



## Museum Newsletter

By James Vannurden  
Director and Curator

National Museum of Roller Skating  
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www.rollerskatingmuseum.com

Bi-Monthly  
February 15, 2012

### 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 40 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

#### Luncheon

I will be attending a luncheon hosted by Lancaster County Attractions February 23 from noon - 1:30pm

In this meeting, a variety of speakers will talk about the importance of hands on experience and what attractions can do to create that. Their goal is to bring visitors to our attractions to enjoy their experience, so that they will want to return.

Titles of each talk are as follows: The Need for a Hands-on Experience, Importance to Group Tours, Examples of an Experience, followed by a discussion.

#### Donation Pledge

We received a pledge from George and Michelle Vannurden to donate most of the remaining roller skating movies needed for the museum's collection. These films include the documentary *Derby* and motion pictures *Kansas City Bomber*, *Skateland*, *Prayer of the Roller Boys*, and *Fireball*. Special thanks to the Vannurden Family for helping the museum nearly complete its film collection.

#### Tour Reservations

With spring drawing near, the museum has begun receiving tours for the summertime. Tours for June are beginning to fill with two children's groups confirming, one local and another from out of town. This is a sign of another positive summertime.

#### Holiday

The museum will be closed February 20<sup>th</sup> in observance of President's Day.

### Skater Profile: Jesse Darling Peerless Princess

*This information can be found in the book from the museum store entitled Skaters History on Ice and Roller Skating. For more information like this, consider purchasing the book. Thanks.*



From Providence, Rhode Island Jesse Darling became one of the greatest female "fancy" skaters ever. She skated from Nova Scotia to the Pacific Coast, leaving spectators with the thoughts they witnessed a floating fairy. She skated a waltz and her famous cakewalk on skates. Darling regularly skated shows twice daily for an admission price of 15 cents.

As her talents expanded, so did her audiences. Darling began to tour Europe in 1909 and performed in countries like England, France, and Germany. On this leg of her touring she used jewel-studded skates.

Upon returning to the United States, Darling teamed with Henry Simmons to become the Skating Bijouves. They traveled the country doing vaudeville shows and receiving rave reviews.

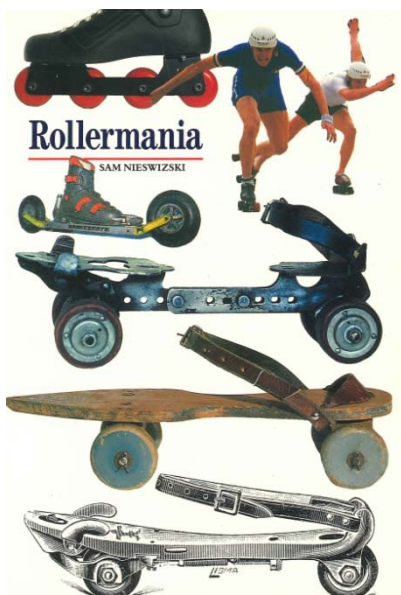
**Skate of the Week:**



Located in our "Odd and Unusual Skates" display, this motorized skate is fan favorite among our visitors. Created by local Nebraskan Vernon Quoy of Fremont, NE this skate is powered by its attached chainsaw motor. Affixed to the toe of the left skate, this motor powers the skate through a pulley system. When operational, the skate can travel at a safe speed of a few miles per hour up to the maximum range of about 30mph.

Along with the skate, our museum received photos of Vernon wearing the skates, newspaper articles, and a video of him on the Tonight Show demonstrating his contraption to Johnny Carson himself. This piece is currently on permanent display in our gallery.

**Library Feature:**  
*Rollermania*  
By Sam Nieswizski



This book is an excellent source in not only the history of roller skating but also in its photographs. The accuracy of the information included in the book is difficult to verify since the book is written in French. But the photographs are of both great quality and quantity.

The first chapter discusses early roller skating, prior to the mass manufacturing. Nieswizski uses sketches, paintings, and patent renderings to illustrate his points of how the evolution of the roller skate took place.

His second chapter begins with the important date of 1863, when the patent of James Plimpton changed the history of the roller skating industry forever. Nieswizski shows in a patent sketch how this skate was different, how it could turn corners with ease. The chapter then contains many pictures of groups of people skating together, since this invention greatly aided in the explosion of roller skating to the masses.

The remaining chapters seem to focus on the percolation of roller skating into the lives of everyone the world over. Skating competitions began. Children skate on sidewalks as well as in rinks. Hockey and derby grow. Even motion pictures include roller skating in their main plots. And this is all done with great photographs. While not the easiest to decipher, perhaps this book's greatest attribute to the museum's collection are its photographs.

*For those wishing to renew their memberships, we included the following form. Thanks in advance!*

<b>MEMBERSHIP FORM</b>		
Name:	_____	
Address:	_____	
City/State/Zip:	_____	
<b>Membership Level</b>	<b>1 year</b>	<b>2 years</b>
Benefactor	___ \$500	___ \$950
Patron	___ \$250	___ \$475
Assoc Patron	___ \$100	___ \$185
Donor	___ \$50	___ \$90
Individual/Family	___ \$35	___ \$65
Additional Contribution	\$ _____	
Total Enclosed \$	_____	
<b>Method of Payment</b>		
___ Check to National Museum of Roller Skating		
___ Visa _____ MasterCard		
Credit Card Number _____		
Exp. _____		
Signature _____		
Mail to: National Museum of Roller Skating, 4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 Fax to: 402-483-1465		

## Thanks to the following renewing members

Linda Miner

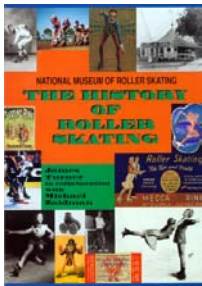
## And New Members

Bethany Butler

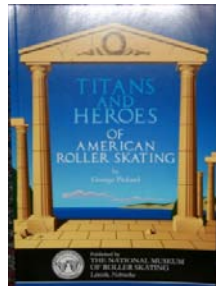
Gale Rushing

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.

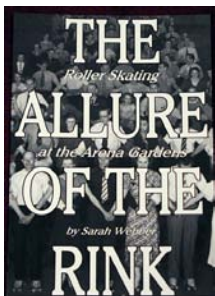
## Book Store



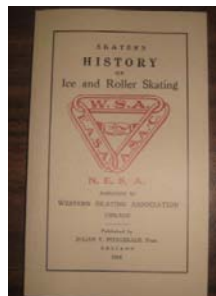
\$15



\$20



\$7



\$15



## Wish List

The museum is expanding its video archive. We would like a DVD copy if possible, but VHS is fine.

1.) First, the museum wants to complete its roller skating big screen collection. Please contact the museum before sending your donation, in case we receive multiple interests on the same film. We continue to need the following film: *Skate Town USA*

2.) In addition, the museum is interested in any video footage of national competitions prior to 1980. While DVD format is best, the museum will also gladly accept VHS films. Labeling with events is a plus.

3.) Third, we have very little footage of the Skating Vanities. Really, the only good quality shots we have are scenes from the 1944 movie *Pin Up Girl*.

Thanks in advance for your considerations.

## 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

Thanks for supporting the museum!







*Showstoppers in the '59 show, Raymond Witters, and Cheryl Lynn Cannon, daughter of Whittier Skateland's professionals Bill and Peggy Cannon, polish up a new routine for the 1960*

*edition of the "Roller Capades" at Whittier Skateland, Whittier, Calif.*