

October 2001  
Issue No. #79

Historical  
Roller Skating

# Overview

National Museum  
of Roller Skating





# Curator's Column

Dear Members: The museum was bustling this summer with many visitors and I hope many of you were able to be among those visitors. Our summer visitors were able to enjoy two new exhibits, *50 Years of Skating Scouts*, which explores Boy and Girl Scout roller skating badges, and *Nebraska's Connection to Roller Skating*, which explores past twenty years of the museum.

Fall has brought a higher level of behind the scenes activity in the museum. We have begun the large task of completing a shelf-by-shelf inventory of our entire collections. Jennifer Cook, Assistant Curator, has taken this project under her wing and will be assisted by graduate Museum Studies students from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on November 3. The students, members of the Association of Museum Studies Students, volunteer one day each semester to assist a local museum complete or work on a project. We are looking forward to their assistance and hope to complete a large chunk of the inventory before January.

The museum's fiscal year came to end on August 30 along with our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and the Money to Grow on Fund campaign. The museum received a total donation of \$915 from fifty donors from September 1, 2000 to September 30, 2001. Thank you to all of the donors for helping to make our campaign a success. In conjunction with the beginning of our new fiscal year, we are offering a new renewing membership benefit, a print of one of our paintings in the collection. The painting currently hangs in the reception area and has long been a favorite of the staff. The 8" x 8" framable print, pictured to the right, is a full color reproduction of the original. Look for your renewing membership letter in the mail to take advantage of this great gift.



The cover photo on the July issue was of a couple, Eddy Sheppard and Eleanor Holmes-Sheppard, standing outside on a wooden platform. Unfortunately we did not receive any new information about the photo or the couple. The cover photo on this issue is one that we do not have any information on it. From the style, we believe the photo was taken in the 1940s. If anyone knows who the little girl is or where the photo was taken, we would love to hear from you.

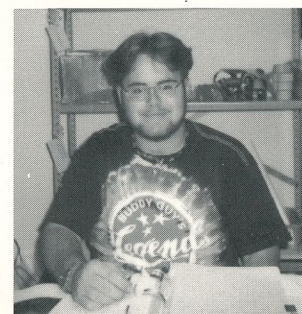
While reading through some of the Skate magazines and newspapers in the museum's archives, I ran across a very inspiring editorial that was published in the November 1964 *Skate Newspaper*. The editorial tells the story of Chad Deatrack who lost his leg to cancer but continued to skate with just one leg. It is a story of a young man determined to overcome all the odds to do something that he absolutely loved. I hope it inspires all of you as it did me to continue pushing forward regardless of the obstacles one faces.

Thank you to all of the members for your continued support of

*Deborah L. Wallis*

Deborah L. Wallis  
Director and Curator

*Dylan Fink, a high school senior, completed twenty volunteer hours at the museum in July and August. All Lincoln Public high school seniors are required to volunteer at a local non-for-profit organization. Dylan assisted in photocopying and categorizing newspaper articles into our reference notebooks.*



**Thank You to Sunflower Bank  
in Salina, Kansas for donating  
\$250.00 to the museum's  
general operating funds.**

**Your donation will help the museum  
to preserve the rich history of roller skating.**

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## Museum Hours

9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

Closed holidays and weekends.

Phone: 402/483-7551 x.16 Fax: 402/483-1465

Internet: [www.rollerskatingmuseum.com](http://www.rollerskatingmuseum.com)

E-mail: [postmaster@rollerskatingmuseum.com](mailto:postmaster@rollerskatingmuseum.com)

**Mission Statement:** The museum exists as an autonomous entity, to acquire, preserve, research and interpret the history of roller skating through its collection of artifacts, photographs, archival material and other skating memorabilia. It strives to document roller skating's historical progression, current status and its future development in context of the associated people and events.

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# A Profile in Skating Courage

by Victor J. Brown

*The following article was reprinted from the November 1964 issue of Skate newspaper.*

At the Yankee Stadium in New York there is a strange roar during the World Series days and it is a legend that it echoes from the days of Babe Ruth.

The roar rumbles in recollection of the Babe and his feats with his prodigious bat which transformed baseball in to the national pastime.

