

Historical Roller Skating **OVERVIEW**

National Museum of Roller Skating
4730 South Street
P.O. Box 6579
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506-0579
Phone 402-483-7551

April 1995

A Publication of the National Museum of Roller Skating

Issue No. 45



CURATOR'S CORNER

It's Raffle Time!

For all of you who will be attending the RSA Convention in Las Vegas, I urge you to purchase a raffle ticket. \$10,000 in prizes will be drawn during the convention at the President's Dinner. The grand prize of \$5,000 will go to some lucky individual! Tickets are \$50.

But don't fret if you are not going to be at the convention. You need not be present to win. You can purchase a ticket by sending a check or money order to the museum (see the order form in this issue).

The importance of the Raffle cannot be underestimated. This annual fund raiser helps to insure that the museum is able to give its collection of roller skate memorabilia the best possible care. Your help is needed to make sure the museum continues to grow and improve its programs in the future. I urge you to help make this year's raffle a success.

1995 marks an important milestone for the National Museum of Roller Skating. Fifteen years ago the museum was formed "to acquire, preserve, and document the history of roller skating through its collections of archives, manuscripts, books, photographs, paintings and drawings, artifacts, 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." In the future the museum will continue to fulfill this role, and hopefully, with your support, we will be able to improve and expand our collections and programs.

Fifteen years of existence is a worthy achievement for the museum. Born during the height of the Roller Disco era, the museum has seen a number of amazing changes in the roller skate world, not the least which is the emergence of the in-line skate (although we all know by now that in-line skates are nothing new). As the roller skate world evolves into the future, the National Museum of Roller Skating plans on being there to document and preserve "today's" history for future generations. Here's to the next 15 years (and more). I hope you will come along for the ride!



Scott Wilhite

Scott Wilhite
Director & Curator

MEMBER QUIZ RESULTS

Congratulations to Mrs. Janina Bacich who was the first to send in the right answer on February's quiz: "What is the title of the Fred Astaire movie from 1938 with a roller skating 'tap dance' scene?"

The correct answer was "Shall We Dance." Mrs. Bacich won herself a new Museum Mug! Thanks to the other participants.

Since the last two quizzes dealt with roller skating and the entertainment industry I thought it would be fair this month to test your knowledge of some competitive history.

Here is the new Quiz: What Senior Women's Speed Champion won indoor speed nationals 6 out of 9 years? (HINT: She was a recent USAC/RS Athlete Hall of Fame inductee.)

The first correct answer submitted to the museum by mail will win one copy of the recently published book, "The Evolution of the Roller Skate: 1820-Present." The answer, and the winner, will be announced in the next issue of the "Overview." Good Luck!

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROLLER SKATING BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Bert Anselmi, President, Pontiac, Mich.
Robert Bollinger, Portland, Ore.
Frank Cernik, Omaha, Neb.
Marvin Facher, Short Hills, N.J.
Chester Fried, Vice-President, South River, N.J.
Charlotte Groves, Marysville, Wash.
Mills Lynn, Charleston, W. Va.
Katherine M. McDonell, Indianapolis, Ind.
Bruce Pearson, Belleville, Ill.
George Pickard, Secretary-Treasurer, Lincoln, Neb.
Gordon Van Roekel, Temecula, Calif.
Charles Wahlig, Newark, Del.
Edmund Young, Mayslanding, N.J.
Trustees Emeritii:
Michael Brooslin, Springfield, Mass.
James Turner, Milwaukee, Wis.
Honorary Trustees: All RSA Chapter Chairmen
Irwin Rosee, Englishtown, N.J.
Director and Curator: Scott Wilhite

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.

HINTS ON RINK MANAGING IN THE 1880's

Published in 1885, "The Rink Managers' Guide and Rink Directory" by I. S. Moulthrop offers a fascinating (and humorous) look at the business of running a roller skating rink in the late 1800's. Here are a few rules for successful rink management in the 1880's.

