

Historical Roller Skating OVERVIEW

National Museum of Roller Skating
4730 South Street
P.O. Box 6579
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506-0579
Phone 402-483-7551

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**C.W. Lowe's Portable Rink
1921**

CURATOR'S CORNER

The last few months have been a busy time for the museum. Not only did we hold our annual fundraiser (see the winners of this year's raffle on this page) at the RSA convention, but we also had a booth at the RSA trade show, as well as our annual meeting of the board of trustees.

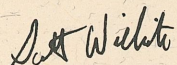
As if that weren't enough to keep me on my toes, the museum underwent an independent assessment the week following the convention. The assessment was part of one of the grants the museum was awarded last year. A review of our collections management was conducted by a surveyor which will help the museum to improve on its existing collections care and enable us to set long term goals for making the museum an even better place to preserve and protect the history of roller skating.

I would like to welcome Rollerblade, Inc. as a new Benefactor of the museum. For a number of years Rollerblade has supported us by donating items from their new product lines thus helping to keep the collection of the museum up-to-date in regards to many of the current advances in the industry. You might remember their donation of several pairs of new skates with their ABT braking system mentioned in the last newsletter. They have now taken the important step of supporting the museum by helping to fund our programs aimed at preserving our roller skating heritage and educating the public.

In this issue we have a great deal news and information for you. First and foremost, the museum received some sad news from the skating world. Inez Van Horn Wepy, one of roller skating's most influential coaches (along with her first husband, Earl Van Horn) passed away recently. See the article next page.

Also highlighted are a number of new and exciting items which were donated to the museum, a brand new product from the museum store (see ad page 5) and a few other historical tidbits.

Finally, I would like to wish a fond farewell to Mike Zaidman who worked as an intern with the museum for nearly a year and a half. He was a dedicated worker who helped make the museum a better institution. Mike recently graduated with a masters degree in museum studies and is off to explore the "real" world. Good luck, Mike!



Scott Wilhite, Director & Curator

1995 National Museum of Roller Skating Raffle Winners:

Grand Prize Winner of \$5,000: Nellie Anderson

\$1,000 Winner: Kay Bing

\$500 Winners: Lew Quintin, Sissy Combs, Betty Lynn

\$250 Winners: Don Pruitt, Mark & Debbie Hafner, Jerry Shores, Jean Lamery

\$100 Winners: Paul Gamsby, Kevin Baker, Gary Phillips, RC Sports, Clyde Patterson, Lane Ross, Robert Anderson, Jr., Pete Schwartz, Thomas Obert, Ed & Winnie Young, Jim Anderson, Robert Scott Dill, Bill Carlson, Skate World of Troy, Kurt Anselmi

MEMBER QUIZ

Unfortunately I have had no correct answers/guesses to the last newsletter's quiz. To sweeten the pot I am offering the first person who submits the correct answer (by mail) a new museum t-shirt (see page 5 for details on the shirt).

Here is the Quiz: What Senior Women's Speed Champion won indoor speed nationals 6 out of 9 years? (HINT: She was a recent USAC/RS Athlete Hall of Fame inductee.)

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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.

Inez Van Horn Passes Away at 94

Inez Van Horn and her husband Earl started skating together in 1918 and toured the world performing before royalty and heads of state. For a number of years they worked in vaudeville, enjoying great success.

In 1934 they opened Mineola Roller Rink in New York with the help of Harry Bickmeyer. They hosted the first United States Dance Skating Contest in 1939.

It was through their dedication to teaching, that the Van Horn's left their mark in the sport. In the 1940s and 1950s, the Mineola rink was home to numerous national artistic champions in singles, pairs, dance, and fours.



Pictured are, from left, Inez, Betty Lytle and Earl Van Horn.

National dance champions were produced at the Mineola rink for 14 consecutive years, from 1942 to 1955.

Inez and Earl divorced but maintained their partnership at Mineola. Inez later married Paul Wepy.

Both Inez and Earl were inducted into the United States Amateur Confederation of Roller Skating's Coach's Hall of Fame in 1994 for their many contributions to competitive roller skating.

