



# Historical Roller Skating **OVERVIEW**

National Museum of Roller Skating  
7700 A Street P.O. Box  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501  
402-489-8811

November 1989

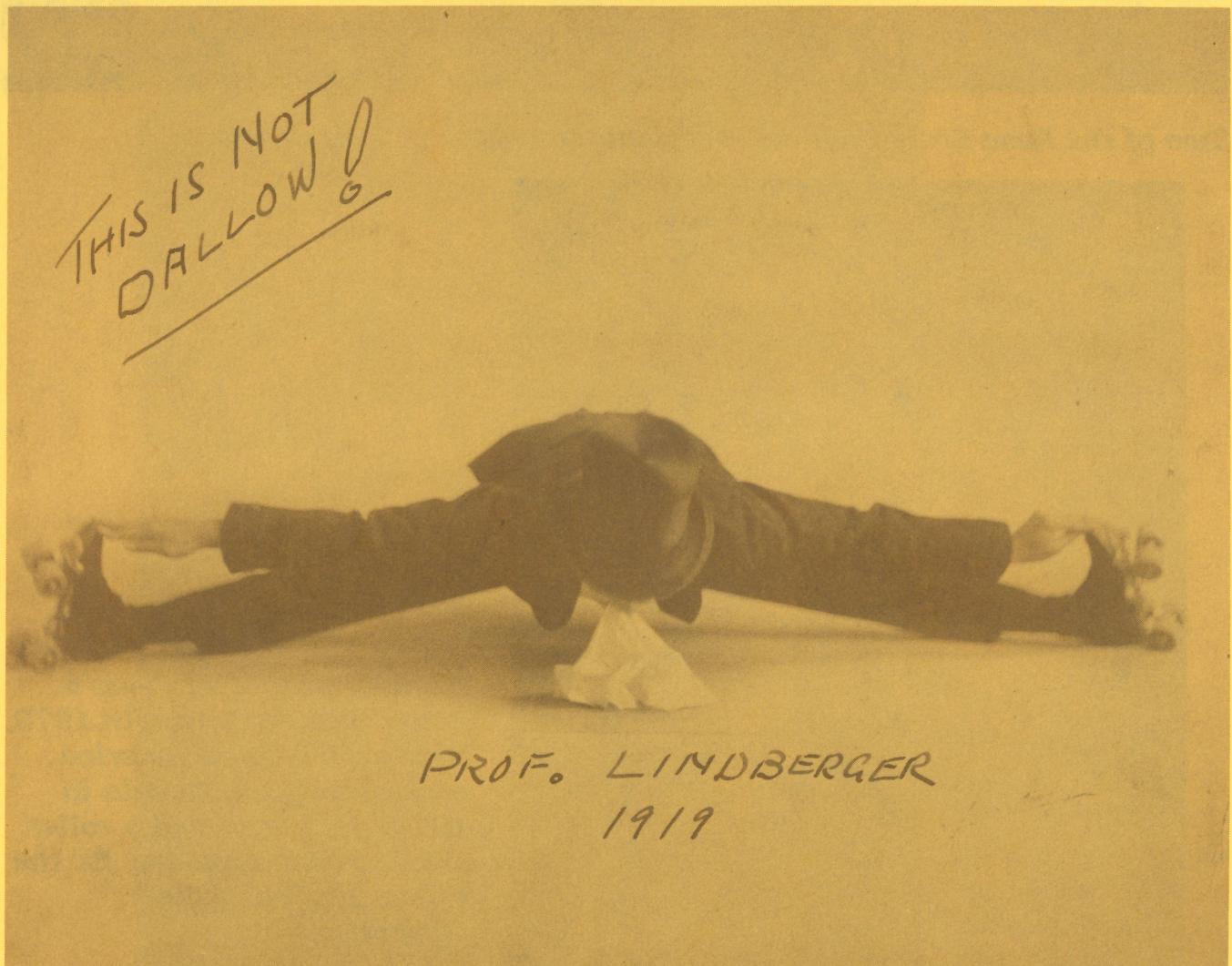
A Publication of the National Museum of Roller Skating

Issue No. 30

## Photography and Sport

This year is the 150th anniversary of the invention of photography. Many museums around the United States are mounting elaborate exhibits to commemorate this event and display the art and craft of photography.

