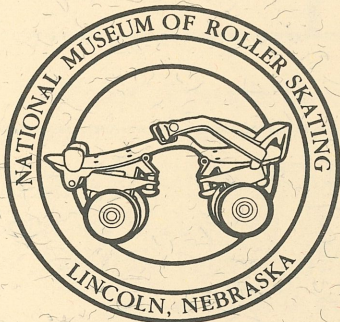

HISTORICAL ROLLER SKATING OVERVIEW

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROLLER SKATING



4730 South Street
P.O. Box 6579
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506
Phone: 402-483-7551
Fax: 402-483-1465
E-mail: rllrsktmus@aol.com
Museum hours: 9-5, M-F

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The Little Lover

by EDITH BALLINGER PRICE

He brings me lots of faded
flowers,
And shows me things he's
found;
He comes and watches me for
hours.
And follows me around.
He's much too small to roller-
skate;
He cannot climb a tree;
But I'll be nice to him.-I'm eight,
And he is only three.

From *Nature and Science*
For Young Folks, © 1919.

Curator's Corner

On January 8, 1996, I was appointed Director & Curator of the National Museum of Roller Skating. I am honored and excited about this new position and would like to thank the Board of Trustees for allowing me this opportunity.

The next few months will be a time of transition and learning for the museum and me. I encourage you to get in contact with me by phone, fax or e-mail if you have any comments or questions. Your support has been necessary in the past to make the museum a success, and it will continue to be important in the future.

Some of you might have read about me in previous issues of the newsletter. As one of the interns under the former Director, I worked on the catalog project, organized the archives, designed several exhibit cases and processed donations. Donations, loans, and contributions of roller skating memorabilia are of great importance to the growth of the collection. If you have any donations that are of historical importance to us and would like to give the museum the opportunity to display them and let others share in our joy of skating, I urge you to contact me.

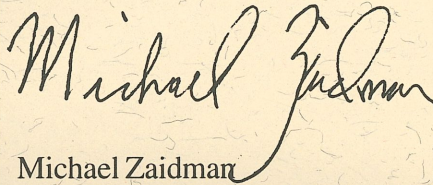
In May, the museum will be having its annual fund raiser at the Roller Skating Association (RSA) convention in Reno, NV. I am looking forward to meeting all convention visitors and gaining your support for the museum's raffle. The importance of the raffle cannot be underestimated. This fund raiser helps insure that the museum is able to give its collection of roller skating memorabilia the best possible care. For information on the raffle, please check page 6.

For all new and renewing members I want to thank you for your patience during my transition. If you have sent in any new information and

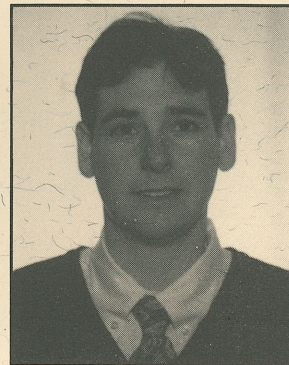
have not heard from me by the end of the month please call me. As members of this museum, you are making an important contribution to preserving the history of roller skating.

Finally, I hope this newsletter gives you more historical information regarding roller skating and keeps you informed of the happenings inside our museum. This issue will highlight the museum raffle and roller skating in the work place.

Enjoy the newsletter!



Michael Zaidman
Director & Curator



Historical Roller Skating Overview is published bi-monthly for members of the National Museum of Roller Skating. It is available only through honorary membership in the museum. Minimum annual contribution is \$15.00. Send correspondence to: Museum Director, 4730 South Street, P.O. Box 6579, Lincoln, NE 68506

ROLLER SKATING IN THE WORK PLACE

Millions of people have roller skated for fun and recreation, but only a few thousand have used roller skating in the work place. Roller skating is a quick and efficient use of transportation (Figure 1), and there have been occasions when this activity came to fashion in the work environment.

Back in 1840, roller skates were used for functional purposes. Then one day a clever German tavern owner thought of using roller skates. The idea was to have waitresses serve patrons beer on roller skates (Figure 2). This revelation would be the start of faster service to patrons and quite possibly attract more people to the establishment.

Restaurants today are still one of the more popular roller skating methods involving work related activities. A & W restaurants and other bar-hops from the 1940's and 1950's used roller skating waitresses to attract patrons similar to the way the German tavern owner did. Locally, the Rock 'n' Roll Runza restaurant located in downtown Lincoln, NE, copies the old style of the 1950's. This restaurant even dresses the staff in the garb worn of the time.

