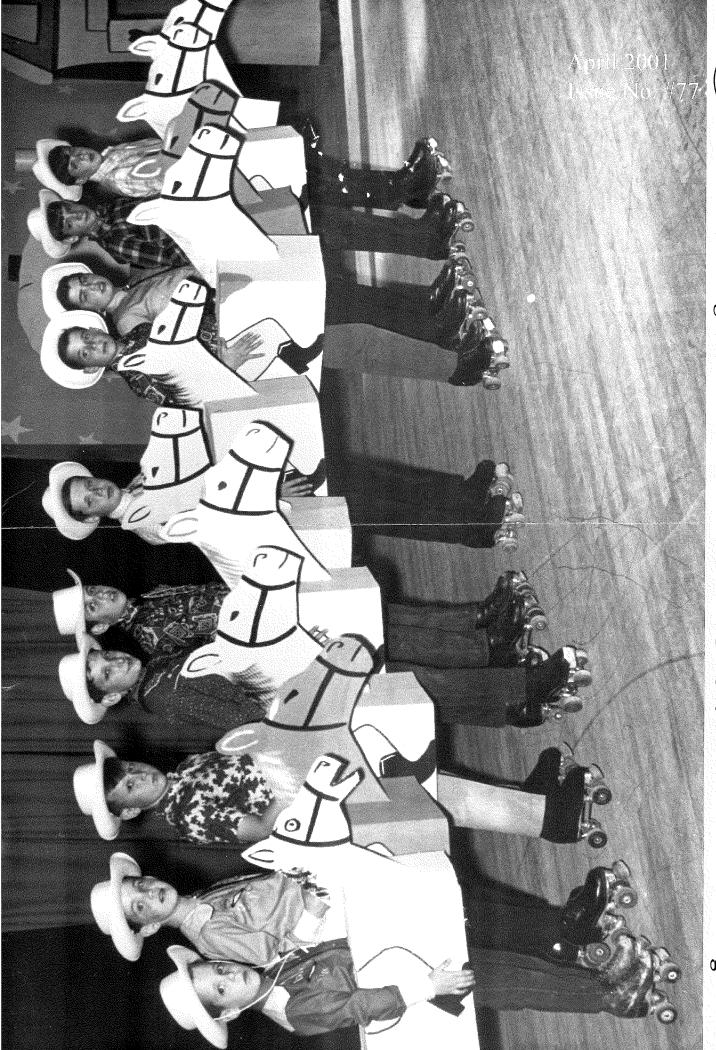


Historical Roller Skating

() Verview

National Museum of Roller Skating



Jurator

Dear Members, After a long, cold and snowy winter, spring has finally come to Nebraska. With spring comes many more visitors and school groups to the museum. The majority of the school groups are fourth graders from the Lincoln School District. Part of the history curriculum for all Nebraska fourth graders is to learn the history of the state of Nebraska. Our museum is mentioned in the history textbook used by the Lincoln School District and the kids are coming to the museum to learn how Lincoln became the roller skating capital. Look for several reactions from the children on page 9 of the newsletter.

Also on page 8 is a wish list of items the museum would like to acquire. Recently, I have been asked for a wish list of items/equipment the museum would like to receive or purchase for the office. The list contains items with an approximate cost for each item. If you are interested in assisting the museum to purchase these items please call the museum.

The museum received two phone calls in January to identify the seven children in the cover photo on the January issue of the Overview. The calls were from Rose Martin, daughter of Fred Martin (owner of the Arena Gardens rink), and from Ann Schafer, the last girl on the right in the photo. The children, dressed as bugs, were part of skating show put on at the Arena Gardens rink in Detroit, Michigan. The children preformed the "Glow Worm" number in the Winter Carnival Skating Show during the 1943-1944 skating season. Thanks for all of your assistance in identify the photo and the children.

Again, the cover photo on this issue is another unidentified photo. Text written on the back of the photo reads, "Cowboys of the Wild West

number, Vineland Roll-O-Capers, 1968. Photo by F.V. Marino." If anyone knows more about the photo, we would love to hear from you.

