

January 2003
Issue No. #84



Historical
Roller Skating

Overview

National Museum
of Roller Skating





Curator's Column

By Deborah L. Wallis,
Director and Curator

Another new column has been added to the newsletter called "Just for Fun." It is a partial reprint of a word scramble from the June 1958 issue of Roller Skating News. Look for more fun word games in this column in future issues. Unfortunately we did not receive a single response to our Trivia question in the last issue. We have put another question in this issue and hope that if you have any guess, send it in. You never know, you may just have the correct answer.

The cover photo on this issue features speed skater Russell Brown (on the left) from the 202nd Amory Rink in Chicago with an unknown skater and their trophies from a competition in 1938. We would like to identify the skater on the right. If anyone knows the name of the other skater, we would like to hear from you. Unfortunately, we did not receive any information on the cover photo on the last issue. The photo had two skaters dressed as pilgrims that were possibly in a skating show.

How would you like to win \$5,000 or even \$1,000? Well, you will have chance to win either of those prizes or one of the other 22 cash prizes when you purchase a National Museum of Roller Skating raffle ticket.

The raffle is the museum's only fundraiser and it provides the vital operating support for the museum. The funds from the raffle are used to ensure the fiscal vitality of the museum, thereby enabling the museum to collect, preserve, research and educate the roller skating community and the general public on the history of roller skating. You can help the museum by buying a \$50 raffle ticket. And not only will you be helping the museum, but you will also be giving yourself the chance to win some cash.

The raffle will take place on May 14, 2003 during the President's dinner at the RSA convention in Reno, Nevada. A total of 24 cash winners of: 15 winners of \$100 each, 4 winners of \$250 each, 3 winners of \$500 each, 1 winner of \$1,000 and 1 grand prizewinner of \$5,000 will be drawn. And, you do not have to be present to win. To purchase a ticket, simply fill out the ticket shown on page 10 and mail it with a check or money order to the museum by May 7, 2003.

Thank You Museum Volunteers!

The museum was very fortunate last year to have eight volunteers work in the museum. Our volunteers assisted the museum by working on a variety of projects: collections reorganization and inventory, development and installation of exhibits, giving and developing tours, working in the museum's store, collections cataloging and data entry, cleaning exhibits, photocopying and organizing our sticker collection, photocopying and categorizing reference articles, and designing and constructing exhibit mannequins. The following individuals volunteered a total of 1,533 hours at the museum: Jennifer Cook, Emily Dust Nimsakont, Kim Herron, Mara Linskey, Jason Nelson, Amanda Potter, Emerson Trupp and Lois Wallis.

**We are very grateful for all of your generosity in donating
your time and talents to the museum.**

Thank you so much!

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Lincoln, NE 68506
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Museum Hours

9 am to 5 pm, Monday thru Friday
Closed holidays and weekends.

Mission Statement: The museum exists as an autonomous entity, to acquire, preserve, research and interpret the history of roller skating through its collection of artifacts, photographs, archival material and other skating memorabilia. It strives to document roller skating's historical progression, current status and its future development in context of the associated people and events.

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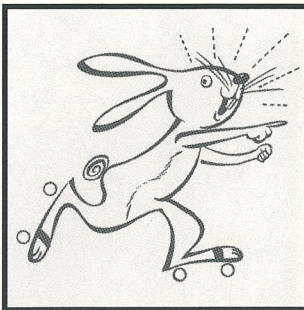
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FEATURE ARTICLE

Roller Skating as Physical Therapy

Did you know that roller skating was used to help rehabilitate veterans that were wounded in WWII? As many of you know, roller skating is a great activity for keeping fit but also a good way to learn balance and strengthen muscles. The following editorial and article, originally printed in Skating News, November 1945 issue, Volume II, Number 3, discusses how roller skating was used as physical therapy for the returning WWII veterans.

