



Museum Newsletter

By James Vannurden
Director and Curator

National Museum of Roller Skating
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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

Gloria Nord Donation



(Gloria Nord of the Skating Vanities)

Mike Nordskog, the great-nephew of former roller skating great Gloria Nord of the Skating Vanities, called the museum last month to gauge our interest in accepting a donation from his great-aunt's skating days. He tantalized our imaginations with thoughts of great skating gowns, photographs, skates, and other effects. After the passing of Gloria, he remained entrusted with her skating items and wanted a better home for them, perhaps at a place where they could be given the proper respect and admiration.



(Travel trunk)

After receiving photographs of the items by email, the museum anxiously awaited their arrival. A large crate, measuring almost 6 feet high by 4 feet wide arrived at the museum on October 16. The main item that took up most of the space was the original travel trunk of Gloria during her Skating Vanities days. Pictured above, the trunk contained items Gloria needed during her shows; this included makeup, jewelry, head dresses, skates, accessories, and her dresses.



(Gloria with travel trunk)



(Painting of Gloria)

Included with her costumes and jewelry, the donation of Gloria Nord came with some artwork. First, the painting shown above stands four feet high. The artist Benedict depicts Gloria standing on her toes. Secondly, the donation included a colored drawing of Gloria in costume.

A real treasure in the donation was the box of photographs. These original photos, as noted by photographer stamps and dates on the backs, showcased Gloria in multiple poses and costumes. Over two hundred of the photos were 8x10 sizes. The rest included smaller sizes like 5x7s, 4x6s, 3x5s, down to wallet size. Group poses, like the picture below, also captured others of the show. With over three hundred photographs in all, this addition to the museum collection gives our archives a better look inside the Skating Vanities.



(Vanities group shot)

Library Feature:
The Listening Post: December 1941

The LISTENING POST

READ THE "POST" FOR THE LATEST NEWS COVERING ALL CALIFORNIA RINKS



MISS GLORIA NORD

Who will make a personal appearance at the Roller Bowl on Thursday evening, December 11th, 1941. Miss Nord is under the direction of Mr. Sid Grauman.

DECEMBER, 1941 — 5c

The Listening Post covered news from all of the California rinks. Published in Los Angeles, this monthly guide promoted roller skating and its rinks within the state.

Rinks had a full page a space dedicated to their own promotions, programs, club news, and session pricing. These rinks included: The Roller Palace Roller Rink of Glendale, The Rollerdrome Roller Rink of Culver City, the Pacific Skating Rink in San Diego, Roller Center Skating Rink of South Gate, Moonlight Rollerway in Pasadena, The Shrine Roller Rink of LA, and Hollywood's The Hollywood Roller Bowl.

Renewing Members

Alan & Judy Bacon
Richard Scholes
Michael Nelson

Roller Skating Firsts

- First rubber wheels on a roller skate were on the English "Woodward" skate in 1852.
- First skate wheels with ball bearings was patented in 1884 by Levant M. Richardson.

Rink Photo: Pacific Skating Rink



Pacific Skating Rink

Front and "G" Streets
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
PAUL T. AGSTEN, Manager
San Diego's Largest and Finest
HOWARD MATHIS AT THE CONSOLE
PHONE MAIN 7394

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

Credit Card

Number _____

Exp. _____

Signature _____

Mail to: National Museum of Roller Skating,

4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506

Fax to: 402-483-1465

Wish List

1.) **Rink Files:** The museum seeks to expand its roller rink files. In the archives, the museum houses files upon files of individual roller rinks from across the country. These files are used for research purposes. *We recently helped a gentleman find photos from the Bal-A-Roue Rink in Medford, MA from our archives.*

The more rinks we have on file, the greater chance we have to help those searching for information. We are looking for photos, programs, ticket stubs, newspaper articles, and any other primary information about roller rinks.

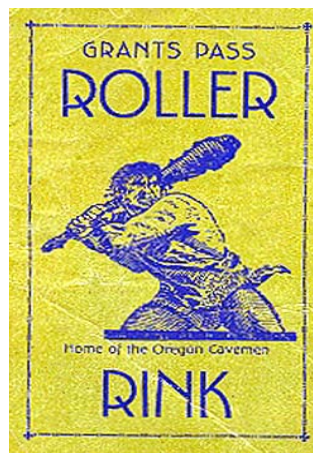
2.) **Regional programs:** We need modern issues of all regional programs. For example, we need Northeast programs from '93-'00 and '04-present, Southeast '88-'97 and '05-present, and Eastern '86-'97 and '04-present..

The museum's goal is to have two copies of each issue for its permanent archives. With regionals now over, **please send copies of your regional programs** to the museum. Thanks in advance.

3.) The museum needs items from **jam skating**. DVDs, skates, programs, t-shirts, magazines, and anything associated with the sport are needed for the museum. Please contact us to see what you can donate.

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!