The museum's annual fundraiser is quickly coming to a close. This is your last chance this year to help the museum while giving yourself the chance to win some cash. The museum uses the proceeds from the raffle to support the museum for the next year. Help support your museum today by purchasing a raffle ticket. Fill out the form on page 10 and send it to the museum by May 4, 2001. Do not forget, winners do not need to be present at the drawing, May 16, 2001, to win.

A winning roller skater, David Tassinari, is the subject of Overview's the main article. I was fortunate enough to meet David during the 2000 National Artistic Championships. He donated some items from his skating career and also brought a donation from Gary Boreham of approximately 100 photographs of the Roll-Land rink in Norwood, Massachusetts. David took the time to go through each photo and identify almost all of the individuals while also telling some of the wonderful stories from Roll-Land. I hope you all enjoy the article and learning more about David and his skating career.

Thanks again to all of the members for your continued support of the museum.

Sincerely,

Deboral L. Wallis

Deborah L. Wallis Director and Curator

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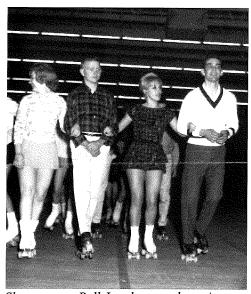
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David Tassinari The Natural and Versatile Skater

The Roll-Land rink in Norwood, Massachusetts has rolled out several top roller skaters and its skaters dominated the scene in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Michael Jacques, Darlene Barile, Ida Lee Barile, Diane Kern, Patricia Fogarty and David Tassinari are among its skaters.

Unfortunately, the rink closed last fall and was turned into a Gold's Gym. With the loss of Roll-Land, the roller skating community has also lost a tie to those wonderful skaters.



Skaters at a Roll-Land general session: (L to R) Diane Kern, Bob Emmerson, Patricia Fogarty and David Tassinari

Roll-Land may no longer be with us but its history still lives in the museum. During the 2000 National Artistic Championships, the museum was the recipient of approximately 100 photographs of Roll-Land and individuals associated with the rink. In processing the photographs, I became familiar with many of the individuals that made Roll-Land synonymous with top skaters, in particular, David Tassinari. With his partners for Pairs and Dance, Diane Kern and Patricia Fogarty, they dominated and set the style for Pairs and Free Dance in the 1960s. Lester Bromberg, a sports writer for the New York World Telegram and Sun, was very impressed



Roll-Land Roller Rink Sticker, circa 1950

with Tassinari's skill especially when he learned Tassinari competed in more than one discipline. Bromberg wrote in the 1964 November issue of *Skate* "It was logical. Tassinari, tall and slender but wiry-

strong, impressed me as a natural athlete who probably could make good in any field of competitive endeavor he chose."

Like all great athletes, Tassinari started young. He began roller skating as a youngster in 1950 with the youth group at the Plymouth Grange. Roller skating was an emotional and creative outlet for him while giving him the chance to have fun with others. Two years later, in 1952 Tassinari was skating at a general session when he was approached about receiving free lessons if he became the dance partner for Lorna Jean Urban. Tassinari was chosen



1961 National Intermediate Pairs Champions Diane Kern and David Tassinari

Feature Article



1965 Roll-Land team that competed in Nationals: Back row (L to R) Jack Breen, Edward Nilson, Michael Jacques, Nancy Lou Johnson, Diane Kern, David Tassinari, Patricia Fogarty, Shirley Sanderson, Linda Gay, Alan Welch, Janice Destito; Front row (L to R) Idalee Barile, unknown, Donny Milton, unknown, Darile Barile, Sam Carouso, Ronny Milton and Joey Destito.

because Urban and Tassinari were a similar height. He fell in love with roller skating and began to compete in Dance with Urban.

Prior to 1956, Tassinari skated at rinks near his home town of Plymouth, Massachusetts. It was during the year of 1956 that Tassinari began his

association with Roll-Land. He described the rink as very friendly and very mighty; it was a small rink that did not let its size get in the way. It was one of the few rinks in the area that had its club perform an annual show with club members, groups and singles doing the performance. It was through the shows that Tassinari started skating for Roll-Land.

