



Museum Newsletter

By James Vannurden
Director and Curator

National Museum of Roller Skating
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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

New Museum Acquisition

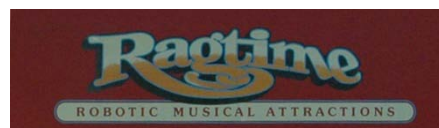


Organ maker Ken Caulkins with museum board member George Pickard

"During the early 1900's, band organs were in common use in roller skating rinks and other venues of mass entertainment. These air powered instruments are activated by paper rolls similar to those of a player piano and were a means of providing skating music in rinks which could be heard above the roar of old time fiber and wood skate wheels rolling across the rink's hardwood flooring," says George Pickard.

To afford such a beautiful new piece, the museum received funding by means of grants from the USA Roller Sports Foundation and from Ragtime Automated Music. Ken Caulkins also hand delivered the organ to the museum from his shop in Ceres, CA. Finally, without the hard work of George Pickard this gift would not be possible.

On June 24, after months of waiting on its construction, the museum received its new mechanical band organ. The Museum's new Ragtime Band Organ is a model 143dg. It contains some eight automatically playing instruments; these include bass and snare drums, cymbal, tambourine, triangle, castanets, a twenty-seven note glockenspiel and forty-three calliope pipes. It stands 86" high and 43" wide, and weighs around 250 pounds.



Skater Profile: W.E. Genno
Skater and Promoter



W. E. GENNO

*Fancy and Novelty Skater both
Ice and Roller Skating*

*Manager of High Class Rinks and
other Amusements.*

*This information can be found in the book from the museum store entitled **Skaters History on Ice and Roller Skating**. For more information like this, consider purchasing the book. Thanks.*

Born near Toronto, Canada, William Genno began his skating career on blades. He started ice skating at age six, and competitions during his teen. By age 18 he then opened an ice skating rink and managed it himself for two years. He continued his ice interest by holding exhibitions, skating through western Canada and even New York State. After six years, Genno settled in New York and managed a rink there. It was in New York where his roller skating interest began.

Genno returned to the Toronto area and opened his own roller skating rink. He also opened Montreal's first roller rink. By 1908 Genno operated several rinks, some say as many as eighteen simultaneously. Genno founded the Interstate Roller Rink Operating Co., which ran many rinks in the northeastern United States.

Genno continued in the skating industry for the rest of his life. In fact, he sustained the heart attack that led to his death at the roller rink he managed in New York State in 1952.

Renewing Museum Memberships

Nellie, Robb, and Genevieve Lillie
James and Faye Shoemake

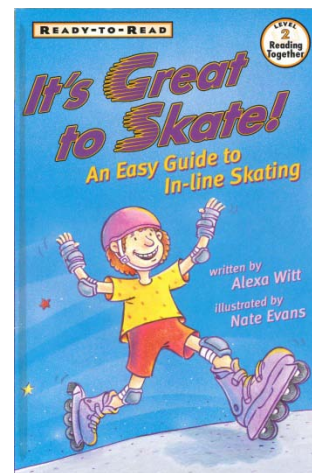
New Membership
Lawrence Wichman

Skate of the Week:
Cowboy boot skates



Our newest skate acquisition comes from Wayne's Western Wheels in Walnut Springs, Texas. John Wayne Feddersen Jr. and his family met with our museum booth during the RSA Convention. Feddersen was skating around the tables on a pair of his cowboy boot skates. When I confronted him about a possible donation, John was more than happy. With his contribution he included photos of himself and family on their custom made boot skates. Special thanks to the Feddersen family for their donation to the museum!

Library Feature:
It's Great to Skate
By Alexa Witt



While most of the books in the museum are catered towards adults, our archives also contain several children's books. The story *It's Great to Skate* shares how enjoyable skating can be when the known rules, safety habits, and instructions are followed correctly.

This “ready-to-read” book helps children understand how to properly inline skate. Sections deal with safety equipment, balance, stopping, skating, braking, and transportation. With great illustrations by Nate Evans, the pictures help identify the words with real life experiences.

Story rhythm can also be attributed to helping the reader understand the concepts at hand. “Keep up with the dog and cat! Roll faster than the ball. Keep your head up so you do not crash into the wall.”

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. 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.

3.) The museum has only a few copies of **Jam Skating Magazine** and would like to complete its collection. The dates on magazines we have are from June of 2004 and March 2005. Please contact the museum if you would like to donate any issues of the magazine.

Thanks in advance for your considerations.

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!



BiSkates

Like ice skating on wheels!

These two-wheeled roller skates give you the feel and balance of ice skates, yet allow you to skate wherever roller skates can go, indoors or out.

The axles are rigidly suspended in the wheel support. Because the wheels are not flat, but curved from side to side, the skates can be tipped

sideways to provide a type of action not found in ordinary roller skates. The simplest method of turning is by a series of straight strokes, as with the conventional flat-bladed racer skates for ice. With a small amount of practice, involving weight shift between front and rear wheel, more advanced turns are possible.

Bi-Skates come with both black (outdoor) wheels and red (indoor) wheels at no extra cost. Changing of wheels is accomplished by removing a small snap-ring at the end of each axle and sliding the axle out.

The ball bearings on which each wheel is mounted can be easily removed from and reinserted into either set of wheels.

The wheel support is a strong but light weight aluminum casting, ball burnished to give a shiny smooth appearance.

The top grain leather boots are made by a leading Canadian hockey skate manufacturer, and provide the strong ankle support needed for this type of skate.

Bi-Skates are immediately available in men's full sizes 6 through 12, medium width.

For further information, please write or call (213) 479-1830. Your inquiry will receive prompt attention.

RLS Products 
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Los Angeles, Calif. 90025