This clever idea has continued into all parts of the work place. In the 1930's the Washington General Post Office used girl messengers on roller skates to speed things up from department to department. United Airlines, American Telephone and Telegraph and Western Union (Figure 3) also issued roller skates to their employees for faster service and the possible endeavor of attracting more customers.

Although not everyone thought roller

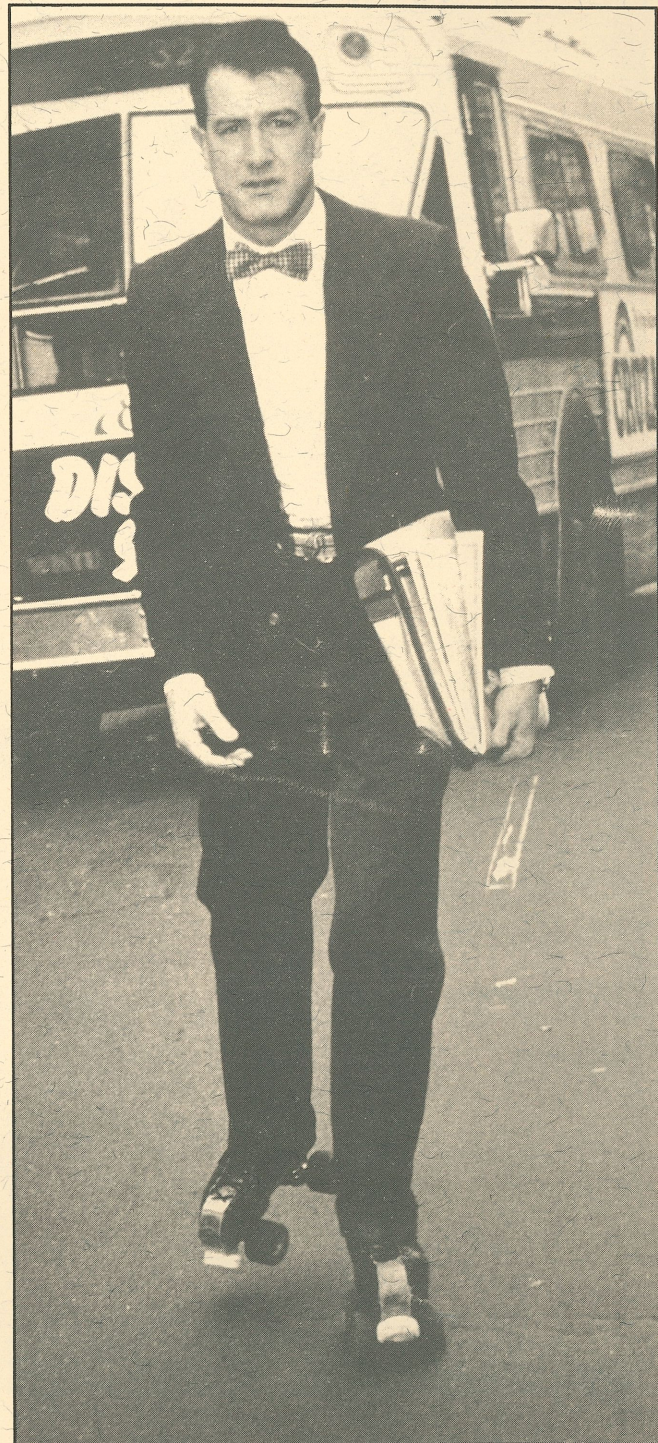


Figure 1. *Roller skating to work (© Nancy Moran).*



Figure 2. *Skating waitresses in 1851*



Figure 3. *Messengers on skates at a Western Union office (Library of Congress).*

skating in the work place was the best idea. In 1980, at the U.S. Army and Air Force base in Frankfurt, West Germany, the officials there said on-base roller skating in uniform was banned because roller skates are not authorized footwear. Moreover, the use of roller skating while in uniform is not compatible with the desired Air Force image. The officer connected to the use of roller skates complained that he would rather wear roller skates than jogging shoes.

Similar to the military, Reuben Greenberg, Chief of Police in Charleston, SC, and Raymond Martucci, a New York Police Officer both enjoy roller skating but only off duty. Martucci once posed as a police officer in a book about roller skating (Figure 4). While on skates, Greenberg caught a thief breaking into a house, but the thief didn't pay any attention to Greenberg because he was out of uniform.

Ever since roller skating was invented, it has been used in the work place. Transportation, postal workers, ice pickers (Figure 5), waitresses, and messengers have all helped roller skating increase in popularity.



