



January 2001
Issue No. #76

Historical
Roller Skating

Overview

National Museum
of Roller Skating



Curator's Column

Dear Members,

The museum has been very quiet for the last month but that has not stopped the staff from working hard to keep on top of things. We have been busy adding new exhibits and processing new donations. We have also added a new staff person. Jennifer Cook started in September as the museum's Assistant Curator. She is a first year student in the Museum Studies Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has been working hard including on the newest exhibit opening later this month and getting a variety of experience in museum work.

New exhibits in the museum include: *Is it a Shoe? Is it a Skate?* An exhibit on convertible roller skates; *Recent Donations* has been updated showing some of the museum's newest donations to the collection. And opening later this month *50 Years of Change: The Art of Skating Costumes*, which will look at the changes that have occurred in competitive costumes. The exhibit will showcase costumes from the last five decades and will exhibit six costumes and numerous photos.

The cover photo on the last issue of the Overview (October 2000, Issue #75) was of a group of children celebrating a birthday. The photo was unidentified until Rose Martin wrote the museum identifying almost all of the individuals attending a birthday party for her niece in March 1944 at the Arena Gardens rink. The museum is very grateful to Rose for taking the time to assist the museum in identifying the photo. Again, the cover photo is another unknown photo from the museum's collection. If anyone is able to identify the skaters or know anything about the photo, please write the museum and help us document the collection.

The museum's annual fundraiser, the 2001 Raffle, is starting early this year. The museum relies upon the annual fundraiser to raise the necessary operating funds for the museum. This year is no different; I hope all of the museum's members will consider purchasing a ticket and further helping the museum to produce newsletters, new exhibits and to continue educating the public on the fascinating history of roller skating. The raffle drawing will take place on May 16 after the President's Dinner at the Roller Skating Association's Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. The tickets are \$50 a piece and can be purchased by sending in the raffle ticket on page five with your check or money order.

Thanks again to all of the members for your continued support of the museum.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Wallis

Deborah L. Wallis
Director and Curator



Jennifer Cook, Assistant Curator

Board of Directors

President, Bert Anselmi
Vice-President, Chester Fried
Sec-Treas, George Pickard
Annelle Anderson
Nellie Anderson Lillie
Robert Bollinger
Frank Cernik
John Chrien
Marvin Facher
Charlotte Groves
Mills Lynn
Dave Schafer
Gordon Van Roekel
Charles Wahlig
Edmund Young

Director and Curator

Deborah L. Wallis
Assist. Curator
Jennifer Cook
USARS Publications
Manager
Jeanette Tupe
Trustee Emeritii:
Michael Brooslin,
James Turner and
Scott Wilhite
Honorary Trustees:
Irwin Rosee and
RSA Chapter
Chairpersons

Museum Hours

9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

Closed holidays and weekends.

Historical Roller Skating Overview ISSN 0896-1379
©2001 is published quarterly for members of the National Museum of Roller Skating. It is available only through membership in the museum. Minimum annual contribution is \$35. Send correspondence and change of address to: National Museum of Roller Skating, 4730 South Street, Suite 2, Lincoln, Nebraska 68506 USA.
Phone: 402/483-7551 x.16 Fax: 402/483-1465
Internet: www.rollerskatingmuseum.com.
E-mail: postmaster@rollerskatingmuseum.com.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOE STOP

Today's skaters view the toe stop as simply a part of any roller skate. However, the first skates did not always have a toe stop. Many different styles of stoppers were tried but the toe stop did not take root until Eli Fackler's horseshoe shape toe stop came out.

The following article on the evolution of the toe stop appeared in the Spring 1979 "Skate" magazine.

The late 1930's gave birth to roller skating as an organized competitive sport, with primary emphasis on the spectrum of speed skating. The leaders of the newly formed Roller Skating Rink Operator Association were rink owners, and most were former speed skaters like Al Kish, Roland Cioni and Fred Martin.

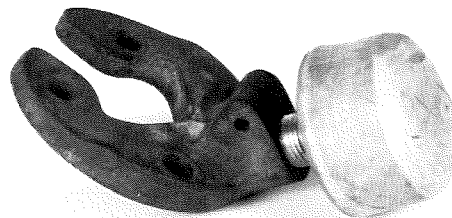
Skating equipment of the later 30's and early 40's lacked an element most of today's skaters—both competitive and recreational—take for granted: the toe stop. It was standard procedure in those days for speed skaters to push off the line on the flat of their skates, in a "duck" walk position. The widespread feeling around speed skaters was that toe stops were a hindrance rather than a help.

