

December 2023

Rolling Thru Time
Newsletter

The National Museum of Roller Skating



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Museum Receives \$5,000 Donation By Peggy Young

At their 2023 Annual Board of Trustees Meeting, the U.S. Foundation for Amateur Roller Skating unanimously approved a \$5,000 donation to the National Museum of Roller Skating in memory of Howard "Bud" Engle.

For more than 60 years, Bud and his wife Shirley were front and center in their unwavering support of roller skating and roller skaters. There are so many instances over the years that can be cited, but a brief synopsis will give an idea of what Bud did, sometimes as an individual but always with the support or involvement of his loving wife.



Bud and Shirley were leaders in skating judges' education, and they developed achievement test study guides, tests and scored exams. For years Bud and Shirley coordinated the awards at the U.S. National Roller Skating Championships, displaying a level of respect and care befitting our competitors. He served as a Great Lakes Regional Director and meet director for many other competitions. Together they provided financial support for the Brookpark Precision Team and individual skaters, permitting them to participate in numerous World Championships.

Bud was a member of the Museum Board of Trustees and also served on the U.S. Foundation. Bud and Shirley regularly attended the USA Roller Sports Board Meetings on behalf of the Great Lakes Region. If Bud could assist in any way, he could be counted on to step up. The unanimous decision of the Foundation Trustees to recognize his many contributions with a memorial donation to the National Museum of Roller Skating was an easy one. Thank you Bud, we will never forget you.

Current members of the Foundation are Jim Ball-President, David Ramsey-Vice President, Al Taglang-Treasurer, Peggy Young-Secretary, Annelle Anderson, Betty Ann Danna, Steven Findlay, Heidi Permatteo and Marian Spooner.





Golf Tournament Keeps Funds Rollin into the Museum

The Museum's first golf tournament was spearheaded by Frank Torries at The Revere Golf Club at Anthem just preceding the RSA convention in Las Vegas. This is the first year that Torries has organized this successful event for

the Museum, but he hopes it will not be the last. The following businesses contributed to the fundraiser: JBL Trinity Group, CSA Business Solutions, Star Wholesale Lighting and Sound, Sure Grip, Rebeccas, Riedell Skates, Quick n' Crispy and Golden Horse Used Skates. The following golfers donated and participated: Ralph Dunham, Anthony Profaci, Scott Riegelman, Tyler Havans, Jim Fould, Luke Powell, Jim Ball, Steven Ball, Jeff Groban, Bob Householder, Pat Savell, Joe Champa, Billy Thompson, Skip Clinton, Pete Morin, Doug Glass, Carter Malone, Ben Rohe, and Frank Torries.

Other Donations

The following people gave in memory of Velma Forsyth: Bob & Annelle Anderson, Nancy Mandorf, Linda Miner, Judy Graves, Kenneth Smith, Donna Malooff, Honey, Louis Ledford, and SC Region USARS.

Shirley Engle for staff salaries
Caroline Mirelli in memory of Pat Widman
Phyllis Bulleigh Alley for Team of Bulleigh & Cecil Davis
Pinnacle Skating Club: Unspecific donation
Additional Anonymous Donation

Oral Interviews Waiting on Further Donations

Donations are still being accepted for the Museum's oral interview project. The project began with a \$10,000 grant, and now is sustained only by donations. Over 30 historical people have been interviewed, but there are many more great candidates whose stories won't be told without continued generosity. Historically, there has not been enough funds from general operations for special projects like this unless monies are received from grants or special donations.

Amy Richardson, former Museum Archivist, who has training in this area, is conducting the interviews. A donation of \$50 unlocks your access to the recordings. A donation of \$1,000 entitles you to submit an individual for consideration to be interviewed. To donate visit the Museum's website at <https://www.rollerskatingmuseum.org/>, click on the "DONATE" button and choose the amount and designation (oral history).

The following individuals have contributed to this project: Danny Brown, Kim Wall, and an anonymous donor.

To donate visit the Museum's website [HERE](#)
Choose the amount and designation (oral history).

