



Museum Newsletter

By James Vannurden
Director and Curator

National Museum of Roller Skating
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Bi-Monthly
October 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 Featured in Magazine



Featured in the current issue of *The Journal of Antiques and Collectibles*, this article on the museum gives readers a glimpse of what we have to offer.

This monthly magazine caters to collectors of antiques. Items such as political memorabilia, guns, stamps, coins, military paraphernalia, baseball cards, toys, and furniture litter the pages of each issue.

The two-page spread guides readers through the history of our sport. Touching on names such as Petibled, Plimpton, and Chicago Skate Company, the story of roller skating is told through the museum collection. Photographs of skates, keys, skaters, and costumes demonstrate the types of items found in the museum.

Articles such as these give the museum well needed publicity to audiences that would not necessarily think of roller skating as an area of great history and an important aspect to American nostalgia.

New Museum Project

The museum plans an expansion to its gallery space in the near future. While still in its infant stages, a plan for six or seven new display cases will allow the museum to share more of its collection with the public.

For those of you who have visited the museum, you know that it is located in the back of the USA Roller Sports headquarters. When a visitor enters the building he/she is greeted by an office environment. Visitors then follow a series of signs pointing towards the museum.

Our goal is to create a new exhibition area right as visitors enter to bring the museum into focus immediately. This museum annex or wing engages visitors upon entry and gives them a taste of what await them inside the main gallery.

The museum is currently takes bids on the project and seeking funding through local governmental grants. Keep reading our newsletter for updates on the project.

Museum Donation



RSROA convention 1939, Mineola, NY.

Joe Nazzaro recently donated a wonderful collection to the museum. Items included photographs, such as the one above of the 1939 RSROA convention, as well as skates, wheels, trophies, and VHS footage. In upcoming newsletters, we will continue to showcase some of the excellent pieces of the Nazzaro donation and hope this sparks an interest in some of you to go through your things and find a great donation for us as well.

Skate of the Week:
Child's metal skate



The featured skate this week is a child's street skate. Consisting of an all metal frame with metal wheels, this adjustable skate catered to children who enjoyed the hobby outdoors.

There are two characteristics of this skate that shift away from the regular skate. First, instead of leather straps as was common, this skate has a set of heavy cloth straps. Secondly, the wheels are made using four metal discs per wheel, separated by washers and secured using nuts and bolts. This is very uncommon.

Little else is known about the skate. If you know the manufacturer or date of this skate, please contact the museum.

Roller Skating Firsts

- First international roller skating association was the Federation Internationale de Patinage a Roulettes in 1924.
- First standardized rules published by RSROA in 1938.

Rink Photo:
Hurst Skateland



Library Feature:
Victory Skate

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26th, 1944

VICTORY SKATE

in honor of

PARK CIRCLE FIGURE AND DANCE CLUB'S

NEW YORK STATE CHAMPIONS

Souvenir Program

This souvenir program from 1944 commemorates those skaters who placed high during that year's state championships of New York. All of the skaters mentioned came from Park Circle Rink in Brooklyn.

There were five state champions in 1944 from Park Circle Rink. Margaret Wallace won the novice ladies championship. Tommy Lane won men's novice. The senior ladies champion was Carol Bodden. Senior dance championship team included Helen Sokolowski and Michael Paznik while novice dance winners were Virginia Napoli and Frank Gallagher.

COMPLIMENTS
— OF —

MR. & MRS. ROLAND CIONI
WITH BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESS

Frank Gallagher & Helen Sokolowski <i>3rd Place Senior Pairs</i>	
Margaret Wallace <i>Novice Ladies Champion</i>	Tommy Lane <i>Novice Men's Champion</i>
Carol Bodden <i>Senior Ladies Champion</i>	
Helen Sokolowski & Michael Paznik <i>Senior Dance Champions</i>	
Peggy Lynch & Martin White <i>2nd Place Junior Dance</i>	Barbara Trayer & Tommy Adinolfi <i>3rd Place Junior Dance</i>
Virginia Napoli & Frank Gallagher <i>Novice Dance Champions</i>	
Helen Sokolowski <i>2nd Place Senior Ladies</i>	Earl King <i>3rd Place Novice Men's</i>
Violet Farina & Edward May <i>2nd Place Senior Dance</i>	
Barbara Trayer <i>4th Place Junior Girls</i>	
FOURS <i>2nd Place</i>	
Carol Bodden Tommy Lane	Helen Sokolowski Frank Gallagher

Compliments of . . .

