



Rolling Through Time

By James Vannurden

Director and Curator

Official Newsletter of:

National Museum of Roller Skating

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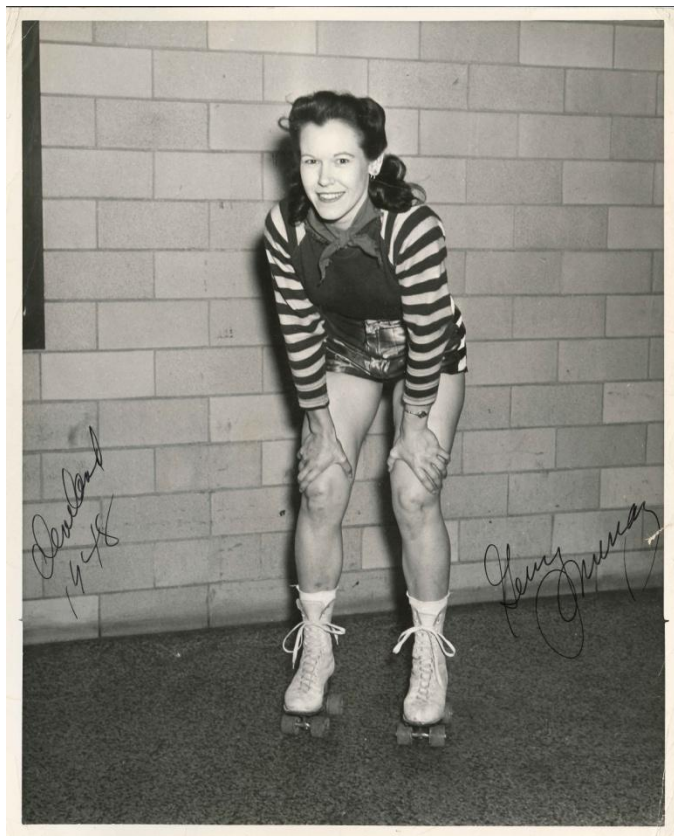
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Who We Are

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



Geraldine (Gerry) Murray of Des Moines, Iowa recently completed her donation to the museum of her days with the roller derby. From 1938 until 1975 Gerry participated in women's roller derby. Her career helped her travel the country and become one of the top female derby skaters.

Her donation consisted of many items in total: newspapers, magazines, programs, photographs, and person uniforms.

During her many years of service to roller derby, Gerry skated for multiple teams. Her donated green and white derby uniform came from her time with the San Diego

Clippers. However, the majority of her skating career revolved around her association with the New York Chiefs. She was even a female captain and top scorer for their championship teams. Murray donated a blue and white New York Chiefs uniform as well.

Gerry took roller derby training very seriously. One example she gave revolved around her coordinating team practices. She wanted all of the skaters to perform at their best, which included proper training. Murray regulated water intake of the skaters. During each break she made sure the other derby members only drank enough water to stay hydrated, no over drinking was permitted. She said too much water slowed down the skaters. This water rationing led to her nickname of Simon Legree.

Ms. Murray shared a story with us about ways skaters helped support each other during injuries. To help assist with medical care expenditures for skaters injured during competition, derby members held an extra benefit night referred to as a jamboree. This extra show would include roller derby members showcasing another of his/her talents for the audience. Many skaters would highlight their voices by singing songs; others played musical instruments; some performed dances. Murray would showcase her tap dancing skills. Some male skaters even dressed in drag. All of the proceeds benefited the injured skaters.

Once becoming captain of the New York Chiefs, Murray gained notoriety and some celebrity status. Her success on the track led to her likeness use in media relations and advertisements. She participated in many photo shoots and promotional events. She became the face of the New York women's team. When looking at photos of derby at this time, Murray noted that one can tell whether the photograph was promotional or an action shot by the pants the girls wore; if she had her competition pants on the photo was from a bout, but if just shorts and bare legs then the shot was for promotional use.

During her illustrious career, Gerry Murray headlined during the most popular era of roller derby seen in this country. Her multi-decade career produced championships and accolades for herself and her teammates. Murray was so beloved by her fans that they started a fan club in her honor; Gerry received gifts regularly from her fans.

We are very lucky to acquire this great collection. Special thanks to Gerry Murray!!

Complete Membership List

Special thanks to all below for your continued support of the museum and our mission to preserve the history of roller skating.