Figure 4. *New York Police Officer Raymond Martucci posing in a book.*

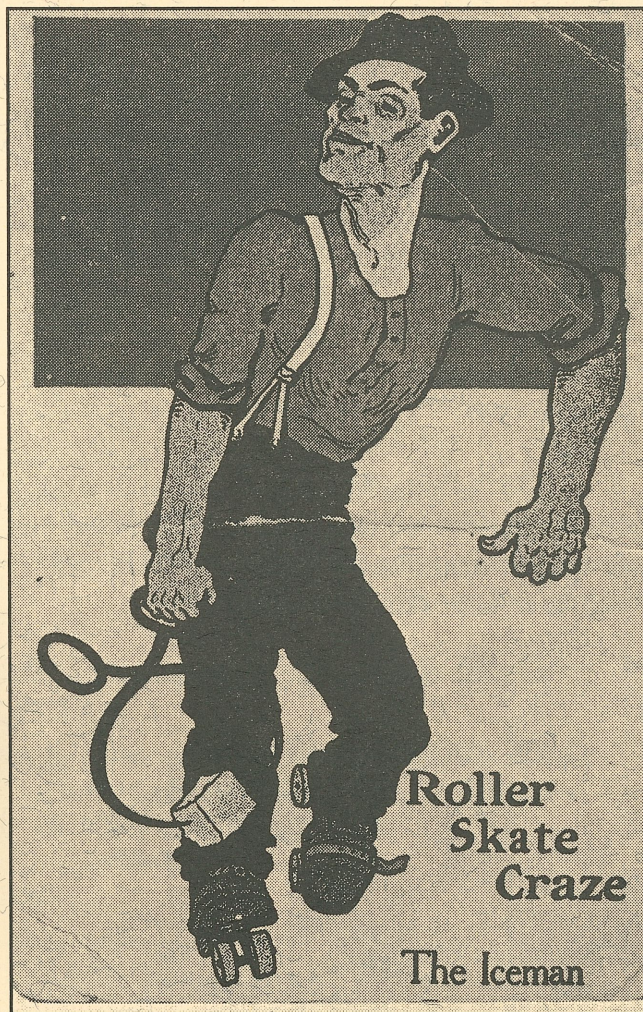


Figure 5. *The ice picker on skates.*

MUSEUM RAFFLE

The National Museum of Roller Skating was founded in 1980 by members of both the Roller Skating Rink Operators Association of America (RSROA) and the United States Amateur Confederation of Roller Skating (USAC/RS), who were concerned that the history of roller skating was being lost. The museum was formed as a non-profit organization governed by a separate Board of Trustees. The museum is privileged to have many prominent enthusiasts of the sport of roller skating as members of the Board of Trustees and as Honorary Trustees.

Donations from various individuals have helped to fund the museum, but these are not sufficient. The annual raffle was created to provide a major source of funding for the museum's operations. We hold the raffle at our national convention every year. Tickets are sold in advance and at the convention. These tickets are sold to members, rink operators, coaches, athletes, family, and friends.

The National Museum of Roller Skating provides an invaluable service to all by preserving and documenting our history for future generations and our generation to enjoy.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROLLER SKATING BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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Michael Zaidman

RAFFLE TICKET

\$10,000 in prizes will be drawn during the convention. The grand prize of \$5000 will go to some lucky individual. You need not be present to win.

YES! I would like to order a 1996 raffle ticket:

Send me _____ tickets @ \$50 each

Total \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

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

MEMBERSHIP

New & renewing members

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Ashley & Laura Beck
Robert Braun
Lenora & Rick Carson/ Section 4, Heartland
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Carol Hutchinson
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Parkway Skating Center
Susan Raehn
William Sahly/ Roller Garden
Skaters World Roller Rink
Irene Taylor
Jack Walker
Bernadette Williams

Thanks for your support!

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 our rich history by joining one of our special membership categories listed. Future roller skaters will thank you.

Contributors of \$25 or more become Honorary Members of the museum and receive a copy of *The Evolution of the Roller Skate*, a subscription to the *Historical Roller Skating OVERVIEW*, and a museum membership card.

Donations will be acknowledged in the next newsletter

Membership Categories

- New Renew
- Individual/Family \$25
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- Associate Patron \$100
- Patron \$250
- Benefactor \$500

Name _____

Address _____

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Mail to: National Museum of Roller Skating
P.O. Box 6579
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

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

Method of payment

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

VISA

Exp. date: _____

MasterCard

Card #: _____

Authorized Signature _____



HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY!

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