



Rolling Through Time

By James Vannurden
Director and Curator

Official Newsletter of:

National Museum of Roller Skating
4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506
(402) 483-7551 ex. 16
@rollersk8museum

Bi-Monthly
August 1, 2015

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 50 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

Summer Visitation

Museum visitation this summer continues to perform well. With people traveling more during the better weather our museum reaps the benefits. Our busiest time during the year, like many institutions, always falls between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Each summer we participate in a local tourism effort called "Be a Tourist in Your Own Hometown." Visitors collect stamps from various local institutions. This gains our museum extra visitation.

Many times out of town visitors mention that they specifically stopped at our facility while driving through the area onto another destination. Most recently a family from Missouri was traveling to Yellowstone National Park and made a stop here in Lincoln for the afternoon just to visit our museum.

One obstacle has stunted our visitation this summer and that is the location of the indoor roller skating national championships. This year the competitions are being held in Albuquerque, NM. When the championships are in Lincoln, our visitation jumps over 1,000 people. But it will be back next year.

Many groups continue to book tours at the museum. Whether from day cares, retirement homes, or summer learning programs, we continue to accommodate various organizations who show interest in the history of roller skating.

We look forward to the rest of the summer and the many visitors to come. Please recommend us to anyone you know traveling through the area.

New and Renewing Members

James & Faye Shoemake
Charlotte Heath

Book Inclusion

The German company Ear Books recently finished a book called *Vintage Toys*. One chapter in the book is called "Games, Outdoor", and in this section they included the first Rollerblade skate from the 1960s.

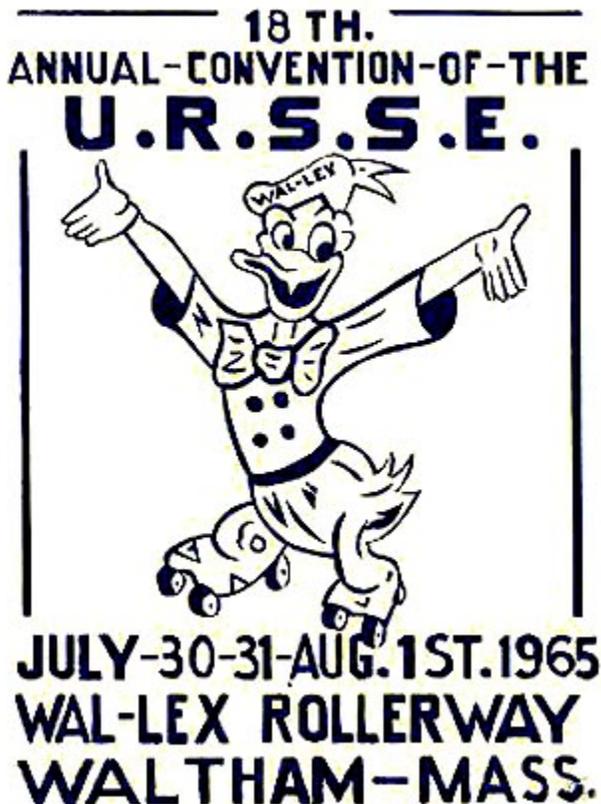
To find a nice photograph of the skate the publisher reached out to our museum last October. We furnished them with such an image and they gave our museum a photograph credit in the book. Ear Books also gave us a copy of the book, which arrived this week. Below is the page and image.



The excerpt reads:

Grazed knees and an array of bruises were part and parcel of growing up in the 1990s, as an updated version of the roller skate burst onto the scene. A whole generation was caught up in the hype, racing to get on their skates, never mind the odd sprain here and there. The inline skate was nothing new, as it turned out. Jean-Joseph Merlin created the first inline skate as long ago as 1760, affixing three wheels in a row under his shoe, a fairly wobbly proposition. The first patent for an inline skate was granted to a Frenchman named Petitbled in 1819, with the skate taking the name of its inventor.