Six miles from the Yankee Stadium stands Madison Square Garden, often referred to as the mecca of sports. There is a legend here, too. Old-timers in the Garden—the concessionaires who hustle pop and hot dogs, the long-time ushers, the Garden buffs and the newspapermen who've seen and heard the Garden rock to its rafters with the excitement of a thousand great fights—will never forget a night in 1946.

The story revolves around a young man named Chad Deatrick, a promising roller skater of the 1940's who was utterly fearless in the execution of rousing jumps and spins. No skater was more dedicated to skating and perfecting his techniques than this young, likeable lad whose whole world revolved around his technique. He was unpredictable, outspoken and a showman in every sense of the word. But he worked with an intense dedication that made associates marvel. No jump or spin was too difficult for him to try. And no fall or frustration was too disheartening to stop him from coming off the floor with a smile . . . plus the drive to try again until the maneuver was mastered.

Deatrick's world changed abruptly, along with that of millions of other Americans, when the United States was attacked at Pearl Harbor on the Sunday morning of December 7, 1941. He enlisted in the Seabees and was shipped to the Aleutians—hundreds of miles removed from any roller skating.

\* \* \*

The bleak, forbidding climate of the islands was as much a threat to the morale of United States servicemen as the unseen enemy but young Deatrick was not to be denied. With several of his Seabee mates, he built a roller rink from discarded lumber—a roller rink that brought hours of recreation to the lonely Seabees and the opportunity to practice his spins and jumps to Deatrick.

Deatrick was as happy as any other U.S. serviceman doing a job that had to be done and making the best of it. But tragedy was lurking in the island's mists—tragedy that was to strike deep down into the very soul of this dedicated young man.

Tragedy's calling card was pain in Deatrick's right leg. The doctors were puzzled. The pain grew worse. The doctors consulted. Deatrick was flown to the mainland for further examination. The doctors made further tests. And then the decision: Deatrick had developed cancer in the right leg and the only way to save his life was by amputation.

Deatrick's world collapsed. He would never skate again. It was similar to a death sentence. Back in New York on crutches, the youngster watched forlorn and unhappy while others skated. Life seemed to have lost its meaning.

\* \* \*

The next time I saw Deatrick I was seated behind a desk helping to plan an anti-polio roller skating show at the Garden. He came into my office on crutches, wearing his Navy uniform, and with a sad but determined smile on his face.

"Mr. Brown, I'd like to skate in the Garden," he said. "Please give me a the chance."

Chad got that chance and what he made of it belongs to the lore of the famous sports arena.

Yes, Chad skated. And how he skated! Spinning, jumping gyrating on one leg this young man who had suffered in war, treated that Garden crowd to one of the most fantastic performances in sports history. Down from the upper reaches of the huge arena came the deafening roar of tribute—tribute to a splendid skater and a courageous man. It mounted to what some old-timers say was the greatest ovation in the Garden history as the spotlight trained down upon him in his final spins and bow—and then he was gone from view.

Amid the cheers there were tears.

The cancer that had robbed him of his first love, now attacked ferociously to rob him of his life. The doctors tried everything they knew. But the cancer could not be stopped. In a short four years—a very short four years—Chad Deatrick passed away.

Chad's one-time Seabee comrades-in-arms carried his coffin from the chapel in the Brooklyn Navy Yard . . . taps were sounded . . . and Chad Deatrick was laid to his final rest in the uniform of his country.

The world has undergone many a convulsion since that sad day but the image of Chad Deatrick shines on as a glorious profile in roller skating courage.

Feature Article



# Holiday Gift Ideas from the Museum's Store

## Museum Logo Items

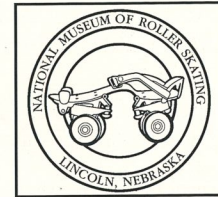


- Item A - Logo Pads
- Item B - Coffee Mug - White with Navy Logo
- Item C - Pewter Paper Weight
- Item D - Lapel Pin
- Item E - Fabric Patch
- Item F - Keychain featuring the Henley Skate
- Item G - 20th Anniversary Pin

## Museum T-shirts



T-Shirt H - 1878s Roller Hockey Short Sleeve, White T-Shirts available in Small - X-Large



T-Shirt I - Museum Logo Short Sleeve, Indigo T-Shirts available in Small - X-Large