Photography has been used to portray the grace, beauty and strength of many sports — roller skating is no exception. The National Museum of Roller Skating has over 6,000 photographs in its collection





*Two of the Rose Kress Four on Terpsichorean Wheels, date unknown*

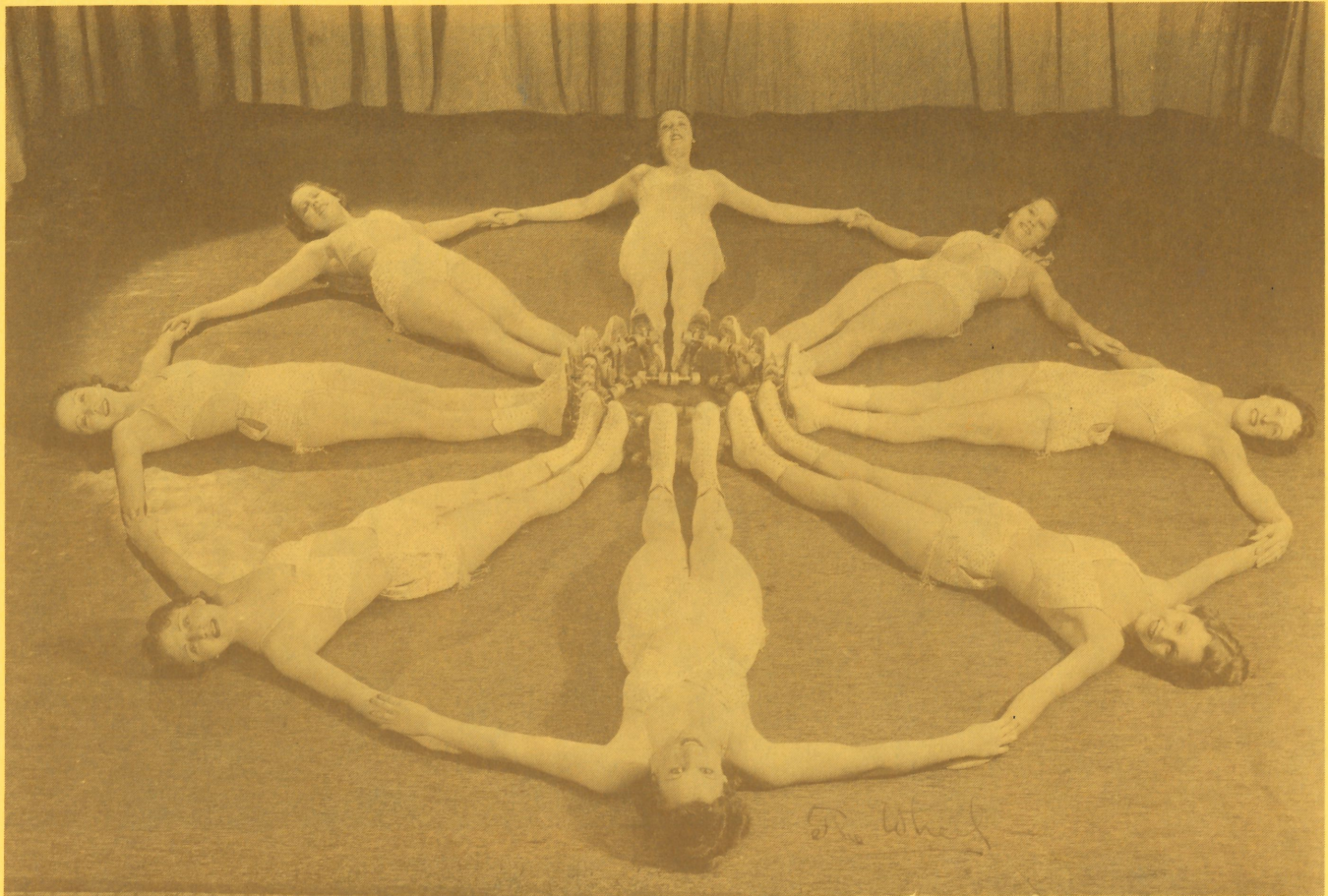


*Ellen R. Meade, left, was a Roller Skating Queen in 1970. Meade was a Miss America contestant from Florida in 1973 and performed a roller skating dance number for the talent portion of the competition.*

**Nylin & Edna in Whirlwind Thrills**



**The elegant style of Lockhart & Kiefer, 1924**



**Helen Reynolds and  
the Skating Stars,  
date unknown**



**Kiefer, Gaynor, and  
Byron of Whirls and  
Spins, date unknown**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

June 10, 1989

To the Editor:

The 50th anniversary of the United States Roller Skating Championships passed without notice. Sad, since it is such a popular sport and well participated in. Also, it was well publicized at that time. (April, 1939)

Detroit was the center of organized competitive roller skating. Members of the Arena Gardens Roller Skating Club, (Detroit Figure Skating Club) excelled. Many things converged at that time to make the Arena Gardens Club well known throughout the U.S. and the world.

I have enclosed copies of the local champions that became the first U.S. winners. These copies are from the Arena Gardens Year Book for 1939-40.

