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--- | | |  | | --- | | For some Christmas cheer, see video highlights of Mirelli’s skating club Christmas show.  [https://youtu.be/4s\_7qpN21cA](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001yvqZPMbexeXdRYwCEcInbEVs5OzFjAB4tqvKLR00ESyAvdf2yraFNksfTkIKsmutg5pV3JiBOtf04u5yA605IgP6jpwtfEw8F_ZMTgqREeyoaDxAsE-MInY5YnltWQzOwNlAGdvFVpRsgD3rdKbuVw==&c=CCDcr8JyDvohpvYvxpY0cSd3aikwHi3956IMmCeg5-oQnTwM3Lw-Ag==&ch=NKpDEBNDc_0t8pG5b5_qcUfWuTLAenO32RTlhxdDArUzfYuq2nMQyw==) | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Shape  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Newest Museum Display Highlights Historic RSROA Fundraising** | | The newest display at the museum is completed. Titled *Skating for Others,* it deals with the national fundraising campaigns conducted by the Roller Skating Rink Operator’s Association (RSROA) from the 1940s through the 1980s to help fight major diseases: polio in the 1940s and ’50s, muscular dystrophy in the 1970s and ‘80s, and heart disease in the 1960s and ‘80s. The display highlights the participation of skaters in these fundraising events. From the shows in Madison Square Garden to fight polio, to the Jerry Lewis telethon to fight muscular dystrophy, the RSROA played an important role in these national campaigns and roller skating received much positive exposure. |  |  | | --- | | Timeline  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | This is the second display created by Dan Bartlett, who is the designer for the Elmhurst History Museum just outside of Chicago. He planned the Chicago Rink Rats exhibit for the Elmhurst a few years ago. He previously made the World War II display for the Museum. The Museum does much of the research, and he writes the script and designs the displays. He describes his approach as an integrated one. Instead of having cutouts of small amounts of information using in-house materials, he integrates photos and text onto three to four Sintra boards, a PVC product, which is more durable than foam core.  This display was made possible by the contribution of Bill and Tanya Hoefler of Interskate 91-North in Hadley, MA. When the Museum decided to use the services of Dan Bartlett and Sara Pfannkuche and their company, Midwest Heritage Resource Consultants, it was decided that all funds for new displays would come from special donations, not from Museum operational funds. The goal is to produce two exhibits a year. Contact the Museum if you would like to contribute to a future display. | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Shape  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Skating Queen’s Trophy Restored for Birthday**  **Memories of Teenage Skating Years**  **By Alan Bacon** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | A person sitting on a chair with a group of women behind him  Description automatically generated with low confidence | Shape  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | Shape  Description automatically generated with low confidence | Shape  Description automatically generated with low confidence |   Janet Lund, the first roller skating queen in 1950, recently celebrated her birthday with a restored trophy.  The special day in her life back then almost turned into a disaster. She lost her baggage in transit to Denver. No baggage, no costume or skates. But she and her mother stayed up all night to produce another costume, and a pair of skates was given to her. She was able to receive her trophy with proper attire. She was crowned by the governor of Colorado and the Mayor of Denver.  Carolina Mirelli, Museum member, who was in charge of the Queen contest at USA Roller Sports Nationals for some years, said of the contest: “it was one of the highlights at Nationals. The Queen gave out the awards for the events.” The contest was conducted from the 1950s through the 1970s.  Nationals took place at Mammoth Gardens in Denver that year. Lund (now Lynn) was from Youngstown, Ohio, and skated for Mac’s Roller Skating Club. Her son, Alan Lynn, reached out to the Museum with this news.  Lund said that the statue on top of the trophy had been broken. It was fixed for her recent birthday. She always kept that trophy and her skates through all the moves that she and her husband have done. It looks like it’s brand new, she said.  ﻿  She first competed for the Queen contest and won at her local rink. Patrons voted by putting names in a box, and she came out ahead. Next, she went to the state competition in Columbus. They picked the winner by having the contestants skate around the rink. In Denver, the contest consisted of being interviewed by a couple of people. | | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ***Above:****Janet sitting in front;*  ***﻿Right:*** *Janet on her birthday with her restored trophy.* | | |  | | --- | | A person holding a bottle  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | She wasn’t a competitive skater. She didn’t remember if any of the other state winners were competitive skaters. She never took lessons, but loved it when she was able to skate with the rink’s pro who was present at many public sessions. She loved to skate the dances: waltz, 14 step and tango. She picked up the moves from other skaters. The dancing on skates is what kept her interest in skating. “It was a lot of fun to do it (the dances) the right way. I wouldn’t go there and just skate around in a circle; that would be boring.” When she did give up skating, it was to focus on dancing.  