



Museum Newsletter

By James Vannurden
Director and Curator
National Museum of Roller Skating
4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506
(402)483-7551 ex. 16
www.rollerskatingmuseum.com

Bi-Monthly
May 16, 2013

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 50 display cases, the museum educates the public on all aspects of roller skating, which dates back to the first patented skate from 1819.

Curators Corner

Recently the museum attended the annual Roller Skating Association convention and trade show. Hosted by Reno, Nevada, the museum had a two-fold objective in attending. First, the museum set up a booth at the trade show. And second, the museum held its annual fundraising event, its museum raffle.



The museum booth educated those in the industry on the museum and why it exists. To accomplish this, the museum showed old archival footage on a television screen while selling some of its book from the gift shop. We also promoted the sale of museum memberships, handed out brochures, answered questions, and sold raffle tickets.

The annual museum raffle is very important for generating operational funds. This is the largest fund raiser of the year for the museum. Each ticket costs \$50 and all of the proceeds go to the operating costs of the

museum. While tickets are sold before the convention, the bulk of tickets purchased are a direct result from the generosity of the attendees of the RSA convention.

All prizes from the raffle are cash money. Twenty-four tickets are drawn for a total of \$10,000 given away to ticket holders. The prizes are broken down as follows:

15 winners of \$100
4 winners of \$250
3 winners of \$500
1 winner of \$1,000
1 grand prize winner of \$5,000

This pyramid of prizes gives an opportunity for more people to win. This generates more excitement for the raffle and lends to greater participation.

One grand gesture boosted the raffle ticket sales this year. Our long time board member Frank Cernik decided to retire from the board of trustees this year at age 85. To "go out with a bang" as Frank put it, Mr. Cernik decided to match every ticket sold at the President's Dinner the last night of the convention. During this two hour window, Cernik matched every ticket sold up to 100.

With the buzz of this announcement, the members of the RSA in attendance of the dinner really stepped up and came through for the museum. During the dinner the museum sold 117 tickets! Frank and his wife Phyllis then matched with a contribution of 100 as promised. This pushed the total ticket sales to 444 tickets sold, a number not reached in many years. A special thanks and our deepest gratitude go to both Frank and Phyllis Cernik.

Memorial Donation

The museum received a monetary donation in the memory of George Davis as "a good friend to our sport".

New/Renewing Members

Tom Hughes
Lori Shelly

Featured Skaters:
Frank Bryant



Born in Michigan in 1889, Frank Bryant began his skating career in Minnesota in 1907. Bryant won his first 47 races before suffering his first defeat. He won the Northwestern championship 1913. After a bicycling accident damaged his knee, Bryant was forced to give up speed skating in 1916.

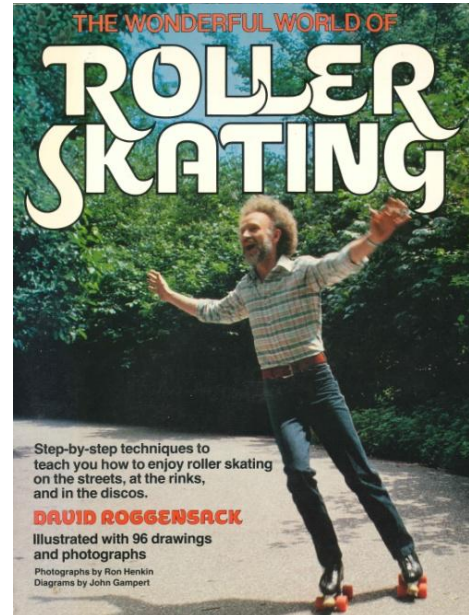
Roller Skating Firsts

- First recorded marriage on roller skates took place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin between Miss Hattie Baldwin and Mr. W. McGrath in 1912.
- First roller skating movie was *The Rink*, a 1916 film starring Charlie Chaplin.

Rink Photo:
Empire Roller Rink, Columbia, MO



Library Feature
The Wonderful World of Roller Skating



The Wonderful World of Roller Skating delves into the entire industry of roller skating, as so many other books do. However, this book by David Roggensack sets to inspire readers to join the cause of roller skating. He even includes different forms of poetry to promote the joy of the skating world.

During his section on historical skating, Roggensack tells how *Harper's Weekly* cited the following gravestone inscription in the 1890s during the first boom period of roller skating:

Our Jane has climbed the golden stair
And passed the jasper gates;
Henceforth she will have wings to wear,
Instead of roller skates.

Another interesting addition to this book is a poem written by skater Jim Kennedy called *The Figure*:

As the line extends unending the skater must possess it,
and follow that geometry with edges that caress it.
Perfect balance, form and flow must all his servants be,
to compete that cyclic venture and once again be free.
The figure's composition like life itself unwinds,
then returns from its beginning to once again be lined.



Skate of the Week
Smurf Skate



This skate represents the many child-themed skates in our collection. Skates with Mickey Mouse, Garfield, and other Disney character enliven our skate collection.

Wish List

1.) **Competition worn gear:** One of the most commented on parts of the museum collection deals with our event worn items. Whether dance costumes, speed uniforms, derby jerseys, hockey sticks, or specific skates, visitors like to see what people wear while competing in roller skating competitions.

The museum is most in need of items worn while competing for a national championship or a world title. If you have anything you feel meets the criteria and are interested in donating, please contact the museum at your earliest convenience.

2.) **Original Artwork:** For those who visit the museum, we have a small collection of original artwork with a roller skating theme. We have original oil paintings from the Chicago Skate Company from the 1940s. There stands a life-size sculpture of two girls carrying roller skates. We showcase an original lithograph from Cheret, the father of poster art. These items, along with a few others, make up our art collection.

If anyone has any additional artwork with a roller skating theme, please contact the museum. We are looking to expand this part of our permanent collection.

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!





Russian skating poster, circa 1900.