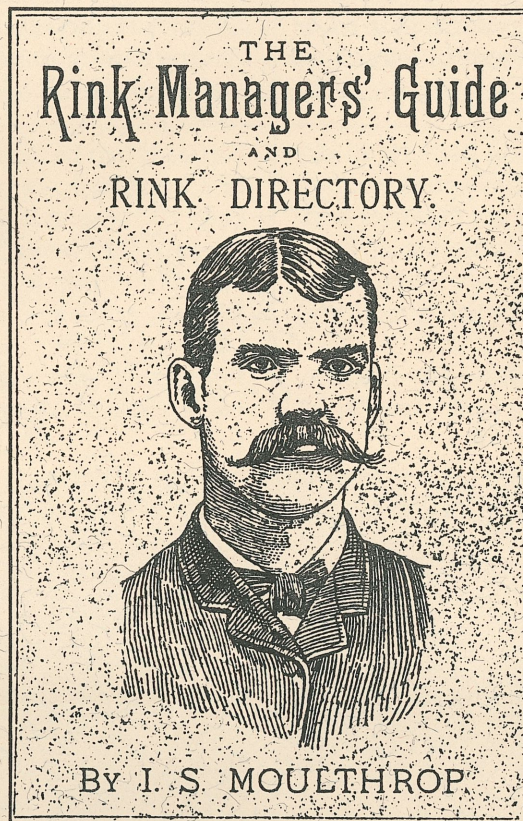
A rink manager should subscribe for and read every paper or book published on roller skating. He should be careful to keep a record of all of the leading attractions, and be acquainted with all of the rink managers that have rinks near him, so that they can hire attractions by the week and get them much cheaper. Always dress in the latest style and be pleasant and agreeable to all, never letting his temper get the best of his politeness. Watch all of the employees closely and see that all are attentive and polite to all of the patrons, and that no preference is shown to any of them. If any of the instructors or employees get in love with a girl, or flirt with any of the girls, the manager should discharge him and get a man in his place that will attend to his business. Furnish every employee of the rink, that wears a uniform, with a closet to keep his uniform in, and make every man or boy keep his uniform neat and clean. Have your instructors all dress alike, and wear either a dark blue uniform or dark suits cut in the latest style.

Have your band play fifteen pieces every session. Have all of the employees in the rink ten minutes before it opens.

Do not be afraid of discipline in a rink. You cannot have too much, as your success depends greatly upon it.

Do not be familiar with any of your lady or gentleman patrons, but use them all alike. Always be stern and severe with your men, and never joke or converse with them except on business matters. Learn them to fear you and look up to you. Always be very kind to the children that visit your rink and see that they enjoy themselves.

Always have some pleasant entertainment for the children every Saturday afternoon. If any fancy skaters apply to you for a date, and they are strangers to



you, before giving them a date let them go on the surface and show you what they can do.

Never allow a dog show, a juggler or an acrobat skater to exhibit in your rink. Never have a race longer than one mile, except on the closing night.

Never allow any of your employees to smoke or chew tobacco while in the rink. Never employ a man that has a bad reputation. Never employ any more help than is actually necessary. Pay your men a little extra and make them work harder instead of employing more help.

Strive hard to please your employer first, your patrons next, and yourself last.

Never try to run your neighbor's rink nor pattern after his methods of management. Manage your own rink and do not try to injure your neighbor's rink by cutting prices.

Never allow anyone in your rink that is not dressed nicely. Never allow any man or boy to skate unless they have a collar and tie on and are neatly dressed.

Never have any rules or regulations printed and hung in your rink if you cater to a nice class of people. Have a few signs nicely printed and hung where they can be seen by all, which should read as follows:

"NOTICE: As Gentleman and Ladies know how to behave themselves without rules, we shall have none printed, as we admit Gentleman and Ladies only."

If you are managing a rink where all are admitted, have rules and regulations tacked up in all parts of the building and see that they are enforced.

Never put one night in the week down as society night, and charge a higher admission fee, but have every night in the week society night. Never allow any small children on the skating surface after 9 o'clock in the evening. Never be absent from the rink

during an evening session.

Never discharge a man because your patrons do not like him and say he is too strict, as the best men are generally the ones that are found fault with the most. Never trust the reports of others, but watch your men closely and judge for yourself. Never be afraid after a person has been pointed out to you as a disreputable character to compel them to leave the rink.

Never be persuaded by any of your patrons to do anything that your experience teaches you is wrong, for there is always a clique that will get together and try to persuade you to have everything just as they want it. Never answer sharply or crossly when some of your patrons ask you simple to foolish questions.

Never, under any circumstances, allow any pumice stone to be put on the skating surface. Powdered

chalk should be used if anything is necessary to keep the skates from slipping. Never allow any skates to be oiled on the skating surface, unless they are thoroughly wiped, so that no oil will get on the floor.

