



## Rolling Through Time

By James Vannurden, Director

Official Newsletter of:

**National Museum of Roller Skating**  
4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506  
(402) 483-7551 ex. 16  
@rollersk8museum

Bi-Monthly  
November 2, 2015

### 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

#### Recent Museum Donations

##### Doll Donation



This week the museum received a donation from Renee Osterhoudt of Scottsdale, Arizona. This 8" *Vogue Dolls* doll is dressed as a waitress wearing roller skates with the given name Ginny.

This new item is now on exhibition in our display called *Roller Skating Carhops*.

### Music Donation



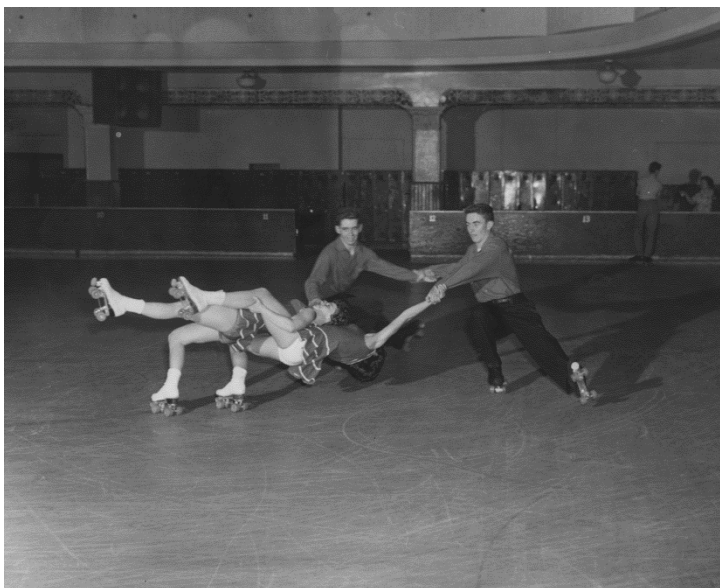
Tom Hughes of Anchorage, Alaska recently donated five 1/4" music reels of Hammond Organ music. With multiple skating tempos, these reels play songs such as *Baby Face*, *Call Me Darling*, and *Blue Hawaii*.

### Floor Donation



Donated by Charlene Conway, this piece of original floor from Roll-Land Rink in Norwood, MA now resides in the museum. This floor piece, approximately 8"x12", was constructed by Bob Owens from original floor taken during the rink demolition. Owens made multiple pieces.

## Featured Story Fours Skating



Fours group: Dovall, Rider, Clere, Martin.

This article was written by museum director Michael Brooslin for the December 1986 museum newsletter.

*The first major Fours competitive event was skated at the RSROA National Championships of 1942, held in Detroit, with Dorothy Law, Louise Moore, William Martin Jr., and Alden Sibley of the Arena Gardens Skating Club emerging as the winning team. Though neither of the two sets of skaters were champions as pairs, in 1943 Bill Martin developed into a National Senior Pairs titleholder with a different partner, Margaret Williams. Bill McMillan, one of the most outstanding SRSTA Teachers, was the pro of this fours team. McMillan was one of the early innovators in fours skating.*

*In addition to being a crowd pleaser, the fours event was quite popular with the skaters. In 1947, the Intermediate and Novice divisions were added to fours national competition, and in 1954, a Junior national title. There were quite a few great all-around individual and pairs skaters who did well in fours during the first ten years of the event. Among the names in the list of National Fours Champions are Pat Carroll, Norman Latin, Jay Norcross, Bob LaBriola, Nancy Kromis, Bill Pate, Gail Locke, Johnny Matejec, and others.*

*In 1952, a fours team from Middleton, Ohio, won the Intermediate division. They are credited with the invention of the "fours pendulum swing spin" during that year; a movement which became a standard item in fours routines. Known as the "Fabulous Fours", the team was made up of Frances Recher, Gary Houck, Maxine Dorn and Billy Sticklen, and was taught by noted pro Ray Hough. Although not invented by this team, the "Circle Pass Over" lift was brought to a degree of perfection by the Fab Fours. After defeating the 1952 Senior National Champions (Kromis, Locke, Pate, and Matejec) at the 1953 Great Lakes Regionals, disaster*

*struck. The day before the 1953 Nationals, Billy Sticklen was killed in a plane crash near Cleveland. Dorn retired the following season, so Recher and Houck teamed up with Robert Clary and Marilee Olson to recapture the National Senior Fours crown in 1954.*

*Among those who were members of the championship fours teams in the early 1960s were USAC/RS Hall of Famers David Tassinari and Michael Jacques. In the mid 1960s, Fours became extremely popular on the West Coast. From 1967 to 1975, California skaters dominated the fours event, usually placing two of the top three senior teams at Nationals. The leading pros in fours during that period were Tom Panno and Jim Pringle, showing superior knowledge and innovation in the event through the number of champion teams they produced.*

*Richard Toon of San Leandro, California, skated on more senior fours championship teams than any other person (six times). Other familiar names to grace the winner platform in this period were Judy Jerue and Dennis Collier. Teams from San Leandro had won five consecutive senior fours championships when in 1972, Louis Stovall and the team from Long Beach broke their string. Stovall, with partner Vicky Handyside, went on to capture the 1973 FIRS World Pairs title in November.*

*The field for the fours events was never as large as singles, figures, pairs, or dance, however some of the best pairs and singles skaters also skated fours. Among the names in the competitive records are many national champions in other senior events, including Tommy Lane, Ron Jellse, Michael Glatz, Ruth Heesman, and Ken Trotter, Sue Welch, Diane Kern, and Nancy Lou Johnson. There are also many lower division champion fours skaters who later became Senior champions in other events; Rob Wollard and Carol Stout, Laurene Anselmi, Rob and Gail Robovitsky, John Gustafson, Robbie Coleman and Pat Jones, and Jane Puracchio.*

*Due to a shrinking number of entries, the fours events at Nationals were reduced to only two divisions (Senior and Novice) in 1967. There were many problems in developing a fours team; finding four people with compatible personalities and with close levels of skating proficiency, and more importantly, getting the team together for practice while working around four different individuals' schedules. After the 1975 United States Championships, the fours events were dropped from the national meet because of a lack of participation.*



Fours group: Jacques, Johnson, Tassinari, Kern.



## Museum Raffle



Special thanks to Judith Young Link, Charlene Conway, Bill Hoefler, and Michael Jacques for organizing a museum raffle at the RSA Sk8 Expo. Hosted September 15-16 in Tampa, FL by the RSA, the Sk8 Expo helped rink owners tackle many issues faced in the roller skating industry.

The 50/50 split raffle netted the Museum an initial \$405. Exciting news followed when raffle winner Larry Bishop donated his share back to the museum! Additionally we also received a donation of \$20 from FEC Music.

So in final total the museum received \$830 from the Sk8 Expo raffle. Thanks again to the organizers and RSA.

Happy Halloween!!



## 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!

