



Museum Newsletter

By James Vannurden
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Bi-Monthly
February 1, 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

Tour

In late January we welcomed a tour from the Eastmont Towers, a local life care community. This group consisted of fourteen individuals. For almost an hour, these guests shared with me their stories of roller skating. One had fond memories of watching early roller derby on television. Another mentioned that while she never skated indoors in a nice rink, she was an avid skater on sidewalks. Each individual mentioned how nicely the museum was displayed. From the costumes and trophies to the photographs and skates, they asked many questions to gain further insight. They all left very satisfied with their trip and were glad ours was the destination of the day.

Sign Meeting

The museum is set to meet with the area Historic Preservation Commission to discuss our new outdoor sign. Since the museum building is on the national registry of historic places, any changes to the building or lot have to be approved by the commission. We expect no problems with the commission as they have been supportive of our efforts since the beginning. This meeting is set to take place on February 16. They will vote on the image from our previous newsletter.

Additional Tour Scheduled

Den three of pack forty-three has scheduled a museum tour for February. Twelve cub scouts ages seven and eight are set to explore the museum. On permanent display is our "Skating in the Scouts" case. The boys will be interested to learn that in 1952 Ann McBrearty lobbied the Girls Scouts of America to start a roller skating badge. After almost two years this new badge was adopted. With the boy scouts adding this feature a few years later, scouts could now learn about roller skating and how to skate safely. On display are the requirements necessary to gain a badge, such as proper skate upkeep, safety rules, and levels of execution of

skating like skating backwards. Since the museum's hours of operation did not coincide with their schedule, the museum will stay open late just to accommodate the scouts. The museum does not like saying no to groups who want to come and visit.



Roller Skating Valentines: examples 1-2

Skater Profile: Bert Randall

Northern Counties Champion of England

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.



Born in Chesterfield, England, Bert Randall became a very successful English skater. He began roller skating competitively in 1910 at local matches.

His first big races occurred in the following year. In 1911, Randall won the Derbyshire State Championships. He finished first in the 1 mile and 5 mile events. In 1912, Randall again won the Derbyshire State Championships. From there, he competed in and won the Sheffield and District Championships. He finished the season placing third in the Northern Counties Championships.

After 1912, Randall began to divide his time between racing and roller hockey. He became a member of the Chesterfield Hockey Club, playing the position of center-forward. Randall also played on the English national team during international competitions, contributing heavily versus the French. That year his club team won the Webb Challenge Cup. As for his racing, Randall again won the Derbyshire, Sheffield, District, and Northern Counties Championships. This was a very successful year for Randall.

On February 17, 1915, Randall skated in the Palace Rink twenty-four hour race in Detroit, Michigan. Here he set a world record for both nine hour and twenty-one hour increments. His nine hour record was 111 miles and 10 laps. Here he skated against greats like Fred Martin and Ronald Cioni.

Randall finished his career in the United States. He was very successful versus his American counterparts. After skating, Randall was elected the Secretary of the Detroit Roller Skating Club in September of 1916.

Skate of the Week:



In 2010, the museum added a great piece to our movies display when it received this skate. This boxer, quad skate is signed by the director of the 2009 roller derby movie entitled *Whip It*. Drew Barrymore also starred in the movie opposite Ellen Page. Won in an auction, the skate was donated to the museum by Dan Brown. This example of movie nostalgia greatly enhances our display. If anyone has any additional movie props from a roller skating movie they are willing to donate, please contact the museum. Thanks.

Thanks to the following renewing members

Jim Wells
Rinksider: Linda Katz

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. _____

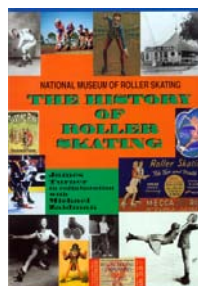
Signature _____

Mail to: National Museum of Roller Skating,
4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506
Fax to: 402-483-1465

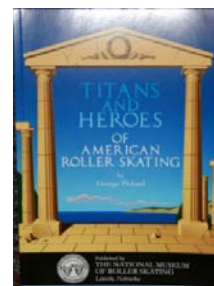


Roller Skating Valentines: examples 3-4

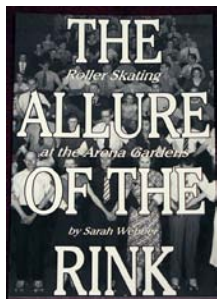
Book Store



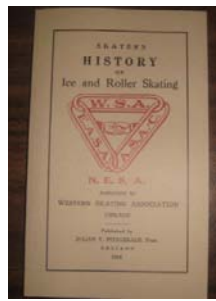
\$15



\$20



\$7



\$15

Library Feature: *Allure of the Rink*

Allure of the Rink describes the history of the storied Arena Gardens roller skating rink located in Detroit, Michigan. Open from 1935 until its closing in 1953, the Arena Gardens became the premier example of the highest standard of roller skating rink in the country. From its very strict rules on dress code and conduct to its employees wearing suits and ties, the Arena Gardens ran operations very efficiently.

The Arena Garden helped out both the skating industry and American during its existence. It hosted the very first national competitions for speed skating in 1937. Also, with some fifteen other rink operators, the Arena Gardens and manager Fred Martin started the first organization for skating rinks, the Roller Skating Rink Operators Association. The RSROA later split into the RSA and USA Roller Sports.