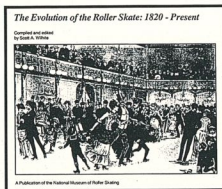


T-Shirt J - First Skate Short Sleeve, Grey T-Shirts available in Small - X-Large

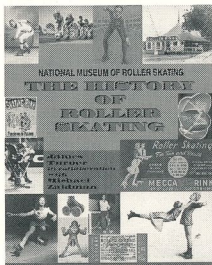


T-Shirt K - 1880s Skating Scene Short Sleeve, White T-Shirts available in Small - X-Large

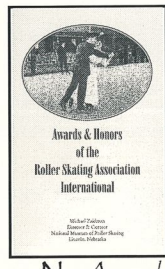
## Museum Books



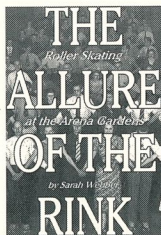
Item L - The Evolution of the Roller Skate: 1820 - Present



Item M - The History of Roller Skating



Item N - Awards & Honors of the Roller Skating Association

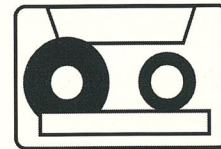


Item O - The Allure of the Rink, Roller Skating at the Arena Gardens, 1935-1953

## Miscellaneous Items



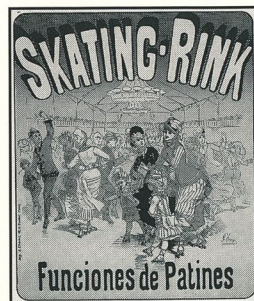
Item P - Make A Date To Roller Skate shoulder tote bag, 11" x 16.5"



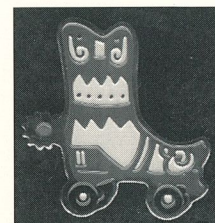
Nick Viscuso #53 Roller Skating Dances Organ Music includes 16 Selections

Item Q - Cassette Tape

Item R - CD



Item S - Limited Edition Jules Cheret Lithograph. 32" x 25"



Item T - Cowboy Boot Roller Skate Lapel Pin, 1" x 1"



# Store Order Form

Items	Quantity	Total
Item A - Logo Pads#.....	1.50 ea.	
Item B - Logo Coffee Mug.....	5.30 ea.	
Item C - Logo Pewter Paper Weight.....	7.45 ea.	
Item D - Logo Lapel Pin.....	2.00 ea.	
Item E - Logo Fabric Patch.....	3.20 ea.	
Item F - Keychain with Henley Skate.....	5.30 ea.	
Item G - Logo 20th Anniversary Pin.....	3.50 ea.	
T - Shirt H - 1878 Roller Hockey Scene*.....	15.00 ea.	
T - Shirt I - Museum Logo*.....	15.00 ea.	
T - Shirt J - First Skate*.....	15.00 ea.	
T - Shirt K - 1880s Skating Scene*.....	15.00 ea.	
Book L - Evolution of the Roller Skate.....	10.00 ea.	
Book M - The History of Roller Skating.....	20.00 ea.	
Book N - Awards & Honors of the RSA.....	5.00 ea.	
Book O - The Allure of the Rink.....	10.00 ea.	
Item P - Tote Bag.....	12.00 ea.	
Item Q - Nick Viscuso #53 Cassette Tape....	15.00 ea.	
Item R - Nick Viscuso #53 CD.....	20.00 ea.	
Item S - J. Cheret Limited Edition Poster.....	5.00 ea.	
Item T - Cowboy Boot Roller Skate Lapel Pin..	5.00 ea.	
<b>ORDER SUBTOTAL</b>		\$

\*T - Shirt Orders - Specify Size

Sm  Med  Lg  X-Lg

#Specify pad style:

Logo only  Founded 1980  Join Today

**Mail this Order form or a copy of it  
along with your payment to:**

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**Questions?  
Call (402) 483-7551 Ext. 16**

Total Amount of Order	\$
Museum Members - Subtract 10% Discount	-\$
Shipping & Handling- see form to the left	\$
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b>	<b>\$</b>

Number of items ordered	Charges
1-9 items	\$3.20
10-19 items	\$4.00
Over 20 items	\$6.00
<i>Call for International Charges.</i>	