**Virginia Mount & Lloyd Young**

**Walter Stokosa**

**Jane Peace Holcomb**

**Eldora Andrews & Bill Best**

You can read the captions which are self-explanatory. Bill and Eldora eventually married, raised a family and currently live in Royal Oak. Walter won several more titles before serving in the army in WWII. He has passed away, but has a brother living in the Livonia area.

Virginia and Lloyd also were married, raised a family and had lived in this area. Jane married a skater and raised a family. She has stayed in roller skating as well as teaching ice skating and currently lives in Oak Park.

Fifty continuous years of active competition is an accomplishment for any sport. There are many wonderful stories through the years. These wonderful people were the building blocks of competitive roller skating, bringing roller skating competition to the prestigious world heights it enjoys today.

Paced by the leadership of the United States Amateur Confederation of Roller Skating with offices in Lincoln, Nebraska, roller skating is looking forward to participation in the Olympics. The executive director of that group is a former competitive skater and student of mine, George Pickard. So you can see roller skating has developed a long way since 1939 and much is due to Michigan people!

Sincerely, *Rose L. Martin*



**Clarise Martin and Bernard McKay, skaters in the Trans-Continental Roller Derby, 1935. (Rose Martin)**

**Curator's Note:** Rose Martin is an associate patron of the museum and has been both a great contributor and supporter. I wish to thank her for bringing this to my attention. The photograph is from the Museum's archives.

Vineland, N.J., Nov. 7, 1934.

RICHARDSON BALL BEARING SKATE CO.  
3312 Ravenswood Ave.  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sirs:

Here is a small story for the Rinkster: We have quite a few skaters who have mounted small search lights on bottom of plate in between front and back wheels, and are lighted when we run our moonlight skate about three times a night with only one Blue light shining in center of floor. Yours truly, (Signed) S. B. LUBIN  
(from the *Richardson Rinkster*, Dec. 1, 1934).