The Arena Gardens did not just look out for itself as a business. To help the nation embrace support for the war effort during World War II, the Arena Gardens sold war bonds and allowed free entrance to active servicemen. Martin made sure his rink stayed on the forefront of childhood diseases like polio and infantile paralysis with skating benefits, even purchasing an iron lung and donating it to the city.

For anyone interested in a story on a specific rink which became the premier example of how well-run rinks should operate this story on the arena gardens captures that idea. It is for sale in our museum store for \$7.

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 films:

<i>Fireball</i>	<i>Skate Town USA</i>
<i>Kansas City Bomber</i>	<i>Derby</i>
<i>Prayer of the Roller Boys</i>	

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.

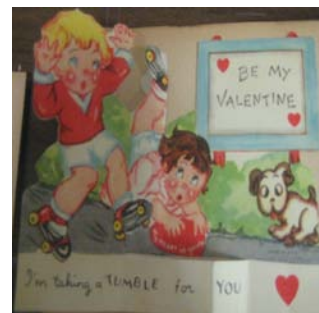
Rink Sticker Collection

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.

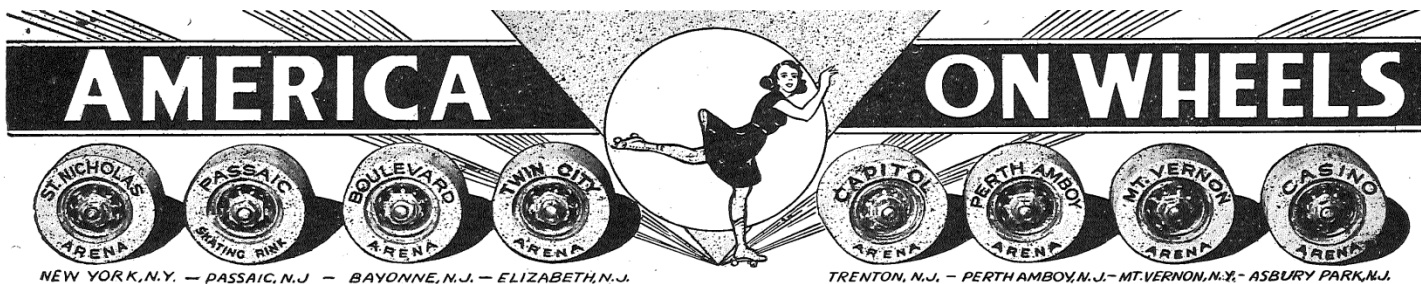


Valentine Cards

Here are some more examples of using a roller skating theme in the design and distribution of Valentine's Day Cards.



Happy Valentine's Day!



VOLUME FOUR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1944

NUMBER 20

PASSAIC SKATING RINK TO RE-OPEN THURSDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 7th

Casino Arena Changing to Fall Schedule on Sept. 11

Daily matinees are being held at the Casino Arena during the summer season. The regular evening session, of course, still runs from 7:30 to 11. In addition to these, there is a midnight session from 11:30 to 2 a.m. every Saturday night at the Casino.

The daily matinees end at

Casino Pair Take Trip To Altar

One of the Casino Arena main events of the month of July was the marriage of Ruth Herd and Pat Schneider. It took place at the First Methodist Church in Asbury Park, with Norma Herd, Ruth's sister, as Maid of Honor and Norman Schneider, Pat's brother, as best man.

Ruth is one of the AMERICA ON WHEELS pin up girls and was voted the prettiest girl in her graduating class at Asbury Park High School and is the

daughter of our popular floor manager, Jim Herd. Pat is a member of the United States Coast Guard.

"Vanities" Star in Casino Exhibition

Saturday, July 15, the Casino Arena was the scene of several exhibitions.

The talents of Bill and Eldora Best, AMERICA ON WHEELS Professionals and Ann Manion, marvelous star from "Skating Vanities," were all combined to give the skaters and spectators

George Hess, of Boulevard Arena Is New Passaic Manager

The Passaic Skating Rink, 19-31 Henry Street, Passaic, N. J., is scheduled to re-open for the fall skating season on Thursday evening, September 7.

While the rink was closed during the summer months, extensive alterations were made at the rink. Workmen redecorated and refurbished the interior of the rink, the home of friendly skaters.

The skating floor of the rink has been refinished and is all set to accommodate the hundreds of anxious Passaic skaters who are eagerly look-

ing forward to the opening.

The new manager of the Passaic Skating Rink is George Hess, former floor manager of the Boulevard Arena, Bayonne, N. J. Hess is well known to AMERICA ON WHEELS skaters, having been one of the original floor staff of the Boulevard Arena when the Bayonne rink first opened. He is married to the former Ruth Moneypenny, another well known AOW skater, now cashier at the Boulevard Arena. George and Ruth are expert spinners.

Highlighting the opening night at Passaic will be a program of exhibitions featuring popular AOW amateur skaters. The program will be sanctioned by the ARSA. Organ music for the program as well as for skating will be provided by Dan Schneider, regular Passaic Rink organist.

at the Casino something which they will remember for a long time.

Little Diane Lanzotti, juvenile champion, came down from Twin City Arena and amazed the crowd with a sparkling free style exhibition.

The entire show met with an enthusiastic reception.

BUY MORE WAR BONDS

This August 17, 1944 issue of *America On Wheels* discusses issues and stories from local skating rinks in the New York and New Jersey area. Hundreds of newsletters just like this can be found in the museum archives. We want share one of these each museum newsletter to give you an idea of the kinds of materials in our collection. Thanks to all who have donated to the museum over the years, which has contributed to the great acquisitions such as this 1944 issue.