She wasn’t driven to the rink and given 10 dollars to spend; she took a 40-minute bus ride to get to the rink. She paid for her skating by babysitting and working at Woolworths. “I had to work to be able to do the thing I wanted to do.” After arriving, she hung out with her skating friends.  She began skating because of her brother’s insistence. He was a skate boy at the rink who helped patrons put on their skates. He bought her a second-hand pair of boot skates. He just said one day we are going roller skating, she said.  Besides the skate dances, she loved the organist, Bill, who she said played great music. “He sounded like a real professional.” Sometimes she would sit next to him at the organ.  She married and traveled the world as her husband was in the military. She now resides in Summerfield, Florida. | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Shape  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Shape  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Bushkill Park Rolling After 100 Years Despite Floods & Pandemic**  **By Alan Bacon** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | *Editor’s Note: I was traveling in the Northeast last summer. Knowing I would be close to a rink that is over 100 years old I had to stop in. I learned about this rink when I was helping at the Museum booth at an RSA convention a few years ago. The owner at the time, Neal Fehnel, introduced himself and told me about it. I finally got my chance to visit.* | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Shape  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Shape  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing outdoor, ground, building, deck  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ***Above:*** *Outside of the rink* ***Below:*** *The main floor, and the snackbar.* | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing floor, building  Description automatically generated | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing indoor, floor, wall, ceiling  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | A group of men standing in front of a building  Description automatically generated with medium confidence | Shape  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | Shape  Description automatically generated with low confidence | Shape  Description automatically generated with low confidence |   ***Left:***  *Unidentified person; center: current owner Sammy Baurkot; right: former owner Neal Fehnel during one of the floods that damaged the park and rink.*  ***Below:***  *Mabel “Mom” Long* | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing text, mirror, person, reflection  Description automatically generated | | The 60 by 100 floor has been sanded for the last time. After 100 years, and repeated flooding, it can’t be sanded any more.  Bushkill Park Roller Rink near Easton, Pennsylvania, opened in 1902. It was part of one of the many trolley amusement parks built in the early 1900s to promote weekend ridership by trolley lines. Bushkill Park and Oaks Park in Portland, Oregon, may be the only two left (of the dozen or so trolley parks still open), that have an operating roller skating rink. At one time there were around 1,000 trolley parks in the United States.  Thomas Long bought the park in the 1930s. He passed in 1965, but his wife, Mabel “Mom” Long, operated the rink until her death in 1989. They lived in a cottage across the street from the rink. Neal Fehnel and Sammy Baurkot have owned it in recent years. The current manager is Sue Klein. She began working there in 1979.  The 12-acre park included one of the first fun houses in the United States. It also included two vintage carousels. Currently there are six rides operating in addition to the rink. They are in the process of acquiring two more large rides.  Hurricane Ivan hit the area in 2004. Again in 2005 and 2006, the rink suffered major flooding. The rink closed in 2004 and reopened in January 2017. Then again, a flood came in August 2020 – and then the pandemic. It again reopened in May 2021. Remarkably, the recent Hurricane Ida didn’t result in flooding. (Flooding has occurred in recent decades perhaps because of the development around this once rural area. Recently, the nearby river was modified which might have prevented flooding with the last storm.)    In July 2017, the park held an open house. An estimated 3,000 people stopped by.  See [HERE](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001yvqZPMbexeXdRYwCEcInbEVs5OzFjAB4tqvKLR00ESyAvdf2yraFNksfTkIKsmut8lGoM05mib8XNegC_Ezsry-W8G9m-O9wQCjh5m60kLN2-DJWRueqsfAMnQVi8PnFmDWlmu0I38TkDrxuCg1C8WGeKN8NkKwcC3s0CtkG8n68MMeKvmGuSKpu0zi2Q9w4&c=CCDcr8JyDvohpvYvxpY0cSd3aikwHi3956IMmCeg5-oQnTwM3Lw-Ag==&ch=NKpDEBNDc_0t8pG5b5_qcUfWuTLAenO32RTlhxdDArUzfYuq2nMQyw==) for a video of their reopening night in 2017. | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Shape  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Museum Meeting Highlights** | | A special trustee webinar meeting was held Nov. 8, 2021. The following are highlights of the minutes that are still subject to approval.  