



Museum Newsletter

By James Vannurden
Director and Curator

National Museum of Roller Skating
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Bi-Monthly
June 1, 2012

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.

Skater Profile: Joseph W. Munch Northwest Champion

*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.*



In 1905 Joseph Munch won his first Northwest Championship in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He continued to defend his title for many years. His final amateur medal won was diamond encrusted, which he also won in Minneapolis, in 1909.

Munch then turned professional for a few years. In 1908 and 1909 he skated in many large cities. For his efforts and victories he won many prizes.

After his skating career ended, Munch transitioned to the managerial aspect of the sport. He managed Allie Moore, one of the day's top world champions. Afterwards, Munch became involved in rink management and headed the Riverview Skating Palace in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The rink was a huge success under Munch during his ten year reign.

Sad Note

The museum would like to express its condolences to the family of Gordon "Budd" Van Roekel. Budd passed away on May 12. He was a longtime supporter of the museum. Budd contributed to the purchase of some of the museum's oldest and greatest acquisitions. His generosity and support helped make the museum what it is today.

Curator's Corner Museum Raffle Winners

	AMOUNT	WINNER
1	\$100	Section 1
2	\$100	Section 1
3	\$100	Bob Anderson & Luther Bernstein
4	\$100	The Fun Spot/The Ferraros
5	\$100	Marc Pyche
6	\$100	April Grove
7	\$100	George Pickard
8	\$100	Beth Nolan
9	\$100	Cheryl Vail
10	\$100	Marcin Jean
11	\$100	Judy Link
12	\$100	Barbara Shores
13	\$100	Alan Bacon
14	\$100	Jerry Shores
15	\$100	Bob Babcock
1	\$250	Bob Anderson
2	\$250	Shawn & Jericho Pattison
3	\$250	James Link
4	\$250	Madison Magliato
1	\$500	Sue Newberry
2	\$500	Ed Hughes
3	\$500	Randy Ray
1	\$1,000	Chris & Tammy Griffith
1	\$5,000	Verno Quaranto

Congratulations to all of the winners!
Thanks for your support!

Special thanks to Section 1, Bob Anderson, Luther Bernstein, Beth Nolan, and Barbara Shores for donating their winnings back to the museum.

Also, the museum expresses its condolences to the family of Marvin Facher. Marvin passed away April 24. During his term as RSA president, Marvin supported the founding of the National Museum of Roller Skating in 1980. He also served many years as a museum board member. His contributions to the museum will not be forgotten.

Library Feature:

No Mercy: Life on the Roller Derby Track
By Jules Doyle



The museum's newest acquisition, *No Mercy: Life on the Roller Derby Track*, showcases up close contact with members of America's roller derby teams. A gift from the Sin City Skates, *No Mercy* gives the reader a chance to see what it is like to be a member of roller derby.

The book gets as close to the skater as possible through its over 200 photographs. Pain is shown: busted ribs, falls, bruising, and lacerations speckle this series. Celebrations of victory contrast shots of defeat. Derby names on jerseys litter the pages with references to "Bess B. Ware", "Sir Osis", and "Anne Arkie". Crowds show enthusiasm for their teams by constructing signs saying "My mommy can knock you down" and "Sting 'Em". But most of all, this book shows derby through the eyes of individual skaters, competitors who strive to release pent up aggression and have some fun doing it.

New Museum Memorial

The Michigan Chapter of USARS has created a museum memorial for Bob and Irene Coryell. It says: "Thank you for over 50 years of dedication to roller skating, through coaching, judging, and volunteer work. Waterford, MI." This nameplate will be added to the large memorial plaque on permanent display in the museum. Contributing to this memorial was: Mary Margaret Campbell, Phyllis Tomlinson, Michigan USARS, Michigan Coaches Assoc., Julia Buchanan, Tami Paiafian, Mandy Ferguson, Rolladium Skating Club, Mark & Kim Majors.

Skate of the Week:
Le Grande



German composer Giacomo Meyerbeer's opera "Le Prophete" used these roller skates to simulate ice dancing. Louis Le Grande constructed these skates for the entire cast and gave lessons in their use. Patented in 1849, the wooden plate affixed to a makeshift ice blade along with two, small inline wheels.

The success of this opera in Paris led to a greater interest in the pastime. Soon the French and others began using these skates on streets, marble, and parquet floors.

Rink Profile

Arena Gardens: Detroit, MI



Opened in 1935, the Arena Gardens of Detroit, Michigan soon became the epitome of the roller skating experience in the United States. Management wore tuxedos while floor staff donned custom tailored, red, fitted uniforms. Patrons also adhered to a strict conduct and dress code. The concession stand and skate shop ran with efficiency and great customer service.

The Arena Gardens also contributed to the growth of the sport. Manager Fred Martin hosted the first meeting of the RSROA. The first speed skating national championships were held here. Their roller skating club was one of the largest in the country.

