



Rolling Through Time

Official Newsletter of:

The National Museum of Roller Skating

4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506

(402) 483-7551 ext. 16

 @rollersk8museum

Prepared by Peggy Young

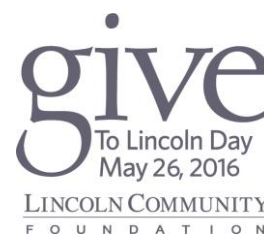
Bi-Monthly

May 26, 2016

The National Museum of Roller Skating is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in Lincoln, Nebraska. It is the only dedicated roller skating museum in the world. We are committed to the preservation of the history of roller skating. With over 50 display cases, the museum educates the public on all aspects of roller skating, which dates back to the first patented skate from 1819.

Museum Hours of Operation: Open 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday-Friday - closed Holidays. Group tours can be scheduled by calling (402) 483-7551, ext. 16.

GIVE TO LINCOLN DAY TODAY – It is not too late to donate! - Funds donated to the National Museum of Roller Skating before midnight today, May 26, via www.givetolincoln.com, will receive a proportional match from the Lincoln Community Foundation. It is a good way to increase the value of your gift of financial support.



GUEST WRITERS - We have a taker on the invitation to write something for the Museum Newsletter. Marie Walker has graciously agreed to do an article on something that changed the future of speed skating (and skating in general) for the better, although hugely disputed at the time. This grand lady needs no introduction to anyone with a history in skating! Marie was an artistic skater who met her future husband at the rink; she was a competitor, a judge, the first President of USAC/RS (USARS) and later Chairman of the Board. The USAC/RS Board named her to be its delegate to the USOC to work on the preparation and submission of their new Constitution and Bylaws to Congress, in conformity with the new Sports Act that was passed at the time. She was elected by a Council of National Governing Bodies to be their officer...and much more that can be found in the book written by George Pickard "Titans and Heroes of American Roller Skating."



THANK YOU - Additional donations have been received by the Museum in memory of George Pickard. Thank you to Bud & Shirley Engle, Bob and Gloria Ward, and Colette and Malley Keelan.

Also donating to the Museum were Patricia Chonko, Betty Crouther, Robert Paluka, Steven Forstner, Jim Lemma Jr., Janet Pavidonis and Brodart.

Elizabeth Korgenic made a donation via Give To Lincoln Day, in recognition of her first coaches Bob and Shirley Gormley. Kim Wall donated in honor of his parents, Jim and Marge Wall. A complete list of donations via Give to Lincoln Day, will be provided with our next newsletter.

Welcome to new members Shirley & Don Morken, Andy Starr, Sven Larsen and Jeff Wattenburg.

Our appreciation goes to renewing members Tom Hughes, George Kolibaba, Elizabeth Korgenic, Rob & Nellie Anderson Lillie, Bill Sahly, Trace and Shannon Hansen, Hansen's Eastlake Skate Center, Hansen's Holiday Skate Center, Hansen-Smith's Easley Skate Center, Delaney Hansen, Ella Hansen, and Jordan Hansen .

But most importantly the show is a success. It is here to stay. The backers are sold and the Auditorium Management is sold. They are going into the best places. The Boston Gardens, for instance, on April 21st and Madison Square, just as sure as you're born. And even better than best, the backers are sold on making it a real skating show. They have it pretty well padded with high-priced vaudeville talent now, but intend replacing these with skaters as soon as strong folks like

yourself can be induced to join. The skating part of the show goes over best. And the public is getting no recoil from the fact that this show is on rollers rather than ice. The show has proved that a good high-grade roller show can be just as successful as a good ice show. The roller sport needs this show, Ann. And the show needs you. EDWARD W. SMITH, Editor and Publisher

STARS FROM THE SKATING VANITIES OF 1942

Note all of the competitive titles held by the members of the cast:

Buster West and Lucille Page – Though Buster West and Lucille Page are making their debut on skates, these famous comic dancers are amongst the top-flight stars of musical comedy. Buster West, known as the foremost eccentric dancer

on the stage was featured in "White Horse Inn", George White's "Scandals", "Greenwich Follies", and many other hits. His wife, Lucille Page, was an outstanding specialty dancer, and while in Earl Carroll's "Vanities", Buster met and fell in love with her, and they soon married, teamed up, and became one of the great comedy dancing teams on stage. They have appeared



