



Rolling Through Time

By James Vannurden
Director and Curator
Official Newsletter of the:
National Museum of Roller Skating
4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506
(402)483-7551 ex. 16

Bi-Monthly
August 16, 2013

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.

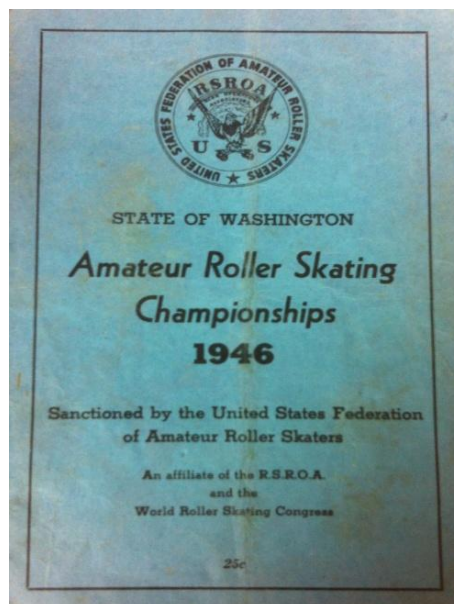
Curator's Corner

Donations



Betty Jennings donated many items to the museum from her skating days. These included photographs, individual medals, and programs.

Included in her photographs were two images of celebrities skating. The first showed Robin Williams testing out a pair of quad skates. Second, the above photograph portrays Cindy Williams and Penny Marshall at the rink, better known for their television rolls of Laverne & Shirley.



We received a handful of state programs from the 1940s from Ms. Jennings. Included is the above State of Washington Amateur Roller Skating Championships program from 1946.



Finally, Ms. Jennings included a woman's scarf from the 1959 RSROA championships, in good condition. This scarf features the image of Ms. Betty Lytle.

More Donations:

Charlie Wahlig



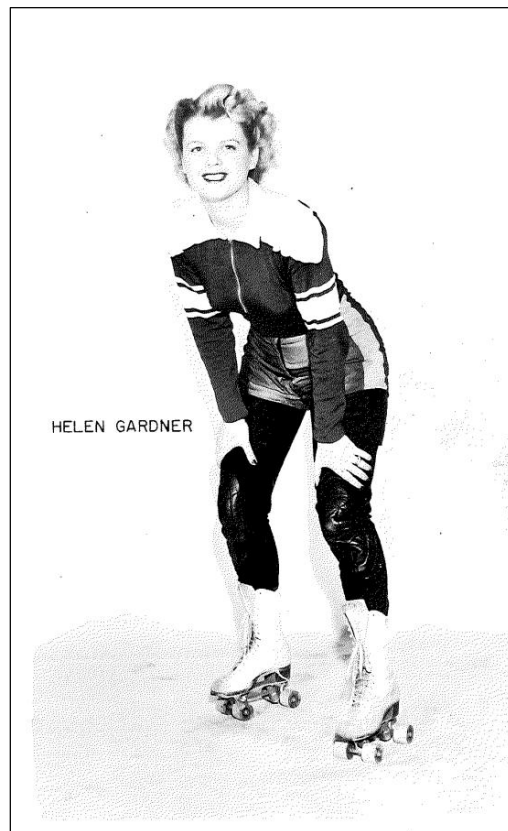
From the family of Charles Wahlig comes the above photograph of the 1992 USA roller hockey team. This was the closest roller skating has come to joining the Olympic Games. It was this year that this particular roller hockey team demonstrated their skills as an exhibition sport.



In addition to the hockey photograph, included in the donation for Charles Wahlig is the above awards plaque. All of Wahlig's proficiency medals were assembled and affixed to this wall plaque.

While the museum houses many proficiency awards, none are really assembled together the way this one appears. The gold plate in the center says: "Proficiency Awards: Dance, Speed, Free Style. Charles Wahlig".

Donations continued:

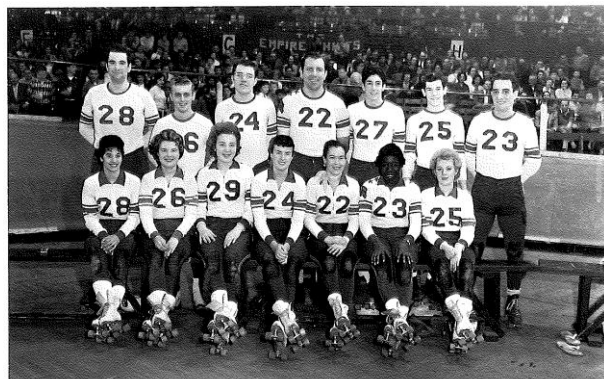


In a donation from John Thompson, the museum received many items from early roller derby. This vintage collection from John's mother during the early 1950s included photographs, postcards, and programs from roller derby at that time.

One quote from the 1953 National Roller Derby Yearbook stated "individuals who said roller derby was a fad were just plain all wet."

Important dates in derby mentioned in programs:

- 1936: Derby begins traveling, leaves Chicago.
- 1938: Team game develops, new rules, numbers soar.
- 1941: New attendance record set: 4 million total.
- 1947: First televised derby match.
- 1949: National Roller Derby League formed, 4 teams.



NEW YORK CHIEFS

Roster photo of the New York Chiefs, 1950s.

Skate of the Week Alward Skates



Just received by the museum, these S.W. Alward skates have a patent date of March 1884. The medal skates have separate heel and toe plates. Marked left or right, the skates are engraved with size 9.5. Also engraved on the toe plates is the name Harvard. The skates possess both front and rear clamps.

Donated by Owen Hayes, these skates were used by his grandfather David Owen. David used his skates for Sunday races at the turn of the twentieth century.

Wish List

1.) **Competition worn gear:** One of the most commented on parts of the museum collection deals with our event worn items. Whether dance costumes, speed uniforms, derby jerseys, hockey sticks, or specific skates, visitors like to see what people wear while competing in roller skating competitions.

The museum is most in need of items worn while competing for a national championship or a world title. If you have anything you feel meets the criteria and are interested in donating, please contact the museum at your earliest convenience.

2.) **Original Artwork:** For those who visit the museum, we have a small collection of original artwork with a roller skating theme. We have original oil paintings from the Chicago Skate Company from the 1940s. There is a life-size sculpture of two girls carrying roller skates. We showcase an original lithograph from Cheret, the father of poster art. These items, along with a few others, make up our original art collection.

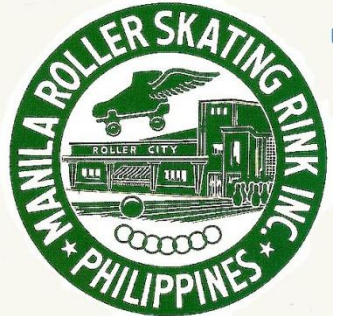
If anyone has any additional artwork with a roller skating theme, please contact the museum. We are looking to expand this part of our permanent collection.

3.) The museum is always in need of **odd and unusual skates**. Visitors are drawn to our different types of skates, variations to the norm, and how others failed to conform to the typical skate. On display now are animals skates as well as motorized skates. With anything you might consider an ODD skate, please contact the museum.

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 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.

International Stickers



Thanks for supporting the museum!