As freestyle roller skating became more sophisticated, the desire for toe stops grew. The lutz, flip and mapes, all taken from ice skating, required the use of a stop of some kind to duplicate the rake of the skate. Early freestyle skaters executed jumps by tapping the side of the skate wheel before take off. Not everyone could master this, but three of those who could were Bruce Towle, Ernie Wetler, and Walter Stokosa. Stokosa won the 1939 Nationals by performing a single mapes and flip minus the toe stop. While these skaters were examples of the seeming unnecessary for toe stops in freestyle, roller skaters were keenly aware that their contemporaries in the ice skating world had a tremendous extra boost in their skating due to the stopping action of the blade's rake.

During those early years skaters began improvising "rakes" for their wheeled skates. In 1941, Bob Ryan won Senior Men's Figures and Freestyle at Nationals, and the



Box for Fo-Mac Toe Stops



Eli Fackler's horseshoe shape toe stop

first toe stop—a rubber shoe heel nailed to the toe of his skating boot—appeared on a national champion. Because the freestyle and figure championship title was combined as it now is in international style skating, the toe stops used in free style were removed for figure competition.

As the number of "do-it-yourself" toe stops increased, so did rink operators' concerns about the stops' safety and practicality. It was not uncommon for the rubber heel of the stop to break off or wear down, exposing the nails or bolts that held the stopper to the shoe, and often resulting in extensive gouging and damage to the hardwood skating floors. Throughout the forties, the rink operator's fears of floor damage were at the root of the toe stop controversy. And what a controversy it was! Freestylers and their pros saw in the toe stop a tool to elevate the sport of roller skating to match the accomplishments of the ice skaters. Recreational skaters were taken by the stop as a status symbol, and even though no particular need had been established, they wanted to look like skating stars.

The controversy came to a head in June 1947, when Speed Chairman Otto Albrecht warned contestants that toe stops would not be allowed during the year's speed competitions. Enraged pros and skaters protested the action, and several top pros were evicted from the Association for disagreeing with the Board decision. In December of that year, the Board reconsidered and rescinded their statement, readmitting the professionals and allowing toe stops once more.

The controversy might still be waging to this day if it were not personal individual effort to research and refine the product. The major

developer of the toe stop was Eli Fackler, a Swiss-born engineer with a background in skiing and ice skating. He was the amateur roller skating coach for tope Senior Ladies competitor Delores Molla, and inventor for use a succession of toe sops which ultimately led to what is now the industry standard. His first model was a horseshoe-shaped reinforced plate which fit around the hanger of a Snyder skate and utilized a detachable gooseneck with a rubber stop mounted on the end. The gooseneck broke frequently. His next step was to abandon the gooseneck extension as impractical, and to investigate the possibility of using molded rubber to cap a bolt. He visited with several automobile tier companies in Detroit, Finally finding one that would mold white rubber around an aluminum bolt to his specifications. Eventually he did away with the horseshoe altogether, an in 1947 began casting the skate plate with an extension that held the toe stop bolt. The Plate, a "one size fits all" concept was simply cut off at the heel to size.

During the development stages of the Eli Toe Stop a wide variety of other concepts an designs came and went, with the Eli principle remaining a the most practical.

Not so long ago, in terms of years, toe stops were a rarity, and were mostly home-made affairs. When commercial toe stops became available following the Eli design, they were sold as optional equipment at extra price. As more and more skaters desired this appliance, skate manufacturers made the toe stop skate the standard. Ultimately, the non-toe stop skate was abandoned as being too expensive to manufacture on a limited basis.

Skates who refer to stops as "bumpers" or "brakes" have no idea of the equipment's inception and development. But now, thanks to Eli, you know!

Thank You!

The National Museum of Roller Skating symbolizes the geneoristy, commitment and vision of hundreds of contributors. We are pleased to recognize the following contributors for their interest and philanthropy.