(Advertisement)
(Advertisement)

SKATING VANITIES OF 1942

The SKATING VANITIES 1942 opened at the Arena in Chicago on September 9th direct from Madison Square Gardens and moved to Milwaukee on September 20th. During the last 5 days in Chicago the show was a sell-out; over 10,000 people being turned away unable to buy tickets at any price. Chicago had never seen a roller skating show. The public came with a "show me" attitude and went away boosting. Every newspaper in Chicago gave favorable criticisms. Tribune writes—"Don't Miss It" "Wows 'Em"—Times.

Rinks in the Chicago area brought their Skating Clubs in mass. As a result of the show's successful run in Chicago, over 200,000 people are boosters for the roller skating sports. Rink attendance increased during the run of the show.

Every roller skater should attend this show and urge their skating clubs to attend. Get reservations in early.

ITINERARY OF SKATING VANITIES

Toledo — Oct. 2 to 6	Shreveport — Nov. 4 to 8
Columbus — Oct. 10 to 18	New Orleans — Nov. 12 to 22
Chattanooga — Oct. 20 to 23	Houston — Nov. 24 to Dec. 3
Memphis — Oct. 25 to Nov. 1	Dallas — Dec. 5 to 13

1943 SCHEDULE WILL APPEAR IN LATER ISSUE

in pictures together and made a tour of Europe and South America.

Gloria Nord - Gloria Nord, at the ripe young age of nineteen, has established a reputation as the foremost professional figure skater "on wheels" in America. A native of California, Gloria hails from a talented family. She was well on her way to the heights of dancing fame when only eleven. At fifteen she was a seasoned professional, her goal, Broadway and Musical Comedy.

But fate stepped in, in the person of Sid Grauman, who spotted her at the opening of his large Hollywood Roller Rink. He liked the way Gloria skated and suggested she devote all of her time to it. The suggestion resulted in Gloria practicing four hours a day. The rest is history. Three weeks later she made her debut as an exhibition skater; five weeks later won a California Championship and then followed a tour of the country as a Good Will Ambassador for the "Skating Review". She has been called the "Sonja Heinie" on wheels.



A. Robbins... "The Banana Man" – Hailed as one of the greatest of modern clowns. A. Robbins is renowned the world over as the "Banana Man". He features a show-stopping act that beggars description in words.

Robbins fashions with his own hands all the extraordinary trick disguises and props which he features. It takes Robbins and his assistants two hours before the show to put his mystifying apparatus together.

He was born in Vienna of non-theatrical parents who had hopes of his becoming a minister. Being blessed with an unusual and abnormal voice and the ability to imitate any sound he soon became one of the greatest mimics of all time. He performs the most unusual act ever presented in show business.



Dolly Durkin – One of the most graceful skater to ever glide along a roller floor, Dolly Durkin won the National Dance Skate Championships in 1940 with Gordon Finigan. A former secretary, she quit her job to join the "Skating Vanities". She was one of the most popular instructors at the various New York Roller Rinks. Her trophies are innumerable and her ambition is to be one of the greatest roller skaters in the world. Those who know claim she hasn't far to go to achieve this goal."

Bobby May – Considered one of the best jugglers in the world, young Bobby May was confronted with the difficult task of learning to juggle while on rollers, when he joined "Skating Vanities". When he was asked if he could do his act on skates he remarked "I may and I may not". He has been featured in many Broadway musical shows and has played every theatre in the country, stopping shows wherever he appeared.

Juggling requires perfect foot work which is difficult enough when your feet are on the floor, it's ten times harder on skates. As he says 'Bobby May or he may not' but he really does.

Lew Testa – Lew Testa, skating champion, has won an amazing reputation with his gravity defying stunts on rollers. He holds a number of roller skating records, having won the 18 State Professional Title recently in Baltimore. He is famous for his flying turns, spread eagles backwards, criss-crosses, and the only man alive who can do the full flying Dutchman, non-stop. He has set a continuous record of 19 for this amazing feat. Today, at twenty-seven, he stands alone, a champion of champions in his field.

