

Historical Roller Skating OVERVIEW

National Museum of Roller Skating
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A Publication of the National Museum of Roller Skating

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*Two four-girl hockey teams at Lowe's Rink, Kansas City, Missouri. Circa 1930.
Photo donated by C.W. Lowe, Jr.*

CURATOR'S CORNER

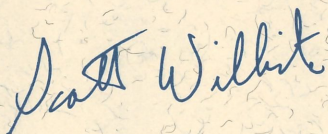
Greetings from the museum.

Time is running out for all those interested in purchasing a raffle ticket. The drawing will be May 12, at the RSA convention in Las Vegas. Don't miss this opportunity to win big! \$5000 goes to the grand prize winner. You need not be present to win and tickets are only \$50. Please send check or money order to the National Museum of Roller Skating.

Work continues on the new book being published by the museum entitled, "The Evolution of the Roller Skate: 1819-Present." It will highlight many roller skate manufacturers, inventors, the history of in-line skates, James L. Plimpton, and much more.

The museum has been selected to receive three grants from the federal government. One is from the Museum Assessment Program and another is from the Conservation Assessment Program. The CAP and MAP grants allow the museum to bring in outside museum professionals to survey the collection and will aid the museum in the preservation of the many items we have in our collection. The third grant is called a Technical Assistance Grant (or TAG) and will fund training for the museum staff to help improve the care that is given to the photographic collection.

This issue of the "Overview" features some of the colorful history of roller hockey. I think you'll find some of the photos that are featured very interesting. In addition, the United States Amateur Confederation of Roller Skating announced the new Hall of Fame selections for Coaches, Athletes, and the new Distinguished Service category.



Scott Wilhite,
Director and Curator

1994 USAC/RS Hall of Fame Selections

Athletes

Kevin Carroll, Gregg Smith, and Beth Tucker

Coaches

Linda Clemens

Paul Hedrick

Don Homans

Earl and Inez Van Horn

Jane Wojnarowsky

Distinguished Service

George Apdale, Frank Bartik, Victor J. Brown,

William T. "Pop" Brown, Fred Freeman,

William Gilhart, Robert Irwin,

Ed and Elsie Kempf, Fred Martin,

Joe Nazzaro, Sr., M. M. "Red" Shattuck

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Historical Roller Skating Overview is the newsletter of the National Museum of Roller Skating. It is available only through honorary membership in the museum. Minimum annual contribution is \$15.00. All inquiries, comments should be sent to the Museum Director, 4730 South St., P.O. Box 6579, Lincoln, NE 68506.

Roller Hockey History

Hockey (without the rollers) has been around for approximately 4000 years. Thought to be invented in what is now Iran, the game closely resembled what we would call field hockey. It is known that native americans also played a similar game for many years but it is not known how long ago it started. It is possible that they were the first to play the game.

The word hockey first appeared in 1527. The first pictorial representation of hockey was unearthed in Athens, Greece. The graphics showed several young men with curved sticks encircling a central pair who were holding crossed sticks above a ball.

Modern hockey was created in England and derived from Scottish "shinty" and Irish "hurling." In the United States the game started in the late 1880s. A National Roller Polo league was created in Dayton, Ohio, in 1882. Teams were formed in a number of cities such as Dayton, Chicago, Louisville, Cleveland, Columbus, Pittsburgh, and Cincinnati. These teams competed against one another for a number of years but interest in the sport waned in the 1890s.

According to Roger Pout, author of "The Early Years of English Roller Hockey," an American team visited England to have an exhibition match at the Crystal Palace in London, in February of 1900. According to the "Crystal Palace District Advertiser" of March 3, 1900:



Five man roller hockey team with mascot (C.W. Lowe, Jr.), the Midwest League Champions, 1931. Photo donated by C.W. Lowe, Jr.

"For the first time in England the American team of roller polo players gave their exhibition at the Crystal Palace on Monday last, showing the game as it is played 'on the other side'. From a spectator's point of view, the game seems to be a mixture of shinty and hockey on roller skates in a limited space 100 ft. by 50 ft. The players, beyond deliberately fouling, can be as rough as possible, and the fact that the men are well protected with pads and padding is proof of the rough character of the game, and spectators have plenty of opportunity of seeing some very good 'scrum's'. Unlike the outdoor game of hockey, as played in England, the American rules allow 'sticks' and 'mid-air' play, whilst kicking is a special feature."