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

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\* New Memberships

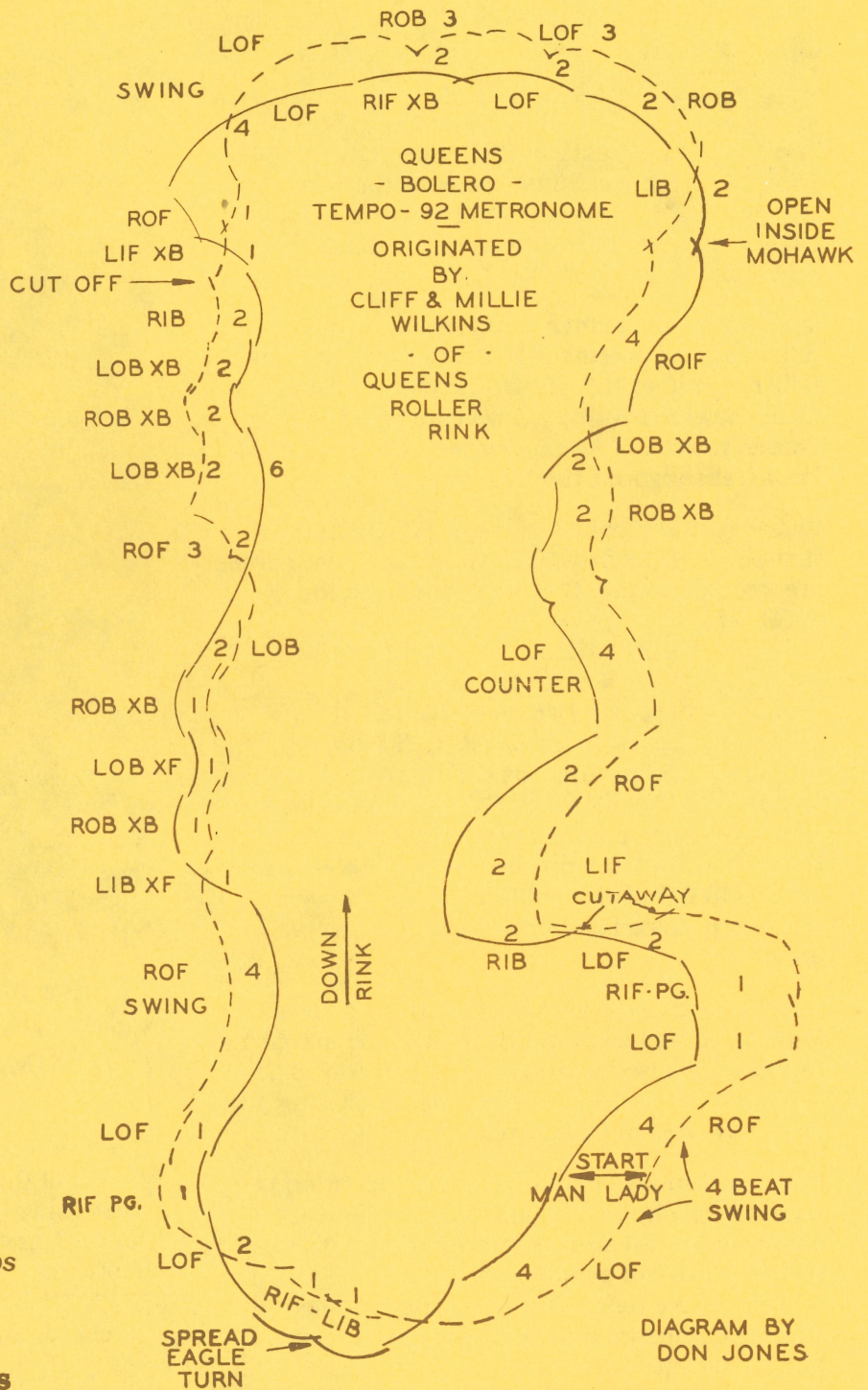
## Memorial Donations

The museum has received the following memorials this year:

In memory of Albert Waddell, from Gary A. Moir

In memory of Judy Michael, from the SRSTM

My thanks to all of you and to all the individual and family members who have sent in their renewals! — Barbara Sorenson



**Dance Diagram of Queens Bolero from October 30, 1942 edition of Rolling Echoes, newsletter of Queens Roller Rink, Elmhurst, Long Island. A number of issues of this newsletter are a recent acquisition to the museum, donated by Michael Klecinsky.**

## 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 \$5 or more receive their choice of the  **PIN** official Museum patch or  **PATCH** pin.

Contributors of \$15 or more become Honorary Members of the Museum and receive a Museum membership pin, official identification card, the quarterly newsletter, and free admission whenever they visit the Museum.  **Individual - \$15**  **Family - \$15**  **Associate Patron - \$100**  **Patron - \$250**  **Benefactor - \$500 or more**

Check or money order enclosed payable to the National Museum of Roller Skating.

Paid by VISA

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Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Please charge my card for 12 monthly payments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each (min. of \$10 per month).

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Mail to: **National Museum of Roller Skating**  
**P.O. Box 81846, Lincoln, NE 68501**

**All contributions are tax-deductible.**

### National Museum of Roller Skating Board of Directors

Bert Anselmi, President, Pontiac, MI; Robert Bollinger, Portland, OR; Frank Cernik, Omaha, NE; Marvin Facher, Short Hills, NJ; Chester Fried, South River, NJ; Ken Leigh, Lincoln, NE; Mills Lynn, Charleston, WV; Joe Nazzaro, Jr., Euless, TX; George Pickard, Lincoln, NE; James Turner, Racine, WI; Richard Young, Warwick, RI.

### Director and Curator

Barbara Sorenson

*Historical Roller Skating Overview* is mailed quarterly to the honorary members of the National Museum of Roller Skating. Editorial and historical contributions from readers are welcome. Address inquiries and comments to the Museum Director.

## CURATOR'S CORNER

This is my second issue of *Historical Roller Skating Overview*. We are still not quite on schedule, but working on it!

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a letter to the editor column. Let me take this opportunity to invite you to write to me with information, suggestions, opinions, anything that is of value and provides information concerning the sport of roller skating and the people involved. I am new to this sport and have lots to learn, so I need your help and input.

The Museum continues to draw interest nationally. We have been contacted by Good Morning America, *Adventure Road Magazine*, The Mickey Mouse Club, the *Rinksider*, as well as a variety of free lance writers doing feature articles on unique and unusual places. This kind of national publicity has generated visitors to the museum who really seem to enjoy the exhibits and are left with a favorable impression of the sport of roller skating.

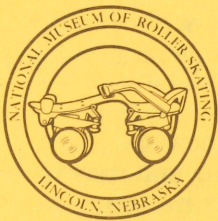
I wish to thank everyone who has sent in their membership renewals. The museum gratefully appreciates your support. I also wish to welcome new honorary members. It is only through the museum's honorary members that we are able to provide the level of service to the industry and sport as well as the general public that we do. Thank you!

The Museum is actively seeking new acquisitions. If you have anything you may wish to donate or loan for a time to the museum, please contact me. I realize the sentimental and personal value much of this kind of material has for many of you and I want to assure you that donating to the museum is a way to preserve and care for your memorabilia in a professional way, and assure that it will be around for the future. In many cases, this is a great personal sacrifice, but future generations of skaters will treasure these articles, as you do. Please consider what you can donate to expand our collection.

Honorary member Frances Rothenberg of Olympia Fields, Illinois has suggested a "Where are They Now" column for the *OVERVIEW*. This is something I think many readers would enjoy but is only possible if you write in with the needed information. There are many of you out there — write in and let me know what you are doing now.



*International women in action, mid-1970's. (Reinhold Seebock, Pressefoto)*



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P.O. Box 81846  
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