



Rolling Through Time

Official Newsletter of:

The National Museum of Roller Skating

4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506

(402) 483-7551 ext. 16

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

Prepared by Peggy Young

Bi-Monthly

March 31, 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.

GEORGE PICKARD

Author of

"Titans and Heroes of American Roller Skating"

Passed into Titan history on Sunday, March 20, 2016



George Pickard's rich history began as a judge, coach, and emanated to Sports Administrator of the RSROA, Editor of "Skate" Magazine, and Executive Director of USA Roller Sports. He directed the largest Roller Skating organization in the World when skating was at the height of visibility to the public. Ultimately, he became the first American appointed Secretary General International Federation of Roller Sports (FIRS).

George was a skilled organizer who desired no recognition. He liked to make things happen for athletes and coaches. He was very successful in his endeavors to make everything appear seamless to the public.

Much of what is now available in competitive skating is the result of his direction and support. He was an important part of the men and women who became "icons" in our sport. Icon is described as a "model or representation." George served as an excellent representative for competitive athletics and a model of what organization and strength can offer.

We celebrate the history he helped create and write in roller skating. He will be fondly remembered for the ages.

A Titan is described as "one who stands out for greatness of achievement"

George Pickard was a TITAN

- 1941 Recreational Skater - Detroit, Michigan - Arcadia Roller Rink
- 1945 - 1948 RSROA Competitive Figure Skater - Detroit - Arena Gardens/Arcadia
- 1946 - 1956 RSROA Amateur Judge, Tests and Competitions - Figure & Speed Skating
- 1956 - 1961 SRSTA Teacher - Detroit Arcadia and Cleveland Rollercade
- 1961 - 1972 Sport Administrator - RSROA Staff - Detroit and Lincoln, Nebraska
- 1967 - 1988 Managing Editor - SKATE Magazine - RSROA - Detroit and Lincoln, Nebraska
- 1972 - 1988 Executive Director Roller Skating Rink Operators Association - Lincoln
- 1973 - 2001 Resident Agent/Corporate Secretary - USA Roller Sports (Volunteer)
- 1984 - Present Member of USARS Hall of Fame Selection Committee
- 1988 - 2001 Executive Director USA Roller Sports (Staff)

- 1980 - 2005 Secretary/Treasurer National Museum of Roller Skating (Volunteer)
- 1981- Present Secretary/Treasurer US Foundation of Amateur Roller Skating (Volunteer)
- 1982 - 1990 Secretary General - International Federation of Roller Sports (FIRS)
- 1994 - 2000 Executive Committee Member - FIRS Inline Hockey Discipline (CIRILH)
- 2000 - 2008 President FIRS Inline Hockey Discipline (CIRILH) (Volunteer)
- 2000 - 2008 Member FIRS Central Committee

"With deep emotion I learned of the death of George Pickard, a milestone in the world of Roller Sports and of the USARS. The news has left us very sad.

I am sure that all who have had the opportunity to meet George, and experience his strength and qualities in the several roles he has held in the USARS and in the FIRS, have been deeply struck by this sad announcement. The Roller Sports world has lost both a man and a leader of great value. He has dedicated his life and his professional skills to the service of our sport, for its spread and development around the world. On behalf of the FIRS Executive Board and the entire world of roller sports, I extend my deepest condolences to his family and to the entire American Federation."

Sabatino Aracu
FIRS President

"The world of In Line Hockey exists inside FIRS, thanks to him.

He did a big job too, as General Secretary of FIRS. Really a GREAT MAN."

Gilbert Portier
FIRS In Line Hockey Chairman

"I was deeply shocked when I read about George's passing away. It is a huge loss for the skate family.

George, was a great and powerful FIRS General Secretary, a leader of Inline Hockey, a person of high integrity.

He left great memories on those who had the fortune to meet him and enjoy his friendship."

Harro Strucksberg
FIRS Rink Hockey Chairman

"As is said HE WAS A TITAN and he did so much for roller skating, in so very many ways.

He was someone who really was for the skaters, never once did he seek glory for himself, and skating has lost a very special person, and particularly the USA has lost a great man."

Margaret Brooks
FIRS Artistic Skating Chair

"I worked with him on Inline Hockey for 18 years and I am sure that if he had not taken up the reign and run with it, Inline Hockey within FIRS would not be there today. He had a brilliant command of the English language and never shrank from telling the truth, to be around him with his wit was so entertaining.

Everyone who dealt with George knew exactly where they stood he always told it as it was.

I first met George in Hawaii at an RSOA convention some 38 years ago and I thought then how great would it be to have someone like him in Australia to guide the sport which in those days was in its infancy. He will be missed and I am sure the office of USARS will never be the same."

Valerie Leftwich
Past FIRS Inline Hockey Committee
and FIRS First Vice President

"I am so grateful for the friendship we developed during my terms of service on the RSROA Board and later as President and Chairman. George's support and guidance was invaluable as you well know. His love of the sport of roller skating and his leadership as Executive Director of the Association during many, tumultuous times is testament to his dedication.

