

MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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Michael W. Brooslin,
Director & Curator

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The newsletter of the National Museum of Roller Skating is available only through membership in the museum. Minimum annual contribution is \$15. The newsletter is published 4 times a year to inform the museum's honorary members of happenings at the museum and about aspects of roller history. Although the museum cannot pay for articles, contributions by the readers are welcome. All articles, inquiries or comments should be sent to the museum Curator.

The museum is finally open to the public! The National Museum of Roller Skating held its "Grand Opening" on Tuesday, April 13th. Many of the museum's honorary members were in attendance, as well as the various civic leaders of the City of Lincoln. The event also offered many of those involved with roller skating to renew old acquaintances and to recall the "good old days" with their friends and fellow leaders in the industry. Those on hand for the evening's festivities were delighted with the history portrayed in the museum's 28 exhibits. Members of the media attended the event, and were pleasantly surprised at the scope and variety of the skates and other memorabilia on display. In addition to both local TV and radio coverage, several articles about the museum appeared in different newspapers. On the last page of this newsletter I've included the article which appeared in the Lincoln newspapers the morning after the grand opening. We hope that all of you who are reading this will sometime have the chance to come here, view and explore the rich heritage and origins of your sport and industry. We are currently open to the public Monday through Friday, from 10 AM until 4 PM. It is possible that by the beginning of next September we will also be open during the weekend, either on Saturday or Sunday afternoons. More on this as it develops.

As for those of you who feel that you will never be in Lincoln, and thus miss our collection of historical roller skates, there is another possibility. We have just completed a travelling exhibit to showcase the history of roller skating which includes 7 skates from our collection (1881-1920). At present, the only appearances of this display will be at the RSROA Trade Show during May in Washington, DC, and at the U.S. Amateur Roller Skating Championships to be held in Fort Worth, Texas during the month of July. After the Nationals, it is hoped that the exhibit will be able to visit different sections of the country, including stops at several of the 1983 State and Regional roller skating championships. You will be kept informed of any developments and the schedule of this display in future newsletters.

The museum's patches and pins finally arrived from the manufacturers a few weeks ago. Please accept my apologies for the delay in getting them to you, but we have little control over the time it takes these firms to make them

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up. We had originally thought that the patches and pins would be ready by late February as the orders for them were placed in December of 1981, however, this was a bit optimistic on our part. If any of you has not yet received your pin or patch, please let me know and we will check into the situation.

Just a short note on the quality of this issue. Because of the costs involved, the museum newsletter cannot go to a printed format (similar to other newsletters published by the RSROA such as RSROA, SCA, SRSTA, or ROLLER NEWS) until we have a membership of about 350 people. With your help this can be achieved in the near future. Please, talk to other skaters you know and encourage them to become honorary members of the museum. The greater the support the museum receives from the entire skating community, the better this newsletter will become. It is up to all of us to promote the history of roller skating. Those who wish to join the museum as an honorary member can use the forms which are in this newsletter, SKATE magazine, ROLLER SKATING BUSINESS, or just send us a note along with their contribution. I would also like to know what types of articles (speed, artistic, hockey, vaudeville, reprints, etc.) you would like to see in the future. By dropping me a letter, we can provide better service to you, our honorary members.

NEXT ISSUE: The next museum newsletter, scheduled for June, will have several articles on past National Championships; the autobiography of Fred Murree ("Bright Star", a professional fancy skater); and some tips for roller skating assemblies written by James L. Plimpton during the late 1860's.

