



## Rolling Through Time

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Director and Curator

Official Newsletter of:

**National Museum of Roller Skating**

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### 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

#### End of Year Recap

With the year 2014 coming to a close, we want to take a look back at the year in review.

Lincoln hosted the national indoor roller skating championships in July. This brought a sizeable increase in museum traffic during the summer month. Over 1,200 visitors viewed our galleries and experienced the museum first hand. We even hosted a private concert on our Hammond B3 organ. This is always a special time of year for the museum when active skaters and their families can witness the history of our sport.

The museum participated in an art show exhibition at the local University of Nebraska art museum. Entitled *Things Speak: Storied Objects from Lincoln Collections*, our museum loaned both a Winslow and Chicago skate along with a skating program and a skate case. On exhibit for four months, this showcase increased the museum's presence within our community.

We orchestrated two fundraising events this year. First in May, the museum participated in "Give to Lincoln Day" which promoted charitable giving to local organizations for one day only. Second, we held our own fundraiser to coincide with National Roller Skating Month in October. Both of these fundraisers produced very necessary funds for the museum's operating expenditures. Thank you to all who contributed.

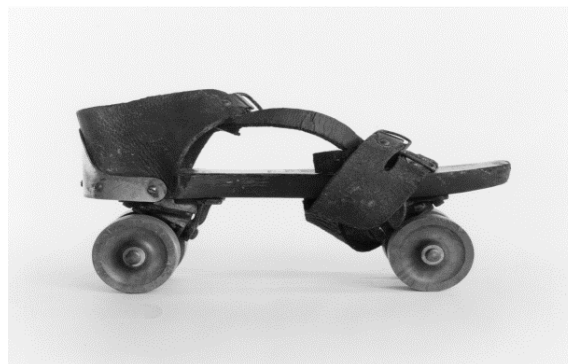
And with every year, the museum received so many great donations. From skates and costumes, to pictures and programs the museum collection continues to grow each year with the help of our patrons. With these additions we are able to create new exhibits for display and share our grand collection with the public.

Special thanks to all of you members for helping the museum have another wonderful year.

### Nebraska Public Radio Spot

Last week a representative from Nebraska Public Radio interviewed the museum for a spot in their new segment. Our public radio covered stories from each institution that had contributed to the university art museum's new exhibition *Things Speak: Storied Objects from Lincoln Collections*.

The station asked us about one piece in particular that we featured for exhibition: the Vineyard A model Winslow skate.



The Samuel Winslow Skate Company manufactured this "Vineyard" line of roller skates. This model, comprised of a wooden plate with wooden wheels, did not yet possess loose ball bearings. The skater attached his/her own saddle shoes to the skate via leather straps.

The "Vineyard" skate was the most popular skate produced during the 1880s. Various models, each with slightly different trucks, were made. This model "Vineyard A" was manufactured in 1881.

We chose this skate as one for exhibition so the public could see an early model, all-wooden skate. Plus the "Vineyard" models were very popular and used in rinks across the United States.

Nebraska Public radio will air its segments towards the end of December as well as make them available for playback online at the following website:  
<http://www.netnebraska.org/basic-page/radio/radio>.

### New and Renewing Members

Joseph Wagner

Robert and Jacqueline Kane

Bob and Irene LaBriola

## Christmas Parties

The holiday season at a skating rink is a special time. Patrons and employees celebrate together. Most rinks opted for a Christmas theme for their end of year celebrations. The following example from the Mineola Rink in New York demonstrated how this specific rink celebrated the holiday season.



Many rinks even highlighted the accomplishments of their employees by hosting private parties in their honor. The Mineola Skating Rink of Long Island, New York hosted annual employee Christmas parties. One such instance is preserved in our museum archives through the December 18, 1937 Christmas party souvenir program.

The employees celebrated the ending of their third season at Mineola with an owner-sponsored Christmas party on a Saturday afternoon. In just three years employee count grew from three on the grand opening night to a total of forty-four by the time of this party. These employees and their families enjoyed a special afternoon of skating.

The party program highlighted the many festivities for the day. Organ music began at 11:45 and ran until 2:30 on their new Hammond electric organs. Early Van Horn, the owner, was the master of ceremonies. The first nine skates of the day followed the common themes of all skate, couples, ladies only, and men only; these were enjoyed to many paces of music such as foxtrot, waltz, moonlight, and a march. Following these sessions was a skating exhibition by the Mineola Four: Barney Fluke, Dorothy Hankel, Victor Dick, and Scooter Lowry. After additional all skates Toby, the world's only roller skating horse joined the party; from the picture in the program, Toby comprised of a horse costume worn by two male skaters. More couples and all skates ended the afternoon.

At The Oaks in Portland, Oregon the Bollinger family and employees actively engaged their customers by providing different holiday entertainment. Numerous programs emerged during the holidays over the years.



Many of these programs included a wintery premise. "Santa's Workshop," with Bill Romans as Father Christmas, produced toys which would then skate around; members of the skaters' club dressed up as toys such as monkeys, clowns, dolls, and soldiers. After a musical intermission, the program continued on with a "Winter Wonderland" show; twenty skaters performed to the sounds of Don Simmons, some dressed as snowflakes.

For their December of 1947 show, the rink chose a different theme. The Oaks Skaters' Club of over 100 performers entertained the crowd with their show "An Arabian Fantasy." This three part affair began with Aladdin and the genii announcing the arrival of the sultan; the sultan's harem soon followed and the scene ended with him choosing his favorite.

Part two dove into a mother goose tale with characters such as Humpty Dumpty and Little Bo Peep; wooden soldiers, Miss Muffet, and even fairies entered the scene.

Scene three began with a forbidden dance between the prince and a harem girl. At the height of the display, a foreign diplomat interjected causing a scene. A gypsy dance finished the set. The night ended with the rink's professional skaters performing in a grand finale.





## Queen Contest and Oath



Nebraska governor Frank Morrison crowns 1962 Roller Skating Queen of America Edwina Young who represented New Jersey during the National Championships. Runners up were Carole Ann Garma of Hawaii (right) and Rene Plaisance of Tennessee (left).

The first duty of a queen was to recite the oath. Dr. Shane MacCarthy, Chairman of President Eisenhower's Council on Youth Fitness, administered the following "Queens Oath" in one of the highpoints of the 1960 ceremonies:

*I do solemnly swear that I will observe all the rules of fair play and correct conduct; that I am dedicated to the ideals of youth fitness, wholesome living and clean fun, and that here and at home I will encourage others to uphold these, the highest standards, in roller skating.*

## Twitter

@rollersk8museum



Twitter followers for the museum continue to grow. Currently the museum has 91 followers; many are roller derby teams both domestic and international. Most response and engagement comes when we share photographs from the museum collection. Follow us!

## 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!



**Happy Holidays!**