



Rolling Through Time

By James Vannurden

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

RSA National Convention



Museum booth at trade show

From Sunday, May 4 through Wednesday, May 7 the Roller Skating Association International hosted its annual convention and trade show. Many roller rink owners, equipment manufacturers, and insurance companies attend this annual gathering. Located in Las Vegas this year, the convention saw another great turnout.

Each year the museum is invited to join this convention and trade show. RSA gives the museum a booth to showcase its cause and promote the preservation of the history of this great sport. Also the museum holds its annual fund raiser, a raffle, during the convention culminating with the raffle drawing the last evening at the President's Dinner.

Special thanks to the RSA for showing the museum this continued support at their annual convention and trade show. It gives the museum exposure to those who work daily in the industry of roller skating.

As previously mentioned, the main event for the museum at the RSA Convention is the annual museum raffle. Twenty-four tickets are drawn for prize money, anywhere between \$100 and the grand prize of \$5,000.

Congratulations to our raffle grand prize winner: **Bob Householder**. Other big winners included:

Rick Ceprele
Sue Rendfrey
Jim Park
Teri Acklus

After winning, Housholder generously donated back to the museum **\$1,000** of his prize. Others who donated their winnings back to the museum included:

JBL Trinity: **\$300**
Andy Starr: **\$100**

Thanks to those who purchased four or more tickets:

Bill Hoefler
Bob & Annelle Anderson
Cort & Connie Wahlig
Dominic Cangelosi
Jim Ball
Linda Miner
Mike Jacques
Nellie Lillie
RSA Section 5
RSA Staff/board
Terri Acklus
Wayne Ramsey

Thanks to those who purchased ten tickets:

Harry Walker
JBL Trinity

PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE

Price \$50. Total of \$10,000 in cash prizes. Grand prize \$5,000!
Drawing to take place, May 7, 2014, at the RSA International Convention, Rio All Suite Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada during the President's Dinner. Ticket holders need not be present to win.
All proceeds benefit the museum.



The National Museum of Roller Skating is a publicly supported, charitable organization.

New and Renewing Members
RC Sports

Arena Gardens, Detroit, 1935-1953

Fred Martin, manager of the Arena Gardens, recounts the beginning of the Arena Gardens as the premier roller rink in the country:

One early fall day in the year 1935 while sitting at my office desk at White City, Chicago, I received a phone call from a very good friend of mine, Dick Axman, who at that time was writing stories for various newspapers and as a sideline doing publicity work for Jack Dempsey. Dick told me that he had with him a Mr. Adam Weissmuller from Detroit who had the Arena Gardens there and wanted to know what could be done with it to keep it open every night in the week instead of just Mondays as had been the custom, for the late Mr. Weissmuller, being interested in wrestling enterprises, used only Monday nights. For some years the only successful enterprise to be operated continuously was wrestling.

Anyway, Dick asked me to come downtown and meet Mr. Weissmuller and, like most me in the business world, we discussed our work while eating. As I remember clearly, I met the gentleman at Trafton's. I must say that there was something about him that impressed me very much at our first meeting. He did not appear to be the type to go into great detail or paint great pictures of promise. He simply state that he had the Arena Gardens and wanted to know if I thought that roller skating might "go." Before deciding anything we went to Thompson's Restaurant and over a good bowl of "pea soup" we finished negotiating a transaction which resulted in one of the foremost, finest, largest, and most modern rinks in the United States.

In doing this, Dear Skater, don't think for a moment that it was all a bed of roses, for many of you may still recall the difficulties and hardships of the first season in an endeavor to establish a clean-cut method of operation, policy of management so that parents as well as the skaters would approve of the entertainment provided by the Arena Gardens, to which end some \$50,000 worth of improvements were made.

In looking back the few years since we started skating at the Arena, we sometimes wonder how so much has been accomplished in such a short while, for at this particular time the ARENA GARDENS ROLLER SKATING CLUB OF DETROIT is known all over the world as one of the finest.

In closing, I want to thank every one of you who started with me in 1935 and who, like myself, had visions of a much better place to enjoy life as a skater, and thanks to a man who, not knowing what this was all about, was not afraid to take a chance- the late Adam Weissmuller.

-As written by Fred Martin in the 1939-1940 Year Book, Arena Gardens, Detroit, Michigan

Arena Gardens Weekly Schedule, 1941

Monday

Wrestling

Tuesday

Open for practice 4-6 PM. Evening session 7-10:30 PM.

Wednesday

Open for practice 9 AM till 6 PM. Class in elementary skate dancing from 7-8 PM, no extra charge. Evening session 8-11:30 PM.

Thursday

Open for practice 9 AM till 6 PM. Class in advanced skate dancing from 7-8 PM, no extra charge. Evening session 8-11:30 PM.

Friday

Open for practice from 9 AM till 1 PM. Matinee session 2 till 4:30 PM (full organ musical program.) Senior DFSC session from 6-7:45 PM. Evening session 8-11:30 PM.

Saturday

Junior DFSC session 10:30 AM till noon. Special children's matinee session from 1-3:30 PM. DFSC teen group session from 4-6 PM. Practice time from 6-7:45 PM. Evening session from 8-12.

Sunday

Senior DFSC session 10 AM till noon. Matinee session from 2 -4:30 PM. Evening session from 8-11:30 PM.



RULES OF DRESS

GENTLEMEN—Skating is permitted in business suit. Coat may be removed providing party is otherwise attired in unobtrusively colored shirt and tie or in sport shirt. Suspenders, sweaters, polo shirts, jackets and uniforms other than those of active U. S. Services are not permissible.

LADIES—Skating is permitted in your choice of dress providing the costume skirt reaches to the knees. Slacks, beach pajamas, riding breeches, etc., are not permissible.

Loops on Rollers

Written by Hugo O. Laine, 1940

Runner-up National Men's Roller Figure Skating

It was a matter of less than a year ago that Loops were considered an impossible figure to accomplish on roller skates, although they had been recognized on ice for years as being the highest of the essential figures in the Championships and Tests.

Before explaining the execution of Loops, many novice skaters would probably like to know what the figure really looks like when accomplished correctly. Skated properly, the elliptical or egg shaped loop is placed on the long axis of the figure. In other words, having in mind that the figure is executed on a figure eight, and that the long axis is the imaginary line cutting lengthwise through the eight, the loops should be centered at the far ends of each lobe, and may vary in size in accordance with the size of the eight skated. They should be approximately one-third as wide as they are long, but should never exceed one-third the diameter of the circle.

Skate slowly and naturally, keeping the body upright over the tracing hip. The arms should be low. The approach to the loop is slow, using the body rotation and bended knee to give a deep enough edge to accomplish the figure. The free foot is used to give smooth power sufficient to complete the lobe of the eight before striking off again.

This is recognized as a very difficult figure on ice, and even more difficult on rollers, however the body position in each case is very similar. The skater must acquire a "feeling" for loops which only months of constant practice can bring. The use of powder lightly dusted on the skating surface or painted black circles with loops painted on the floor are an advantage because they tend to guide the skater's endeavor, at the same time they bring out the faults of the tracing.

Consecutive loops as well as any other figure skated should have identical retracing. This is a difficult accomplishment on roller and ice alike.

The roller skaters bargained for a lot when they turned toward loops, but they are being accomplished with comparative success, and thoroughly enjoyed by the skater who puts forth sufficient effort to acquire the "feeling" for one of the most difficult figures ever attempted- loops on roller skates.

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!

