

RON MUNN



*Had Trampoline...
Did Travel!*



A native of Amarillo, Texas Ron Munn began his trampoline career at the age of 12 under the watchful eye of well-known coach, Nard Cazzell. He won the 1956 National AAU trampoline title while a 15-year old sophomore in high school, and once again as a freshman on the University of Michigan gymnastics team in 1959. During these years he was also named a member of the AAU All-American Gymnastics Team, and in 1959 won the Gold Medal in trampoline at the Pan American Games.



In April 1960 he was selected to be a member of a USA team that was sent to South Africa to introduce and demonstrate the sport of trampoline throughout that country, and later to participate in the first international competition with Europeans held in Germany. After winning the Gold Medal in Germany Ron returned to South Africa and during the next three years began a company producing trampolines, and opening trampoline jump centers along the South African coast. After returning to the United States Ron was drafted into the Army and assigned to Special Services where he continued to perform on the trampoline as well as traveling with professional water shows representing the U.S. Army. He was eventually stationed at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York as the trampoline coach for the West Point gymnastics team.

Upon discharge from the Army, Ron began doing promotional work traveling world-wide for the Nissen Corporation which was the world's leading manufacturer of trampolines and gymnastics equipment. For three years he was based out of Toronto as the National Sales Manager for Canada, and finally moved to the Cedar Rapids, Iowa company headquarters as Director of International Sales and Marketing.

During the 70's he was President of the U.S. Trampoline & Tumbling Association and an active member of the United States Sports Acrobatics Association. Ron was inducted into both organizations Hall of Fame, as well as being selected as a Legend in 2001 by the World Acrobatic Society. His responsibilities with these associations included management duties, as well as traveling and performing with numerous foreign groups such as the Russian and Romanian Gymnastic teams. He

was also instrumental in the formation of the World Age Group Games for acrobatic activities, along with support for the introduction of trampoline in the Olympics.

In 1979 the Nissen Corporation purchased the Universal Gym Equipment Company, which allowed Ron to introduce fitness equipment to his international connections. Because of this, the next 20-years revolved around promoting, marketing and selling exercise equipment products throughout the world (102 countries).



Throughout his travels Ron has had numerous exciting and fun filled experiences, but probably a few that stand out include:

In 1977 Ron carried a trampoline to the top of the Great Pyramid of Egypt with George Nissen, and became the first person to turn a somersault on a trampoline while atop the Pyramid. It took five hours to carry it up....while getting it down was another story!

Doing a handstand on the Great Wall in China, since there was no trampoline available!

Performing in Trafalgar Square, London, England



Nard Cazzell
Mentor & Coach

George Nissen
Ron's Father-in-Law
(with a friend)



Mary Poppins Style



Meeting with and performing for King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa, Bahrain – 1977



Performing in President Carter's Inaugural Parade



Performing on the "Mike Douglas" show with the "Jackson Five" (Michael Jackson) & John Davidson – 1974



Meeting with King of Tonga Nuku'alofa Palace - 1991



Playing "Spaceball" with partner Eddie Cole Madison Square Garden – 1973



"Meeting" and "Advising" President Marcos of the Philippines - during South East Asian Games, 1975 to inform his wife Imelda to eliminate her thousands of shoes, since it could be his potential downfall, and cost him the Presidency (He didn't listen)



Ron's life has truly had its "Up's and Down's"! He and his wife Dagmar live in Arizona and enjoy retirement year around 😊