



Historical Roller Skating OVERVIEW

National Museum of Roller Skating
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December 1993

A Publication of the National Museum of Roller Skating

Issue No. 37



Arena Gardens Skating Club
of Detroit

Opening of 1937-1938 Season



CURATOR'S CORNER

Season's greetings! The tourist season may be over but things have been busy here at the museum.

A new group of marvelous old skates was obtained from W. C. Ludascher, further enhancing the museum's collection. I hope all of you will be able to see some of these wonderful skates in person. The earliest model dated from 1860, but there were a number of exceptional representatives from various important skate manufacturers such as Barney and Berry, Union Hardware, and Richardson.

A new display titled "In-lining Through the Ages" was created. Pictured here are a few of the skates included. The display traces the in-line as it developed from the early 1800s, to the popular modern versions.

This issue of the *Overview* features some interesting personalities in rink history and their contributions to roller skating. In addition, the "centerfold" shows off some of the most popular items in the museum: rink stickers. Obviously this is only a small sampling of the stickers we display. It would take a good sized book to present all of the stickers we have in our collection.

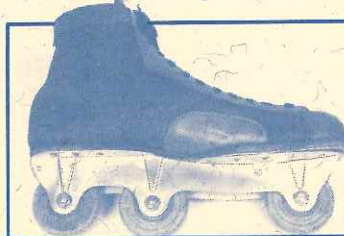
The museum is gearing up for its annual raffle/fund drive. This progressive raffle offers a minimum grand prize of \$5,000. The drawing will take place May 12, 1994, at the RSA Convention in Las Vegas and you need not be present to win. Revenues from the Museum Raffle will be used to support the programs and activities of the National Museum of Roller Skating to increase roller skating's visibility, legitimacy, and recognition for the benefit of all involved in the roller skating industry and roller sports. If you are interested in purchasing from, or selling for, the museum please contact us. Tickets are \$50.

Finally, I want to express my thanks to the many members who contacted me after the October issue which featured the Skating Vanities. The positive response was overwhelming. As a side note, you may be interested to know that Gloria Nord is living in California and doing very well. She no longer skates but is still kicking up her heels on the dance floor, at age 71.

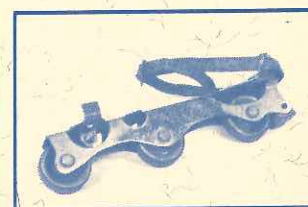
Scott Wilhite

Scott Wilhite,
Director and Curator

Photos of several skates featured in the current exhibit entitled *In-Lining Through the Ages*:



This is a skate built by the "Roller Hockey Skate Company" in 1910. (On loan from Chester Fried)



An in-line from the "Best Ever Built" company manufactured in the 1930s. (Gift of Richard Young)



The "Chicago Skate Company's" original "Rollerblade" from the 1960s. (Gift of George Pickard)



An unusual in-line from the H. Kedde Collection. (Photo courtesy of H. Kedde)

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Historical Roller Skating Overview is the newsletter of the National Museum of Roller Skating. It is available only through honorary membership in the museum. Minimum annual contribution is \$15.00. All inquiries, comments should be sent to the Museum Director, 4730 South St., P.O. Box 6579, Lincoln, NE 68506.

JOHN B. CROWLEY
King of Rink Managers

For the few short years that Mr. Crowley has been associated in the roller rink business, there is no more popular or generous amusement promoter known to the public. Mr. Crowley entered the rink game along in 1912, by opening the large Armory in Charleston, W. Va., as a roller rink. Then with his brother Pat, they promoted the beautiful Luna Park, one mile out of Charleston, and built one of the largest and most beautiful summer roller rinks in the country. John



Crowley came into prominence in the early summer of 1915, when he asked the W. S. A. to sanction the World's Amateur Speed Roller Championship meet. The meet was held and proved to be the greatest success of any similar event ever held in the U. S. The Governor, United States Senator, Mayor and other prominent city and government officials actually officiated at this meet. 31 silver cups were donated by the Charleston business men, diamond studded medal and many other valuable prizes went to make up the greatest number of prizes that were ever awarded for a skating event. Mr. Crowley came back in 1916, and secured the sanction for the International Professional Speed Championship Meet, which was held from August 27 to September 4, and was also a big success. He is one of the most worthy additions to the skating amusement and a credit to the sport.