Never allow your rink to be dimly lighted, as a bright light gives a cheerful appearance to the rink. Never forget that the success of a rink depends entirely on having a good manager, a good skating surface, and a good skate.

Never try to be floor manager and general manager of a large rink, as no man is capable of attending to both of these duties, and no sensible manager will attempt it. Never have anything on your mind except your rink, as its success depends on how well you advertise and manage it.

Be gentlemanly and polite to everybody and friends with nobody. Above all things be honest.



SKATING HUMOR

Excerpted from "The International Roller Skating Guide: 1949-50 edition."

SKATING - A disease caught at rinks—can be cured initially by not going to rinks. Once caught, however, the sufferer is condemned to go skating for the rest of his life. The more extreme cases are confined to rink centers, where, in grim solitude, they continue to skate round and round in ever diminishing circles. In very acute cases, the victims lose their human form and become instructors.

SKATING PUPIL - A dumb, unintelligent object on skates, apparently suffering from loss of memory since its last lesson. From their stiffness, I should say its legs are made of wood and its middle of rubber. Its shoulders have no apparent purpose other than providing an attachment for the arms, which move through the air after the manner of windmills. It has ears apparently incapable of hearing what I say. It has eyes but doesn't see anything I demonstrate. It has a nose which does work. This is a pity—otherwise the wretched thing wouldn't breathe.

Cartoon from the National Roller Skating Guide, 1953.

BIBLE QUOTATIONS FOR SKATERS

"HAVE NOT OBEYED THE VOICE OF MY TEACHER."
(Proverbs 5-13)

"BUT WOE TO HIM THAT IS ALONE WHEN HE FALLETH, AND HATH NOT ANOTHER TO HELP HIM UP."
(Ecclesiastes 4-10)

"A HAUGHTY SPIRIT GOETH BEFORE A FALL."
(Proverbs 16-18)

"HE FALLETH YET IS NOT UTTERLY CAST DOWN."
(Psalms 37-24)

"I DO REMEMBER MY FAULTS THIS DAY."
(GEN. 41-9)

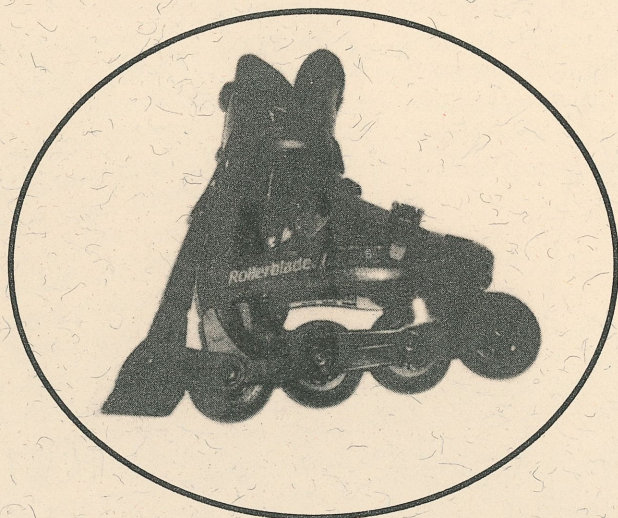
"A FALSE BALANCE IS AN ABOMINATION."
(PROV 11-1)

INSTRUCTOR - A creature found at skating rinks, to whom you pay a fabulous fee to be told that your head is in the wrong position, there is a permanent set in your back, your skating leg is too stiff, your free leg is too bent, your knees are turned inwards, your arms are useless and your hips won't rotate. This ceremony is known as a "lesson."

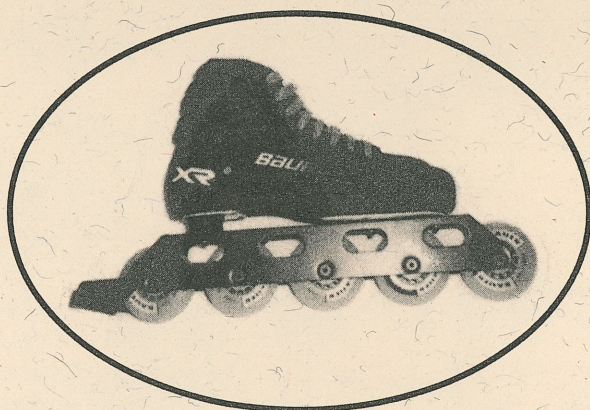
MUSEUM NOTES

It has been several months since I have acknowledged the many donations of historical artifacts and items that have been received by the museum. Pictured here are a few recent donations.