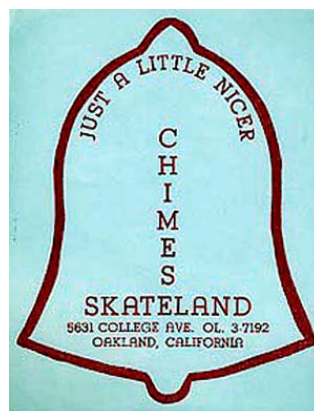
In 1953 the Arena Gardens closed when the state built a highway directly through its location.

Rink Sticker Collection

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	
___	___	MasterCard
Credit Card	_____	
Number	_____	
Exp.	_____	
Signature	_____	
Mail to: National Museum of Roller Skating, 4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 Fax to: 402-483-1465		

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.



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.

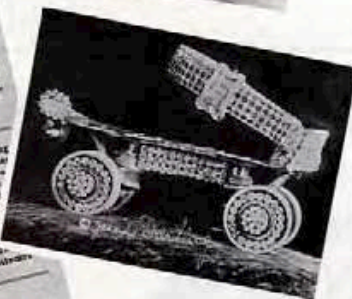
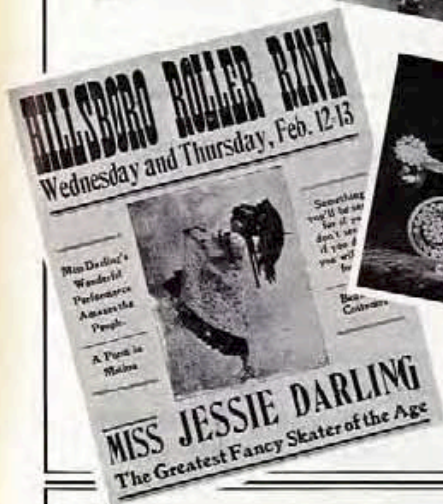
Thanks in advance for your considerations.

Thanks for supporting the museum!



Museum Update

National Museum of Roller Skating

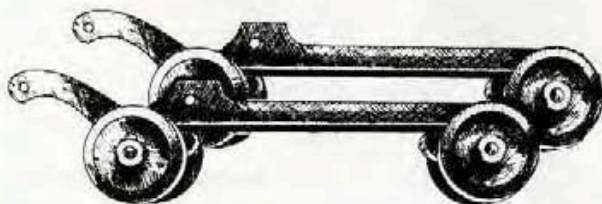


Although competitions on the amateur level began in earnest between the years 1900 and 1915, exhibitions of fancy, novelty, and trick skating done by professional skaters were, for the most part, the type of skating which attracted the public's attention in the period preceding World War I. Many of the popular skaters of this time, among them The Rexos, Earl Reynolds and Nellie Donegan, The Stirlings, and John F. Davidson, successfully toured and performed in the best rinks, vaudeville theatres and at fairs in America and Europe. Skaters gave command performances before the monarchs of Europe: King George V of Britain, Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, Czar Nicolas of Russia, King Leopold of Belgium and others. One of the most famous of these exhibition skaters was Jessie Darling, and the National Museum of Roller Skating is privileged to hold her memorabilia.

Born in Providence, Rhode Island, Miss Darling was described as "the best in the skatorial world." In her career, she skated at many of the popular rinks in North America, from Nova Scotia to the Pacific coast, earning rave reviews. Her exhibitions included the world famous "Cake-Walk," figures and spins, and skating through lit candles, a dangerous feat considering the long dresses prevalent in that era. She toured Europe for the American Roller Rink Company during 1909 - 1910, skating in England, France and Germany. The London *Dispatch* called her the "most famous of roller skaters," and the Paris *Herald* heartily agreed, saying that she was the "finest rink skater in the world." During her European tour, Jessie Darling used a pair of "jeweled skates," which were considered the most elegant skates ever made.

After returning to the United States, Miss Darling devoted most of her time to vaudeville, skating with her partner, H. A. Simmons. Billed as the "Skaters Bijou," Jessie and Henry thrilled audiences around the country with their "Whirl-Wind Apache Dance." As many of the theatre stages were unacceptable for roller skating, the Skaters Bijou carried their own floor, a 20 by 24 foot piece of maple which could be adapted to any stage. Through exhibitions by Jessie Darling and other professional skaters, roller skating was introduced to the public and remained popular in the early 20th century.

Michael W. Brooslin, Curator



The museum recently received this unique pair of skates from Dennis Harsch. There are no markings to indicate what company made them, and, although patent dates stamped in the metal are December 21, 1880; April 19, 1881; and October 8, 1882, there is no patent number. The wheels are wood. Can anyone help us identify these skates?

A final note. The museum still needs additional items for the collection, especially skates. To those of you who have sent, or are sending objects to the museum, my sincere thanks. To those of you who are debating whether or not to send your treasures, I ask you to follow the examples of your colleagues.