



Museum Newsletter

By James Vannurden
Director and Curator

National Museum of Roller Skating
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August 1, 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

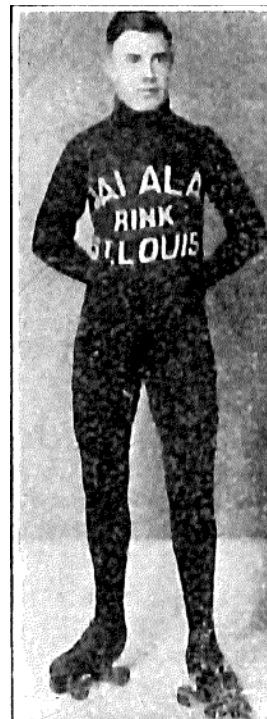
Museum Sign



The new outdoor, museum sign is now installed. After a year of planning, meetings, permits, and waiting the sign is now up in time for the completion of the indoor national championships.



Skater Profile: Ray O'Neil St. Louis Champ



*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.*

Racing for the love of the sport, Ray O'Neil became a prominent skater on the scene in St. Louis. A professional roller skater, O'Neil won the city championship title of St. Louis in both 1910 and 1911 at the Jai Alai Roller Rink.

After winning fame in St. Louis, O'Neil traveled the country and competed in the largest skating contests in the nation. Among the big championships that O'Neil competed were places like Detroit and Chicago. He later skated in cities like Milwaukee and Kansas City.

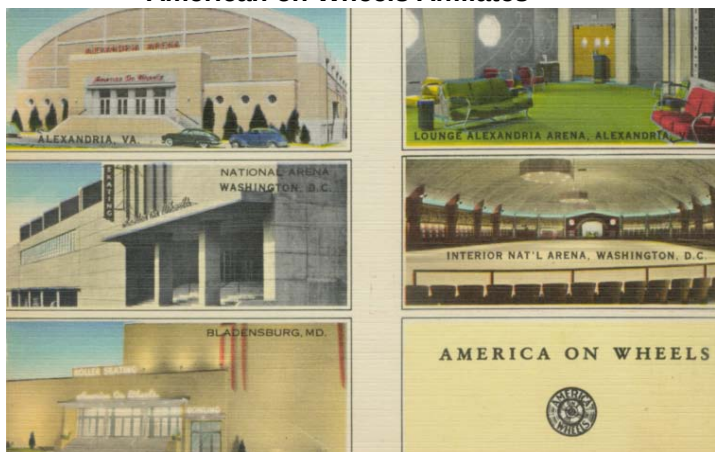
Although he toured the nation, O'Neil always came back to his home state and competed in their championship. He again won the city championship of St. Louis in 1915 and 1916. His contemporaries raved about his great endurance and speed, along with a fearlessness and perfect control.

Skate of the Week: Volito Skate



The Volito skate was designed by Robert John Tyers. Patented in England in 1823, this skate improved upon the Petibled by consisting of unequal sized wheels. This allowed skaters to turn corners by shifting the weight on the skate from front to back. Also, the first brake system on skates consisted of the hook in the front.

Rink Profile: American on Wheels Affiliates



Starting in 1934, this roller skating chain held interests in rinks along the east coast. The following cities had rinks under the care of American on Wheels:

Alexandria, VA, Bayshore, NY, Bladensburg, MD, Boulevard, Bayonne, NJ, Brick, N.J., Capitol, Trenton, NJ, Casino Park, Asbury Park, NJ, Eatontown, NJ, Hackensack, NJ, Kendall Park, NJ, Levittown, East Meadow, LI, NY, Livingston, NJ, Mountain View, NJ, Mt. Vernon, NY, National, Washington DC, Passaic, NJ, Paterson, NJ, Peekskill, NY, Perth Amboy, NJ, Roseland, Long Branch, NJ, St. Nicholas, NYC, NY, Twin City, Elizabeth, NJ.

New Museum Members Riverside Arena

Renewing Members RC Sports Sylvia Haffke Kathy Tini

Special Thanks

Special thanks to Alan and Judy Bacon for donating their winnings from the museum raffle back to the museum.

Library Feature: Wheels: Riverside Arena Skating News



Volume 3 Livonia, Michigan APRIL 1957 Number 1

SILVER APPLE PARTY \$50.00 IN PRIZES

On Wednesday, April 10th, Riverside Arena will hold a Silver Apple Party. There will be \$50.00 in silver concealed in apples to be given to the lucky skaters who will be able to find the little silver apple tickets that will be hid around the rink. The beginner will have as good a chance as the good skater to win some of the prizes at the Silver Apple Party. There will also be a special big fun program for that evening.

SOME FUN! SOME CROWD! SOME EXCITEMENT!

Yes, you can start looking for that 1936 penny that you will need to pay your full admission to the rink on Penny Night this spring. Because of the extremely large crowds that attend the Penny Night Party, it is always held after the weather warms up in the spring so the many hundreds will not be kept standing outside the lobby in bad weather. While you're looking for those pennies why not get a few for some of your friends.



The World's Free Style Champion "Billy Ferraro" is spending a lot of time on his skates getting ready for Nationals this summer at Riverside and also the World Meet in Rome or Lisbon next October.



MILLIONAIRE CARNIVAL BIG SUCCESS

The Millionaire Carnival held by the Riverside Figure and Dance Club for the benefit of the World Championship Fund brought in over \$400. So after

expenses for the play money and games a big check was sent to the USARSA office. Barbara Seales with over 100 million dollars won during the evening won the biggest prize with Ray Baggett winning the second prize.

