



Museum Newsletter

By James Vannurden
Director and Curator

National Museum of Roller Skating
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www.rollerskatingmuseum.com

Bi-Monthly
August 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 Attendance During Nationals

Lincoln hosted the 2012 Indoor National Roller Skating Championships. From July 15 through August 5, skaters and their families traveled across the country to participate in the competitions. While here, many of them visited the museum.

The museum welcomed a steady stream of visitors throughout the three week period. The numbers collected for visitors were as follows:

Week of Speed: 329
Two weeks of Art: 510
Total: 839

These numbers show an increase of more than one hundred visitors from the previously collected numbers during the 2010 national championships. Thanks to all who contributed to our great attendance this year!

Rink Info Donation

During the second week of nationals, the owners of Riverside Arena in Livonia, Michigan visited the museum. While discussing the history of their rink, the LaMay family donated many items to the museum.

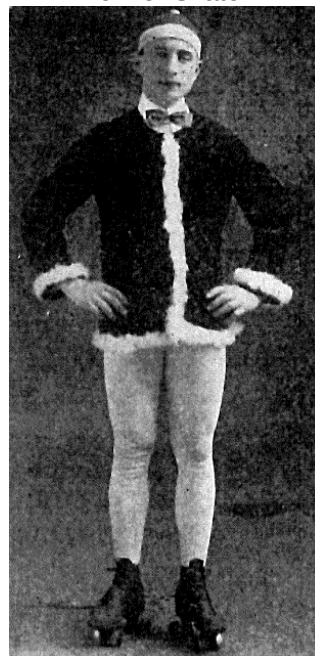
Items donated include the following: postcards, rink photographs, skating number photographs, programs from invitationals, and CDs containing more information.



Movie Donation

During nationals, Alan and Cindi McNamee completed the museum's collection of roller skating motions pictures. They donated the 1979 movie **Skatetown USA**. This is the first movie featuring Patrick Swayze. Also starring in the movie are Scott Baio, Maureen McCormick, Greg Bradford and Ron Palillo.

Skater Profile: Clarence Higgins Denver Skater



*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.*

Born in 1893 in Denver, Higgins took to skating early. Entering mainly speed races at first, Higgins performed very well and even won multiple events. He then took up exhibition skating.

Clarence then began performing in many exhibitions. His first public show occurred in Denver at the Tullires Park Rink in 1912. By 1913 he had skated at the Broadway rink and at the Lakeside Park rink in 1914. Higgins also performed at the Arcadia Rink in 1915 where he also held a job as a floor manager. His shows were known for its clever tricks, and his comedic and acrobatic skating.

Skate of the Week:
Inline Skates



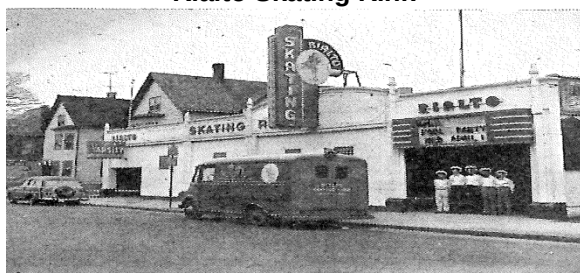
Pictured (clockwise from bottom): the French Petitbled from 1819, an 1860 inline of unknown manufacture, a model from 1994 produced by Rollerblade, Inc., and a 1930s clamp-on inline from the Best-Ever-Built Skate Company.

Just by looking at the photo above, one can see the evolution of the inline skate. From its first edition in 1819 to the Roller Blade model, advancements are shown in plate design, wheel location and size, and materials used to produce the skate as a whole.



