



Rolling Through Time

Official Newsletter of:

The National Museum of Roller Skating

4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506

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[@rollersk8museum](https://twitter.com/rollersk8museum)

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Bi-Monthly

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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.

SKATING VANITIES - For the next couple of newsletters we are going to focus on the fabulous Skating Vanities, its stars, the production, the locations, and the popularity.



Gloria Nordskog
before she became known as Gloria Nord



1942 February SKATING REVIEW: Mitzi Taylor, age 5 and Jane Broadhurst, 8, youngest members of the F.H.F. Figure Skating Club of Boston, say they have no trouble reading the pictures in SKATING REVIEW.

In our March 15 issue of the Museum Newsletter, we touched on how Ed Smith (formerly the Great Rexo of vaudeville fame) produced a monthly publication called the SKATING REVIEW that covered all roller action at the time of its publication, and for a period was the official publication of the Roller Skating Rink Operators Association.

While touring the country to promote sales for his new magazine, Smith "discovered" Gloria Nordskog (changed to Nord as reported in the July 1941 SKATING REVIEW). He approached her to tour the Midwest, and with the company of her mother, she gave exhibitions in rinks, theaters and cafes, acting as the goodwill ambassador for SKATING REVIEW.



Gloria Nordskog's mother makes her skating clothes. And such a wardrobe you never saw. Until we inspected this row upon row of beautifully made skating apparel hanging in the Nordskog Hollywood residence, we titled Melva Block of Detroit "America's Best Dressed Roller Skater." Gloria rates about equal. Mrs. Nordskog takes great delight in making costumes for her wax-doll daughter. She makes one gorgeous thing right after the other with no regard for the fact that the closet is now bulging. Mrs. Nordskog is a girl again making doll clothes... and WHAT a doll!



Ed Smith, Editor of SKATING REVIEW, with Gloria and her mother Daisy

From the December 1940 issue of "Skating Review" an article appeared (left) that stated:

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Gloria's mother Daisy traveled with her on tour with SKATING REVIEW and later with the Skating Vanities. "Gloria was one fine lady everyone loved her. When we were in Rome we had a private audience with the Pope. One time Louis Armstrong was with our show. Lots of memories. Coach Caroline" (Caroline Buchanan Mirelli)

Also from the December 1940 Skating Review: *On the evening of November 4th, SKATING REVIEW attended a two-hour "Roller Follies" presented for a local charity in the Hollywood Roller Bowl.*

Miss Patsy O'Bryan (eleven years old) was booked as the star...Patsy did beautifully, as did the entire cast, but SKATING REVIEW gives the high place of honor to Miss Gloria Nordskog. Gloria is the most graceful as well as the best looking amateur roller skater this magazine has seen perform in any rink in this country. That includes a lot of territory. If the producers of the coming Madison Garden Carnival don't bring Gloria to New York they're missing a bet...

Sport promotor, Harold Steinman, caught her performance of one such show in Chicago and offered her star billing in the new roller skating revue he was organizing, which initially used the name of Roller Follies. From the February 1942 SKATING REVIEW regarding the professional show: *On the cover below: Roller Follies Opening - Dolly Durkin, 1940 National Dance Champion, co-starred in roller's first big pro show with Betty Lytle and Gloria Nord, posing before the elaborately costumed chorus of fans. Each fan is said to have cost \$75. See pictures on page 2.*



On page 2: **ROLLER'S FIRST BIG PRO SHOW SEEMS A SUCCESS** - Roller Follies of 1942 produced by Fanchon and Marco and directed by Gae Foster, had its premier in Baltimore January 7th. Seats in the Coliseum sold up to \$1.65 and the four-day run proved that, with some revision, the show may be a commercial success.

Betty Lytle joined the cast with the Cleveland Arena opening on January 18th and as this issue goes to press reports from Cleveland say the show is a sell-out. It is a \$100,000 show with \$25,000 in costumes and a cast of 85, and if a series of engagements show it to be in public favor, it will be a big advertisement for the roller sport and a new incentive for skaters to make rollers a paying profession. After the trial runs, it is hoped more good skating talent can be attracted to the cast.

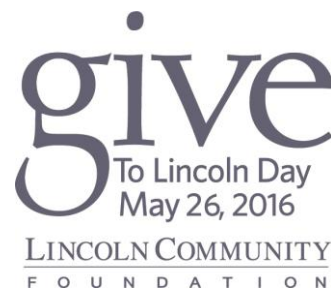
Gloria Nord said that she talked Steinman to dropping the show's original name, Roller Follies: because she thought it misled the public into thinking they were paying to see a roller derby, the contact sport featuring roughhousing skaters jamming on a track. The new name would be the Skating Vanities.

Can anyone identify this pin - Greenville R.S.A - 1885? Being relatively new to the resources in the National Museum, I have limited knowledge of lapel pins from the past. The person inquiring says "It seems to be copper and may have been an award of some type. Was there a RSA in Greenville in 1885? Greenville where--North Carolina, South Carolina, New York, Pennsylvania? Don't know how it ended up in Missouri. I think I got it with a box of junk at a garage sale." If we can identify it, the owner says he will donate it to the Museum. Anyone have any information to share?



GUEST WRITERS - There are so many individuals who are members of the Museum (as well as those who are not members), who can provide extremely valuable information for the preservation of our roller skating history. Let us know if you have a topic that we could include in this Newsletter and are willing to write something, or know of someone who has valuable knowledge of our history to share.

GIVE TO LINCOLN DAY - Mark your calendars. Funds donated to the National Museum of Roller Skating on 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.



MYSTERIES AT THE MUSEUM - The Mysteries at the Museum television show, which will include a segment filmed at the National Museum of Roller Skating, will premiere on the Travel Channel on Thursday, April 28 at 8:00 PM Central Time. The segment is titled "Nation of Sealand, Nantucket Sea Monster, Bandit Queen."

THANK YOU - Thank you to renewing members Gloria Manning, Gail Rushing, Robert and Charlene Conway, Kathleen Tini and RSA Section 2. We also wish to express our appreciation for donations from RSA Section 7 (Illinois and Indiana) sent in by Bob Hoousholder; and the donations in memory of George Pickard from Maurice Van Roekel and Marie Walker as well as one from Maurice Van Roekel in the name of Vince Cilurso.

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**Gloria Nordskog
as a young girl**



10 Cents a Copy

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SKATING REVIEW



Colliers, Pa. Look Parade and major metropolitan newspapers throughout America have given the roller skating sport highly favorable publicity during the past season through critics' universal approval of Gloria Nord. The 1942-43 season will carry this lady to greater heights. The sport is bound to benefit. Roller Skating's big exercise is shown here during a recent war bond drive at Arcadia Rink, Chicago.

Skate to Keep Fit—