Many men and women have served the Associations over the years, however, in my personal opinion, no one has done so more faithfully nor made any greater contribution than George Pickard."

Walt Carter
Past RSROA President and Board Chairman

"George was never a glory hound. He didn't need to swagger around making sure everybody knew he was 'somebody', He just did the job, doing all he could to guide things in the right directions, working hard, and supporting the decisions being made, even when he didn't quite agree with them. He never complained. He supported me and helped me and would give me excellent insight and advice when I would need to talk something out relating to my work with the USARS Board, and within the USOC, where maybe I wanted to do something that would help my beloved sport. He never, ever gave me bad advice. I appreciated his mind, his good humor, and his humanity. I am quite certain he is up there tidying up Heaven and getting it more efficient! Rest warm and easy, George. Nobody deserves it more than you do. You were just about perfect."

Marie Walker, skater, judge, administrator - all because of you.
Past USARS President and Board Chairman

"It is a great blow to our industry to lose someone that created such an impact in all areas of roller skating. He was an unsung hero and will be greatly missed. On a personal level, George is one of the many reasons that I first became involved with the RSROA Convention, long before I had ever thought of joining the Board of Directors. To me, he will always be Mr. Roller Skating. It is a very sad day for our industry, for those of us who had the great pleasure to know him, and of course for his family. I will be keeping them all in my prayers during this time."

Jim McMahon
Executive Director, Roller Skating Association

"The oral and experience history of our sport has left."

Bill Spooner, USARS Board Chairman

"George's passing is a tremendous loss to our sport and to each and every one of us."

As we all know he was an excellent communicator, good with words, authoring two books about the history of roller skating. The history of our sport was always on his mind. All one had to do is look at the Museum of Roller Skating. As he would say, 'The museum is the preservation of our sport for generations to come.'

As Executive Director, George helped lead the organization to world prominence. He was passionate about developing and furthering the sport. He leaves a strong and extensive legacy.

Most of all he was my colleague and friend for over 30 years. Friends like George come along so rarely in one's life time. His wisdom and guidance will be missed and we will all be better because of him. He truly was a TITAN among TITANS and a HERO!

Betty Ann Danna, President of US Foundation for Roller Skating & Past USARS President

"George was a powerful influence to me and always expressed great confidence in me and what he believed I could accomplish. He will never be forgotten."

Danny Brown
USARS President

"I feel blessed to have had George as my employer and one of my best friends. I am a better person because of the example he set and my world a better place to live in. I could count on him to be supportive, give great advice and always want only the best for his family, friends, sport and industry."

Peggy Young
USARS Staff Member and past RSROA Staff Member

"How heavy my heart for this loss. What a hero he was to our sport, but also in our lives. My memories of his spirit and his life as it touched ours is huge! He was serious and funny and so smart! We are blessed to have known him and shared his vision over these many years. What a privilege to be a part of it all."

Connie Wahlig
Past Foundation Trustee

"When hearing that George had passed my heart just sank. George Pickard has done more for roller skating than anyone I know. He has not only been a friend to our family for over 50 years but a mentor to me as well. We have all lost a great man. Thank you George for everything you have done."

Jim Ball
Foundation Trustee
and owner of Sure-Grip International

"George was always a gentleman. He was the most knowledgeable person I ever met as to the history of a sport and the politics of the world organizations. George was one of the few people who could convince a group to agree with his position, which made him so valuable to USARS. He knew the facts. He knew the players. He knew how to treat people. He knew how to write the most detailed report...he never missed any facts. He was dedicated and one of the most loyal people I have ever been involved with."

Mark Vittese
Past USARS Board Member
and Inline Hockey Committee Member

"George was always funny, kind, helpful while remaining concerned as to USA Roller Sports organization remaining viable as the NGB... George, will be sorely missed by the Worldwide Roller Sports community, including the Inline Hockey organizations around the world who emailed me when they heard of George's passing."

Keith Noll
FIRS Inline Hockey Committee Member
and USARS Board Member

Survivors - George Pickard is survived by his wife, Suzanne Pickard; children, Steven (Ruth) Pickard of Greensboro Bend, Vermont, Dennis (Rachel) Pickard of Liberty, Missouri., Renee (John) Osterhoudt of Scottsdale, Arizona, Sheri (Shawn) Johnson of Omaha; Nebraska, grandchildren, Joe and Alayna Pickard, Nicole and Andrew Osterhoudt, Zach and Alex Johnson. This fine and caring family is further testament to his success in life, shared with wife Suzanne.

Donate to the Museum in his Memory - George Pickard's dedication and love for the Museum was apparent to anyone who knew him. Why not remember him with a donation and at the same time support the National Museum in its mission to preserve the history of roller skating. You can do so online at the museum website, send a check or contact the Museum with a credit card number.