Proclamation

By William T. Brown, President of RSROA

Roller Skating has the opportunity to be of inestimable service to the wounded veteran who is now returning to our American scene. The task of recovery and rehabilitation is no small one.

The agony suffered, the boring hours of waiting . . . laying there, wondering just what it might be like to get out of the hospital again. The maimed, wondering what others will think and say! It is these boys to whom we can now be of service . . . to teach balance . . . and to enjoy life again. Most of all, to give them encouragement which develops SELF-CONFIDENCE.

Physical Therapy is a term not yet completely understood by our people. To most people, it is ONLY A TERM. What does it mean?

Physical Therapy is the use of exercise and sports in the treatment of illness and injury. We have it in our power to offer ATHLETIC THERAPY to our convalescent veterans.

Recently, Mr. Victor J. Brown of Newark, N.J., had as guests at his rink some 28 amputees. These men had lost a leg and during their afternoon with Mr. Brown, SKATED with some of our lady RSROA professionals.

It sounds like a miracle. People remarked, "I didn't know that one-legged people could skate." You only need to look at the pictures to find that they CAN skate. Skate and dance and walk and run! They can do nearly everything which they formerly could do on two good legs.

They need only to be convinced that they can do these things. The United States Army Medical Service knows this and believes it so important that they have trained Commissioned Army Nurses to specialize in this type of training.

Lieut. Muriel Albright, who serves in this capacity at the England General Hospital, in Atlantic City, represents the highest type of American Womanhood. She and other medical officers are doing a splendid job. BUT THEY CAN'T DO THE ENTIRE JOB. We can't expect them to DO IT ALL!

Therefore, as President of the RSROA I appeal to you, whether you are Operator, Manager, Professional, or an Amateur Skater. I appeal to EVERYONE who engages in roller skating, regardless of their capacity. LEND A HAND! Don't stand aside! Don't stand agape! Don't say, "It can't be done"!

Let's all do a good job now and help every one of these men back to normal life by surmounting the psychological influence which surrounds them. Do they deserve it? We owe all that we have today to them and their brothers-in-arms!

Arrange a program to cooperate with the medical service of our Armed Forces now! I beg of you . . . DON'T LET THESE MEN DOWN!



L to R: Edna Bauer Souce, Ruth Robinson, Millie Ferris, Lt. Henry Stegman, Lt. Freyland, Sgt. Francis Meidt, Irene Roeder, June Taylor and Betty Lytle. Twenty-eight amputees from England General Hospital, Atlantic City, N.J., were guests of Victor J. Brown at New Dreamland Arena, Newark, N.J., on October 18, 1945. Arriving about noon, the vets were there until evening. Leading lady professionals from the RSROA New York metropolitan area were on hand to help. After spending a grand afternoon and enjoying a big turkey dinner, served at the rink, these vets returned to Atlantic City a little further along the road to rehabilitation.

Amputees Skate at New Dreamland, Newark, N.J., as Inaugural of RSROA Program



Lt. Muriel Albright, a physical therapist in the medical department of England General Hospital at Atlantic City, is in charge of Amputation Service to train amputees to walk, dance and roller skate.

"They have all the nerve in the world," commented Muriel Albright, physio-therapist, as she watched twenty amputees, who came to Newark with her from Thomas M. England General Hospital, skate, stumble, fall, laugh it off, and try again at Dreamland Arena yesterday.

The men, all of who had lost a leg in combat, were here at the invitation of Victor "Buddy" Brown, owner of the rink and honorary president of the Roller Skating Rink Operators Association, representing 278 rinks in 42 states. Brown said his rink is the first in the country to open its facilities to amputees, and that the association plans to make the program nation-wide.

Round and round went the GI's, assisted by ten professional skating instructors. The men kidded one another as they stumbled, and cheered a second, and third, and fourth effort. And none of them quit trying.