Benefactor \$500+

Dominic Cangelosi	Glendale	CA
Charlene Conway	Lakeville	MA
Judy T. Graves	Friedheim	MO
Trace & Shannon Hansen	Warsaw	IN
Linda Miner	Donora	PA
RC Sports	Lenexa	KS
RSA	Indianapolis	IN

Patron \$250

Annelle & Bob Anderson	Fort Worth	TX
Bob Babcock	Ray Twp.	MI
Alan & Judy Bacon	Richland	WA
Keith Brainard	Warren	OH
Chester Fried	South River	NJ
Harry & Lori Walker	Ft Worth	TX

Associate Patron \$100

Bobby Bentley	Pensacola	FL
Audoire Christophe	Touvois	FR
Joe and Betty Ann Danna	Lwd. Ranch	FL
Edwina & Roger Hansen	Cologne	NJ
Hansen Eastlake	Warsaw	IN
Hansen Holiday	Warsaw	IN
Bill & Tanya Hoefler	Hadley	MA
Linda Katz	Columbus	OH
Scott, Kathy, Lindsay Kleiman	Marietta	GA
George Kolibaba	Milwaukie	OR
Bob & Irene Labriola	Fountain Valley	CA
Nellie & Rob Lillie	New York	NY
Ralph Marinelli	Ventnor	NJ
Nadine Meis	Sun City	AZ
Beth Wahlig Nolan	Newark	DE
Anne Pals	St. Charles	MO
Glenn Ramsey	Roanoke	VA
Donna Rhodes	Newton	NC
William Sahley	St. Louis Park	MN
Cort Wahlig	Hockessin	DE
Leland Wells	Wichita	KS
Wheely Fun	Wilbraham	MA

Donor \$50

Irene Ballard	Knoxville	TN
Ella Hansen	Warsaw	IN
Jordan Hansen	Warsaw	IN
Sylvia Haffke	Covington	GA
Jim Hafner	Brenham	TX
Michael & Pat Jacques	Granite Bay	CA
Dan Litzinger	Glendale	CA
William & Dorothy McDonald	Independence	MO
John Miller	Greencastle	PA
Sin City Skates	San Diego	CA
William Schneider	Johnstown	PA
James & Faye Shoemake	Hendersonville	TN
Jim Turner	Milwaukee	WI
Joseph Wagner	Algonquin	IL

Individual/Family \$35

Robert Alstead	Modesto	CA
June Bickmeyer	Gainesville	FL
Robert & Diane Braun	Helotes	TX
Chris Cohen	Fond Du Lac	WI
Bud & Mary Ekern	Fargo	ND
Sue Ellis	Kettering	OH
Sue Filo	Stewart	FL
Fleming Family	Northridge	CA
Skate Galaxy	Baton Rouge	LA
Mary Hayes	Northbrook	IL
Bob & Jeanne Housholder	Champaign	IL
Laura Johnson	Ashtabula	OH
Robert & Jacqueline Kane	Houston	TX
Cecelia Kelley	Bloomfield Hills	MI
Tim Laskey	Colusa	CA
Gloria Manning	Miami	FL
James Moulton	Portland	OR
Michael Nelson	Santa Rosa	CA
Casey Ness	San Antonio	TX
Stacy Orta	Hollister	CA
Edie Plimpton Fleeman	Durham	NC
Kellie Reynolds	Hunt. Beach	CA
Gail Rushing	Dallas	TX
Lori Schade Shelly	Coopersburg	PA
Richard Sholes	Cranston	RI
Bill Sisson	Lubbock	TX
Bill & Marian Spooner	Battle Ground	WA
Kathy Tini	Douglassville	PA
George & Michelle Vannurden	Elizabethtown	KY
Stephen Winbery	Memphis	TN
Elizabeth Woods	Lodi	NJ
Mike Zaidman	Boca Raton	FL
Joline Zepcevski	Minneapolis	MN

New and Renewing Members

Charlene Conway
Interskate 91
Skate Galaxy
James Shoemake
James Moulton

Derby Visitors

On June 6, the visiting Wasatch Roller Derby girls from Salt Lake City, Utah visited the museum. They were in town to compete against the local Lincoln derby team that evening.



Memorial Plaque



Hanging inside the entrance to the museum is our skating memorial plaque. Those who wish to put their name or the name of a loved one up in our museum can contact us for more details.



The cost for a name plate on our memorial plaque is \$250. Inscribed on the name plate can be their name, dates of birth and death, and a small message describing their love for roller skating. You can choose from a figure, speed, or hockey character plate.



This plaque is on permanent display at the museum. Those enshrined and honored on the plaque will always be remembered here.

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!

