



Rolling Through Time

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Director and Curator

Official Newsletter of:

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 50 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

Tour Groups

Now that summer is in full swing, the museum hosts many scheduled tours. Both local and out-of-town groups trek the museum during this busy period.



In May the Omaha Roller Girls made a special trip to the museum before their bout versus the Lincoln derby squad. They stayed almost an hour, took many pictures, and even made a donation to the museum.

Academic Advantage in Lincoln schedule three different tours during the first week of June. They split up their children's groups into small bunches to have a better museum experience.

The Quinlin Tour from Kansas City came up to Lincoln for the day and included our museum in their Nebraska tour schedule.

More tours are scheduled throughout the summer with the list growing weekly.

Donation Received



While on their tour, the Omaha Roller Girls donated a jersey to our museum collection. This official, game worn jersey is black and red and sports the Omaha logo on the front. On the back it depicts the number 53 and includes the name "Ima Firestarter." The jersey is also autographed by the skater on the back left shoulder.

New and Renewing Members

Connie Wahlig	George Pickard	Harry Walker
Nadine Meis	Alan Bacon	Michael Sheedy
Judy Baron-Fultz	Cecelia Kelley	Janet Pavilonis
Melanie Holt	Annelle Anderson	Kim Wall
Renee Kits	Heather Doyle	Alfred Taglang
Betty Ann Danna	Mary Lock	Linda Miner
Brian Heersink	Steven Hinkle	Dennis Pickard
Dan & Kim Brown	Sigrid Semien	Mary Allmond
Trace Hansen	Dawn Gonzales	Bill Spooner
Kleiman Family	Charlene Conway	Peter Dolan

The Blind Can Roller Skate

By Eber Palmer, 1949

Superintendent of New York State School for the Blind

The New York State School for the Blind at Batavia, New York has built an indoor roller skating rink on its campus and has plans drawn for the construction of a large outdoor roller skating oval for the use of the students.

Students who roller skate at the school range in age from nine to twenty-one. About fifty percent of this group is totally blind. Of the remainder, their vision varies from light perception only to 20/200.



Students getting ready to skate

In order to adapt the rink to the use of blind persons, some special provisions had to be made to meet specific problems. How could the rink be constructed to keep the blind skaters from hitting the end walls or running into the side walls? What could be done to keep the skaters traveling one way from bumping into the skaters traveling in the opposite direction? These problems had to be considered with the totally blind students particularly in mind if they were to have unrestricted enjoyment of the rink. Since the rink was to be used primarily by the blind students, it could originally be constructed to fit their special needs.

To keep the skaters from hitting the end walls, the floor was given a gradual upward slope about six feet from the ends. This slight slope continues for about three feet, thereby giving a three foot platform at each end of the rink. The ends are also protected by mats hung on the wall. The floor on each side was also given a gradual slope about three feet out from the wall. No platform was necessary on the sides.

When a totally blind student is skating, and begins to veer too far to the right when skating counter clockwise or to the left when skating clockwise, he will feel through his skate when he hits the slope and know thereby that it is time to shift direction slightly in order to keep skating in straight lines.

In order to enable blind skaters, going in opposite directions, to keep from bumping into each other, a very slight ridge, sloped gradually, and about six inches wide was placed in the exact middle of the rink. This extends the full length. It is important, as on an ordinary rink that all skaters travel in the same direction. The elevation of this ridge is so slight that it interferes in no way with the skating action, but to those who are trained to use the sense of touch, as are the blind, it does give them ample warning that it is time to change direction slightly if they are to avoid a possible collision.

It is astonishing to see the proficiency with which totally blind skaters learn to circle the rink, completely independent of help. They learn to negotiate the turns at full speed and quickly change direction when their skates tell them they are hitting the slope at the side or end of the rink, or the ridge in the center. In fact, many of them become so proficient that, although they do not see, they start their turns at the ends of the rink before coming to the slope. Their sense of direction, speed and time are such that they know automatically when it is time to turn.

All schools for the blind throughout the United States encourage their student to roller skate...All are unanimous in their belief that, either indoor or outdoor, it is a valuable asset for a blind person to know how to skate.

The totally blind person can continue to skate on any rink in companionship with his seeing friends. He cannot skate alone, but with a partner who sees and knows how to skate, his enjoyment of roller skating can continue as long as he desires. Many of those who have partial vision will see well enough to be able to skate alone in any group of seeing people.

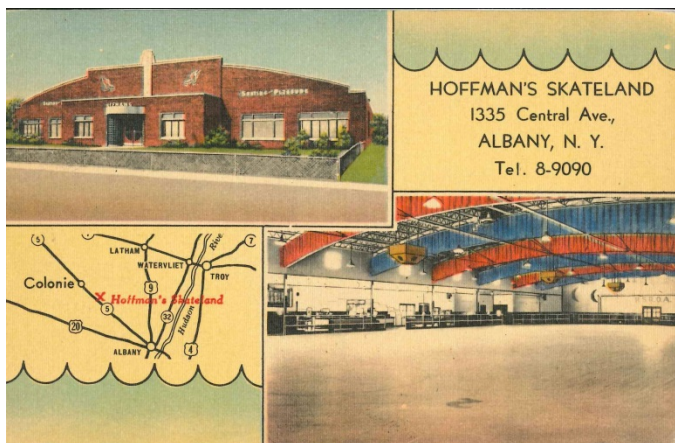
(Roller Skating) is one of the physical activities in which blind people can engage with freedom. The freedom of movement and the lack of restrictions which blind persons do not have in so many physical activities are enjoyed to the fullest in roller skating.

One of the principal goals in the physical development of blind students is ease and grace of movement. They need to be able to get around independently with a minimum of help. They also need to develop an unusually good muscular coordination. Roller skating is a definite help in this field.

When being taught posture, blind students cannot learn by imitating others, as they cannot see what it means to have stooped shoulders or a poor carriage. Roller skating is an effective side in developing proper carriage.

To those who see, roller skating will always be fun. To those who do not see, it is even more fun. In addition, it is a teaching medium, but of even more importance, it is a skill which blind boys and girls can enjoy, not only while in school but in their life after school. Watch them roller skate and be convinced.

More Chester Fried Donations: Postcards



Hoffman's Skateland in Albany, New York had an unobstructed floor surface and beginners rink. The largest, most beautiful skating rink in Northern New York featured organ and nova chord music at all sessions.



Park Roller Rink of Zion, Illinois had a 15,000 square foot skating floor. Owned by Arnie Cliff, Park featured a Hammond Organ.



Cicero's Skating Center in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania assured family-type rules and regulations. Their 110x180 foot skating service could accommodate 1,000 skaters. It was established in 1934 by James J. Cicero.

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 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!



Benefactor Museum Members (\$500+)

Roller Skating Association	Indianapolis	IN
USA Roller Sports	Lincoln	NE
RC Sports	Lenexa	KS
Dominic Cangelosi	Glendale	CA
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