Source of Idea

The idea for the project, Brown said, came when he observed the beneficial effects of skating on his son, Victor Jr., who was discharged from the Army three weeks ago. A rifle squad leader in the 102nd Division, young Brown suffered a broken foot and a severed leg nerve when he was hit by shrapnel in Germany. Skating has so improved his leg that the nerve operation doctors once thought advisable is no longer necessary, he said.

Jerseyans in yesterday's group were Pvt. Ken Turner, T/Sgt Vincent Wagner, S/Sgt. Francis Meidt, Lt. Henry Stegman, and Lt. Louis Baytel.

Although they complain that the temporary limbs they have now are not much good, the amputees are amazingly good-humored about their difficulties. Stegman recounted an experience on a train that was pulling into his station. His artificial limb snapped off as he stepped down, and he grabbed a stanchion for support. The conductor, a look of horror on his face, ran over.

"When I picked up the leg and handed it to him, I thought he'd pass out," Stegman laughed.

Greeting by Murphy

Mayor Vincent J. Murphy welcomed the boys to the city at the turkey dinner which Brown provided. After observing how

the GI's enjoyed the skating, Murphy stated he would try to organize classes on a city-wide basis to provide amputees with therapeutic recreation.

Brown's adopted son, paratrooper 1st Lt. Robert K. Ringwald, 34, now a patient at Halloran General Hospital, Staten Island, watched the skating GI's and instructors from the sidelines until he could no longer resist the temptation to put on skates.

Former Professional

A skater since 13, Ringwald was a partner of Betty Lytle who is a professional teacher at the Dreamland Arena. Together they won many competitions, and now Ringwald, who smashed his shoulder when he parachuted into Normandy on D-Day, hopes to return to professional skating if his shoulder ever heals.

When he hit French soil, the 155 pounds of equipment he was carrying crushed his shoulder and knocked him unconscious.

He was put "in the bag" by Nazi SS troops, and held prisoner for eleven months, with little medical attention. As a result, his broken bones calcified and the torn nerves did not heal. He is slated for another operation next week which he hopes will repair some of the damage.



His Honor, Vincent J. Murphy, Mayor of Newark, N.J., welcomed the vets to New Dreamland Arena and even donned skates with them. Mayor Murphy is flanked by (L to R) Irene Roeder, 1st Lt. Louis Baytel, T/Sgt. Vincent Wagner, Ann Lawrence and S/Sgt. Francis Meidt.



Mr. and Mrs. Victor J. Brown, as hosts, were assisted by their sons, Vic Brown, Jr., and Bob Ringwald. Both of the sons suffered severe war injuries and are still convalescent. Mr. Brown claims that roller skating helped to restore them to full health after their return to the States.



Emily Nimsakont, Assistant Curator, installing a new exhibit on roller hockey.

The Museum's New Assistant Curator

The museum has recently hired a new Assistant Curator. Emily Dust Nimsakont was hired in October to fill the position of Assistant Curator. Emily spent the summer interning with the museum working on educational and exhibit projects. She is currently working on her Master's degree in Museum Studies with a minor in History from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. As Assistant Curator, Emily works on processing artifact donations and museum memberships as well as working on a variety of other projects and activities in the museum.

Recent Donations

Jeanne Adler, Weirsdale, Florida, *rink stickers and Jerry Lewis kid's patch*

Alan Bell, Pennsville, New Jersey, *2002 Easter Regional program*

June Henrich Bickemeyer, Ocala, Florida, *Liberty Precision skates with Stanzone boots and photograph*

Don & Shirley Bromley, Point Richmond, California, *five pairs of skates and seven single skates and plates*

Gary Castro, Edmond, Oklahoma, *audiocassette tapes from seminars*

Tom & Beverly Danks, Pine Beach, New Jersey, *skate case*

Chester Fried, South River, New Jersey, *toy figurines, photographs, videotape and numerous archival items*

Cynthia Gates, Clawson, Michigan, *plaques with images of national champions coached by her and her husband Don Gates, Teacher of the Year plaque and National Recognition Award*