Fancy Skater Extraordinaire - William H. Carpenter

Known as "Billy", and acknowledged by press and public as the greatest exponent of fancy, figure and "scientific" skating, Mr. Carpenter was born in Lowell, Massachusetts in 1891. Billy learned to ice skate as a youngster and became quite and expert by age 12. At this time roller skating again became popular, and he turned to the rollers. His first position was as a skate boy at a roller rink. His skating attracted the attention of Professor H.T. Freemantle, one of Canada's best skaters of that era. Under the instructions of this man, Billy Carpenter became one of the most accomplished skaters on the East Coast. During the fall of 1907 Billy toured many rinks throughout the East. This tour was such a success that it was repeated the following year, with additional rinks sponsoring his exhibitions. Billy teamed up with Jack Reilly of Providence, Rhode Island in 1909, and were known as Reilly & Carpenter, the "Yankee Clowns". In 1910 they produced a new act, adding bits of comedy and acrobatic skating. It was during this time that they played vaudeville. In 1911, Reilly retired, and Billy took over the management of the Elm Rink in New Bedford, Massachusetts. January of 1912 saw Carpenter again playing the rinks with an act, which continued until Fred Murree ("Chief Bright Star") of the Select Rink in Augusta, Maine secured Carpenter to manage that rink. In October of 1912, Billy was hired by the owner of the Farmington Rollerway Rink in Farmington, Maine. He continued to promote and operate rinks with much success until he again took up skating in 1915. In November of that year, he was booked at part of the Helen Carlos Trio professional skating troupe. In April of 1916, Billy Carpenter hung up his skates for the last time, when he was offered a managerial position at the De Luxe summer rink in Riverside Amusement Park, Agawam, Massachusetts. This rink was the ancestor of the more recent Riverside Roller Rink.



Firsts in roller skating

- 1st roller skate was made sometime around 1700 by a Dutchman who attached wooden spools to his pair of ice skates.
- 1st roller skate with a proven existence was invented by the Belgian Joseph Merlin in 1760.
- 1st appearance of roller skating in ballet was in Berlin, Germany in 1818 during an act from "The Artist or Winter Pleasures".
- 1st patent issued for a roller skate was to the French inventor M. Petitbled during 1819.
- 1st known performance of artistic roller skating was by Mr. & Mrs. Dumas at the Port Saint Martin Theatre in Paris, France during 1840.
- 1st appearance of roller skating in an opera was in 1848 when Giacomo Meyerbeer's "Le Profete" was performed in Paris.
- 1st rubber wheels on a roller skate was in 1852; the English "Woodward" skate.
- 1st public roller skating rink was opened in 1857 in the Floral Hall of Covent Garden, London, England.
- 1st roller skating in Australia took place in 1860 during a tour by Miss Nellie Jackson.
- 1st modern style roller skate (with action) was invented in 1863 by James Leonard Plimpton of Medford, Massachusetts and New York City.
- 1st roller skating organization, the New York Skating Association, was formed by James L. Plimpton in 1863.
- 1st building built specifically for roller skating was the Plimpton Building, erected by James L. Plimpton in New York City during 1863.
- 1st clamp-on style roller skate was patented by Everett H. Barney in 1864.
- 1st person to "skate around the world" was William Fuller, who accomplished this feat from 1865 through 1870.
- 1st public roller skating rink in America was the Atlantic House in Newport, Rhode Island. This rink was operated by James L. Plimpton starting in 1866.
- 1st game of roller ball hockey (then called roller polo) was played during 1878 at the Denmark Rink in London, England.
- 1st roller skate which could be easily converted to an ice skate was patented by Everett H. Barney in 1882.
- 1st National organization governing skating (speed, hockey and artistic) was the National Skating Association of Great Britain, which was formed in 1879-80.
- 1st organized roller hockey league, the National Polo League, was formed in Dayton, Ohio, on October 11, 1882.
- 1st recorded roller skating race was a 6 day endurance marathon which was held in Madison Square Garden, New York City during March of 1884.
- 1st roller skate wheels with ball bearings was patented by Levant M. Richardson on December 9, 1884.
- 1st roller skating tests were given in 1894 by the National Skating Association in England.
- 1st professional roller skating championship was a speed skating meet, held in England during 1906.
- 1st roller skating organization governing the sport in the Americas came into being with the formation of the International Skating Union of America in 1907.
- 1st international roller hockey match was played between the Royal Rink Hockey Club de Bruxelles (Belgium), and the Centaur Roller Club de Paris (France) during 1910. The Belgian team won the match, 3 - 1.
- 1st speed skating road race was from Ostend to Wenduyne in Belgium, a distance of over 40 kilometers. It was held during 1910.
- 1st roller skate dance tests were given in 1912 at the Welcome Club in England.
- 1st recorded marriage on roller skates took place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, between Miss Hattie Baldwin and Mr. W. McGrath during 1912.
- 1st roller hockey organization was the National Rink Hockey Association of Great Britain, formed in 1913.
- 1st roller skating film was "The Rink", a 1916 movie starring Charlie Chaplin.