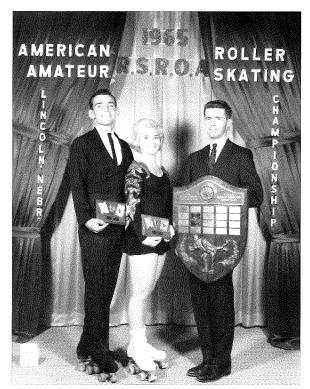
A few years later, a young skater named Diane Kern moved with her family from Pennsylvania to the area and began skating at Roll-Land. She

was a little too young to socially know Tassinari. However, Tassinari had watched her practice and felt that she skated like he did, especially in her jumps and spins. He felt she was diamond in the rough. In 1960 they began taking lessons together for Pairs. Even with the differences in age, they did not have any problems getting along; in fact, they became great friends. At first they just skated in the annual shows. They started competing as a team in 1961 and, in their first attempt they won both the State and Regional competitions. In the same year, they were paired

with another Roll-Land Pairs team of Lorna Jean Urban, Tassinari's former dance partner, and Alan Welch for a fours routine. Welch and Tassinari created a routine to perform in the annual show that was received very favorably. Their coach, Jack Breen, encouraged the group to compete in the Fours discipline. The group did and sailed by both the State and Regional competitions. Tassinari and his partners were headed for the 1961 Nationals.



1965 National Senior Pairs sweep by Roll-Land teams: (left to right) Michael Jacques and Nancy Lou Johnson, 2nd place; Diane Kern and David Tassinair, 1st place; Linda Gay and Alan Welch, 3rd place



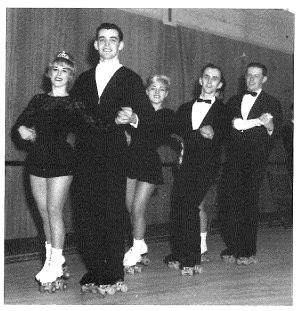
1965 National Senior Pairs Champions David Tassinari and Diane Kern with their coach Jack Breen

The 1961 Nationals brought Tassinari to the fore front of the national roller skating community and showed the promise of an exciting future. In his first Nationals, Tassinari won National Titles for Intermediate Pairs with Diane Kern and for Intermediate Fours with Lorna Jean Urban, Alan Welch and Diane Kern.

Due to his success at the 1961 Nationals. Tassinari began to become serious about his skating career. Although it was difficult to find the time and money to skate while attending college, Tassinari persevered. With Kern as his Pairs partner, they achieved the National Pairs title for 1963, 1964 and 1965. They also finished second in Senior Pairs in 1966 with their fellow Roll-Land skaters, Nancy Lou Johnson and Michael Jacques winning the title. Tassinari and Kern proved to be a great team. After Kern retired from competitive roller skating in 1966, Tassinari began to compete in Pairs with Darile Barile, a proven singles skater. Tassinari enjoyed skating with Barile in Pairs, as it was a different style than he had performed with Kern. With Kern, the team was more focused on precision

and content. With Barile, the focus was more on the artistry. Tassinari and Barile finished third in Senior Pairs at the 1967 Nationals and fourth at the 1968 Nationals.

In 1963, Massachusetts skater Patricia Fogarty lost her dance partner. Tassinari met Fogarty years earlier during a general skating session. As they skated during the session, several individuals commented how good they looked together and encouraged them to compete together. To fulfill the requirement that all team members be from the same club, Fogarty transferred her club membership to Roll-Land to compete in Dance with Tassinari. They competed as a team in the Senior Dance and Free Dance disciplines. Free Dance was introduced in the 1964 season to help prepare US skaters for World competition. Free Dance allowed the skaters to fully express themselves through dance but the program could not include any lifts, jumps or spins. Tassinari described Fogarty skating style as very showy and perfect for this new competition. They created their routines off the floor by just talking. The Tassinari-Fogarty Dance team proved to be a winning combination in this discipline as they won the National title for 1964, 1965 and 1966.