Where Were You in '62?

by Nance Kirk

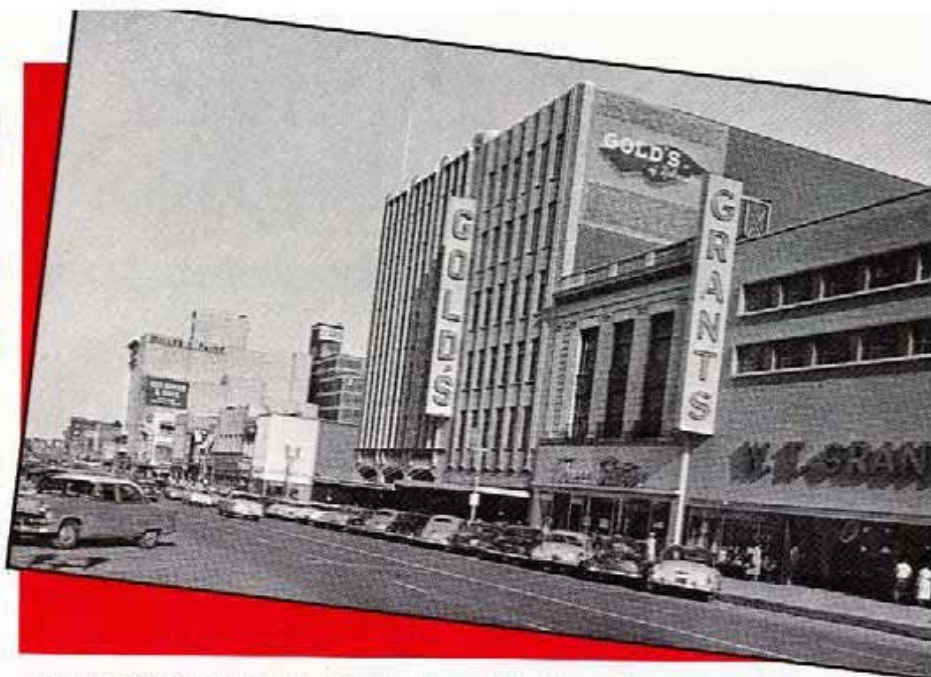
Most competitors in the 1987 National Artistic and Indoor Speed Championships weren't even born—or were barely babes—the first time the event came to Pershing Auditorium in Lincoln, Neb. So that let's them off the hook. For the rest of you, here's a pop quiz recalling a few highlights of 1962:

1. Why was the event called the American Roller Skating Championships instead of the U.S. National Championships?
2. Which two current U.S. Amateur Confederation of Roller Skating Board members competed against each other in Esquire Dance?
3. Which roller skating disciplines were included in the schedule?
4. Who were the skaters whose win began the longest running string of victories in U.S. dance skating?
5. Eddie Perales won the '62 RSROA (U.S. Federation of Amateur Roller Skaters) Senior Men's speed title. What famous speed coach won the U.S. Amateur Roller Skating Association's national senior event that same year?

25 Years Ago

In 1962, the city of Lincoln had to be convinced that hosting the roller skating championships was a good idea. Most folks in the area hadn't seen much competitive skating, but they knew what they didn't like.

"Roller derby," confirmed Ike Hoig, who was the manager of Pershing Auditorium back then. "The city leaders sent me to Fort Worth in 1961 as an observer so I could make a recommendation on whether or not Lincoln would want these championships. They knew they didn't want anything like roller derby. What I saw in Fort Worth amazed me. When I came back I told them it was like the Ice Capades, which was a very popular show back then."



Lincoln's "O" Street in the early '60s. Good heavens! Are those parking spaces on the street?!

Hoig's most vivid memory of the '62 championships was the enthusiasm of the city. "There was a big parade," he recalled, "and all the merchants wore buttons welcoming the skaters. The shops downtown all had window displays with skating themes. And there was good attendance. The show sold out, I think." (Exhibition programs similar to the Gold Skate Classic used to take place on the opening night of the championships.)

The Cornhusker was the official headquarters hotel for the championships in 1962. Since then, of course, the landmark hotel was destroyed, then resurrected on the same site and once again serves as the headquarters hotel.

Sadly, however, the retail base of the city has moved east to about 60th and "O" Streets, so not as many downtown merchants remain to put up window displays. Yet skaters seem to find their way from downtown to the malls and back, and civic leaders continue to welcome them for the economic boost they provide each summer that the championships are held in Lincoln. This summer marks the 14th time the city has hosted the event.

Now that your memory's been jogged by the mention of parades, shows and the old Cornhusker, here are the answers to the quiz on events 25 years ago this summer.

"Inter" National Title

The event was the American Roller Skating Championships in order to permit Canadian athletes to participate. In fact, the 1962 "national" champion in women's singles was a Canadian, Beverly Bowers of Toronto, who had also won the title in 1961.

Clear Winners

In Esquire Dance, Marie and Edward Walker of New Britain, Conn., and Dennis and Boots Snead of High Point, N.C., were among the 1962 entries. The Walkers won the gold. But the next generation of skaters have been the real winners. Marie and Dennis are still active in roller skating's administration with Walker as Chairman of the Board and Snead as Chairman of the Speed Committee.

Three For All

At the 1962 American Championships, artistic, speed and roller hockey were all included, scheduled in much the same way as the U.S. Olympic Festival events are now. For example, the program for Tuesday evening, July 31, read like this:

7 p.m. - Speed
Intermediate Men's 1-mile Final
8 p.m. - Hockey
Final
9 p.m. - Artistic
Esquire Dance Final

(Hope it didn't take the Intermediate Men an hour to skate one mile!)