



Museum Newsletter

By James Vannurden
Director and Curator

National Museum of Roller Skating
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Bi-Monthly
April 2, 2012

Who We Are

The National Museum of Roller Skating is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in Lincoln, Nebraska and the only dedicated roller skating museum in the world. We are committed to the preservation of the history of roller skating. With over 40 display cases, the museum educates the public on all aspects of roller skating, which dates back to the first patented skate from 1819.

Curator's Corner

Museum Conference

I attended the annual Nebraska Museum Association conference last week in Kearney, Nebraska. The gathering allowed many museum professionals from across the state to learn about how others operate and what can be best implemented in their own institutions.

The main speakers were John and Anita Durel, consultants in the museum field. Their talks centered on museum management. Ideas included: staff oversight, dealing with the board, and how to go from a viable organization to a sustainable organization.

Conferences like these are helpful on two levels. First, the content can usually help all those present, in one way or another. Second, it is a great opportunity to meet others in your region.

AAU Visitors

Early last week the museum welcomed those from the AAU circuit. Visiting USA Roller Sports on official business, the AAU president and director of sports took some time to visit the museum. This helped them see the importance of roller skating's past, how it has grown, and how it can continue to grow with the proper development on all levels.

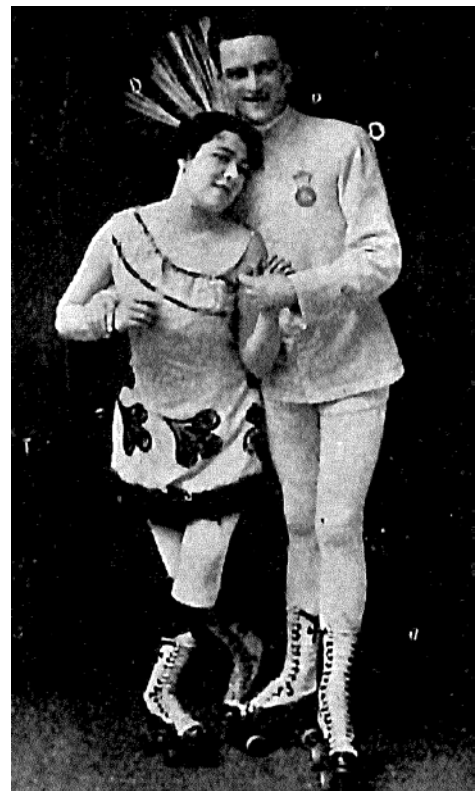
Furthermore, they both walked away with two of our books. *Titans and Heroes of American Roller Skating* can give them insight into those who helped build up the sport, and *Skater's History on Ice and Roller Skating* tells of the athletes of the past. By experiencing our museum, we hope the AAU continues to support our sport of roller skating into the future.

Museum Hours this Month

For the Easter holiday, the museum will be closed Friday, April 6. Happy holidays to everyone!

Skater Profile: Fielding and Carlos Fancy Skaters and Novelty Dancers

*This information can be found in the book from the museum store entitled **Skaters History on Ice and Roller Skating**. For more information like this, consider purchasing the book. Thanks.*



The team of Howard Fielding and Helen Carlos began back in 1908. Previously individual skaters, the two teamed-up to become one of the best skating acts in the country. They performed at rinks and during vaudeville showcases. The two skated out of Milwaukee, WI.

Howard Fielding skated individually from 1902 until 1908. He focused on fancy skating and trick skating. He also challenged new comers to short races, rarely losing a half mile race. Fielding was considered one of the most graceful skaters of his time.

Known as "Dainty" Helen Carlos, she was also considered one of the best female skaters of her time. Their act, but mostly due to Carlos, gained fame for its originality in beautiful costumes.

Library Feature:
Chicago: The Quality Skate



The Chicago Skate Company continually produced literature for the masses to increase its knowledge about their brand. This furthered their inclination to support Chicago and more apt to buy its products.

This particular booklet, produced in 1933, attempts to educate the public on all things associated with the Chicago Skate Company. It offers a glimpse inside its factory through practices and photographs.

The heart of the booklet, of course, is the company's product lineup. It does not solely focus on skates. The booklet also includes items such as: skate cases, racing shoes, repair parts, a surfacing machine, rink tickets, rink signs, an organ, riveting machines, advertising signs, a floor brush, and even caps & uniforms for staff.

An additional section describes how to open and conduct a proper roller skating rink. This two page instructional guide covers a variety of topics from admission price to skate rental price and duration of sessions to length of sessions. It recommends 250 pairs of skates on hand per every 5,000 square feet of skating surface. Also, a skating season should not extend past a five month period, with exception to those near the sea shore or other summer resorts; anything longer is a "great mistake." Finally, the instructions cover proper floor maintenance; one should use heavy sandpaper blocks attached to a long handle frequently to avoid unnecessary pumice, chalk, or whiting to prevent slipping.

Skate of the Week:
 Kennedy



These Kennedy 2-wheeled inline skates demonstrate a different construction mold than the usual skate. This all metal variety has a large ankle support. A gift of Bill Ludascher, the Kennedy model is very similar in concept to the Ritter Road skate of the late 1890s.

