



## Rolling Through Time

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Director and Curator

Official Newsletter of:

**National Museum of Roller Skating**  
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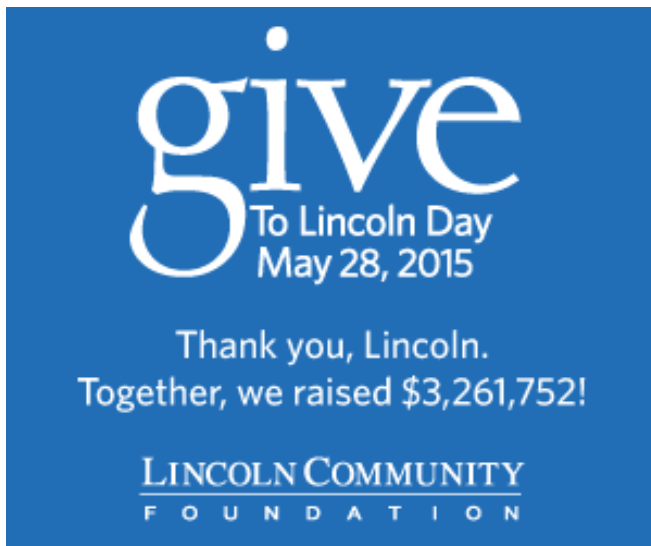
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### Who We Are

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

#### Give to Lincoln Day



The museum again participated this year in the locally sponsored "Give to Lincoln Day". On May 28 for a 24 hour period, multiple supporters from all over the country donated to the museum.

Sponsored by the Lincoln Community Foundation (LCF), over 330 different organizations participated in this citywide event, gaining attention for all of the great charity work done throughout the community. Many organizations were able to raise desperately needed funds to help continue on their missions.

As with last year the LCF pledged a \$300,000 match to be distributed on percentage basis to every participating organization. The larger the amount raised the greater amount LCF will match to that organization. Last year our museum received a 15% match from LCF.

While participating last year, the museum received twenty-two donations for a total of \$4,310. Our goal this year was to surpass both donors and donations.

Our museum supporters stepped up and made donations to our organization under this fundraising event. We had a total of **FORTY** different donors give to the museum.

Additionally, our museum won an hourly raffle thanks to the donation of Dan Brown for an additional \$300.

With the final tallies announced, the museum received **\$8,405** in donations.

A special thank you goes to the following donors for making this a successful fundraising opportunity:

**Dominic Cangelosi: \$2,000**  
**Connie Wahlig: \$1,000**  
**Trace Hansen \$ 950**

Danny Brown	Betty Ann Danna
Marie Walker	Linda Miner
Annelle Anderson	Scott Kleiman
Alan Bacon	Charlene Conway
George Pickard	Cecelia Kelley
Harry Walker	Kim Wall
Bill Spooner	Melanie Holt
Elizabeth Novak	Brian Heersink
Renee Kitts	Mary Lock
Todd Rendfrey	Elizabeth Korjenek
Heather Doyle	Steven Hinkle
Dennis Pickard	Peter Dolan
Sigrid Semien	Dawn Gonzales
Michael Sheedy	David Ellender
Janet Pavilonis	Alfred Taglang
Nancy Phillips	Marie Whyatt
James Vannurden	Madison Fickel
Dan Hansen	2 anonymous

We realize that this day of giving came very quickly after our annual museum raffle during the RSA convention. But since both the convention and the day of caring fundraiser are annually set for the month of May, we had no control over the timing.

But our supporters came through on both accounts and made the month of May a great success for museum fundraising. Thanks to all.

## **Roller Skating after World War II**

By Edward O'Neill, 1960

*Despite its obvious contribution to America's physical fitness, roller skating was hard hit by World War II, hard hit both as a sport and as a business! Gasoline rationing, which made travel for amusement purposes unpatriotic and virtually impossible, took a heavy toll, and rinks not near public transportation suffered greatly or closed down completely. There were shortages, too, to complicate the picture—shortages of skates, parts, and boots. Whenever possible, rinks joined the war effort, running benefits for Army-Navy Relief, the Red Cross, the USO, and for other organizations. A few converted to defense plants.*



*Despite all the difficulties of transportation, shortages, and manpower, 1944 saw the RSROA stage a Madison Square Garden extravaganza— the first since the New York Journal-American's in 1941— for the March of Dimes. A cast of five hundred skaters in brilliant costumes performed. Similar benefits for the same worthy charity were presented in 1945 and 1946, with casts increasing to more than nine hundred skaters.*

*The year 1947 saw the roller spotlight swing to international competition. For the first World Roller Skating Congress Championships, which followed the RSROA Nationals at Oakland, California, foreign talent came from as far away as New Zealand. The United States sweep of five events indicated that the visitors from Canada, Great Britain, and New Zealand were longer on enthusiasm than on skill. But they learned much and were on their way to future equality with the Yanks. In December of 1947, champions from four countries came to the National Arena, Washington, D.C., to skate against US Amateur Roller Skating Association standard-bearers in the Federation Internationale de Patinage a Roulettes, the second world meet to be held in the United States.*

*In 1948, amateur roller skating revues were occasional TV far, and the Roller Derby, which had gone through ups and downs for more than a decade, was taking the nation by storm. Both TV and newspapers played important roles in the Derby's almost unbelievable rise to popularity. During 1949, when shortages had more or less ended, roller enthusiasts were encouraged by the building of plush new rinks and costly remodeling jobs. In New York City, the Journal-American inaugurated what was to become an annual event, its "Winged Skates Derby." For the debut edition, more than 10,000 boys and girls answered the paper's call to compete in eliminations at five hundred parks and playgrounds. Finals were held on Columbus Day on Central Park's famed Mall.*