Roll-Land and Norwood rink contestants in the Mid-Winter Senior Compulsory event: Patricia Fogarty and David Tassinari, Virginia Gilmetti and Wally DuFault, Diane Kern and Bill Daley

Twice Tassinari competed at the World level. First was in 1963 at the World Invitational Meet in Las Vegas. The competition was between teams from several countries including the US, Canada, Germany, Holland and New Zealand. Tassinari and Kern won the Mixed Pairs competition with a near flawless routine and beat the German team of Dieter Fingerle and Uta Keller. Two years later the two teams met again for Tassinari's second World competition in 1965. Tassinari, Kern and Fogarty were chosen from the National winners to represent the United States Federation of Amateur Roller Skaters at the World Roller Skating Championship in Madrid, Spain. This was the first united team of amateur roller skater from the US entered into a World championship held by the Federation Intertionale de Roller Skating. The experience proved to be wonderful and very fruitful for the US skaters. Tassinari was a great ambassador and won the crowds over with his showmanship and great talent. Tassinari and Fogarty did not fair very well in the dance competition. The rules and judging were too different from the American style and they finished ninth in the World Dance competition. Tassinari and Kern scored higher but missed wining the Pairs title by three-tenths of a point to the German team of Fingerle and Keller. It was a rousing competition. To this day, Tassinari is unsure of the tabulation. For the competition, the lowest and highest scores were thrown out with the final score being a tabulation



1964 National Free Dance Champions Patricia Fogarty and David Tassinari. The Free Dance event debuted in 1964.



1965 National Fours Champions David Tassinari, Michael Jacques, Diane Kern and Nancy Lou Johnson with their coach Jack Breen

of the rest of the scores. Both Tassinari and Kern's highest and lowest scores were higher than the Germans.

Besides Pairs and Dance, Tassinari also competed in two other disciplines: Fours and Men's Singles. Fours competitions consisted of two Pairs teams put together required to use Singles, Pairs and Fours components in their routine. Following the 1962 Nationals, the Tassinari, Kern, Loran Jean Urban and Alan Welch team continued competing in 1962. A snag occurred in their relationship during the Pairs elimination round at the 1962 Nationals, Tassinari and Kern tied for sixth place with their Fours partners, Urban and Welch. Unfortunately, only six teams could advance to the finals. The tie was broken with Tassinari and Kern advancing and sadly some ill feelings were apparent. The group won the Nationals Fours title but 1962 was the last time this fours group competed together. For the 1964 Nationals, Tassinari and Kern competed in the Fours discipline with fellow Roll-Land Pairs partners Michael Jacques and Nancy Lou Johnson. Tassinari was a bit unsure of the new Fours group, as he was the tallest with the other three in the group being about the same height. He was given the advice to just bend his knees. This Fours group did very well and won the National Senior Fours title in 1965 and 1966.

For the 1962 season, Tassinari also competed in Men's Singles while competing in his other disciplines. Although not a favorite discipline, he was asked to skate Singles for the Roll-Land club to win the club trophy. The rink clubs competed

against one another for points based on the final placement of their skaters and the club with the most points won the trophy for the year. The Roll-Land club felt Tassinari would fair well in the competition since he was a strong skater. Without any Singles lessons, Tassinari created his own routine to perform in the competitions. He borrowed some music from a fellow club member and practiced during the general practice sessions, never hearing his own music. Tassinari took second at State and Regionals and finished fourth in Nationals. He did not compete again in the Singles discipline.

rink clubs competed they had ever televised

Photo used in the program for the First Annual New England Chapter Awards ceremony honoring David Tassinari. L to R: Diane Kern, Tassinari and Patricia Fogarty

Another competition Tassinari participated in was the Gold Skate Classic. The first Classic took place in 1964 in Bakersfield, California. It was a new competition developed especially for TV to help promote competitive roller skating. The competition was between skaters from around the globe that were judged on their performance, interpretation, costume, general

theme, music and appeal to the audience. The skaters preformed under spotlights, which highlighted them, their routines and costumes. Tassinari competed with Kern and Fogarty in their respected disciplines. Tassinari and Fogarty took first place titles in Free Dance for 1965 and 1966 while Tassinari and Kern finished second in Pairs for 1965 and 1966. In the November issue of *Skate* magazine, the ABC technicians regarded Tassinari as one of the most versatile athletes that they had ever televised.