Individual/Family \$35 - \$49

David and Carrie Allen
 Thomas Andrew
 Anonymous
 Joel Aranson
 Robert Arredondo
 Irene Ballard
 Neva Belle Banion
 John J. Bax, Skate Place
 Darwin & Patty Behnke
 Tom & Sandy Beverage
 June Bickmeyer
 Dianne & Robert Bollinger
 Edward & Barbara Bolton
 Nellie Boucher
 Judy Breslau
 Jackie Brezney
 Robert W. Brockway
 Lou Brooks
 Margaret Brooks
 Rex, M.J. and Jenni Buddenberg
 Rosellen Bunyan
 Mary L. Burghardt
 Honey Burton
 Michele & Milton Carter
 Judy and Neil Cook
 Frances Mary Cooley
 Dorothy & George Dahl
 Cheryl Delano
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles D. Derry
 Jeannie Devonshire
 Virgil & Sue Dooley
 Blanche Doorn
 Donald Eastlake and Family
 Arthur "Budd" Eversman, Skate America
 Diane Fearn
 Sue Filo
 Ed & Bea Fior
 Irene Fritz
 Jim & Aleva "Cookie" Gantz
 Cynthia Gates
 Mr. & Mrs. James Giardini
 Norden Gilbert
 Robert Gormley
 David Greenberg
 Jim Groark
 Sarah Gruber
 Sheri Hack, Skate Island Inc.
 Jennifer Hall
 Richard J. Hawkins

Larry & Mary Hayes
 Jim Henze
 The Houle Family
 Ralph & Loretta Horvath
 Neolia Johnson
 Robert & Jacqueline Kane
 Cecilia Ann Kelley
 Adele Kiefer
 Ronald Koppel
 Leo J. LaMay, Ph.D.
 Jacqueline Lankowski, Mentor Skateland
 Joseph Leanza
 Christopher E. Leonard
 Juli and Artie Lloyd
 Richard Lowman, Sr
 Austin Lyddy III
 Frank & Sophie Magrino
 William Martin
 Paul & Gwen McClintic
 Dana Meyer
 Caroline Mirelli
 Tim Mitchell, Star Wheels Skate Center
 Edward & Rosemary Morton
 Rose Ann Myers
 Elwood Nauss
 Arthur Nodine
 Gilbert Norden
 Anne Pals
 Elizabeth W. Plimpton
 Wilma & John Pummill
 Thomas Queret
 Lenore Remley
 Edie Plimpton Reynolds
 Bently & Jeanne Robison, Skyline Skate
 Elizabeth Rohde Cratty
 Roller Graphics
 Joni K. Salmon
 Ana & Robert Schmid
 Susan Schmitz
 Doris Schonning
 Florence Schuneman
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Schroer
 George & Dorethy Schweigert
 Ms. Frances E. Scott
 Mike Setta
 Clayton Smith
 Gloria Smith
 Dale Sprague

Charles J. Stiles
Christine Swahn
Vern Tappen
Irene Taylor
James Thomas
Phyllis Tomlinson
William & Patricia Van Wagner
Marianne Vezerian
Nick Viscuso
Virginia Wadleigh
Jack Walker
Wal-Lex Recreation Center
DeWayne and Lois Wallis
Sammy and Joyce Watson, Rolladium
Skate Center
David Weiland
Paul Weiss
Norma Willison
Elizabeth Woods

Donor \$50 - \$99

Nellie Anderson Lillie
Bob Babcock
Janina Bacich
Alan & Judy Bacon, Rollerarena
Steve Betterly, Riedell Shoes, Inc.
Gigi Boyd
Annetta Buettner
Mrs. Manetta Burgermeister
Robert & Dianne Braun
Douglas Breniser
Carrie and Al Calandriello
S. Cantor
Sissie Combs, Galaxy Skating Center
Leita Couey, Sparkles Roller Rink
Gene & Robbie Cox
Betty Crouther
Jon & Leita Deeg
Dan Devine
Joan & Les Diener
Jim & Ruth DiGiacobbe, Cortland
Skateland
Jill Drocea
Gary Englund
The Fleming Family
Chester Fried
Joey Higby
Valerie Hildebrand
Wat Suk Hing
Sandra Hisaw
Laura Johnson
Ursula B. Jones
Betty Jones
Grace Kwiett
Debbie Lewis
Ralph Marinelli
Rose Martin

David J. Mathews
Diane McChesney
Linda Lester-Moody & Dave Moody
Marie Mullins, Jimmie's
Rollerdrome, Inc.
Marsha Neary
Mildred Neschke
Glen and Jo Donna Neifert
Sam Nieswizski
Christine Panetta
Dolores Pillow
Nadine Pokorny-Meis
Robert Purcell
Teresa Purvis
RC Sports, Inc
Chuck Redman
Redwood D & F Club
Pat & Dennis Romanczak
Rolf Schade
Lori Ann Schade
William Schneider
John & Luella Scollo
George & Ann Sheridan, Gibson
Arena
James & Faye Shoemake
Velma Stein
Marsha G. Swanton-Plummer
Steve Sweetin
Mitchell & Beverly Thibodeaux
Virginia Turnbull, Columbia
Skateland
Tulsa Skating Center, Inc.
Joseph Wagner
Harry Walker

