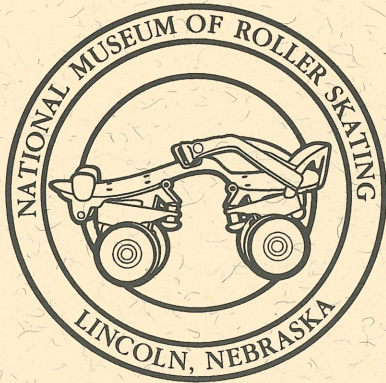


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# Historical Roller Skating Overview



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROLLER SKATING  
4730 South Street, P.O. Box 6579  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506  
Phone: 402/483-7551 • Fax: 402/483-1465  
E-mail: Rllrsktmus@aol.com  
<http://www.usacrs.com/museum.htm>  
Museum hours: 9-5, M-F

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December/January 1997

A Publication of the National Museum of Roller Skating

Issue No. 55

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*Miss Nebraska, Miss Colorado, and Miss Missouri featured on the  
1962 North Central Region float during the RSROA Championships  
being held for the first time in Lincoln, Nebraska.*

Gift of Doug Kuehnel (83.106.94)

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# Curator's Column

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Dear Member,

Happy New Year! The 1997 annual museum raffle has arrived! This fund raiser helps the museum with operating expenses for the upcoming year. It is an opportunity for you to help the museum more while giving you a chance to win some money. Each ticket is a \$50 tax-deductible donation. The museum will give away \$10,000 in cash prizes and one winner will win the grand prize of \$5000! The raffle will take place at the Roller Skating Association's convention in Las Vegas, Nevada on May 14, 1997. This year's raffle tickets will have a new contest. In year's past, the museum Board of Trustees and Honorary Trustees were the only ticket sellers, but this year, if anyone else would like to help sell tickets--it would be great! The person or persons who sells the most tickets will be given an award and be recognized in the newsletter. So, help the museum educate, collect, research, and preserve for the next century by buying a museum raffle ticket! Please check page 7 to buy your 1997 museum raffle ticket.

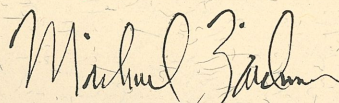
Also newsworthy, the museum now has an internet site on the World Wide Web. The United States Amateur Confederation of Roller Skating has helped the museum acquire a web page and the address can be reached by connecting to: <http://www.usacrs.com/museum.htm>. Explore all areas of the site! If you have America On-Line, find the roller/inline skating area on AOL and you can find another museum site by using the keyword *Rollerskating*. Also, on December 16 at 9 PM Eastern time on AOL, I will be a guest in a chat session, so please stop by.

Over the past year, the museum has been included in a few publications such as *Sports Illustrated* (10/21/96), *INLINE* (April '96), and *SPY* (June '96) magazines. The museum also has columns in *Speed Skating Times*, *Rinksider*, *Roller Skating Business*, *RIM/Skating News*, and *US Roller Skating*. If you subscribe to any of these publications, check out the museum's column.

The feature article this month features Nebraska's Connection to roller skating. The first roller skating championships in Lincoln were held in 1962 and soon thereafter the Roller Skating Rink Operators Association of America (RSROA) moved there from Michigan. Learn more about the move and the how the museum was founded in this month's article.

Every year the museum recognizes its members in at least one issue of our newsletter. Over the past year, the newsletter has recognized those who have renewed and joined. Beginning on page 5 is a list of museum members. I thank you for your support of the museum and I hope everyone renews as the upcoming year should be filled of worthwhile events including the museum's traveling exhibit at the San Francisco International Airport & Museum next summer, the revised edition of James Turner's History of Roller Skating, and new exhibits in the museum on *Inez Van Horn, Skate Cases, New Donations, and Nebraska's Connection to Roller Skating*.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and best wishes for a Cool Yule and a Fabulous First!