Skating was never work for Tassinari but something fun. With a limited skating practice schedule of seven hours three times a week, Tassinari had to be efficient and use the time wisely by being good at the basics. He believes the basics are learned in the proficiency tests and that is where the best skating is to be found. Due to the strong test standards, a test skater has to know what they are doing to complete the tasks and thus, only the best skaters are able to pass.

Following the 1968 season, Tassinari retired from competitive skating and began coaching.
Throughout his stunning

competitive career, Tassinari kept a very active life away from the rink. He graduated from high school in 1960 and graduated from Bridgewater State College in 1964 with a degree in education. For Tassinari's contributions to roller skating, he was honored with the first New England Chapter Award in 1965. He was chosen for his sportsmanship and his contributions to the sport.

In 1984 Tassinari was honored with an induction to the Amateur Athletes Roller Skating Hall of Fame. Hall of Fame inductees are chosen for those individuals who have inspired, influenced and advance the sport though innovation and excellence. They are athletes that have made a lasting contribution to their skating discipline. Throughout Tassinari's skating career he has worked to raise standards by developing new content and dances. He is most famous for his Tassinari Camel, also called the jump outside back Pairs camel. Just as the female Pairs partner has pulled into the outside back Pairs camel, the male partner leaps over her back landing on the other side and completes the Pairs camel. Tassinari has also developed several new dances including a few that are in the competitive repertoire. All of his great ideas including the Tassinari camel have come to him in dreams. He truly believes they are inspired by a greater power.

Many of the articles on Tassinari use the word "showman" to describe his style of skating. When asked if he felt it an accurate description, he said "perhaps." "Roller skating is an art first and a sport second." He feels that one has to skate with personality and style to make the audience and judges feel with you and to believe in you and what you are doing. He also states that one must be creative to make the audience and judges remember you since many others are doing the same things. It took Tassinari nine years before he won any competition and his years of toil paid off. He often uses his own experience to encourage young skaters that he feels has that special something to continue and keep trying like he did.

Today, Tassinari is still living in Plymouth, Massachusetts and teaching elementary school. He has achieved his Master's degree in education and continues to be active in roller skating by coaching and judging Regionals and tests. Although roller skating has taken a back seat to his family and occupation, next year he will be able to retire and devote more time to roller skating. He is most excited about Precision skating and hopes to organize a program. "Roller skating has offered me too much to ever leave it." We are so lucky Tassinari stayed with the sport as his contributions have greatly pushed the sport forward.

Recently, the museum has received requests for a wish list of items the museum would like to acquire or purchase. Along with the requests were suggestions to put a wish list in the newsletter.

Listed below are items that would assist the museum in preforming daily tasks.

Wish List

- Digital Camera-Fujifilm Fine Pix 4700
 - approx. cost \$480.00
- Regular Camera- purchased used from a local camera store approx. cost \$450
- Scanner approx. cost \$300 to \$500
- Laser Printer approx. cost \$400
- Re-writable CD Rom approx. cost \$400
- Hepa vac (to clean artifacts) purchased from a Archives Supplier approx. cost \$280
- Magnetic label holders for shelves in
- Archives approx. cost \$200 to \$250
- Door alarm/bell unknown cost
- Other general items: portable drill, tools/supplies (magnifying glass, self healing cutting mat, foil back labels, brushes for cleaning artifacts), document boxes, textile boxes, UV filters for lights in the gallery (approx. 60 filters), printable adding machine

If anyone is interested in assisting the museum to acquire the above items, please call the museum at 402/483-7551 x16.

