



Museum Newsletter

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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.

Curator's Corner

New Musical Addition

Procured by George Pickard and Richard Hawkins, museum board members, the museum debuts its new 1906 Gramophone. Pickard describes its importance to roller skating and the museum in the following script:

Roller skating rink proprietors have remained in agreement that provision of musical accompaniment is an important aspect of customer entertainment since the 1863 invention of the sport and business in New York City by James Plimpton. Initially this was provided by means of live performances, usually brass bands in the larger facilities. The invention of sound recording by Thomas Edison in 1877 enabled creation of music reproduction, and created opportunity for smaller "parlor skating" rink operations to do likewise.

Edison and Alexander Graham began producing playback equipment and recordings in a cylinder format in the 1880s. At the turn of the 20th Century, Emile Berliner, German born American, by modification of his Gramophone to a rotating turntable, initiated the transition from cylinders to flat recordings, using a spiral groove running from outer edge to the center. It soon became the standard for all commercial recordings, and allowed for continuous electrical and mechanical modifications, inclusive of the present.

During the latter half of the 1920s, phonograph players transitioned from acoustic/mechanical to electrical drives and amplification, which paralleled the growing popularity of radio. In the mid 1970's, the Compact Disc and other digital recording formats took over leadership of sound reproduction. While no longer mass market items,

modest numbers of phonographs and phonograph records continue to be produced into the second decade of the 21st century, championed by audiophiles' claims they are a purer format for acoustic music than digital reproduction.



The museum attempts to collect items that fully envelop the culture of roller skating. With music being such an important aspect, acquisitions like this fill out our collection that much more.

The addition of our band organ last year, this new gramophone, and our future donation this spring of a Hammond Organ should round out our collection of roller rink music players. We are very excited about our new gramophone!

Renewing/New Members

Irene Ballard
CW Lowe

Featured Photo

Get Along Gang Cheerleader Dottie Dog
1980s animated series



Library Feature

Roller Skating Tests and Competitions



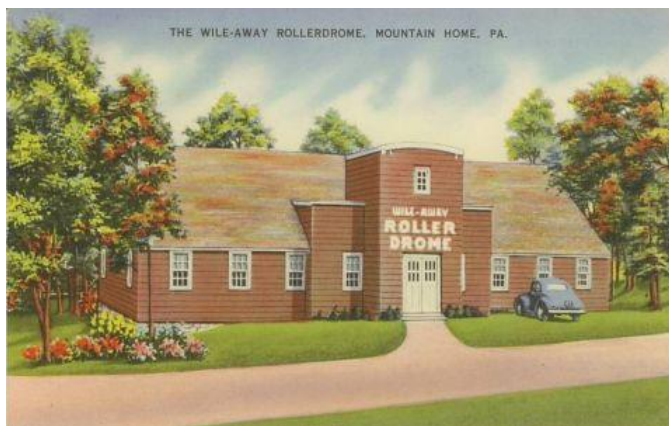
This fourth addition, published in 1941 by the RSROA, compiled all of the office rules and regulations for those wishing to skate competitively.

Roller Skating Firsts

- First senior men figure skating champion at the amateur national championships: Walter Stokosa of Detroit, MI, 1939.
- First senior lady figure skating champion at the amateur national championships: Jane Peace Holcombe of Detroit, MI, 1939.

Rink Photo:

Wile-Away RollerDrome: Mountain Home, PA



One interesting note while discussing awards and trophies lists the different challenge trophies awarded during the national competitions. The many challenge trophy names are as follows:

Senior Men Speed: Rodney R. Peters Trophy
Senior Lady Speed: Sefferino Challenge Trophy
Senior Men Figure: Fred A. Martin Challenge Trophy
Senior Lady Figure: Earl Van Horn Challenge Cup
Novice Men Figure: R.L. Hudson Challenge Trophy.
Nov. Lady Figure: Cleveland Roller Skating Club Trophy
Senior Pair: Victor J. Brown Challenge Trophy
Novice Pair: Lois Reynolds Challenge Trophy
Senior Dance: Perry B. Rawson Challenge Trophy
Novice Dance: Alfred B. Dexter Challenge Trophy
Junior Dance: Fred H. Freeman Challenge Trophy
Senior Fours: The Cleveland Challenge Trophy

Another interesting idea shares the story of the 1938 speed national championship, which was the first national meet sponsored by the RSROA. Held in the Sefferino RollerDrome of Cincinnati, this meet hosted more senior men than the first year and also opened up the senior ladies division. It held a conference to demonstrate local skate dancing while also first showing figure skating on rollers. The ASU accepted the RSROA during this meet as a member body.

Skate of the Week Le Grande



German composer Giacomo Meyerbeer's opera "Le Prophete" used these roller skates to simulate ice dancing. Louis Le Grande constructed these skates for the entire cast and gave lessons in their use. Patented in 1849, the wooden plate affixed to a makeshift ice blade along with two, small inline wheels.

The success of this opera in Paris led to a greater interest in the pastime. Soon the French and others began using these skates on streets, marble, and parquet floors.

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.

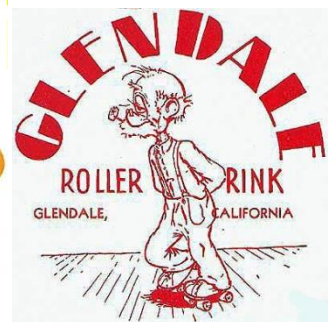
2.) **Original Artwork:** For those who visit the museum, we have a small collection of original artwork with a roller skating theme. We have original oil paintings from the Chicago Skate Company from the 1940s. There is a life-size sculpture of two girls carrying roller skates. We showcase an original 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.) **Gramophone sponsor:** As headlined in our newsletter the museum recently acquired a 1906 gramophone. The museum purchased this with our operating funds. We are seeking the \$500 used to offset our cost of the purchase. Please contact the museum if interested. We will put the name of the donor on the descriptive plaque.

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!



· THE RINK GALOP ·

AS PERFORMED AT THE
ROYAL AQUARIUM WESTMINSTER.



· CHARLES D'ALBERT ·

LONDON: CHAPPELL & Co. 50 NEW BOND ST. W.