Michael Zaidman, Director & Curator

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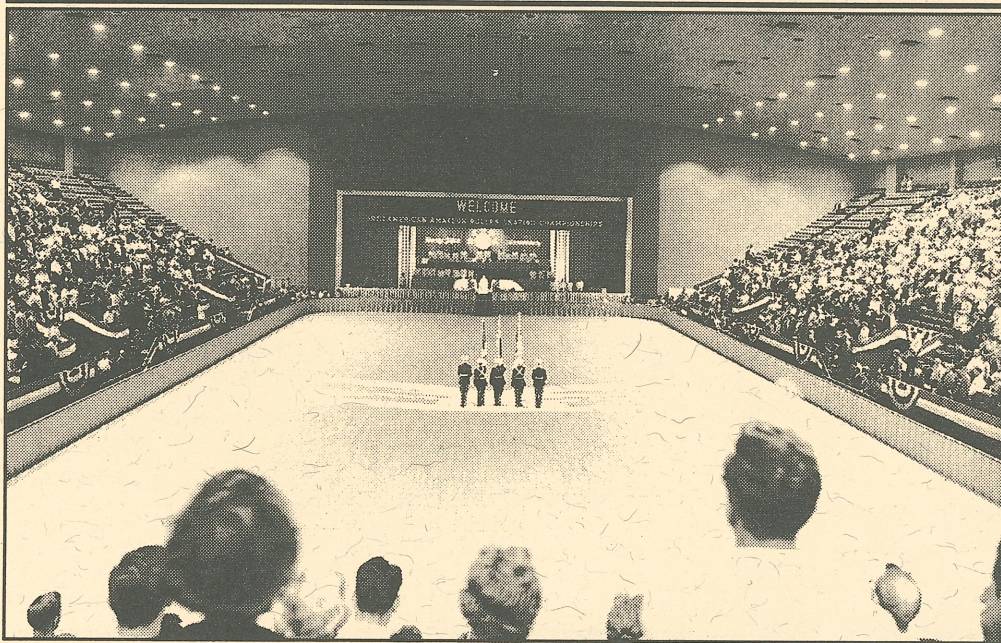
Michael Zaidman

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*Historical Roller Skating Overview is published bimonthly for members of the National Museum of Roller Skating. It is available only through honorary membership in the museum. Minimum annual contribution is \$25.00. Send correspondence to: Museum Director, 4730 South Street, P.O. Box 6579, Lincoln, NE 68506*

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# The Connection



*The U. S. Marine Corps color party on the floor at the opening ceremonies at the 1962 United States Amateur Roller Skating Championships, Pershing Municipal Auditorium, Lincoln, NE.  
Gift of Richard Young (84.38.1)*

One of the new exhibits currently being designed is “Nebraska’s Connection to Roller Skating.” When visitors come into the museum, most seem to ask how Lincoln became the roller skating capital and how roller skating got to Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Roller Skating Rink Operators Association (RSROA) was looking for sites to host their championships, and Lincoln held many opportunities for them. In 1958, Pershing Municipal Auditorium was brand new and was available for summer competitions. The city of Lincoln purchased a \$11,000 collapsible roller skating floor to entice the RSROA to come

to Lincoln and host their American Amateur Roller Skating Championships.

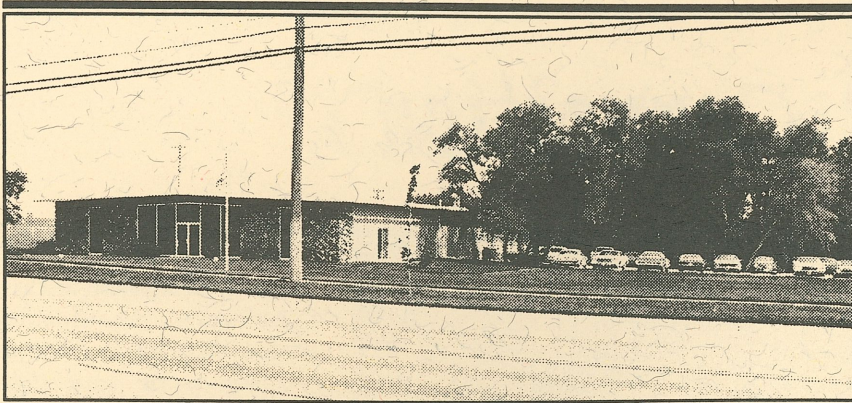
Once the floor was laid, the competitors of the 1962 championships arrived. 1400 athletes arrived in late July for the eight days and seven nights of championship action. Not only were there roller skating competitions, but there was also a parade through downtown, a skate queen contest, a roller skating production show, and Nebraska Governor, Frank B. Morrison proclaimed the week of July 28-August 4 as “Nebraska Roller Skating Week.” After the championships, this roller skating group would be back again as Lincoln was chosen as the 1963 regional qualifying site.

The parade was a huge success as was the roller skating championships. Frank Cahill, RSROA field representative, said after the parade that it “was just great . . . thanks Lincoln.” The overall consensus from the RSROA board applauded, it “was wonderful and tremendous cooperation.” Seth Scott, operator of Lincoln’s Arena Skating Center, also thought the parade and championships was a great success.

With such praise, Lincoln received a vote of confidence from the RSROA board of control by agreeing to hold the 1965 championships here again. Not only did the RSROA vote to have the 1965 championships here, but Lincoln has since hosted 16 championship events. Additionally, Lincoln has hosted the North Central Region championships every year since then.



