



Museum Newsletter

By James Vannurden
Director and Curator

National Museum of Roller Skating
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Bi-Monthly
October 16, 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 Expansion News

As you know, the museum is in the process of adding more display cases to the museum gallery. This projected six month project continues to go as planned.

The museum submitted its formal proposal to the Lancaster County Visitor's Improvement fund this week. This committee decides in December which groups receive funding.

As far as finding a company to construct these new displays, the museum board is down to two or three final choices. Once the numbers are crunched and time frames settled, the board will decide which group it best for the project. Continue to follow our newsletter for more details.

Museum to host future Conference tour

The Mountain-Plains Museum Association is the official museum organization for our part of the country. Their annual conference is its most attended event. In 2013, the MPMA conference comes to Lincoln.

In addition to the traditional lecturers and discussions groups, these conferences also host workshops and tours to different attractions in the area. Lincoln chose our museum to host one of these tours.

With the theme of transportation, those signed up for the tour can visit the Larsen Tractor Museum, the Museum of American Speed, and the National Museum of Roller Skating. This two or three hour tour falls on the last day of the convention, after all the sessions end. These shorter tours are heavily attended by those looking to unwind after a long week of conference activities. We are very excited to be included in this endeavour.

Joe Nazzaro Donation (continued)



In addition to the great photograph mentioned last issue, Joe Nazzaro donated more items from his time at the Winter Garden rink.

Above is a collection of RSROA pins. These are pins given to members of the organization after celebrating milestone anniversaries. The top row includes RSROA member pins from years 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30. The second row feature pins from the Society of Roller Skating Teachers. These pins are from years 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25.

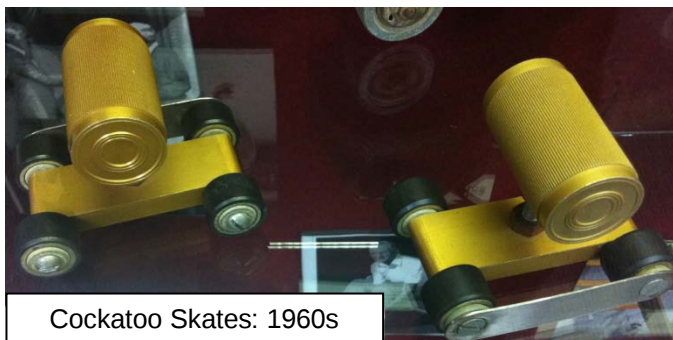
Skate Donation



Skate Collection

Nancie and Joe Nemanich recently donated a collection of old roller skates to the museum. One pair of Matador skates has the name "Joh. Pet. Becker A.G. Remscheid" on the side of the plate. Another comes from Kingston USA skates. Two pair are marked "Cometa" with one adding the word "hockey". We received a pair of Rowlette wooden skates. The top right silver skate is from Aetna Industries of Michigan. Special thanks to the Nemanich family for their generous gift.

Skate of the Week:
Cockatoo skates



The museum collection contains all sorts of unusual skates. From off-road to gasoline powered skates, visitors love seeing the interesting collection of skates at the museum.

This particular pair of skates was made for a cockatoo. The small bird moves its legs forward and backward to great enough momentum to propel forward. These brass skates were built in the 1960s.

The museum has other skates and photos of animals wearing roller skates. On display are skates for a horse and a bear. In our archives we have photographs of dogs, chimpanzees, cows, and even an elephant using roller skates.

Renewing Members

Chester Fried
Ralph Marinelli
Tim Laskey
Bob & Jackie Kane
USARS
Bob LaBriola

Roller Skating Firsts

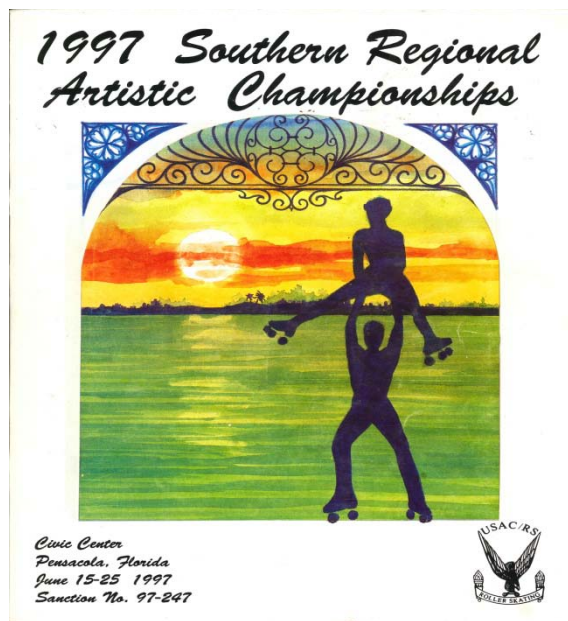
- First appearance of roller skating in an opera: Giacomo Meyerbeer's "Le Profete" in Paris, France 1848.
- First clamp-on skate patented by Everett Barney in 1864.

Rink Photo:
Winter Garden



The Winter Garden opened on April 30, 1932.

Library Feature:
1997 Southern Regional Championships



The museum collection of programs spans a large timeline and a variety of events. It houses local competitions, holiday invitationals, and philanthropic events. In addition, the museum archives contain copies of state, regional, national, and world championship programs.

The featured issue this week is the 1997 Southern Regional Artistic Championships. Hosted by the Civic Center in Pensacola, Florida, this regional competition welcomed some of the best talent from the area.

The museum needs current issues of the Southern Regional programs to add to its collection, starting with 2005 and continuing through the present. Thanks.

Skater Profile: Rollie Birkhimer
Ohio skater/rink manager



Rollie Birkhimer was a great speed skater during his time. As a professional he won third place in the World Championship races in Detroit, MI on March 24, 1914. He also finished second in the International Professional Championships at Charleston, West Virginia in 1916.

Birkhimer exanded his roll in roller skating by managing a few rinks. In addition to summer rinks, Rollie managed the Coliseum Rink in Kansas City, Missouri for 1915.

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.

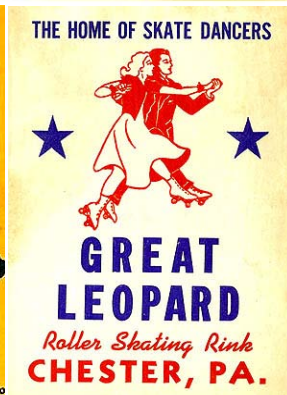
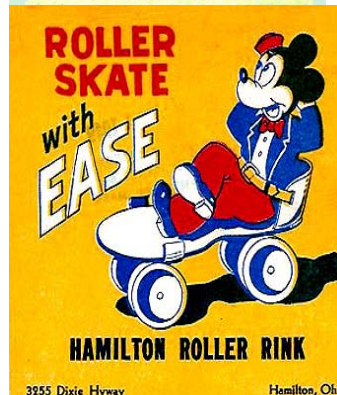
2.) **Regional programs:** We need modern issues of all regional programs. For example, we need Northeast programs from '93-'00 and '04-present, Southeast '88-'97 and '05-present, and Eastern '86-'97 and '04-present..

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!



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