Helene & George "Ed" Gracy with Artistic Impressions, Oakley, California, *costume, lanyard and mannequin from the 2002 National Championships*

Louis Guinn, Sacramento, California, *1942 "Skating" magazine*

Joe Leanza, Bronx, New York, *skate Keys and an America On Wheels coin*

Karen Lepish, Middleburg Heights, Ohio, *magazine/record rack in the shape of a roller skate and roller skating theme key chains*

Gloria Manning, Miami, Florida, *programs from the 2002 Southern Regional Championship*

Caroline Mirelli, Memphis, Tennessee, *vinyl record album and archival items*

George Pickard, Lincoln, Nebraska, *banners from the Confederation of Asian Roller Sports and the Czech Republic Inline Hockey Association*

Dinah Robbins for USA Roller Sports, Lincoln, Nebraska, *2002 Nationals Alumni Reunion Wall of Champions exhibit poster*

Marilynn Seeman, Portland, Oregon, *the Flubbed Up Duck trophy*

Richard Sholes, Warwick, Rhode Island, *stickers, buttons, invitation*



and poster from the Sholes Hills Grove Country Club and the Sholes Lakeside Casino

Charles Skilling, Garden City, Kansas, *light up Chicago Skate sign, donated in memory of Hazel and Howard Skilling*

Alfred Smith, Lakewood, California, *"Round and Round," "Skating Review" and "Skating News" magazines*

Harold Smith, New York, New York, *patch from the Rola Rola in Green Bay, Wisconsin*

Rich Syx, Stratford, Connecticut, *professional produced videotapes from the 2001 Nationals*

Gary Tatman, Newark, Delaware, *audiocassette tape of donor playing the organ at the Merryland Roller Skating Rink*

Jim Walker, Lincoln, Nebraska, *Union Hardware skates*

Nicholas Wehring, Silver Springs, Florida, *"The American Roller Skater" magazines and Cavalier Arena stickers*

Lou & Florence Wilmot, Whiting, New Jersey, *skate key*

Peggy Young for USA Roller Sports, Lincoln, Nebraska, *USARS banners and national championship lapel pins*

Mike Zaidman, West Palm Beach, Florida, *"The New Yorker" magazine and various archival magazine and newspaper clippings*

THANK YOU!

The National Museum of Roller Skating symbolizes the generosity and commitment of our members. Without the sustaining support of our members, the museum would not exist. We are indebted to them. We are pleased to recognize our members who contributed to the museum during 2002 for their interest and philanthropy.

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Sandra Lee Wollin
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Roller Skating Trivia



The first person to correctly answer the question below will receive a gift from the museum's Store. Answers can be mailed into the museum at 4730 South Street, Suite 2, Lincoln, NE 68506 or email answer to postmaster@rollerskatingmuseum.com. The correct answer and the winner will be printed in the April 2003 issue of the newsletter.

**What year did the Roller Skating Rink Operators Association
send their first team to a World Competition?**

Unfortunately, we did not have any correct answers sent in for the last trivia question. The question was What year was National Roller Skating Week expanded to be the whole month of October? The correct answer was 1996.



Featured Exhibit



Roller Figure Skating

Roller Figure Skating involves the combination of strength, precision and artistry. Skaters are judged on content and manner of performance as they execute certain elements, such as footwork, spins and jumps. In addition, they must incorporate these elements into an artistic interpretation of their accompanying music. Figure skating includes the categories of dance skating, singles free skating, figures, pairs, fours and precision skating.

Dance

Dance skating includes two different styles of competition.

In American Dance, skaters must perform a series of steps in a specific sequence. Skaters are judged based on their timing with the music, their execution of the technical elements and the pattern of the dance, and their body positions. Competitions involve eliminations and final rounds. Skaters may compete in team dance as mixed couples or in solo dance as individuals.