*The 1962 RSROA Roller Hockey Champions,  
The Rolling Ghosts fom Lubbock, Texas.  
Gift of Bill Sisson (82.125.15A)*



*Original RSROA Headquarters building in Lincoln, NE.  
Gift of the R.S.R.O.A (83.1.47)*

After the championships success, Lincoln supporters enticed the RSROA to move from Michigan to Nebraska, after 31 years in Detroit. On December 2, 1968, the RSROA opened a new building in Lincoln, and appeared to have more room and potential to guide roller skating into the next decade. The move also put the association offices in a more centralized geographical location within the United States.

The first major change after the move included the merger of two skating federations, the United States Amateur Roller Skating Association (USARSA) and the United States Federation of Amateur Roller Skating (USFARS) in September of

1971. As a result of this merger, roller skating was able to present a united front in its effort toward Pan Am and Olympic participation.

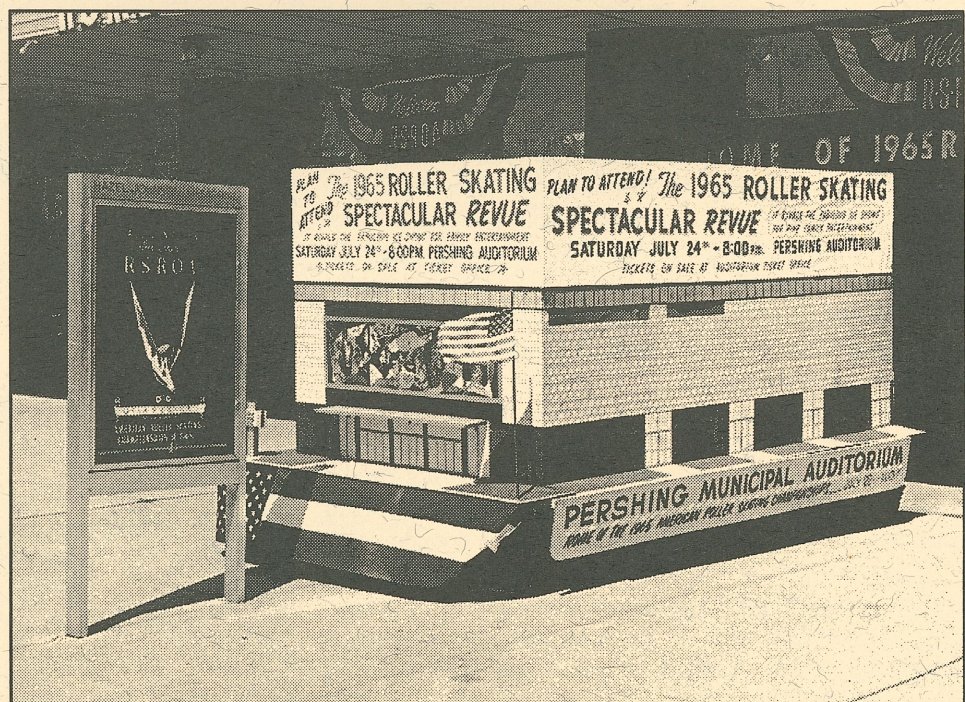
The second change occurred in August of 1973, when the RSROA separated itself from competitive roller skating, and the United States Amateur Confederation of Roller Skating (USAC) was formed [USAC added RS later in a copyright law infringement with United States Auto Club]. USAC assumed all responsibilities for competitive roller skating while the RSROA concentrated its efforts on becoming a constructive trade association for rink operators.

On October 27, 1980, Bert Anselmi, Bob Bollinger, Marvin Facher, George Pickard, and Dick Young signed the articles of incorporation for the National Museum of Roller Skating. The mission of the museum stated to obtain items of lasting interest or value relating to roller skating; to care for and display these items in an institution open to the general public; to sponsor and carry on activities that foster a better understanding of the history and development of roller skating; and to receive, invest, and manage gifts, grants, and bequests for any or all of these purposes.

The museum was born and the floodgates were open for all roller skating memorabilia. The museum received initial collections from C. W. Lowe, Jesse Bell, James Turner, Victor Brown, and Chester Fried, to name a few. The initial design of the museum included moveable glass cases with about a 50 x 70 square feet of exhibit space. The first location of the museum was inside the joint RSROA/USAC office. The second location and its present location is shared with USAC/RS.

The RSROA and USAC/RS office split in 1991 when the RSROA decided to move to Indianapolis, Indiana. Since Lincoln has been the headquarters of roller skating since 1968, the USAC/RS office made every effort to stay. The RSROA and USAC/RS had decided to keep the museum in Lincoln also since USAC/RS will still be having their championships here and the roller skating public would then have more access to it.

Now, Lincoln is not only the capitol of Nebraska, but it is also the capital of roller skating.