Rollerblade, Inc. donated two pairs of skates (see one skate pictured below).



Bauer also donated a hockey skate and the "racing" model skate below.



Other donations were made by: the RSA, Peggy Wallace Boucher, Chester Fried, Jude Cull, Andy Seeley, Telly & George Fay, Ometh Mbiza, Monica Catt, Mark Pollak, Jay Tartell, Joel Lau, Jim & Ann Huylebroeck, Dan Ritchie, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Stebe, Ila Mae Burns, Marty Remmenga, Mike & Karen Boganowicz, Tony DiPietro, Marian & Mike Giles, Elvin Griffin, Janina Jaworski Bacich, Joe Enthor, Sister Cathy Deubel, Al Delvea, Edward Morton, Pearl Borgia, Ann & Harry Corson, Jane & Wayne Wojnarowsky, Wayne Yoshitomi, Cecil W. Lowe, and Joseph Tarvis.

Raffle Tickets

YES! I would like to order a 1995 museum raffle ticket:

Send me _____ tickets @ \$50 each.

TOTAL \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip Code _____

Mail to: National Museum of Roller Skating,
4730 South St., Lincoln, NE 68506

BENEFACTORS OF THE MUSEUM:

R. Arvin Grabill
Bert & Lynn Anselmi
Bob Bollinger
J. Norman & Montie Malone, Sr.
William Steigner
Anne Hodges Pals
Skate Depot/Skate Express/Skate Junction
c/o Bill Carlson
Arnold Kueker
Harold Smith

PATRONS:

Charlotte Groves
Charles & Connie Wahlig
Katherine McDonell
Ed & Winifred Young
Caroline Mirelli
Harry Walker
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Facher
George Pickard
Kim Eisenzimmer
Coca Cola
Southeastern Skate Supply of Roanoke, VA
Dorothy Tamaccio
Eatontown Roller Skating Center
Section 2 of the RSA
Harry Ball

ASSOCIATE PATRONS:

Patricia Hanaway
William Kelly
Gloria Nord
Jane & Wayne Wojnarowsky
Steve Sweetin
John Eisenzimmer
Jenner & Dolores Vincent
Joe & Nancie Nemanich
Moon-Glo Roller Rink
Dennis Huckaby
Sam Nieswizski
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Nazzaro
Jack & Honey Burton
Arthur Nodine
Douglas Breniser
Robert Campbell
Bruce & Barbara Pearson
Pam Mitchell
Thomas & Mary Kay Obert
Bob & Marianne Dill
Richard Chaffin
Ed Ryan
Wheel Awhile, Inc.
Seth Scott
Susan Maiolo
Robert & Joan LaBriola
Mills & Betty Lynn
Marguerite Levenson
Alvin Strunk

MEMORIALS

The museum recently learned that champion roller skater Norman Latin passed away in 1991. He is survived by his wife Phyllis and daughters Doreen and Blake.

Elizabeth Plimpton made a donation to the museum in memory of James Leonard Plimpton II. Mr. Plimpton was the great great grandson of James Leonard Plimpton, "the Father of Roller Skating."

Harold Smith made a substantial donation in memory of his late mother, Willie Mae Nichols, who passed away in 1990.



PATRON MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Remember that the Patron Memorial Plaque still has spaces available for individuals who have made contributions to our roller skating heritage. This could include everyone from rink owners to athletes. A one-time fee of \$250 will place a person's name on the memorial which is permanently displayed at the National Museum of Roller Skating.

WISH LIST:

The museum is still hoping to obtain a Revolving Mirror Ball for an upcoming exhibit on the RSROA and rinks. Does anyone have one that they would be willing to donate?

Call the museum 402-483-7551.

Our request for a new VCR was answered by Jennifer and Bo Phillips of Kingsport, TN.

The museum is grateful for this generous donation!