"The Skating Comet"



Mills Lynn, past rink operator and museum trustee, was one of several soldiers featured in "Leatherneck: Magazine of the Marines," in the December, 1994 issue. Lynn was part of "Just 4 Fun," a variety show put on by marines, for marines, during World War II.

Corporal Mills Lynn's (the Skating Comet) exploits are documented in the article. Lynn "performed his trick roller-skating act on an 8-foot-square Masonite mat. His act included fancy footwork within a small figure 8. He did a one-foot spin followed by a one-toe spin plus a two-toe spin and managed to light a cigarette while spinning on his toes. In spite of weighing only 130 pounds, he gave the largest volunteer in each audience a dizzying ride. Lynn managed this by standing closely behind the volunteer and interlocking hand and wrists. Then with a sudden shift of weight, he managed to sweep the man's feet off the mat and begin a counterclockwise circle that increased in speed until the Skating Comet began to experience fatigue.

"At that point, Mills brought the spin to a safe and gradual halt. Since the victim of the ride usually needed to be helped to his seat, it was suggested to the master of ceremonies that he support the man with one hand and carry a whiskey bottle partially filled with Coke in the other as the two staggered into the crowd. This never failed to add to the merriment."

The Skating Comet in action.



THE THREE SKATERS

By Rev. C. K., From "Idyls of the Rink," published in 1877 in England.

THREE ladies went skating at Prince's one day,
And happy indeed were one and all;
For their hearts were light,
and their dresses were gay,
But 'ere night they each had a terrible fall;
For women will skate, whate'er be their fate,
And it's perfectly useless objections to state,
So heigh-ho! for the rink and the skating.

Three husbands sat waiting for dinner that night,
And weary and hungry they were each one;
And the cook and the butler were both in a fright,

For they knew that the fish would be overdone;
But men must wait, while women do skate,
And it's just as well to put up with your fate,
So heigh-ho! for the rink and the skating.

Three sufferers that night were brought home in alarm,
Be moaning their fate with many a sigh;
One had broken her leg, another her arm,
And the third, alas! had fractured her thigh;
For women will skate, whate'er be their fate,
Though to mend we know it's never too late,
So good-bye to the rink and the skating.



NEW
15TH
ANNIVERSARY
SHIRT
NOW
AVAILABLE!



National Museum of Roller Skating Merchandise Order Form

Other special items available from the National Museum of Roller Skating

Qty. _____ NEW Museum Anniversary Shirt.
 Specify size Large _____ or X-Large _____. \$15 each.

_____ "The Evolution of the Roller Skate: 1820 - Present"
 Features chapters covering The Early Roller Skates,
 The Plimpton Era, The History of In-Line Skates,
 The First Manufacturers, International Skates, The
 20th Century, and more. The book is 150 pages
 with photos taken by professional photographer,
 Randall Harbuck. \$10 each.

_____ Cheret Lithograph - From the 1870s created by
 Jules Cheret, the "father of poster art." \$17 each.

_____ Museum Mugs - Cobalt blue with the museum
 logo emblazoned in gold. \$6 each.

_____ Museum Patches & Pins - Great gifts for aspiring
 and inspiring skaters. Specify patch or pin. \$5 each.

Qty. _____ William Wegman "Roller Rover" postcard sets.
 10-card pack \$7.50 each.

_____ Other museum postcard sets. In full color, the
 perfect gift for those of us with penpals.
 20-card pack \$5 each.

Grand Total of Order \$ _____

Please print:
 Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Credit Card Orders (VISA or MasterCard--circle one)