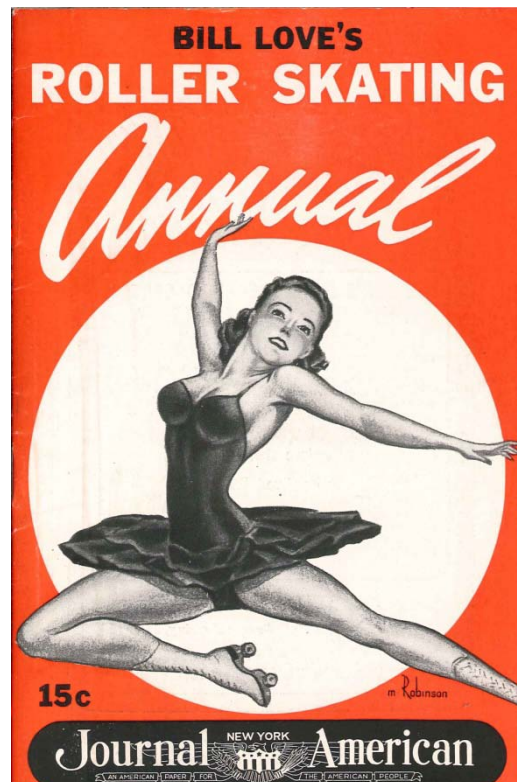
Even since the Roller Blade issue from the 1980s and 1990s, inline skates continue to transform. This above photo of the Luigino Ultra inline with a z frame shows the evolution of the modern inline. Larger wheels on a lighter frame are attached to a smaller shoe capable of forming to the individual's foot.

Rink Profile:
Rialto Skating Rink



RIALTO, Springfield, Mass.
On Walnut Street

Library Feature:
Bill Love's Roller Skating Annual



This 1947-1948 Season issue of the Roller Skating Annual contains information for those interested in the new habits, styles, and dances of American roller skating. Written, compiled, and edited by Bill Love, the Skating Editor of NY Journal-American, this fifteen cent edition discusses a wide variety of topics; these include the previous year's national champions as well as rink directories.

Under the section titled "Roller Skating Today," the author gives some statistics about roller skating during that time period. He says, "for every indoor ice rink in the United States, there are thirty to forty rollerdromes." Also "for every dollar spent by ice skaters on equipment, approximately a dollar and sixty cents is paid out for equipment by roller skaters."

Advertisements line the pages with well known rinks as well as the lesser publicized. Some of the advertisements included from New York are for Palace Roller Rink, Empire Rollerdrome, Park Circle, Hoffman's, Fordham Skating Palace, Cypress Hills Roller Rink, Van Cortlandt, and Columbus Circle Rink. Those from New Jersey are Paramus Skating Rink, Rainbow Roller Rink, and Florham Park Arena.



50c FARE FROM EVERYWHERE
AT CYPRESS HILLS STATION B.M.T. LINE

SKATING Nightly, except Mon. & Tues.,
8 to 11:15 Matinees:
Sat., Sun. & Holidays, 2 to 5.

Walter Bickmeyer, famous U. S. Champ. Pro.
Classes and Private Lessons, Sun. 10:30 a. m.

CYPRESS HILLS ROLLER RINK
Jamaica Ave., near Crescent St., B'klyn

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.

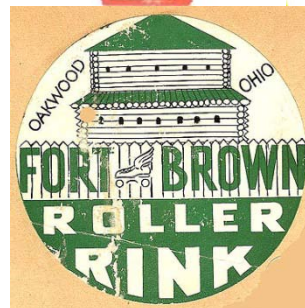
2.) **Regional programs:** We need modern issues of all regional programs. For example, we need Great Lakes regionals from 2002 through the present but also 1992-97. We need Southern regionals from the past five years.

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!



ROLLER SKATE

IN
America's Largest Rink



SALLY RHYMER
Popular Powers Model

INSTRUCTION:

ELEMENTARY DANCE: Mon. &
Thurs., 6:30-7:15 P.M. . . .
JUNIOR DANCE: Sat., 1:15-2:00
P. M. . . . ADVANCED DANCE:
Wed., 6:30-7:15 P.M. . . FIGURES:
Sun., 10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. . .
RACING: Tues., 11:15-12:00 P.M.

3 SESSIONS

Daily

9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

- Midnight Session Every Saturday
- Sundays Continuous from 5 P. M.
- Admission Includes Use of Skates
- Shoe Skates & Accessories for Sale
- Refreshments and Snack Bar

Herb Wilson, Pro

Louise Rush, Organist

GAY BLADES

ROLLERDROME

52ND STREET NEAR B'WAY