

Rolling Thru Time
Newsletter

The National Museum of Roller Skating



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May is an Essential Fundraiser Month for Museum

[Raffle at RSA Convention: Win \\$4,000 or more in Vegas](#)

Last year's 1st place museum raffle winner, David Ramsey, won almost \$4,000. A \$50 ticket gets you a shot at the big prize: 35 percent of total ticket sales. Second place receives 10 percent, (last year Section I) and 3rd place 5 percent (last year Ron Parmley). Three winners will be drawn at random during the President's Dinner on Wednesday night, May 1, at the RSA annual convention. You don't have to be present to win. This year you will be able to buy raffle tickets (and membership) by credit card.

The success of the museum's annual raffle is essential to funding the museum. Last year the museum sold 217 tickets and netted, after raffle prizes, over \$5,000. Tickets can be purchased from any museum trustee, at the museum booth in the tradeshow, or at the President's Dinner. Last year most rinks present at the convention purchased at least one ticket. The Ramseys, JBL Trinity, Verna Quaranto, and Dominic Cangelosi purchased 10 or more tickets.

You can buy a raffle ticket from these museum trustees. They also appreciate your feedback about the museum. Please seek them out at the RSA convention to discuss your questions and suggestions.

President : Kim Wall

Vice President: Nellie Anderson Lillie

Treasurer: Alan Bacon

Secretary: Peggy Young

Other Trustees: Annelle Anderson (past president), Dianne Braun, Danny Brown, Dominic Cangelosi, Charlene Conway, Howard "Bud" Engle, Bill Hoefler, Ed Hughes, Michael Jacques, Judith Young Link, Jim Link, Linda Miner, and

Randy Ray.

Lincoln Community Foundation Fundraiser

May is also the time for this important fundraiser. This year the Lincoln Community Foundation will give \$450,000 to over 300 city-wide charities. Each entity will receive a proportional share based on the amount of financial support each organization receives from its supporters.

You may give throughout the month of May, as long as the donation is received by the 31st. Go to www.givetolincoln.com and follow the prompts and type in the National Museum of Roller Skating. You may also send a check to the museum at 4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506. If you have any questions, call Rhonda Cann at the museum 402-483-7551, Ex 203.

Last year the museum received a \$1,031.83 contribution from the Lincoln Community Foundation based on donations of over \$6,000 by over 20 people.

Thank you Dominic Cangelosi, Sherry Pettit, Harry Walker, Nellie Anderson Lillie, Annelle Anderson, Adrienne Van Houten, Kim Wall, Elizabeth Korjenek, Kris Wall (Funtastic), Friesner (Novelties), Judy Graves, Linda Miner, Tonya Crenshaw, Alfred Taglang, Kay Gallatin, Ed Hughes, Peggy Young, Norman Warren Jr., Al Hoppe, Michael Zaidman, William Spooner, Daniel Brown, and RSA.

Museum News

Happy Birthday Dominic!

Jeff Warrenburg and House of Barbering & Beauty wished Dominic Cangelosi a happy birthday with donations to the museum on his behalf. They were on time with their birthday wishes, but the museum was not! We apologize.

Thank You

The Michigan Chapter of USAC/RS donated \$50 to the museum in memory of Ernest Ingles. Again we apologize for the late notice of this contribution.

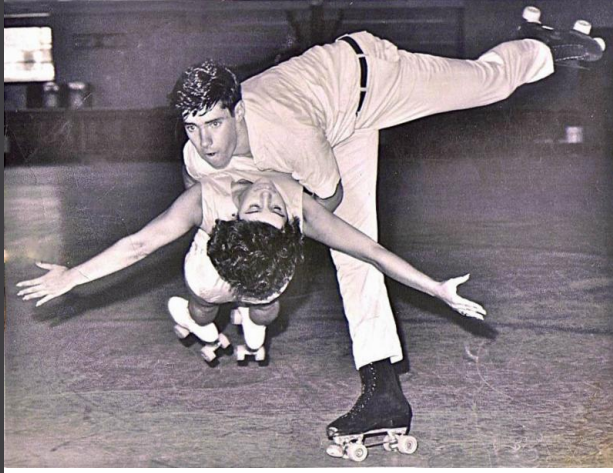
Section 7 of the RSA recently became museum members at the \$500 dollar level. Section 7 consists of the states of Illinois and Indiana. We would also like to thank Sections 1, 2, 5, & 8 for also being members of the museum.

Ricci Porter-Kmetz, USA Roller Sports Speed Advisor, did two interviews on behalf of the museum. A reporter from the Wall Street Journal has contacted the museum wanting an interview also.

In Memory: William "Bill" Spooner, Museum Member

The following are his honors and service for USA Roller Sports:

Distinguished Service Hall of Fame – 2015
Charles Wahlig Memorial Life Membership –



2018
 Gordon B "Budd" Van Roekel Lifetime
 Service Award – 2018
 Board Member 2012 – 2017
 Board Chairman – 2015-2016
 President 2015 – 2016-2017
 Secretary/Trustee of the US Foundation for
 Amateur Roller Skating
 International Figure Judge

Family friend and consultant to many

Bill Spooner with Barbara Grimes Henry

The Archives: A Hidden Gem in the Museum

By Alan Bacon



The archival room may not be large, but it's professionally constructed and organized. The space-saving movable storage system takes a small room and increases the storage area immensely.

