

Happy St. Patrick's Day everyone. Most rinks celebrate holidays with various holiday-themed parties for the public. To make the night more fun, rinks can promote costume contests or incentives for dressing silly. One such example above from the Temple Hills Skating Palace shows their advertisement for this year; this rink cut the price of admission to FREE when patrons enter wearing green. This encourages holiday spirit and a fun promotion to regular and occasional skaters.

Featured Story

Skating Floors and Surfaces

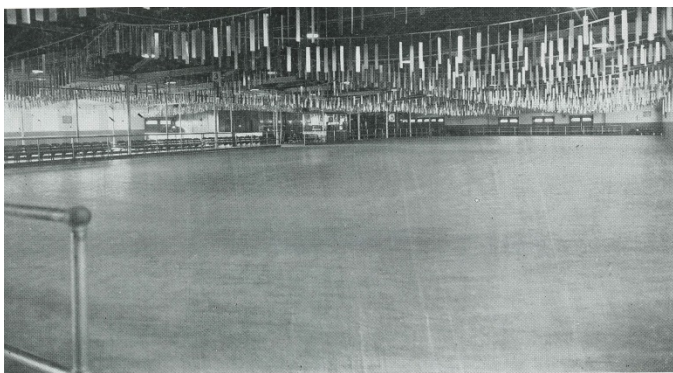
One of the most important aspects to a roller skating rink is the skating floor. The following qualities are essential to a successful surface: durability, traction, smoothness, resiliency, quietness, and cleanliness.

There are many types of skating surfaces available. Surface types include maple, chipboard, terrazzo, asphalt, and concrete. Skating floors should then be coated with a plastic finish, with a possible exception of maple. Each type of floor has its own positives and negatives for the owner and skater.

Imperial Roller Rink-Portland, Oregon



Maple floors have long been considered the premier roller skating floor material. Specifically, Northern Maple provides the hardness and durability necessary for the pounding the skating floor takes. The high cost dissuades many rinks from imploring this type of floor. While almost mandatory for skating floors during the roller skating hey-day, maple floors today are more scarce do to the cost on upkeep. Of course a plastic coating is necessary to prevent dust and use of harsh abrasive powders for cleaning.



Main floor, Mineola Rink

Terrazzo, once a popular choice, saw a short shelf life of interest. A mixture of small marble chips that was then set in cement, Terrazzo was then polished until the surface was smooth. The marble flakes gave a good eye appeal to the floor and could vary depending on the marble used. The installation process was daunting and expensive; cracks were common with poor installation.

Chipboard consists of wood chips bonded together through heat, pressure, and glue in board form with a high density binder. Commonly set upon a concrete base as a sound subsurface, chipboard can be installed two ways: first, a direct application to concrete or asphalt using mastic or epoxy compounds, and second, a free floating system of installation allows for expansion and movement.



Chipboard floor

Concrete floors provide a less costly floor from both installations to upkeep. The levelness of the subfloor and condition of the concrete finish play a leading role in the success of the final epoxy skating surface. A primary objective is a moisture-free concrete floor. Special care must be taken to avoid trowel ridge lines or an extremely rough broom finish as this will have a definite effect on the ultimate skating surface.

Another economical floor type, asphalt flooring was also a popular choice. When coated with plastic, the floors were extremely quiet, resistant of water damage, and easily reparable. However, temperature variations could cause cracking.



Concrete floor

Other hardwood floors also warranted some experimentation. Southern maple, oak, and pecan floors appeared in varied locations. While not equivalent in hardness to the maple, with a plastic coating this type of floor has been functional.

**Source: Roller Skating Industry Fact Book, 1976*

Skating Vanities



The Skating Vanities were an American traveling roller skating show in the 1940s and 1950s. Performing in all of the large American venues, the Skating Vanities numbered over 100 skaters in the troupe.

The headliner of the show was Gloria Nord, pictured in the center. Many of the artifacts in the museum about the Skating Vanities came from the generous contributions from Ms. Nord and her estate.

Additional information and materials were donated by Caroline Mirelli and her late husband Tony, both performers in the show.

Museum Raffle

PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE

Price \$50. Three prizes will be awarded based on total amount sold.
 First ticket drawn receives 5% of total ticket sales.
 Second ticket drawn receives 10% of total ticket sales.
 The third and final ticket drawn receives 35% of the total sales.
 Total prizes are 50% of ticket sales.

Drawing to take place, Wednesday, May 13, 2015,
 at the RSA International Convention, South Point
 Hotel, Casino & Spa, Las Vegas, Nevada during the
 President's Dinner.

Ticket holders need not be present to win. All
 proceeds benefit the museum.

The National Museum of Roller Skating is a publicly supported,
 charitable organization.

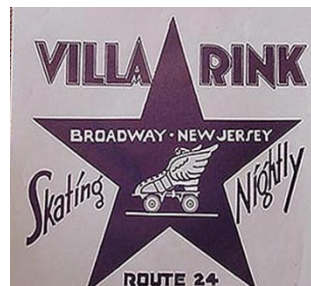


Every year the museum hosts a raffle as the prime fundraiser for the year. This year, as a sales incentive, the raffle will be conducted on a 50/50 split of the proceeds. Three winners will be drawn at random and awarded a split of the total sales. The third place winner receives 5% of the total sales, second place receives 10%, and the grand prize winner receives 35% of the total sales. **The grand prize winner should easily receive over \$5,000.**

To purchase a raffle ticket, please contact the museum. All proceeds go to preserving the museum.

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 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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