Continued on page 4

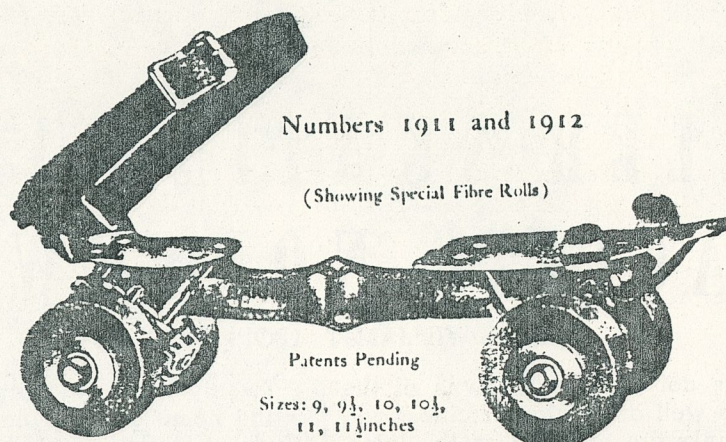
- 1st International organization for roller skating came into being in 1924 with the founding of the Federation Internationale de Patinage a Roulettes.
- 1st amateur roller skating speed tournaments were organized in Central Park by the New York City Parks & Recreation Department, during 1925.
- 1st European roller skating championships were held in England during 1926, consisting solely of roller hockey.
- 1st Roller Derby competition was held at the Chicago Coliseum in August of 1935.
- 1st World Roller Skating Championships (artistic, speed and hockey) were organized by the Federation Internationale de Patinage a Roulettes in 1936.
- 1st U.S. Amateur Roller Skating Speed Championships were held at the Arena Gardens Rink in Detroit, Michigan during 1937.
- 1st introduction of roller dance skating to America was in 1938 when Joan Lidstone and Billy Watson of Great Britain were brought over to the United States for an exhibition tour by Perry B. Rawson.
- 1st standardized National roller skating rules were published by the Roller Skating Rink Operators Association of America in 1938.
- 1st U.S. Amateur Artistic Roller Skating Championships (dance) were held in 1939 at the Mineola Skating Rink on Long Island, New York.
- 1st jump in a roller skating competition was the single Lutz, done by Bruce Towle in 1940.
- 1st regular roller skating column in a newspaper appeared during 1940 in the New York Journal-American, and was written by Bill Love.
- 1st double jump performed by a roller skater was done in 1940 by Skippy Baxter. The jump was a double Salchow.
- 1st National roller skating championship in Europe was held in Belgium during 1941.
- 1st roller skating show produced professionally was the "Skating Vanities of 1942".
- 1st novel about roller skating appeared in 1943. The "Portrait of Laurel" was authored by Ken Thomas.
- 1st roller skating show to benefit medical research took place in 1943. Held at Madison Square Garden in New York City, this exhibition presented by the Roller Skating Rink Operators Association raised over \$10,000 for the March of Dimes Foundation.
- 1st commercially made toe stops went on the market in 1946.
- 1st plastic coated roller skating surfaces made their appearance in rinks during 1946.
- 1st American Gold Medal roller skating figure test took place at the Arena Gardens rink in Detroit on December 11, 1946. Six out of 23 skaters passed.
- 1st triple jump performed by a roller skater was a triple toe-loop, done by Gene Harless in 1959.
- 1st American Ball Hockey roller championship was won by the Galloping Ghosts team from Lubbock, Texas in 1963.
- 1st polyurethane roller skate wheels were manufactured in 1965.
- 1st American Puck roller hockey championship was captured by a team from Windsor, Ontario (Canada) in 1966.
- 1st appearance of roller skating in the PAN AMERICAN games was in Puerto Rico during 1979.
- 1st appearance of roller skating in the Olympic Games - 1988?

EVERETT HOSMER BARNEY

Although many people involved with roller skating know about James L. Plimpton, the inventor of the modern roller skate, and Levant M. Richardson who first put ball-bearings in skate wheels, few know about the other important inventor of the 19th Century, Everett Hosmer Barney.