Associate Patron \$100 - \$249

Kevin and Carla Baker
Edward Bossart
L R Brown
Carousel Skating Center
John Chrien
Eric & Barbara Englund
Mike Finley
Dave & Judy Geiger
Judy Graves
Margot Hager
Patricia Hanaway
Jack Hobbs
Michael & Pat Jacques
Bruce Johnson
Robert & Joan Labriola
Marguerite Levenson
C.W. Lowe
Susan Maiolo
Katherine Mandusic Finley
William & Dorothy McDonald
Elaine Minch

William A. Sahley, Roller Garden
Skate World of Troy
Andy Starr
Randy Talbot, Hot Wheels Skating
Center
Robert Travarca
Jane Wojnarowsky & Brenda Butera

Patron \$250 - \$499

Annelle & Bob Anderson
Frank & Phyllis Cernik
Bud & Shirley Engle
Charlotte Groves
Richard Jones
Mills & Betty Lynn
Midwest Skate Company
Thomas & Mary Kay Obert
George Pickard
Skateland Fun Center
Southeastern Skate Supply
JBL Trinity Group, Ltd.

Benefactor \$500+

Bert and Lynn Anselmi
Anonymous
Jeff Duensing
Jim & Millie Ferris
William & Gladys Kelly
John Matejec
Gordon Budd Van Roekel
David Schafer

2000 Contributors

MEMORIALS

The Patron Memorial Plaque was created to honor those individuals who have contributed to the growth of roller skating as a sport, recreation or business. A plaque may be purchased for a minimum contribution of \$250. Please fill out the information below if you are interested. All other donations are recognized in the newsletter.

In Memory of In Honor of On Occasion of

Name _____

Event _____

Please check one:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250

Other \$ _____

This contribution was made by:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Mail this form and payment (NMRS) to the museum.
All donations are tax-deductible.

Donations

The National Museum of Roller Skating's collection has grown each year because of donors who have contributed to the growth of the museum. If you have an artifact that you would like to donate, please contact the museum before donating. Thank you for your continued support! The following donors have contributed to the collection:

Sue and Lou Allgayer	C.W. Lowe
Ron Anderson	Judith Miller
Dan and Susan Bennett	Caroline Mirelli
Kelly Bennett	Rose and Ed Morton
Nellie Boucher	Sam Nieswizski
Della Brasuhn	George Pickard
Honey Burton	Nadine Pokorny Meis
Carrie and Al Calandriello	Jim Pollard
Thelma Cooper	RC Sports
Andy DeVito	Peter Reifschneider
Jim and Millie Ferris	Chris St. Germain
Chester Fried	Rod and Duane
James Huffman	Trembath
Paul Hughes, Black Biscuit	Deborah Wallis
Bill Johnson	Sondra Wendell
Ilene Johnson	Michael Zaidman
Christopher and Jean Leonard	

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROLLER SKATING

2001 Raffle

PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE

Price \$50. Total of \$10,000 in cash prizes. Grand prize \$5,000! Drawing to take place, May 16, 2001, at the RSA International convention during the President's Dinner. Ticket holders need not be present to win. All proceeds benefit the museum.

The National Museum of Roller Skating is a publicly supported, charitable organization.

Purchaser _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # () _____

Where: At the RSA Convention

When: Wednesday night, May 16, 2001

Why: To Give You A Chance To Win while helping the National Museum of Roller Skating.

Prizes Consist of:

15 winners of \$100 each

4 winners of \$250 each

3 winners of \$500 each

1 winner of \$1,000

1 winner of \$5,000

Total Prizes: \$10,000

Tickets are sold for \$50 each

How: Buy a raffle ticket from the museum by calling 402/483-7551 ext. 16 or by sending in this form.

Ticket holders need not be present to win.

Deadline for this form is May 9, 2001.

Send to: 4730 South Street, Suite 2, Lincoln, NE 68506

Cut or photocopy and mail with payment to the museum

Thanks

The National Museum of Roller Skating would like to thank these members who have either joined or renewed membership with the museum since our last issue. Thank you for your support!

