decided to continue working at Skateland after reflecting on their own childhood experiences and realizing Skateland would be an ideal environment for raising their children. And they admire their father.

"He has a great work ethic," Leslie Dunn-Meyers said. "He is fantastic at managing money and fixing things himself. He works like he is 25 years old, usually starting at 4:30 a.m."

Working together is "great most of the time," they joke, and they've learned each other's strengths and weaknesses. The best thing about working together is watching their families grow up, they say.

On their days off, they still get together to cook, entertain and travel.

"The girls have taught dad how to cook, and he is pretty good," Dolores Dunn, 77, said.

Omar Dunn doesn't skate anymore, he said, but "I probably still could do it."

Tribute Wall



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