*Pershing Municipal Auditorium float in front of  
Pershing Municipal Auditorium, 1965.  
Gift of Doug Kuehnel (83.106.97)*

# National Museum of Roller Skating Members

*Thank you for supporting the only museum that collects, preserves,  
researches and educates on the history of roller skating.*

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			Bernadean Howard	Robert Buchanan
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			Rhonda Studer	Jewel Compton
			Scott Wilhite	Gail Kemp
			Bonnie Salt	Robert Gormley

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions have been made by the following people:

### **In Memory of William Naito, Portland, Oregon**

*Robert Bollinger*

Mr. Naito served on Robert Bollinger's private non-profit organization to care for the Oaks Park on its Board of Directors.

### **In Memory of Carl Anglin**

*Bonnie Hahn*

Mr. Anglin coached many in dance, figure, and free dance at the Arena in St. Louis.

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# Raffle

The 1997 Museum Raffle is here! Help the museum by purchasing a tax-deductible \$50 donation to the museum. This raffle provides vital unrestricted operating support to the museum. It ensures the fiscal vitality of the National Museum of Roller Skating, thereby enabling the museum to acquire artifacts, build exhibits, and produce this newsletter.

Tickets are sold for \$50 each and \$10,000 in cash prizes will be given out. 15 winners of \$100 each (\$1500); 4 winners of \$250 each (\$1000); 3 winners of \$500 each (\$1500); 1 winner of \$1000; and 1 Grand Prize winner of \$5000. The drawing will take place on May 14, 1997, at the RSA convention in Las Vegas. **Ticket holders need not be present to win.**

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROLLER SKATING  
1997 Raffle Ticket



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**Thank you for joining!**

Mail to: National Museum of Roller Skating  
P.O. Box 6579  
4730 South Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

Questions, or to order by phone, call (402) 483-7551.

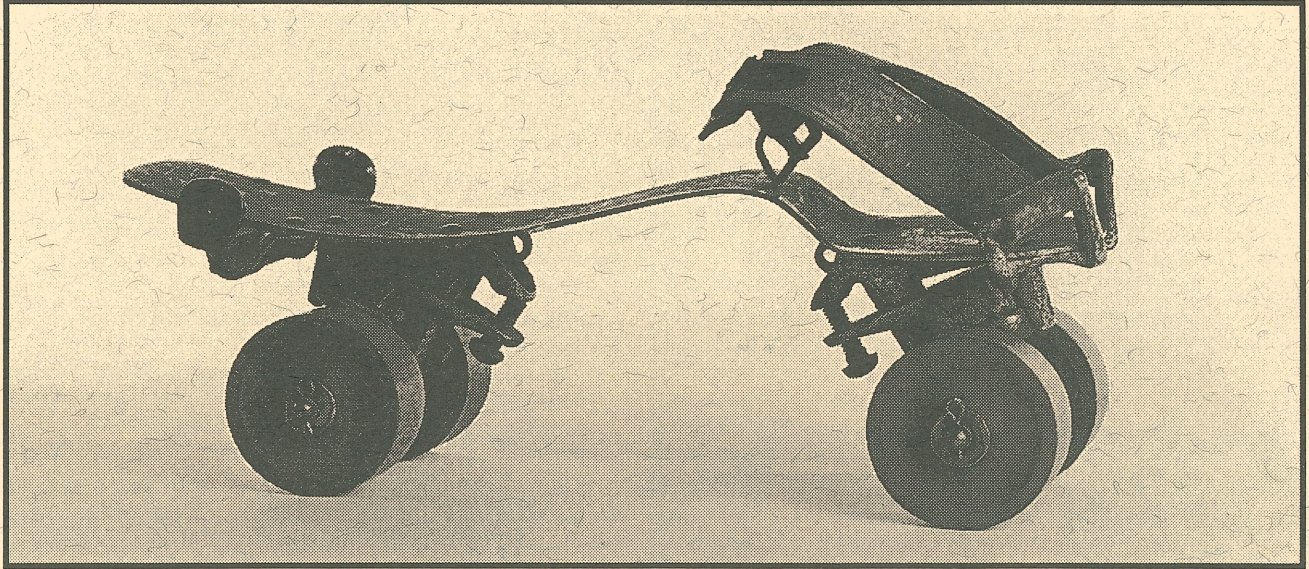
Benefits extend one year from join date. Allow 2 weeks for processing.

Membership includes a subscription to the museum's newsletter, *Historical Roller Skating OVERVIEW*, 10% off in the Museum Store, and a museum membership card.

## Another Museum Artifact

*The Henley Roller Skate was invented in 1880 by Micajah C. Henley of Richmond, Indiana. Most Henley skates are easily recognizable by the unusual curved arch of the plate. Mr. Henley made an improvement in the design of roller skates by making the tension of the skate cushions adjustable by means of a screw, much like the modern "Kingbolt." The skate pictured below is from 1883. This skate is also used in the museum's logo.*

Gift of Mr. Richard Young (82.2.5)



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