



Museum Newsletter

By James Vannurden
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March 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 Conference

I will be attending the annual Nebraska Museum Association conference next week in Kearney, Nebraska. After previously being on the planning committee for the conference, I will soon attend the conference and meet others in the museum field for the state of Nebraska.

This two-day conference will focus on all areas of museum leadership and daily operations. It is a great time to hear from fellow museum operators, understand their successes, and implement similar ideas.

There will also be opportunities to visit area attractions including: the Rails and Trails Museum, Museum of Nebraska Art, Platte River Archway Museum, and the Classic Car Museum.

Donation

Our most recent donation came from the estate of Scott E. Cohan. He left the museum his collection of figure skating costumes along with roller skating music records. Cohan competed in artistic skating during the 1970s and 1980s. His multiple-outfit donation consisted of both flashy and serious attire.

A collection amassing over 300 music records also came with his donation. These included all types of dances, from the waltz and tango to the foxtrot and polka. His family also placed his name on our memorial wall plaque.

Museum Store Additions

The museum has ordered all new sizes for its t-shirt collection. In addition, our blue logo shirt will soon be available in white or pink, and our bulldog shirt will be available in black. Follow our newsletter for updates on when they will be available for purchase. Thanks.

Skater Profile: Adelaide D'Vorak America's Child

*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.*



Adelaide D'Vorak began her skating career as a child in a Cleveland, OH rink in 1906. She soon won the city's first championship race, beating eighteen other participants. Continuing her development, she entered and won all contests versus other local girls. Others in the state also met their demise at her hands. Her skating then expanded to other areas.

Skaters from her region began to take notice. D'Vorak soon beat Ms. Anna Miller, the Ohio champion. Next fell the champion of West Virginia. It was at this time that she began beating men in racing as well. She found herself at the center of newspaper frenzy. Receiving an offer from Mobile to face the best of Alabama, D'Vorak met and exceeded the challenge by beating all of the male skaters there as well. Her fame spread throughout the south as she was recognized as the greatest female speed skater in the country. She soon added fancy and trick skating to her repertoire.

D'Vorak's career then exploded. First, she competed at Madison Square Garden in New York City and defeated all of the male skaters she faced. With this exposure, in 1910 the American Rink Company contacted her and offered D'Vorak a spot on their international tour. She spent the next three years touring England, Russia, and Northern Africa. After a great victory over Germany's champion Berthold, the strain of international travel took its toll and D'Vorak retired.

Her remaining skating consisted of fancy skating and dancing exhibitions. D'Vorak is still considered arguably the greatest female speed skater of all time.

Skate of the Week: Hiker



In the museum display titled "Odd and Unusual Skates" we have a pair of three wheeled skates, circa 1900. It was constructed by the Hiker Manufacturing Company. Comprised of a two-piece metal plate with two bolts and wing nuts for adjusting length, the Hiker skate dares to be different. It has a metal heel grip with leather straps with metal buckles, riveted to rear plate. Its metal toe grips and leather straps with metal buckles are riveted to the front plate. The front plate is pierced at toe so that an "H" appears in a cut-out circle. On the top of the front plate is stamped "HIKER / HIKER MFG. CO. TOLEDO, O. / MADE IN THE U.S.A. PAT. PEND."

Two large black rubber wheels with metal hubs are attached directly to the front plate. One smaller black rubber wheel with a metal hub is attached to the rear

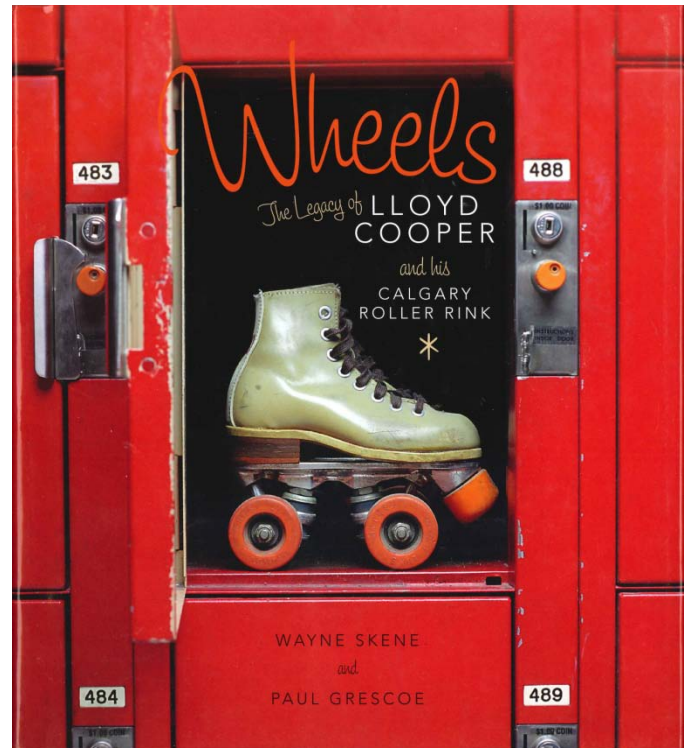
plate by a rocker arm with a black rubber spring. It was a gift of Al Kish.

The museum once had a visitor who skated on a pair of these. She told us that since they only had three wheels, it opened her up to ridicule from the local neighbor kids.

Library Feature:

*Wheels: The Legacy of Lloyd Cooper
and his Calgary Roller Rink*

By Wayne Skene and Paul Grescoe



The story of Lloyd Cooper is an example of a businessman taking a chance on opening a roller skating rink in urban Canada and evolving with the times to keep it relevant to the masses.

The book begins with some background of the skating industry before Cooper joins the fold. The authors describe early roller skating history, with its growth both in innovation and participation. Then they focus on Canadian roller skating as a whole, with both its successes and short comings.

Finally the story turns to Cooper and his ownership. It is full of interesting stories and events and people who skated in the rink. The authors mention incidents like Dustin Hoffman and his family enjoying some time at the rink to Playboy Bunnies arriving for a skate. Great photographs of the rink, its owners, and customers splash the pages.

For those interested in some history and insight into Canadian skating or another personal look at a family-owned rink, the book is a must read.

This is just one of the main books housed in the museum's collection. Continue to follow our newsletter as we provide glimpses into all of the resources out our disposal here at the National Museum of Roller Skating.

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

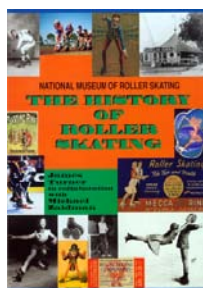
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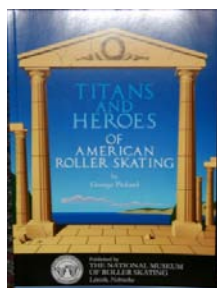
Signature _____

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

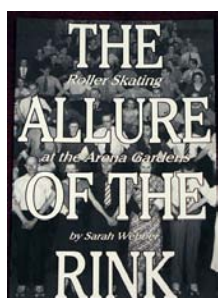
Book Store



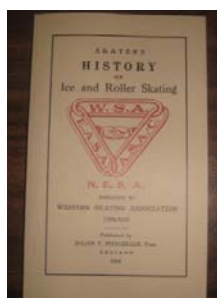
\$15



\$20



\$7



\$15

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 film: *Skate Town USA*

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.



Thanks for supporting the museum!

Betty Lytle

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rooms of better rinks
everywhere.*

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ATHLETIC SHOE CO.
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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