World Class Dance involves three types of dance - compulsory, original set pattern (OSP) and free dance. In the compulsory dance, all teams skate the same set pattern. The OSP dance requires each team to create its own routine within guidelines relating to rhythm and pattern. In the free dance, teams use original choreography and

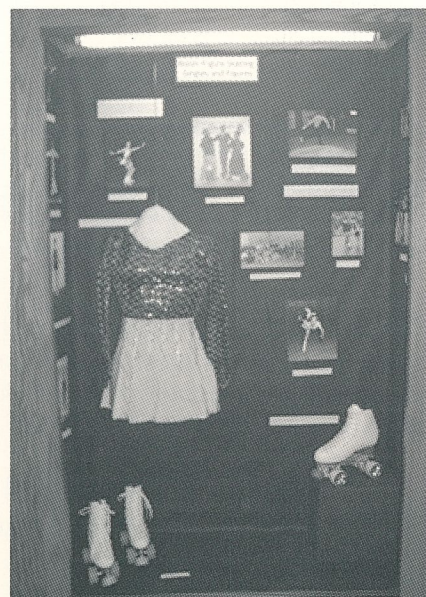


music of their own choice. These three events are scored as one combined event.

Singles

In Singles Free Skating, an individual skater combines various technical elements with music to create an original performance. Singles skaters have more freedom as to the style, content and music they use than skaters in figures or dance competition do. Judging is based on the skaters' interpretation of the music, as well as on speed, height of jumps, originality of footwork sequences and control of spins.

Ideally, the routine and the music should enhance each other, with elements such as jumps and spins coinciding with high points in the music.



Figures

In Figure skating, skaters are required to trace figure patterns on a set of circles painted on the skating surface. A skater must trace the figures on one foot, with the wheels of his or her skate on either side of the painted line. Skaters are judged on their form and body control. They are also judged on their execution of the principal parts of the figures, including take-offs, changes of edge, tracing and turns.

Pairs

Pairs skating involves teams composed of mixed couples. Pairs perform technical elements similar to those seen in singles skating.

Unison of motion between the two partners is very important, as they shadow each other's movements. Partners must execute spins, jumps and footwork simultaneously. There are also some elements that are unique to pairs skating, such as overhead lifts and throw jumps. As in singles skating, the skaters are judged on their execution of the technical elements and on their interpretation of the music.

Precision Skating

Precision skating was an exhibition event at the 1997 USARS National Championships, and it became an official USARS event in the 1997-98 competitive season. Precision teams are made up of twelve to twenty-four skaters. There are no gender divisions in this event. Originally, there was only one age division, but in 2002, a Junior division was added.

Team members perform a variety of movements and formations to music. As indicated by the name, the most important aspect of this event is

precision, that is, the accuracy and synchronization of the team's movements. The aim of the team should be to execute its moves as a single unit. Individual jumps and spins are not allowed, and footwork is very important. Judging is based on the originality of a team's routine, the difficulty of the elements used, and the variety of the elements in the routine.

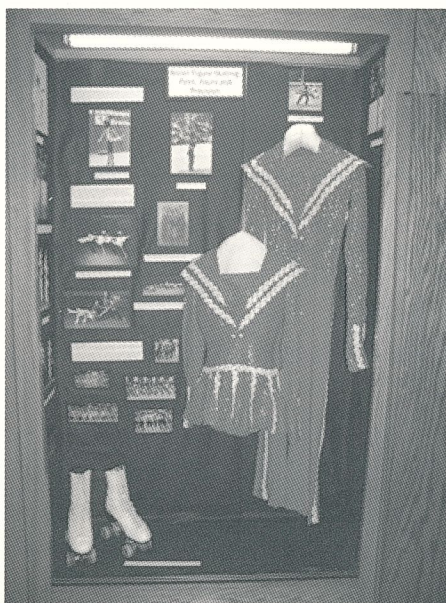
Fours

Fours skating was added to the RSROA National Championships in 1942. Fours teams were composed of two pairs teams. An important aspect of fours routines was variety of content. Routines included spins, jumps and footwork done as singles, as pairs and as fours. Harmony or unity

of movement was also important. Judges looked for identical movement among the team members in elements such as their positions in spins and jumps, or their height and speed of rotation during lifts.