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EDWIN B. BARNES

Former professional roller speed and exhibition skater, polo player and bicycle rider. With increasing years he abandoned racing to promote and manage roller rinks, having had rinks in many of the Eastern cities in the old days. In 1905-1906 he again started at Crescent rink, St. Louis, Mo. Spring, 1906, Rex Rink, East St. Louis, Ill. Summer 1906 Fountain Ferry Park Rink, Louisville, Ky. Fall 1906 Hippodrome, Memphis, Tenn. 1906-1907, National Park Pavilion, Vicksburg, Miss. Summer 1907, Brighton, Rockaway and North Beach, New York. 1907-1908, National Park Pavilion, Vicksburg, Miss. Sailed for England to join C. P. Crawford of the American Roller Rink Co., March 4, 1908, as resident manager at Llandudno in Wales; later transferred to Liverpool, Sunderland, Brighton and Hull, England; then Liverpool as chief of staff for all rinks and later general manager of the entire circuit. In February, 1910, when Crawford & Wilkins resigned and Col. S. E. Winslow formed the International Rink Operating Co., he was elected general manager. Sailed for America March 5, 1911. Summers 1911-12-13-14, managed Nissen Park Rink, Winston-Salem, N. C. Winter 1911, Coliseum Rink, Jackson, Mich. 1911-1912, Jamestown, N. Y. Youngstown, Ohio, and Warren, Pa.; 1912-1913, Coliseum Rink, Kansas City, Mo. 1913-1914, Pittsburgh, Pa., and Cinderella Rink, St. Louis, Mo. 1914-1915, Coliseum Rink, Chicago. January, 1915, sailed for Havana, Cuba, and managed the American Roller Portable Rink until February 15, 1916. Moved rink to Mobile, Ala., March 1, 1916, and operated until June 15, 1916. Mr. Barnes is one of the best managers in the business and a life member of the W. S. A.



Excerpts from "Skaters History on Ice and Roller Skating" published in 1916.

E. M. MOOAR

Cincinnati, Ohio



Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Feb. 5, 1867. He learned to skate in Grand Rapids, Mich., in the 80's. Possibly no skater of the present day has had the varied experience in skating he has. From skate boy to instructor and exhibition skater, he has been manager of the largest and best equipped rinks in the U. S. He has successfully managed rinks from New Mexico to Pennsylvania. He is the originator of many novel attractions used in rinks. Many prominent skaters of the present day received their first instruction in fancy skating from him. No rink under his management has ever had its character questioned and he carries

testimonials from officials of various cities he has visited. He managed the Music Hall New Rink in Cincinnati, seasons of 1914-15, 1915-16, with much success. Summer of 1916, with Jesse Carey, another old-timer, they leased Carsonia Park Rink at Reading, Pa. For many years he was connected with the theatrical business, and it was here he derived many ideas for his attractions and advertising stunts. He has been a boosting member of the W. S. A. for many years.

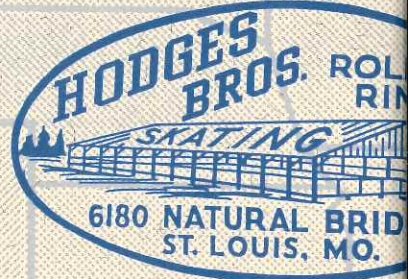
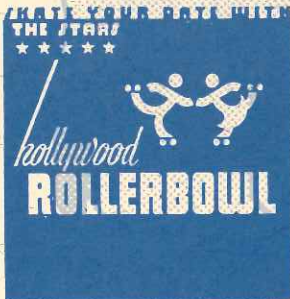
FRED W. NALL