Kim Wall asked the Museum Trustees to take a minute to remember Bud Engle, who recently passed away.  Alan Bacon gave the treasurer’s report. The Museum made it through the two years of the pandemic without having to dip into savings, despite not being able to conduct the raffle because an RSA convention was canceled, and despite the loss of revenue from merchandise sales and the donation box because USA Roller Sports Nationals has not been held in Lincoln for the past two years. Special fundraisers, such as Brad Armstrong’s and Billy Thompson’s, helped.  Michael Jacques reported that after talking with Michael Pucket that there were no safe investments to put the Museum funds into to make significant money at this time, except to continue putting them in the STFIT savings account.  A great deal of discussion occurred about current low Museum membership. Kim Wall stated that the Museum, including Alexis Cruz, the new Museum archivist, is looking into ways to better track and assist with the renewal process. The challenges and possible solutions to attracting and maintaining new members were discussed. It was noted that membership has always fluctuated: factors such as deaths, less rinks, and difficulty in getting new members to sign up. For example, at the RSA convention people are willing to buy raffle tickets, but it’s difficult to sell membership. Nellie Anderson Lillie noted we have frequently talked about membership, but need a firm plan in place. Many other trustees made suggestions.  Kim Wall noted that the Museum is open only the 20 hours per week that Alexis works, so as not to disrupt the USARS staff with customers who need help.  Information was presented about new displays and layout at the Museum.  Alexis Cruz, who was introduced by Kim Wall, reported on Museum grants she is working on.  Discussion about the Museum’s website becoming stand-alone occurred.  Heidi Permatteo, USARS President, reported that everything is status quo as to sharing the USARS building, etc. Kim Wall said he has had good conversations with Heidi.  Kim Wall provided information on a 6’ tall roller skate he is willing to donate.  Two trustee seats are available. Kim Wall asked trustees to send their nominations to Peggy Young before the next meeting.  Annelle Anderson said there were good discussions during the meeting. Andy Starr suggested the Museum work toward becoming an “international” museum.  The Honors Committee discussed their selection for the George Pickard National Museum of Roller Skating Founders Award. Their selection was carried unanimously.  The need for help at the Museum during USARS National Championships in Lincoln in 2022 was noted. | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Shape  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Shape  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | STAY CONNECTED | | The National Museum of Roller Skating | (402) 483-1465 extension 203  [director@rollerskatingmuseum.com](mailto:director@rollerskatingmuseum.com)  4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506  [www.rollerskatingmuseum.com](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001yvqZPMbexeXdRYwCEcInbEVs5OzFjAB4tqvKLR00ESyAvdf2yraFNi7aav-LekRvrZyyJ5iRsKKvG1BCzpQo5vTotxihQLBrmyDb0UX2WR-1QRvm07RMl80pP5KnVrDrwne4RsqNpH2EKnDnOBRVsIqdA3m_nLvU&c=CCDcr8JyDvohpvYvxpY0cSd3aikwHi3956IMmCeg5-oQnTwM3Lw-Ag==&ch=NKpDEBNDc_0t8pG5b5_qcUfWuTLAenO32RTlhxdDArUzfYuq2nMQyw==) |  |  | | --- | | [Facebook‌](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001yvqZPMbexeXdRYwCEcInbEVs5OzFjAB4tqvKLR00ESyAvdf2yraFNi7aav-LekRvm9TGFCvSrhlO2zLaWZEm5WGGzCVl3S59mqyyqmiJHvgNrYfpPYGHlDiobPzzHS5Igx02Q__ZK3Y=&c=CCDcr8JyDvohpvYvxpY0cSd3aikwHi3956IMmCeg5-oQnTwM3Lw-Ag==&ch=NKpDEBNDc_0t8pG5b5_qcUfWuTLAenO32RTlhxdDArUzfYuq2nMQyw==) [Twitter‌](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001yvqZPMbexeXdRYwCEcInbEVs5OzFjAB4tqvKLR00ESyAvdf2yraFNi7aav-LekRvQqj-_WVYqyzV2qOlCD_eEjDqwf1NoBCtcPxmyRqXqi9L8xGa4der9_-yxorqyovwprwtGm3uUeE=&c=CCDcr8JyDvohpvYvxpY0cSd3aikwHi3956IMmCeg5-oQnTwM3Lw-Ag==&ch=NKpDEBNDc_0t8pG5b5_qcUfWuTLAenO32RTlhxdDArUzfYuq2nMQyw==) LinkedIn‌ | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The National Museum of Roller Skating is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in Lincoln, Nebraska. It is the only dedicated roller skating museum in the world. We are committed to the preservation of the history of roller skating. With over 50 displays cases, the museum educates the public on all aspects of roller skating, which dates back to the first patented skate from 1819. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Copyright:** *Rolling Thru Time* is published throughout the year by the National Museum of Roller Skating.  Copyright 2018 by the NMRS. Written permission from the museum is required for reproduction of any part of this publication.  *Rolling Thru Time* welcomes stories, art and photo contributions. These works selected for publication may be edited to conform to size and other requirements. Opinions expressed by the authors are not necessarily those of the museum. Correspondence concerning articles is welcomed. 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