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.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check or money order enclosed payable to the National Museum of Roller Skating. | <input type="checkbox"/> PIN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paid by VISA. | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paid by Master-Card. | <input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$15 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor - \$50 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Patron - \$100 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron - \$250 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor - \$500 or more |

Card Number _____

Signature _____

Exp Date _____

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

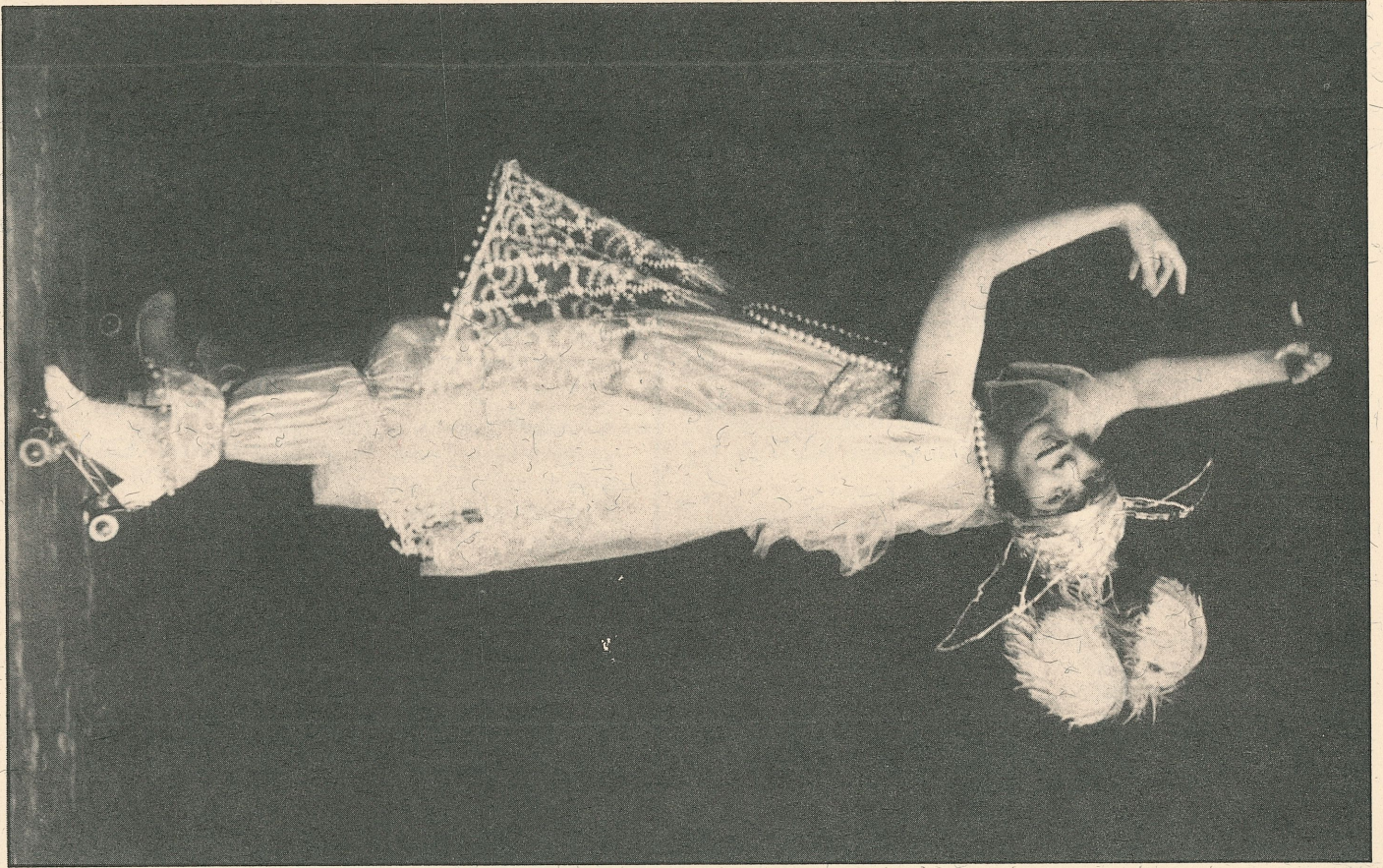
Zip Code _____

Mail to:



National Museum of Roller Skating
4730 South St.
P.O. Box 6579
Lincoln, NE 68506

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



National Museum of Roller Skating
4730 South Street
P.O. Box 6579
Lincoln, NE 68506-0579

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LINCOLN, NE
Permit No. 545