The family of George Pickard and the National Museum of Roller Skating appreciate the donations received to date from the U.S. Foundation of Amateur Roller Skating, Bob and Annelle Anderson, Ann Behan and David Schafer, Dominic Cangelosi, Gary and Mary Lee Castro, Charlene and Robert Conway, Joe and Betty Ann Danna, Scott and Kathy Kleiman and Lindsey Kleiman-Balasabas, Carl Lukffahr, Caroline Mirelli, Ricci Porter and Kevin Kmetz, David Ramsey, Tina Robertson, Sally Smith, Helen Sougey, South Central USARS Region, Bill and Marian Spooner, Connie Wahlig and Peggy Young.

National Museum of Roller Skating Grand Opening - April 13, 1982

Museum Board of Trustees - Left to Right: George Pickard-Lincoln, NE; Bert Anselmi-Pontiac, MI; Richard Young-West Warwick, RI; Director/Curator Mike Brooslin-Lincoln, NE; Marvin Facher-Elizabeth, NJ; Bob Bollinger-Portland, OR; James Turner-Maryville, TN; and Chester Fried- South River, NJ



Thank you to renewing members Timothy Laskey and Caroline Mirelli

Benefactor Museum Members (\$500+)

Dan & Kim Brown	Flint, MI
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Roller Skating Association	Indianapolis, IN
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Donor (\$50)

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Delaney Hansen	Warsaw, IN
Ella Hansen	Warsaw, IN
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National Skate Distributors	Tacoma, WA
Janet Pavidonis	Lake Worth, FL
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Donna Rhodes	Newton, NC
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Skate World West	Billings, MT
Bill & Marian Spooner	Battle Ground, WA
Alfred Taglang	Riverview, FL
Jim Turner	Milwaukee, WI
Joseph Wagner	Algonquin, IL

Individual/Family (\$35)

Phyllis Bennett	N. Dartmouth, MA
Jose Bordas	Miami, FL
Marion Cherubini	Marshfield, MA
Stephanie Creswell	Elkton, MD
Peter Dolan	Texas City, TX
Carey Elder	Marlton, NJ
Chrissy Ellis	Douglasville, GA
Sue Filo	Stuart, FL
Jeri & John Fahrni	Deadwood, SD
Fleming Family	Northridge, CA
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Cynthia Gates	Newmarket, NH
Susan Geary	Surprise, AZ
Sylvia Haffke	Covington, GA
Mary Hayes	Northbrook, IL
Charlotte Heath	El Dorado Hills, CA

Individual/Family (\$35) - continued

Ed & Mary Ellen Hughes	Liberty, MO
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Edie Plimpton Fleeman	Durham, NC
Pattison's West	Federal Way, WA
Janet Pavilonis	Lake Worth, FL
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Wayne Ramsey	Mableton, GA

Individual/Family (\$35) - continued

Amy Readshaw	Coraopolis, PA
Marilyn Roberts	New York, NY
Victor Rodriguez	Voorhees, NJ
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RSA Section 5	San Antonio, TX
Gail Rushing	Dallas, TX
Tom Russo	Myrtle Beach, SC
Lori Schade Shelly	Coopersburg, PA
Erika Schaefer	Lincoln, NE
Dave Schafer	Midland, MI
Ellie Shattuck	San Francisco, CA
Richard Sholes	Cranston, RI
Jerry & Barbara Shores	St. Joseph, MO
Kathy Tini	Douglassville, PA
Judith Young Link	Mays Landing, NJ
Katie Znamenacek	Oak View, CA

Preserving our Past for the Future - National Museum of Roller Skating Raffle - Ticket Price \$50.

Three prizes will be awarded based on the total amount sold. First ticket drawn receives 5% of total ticket sales. Second ticket drawn receives 10% of total ticket sales. The third and final ticket drawn receives 35% of the total sales. Total prizes are 50% of ticket sales.

The drawing will take place, on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, at the RSA International Convention, Rio All Suites Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, during the President's Dinner. Ticket holders need not be present to win. To purchase a raffle ticket, please contact the museum and provide your name, address, phone number, email address and **payment** of \$50 per ticket. All proceeds benefit the museum.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROLLER SKATING 2016 RAFFLE	
<i>Please print or type</i>	
Purchaser	_____
Address	_____
City/State/Zip	_____
Phone # (____) _____	_____
Email	_____
Ticket Seller	_____
Ticket Number A-001	
PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE Price \$50. Three prizes will be awarded based on total amount sold. First ticket drawn receives 5% of total ticket sales. Second ticket drawn receives 10% of total ticket sales. The third and final ticket drawn receives 35% of the total sales. Total prizes are 50% of ticket sales.	
Drawing to take place, Wednesday, May 4, 2016, at the RSA International Convention, Rio All Suites Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, during the President's Dinner. Ticket holders need not be present to win. All proceeds benefit the museum.	
 The National Museum of Roller Skating is a publicly supported, charitable organization.	