Finigan and Hughes – Gordon Finigan and Walter Hughes are old friends. It was with Finigan that Dolly Durkin won the National Dance Title. It is Walter Hughes who is Dolly's present partner (pictured here). Yet this did not interfere with the comedy act that proved the sensation of the "New York American" roller skating carnival in Madison Square Garden. Here Finigan and Hughes introduced a novelty comedy act that made roller skating history. Finigan is New York State Figure Skating Champ. Hughes runner-up in the National Contest holds the New York State Pairs title.

Art Elsasser – World's Champion Spinner on rollers started his skating career at the age of 13. Earned his way through high school by working nights in a roller rink as skate boy.

Joined a vaudeville act, travelled all over the country and made two shorts for Warner Bros. picture. He can do twenty spins both right and left on one or two toes. One of the few who can duplicate the difficult ice spins, "The Jackson Haynes" and "Camel Spin" on rollers.

Lavada Simmons and Hugh Thomas – With Art Elsasser as their partner, this talented trio make up the Lightning Trio, sensational whirlwind skaters, featuring one of the most difficult tricks ever attempted on roller skates. Hugh Thomas, holding his partner, Lavada Simmons, by her skates twirls at tremendous speed, while she does difficult twists.





Eleanor Emanuel – Eleanor Emanuel is a young lady who comes from a talented skating family. What, with her father operating rinks throughout the country, all the children, and there are six of them, learned to skate at an early age. Joe was Cleveland's City Champ; Bert took over in 1933 and '34. In 1940 Brother Vic won the City and State Championship after Arthur had taken the City, State, Tri-State and National in 1939. Eleanor couldn't help but learn to skate and in 1933 when only fifteen, she took the ladies' title in the Silver Skates and the City Championships. Then she joined her sister's skating act, known as the "Flying Whirls" and toured the country, until she was discovered for "Skating Vanities."

Ted Sokol - Athlete Ted Sokol, whose amazing jumps have astounded newsreel attendants for a long time, was a three letter man at school, earning his athletic laurels in football, baseball and basketball at Wesleyan and Gordon High Schools. Sokol, the only roller skater in the world able to jump over fourteen girls, all in line, started to roller skate to keep in trim for his other sports. With his athletic reputation he found it easy, after managers saw his amazing dexterity on skates, to land a job as a skating instructor and gain recognition as an authority on figure and dance skating.

Ben Klassen – Ben Klassen is one of the radio's most popular singing stars. His melodious tenor voice has been heard on outstanding radio programs, namely – "Waltz Time"; "A. & P. Gypsies"; "Open House"; "Ray Nobles's Orchestra"; "Lucille Manners and Lucy Monroe." His transcriptions are at present heard on three hundred radio stations throughout the entire country.

The Rollerettes – One of the most thrilling things about "Skating Vanities of 1942" is the amazing precision work done by the "Rollerettes", the first professional roller skating chorus. The reason their work is so amazing is probably due in no small way, to the fact that almost every member of the ensemble holds some skating title.

Among the twelve boys, there are fourteen roller skating titles. The twenty-four pulchritudinous girls share thirty-nine local, city, state and national crowns.

As with all Gae Foster ensembles, each member is thoroughly capable of doing solo work. Their talents range from dance and pair skating, through exhibition and novelty work. For six solid weeks prior to the debut of the show, each of these youngsters spent over seven hours a day rehearsing. The newspaper raves and audience approval for their marvelous precision routines on skates, have been unanimous wherever they have appeared. Four of the girls hold beauty titles in their respective states.

The twenty-four girls were picked from 1000 applicants who had been rounded up by Gae Foster's talent scouts. Not only was it necessary for the girls to be expert skaters but they had to be beautiful and be able to dance.

Unlike stage dancers who rehearse but once a week, the Rollerettes must rehearse every morning for two hours as the intricate numbers they do require perfect timing and speed. One girl can throw the entire line out of step.

The elaborate costumes worn by the Rollerettes were especially designed so that they would not interfere with their skating. The genius of Gae Foster is ably demonstrated by these talented girls in "Skating Vanities of 1942."