Benefactor (\$500)

Anonymous
Bert & Lynn Anselmi
Jeffery Duensing
Bill and Gladys Kelly

Patron (\$250)

JBL Trinty Group, Ltd.
Richard Jones
Skateland Fun Center

Association Patron (\$100)

Carousel Family Fun Center
J. Robert Chado
John Chrien

Donor (\$50)

Theresa Dilling
Betty Jones
Ursula B. Jones
Redwood D and F Club
Mitchell & Beverly Thibodaux
Tulsa Skating Center, Inc

Individual/Family (\$35)

Joel Aranson
Robert Arredondo
John J. Bax
Nellie Boucher
Judy Breslau
Jackie Brezney
Robert Brockway
Mary L. Burghardt
Honey Burton
Carrie & Al Calandriello
Judy & Neil Cook
Thelma Cooper
Richard J. Hawkins
Christopher E. Leonard
Richard Lowman
Dana L. Meyer
Tim Mitchell
Mike Setta
Dale Sprague Sr.
Irene M. Taylor
Nick Viscuso
Virginia J. Wadleigh
Wal-Lex Recreation Center, Inc.

The museum would also like to thank the donors who have given to the museum's 20th Anniversary Money to Grow On fund. Thanks for your support!

David & Carrie Allen
Annelle Anderson
Anonymous
Joel Aranson
Robert Arredondo
Judy Breslau
Jackie Brezney
Cheryl Delano
Mr. & Mrs. Charles D. Derry
Larry & Mary Hayes
Austin A. Lyddy III
Judith Miller
John & Luella Scollo
Steve Sweetin
Wal-Lex Recreation Center, Inc

Membership Matters

Membership support is greatly appreciated!

Join Here!

- New Renew
- Check one:
- Benefactor \$500
 - Patron \$250
 - Associate Patron \$100
 - Donor \$50
 - Individual/Family \$35
- Additional Contribution \$ _____
- Gift Membership \$ _____
- Total Enclosed \$ _____

Payment Method

- Check Payable to National Museum of Roller Skating
- VISA MasterCard

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Member Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Thank you for joining!

Gift Membership Form (Makes a Great Gift!)

Name _____

Address _____

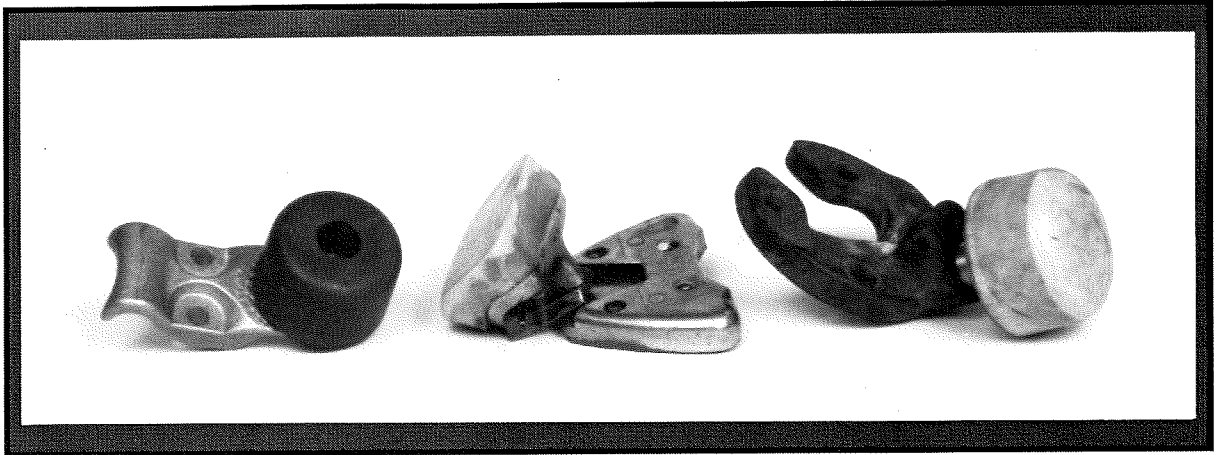
City, State, Zip _____

Benefits extend one year from join date. Please allow 3 weeks for processing. Membership includes a subscription to the member's newsletter, Historical Roller Skating Overview, 10% off museum store items, a membership card, and your choice of publications (please check one):

- The History of Roller Skating* ©1997 ISBN 0-9658192-0-5
- The Allure of the Rink* ©1999 ISBN 0-9658192-1-3

All donations are tax-deductible up to the amount permitted by law. Please clip/return to: National Museum of Roller Skating, Suite 2, Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

Another Artifact



Toe Stops: (from left to right) "Flash" toe stop and bracket, 1971, made by the Jiffy Toe Stop Company; Fo-Mac Detachable Toe Stop, ca 1950; Eli Fackler horsehoe shape Toe Stop, ca 1945.

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP MAKES A GREAT GIFT.

NON PROFIT ORG
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #545
LINCOLN, NE

National Museum of Roller Skating (#76)
4730 South Street, Suite 2
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506



Change Service Requested