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Museum Member  Non-member

Method of Payment:

Check  Money Order  Credit Card

Visa  MasterCard

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



# Museum's Memorial Plaque

Almost ten years ago in 1992, the National Museum of Roller Skating Board of Trustees established the Patron Memorial Plaque to "perpetuate the names of individuals for whom a memorial is established by friends or family." The handsome memorial oak plaque was permanently installed in 1993 just inside the museum's door and was dedicated with the following text, "This plaque is dedicated in honor of the following individuals for their significant contributions and love for the sport of roller skating." Beneath the dedication plate are forty-eight individual memorial plates.

Since the plaque's inception, family, friends and roller skating organizations or a combination of all three have purchased thirty of the memorial plates to permanently honor their loved ones. They have used the museum's memorial plaque to show appreciation and to permanently enshrine their loved ones who have spent their lives in the sport or occupation of roller skating. Each plate contains the image of a hockey player, a speed skater or an artistic couple. Next to the skater images are the names of the memorialized individuals with text below of personal information or an inspirational quote about their dedication or contribution to the sport and business of roller skating.

The individuals honored are from all parts of the roller skating community. They are rink owners, athletes and roller skating enthusiasts.

A few of the honorees include:

Thomas Gregory was honored with a plaque purchased by the combine gifts from the USARS Michigan chapter, the Michigan SRSTA chapter, Bert and Lynn Anselmi and Bud and Laurene Patton. Tom was honored for his involvement in roller skating since the age of nine as a competitor, teacher, operator and a friend of many.

John Chrien honored Bud and Shirley Engle upon their induction in the USARS Distinguished Service Hall of Fame.

The Michigan USARS chapter honored Beverly Schien for her many years of dedication to their chapter.

Ralph Horvath honored his wife, Loretta, on the occasion of their 49th wedding anniversary.

Lewis Quintin was honored by combined gifts from Bert and Lynn Anselmi, Charlotte Groves and Robert Bollinger.

Many others have also been honored with a memorial plaque. They are: E.W. Ramsey, Fredrick Groves, Anthony "Tony" Dominic Mirelli, Clyde and Della Hodges-Wright, Ed and Billie Hodges, Ben and Helen Hodges, John Sawyer, Billie Chew, Carl Masters, Russell Knapp, Kenney Sherman, W.A. "Sherm" Sherman, Carole E. Grabill, Harold and Zella Hodges Erhardt, Dr. Harlen Hunter, JoAnn Marie Kowalchak, John Chrien, Ruth Chrien (Nee Tisdall), Bruce Pearson, Dorothy (Brown) Tamaccio, Harry Ball, Carl Anglin, Irma Libke, Anthony and Marjorie Puracchio and Wayne Wojnarowsky.

Numerous others in the roller skating industry and sport are very deserving of a memorial but have not yet been acclaimed. If you would like to honor an individual or couple with a Memorial Gift or a Memorial Plaque, please fill out the form below or contact the museum at 402/483-7551 x16.

## 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 & payment (NMRS) to the museum.  
All donations are tax-deductible.



# 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)

Roller Skating Association International

## Patron (\$250)

Annelle & Bob Anderson  
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Bud and Shirley Engle  
Judy T. Graves  
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Midwest Skate Company  
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Thomas & Mary Kay Obert

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Ralph Marinelli

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Robert Travarca  
Jane Wojnarowski & Brenda Butera

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Sam Nieswizski  
Anne Pals  
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## Individual/Family (\$35)

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Irene P. Ballard  
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Nellie Boucher  
Margaret Brooks  
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Fotiadi Dimitri  
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Jack B. Walker  
Martin White  
Norma Willison  
Elizabeth Woods

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

Kevin and Carla Baker  
Annetta F. Buettner  
Bud and Shirley Engle  
Nellie Anderson Lillie  
Ralph Marinelli  
Marsha L. Neary  
Thomas & Mary Kay Obert  
Robert Travarca  
Elizabeth Woods  
Jack B. Walker

# 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 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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- Check Payable to National Museum of Roller Skating
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Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### Member Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for joining!*

**Gift Membership Form (Makes a Great Gift!)**

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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



*Photograph from the early 1900s showing their patriotic spirit*

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