As with all inline skates, the key to success on this pair is the ability to turn corners. This is achieved on the Kennedy skate by its front wheel having turning action through the use of a spring and large rear wheel. The skater can lift up on the front of the skate and pivot using the rear wheel. These skates were patented on May 25, 1909.

For those wishing to renew their memberships, we included the following form. Thanks in advance!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Membership Level	1 year	2 years
Benefactor	___ \$500	___ \$950
Patron	___ \$250	___ \$475
Assoc Patron	___ \$100	___ \$185
Donor	___ \$50	___ \$90
Individual/Family	___ \$35	___ \$65
Additional Contribution	\$ _____	
Total Enclosed \$	_____	

Method of Payment

___ Check to National Museum of Roller Skating

___ Visa ___ MasterCard

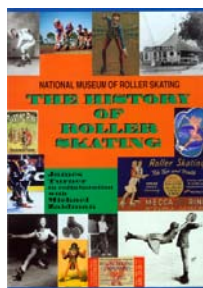
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Exp. _____

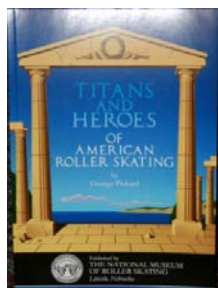
Signature _____

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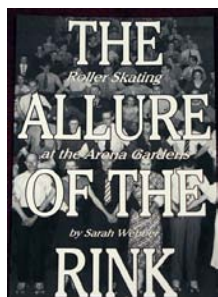
Book Store



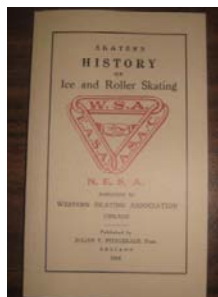
\$15



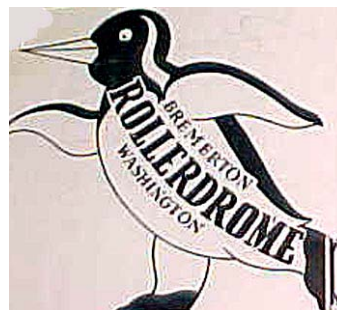
\$20



\$7



\$15



Wish List

The museum is expanding its video archive. We would like a DVD copy if possible, but VHS is fine.

1.) First, the museum wants to complete its roller skating big screen collection. Please contact the museum before sending your donation, in case we receive multiple interests on the same film. We continue to need the following film: *Skate Town USA*

2.) In addition, the museum is interested in any video footage of national competitions prior to 1980. While DVD format is best, the museum will also gladly accept VHS films. Labeling with events is a plus.

3.) Third, we have very little footage of the Skating Vanities. Really, the only good quality shots we have are scenes from the 1944 movie *Pin Up Girl*.

Thanks in advance for your considerations.

Rink Sticker Collection

The museum has an extensive collection of roller skating rink stickers. Many skating rinks used to produce stickers as both an advertisement and fun way to for skaters to interact with one another, comparing the different location in which they skated. These were even traded as collectibles both informally and formally, under the Universal Roller Skating Sticker Exchange founded in 1948. Each newsletter, we will feature four different rink stickers. Here are a few examples of the numerous stickers in the collection and on display at the National Museum of Roller Skating.

Thanks for supporting the museum!



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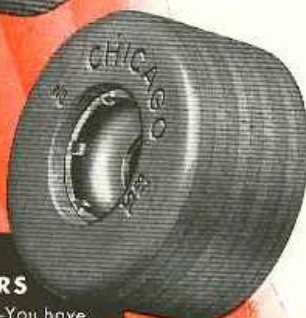
87^{SL}



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87^{SL}



RINK MANAGERS

Watch for our next POSTER—You have already received the first . . . "THE FIREBALL" in 3 colors and the second . . . "A GIFT" in 2 colors overlaid with brilliant DAY-GLO. These posters are intended to help promote your Rink, Services and Sales. We welcome your comments.

THE GREATEST ADVANCEMENT IN SKATE WHEELS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF SKATING!!

Again modern science triumphs over nature! "CHICAGO'S" new 87SL Wheel is superior to the finest solid maple wheel ever made. Eleven plastic-bonded laminations give you the advantages you have long sought and never found.

For instance, the new 87SL outlasts old style wheels . . . 20 to 1! It remains true far longer . . . requires fewer regrinds . . . gives sm-o-o-o-o-ther skating and gives you more hours of skating pleasure at only a fraction of former costs! And best of all . . . now you can forget about loose bushings! Bushings in the 87SL remain factory-tight indefinitely because neither moisture nor temperature variation effect this wheel!

"How come?" "I don't believe it!" "Prove it!" So phenomenal is this new 87SL that it's only natural to wonder how such advantages are possible. Yet this . . . this new wheel is not one solid piece of wood . . . it's eleven! Each lamination is plastic bonded in such a manner that the shock-resistant, long wearing end grain is evenly distributed over the entire skating surface!

That's the secret of the amazing new 87SL! Get a set from your rink today . . . you'll double your skating fun and you'll reduce your cost substantially! Get 87SL's today! Packed in complete sets of eight in a colorful carton.

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