*During 1950, American movie-goers were seeing Mickey Rooney and Pat O'Brien in "Fireball," a movie built around the Roller Derby; wrestling promoter Bill Johnston Jr, brought professional roller hockey into New York's St. Nicholas and Jamaica Arenas; and orchestra leader Guy Lombardo recorded "The Roller Skating Song." On opening night, the Roller Derby World Series lured 16,234 customers to Madison Square Garden, and the New York Daily News filled the same sports palace for an amateur carnival.*

*In 1951, rollers skating invaded New York's swank Stork Club when the Journal-American conducted finals of its annual Skate Queen contest at a rendezvous of society. Eliminations at ten rinks had drawn more than 3,500 pretty girl contestants. During the same year, the RSROA effected a radical change in competitive skating, completely separating figures and free style into two distinct events.*

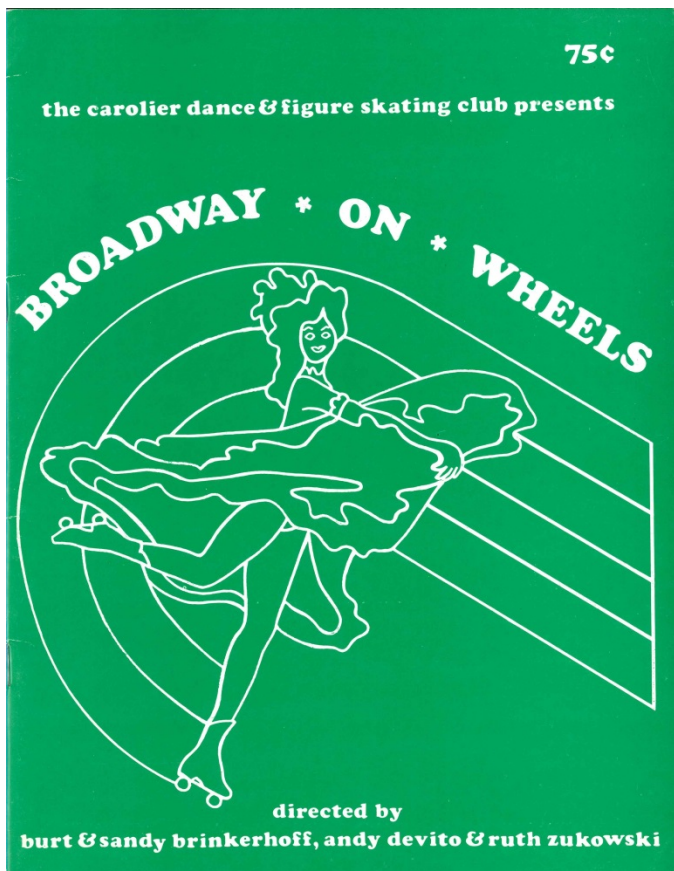
*The Skating Vanities, after touring this country and Europe as the roller sport's professional answer to Ice Capades and Ice Follies for more than a decade, merged with famous comedians Olsen and Johnson for the 1952-1953 season. The combined company of skaters totaled two hundred. A year later, the show became "Hippodrome of 1954" with roller skating sharing the spotlight with "Dancing Waters," water ballet, vaudeville, and circus acts.*

*In 1958, 250,000 girl scouts passed a roller skating Merit Badge Test, making it second in popularity behind the swimming badge. Roller skating has matured. It is now a major participant sport. Yes, roller skating is here to stay!*



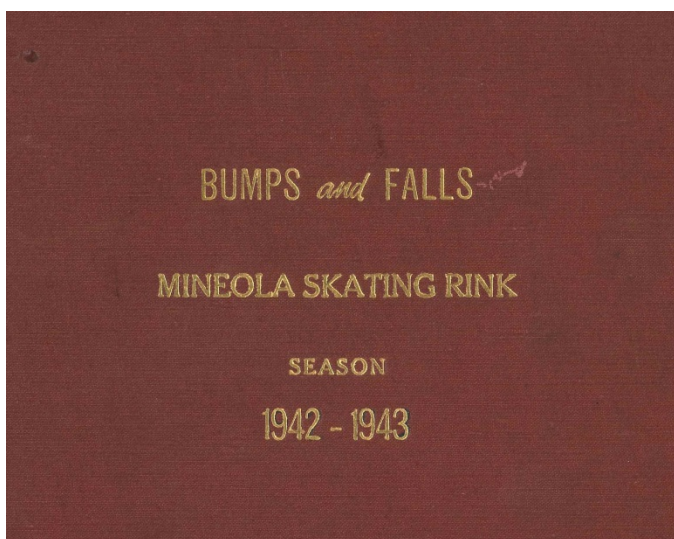


## More Chester Fried Donations



This 1973 program by the Carolier Dance and Figure Skating Club called "Broadway on Wheels" was conceived and directed by Sandy and Burt Brinkerhoff, Andy Devito, and Ruth Zukowski.

They performed skating routines to *Aquarius*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *South Pacific*, *Oliver*, and *West Side Story*.



And while the museum certainly has copies of the *Bumps and Falls* newsletter issued by the Mineola Skating Rink, we did not have an entire volume in a bound form such as this donation from Chester Fried.

## 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!