HELP PRESERVE OUR HISTORY

The National Museum of Roller Skating has an Oral History Project

Buggy Allmond:

“Life. It gives me life, it gives me friendship. And it gives you hope for the future of growing up, when I was growing up.”



The Museum Has Great Gifts for Christmas

As you shop for family and friends this Christmas, don't forget the Museum's store for great gifts. One highlight is the numerous shirts with historical roller-skating pictures. What better way while wearing one of these shirts, to spark a conversation on one's connection to roller skating. Another are the books on the history of roller skating. Even with a visit or two to the Museum, these books add immensely to skating's great history. Don't forget to buy something for yourself too.

To visit the Museum store, go [**HERE**](#).

Another great gift is Museum membership. Go [**HERE**](#)



Max McKillip, Museum employee, is taking a photo of one of the Museum's artifacts in the Museum's lightbox in order to put it on the online database program, CatalogIt. Along with former Museum employee and now board member and volunteer Alexis Cruz, they have been making the Museum's collections better organized and more accessible.

Library Display Highlights Skating History

By Alan Bacon

Roller skating history is not just displayed at the National Museum of Roller Skating. In fact, one of the best exposures of skating history was at the San Francisco airport that the Museum participated in a number of years ago. As previously highlighted in the April issue, the Washington State Historical

Society at their Museum in Tacoma, Washington, had a seven month display of roller-skating history of Washington State.

No sooner did I bring home my historical skates that I had loaned the Washington museum, then my local library asked me to do a display of my rink's 70-year history along with the history of roller skating. They gave me the showcase space as you walk into the library. I gathered some pictures, and my daughter, Kelsey Bacon, who designs this newsletter, made three 36 x 24 posters: one on the history of my rink, one on the eras of skating history, and one on competitive skating.

Most appropriately in a library setting, I added many of my books on skating history to the display, in back of the historical skates that I usually display in a showcase at my facility. My rink has had a long relationship with our local library, working together on the RSA's Read to Roll program. Hopeful, this article might inspire others to think how they can promote roller skating history in their local community. If the opportunity presents itself, the Museum and/or myself can be of help.





1860s
The invention of the quad skate revolutionized roller skating. Before then, primitive inline skates were difficult to use and were not popular.

1910
The invention of steel ball bearings in wheels put the roll in roller skating. Clamp-on skates and metal plates replaced leather straps and wood plates.