BETTER SKATING IN VANITIES

Terry Taylor



Chad Deatrack

Jay Edwards and Dolly Durkin



Bruce Towle and Gloria Nord



The Skating Vanities opened in the Arena, Chicago, on September 8th, after a summer layoff. It's a better show from the standpoint of competitive style skating than it was last season. The addition of Bruce Towle, Chad Deatrack and Terry Taylor adds considerable to the show's interest for skaters.

A better grade of skating is also noticeable in the chorus. This goes for both boys and girls. Even the "converted" vaudeville performers must have studied Perry B. Rawson's "Art of Plain Skating" during the summer. The Army has taken Gordon Finigan and

Walter Hughes, who are missed. Dolly Durkin skates with Terry Taylor, who is a better free skater than dancer. Dolly would be better paired with Jay Edwards, who is a first rate dancer. But Gae Foster still cares more about how they look together than how they skate together.

Gloria has added a couple of jumps to her routine and has worked hard all summer on school figures and details of competitive dances. Her jumps are about as strenuous as they can be on flexible trucks.

Even Art Elsasser, the human top from

Hollywood, is learning to skate as well as spin.

Bruce Towle has learned how to "put-himself-over" better. His arms have improved and he has learned the importance of not trying anything he is apt to miss. The flint-eyed crowd who buy tickets don't have the same sympathy for "lay-outs" that an amateur rink crowd extends.

This year skaters need have no hesitancy in recommending the Vanities as an example of roller skating at its best.

Better Skating at Vanities - Sept - Oct. Skating Review

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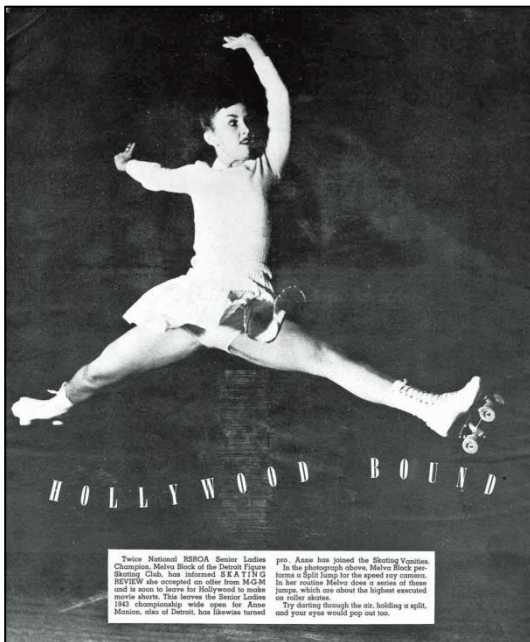
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FAME AND RECOGNITION

The commercial success of the Vanities changed the future of many amateur skaters who stayed with the show for multiple years, and for others who found success through other avenues.

With some of the most successful skaters banned from competition, opportunities to medal were open for those who otherwise might not have placed in the top three.

It should also be noted that this highly successful program was great recognition for roller skating as a sport, as an art and as an activity.



"The Better You Skate the More Fun You'll Have"

(Phrase frequently seen in Skating Review)

2016 Annual Museum Trustee Meeting

The 2016 Annual Trustee Meeting was held on Sunday, May 1, 2016 at the Rio Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The agenda included a variety of topics, including the raffle that would take place while in Vegas, the Museum's website, promotion of the Museum during the National Championships this year in Lincoln, establishment of an endowment fund, a new loan agreement for lending artifacts to other institutions, etc.

A committee was set to establish criteria for an award to recognize the work of George Pickard on behalf of the Museum, tentatively called the George Pickard Founders Award.

Annelle Anderson and Alan Bacon were re-elected for an additional terms as Trustees (expiring 2019). Officers were elected for one-year terms as follows: Annelle Anderson-President, Kim Wall-Vice President, Alan Bacon-Corporate Treasurer, and Peggy Young-Corporate Secretary. Jerry Pigsley was also approved to serve as the Registered Agent for the Museum.

As Members of the National Museum of Roller Skating, your support is essential. Thank you for enabling the preservation of the rich history of the sport, business and recreation of roller skating.

Museum Board of Trustees

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SKATING VANITIES

OF 1942

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