The museum collection contains hundreds of local newsletters from rinks across the country. Above is an issue of *Wheels* from Livonia, Michigan in April of 1957. These newsletters are an insight into the local skating scene of different areas of the country.

On the second page, *Wheels* discusses proper dress code for its rink:

Gentleman should wear neat trousers or dress slacks. Tie should be worn with dress shirts. Sport shirts permitted without tie. Blue jeans, tee shirts, sweat shirts are prohibited.

Ladies should wear neat dress or skirt and blouse. Skating shirts should be long enough to completely cover the thighs. Blue jeans, shorts, or trousers of any kind are prohibited.

Featured Letter: To Mr. James Plimpton 23 Aug 1866

Dear Sir:-

I owe you an expression of my sense of your kind invitation of myself and friends to the rooms of the Skating Association last night; and assure you that had we been merely amused with the novelty of your entertainment in reproducing in midsummer what has heretofore been exclusively a winter amusement, we would have been completely satisfied with our evening's entertainment.

But your complete success in establishing not only a novel, but a most agreeable and healthful exercise and amusement for ladies and gentlemen, and one which we

are convinced will be of great public utility, is a subject of congratulations, to be highly appreciated.

I remain yours, truly,
W.T. Sherman

(Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman)

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 Great Lakes regionals from 2002 through the present but also 1992-97. We need Southern regionals from the past five years.

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

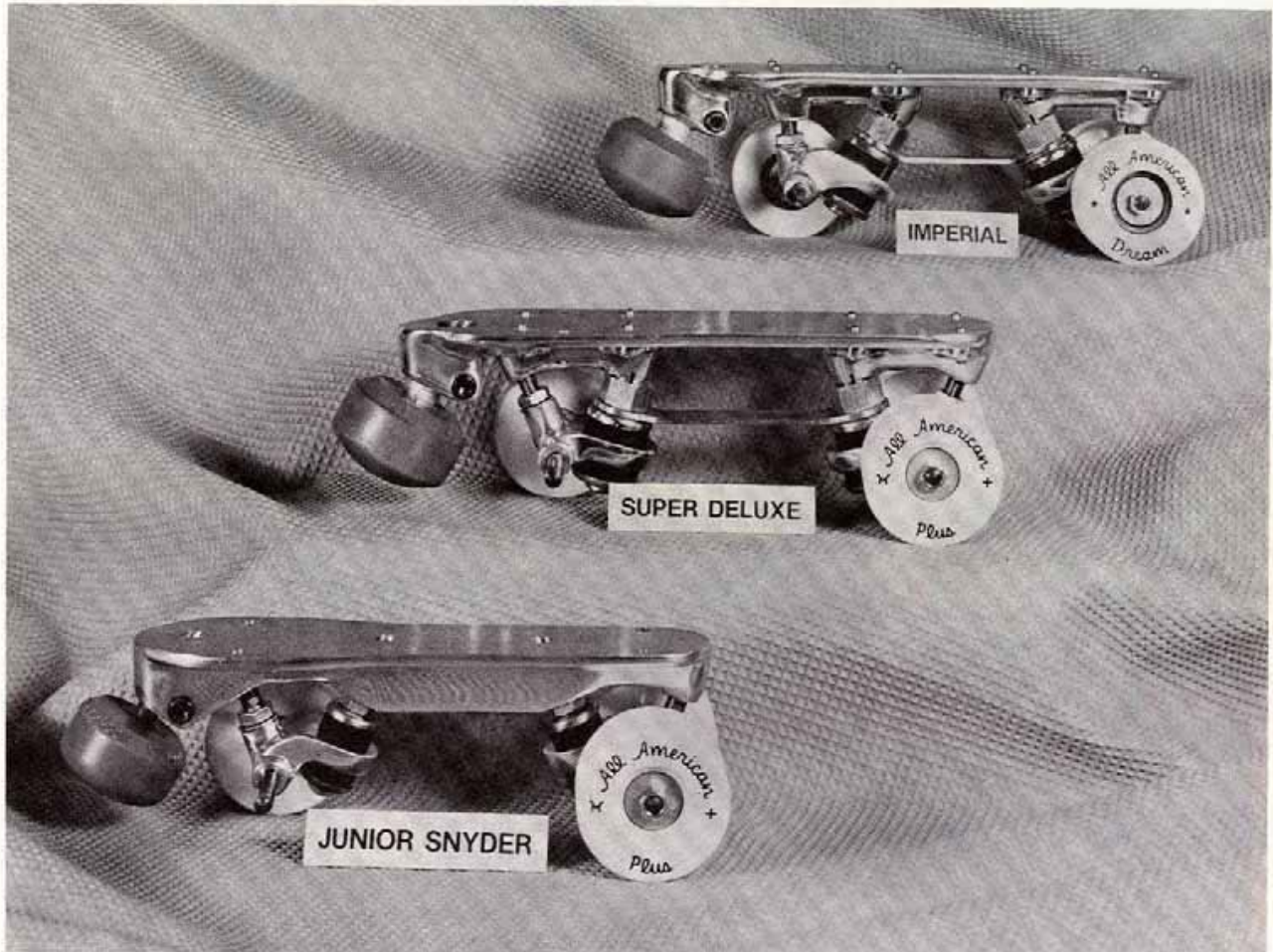
The museum has an extensive collection of roller skating rink stickers. Many skating rinks used to produce stickers as both an advertisement and fun way to for skaters to interact with one another, comparing the different location in which they skated. These were even traded as collectibles both informally 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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machined for true precision

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If you want to be a stand out and be noticed at next years National Championships, skate on some other skate than Snyder . . . you will probably be the only one!

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