Continued on page 5

BARNEY & BERRY'S BALL BEARING SKATE



Numbers 1911 and 1912

(Showing Special Fibre Rolls)

Patents Pending

Sizes: 9, 9½, 10, 10½,
11, 11½ inches

	Fibre Rolls	Boxwood Rolls	Steel Rolls	Aluminum Rolls
No. 1911 White Finish, Nickel Plated, Boxed	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$6.50
" 1912 Polished and Nickerled,	6.50	6.50	6.50	8.00

(Balls ¼ inch, First Quality)

Mr. Barney is credited with the invention of the toe clamp for skates. He patented this device in 1864. Though Barney originally conceived the idea for use with ice skates, he soon applied the clamp-on idea to the roller skate.

Everett H. Barney was born in Framingham, Massachusetts on December 7, 1835. After his education was completed, Barney followed in his father's footsteps, working as a machinist constructing textile equipment. During the 1850's, he was associated with the firm of Hinkley & Drury of Boston, doing contract machine work on locomotives. It was during this period that Barney first thought up the idea of replacing the straps then used on skates with an adjustable metal clamp. He finally patented his finished design in 1864. During the Civil War years (1861-65) Barney worked for James C. Warner of Springfield, Massachusetts, manufacturing rifles for the Union Army. At the end of the conflict, Barney turned his attention to his own inventions and to the manufacturing of them. He formed a partnership with Mr. Berry of Springfield in 1866, and began to produce the Barney and Berry skate, both ice and roller versions. Two years later, Barney bought out his partner's share in the company, but retained the firm name of Barney and Berry. Because of the quality of the workmanship, Barney and Berry skates developed an excellent reputation throughout the world in the latter part of the 19th Century. Barney did not, however, devote his time exclusively to skating. During 1868 he patented the machine for stamping the amounts payable on checks, the forerunner of the modern check writer. Everett Barney's other major contribution to the skating world was the development of a successful pair of convertible ice/roller skates. This model, patented in 1882, consisted of a metal bar with ice blades or roller trucks attached. The trucks or the blades could be loosened by adjusting a screw, and then could be slid easily off the grooved bar and quickly replaced with the truck or blade for the other form of skating.

The Barney and Berry Company continued to manufacture ice and roller skates into the early part of this century. In 1916, Mr. Barney died, but the firm, still located in the city of Springfield, Massachusetts, continued to be run by a board of trustees who had been appointed by Barney prior to his death. A special clause in Everett Barney's will stipulated that a portion of the profits made by the firm were to go toward the creation and maintainance of a park for the city. Thus, a roller skating manufacturer was providing places in an urban environment where people could use his products: skates. The company of Barney and Berry was sold in 1923 to the Winchester Arms Company of New Haven, Connecticut. Winchester continued to manufacture Barney's skates along with their own design of street skate into the 1950's.

The next few pages are devoted to articles which appeared over 40 years ago in several issues of SKATING REVIEW, the ancestor of SKATE magazine.

ROLLER SKATING IN THE PACIFIC NORTH WEST

BY WILLIAM T. (POP) BROWN

Roller rinks dot the small towns of the Northwest, as well as the larger cities, and most of the rinks are working on the International dance steps. Skaters show great enthusiasm.

In Bellingham, a city to the north is a small rink, and in Ferndale, a town of 752 inhabitants, is an Association rink that is quite popular with Canadian skaters and a visit there will always find a few Canadians who are anxious to learn the Dance Steps. In Mount Vernon, Washington, is another Association rink working on the dance steps and one couple from this rink placed third in the State Roller Dance Competition. A distance of four miles to the north is the Roller Frolic, a larger rink than the Vernon and whose skaters visit back and forth with the hope of bringing roller dancing into more popular use.

Farther to the south is the Skateland Roller Rink in Everett. This rink is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jay Roush, who formerly operated the Playland Rink in Seattle, and is another Association rink featuring the International dance steps. A couple placed third in Senior Dance from this rink.

In the City of Seattle, we find to the north of the city, the Roller Bowl and the Ridge Roller Rink, two large rinks, the former somewhat interested in the dance steps and the latter becoming a little more interested, and it is hoped in the future both these rinks will be strong dance rinks. All the rinks in the Pacific Northwest, with the exception of one, use fibre and wood wheels.