Fours skating never attracted as many competitors as other skating events. In 1967, USARS reduced the event to only two divisions, and in 1974, fours skating was

dropped from the National Championships entirely, due to lack of participation.





Just For Fun

Can you unscramble the following words associated with roller skating? The answers are listed below.

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. gadaio | 8. hawkom |
| 2. errbair | 9. verokocr |
| 3. saches | 10. notitoar |
| 4. dramiaq | 11. rossiess |
| 5. lalf | 12. prials |
| 6. dilge | 13. cantse |
| 7. aeln | 14. potme |

Correct answers: 1. adagio, 2. barrier, 3. chasse, 4. diagram, 5. fall, 6. glide, 7. lean, 8. Mohawk, 9. rockover, 10. rotation, 11. scissors, 12. spiral, 13. stance, 14. tempo

MEMORIALS

The Patron Memorial Plaque was created to honor those individuals who have contributed to the growth of roller skating as a sport, recreation or business. A plaque may be purchased for a minimum contribution of \$250. Please fill out the information below if you are interested. All other donations are recognized in the newsletter.

In Memory of ☐ In Honor of ☐ On Occasion of

Name _____

Event _____

Please check one:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250
☐ Other \$ _____

This contribution was made by:

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Mail this form & payment (NMRS) to the museum.
 All donations are tax-deductible.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROLLER SKATING 2003 Raffle

PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE

Price \$50. Total of \$10,000 in cash prizes. Grand prize \$5,000! Drawing to take place, May 14, 2003, at the RSA International convention 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.

Purchaser _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # () _____

Cut or photocopy and mail with payment to the museum

Where: At the RSA Convention

When: Wednesday night, May 14, 2003

Why: To Give You A Chance To Win while helping the National Museum of Roller Skating.

Prizes Consist of:

15 winners of \$100 each

4 winners of \$250 each

3 winners of \$500 each

1 winner of \$1,000

1 winner of \$5,000

Total Prizes: \$10,000

Tickets are sold for \$50 each

How: Buy a raffle ticket from the museum by calling 402/483-7551 ext. 16 or by sending in this form.

Ticket holders need not be present to win.

Deadline for this form is May 7, 2003.

Send to: NMRS, 4730 South Street, Suite 2,
 Lincoln, NE 68506

Membership

The National Museum of Roller Skating would like to thank these members who have either joined or renewed their membership with the museum since our last issue. Thank you for your support!

Benefactor (\$500)

Roller Skating Association Intern'tal
David Schafer

Patron (\$250)

Kim & Connie Eisenzimmer
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A Skating Poem

"If"

By Conne Reese from the Rainbow Roller Rink in
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
Originally published in *Roller Skating News*, April 1958.

When Gabriel blows his trumpet
And they open up the gates,
You'll get to heaven faster
If you're on roller skates.

If you don't wear long dresses,
But skirts abbreviate,
The one place you can do it
Is if you roller skate.

And if you move like Presley,
Who sort of oscillates,

You'll never get arrested
If you're on roller skates.

And if you're tired of what you get
And want another date,
A sure spot you can find one
Is if you roller skate.

Or if you have things on your mind
That thinking aggravates,
You know where you can lose your brains
Of course, on roller skates.

And if you're just plain happy,
Or want to celebrate,
The best place you can do it
Is if you roller skate.

For in this time and day and age,
To find a guy that rates,
The main requirement he must have
Is that he roller skates.

For dough is fairly useless –
A line won't find a mate –
You're squarer than a cube today
Unless you roller skate!

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!

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