Card # _____ ExpDate _____

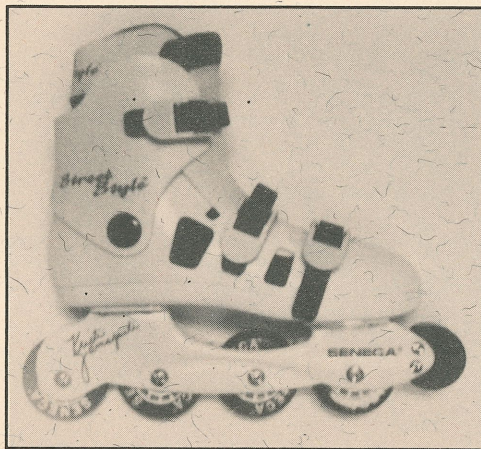
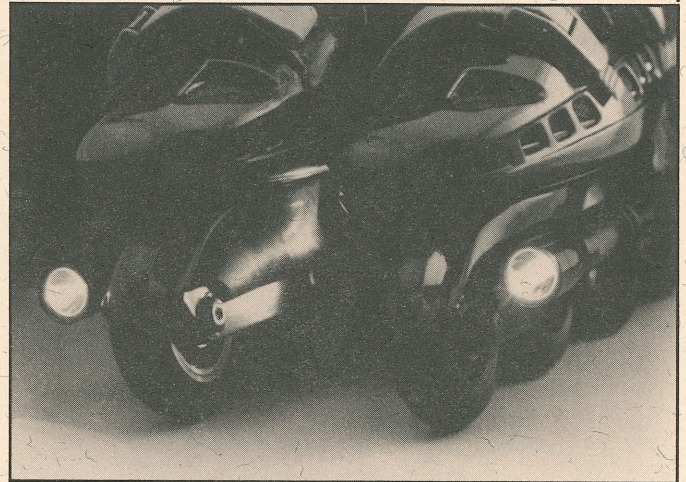
Signature _____

Mail to National Museum of Roller Skating, 4730 South St.,
 Lincoln, NE 68506.

MUSEUM NOTES

Numerous items have been donated to the museum's collection in the last several months. Pictured here are several of the items we have received.

Paragon Racing donated a number of items including a set of bearings, bearing guards, and the new skate lights pictured at right.



Carl Fritz of Seneca Sports, Inc. donated a pair of "Kristi Yamaguchi Street Style Skates" (pictured at left) as well as several other items. The Seneca skates feature a toe-stop rather than the typical rear brake that is often used on in-line skates.

C.W. Lowe, Jr. donated several scrap-books of photos and newspaper articles which detail some significant developments in roller skating history including the travelling rinks which were popular early in this century. The cover photo of this issue of the *Overview* is from that collection. Other donations were made by **Caroline Mirelli, George Pickard, Mary Gaudy, Kris Olsen, Eileen Poole, Eva Coppola, Marcelo Martinez, June Bickmeyer, Ken Kiefer, and Frank Zayle of Out of Line Sports.**

BENEFACTORS OF THE MUSEUM:

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Bob Bollinger
J. Norman &
Montie Malone, Sr.
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Anne Hodges Pals
Skate Depot/Skate
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Seth Scott
Susan Maiolo
Robert & Joan LaBriola
Mills & Betty Lynn
Marguerite Levenson
Alvin Strunk

MEMORIALS

Rose Martin made a donation in memory of Owen H. Holleman. Mr. Holleman owned the Arcadia Roller Rink and the Northland Roller Rink for more than 40 years. He is survived by daughters Rosemary Dean and Joann Scratch; a step-daughter, Andrea Oleksa; a son, William; stepmother, Elizabeth Holleman; five grandchildren, and one great grandchild.



PATRON MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Remember that the Patron Memorial Plaque still has spaces available for individuals who have made contributions to our roller skating heritage. This could include everyone from rink owners to athletes. A one-time fee of \$250 will place the individual's name on the memorial which is permanently displayed at the National Museum of Roller Skating.

WISH LIST:

The museum is still looking for a revolving mirror ball for an upcoming exhibit on the history of the RSROA and rinks. Please contact the museum director at 402-483-7551 if you have a mirror ball you are willing to donate.

The museum would also like to obtain a reel-to-reel machine and organ tapes to play on it.

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.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check or money order enclosed payable to the National Museum of Roller Skating. | <input type="checkbox"/> PIN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paid by VISA. | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$15 |
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Mail to:

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4730 South St.
P.O. Box 6579
Lincoln, NE 68506

Contributions are tax-deductible up to the amount permitted by law.



“ For men may come and men may fall,
But I rink on for ever.”

From "Idyls of the Rink," published in 1877, in England.

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