To the south of the city is the Southgate Rollerdrome, a medium-sized rink, but very popular with the dance skater, as Association tempos are used throughout and here the results of Association work may be seen. It is from this rink the Junior Dance champions, the speed champions, come from. While not so deeply interested in figures, the skaters are falling in line and next year's championships should find a fine lot of figure skaters from this rink.

All the clubs associated with this rink are members affiliated with the RSROA.

Twenty miles to the south of Southgate is the home of the Lytle Dance and Figure Club, a rink operated by Weston Betts, known as the Redondo Roller Rink. Here one may see a very beautiful rink just recently remodeled and where Association work is very much in evidence. Senior Dance, Novice Pairs, Ladies' Figures and Men's Figure champions all hail from this rink and I am told that between this rink and the Southgate Rink, there are some 30 bronze dance and figure medalists.

Seventeen miles to the south of Redondo is the King's Roller Rink, located in Tacoma, Washington, one of the states' latest members in the RSROA and whose manager, Mr. Lagerquist, with the able assistance of Paul Young, are creating quite an interest in dance skating.

Over on Lake Smammaish, 30 miles east of Tacoma, on Highway 10, we find a small rink at Vasa Park, whose interest in dance skating is growing rapidly, and some of the parents of the skaters of this rink are sending their boys and girls to the Nationals in Philadelphia to get better knowledge of the dance program.

Space will not permit giving all the rinks in the Pacific Northwest at one writing, but we want to impress on our readers that the skaters of this part of the country are very much dance minded and the day of the run-around-the-track has passed. It was only a few days ago when in Oregon your correspondent overheard a skater (apparently a newcomer) ask the cashier if they did the International dance steps. The cashier replying "yes," the skater was full of smiles, bought his ticket and when the special dance program was on, we noticed him skating to his heart's content.

For the first time in the States' history, a delegation of Champion skaters will visit the Nationals this month, some 31 from Washington and 6 or 8 from Oregon. Next month we will cover the rinks of our sister state to the south "Oregon," and the rinks to the north in the city of Vancouver, B. C.

FROM TEARS TO CHAMP

BY NAT. G. BODIAN

It was only a few months ago that a wet-eyed 17 year old youngster walked out of the New Dreamland Arena Roller Rink on the Newark-Elizabeth City Line in New Jersey, her precious skate bag in one hand and her mother's hand clutching the other.

Genevieve Bacenko in her own heart had plenty of cause of cry. None of the advanced skaters at the rink would skate with her!

This meant a whole lot to "Jenny," as the young skater from Elizabeth, N. J. had decided that she was going to make a career out of skating. She had graduated from high school shortly before reaching the age of 17 and instead of getting a job, she had decided that she would concentrate all her efforts on skating.

Jenny's mother saw that her daughter had her heart and soul set on skating and though she could little afford it, at least once a week

she had her daughter take private lessons from members of the professional staff at Dreamland or at the Hy-Way Arena rink in Union, N. J.

On the night in mention, Jenny already had been taking lessons for about two months, but her improvement was not enough to place her in a class with the advanced skaters and they ignored her when it came to the various dance steps, which, naturally, are skated only by couples.

Jenny's feelings were hurt again and again when she watched the other boys and girls go out on the floor for the dance steps. They seemed to be having so much fun while she, to whom skating was so much more important, had to stand on the outside of the rink and watch.

That night something snapped inside of Jenny as she watched the others dancing and she fought to hold her tears back as

The Roller Skating Club of Dayton, Ohio, at Skateland lays claim to the greatest array of professional skaters ever produced by any roller rink in the nation. Eight pros have gone out into the skating world, after having competed in State and National Amateur Competition as representatives of Skateland in the rink's three years of operation.

All former members of the Skating Club of Dayton, the following group gathered at Skateland during their Christmas holiday vacation to talk over old times with their former instructor, Jim Oswald, head pro at the rink.

Those present were — — — — —
 — — — Irene (Tootie) Seifert, Arena Gardens, Detroit, Mich.; Eloise (Punky) Burrous, Chez Vous Rink, Philadelphia, Pa.; Jim Oswald, Skateland, Dayton, Ohio; Dick Chambers, East End Roller Rink, Memphis, Tenn.; Jack Werts, Skateland, Dayton, Ohio; Joe Murphy, Hartford, Conn.; Margot Allred Werts, Skateland, Dayton, Ohio. Not present was Nicky McMichael, Dreamland Roller Rink, Elizabeth, N. J.