Pictured is one row of the archives, and the space-saving movable storage system that the museum acquired by a grant a number of years ago. For someone who enjoys roller skating history, having access to the museum's archives last summer was like a kid in a candy store. Most museum visitors

just see the artifacts displayed in the museum's beautiful and professional looking showcases. They don't have access to the archives. But these archives show the history of roller skating as much as the artifacts on display do. Let's look at the rich treasures the skating museum has behind closed doors.

Michael Brooslin, the museum's first curator in the 1980s, said it best. "During my six years, your collections donations have been overwhelming. The museum now has over 10,000 objects (skates, costumes, and other artifacts), 500 films and videotapes, 700 books, 4,000 skating programs, 2,400 magazines, 10,000 photographs, as well as the papers of many significant people and companies in the archives." And he said that in 1987 before the museum acquired the large Plimpton and W.C. Ludasher's collections.

Yes, there are hundreds of extremely valuable skate artifacts on display. But back in the archives there are over 50 different magazines. There is the familiar *Rinksider* and all the magazines the RSROA, RSA, and USARS have published over the years. But there are many less familiar magazines as well, such as ones produced by the Richardson Skate Company. Many of these are from a forgotten era before the RSROA was formed in 1937. There are four shelves of 700 plus books. The museum did reprint a couple of out-of-print books like the 1916 *Skaters History of Ice and Roller Skating*. But there are other equally worthwhile but forgotten titles such as *Our Skating History – A Centenary History of the National Skating Association 1879-1979* by Dennis L. Bird, and the 1948 *Erection and Operation of a Roller Skating Rink* by Eugene C Cooper.

I would have loved to have had the time to go through C.W. Lowe's or Fred Martin's scrapbooks, as just two examples of the many great people of skating history who have donated their personal skating memorability. In a box labeled "Gloria Nord", Rhonda Cann, museum docent, found an additional dress of Nord's (technically an artifact, not an archive) that wasn't being displayed in the museum and was able to loan it to the Elmhurst Museum in Chicago to enhance their roller skating exhibit this year.

Here is a partial list of the various categories of items in the archives:

- 10 boxes of rink files from every state of the union, including one box each for the Arena Gardens and the Mineola Rinks;
- boxes and binders of historical newspaper clippings;
- numerous roller skating patents;
- thousands of photographs with boxes labeled rinks, skaters, session skaters, rink equipment, Vaudeville, Vanities, national championships, etc.
- three large 3-ring binders of skate stickers;
- post cards and programs, foreign and domestic.

Until recently, few people have had access to the archives. But that is changing. Many other museums have applied specific grant funds to projects to digitize their archives. The NMRS has digitized some magazines and museum newsletters already, which can be found on the museum's website. In talking with Tom Russo about his book *Chicago Rinks Rats: The Roller Capital in Its Heyday*, he said writing the book 30 years ago would have required him to physically visit each source; it would not have been possible. Much of his research was done online because so many entities, newspaper, museums, etc., have digitized their holdings, allowing for expanded access and research opportunities.

The countless hours former curators and others have spent to acquire, document and organize these archives is amazing, amounting to over 35 years of work. I didn't want to wait until they were all digitized, so I made physical copies of 30 years' worth of museum newsletters. This should keep me busy until I can return for another visit.

Book Review

Roller Rink Rules

Memories of Motion 26, Oxford, Maine



Patricia Probert Gott

Roller Rink Rules: Memories of Motion 26, Oxford, Maine

Written by Patricia Probert Gott

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Patricia Probert Gott's new 107-page memoir chronicles the joys and challenges of owning and managing a roller skating rink in the small town of Oxford, Maine. Rink operators might not come away with a big money making promotion or idea that will transform their businesses, but they will empathize with the determination and hard work displayed in making the enterprise succeed.

"If I knew then what I know now, I might not have been so anxious to jump with both feet into the acquisition. There were to be tough times ahead," said Gott.

"However, it never occurred to me that I might have bitten off more than I could chew. Failure was not a consideration at that time or since."

Though Gott had some business experiences, she had no background in roller skating. In addition, though the building had been used before as a roller skating rink and dance hall, there was much work to be done in the old building to spruce it up.

She said she is frequently asked: what was the most difficult part of owning/managing your business? She answered, "Repairs, frozen pipes in the winter. It was an old building, something always needed repair, and I'm not a repairman/women." Her pet peeve? "Employees calling in sick at the last minute." All rink operators can relate to that.

What comes to mind when reading *Roller Rink Rules* is another book which highlights a specific rink, *The Allure of the Rink: Roller Skating at the Arena Gardens* by former assistant NMRS curator Sarah Webber, produced and still available for purchase at the NMRS. Unlike the Arena Gardens and Fred Martin, Gott's rink was not one of the most prominent rinks in the history of roller skating, nor operated by one of the most experienced and influential personalities in skating history. But from reading Gott's story, you come away with the sense of how important her rink was to the culture and community of this small town. As one former skater said, "For me Motion 26 was my life."

She began in 1981 and sold the business 24 years later, not because it wasn't successful, but because she said it was time to do something different, which for her today, is writing. The one thing she regrets is that the facility was not kept open as a roller skating rink. The town would agree.

I recommend spending the few hours it takes to follow her journey in the book. If you are just starting out in the skating business, the book may act as an introductory road map, especially if you have a rink in a small town. For experienced operators, it will bring back many memories of similar experiences.

By Alan Bacon

STAY CONNECTED

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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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Statement of fact and opinion are the responsibility of the authors alone.

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