In the 1920s in New York City, teams like the "Hudson Dusters" and the "Gophers" played in leagues. Many other leagues were formed throughout the United States in the decades that followed. Under the R.S.R.O.A., state, regional, and national championships were conducted. Current interest in roller hockey is on the rise with the proliferation of the in-line skate.

See more photos on pages 4-5.

[Thanks to Roger Pout's book and Chester Fried for much of the historical information provided here.]



*Chickasaw Coal five man roller hockey team at Lowe's Rink, Memphis, Tennessee, in 1929.
Photo donated by C.W. Lowe, Jr.*

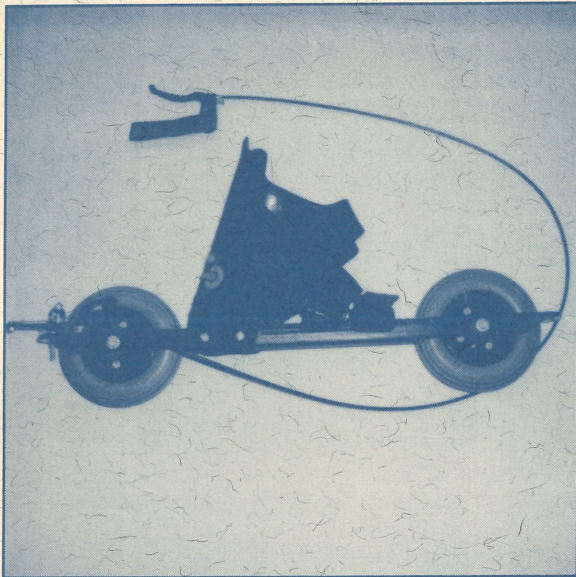


An action shot taken during a roller "polo" match in 1934. The location is thought to be Cincinnati. Photo donated by Ernie St. Germain.

MUSEUM NOTES

There have been a number of wonderful donations made to the museum's collection in the last few months. Highlighted here are some of those items. Thank you to all who have aided the museum in strengthening its collection.

This unusual skate, called the "Gateskate," was donated by Charlotte Groves. It is almost a yard long and has a hand held brake much like that of a bicycle. The tires are inflatable up to 60 psi. It is attached to the foot by large velcro straps that wrap around a high top shoe. According to the inventor they are great for multi-terrain skating.



Tammy Kettunen, Miss Arizona of 1989, and a competitor in the Miss America Pageant, donated these items which are now on display in the museum. Included are a trophy, crown, photo, and the outfit she wore for the talent competition which was a roller skating routine. Ms. Kettunen donated the items "in loving memory of Mark Bishop, my first skating instructor."



Other donations were made by Chester Fried, Beth Davis, Chuck Ra Boin, George and Telly Fay, George Pickard, Joe Nemanich, Philip Smalley, and Hilda H. Wisneski.

Joe Nazzaro, Sr. and Mike Klecinsky both made donations to the museum in memory of Cliff Neschke who recently passed away.

Rose Martin made a donation to the museum in memory of Joseph Stokosa.

PATRON MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The number of individuals being added to the Patron Memorial Plaque continues to grow. Contact the museum director to have someone's name placed on the handsome oak plaque which celebrates individual contributions to roller skating history. This could include everyone from rink owners to athletes. A one-time fee of \$250 will place the person on the memorial which will be displayed permanently at the National Museum of Roller Skating.

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Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nazzaro
Robert Bollinger
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Robert Campbell



A special thank you to the Donor and Individual/Family members who are too numerous to mention here.

Be a Part of History

The history of roller skating is fragile. Once it is lost, it may never be regained. Help the National Museum of Roller Skating preserve the rich history of our sport by joining one of our special membership categories listed below. Future roller skaters will thank you.

Contributors of \$15 or more become Honorary Members of the Museum and receive a Museum membership pin, official identification card, the newsletter, and free admission whenever they visit the Museum.

- | | |
|--|---|
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Contributions are tax-deductible up to the amount permitted by law.



*Five man roller
hockey team
from Houston,
Texas.
Circa 1930.
Photo donated
by C.W. Lowe,
Jr.*

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