AMERICAN SKATER MEETS KING AND QUEEN

On February 10, U. S. M. Norman Wilson, who claims Chester, Pa., as his hometown and Jack Dalton's Great Leopard rink as his particular stamping ground in more peaceful days, met up with the crowned heads of the British Empire—by accident!

Wilson, who has been in touch with Cyril Beastall, our British correspondent, tells how the Royal couple spotted him in the American Eagle club, London (while they were visiting Service Clubs in the city), wearing his distinctive uniform, being the only American service man in the famous club. The King and Queen were very interested to learn from Wilson who and what he was.

Well, Norman, you've certainly got something to tell 'em about back home some day!

Cyril Beastall

Museum not just set of wheels

By Mary Kay Roth
Star Staff Writer

Roller derby queens may not qualify, but every other tidbit of roller skating memorabilia has been immortalized at the National Museum of Roller Skating in Lincoln.

The new museum opened its doors Tuesday in the east wing of the National Roller Skating Association, dedicated to the preservation of roller skating memories, according to Michael Brooslin, director of the museum.

There are still roller skates for short people, hoof skates for horses and competition skates for athletes. There's a versatile pair with blades and wheels — made for the skater who can't make up his mind if he wants to roller skate or ice skate.

There are displays of two-, three-, four-, five- and six-wheeled skates. There are street skates, speed skates and international skates. There are roller skate wheels made of metal, wood, boxwood, rubber, urethane and everything in between.

Miniature-sized skates on display were made for toddlers, while gigantic styles were reserved for poised elephants. (Roller skates were also made for parrots, chimpanzees and dogs.)

Photographs picture skating brides and skating athletes. Posters tell of past roller skating glories. Exhibits feature antique skate keys and historic championship medallions, along with a "Roller Rabbit" frisbee and a Linda Ronstadt album cover — picturing the singer in roller skates.

Brooslin explained that the museum, organized in 1980 as a non-profit institution, was established as a home for the history of roller skating. The seed money was provided by the Roller Skate Operators Association and most of the exhibits were donated from private collections across the nation.

The earliest roller skate in the museum has only two wheels — one perched on each end of the skate — explaining why early skaters had such a hard time keeping their balance. Steering was impossible.

Skates were mostly for the rich back then, exhibits say, until 1863 when James L. Plimpton introduced his "rocking skate," an innovation that enabled skaters to steer by leaning their bodies to the left or right.

Aging photographs tell of early publicity-seeking skating vaudevillians who used almost any kind of wheeled contraption that would fit over their feet — still skates, huge

wooden skates and strange three-wheelers.

From 1865 to 1869 one man skated around the world. "Bright Star," the skating Pawnee Indian, skated across the nation. And an early general suggested that his troops wear roller skates.

Posters promise beauty and poise on wheels from "Skating Vanities," one of the early traveling roller skating acts, while the Arena Gardens in Detroit advertised one of the first roller skating rinks for the public — although male skaters were required

to wear ties and floor guards wore full-dress tuxedos.

Displays then trace the technological evolution of roller skates from the early 1800s up to the present, featuring every kind of roller skating artifact on the way.

Modern styles feature international skates and those used in world competition, along with the everyday street varieties used by children.

The museum will be open to the public beginning Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 7700 A St.

HELP PRESERVE ROLLER SKATING'S PAST & FUTURE

Your tax-deductible contribution will enable the Museum to serve the roller skating community. Donors receive a certificate recognizing their contribution. Your help is important; it does make a difference.

Contributors of \$5.00 receive their choice of the National Museum of Roller Skating

Pin or Patch (please specify)

Contributors of \$15.00 or more become honorary members of the museum. Benefits include the museum pin, a wallet-size membership card, free admission to the museum, and the museum's quarterly newsletter.

Please enroll me as an honorary member of the National Museum of Roller Skating.

- | | |
|--|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family | \$ 15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor | \$ 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$250.00 |
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Please make all checks payable to:
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