Comments from Fouth Graders at Cavett Elementary School

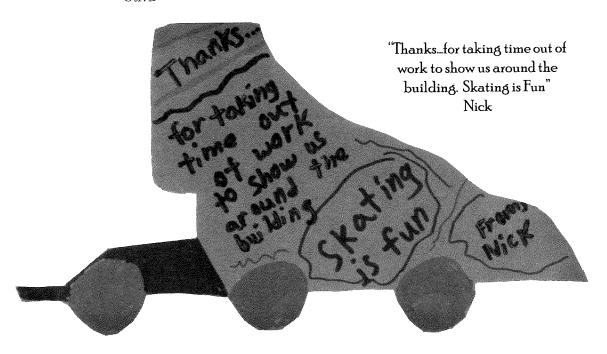
"Thank you for spending your time to talk to us and for also taking time out of your work to teach us. I liked the big wheel skates and I think it would be cool to ride in them."

"Thank-you. We learned alot. (Including how to spell Museum!) Christina

"Thank you so much for taking time out of your day and letting us come. I loved it. I loved Tara Lipinski's dress. I ice skate and roller blade. Thanks again."

Olivia

I really enjoyed that field trip about the history of roller skates. My favorite thing was the little wheels on tennis shoes. Lindsay



"Thank you for teaching us so much. I learned alot. One of the coolest things I learned was that there are motorized skates."

Adam

"That place is so cool that I'm telling my Mom everything that happened." Kaitlynn

"It was cool coming to the museum of roller skating. And it was a blast!!!!"

Drew

MEMORIALS

The Patron Memorial Plaque was created to honor those individuals who have contributed to the growth of roller skating as a sport, recreation or business. A plaque may be purchased for a minimum contribution of \$250. Please fill out the information below if you are interested. All other donations are recognized in the newsletter.

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Donations

The National Museum of Roller Skating's collection has grown each year because of donors who have contributed to the growth of the museum. If you have an artifact that you would like to donate, please contact the museum before donating. Thank you for your continued support! The following donors have contributed to the collection:

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NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROLLER SKATING 2001 Raffle

Preserving Our Past For The Future

Price \$50. Total of \$10,000 in cash prizes. Grand prize \$5,000! Drawing to take place, May 16, 2001, at the RSA International convention during the President's Dinner. Ticket holders need not be present to win. All proceeds benefit the museum.

The National Museum of Roller Skating is a publicly supported, charitable organization.

Purchaser_

Address:____

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Cut or photocopy and mail with payment to the museum

Where: At the RSA Convention

Mary Hildebrand James Ingram

When: Wednesday night, May 16, 2001

Why: To Give You A Chance To Win while helping the National Museum of Roller Skating.

Prizes Consist of:

15 winners of \$100 each

4 winners of \$250 each

3 winners of \$500 each

1 winner of \$1,000

1 winner of \$5,000

Total Prizes: \$10,000

Tickets are sold for \$50 each

How: Buy a raffle ticket from the museum by calling 402/483-7551 ext. 16 or by

sending in this form.

Ticket holders need not be present to win. Deadline for this form is May 9, 2001.

Send to: 4730 South Street, Suite 2, Lincoln, NE 68506

Thanks

The National Museum of Roller Skating would like to thank these members who have either joined or renewed membership with the museum since our last issue. Thank you for your support!

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Allan Weitzenhoffer

The museum would also like to thank the donors who have given to the museum's 20th Anniversary Money to Grow On fund. Thanks for your support!

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Anthony K. Liddall
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Joe and Nancie Nemanich
Joy Newberry
Pasquale Prozzillo
Susan Schmitz
George & Ann Sheridan
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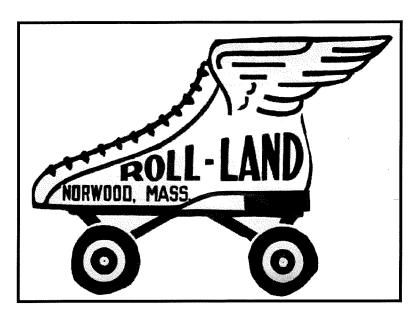
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- O The History of Roller Skating ©1997 ISBN 0-9658192-0-5
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Roll-Land Roller Rink Sticker, circa 1955

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