Universal Roller Skating Sticker Exchange



Founded in 1948 by twenty individuals, the Universal Roller Skating Sticker Exchange formed to bring together individuals with an interest in skating sticker collecting.

Members of the URSSE could only trade stickers with other members. To complete a trade one had to print their name, address, and date on the back of the sticker; this let the group know from whom the sticker originated. If a member was caught trading stickers with a non-member they would have black Xs written over their name on the backs of stickers; this person was then blacklisted from the group and not allowed to trade stickers anymore.

The first URSSE sticker convention was held at the Gay Blades Roller Rink in New York City. By the end of the first year, 152 people in total had joined the exchange. Memberships not only encompassed most states but also branched out into international waters; some of the countries with members included Australia, Canada, England, India, and New Zealand.

Some of the 32 rules and regulations for the Universal Roller Skating Sticker Exchange are as follows:

1. The purpose of the Universal Roller Skating Sticker Exchange is to promote the sport of roller skating and to promote the hobby of rink sticker trading.

2. All members will pay full admission at any rink including the rink where the National meet is held, and any rink owned or operated by a club member.
3. No marking shall be put on face of stickers, except city and state when known and missing.
4. Roller skating rink stickers are the only stickers considered as trading stickers. All other stickers sent only on agreement with your trader. Always refer to the ratings on your membership list on what to trade, and with whom. All defaced stickers or advertising stickers and cards can be returned to the sender if desired.
5. When trading with a non-member, request that said trader join the club, if he or she refuses, then they will be blacklisted. Do not trade with any person that has the mark of the blacklist, XX over their club stamp, or name on the back of a sticker. You will be subject to the XX yourself. Always take the matter of blacklisting a person up with the club secretary before using the XX. Reasons for blacklist: non-member, failure to answer your mail, using the club to defraud, trading with non-member, knowingly breaking the by-laws or regulations of the club.
6. All stickers will have an equal value, and all trading will be done on a sticker for sticker basis, regardless of age or rareness.
7. Anyone making up stickers of closed rinks can lose their membership and the sticker will be marked as a "phony".



For over forty years the URSSE maintained a strong following in the United States. Conventions became an integral part of the URSSE for the purpose of meeting other collectors and exchanging stickers. After the convention in 1989 the URSSE officially disbanded.

Championship Profile 1958 Nationals



The 1958 RSROA American Amateur Roller Skating Championships were held at the Cleveland Rollercade located at 6800 Denison Avenue. This eight day event began Sunday, July 27 and ended Sunday, August 3.



The floor of the Rollercade was an excellent skating surface 90 ft x 250 ft long. The maple floor was specifically resurfaced for this competition. The arena of the big auditorium seated nearly 3,000 spectators.

During the afternoon of Monday, July 28 the RSROA hosted a special trade show. From 1:00 PM until 6:00 PM exhibitors hosted operators, managers, and the professionals in attendance.

Senior Champions were as follows:

Senior Dance: Charles Wahlig and Claire Ferrell
 Senior Pairs: Kenneth Trotter and Ruth Heeseman
 Senior Fours: Parke, Daniels, Maguire, Seaburn
 Senior Men Singles: Ricky Mullican
 Senior Ladies Singles: Carolyn Sliger
 Senior Men Figures: Darrell Glenn
 Senior Ladies Figures: Christy Benda
 Senior Men Speed: Richard Edwards
 Senior Ladies Speed: Suzanne Richardson

The speed competition as summarized by Robert F. Robinson:

The speed skating competitors literally smashed all existing records. George Grudza of Pennndel, Pennsylvania broke four individual speed records in Intermediate Men's Class. In sum total 26 new speed records were established. The unusual once again occurred, in the Senior Ladies Speed Event. Suzanne Richardson, Sally Richardson, and Mary Jo Kirk of the Arcadia in Detroit, placed one, two, three.

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 traded as collectibles both informally and formally, under the Universal Roller Skating Sticker Exchange founded in 1948. Each newsletter, we will feature 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.



Thanks for supporting the museum!