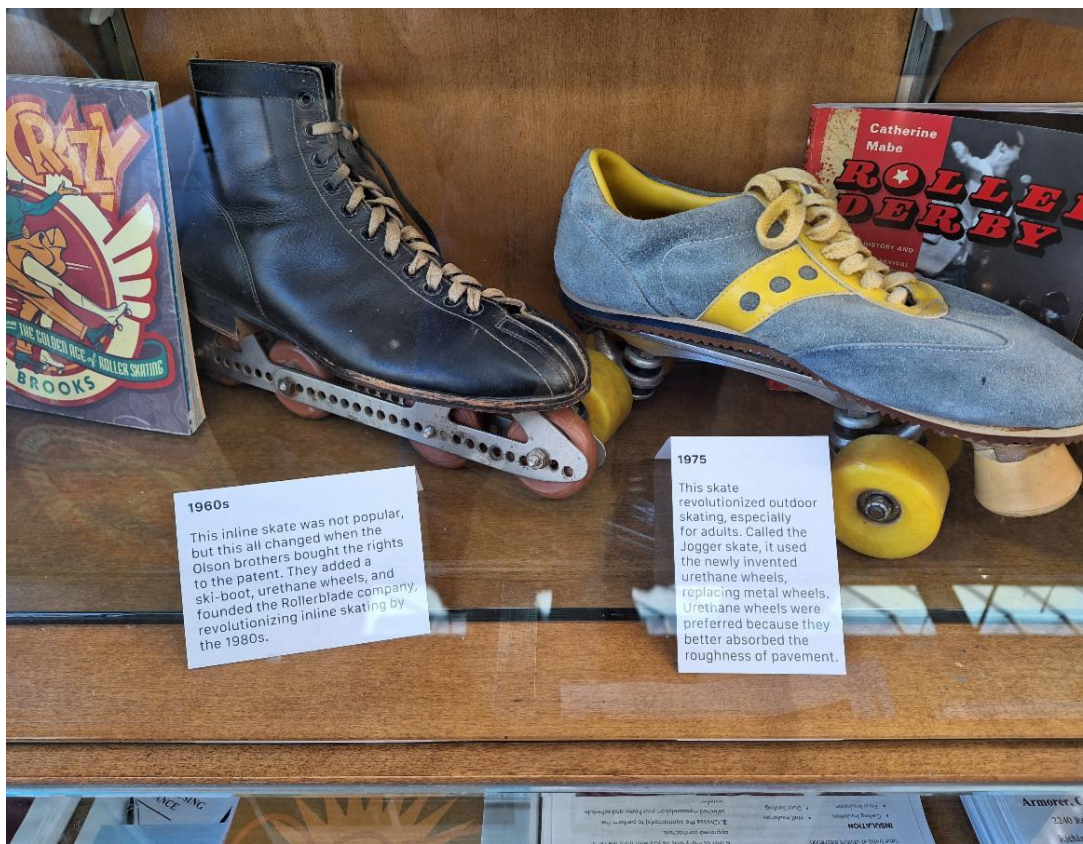
Left Skate Above: This is an 1880s Henley Skate, similar to revolutionary Plimpton skate of the 1860s. The plate is made of wood, with leather straps and wooden wheels with no bearings. I was able to buy this from eBay. (Unfortunately, I haven't been able to buy a rare, pre-Plimpton inline skate.)

Right Skate Above: This early 1900s skate shows the evolution from wooden plates to metal ones. Wood straps have been replaced by the clamp-on mechanism invented by the Barney and Berry Skate Company. Also pictured is an iconic skate key. Most importantly, steel ball bearings, first made popular by the Richardson Skate Company, put the roll into roller skating. This skate was a gift from Chester Fried a number of years ago.



Left Skate Above: This 1905 inline skate was one of the few produced for many decades after Plimpton invented the quad skate. Until Rollerblades appears in the 1980s, none of these inlines were popular. I obtained this skate from a former local rink operator.

Right Skate Above: This black low-cut men's skate is typical of the mid-20th century, when boot skates replaced clamp-ons. Wooded wheels were still popular with loose ball bearings, and the toe stop is still evolving. I was given these skates by the children of a local skater who had passed.



1960s

This inline skate was not popular, but this all changed when the Olson brothers bought the rights to the patent. They added a ski-boot, urethane wheels, and founded the Rollerblade company, revolutionizing inline skating by the 1980s.

1975

This skate revolutionized outdoor skating, especially for adults. Called the Jogger skate, it used the newly invented urethane wheels, replacing metal wheels. Urethane wheels were preferred because they better absorbed the roughness of pavement.

Left Skate Above: This Chicago inline skate of the 1960s was never popular, but Scott Olson bought the patent and changed the boot and wheels in the 1980s to revolutionize inline skates. For the first time since Plimpton's era, inlines have given quad skates competition. My dad bought this skate for me when I was a kid. I wore it a couple of times and threw it in the back room because it was too hard to skate on. It miraculously survived until I resurrected it as an adult.

Right Skate Above: The Sure-Grip Jogger outdoor skate of the late 1970s, revolutionized outdoor skating, especially for adults. Besides the new look, the most important change is in the wheels. Instead of metal wheels, common in outdoor skates for decades, the new urethane wheel made skating on concrete and asphalt much more comfortable. Also, precision bearings replaced loose ball. I won this skate as the grand prize in 1977 in the first trade show I attended after taking over my parents' rink.

STAY CONNECTED

The National Museum of Roller Skating | (402) 483-1465 extension 203

4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506

www.rollerskatingmuseum.com



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 displays cases, the museum educates the public on all aspects of roller skating, which dates back to the first patented skate from 1819.

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