Back in 1884, when the roller skating vogue was at its height the Davenport brothers, a trio of trick and fancy skaters, were touring the country giving marvelous exhibitions. The youngest of the three was Fred W. Nall, a small boy in knickerbockers, who has developed into one of the greatest and most popular rink managers of the country. In 1900 he became assistant manager of the Detroit Auditorium Rink. The following year he managed the Exposition Building Rink at Milwaukee. In 1902 he took charge of the Chicago Coliseum Rink, which enterprise really started the present revival of roller skating. The seasons of 1903-04 he managed the New Princess Rink of Detroit. The summer of 1904 he opened the first amusement park rink at Denver, Col. Afterward he opened the Music Hall Rink at Cincinnati, which proved a gold mine. The spring of 1908 he went to England where he established the first chain of summer rinks in Europe. Returning to America in 1909, he opened the New Music Hall Rink at Cincinnati, Ohio. He has secured patents on roller wheels and detachable ball-bearing cups and cones that he expects to put on the market. Mr. Nall now resides in Detroit, Mich., where he is interested in real estate transactions.



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A big thank you to all who have don

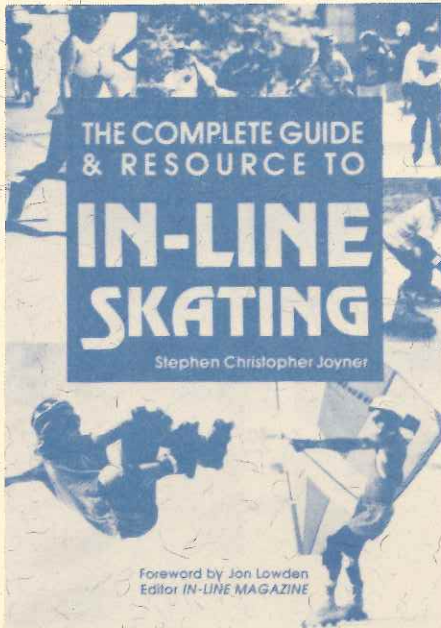


ted rink stickers to the museum.



MUSEUM NOTES

Many donations have come in in the last two months. Thank you for your support as the National Museum of Roller Skating strives to preserve the rich heritage of roller skating history.

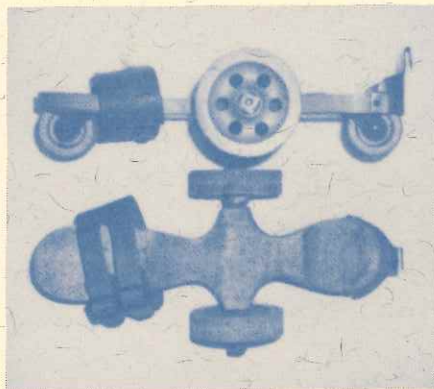


Stephen Joyner donated a copy of his new book on in-line skating.

An album of tunes from Wurlitzer organist, Leon Berry, was donated by Kay Stockdell. Mr. Berry was the organist for the Hub Rink in Chicago.



This unusual pair of parlor skates was purchased by Bob Bollinger for the museum. They were patented in 1865 by W. P. Gregg.



One of the skates that the museum acquired from the W. C. Ludascher collection in December. The ankle brace is made of metal.



Thanks also to the many other donors: Frank Henrich (see page 8), Frank Wiencek, George Pickard, Mike Klecinsky, Joel Lau, Doug Breniser, Gloria Nord, D. Merrell, J. M. Bennink, John Matejec, Hyper Corporation, Bauer, and Rollerblade, Inc.

George W. Brown, Sr. made a donation in memory of his father, James Robert Brown.

PATRON MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The number of individuals being added to the Patron Memorial Plaque continues to grow. Contact the museum director to have someone placed on this handsome oak plaque which celebrates individual contributions to roller skating history. This could include everyone from rink owners to athletes. A one-time fee of \$250 will place a person on the memorial which will be displayed permanently at the National Museum of Roller Skating.

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A special thank you goes out to all the renewing members of the last two months. It is the continuing support of museum members that makes the National Museum of Roller Skating a success. We couldn't do it without you!

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

Contributors of \$15 or more become Honorary Members of the Museum and receive a Museum membership pin, official identification card, the newsletter, and free admission whenever they visit the Museum.

- | | |
|--|---|
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