SCHLO BOHMIS
DELICATESSEN
5406 - 7th AVENUE
BAY RIDGE

Compliments of . . .

**SKATING THROUGH
THE YEARS**
by MORRIS TRAUB

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.

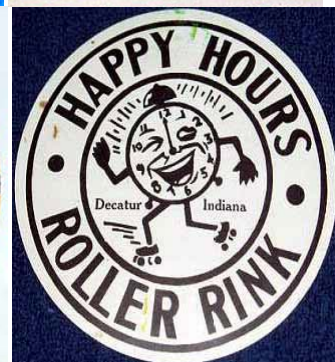
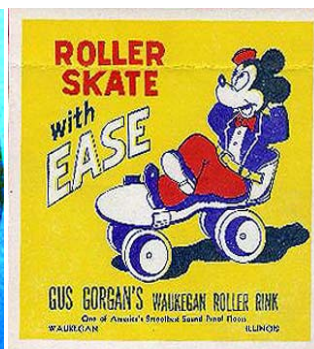
2.) **Regional programs:** We need modern issues of all regional programs. For example, we need Great Lakes regionals from 2002 through the present but also 1992-97. We need Southern regionals from the past five years.

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.

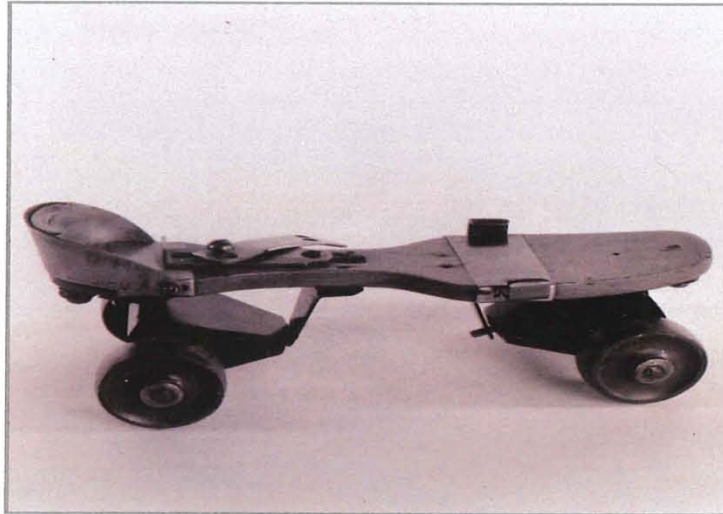
Rink Sticker Collection

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!





National Museum of Roller Skating

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rollerskatingmuseum.com

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For many people, skating rinks set memories in motion. A visit to the National Museum of Roller Skating in Lincoln, Nebraska,—a few blocks off US Highway 6—brings the past rolling back.

Members of the Roller Skating Rink Operators Association founded the museum on October 27, 1980, to preserve the sport's heritage. The museum boasts the largest collection of antique roller skates in the world, including the very first patented skate from 1819, created when Frenchman M. Patitbled fixed an old boot with a wooden sole and metal rollers.

"Our most unique item is a bizarre gas-powered skate," says museum director and curator, James Vannurden. "Our collection includes a skate for a horse—we even have a photo of the horse *on* the skates."

Perhaps the most impressive exhibit is the one dedicated to James Leonard Plimpton, the Massachusetts inventor who rocked the roller skating world in 1863. "Plimpton developed the first quad—or four-wheeled—skate," Vannurden explains, "and that innovation revolutionized the skating industry." Plimpton's design allowed skaters to turn simply by shifting their weight—an action all but impossible with the inline skates that preceded the four-wheeled model. The technical advancement spurred the opening of roller rinks around the nation and let the good times roll.

—LYNN MILLER

Recent article on the museum by *American Road* magazine. Spring 2012 issue.